

PIEDMONT UNIVERSITY

UNDERGRADUATE & GRADUATE COMMENCEMENT

Friday, December 15, 2023 | 10:00 a.m.
Johnny Mize Athletic Center



PROGRAM

Presiding

Marshall M. Criser III
President of the University

PRELUDE.....Piedmont Brass Ensemble

PROCESSIONAL "Entrance Music"..... *Otto Luening (1900-1996)*

The audience will rise as the academic procession begins and remain standing until after the first hymn.

Trumpet	Geoffrey Wood
Trumpet	John Thomas Bryson
Trumpet	Justin Powell
Trombone	Thomas Minor
Trombone	Blake Lawson
Tuba	Matthew Shipes
Horn	Peter Riggs

INVOCATION..... The Reverend Tim Garvin-Leighton, *Campus Minister*

HYMN "America the Beautiful"..... *MATERNA*

Andrea M. Price, Professor of Music

<p>O beautiful for spacious skies, For amber waves of grain, For purple mountain majesties Above the fruited plain! America! America! God shed His grace on thee, And crown thy good with brotherhood From sea to shining sea.</p>

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER.....President Criser

ADDRESSBruce Willis,
Vice President Academic Affairs

Bruce Willis, Vice President of Academic Affairs at Piedmont University, is the 2023 recipient of the Vulcan Materials Company Teaching Excellence Award for his dedication and commitment to teaching as well as to campus leadership. He joined the Piedmont University faculty in 2016, and before taking the role of Vice President of Academic Affairs, he was a professor in the College of Arts and Sciences teaching forensic science. Willis earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice (1986) from Valdosta State University, a Masters in Public Administration (2011) from Columbus State University and an Education Specialist Degree in Exemplary Teaching (2011) from Valdosta State University. Willis served as a special agent with the Georgia Bureau of Investigation for twenty-two years and a training coordinator for the Georgia Department of Public Safety for five years. He served as the Chief Deputy at Tift County Sheriff’s Office from 2000 - 2003. After retiring from law enforcement, Willis taught mathematics and physical science at Irwin County Middle School for seven years. Willis received the National Forensic Academy Bill Bass Award for Excellence in Forensic Science Contributions and Performance in 2014. He and his wife, Katrina, have five daughters and four grandchildren.

CONFERRING OF DEGREES

The conferring of degrees is authorized by the Board of Trustees upon the recommendation of the President and Faculty. Vice President for Academic Affairs Bruce Willis will present the dean of college and Dr. Bob Glass will read the names of the candidates. Chairman Gus Arrendale and President Criser will award diplomas to recipients of the Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, Master of Business Administration, Master of Arts in Teaching, Master of Arts, Education Specialist, and Doctor of Education.

CONFERRING OF DEGREES Bruce Willis
Vice President for Academic Affairs

HYMN TO THE ALMA MATER **WESTMORELAND**

Please rise as Andrea Price performs the Hymn to the Alma Mater. Remain standing until the conclusion of the recessional.

<p>Verse 1 Where the Georgian hills grow purple In the sunset glow, Proudly stands our Alma Mater In the vale below.</p>	<p>Verse 2 As around the mighty oak tree Clings the ivy vine, So around thee, dear old Piedmont Loyal hearts entwine. (Refrain)</p>
<p>Refrain Green and Gold float on for aye, Old Piedmont for thee, We, thy loyal sons and daughters Bless thy memory.</p>	<p>Verse 3 Here's to thee, then dear old Piedmont May you ever stand As an emblem of the noblest In our fair Southland. (Refrain)</p>

BENEDICTION Reverend Tim Garvin-Leighton

RECESSIONAL "Exit Music" *Otto Luening (1900-1996)*

POSTLUDE Piedmont Brass Ensemble

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Faculty Marshal | Albert Pleysier, <i>Professor of History</i> |
| Registrar | Melissa Fortner |
| Student Marshals | Sheena Patrick, <i>Associate Registrar</i>
Natalie Hale, <i>Student Services Specialist</i>
Lisa Durand, <i>Student Services Specialist</i>
Elizabeth Bates, <i>Student Services Specialist</i> |
| Gonfalon Bearer | Hayden Carswell |
| Music Leader | Andrea M. Price, <i>Professor of Music</i> |

DEGREE CANDIDATES

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Steve Jacobs, Dean

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Nermeen Arif
Art Education

Walker R Brown
Sports Communications

Morgan Dawn Bullock
Psychology

Sidney Rose Butikofer
Criminal Justice

Guido L Cuccia
Criminal Justice

Zachary Norris Futch
Music

Chad Alan Hall
History and Sports Communications

John Dominick Kuchta
Sports Communications

Hannah Jessica Morgan
English Education

Kevin Lee Murray
History Education

Christopher Roy Pannenbacker
Criminal Justice

Lexie Faith Partain
Mathematics Education

Tiffany Roxanne Samuels
Psychology

Michael Wesley Thomason
Sports Communications

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Shernaille Daylene Bataille
Biology

John Preston Bishop
Biology

Alexis Cale Chitwood
Forensic Science

Caroline Mary Connelly
Engineering Physics

Benjamin Edward Hanfland
Engineering Physics

Ricardo Ibarra-Ruiz
Biology

Addison Grace Minervino
Interdisciplinary Studies

Anthony Newton
Computer Science

WALKER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

J. Kerry Waller, Dean

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Perla Estrada

Caroline Lucia Fuentes

Rebecca Elaine Helms

Connor P Hixson

Dylan Michael Lindsey

Justin James Rice

Melissa Carolina Rodriguez Vazquez

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Christal Craig

Arthur Cole Elrod

William Norman

Adrienne Robinson

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Octavius Mulligan, Dean

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Shauna Mae H Anderson
Elementary Education

Josie Caroline Benfield
Middle Grades Education

Abigail Robin Bernath
Elementary Education

Brigitte Anais Bilderback
Elementary Education

Christian Lorraine Blackwell
Middle Grades Education

Jadea Elise Blencowe
Elementary Education

Lynea B Cutshall
Elementary Education

Carson Dickens
Elementary Education

Katlyn Alaina Land Doster
Elementary Education

Alexis Cheyenne Furnas
Elementary Education

Alisha Marie Hope
Elementary Education

Dacia Marie Hulsey
Elementary Education

Tracie Elaine Jett
Elementary Education

Akyriyah Johnson
Elementary Education

Elvira Lampe
Elementary Education

Elissa Lotter
Elementary Education

Shemika LaFrances Abrams Mahoney
Elementary Education

Michaela P. Martin
Elementary Education

Amanda Ann Morgan
Elementary Education

Ideliz Nieves
Elementary Education

Martha Jenkins Payne
Elementary Education

Andrea Nikole Peebles
Elementary Education

Sydney Claire Petty
Elementary Education

Bianca I Phillips
Elementary Education

Kyrsta Lee Pokoski
Elementary Education

Tracy M. Rodriguez
Elementary Education

Courtney Nicole Smith
Elementary Education

Abigail Woodall Spencer
Elementary Education

Quadrika Starks
Special Education

Lauren Gray Truluck
Elementary Education

Alyssa M Waddell
Elementary Education

Ester Noemi Williams
Elementary Education

Madalyn Grace Williams
Elementary Education

Lia Womack
Elementary Education

Candace Zachery
Elementary Education

MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING

Robert Lavoisier Allen Sr.
Special Education

Alicia Lynn Ayers
Elementary Education

Ashley Nichole Bagglely
Elementary Education

Leneria S Bradley
Special Education

Kaislyn Jhavi Brown
Broadfield Science Education

Temika Brown
Middle Grades Education

Brittany Caronan
Elementary Education

Lara P. Collins
Middle Grades Education

Karl Michael Craig, Jr.
History Education

Ileyana Ashara Daves
Art Education

Tommie Johnson
Broadfield Science Education

Nicholas Patrick Katchur
Broadfield Science Education

Kelsey Nicole Mayfield
Elementary Education

Patricia McCrae
Special Education

Veronica Rena Munn
Elementary Education

Abbie Duckett Murphy
Special Education

AnDrell D Roberts
Special Education

Kristy Sawyer
Special Education

Carmen Schuerman
Art Education

Carolyn Jane Smith
Elementary Education

Kathryn Taylor
Broadfield Science Education

Cody Dean Waters
Middle Grades Education

Marshall Fayette Wilson
Special Education

MASTER OF ARTS

Sarah Claussen
Art Education

Katlyn Day
Elementary Education

Kaaitlyn Cheyanne Edgeman
Educational Studies

Rex Erwin Jr
Special Education

Sarah Elizabeth Ewing
Art Education

Mary Elizabeth George
Elementary Education

Ashlyn Ivey
Elementary Education

Carla Linette Jackson
Educational Studies

Mary Kate Jones
Elementary Education

Celeste Lopez Mendez
Elementary Education

Natalie M. Luck
Elementary Education

Rachel Mayfield
Middle Grades Education

Callie McDaniel
Elementary Education

Rebecca L Murphy
Art Education

Celeste Sherrill
Special Education

Katie Watson Speed
English Education

Aileen Swift
Gifted Education

Lindsay Kate Thomas
Special Education

Elizabeth Anne Tyson
Secondary Education

Taylor Juliet Wyatt
Elementary Education

Raquel Tahnee Wymbbs
Elementary Education

EDUCATION SPECIALIST

Jessica Akins
Curriculum & Instruction

Sarah Payne Allen
Curriculum & Instruction

Amanda Ayotte
Curriculum & Instruction

Sakina Sade' Bailey
Curriculum & Instruction

Rebecca Benefield
Curriculum & Instruction

Brandon Scott Boehman
Curriculum & Instruction

William Wesley Dooley
Curriculum & Instruction

Ana Figaro-Mustafa
Curriculum & Instruction

Shanyn Marie Foster
Curriculum & Instruction

Alexis Khenyetta Franklin
Curriculum & Instruction

Jaylen Lamar Gilstrap
Music Education

Daniel Goodmond
Music Education

Lauren Greene
Art Education

Karina Haney
Curriculum & Instruction

Erin Hayden
Curriculum & Instruction

Loretta Hayes
Curriculum & Instruction

Kevin D Holt
Curriculum & Instruction

Abigail Jackson
Curriculum & Instruction

Allison Breanna Johnson
Curriculum & Instruction

Nikita Shea Jones
Art Education

Spencer Jones
Curriculum & Instruction

Holly Jules
Curriculum & Instruction

Jenna E. Lowery
Art Education

Jason A McGuire
Curriculum & Instruction

Kristen McGuire
Curriculum & Instruction

Stephanie Dawn McHugh
Art Education

Abigail Smith Melton
Curriculum & Instruction

Erin Pringle Miley
Curriculum & Instruction

Andrew Moore
Art Education

Kimberly Mosteller
Curriculum & Instruction

David Mitchell Nance
Curriculum & Instruction

Kimberlee Mobley Outlaw
Curriculum & Instruction

Joseph Andrew Owens
Curriculum & Instruction

Sierra Stella Poskey
Curriculum & Instruction

Leslie Powell
Curriculum & Instruction

Jordan Lee Presnell
Curriculum & Instruction

Brittany Reck
Curriculum & Instruction

Gwendolyn Lewis Richards
Curriculum & Instruction

Matthew Rinker
Curriculum & Instruction

Jeremy Ruark
Curriculum & Instruction

Ashley Shadix
Art Education

Christopher Stephens
Curriculum & Instruction

Rebecca Lauren Stowers
Curriculum & Instruction

Shelby Suggs
Art Education

Hannah Szvetcz
Curriculum & Instruction

Reva Taylor
Curriculum & Instruction

Gregory Thompson
Music Education

Elizabeth Wheeler
Art Education

Mitchell White
Curriculum & Instruction

Lauren Long Wilkie
Curriculum & Instruction

Tina Williams
Curriculum & Instruction

Natalie Danielle Wood
Curriculum & Instruction

Tiffany Woolard
Art Education

Susan M. Yeager
Art Education

Issa Abasi Young
Music Education

DOCTOR OF EDUCATION

Christa L Hanley

B.A., University of Georgia

M.A., Piedmont University

Ed.S., Piedmont University

Dissertation: *Mathematics Workshops for Parents: The Conceptual Understanding and Language of Mathematics*

Dr. Toni Bailey, Committee Chair

HONOR SOCIETIES & ORGANIZATIONS

ALPHA PSI OMEGA

Lexie Faith Partain

AMERICAN MARKETING ASSOCIATION

Caroline Lucia Fuentes

CHI ALPHA SIGMA

Brigitte Anais Bilderback

Alexis Cale Chitwood

Caroline Lucia Fuentes

Connor P Hixson

Elissa Lotter

Hannah Jessica Morgan

Kevin Lee Murray

Michael Wesley Thomason

Madalyn Grace Williams

DELTA MU DELTA

Justin James Rice

FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES

Elissa Lotter

NATURAL SCIENCE HONORS PROGRAM

John Preston Bishop

The list of degree candidates was compiled prior to commencement, and the status of some candidates may have changed since that time.

The listing of the names in this program in no way implies an obligation on the part of Piedmont University to award a given degree.

PIEDMONT STOLES & CORDS

Graduation stoles and cords represent achievement, success, or membership at Piedmont University.

R.H. Daniel School of Nursing

Athletics

Apricot stole

Green stole

Organization:

American Marketing Association

Fellowship of Christian Athletics (FCA)

Health Science Leadership Academy

Piedmont University Student Nurses Assoc, NSNA

Team Piedmont Ambassadors

Student Government Association

Zeta Tau Alpha

Navy Blue, White cord

Royal Blue, Red, Gold cord

Old Gold, White cord

Silver, Light Blue, Purple cord

Forest Green, Black cord

Green, Gold cord

Teal, Gray cord

Society:

Alpha Lambda Delta

Alpha Psi Omega

Natural Science Honors Program

Chi Alpha Sigma

Delta Mu Delta

National Society Leadership and Success

Psi Chi

R.H. Daniel College of Nursing and Health Science Honor Society

Sigma Tau Delta

Society for Collegiate Journalists

Red, Gold, White cord

Light Blue, Gold cord

White, Gold cord

Gold, Black cord

Purple, Gold cord

Silver, Black cord

Blue, Silver cord

Green, White cord

Cardinal Red, Black cord

Scarlet, Gray cord

COMMENCEMENT

COMMENCEMENT

When Piedmont was founded in 1897, commencement was a five-day affair filled with speeches, sermons, academic and debating competition, dinners, and—finally—the conferral of degrees. Over the years, the time allotted for commencement was shortened, a reflection of the quickened pace of the modern era. Piedmont University still retains many commencement customs and traditions that date back to the 12th century, including the use of the mace, gonfalon, and academic garb.

MACE

The Piedmont mace was handcrafted by Dr. Patrick Taylor, former chair of the Department of Art. The staff is carved from American cherry wood, and the handle is leather. The base is cast in bronze. The pommel, located at the bottom of the staff, symbolically represents the foundation of the University and is inscribed with the date 1897.

The crown on top of the mace is a globe representing the University's commitment to the preparation of students for global work and service. The mace and attached seals represent the authority of Piedmont University to award academic degrees as prescribed by the institution's charter from the State of Georgia.

The flame of learning, cast in an alloy of bronze, sterling silver, and gold and mounted on the top of the mace, symbolizes student acquisition of knowledge from an academically accomplished and talented Piedmont University faculty. The tip of the flame forms an open hand representing the quest for spiritual and intellectual development in service to humankind.

GONFALON

Another Medieval trapping still used in modern commencement traditions at Piedmont University is the gonfalon, a banner hung from a crossbar instead of from a pole as commonly used for flags. A gonfalon is known as a standard, and in Italian tradition the "gonfalonier" is the standard bearer. Piedmont uses a ceremonial gonfalon that bears the University seal and is displayed at the head of the processional column.

ACADEMIC DRESS

Academic dress originates with the founding of European universities in the 12th century. All Medieval students were clerks (clerici) and wore the dress of the secular clergy. The oldest article of academic dress worn was the robe (roba), a loose gown, over which hung the habit (cappa), usually a kind of tunic with short, wide sleeves. The Medieval hood (caputium) could be gathered around the neck or pulled up on the head as a turban. There were three kinds of caps: the round pileus, reserved for doctoral dignity; the tena, a round cap with strings that were tied under the chin and worn by jurists; and the square birretium.

The basic design of academic costumes in the U.S. was established in 1895 and was first used at Piedmont by the class of 1902. There are three types of gowns, three styles of hoods, and two kinds of cap tassels used for the American academic garb. The bachelor's gown has long, pointed, open sleeves. The master's gown is similar but has longer sleeves that are closed at the bottom. The doctoral gown has full-length lapels of velvet and bell-shaped sleeves with three horizontal velvet bars. The color of gowns is usually black, although some colleges have specified that doctoral students may wear gowns showing distinctive colors.

The hood varies according to respective academic degrees, with the doctoral hood being longer and fuller in shape than the others. The academic field of study can be determined by the color of the velvet facing sewn on the hood. The color represents the academic field of study as follows: white for the arts; gold-yellow for science; drab for business administration; lemon for librarianship; scarlet for theology; brown for fine arts; light blue for education; pink for music; and dark blue for philosophy. The hood is lined in silk displaying the colors of the degree-granting institution. Tassels for bachelor's and master's are green and gold. The doctoral tassels are gold.

Piedmont faculty have earned degrees at a number of post-baccalaureate institutions, and most wear the doctoral hood. The hood colors worn by some Piedmont faculty represent the following academic institutions: burnt orange and blue (Auburn University); green and black (Binghamton University); crimson, black, and grey (Clark Atlanta University); orange and purple (Clemson University); garnet and gold (Florida State University); silver and red (Georgia State University); purple and gold (Louisiana State); dark blue and purple (Marquette University); royal blue and white (Medical College of Georgia); orange and black (Mercer University); red and white (Miami University of Ohio); maroon and white (Mississippi State University); navy blue and gray (Nova Southwestern University); scarlet and grey (Ohio State University); green and gold (Piedmont University); crimson and white (University of Alabama); green and gold (University of Alabama, Birmingham); cardinal and apple blossom (University of Arkansas); blue and gold (University of California, Davis); orange and blue (University of Florida); red and black (University of Georgia); silver and gold (University of Idaho); orange and blue (University of Illinois); blue and white (University of Kentucky); maize and blue (University of Michigan); gold and white (University of North Carolina at Greensboro); scarlet and cream (University of Nebraska - Lincoln); garnet and black (University of South Carolina); orange and white (University of Tennessee); cardinal and white (University of Wisconsin); gold and black (University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee); black and gold (Vanderbilt University); slate and cyan (Walden University); blue and gold (West Virginia University); and blue and gold (Wilkes University).

12

