

## **The Honorands of The 2013 Commencement**

### **Madeleine K. Albright Doctor of Laws**

Madeleine Albright has been an important figure in American foreign policy for more than thirty years. In 1997 she was named the first female Secretary of State and became, at that time, the highest-ranking woman in the history of the United States government. She has served as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, president of the Center for National Policy, and as a member of the National Security Council. She was the chief legislative assistant to Senator Edmund S. Muskie H'57 before becoming a member of the White House staff in the Carter administration. President Obama presented her with the Presidential Medal of Freedom in May 2012. She is currently the Michael and Virginia Mortara Distinguished Professor in the Practice of Diplomacy in Georgetown University's Walsh School of Foreign Service and chair of Albright Stonebridge Group, a global strategy firm, and of Albright Capital Management LLC. Albright was born in Prague, Czechoslovakia, the daughter of Josef Korbel, a Czech diplomat. She and her family were forced to flee to England during World War II, then later sought asylum in the U.S. Albright became an American citizen in 1957. She graduated with honors from Wellesley College and earned M.A. and Ph.D. degrees at Columbia University's Department of Public Law and Government. She is the author of five *New York Times* bestselling books.