52nd
COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY
2022
FRANKLIN UNIVERSITY SWITZERLAND IS AN INSTITUTION WHERE NATIONALITIES AND CULTURAL PERSPECTIVES MEET AND CREATE UNIQUE EXPERIENCES.
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Penelope Andrews is a Professor of Law at New York Law School (NYLS) where she teaches constitutional law, comparative law, torts, and legal ethics. She also serves as Director of NYLS's Racial Justice Project and Host of the South Africa Reading Group.

Professor Andrews has held tenured faculty positions at La Trobe University in Australia, the City University of New York (CUNY) and Valparaiso University. She has also held visiting appointments at law schools across the U.S.A, Canada, and internationally.

Professor Andrews has held senior positions in law, including as the Dean at the University of Cape Town Faculty of Law, President and Dean, Albany Law School, New York, and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, CUNY Law School. In 2021 she completed a two-year term as President of the Law and Society Association. She has also served as an Acting Judge of the North Gauteng High Court in Pretoria and as an arbitrator in hearings on racial discrimination in South Africa.

Professor Andrews is an editor of the International Journal of Law in Context, the Human Rights and the Global Economy E-Journal, and the African Law E-Journal. She has also published several books and articles that focus on comparative constitutional law, gender and racial equality, human rights, the judiciary, and legal education. She is currently at work on a book on #MeToo, entitled Law, Politics and the #MeToo Movement.

Professor Andrews has served on law school committees and the boards of public interest and human rights organizations, including the Africa Section of Human Rights Watch, South Africa Partners, and the National Center for Law and Economic Justice. She currently serves as Chair of the Board of the Institute for African Women in Law and as a Board Member of the Kemper Human Rights Education Foundation and Shared Interest. Professor Andrews has received many awards for her global human rights advocacy.
Markus Imhoof was born in Winterthur in 1941. He studied German, art history and history in Zurich and was Leopold Lindtberg’s assistant at Schauspielhaus Zürich before attending the film school at Kunsthochschule Zürich.

Since 1968, he has been an independent director and author, primarily dedicating himself to socially critical and political topics, as in his first documentary films Rondo (1968), a critique of the Swiss penal system, and Ormenis 199+99 (1969), about the Swiss cavalry. They were awarded but banned in Switzerland.

In 1980, Markus Imhoof drew attention to the behaviour of the Swiss toward Jewish refugees from Nazi Germany in Das Boot ist voll. The film won the Silver Bear at the Berlinale and was nominated for an Oscar.

Die Reise followed in 1986, based on the autobiographical novel by Bernward Vesper on the generational conflict of the student protest movement of 1968 up to the early days of the Red Army Faction (RAF).

Over the last decade, the filmmaker has documented the threatened disappearance of bees in More than Honey (2012) and the situation of refugees fleeing across the Mediterranean Sea in Eldorado (2018). His films were screened at the festivals of Berlin, Venice, Cannes, Locarno, among others. More than Honey won several awards and was the most successful Swiss documentary of all time. Eldorado (2018) was honored with the Zurich Film Award and the Bavarian Film Award.

In 2020 Markus Imhoof received the Honorary Award of the Swiss Film Academy and the Swiss Federal Office of Culture for his life’s work.

He has been guest lecturer at film schools in Berlin, Milano and Zurich and was a founding member of the Film and Media Art Section of the Akademie der Künste in Berlin in 1984; he is member of the European and German film academies as well as the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS) in Los Angeles.
Nikhil Seth joined UNITAR as its Executive Director on Oct 1, 2015. During his term UNITAR has grown significantly in the number of beneficiaries of its services and its work has been aligned to the pillars of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

Before assuming the post of the UNITAR Executive Director, Nikhil Seth was the Director of the Division for Sustainable Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) at the United Nations Secretariat in New York. In this role he served as head of the Rio+20 secretariat and of the secretariat for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, spearheading the preparations for these conferences in Rio, Brazil, and Apia, Samoa. He was also closely engaged in coordinating and advancing their follow-up.

In the United Nations Mr. Seth served as the Director for ECOSOC, Secretary of the Economic and Financial Committee (2nd Committee), Secretary of ECOSOC and with the USG of DESA. He was closely involved with many of the Summits and Conferences of the 1990’s – as a delegate from India and as part of the support secretariat.

Mr. Seth will be speaking at today’s ceremony on the topic of “Global Citizenship to Realize the Sustainable Development Goals.”
Ambassador Pio Wennubst is an experienced diplomat currently focusing on multilateral organisations and thematic approaches in relation to the 2030 agenda. Agro-economist by formation, he is an institutional development practitioner with extensive fieldwork in areas such as enterprises development, facilitation of negotiating processes, micro and public finance, public health sector reforms, water resources management, migration, climate change, food systems, rural development.

After a period as managing director of a Swiss based chemical company, he joined the public sector as an academic researcher in the Middle East region. Subsequently, he joined FAO in Nepal to help reorganising fresh produce supply to urban centers. He later joined the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), which is part of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, in Bolivia to support the decentralisation process and later on to Madagascar where he reorganized all Swiss development cooperation activities.

After a period as an economist for poverty alleviation and public services finance, in 2004 Pio Wennubst was appointed SDC country director in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, where he represented the development community as Chair of the General Budget Support and Health Sector Reform Groups. From 2008 to 2011, he was the deputy permanent representative of the Swiss mission to the Rome-based UN agencies. From 2010, he was also in charge of reforming the SDC’s Global Programme Food Security. He later joined the Swiss permanent mission to the UN in New York as head of the economic and social development team where he facilitated several resolutions, including the QCPR 2012 in which the United Nations Development System reform is rooted.

Subsequently, Pio Wennubst managed for almost six years the Global Cooperation Department of SDC and was in charge of the Swiss support to multilateral funds and programs such as UNDP, Green Climate Fund, UNWOMEN, UNICEF, UNCDF, AIIB, IFAD, Global Fund, CGIAR, UNFPA, Global Compact and others. During the same period, he was also in charge of 5 innovative global thematic programs and of the policy analysis unit. He substantially contributed to the launching of the Blue Peace movement.

Currently, Ambassador Pio Wennubst is representing Switzerland to the multilateral agencies based in Rome, more specifically FAO, IFAD, and WFP. As of October 2021, he assumes the role of Rapporteur for the CFS in Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems.
Majeda has been an avid volunteer and supporter of Franklin as a student and as an alumna. She graduated in 2015 with a double major in Communications, Media Studies, Comparative Literary & Cultural Studies, and a minor in Management.

While at Franklin, Majeda was very involved on campus as an Academic Mentor, coordinated a new leadership program for students, presented at Franklin’s Women’s Conference, served as President of the Arab club, participated in the Tucker Family Fellows internship program, and more. She received the Presidential Leadership Award and Outstanding Freshman of the Year Award.

As an alumna, Majeda serves the Chair of the Franklin Club of Jordan, planning regional events and connecting alumni in her area to Franklin. She volunteers as an Alumni Admissions Ambassador, speaking to prospective Franklin students, and advises students and young alumni about career-related topics with the Office of Career Strategy’s virtual events. She loves Franklin and is always looking for ways that she can give back.

After graduating from Franklin, Majeda worked at the Association of Queen Rania Award for Excellence in Education as a Media and Communications Officer. In 2018, she joined her family’s business as the Director of Business Development and Communications at Dakkak Group – Dakkak Tours International. She also holds a master’s degree in innovation in education.
ORDER OF CEREMONY

PROCESSIONAL
Pomp and Circumstance, Sir Edward Elgar

WELCOME
Recognition of Golden Falcons and Class of 2020 Graduates
P. Gregory Warden, President

OPENING REMARKS
Kim Hildebrant, Chairman, Board of Trustees

URSULA GENTILE LOWERRE OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD
Majda Dakkak
Presented by Kim Hildebrant, Chairman, Board of Trustees

UNIVERSITY AWARDS
Founders Distinguished Teaching Professorship
Presidential Leadership Award
Academic Excellence Award
Gerta Holman Award

CONFERRING OF HONORARY DEGREES
Posthumous Honorary Degree
Jacques Villaret
Presented by Pascal F. Tone, Board of Trustees

2020 Honorary Degree
Ambassador Pio Wennubst
Presented by P. Gregory Warden, President

2022 Honorary Degrees
Penelope Andrews
Presented by P. Gregory Warden, President
Markus Imhoof  
Presented by Johanna Fassl, Professor of Art History

Nikhil Seth  
Presented by Branko Sain, Dean of Innovation and Impact  
Co-Director of the Taylor Institute

**COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS**  
Penelope Andrews  
Professor of Law and Director, Racial Justice Project

**MUSICAL INTERLUDE**  
A Song for Franklin, Stuart Gillespie

**CONFERRING OF DEGREES**  
P. Gregory Warden, President  
Andrew Starcher, Vice President of Academic Affairs  
Branko Sain, Dean of Innovation and Impact,  
Co-Director of the Taylor Institute  
Andrea Terzi, Director, Master in Political Economy of Money and Development

**VALEDICTORIAN’S ADDRESS**  
Gabriella Teerlynck-Aviles  
Introduced by Patrick Della Croce, Professor of Environmental Sciences

**ALUMNI ASSOCIATION WELCOME**  
Emily Boynton, Class of 2009 and Alumni Trustee

**CONCLUDING REMARKS**  
P. Gregory Warden, President

**RECESSIONAL**  
Rondeau, Jean Joseph Mouret

_A reception will follow the ceremony_
John Chichester
Phoenix, Arizona - USA
Political Economy of Money and Development

Chaneran Surchi
Erbil, Kurdistan/Iraq
Political Economy of Money and Development

Kristen Abberley
Darien, Connecticut - USA
International Management with an Emphasis in Climate Action

Amalia Awad
Amman, Jordan
International Management with an Emphasis in Digital Transformation

Carmen Brodnax
Memphis, Tennessee - USA
International Management with an Emphasis in Climate Action

Giovanni Desiderio
Rome, Italy
International Management with an Emphasis in Digital Transformation

Rachel Maria Dottino
Orlando, Florida - USA
International Management with an Emphasis in Climate Action

Ann Jackson Edwards
Branchville, Virginia - USA
International Management with an Emphasis in Climate Action

Manouchka Paulémont
Reading, Pennsylvania - USA
International Management with an Emphasis in Digital Transformation

Henri Souville
Paris, France
International Management with an Emphasis in Climate Action

Carina Souza
Natal, Brazil
International Management with an Emphasis in Climate Action
BACHELOR OF ARTS AND BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE RECIPIENTS

Fadel Alabdali  
Jeddah, Saudi Arabia  
International Management major with an Emphasis in Finance  
Studio Art minor

Ana Lucia Allegre  
Austin, Texas - USA  
International Management major with an Emphasis in Marketing  
French minor  
*cum laude*

Ralf Aron  
Tallin, Estonia  
International Management major with an Emphasis in Finance  
Economics minor

Rahman Babayev  
Ashgabat, Turkmenistan  
International Management major  
Art History and Visual Culture minor

Natascha Braase  
Manchester by the Sea, Massachusetts – USA  
Psychology major  
Environmental Science minor  
Honors Program Graduate  
*cum laude*

Gloria Bruschi  
Lugano, Switzerland  
International Management major with an Emphasis in Marketing  
*magna cum laude*

Jonathan Bystrowski  
Granby, Connecticut - USA  
Social Justice and Sustainability major  
Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies and Management minors

Giulia Castiglioni  
Lugano, Switzerland  
International Management major  
Psychology minor  
*summa cum laude*

Karen Corda  
Paris, France  
Communication and Media Studies and Political Science combined major

Morgan Crowther  
Marshfield, Massachusetts – USA  
International Relations major

Natalia de Leon Tello  
Quetzaltenango, Guatemala  
Communication and Media Studies major  
Political Science major  
French minor  
*magna cum laude*

Giulia Gatti  
Lugano, Switzerland  
International Management major with an Emphasis in Marketing

Christina Jisto  
Dubai, United Arab Emirates  
Visual Communication Arts major  
Honors Program Graduate  
*cum laude*
Milica Jovic  
Toronto, Canada  
History major  
International Relations major  
French minor  
Honors Program Graduate  
magna cum laude

Grace Elizabeth Kotnik  
Solana Beach, California – USA  
Environmental Studies major with an Emphasis in Science  
History and Social Justice minors  
Honors Program Graduate  
summa cum laude

Josephine Lionello  
Saló, Italy  
Fashion Studies major  
Art History and Visual Culture minor

Shayla Lopez  
Huston, Texas – USA  
International Management major with an Emphasis in Marketing  
Communication and Media Studies minor

Danielle Lopez-Cecetaite  
St. Petersburg, Florida – USA  
International Economics major with an Emphasis in Political Economy  
Art History and Visual Culture minor  
magna cum laude

Jade Lum  
Honolulu, Hawaii – USA  
International Management major with an Emphasis in Marketing  
Studio Art minor  
cum laude

Alejandra Malavenda  
Miami, Florida – USA  
Communication and Media Studies major  
Environmental Studies major  
Honors Program Graduate  
magna cum laude

Francesca Mazzucchelli  
Samarate, Italy  
Fashion Studies major  
magna cum laude

Liz Menezes Pereira dos Santos  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil  
International Management major with an Emphasis in Marketing  
Economics minor  
magna cum laude

Nikolay Morozov  
Moscow, Russia  
History major

Aurora Nelson  
Temecula, California – USA  
Political Science major  
History minor

Clara Nerseth  
Oslo, Norway/Zürich, Switzerland  
Psychology major  
Environmental Science minor

Alex Nunez-Sindelar  
Prague, Czech Republic  
Political Science major  
Film Studies minor

Campbell Pair  
Atlanta, Georgia – USA  
International Relations major  
History, Italian Studies and Legal Studies minors
Blake Pasternack
Orange County, California – USA
Communication and Media Studies major

Sofia Pessi
Milan, Italy
Psychology major

Marie Rasmason
Mendocino, California – USA
Environmental Studies major with an Emphasis in Science
Psychology major

Hollis Robinson
Newport Beach, California – USA
Communication and Media Studies major

Asia Martina Roveda
Milan, Italy
Psychology major

Amir Sakran
Benghazi, Libya
International Management major with an Emphasis in Marketing

Kai Frances Sales
East Grinstead, United Kingdom
History major
Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies and Postcolonial Studies minors

Saleh Shokerat
Irbid, Jordan
International Management major with an Emphasis in Finance

Letizia Stefani
Treviso, Italy
Communication and Media Studies major
Art History and Visual Culture, Marketing and Psychology minors magna cum laude

Rachel Stephens
Fort Worth, Texas – USA
Political Science major
Applied Mathematics minor

Layla Tabbah
Damascus, Syria
International Relations major
French and Management minors

Gabriella Teerlynck-Aviles
Key Biscayne, Florida – USA
Environmental Studies major with an Emphasis in Science
Psychology Major magna cum laude

Peyton Warmack-Chipman
Austin, Texas – USA
International Relations major with an Emphasis in Political Economy
French minor

Leo Williams
Kingston, Jamaica
Visual Communication Arts major
Film Studies and Psychology minors

Katrin Zender
Seattle, Washington - USA
Environmental Science major

All degree candidates have been confirmed by the faculty as eligible to graduate in December 2021, May or August 2022. In accordance with university policies and procedures, diplomas, honors, and award statuses will be conferred upon final verification that all degree requirements have been met.
ACADEMIC AWARDS

Communication and Media Studies
Natalia de Leon Tello
Letizia Stefani

Environmental Studies
Grace Elizabeth Kotnik
Gabriella Teerlynck-Aviles
Honorable Mention: Alejandra Malavenda

French
Natalia de Leon Tello

History
Milica Jovic
Kai Frances Sales

International Management
Giulia Castiglioni

International Marketing Management
Gloria Bruschi
Liz Menezes Pereira dos Santos

International Relations and Political Science
Natalia de Leon Tello
Honorable Mention: Campbell Pair

Italian
Campbell Pair

Psychology
Yara Al Nafea
Sofia Pessi

Visual Communication Arts
Christina Jisto
Leo Williams
Founders Distinguished Teaching Professorship
To be announced

Outstanding Graduate Student Leadership Award
Kristen Abberley

Presidential Leadership Award
Jonathan Bystrowski

Academic Excellence Award
Giulia Castiglioni

Gerta Holman Award
Kai Frances Sales
P. Gregory Warden,
President of Franklin University Switzerland

Kim Hildebrant,
Chairman of the Board of Trustees

Andrew Starcher,
Vice President of Academic Affairs

Branko Sain,
Dean of Innovation and Impact
Co-Director of the Taylor Institute

Pascal F. Tone,
Board of Trustees

Penelope Andrews,
Professor of Law and Director, Racial Justice Project

Markus Imhoof,
Film Director and Screenwriter

Nikhil Seth,
United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Executive Director, United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)

Ambassador Pio Wennubst,
Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations Organization in Rome

Pablo Albir
Maria Elisa Aricò
Serena Flore
Alessandro Marino
Pau Martinez
Ana Cristina Molina Aponte
Sergio Notarangelo
Gabriele Pilato

Jesús Caro Serna, Director
Conservatorio della Svizzera Italiana, Lugano

Special thanks to all who contributed in the planning and coordination of this year’s Commencement activities.