CONVOCATION 2020
Thursday, September Seventeenth
Four-thirty in the afternoon

OPENING OF THE CEREMONY
Gale Kenny, Assistant Professor of Religion and recipient of the 2020 Gladys Brooks Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award

GREETING FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Cheryl Glicker Milstein ’82 P’14, Chair

GREETING FROM THE ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF BARNARD COLLEGE
Amy Veltman ’89, AABC President

GREETING FROM THE FACULTY
Linda A. Bell, Provost and Dean of the Faculty

GREETING FROM THE STAFF
Amanda Gates-Elston ’04, Associate Director of Events, Events Management

GREETING FROM THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
Tirzah Anderson ’21, SGA President

REMARKS FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE COLLEGE
Sian Leah Beilock

KEYNOTE ADDRESS
Suki Kim ’92
Award-winning author

REMARKS FROM THE DEAN OF THE COLLEGE
Leslie N. Grinage

ALMA MATER
Written by May Appleton Parker, Class of 1904, sung by Bacchantae

CLOSING
Severin Fowles, Chair of American Studies and Associate Professor of Anthropology
OUR STORY

Upon its founding in 1889, Barnard became the only college in New York City, and one of the few in the nation, where women could receive the same rigorous education available to men. The College was named after Frederick A.P. Barnard, the 10th president of Columbia College, who had argued unsuccessfully with his trustees for the admission of women to Columbia. Barnard’s founding was sparked by the impressive efforts of Annie Nathan Meyer, a student and writer who helped persuade Columbia’s trustees to agree to an affiliated college dedicated to the education of women in the liberal arts.

From the beginning, Barnard was a place that took women seriously and challenged them intellectually, and the College has never wavered from that original objective. Today, under President Sian Leah Beilock, Barnard’s distinctive place in higher education is undeniable. With the guidance of 12 women leaders over the course of 131 years — including winning the right to hire our own faculty in 1900, the pivotal protests of 1968, the historic admission of transgender women in 2016, and the opening of the Milstein Center in 2018 — Barnard has continued to flourish and excel.

ALMA MATER

“COLLEGE ON THE HILLTOP”

There’s a college on a hilltop
That’s very dear to me,
And a certain group of students
With ties of comrad’rie.
So we’ll sing to dear old Barnard,
And loyal be and true,
As we show to coming classes
How we love the white and blue.

When the day has come for parting
And college days are o’er.
There will always be a fondness
For the good old days of yore.
And we’ll sing to dear old Barnard
As in memory we see
The college on the hilltop
Where our classmates used to be.

—May Appleton Parker, Class of 1904