More than 10,000 Students to Graduate in Columbia’s 249th Academic Year

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1981. She has published a dozen books, including the best-sellers I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, Gather Together in My Name, And Still I Rise and The Heart of a Woman. Angelou has also written numerous magazine articles and has been nominated for both the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award. Angelou served as inaugural poet for President Bill Clinton in 1993.

Julian Hochberg, psychologist, will receive an honorary Doctor of Science degree. Hochberg is Centennial Professor Emeritus of Psychology at Columbia and former chair of the Department of Psychology. Hochberg is noted for his work in the field of perception. His research focuses on how people perceive the real and represented world. This includes objects and events, both physical and social. Hochberg is co-author, with Virginia Brooks, of Movies in the Mind's Eye, a study of the psychological factors that underlie our understanding of motion pictures.

Mary-Claire King, American Cancer Society Professor of Medicine and Genetics at the University of Washington, Seattle, will receive an honorary Doctor of Science degree. A leading researcher in the genetic analysis of breast and ovarian cancer, King was the first to prove that breast cancer is inherited in some families. Her research interests also include genetic analysis of inherited deafness and systemic lupus erythematosus, as well as human genetic diversity and evolution.

Sir Frank Kermode, prominent scholar, critic and teacher of English literature, will receive an honorary Doctor of Letters degree. Kermode, who was knighted in 1991, has taught at Cambridge, Harvard and Yale, and was a visiting professor at Columbia in 1983. He has written more than 40 books, including acclaimed studies of Shakespeare and D.H. Lawrence. He is a fellow of the British Academy and the Royal Society of Literature, as well as an honorary member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Kermode, who received an honorary Doctor of English literature, will be an eminent scholar, critic and teacher.

Constance Baker Motley, senior judge, United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, will receive an honorary Doctor of Laws degree. Motley, a former civil rights attorney, won nine of the ten cases she argued before the Supreme Court, including James Meredith’s right to be admitted to the University of Mississippi in 1962. She served a term in the New York State Senate (1964-65), and in 1966, was appointed a United States District Judge by President Lyndon Johnson. She was the first African-American woman to hold either of those positions. She is a graduate of Columbia Law School.

Claire Shipman, CC ’86 and SIPA ’94, senior national correspondent, ABC News, will receive the University Medal for Excellence. Shipman joined ABC News’ Good Morning America as the show’s senior national correspondent in May 2001, and is a substitute anchor on the news segments of Good Morning America and other ABC News programs. She served as a White House correspondent for NBC News (1994-1997). In the 1980s she was a CNN correspondent and producer on assignments in China and the Soviet Union. Shipman has received an Emmy Award (1989), the DuPont Award (1985, 1989) and Columbia’s John Jay Award (1999).

Neil Taylor, a jazz musician, will receive an honorary Doctor of Music degree. Taylor is acclaimed as one of the most gifted pianists in jazz history and is the founder of the Jazz Composer Guild. He was artist-in-residence at Johns Hopkins University in 2001 and has also taught at Antioch College, University of Wisconsin and Glassboro State College. Taylor is the composer of Leader of Jazz Group, Jazz Advance, The Connection, and Jazz Composers Orchestra, among other works. He has recorded over sixteen albums, including: Jazz Advance, Nefertiti, the Beautiful One Has Come, and Looking Ahead.

Andrew Wiles, Eugene Higgins Professor of Mathematics, Princeton University, will receive an honorary Doctor of Science degree. As a child in Cambridge, England, Wiles encountered Fermat’s Last Theorem, a problem in number theory that had remained unsolved for 300 years. In the mid-1980s, Wiles began to formulate its proof, which he finalized and published in 1995. He has received numerous international awards for his work. In 1997, he collected the Wolf Prize, which had been established in 1908 for the first valid proof of Fermat’s Last Theorem.

Columbia often plays host to local and international luminaries. Above, New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, left, shakes hands with U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan, as President Bollinger looks on. The culmination of four dedicated years is celebrated by Columbia College graduates on the South Field Lawn.