10 Inspiring Photos from Columbia’s 2023 Commencement

Take a look at these highlights from the ceremonies, held on the Morningside and CUIMC campuses from May 12–18.

By Julia Joy | Jun. 12, 2023

The main event, on May 17, saw a record number of attendees.
Columbia College graduates were ecstatic after four years of rigorous study.
Some grads got creative with decorating their caps.
Four-legged Columbians joined the festivities too.
It was the first Columbia commencement ceremony for Nemat “Minouche” Shafik, who will step into the role of University President on July 1.
Shafik, a distinguished economist, was awarded an honorary doctorate of law degree by outgoing president Lee C. Bollinger.
For Business School graduates, commencement was a productive time for selfies.
A graduating Roar-ee kept busy with photo ops.
President Bollinger gave his final commencement speech and spoke about the First Amendment and the importance of openness, nuance, and reason.
Chris Taggart

Thousands of new alumni tossed up their caps to mark the end of an era — and the start of an exciting new one.

Read more from Julia Joy

Guide to school abbreviations