

## THE BOROUGH

## GRYMES HILL

# Noted author Wes Moore to speak at Wagner College commencement

By Diane C. Lore

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Best-selling author Wes Moore will be the featured speaker at Wagner College's 2015 commencement program, scheduled for May 22 at 10 a.m., on the Grymes Hill campus.

Moore earned critical acclaim for his two bestsellers, "The Other Wes Moore" and "The Work: My Search for a Life that Matters".

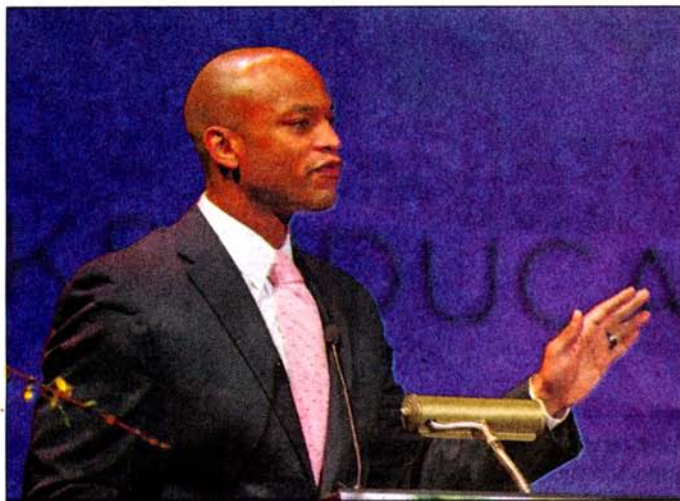
He was the keynote speaker at last year's "Staten Island Talks" education forum in the St. George Theater.

Born in 1978, Moore and his sisters were raised by their widowed mother.

Despite early academic and behavioral struggles, he graduated Phi Theta Kappa in 1998 as a commissioned officer from Valley Forge Military College, and Phi Beta Kappa from Johns Hopkins University in 2001, where he also played football and earned a bachelor's degree in international relations.

He then became a Rhodes Scholar, studying international relations at Oxford University.

After completing his studies, Moore was given a military commission, serving a tour of combat duty in Afghanistan as an Army Airborne captain. Moore then



**Best-selling author Wes Moore will be the keynote speaker at the Wagner College graduation in May.**

became a White House Fellow serving as special assistant to Secretary of State Condeleezza Rice.

He currently serves on the boards of the Iraq Afghanistan Veterans of America and Johns Hopkins University, and he founded an organization called Stand! that works with Baltimore youth involved in the criminal justice system.

He came to prominence with the publication in 2010 of his first book, "The Other Wes Moore," a story of mentorship and support networks that refused to let him fall into crime and drugs.

It tells the tale of two young men with the same name, living in the same city. One, the author, grew up to be a Rhodes Scholar and White House Fellow after serving as combat Army officer.

The other Wes Moore, is currently serving a life sentence for killing a cop during an armed robbery.

Moore's most recent book, "The Work: My Search for a Life that Matters," is the story of how one young man traced a path through the world to find his life's purpose.

Moore graduated from a difficult childhood in the Bronx

and Baltimore to an adult at a time that placed him at some of the most critical moments in recent history: as a combat officer in Afghanistan; a White House fellow in a time of wars abroad and disasters at home; and a Wall Street banker during the financial crisis.

In this insightful book, Moore shares the lessons he learned from people he met along the way — from the brave Afghan translator who taught him to find his fight, to the resilient young students in Katrina-ravaged Mississippi who showed him the true meaning of grit, to his late grandfather, who taught him to find grace in service.

Moore is the host of "Beyond Belief" on the Oprah Winfrey Network and the executive producer and host of PBS's "Coming Back with Wes Moore," which focuses on the re-integration of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans and their return home.

He is also the founder and CEO of BridgeEdU, a program that engages college students in real-world internships and service-learning opportunities in addition to core academic classes, similar to the "Wagner Plan for the Practical Liberal Arts", Wagner's signature curriculum, pioneered in the late 1990s by President Richard Guarasci.