

PIEDMONT UNIVERSITY

GRADUATE COMMENCEMENT

Friday, May 10, 2024 | 1:00 p.m.



PROGRAM

Presiding
Marshall M. Criser III
President of the University

PROCESSIONAL “Festival Grand March from The Queen of Sheba” . . . *United States Marine Band*
The audience will rise as the academic procession begins and remain standing until after the first hymn.

INVOCATION The Reverend Joyce Acree

HYMN “The Star Spangled Banner” *Tressie Polk*

Oh, say can you see by the dawn’s early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight’s last gleaming
Whose broad stripes and bright stars thru the perilous fight,
O’er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming
And the rocket’s red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.
Oh, say does that star-spangled banner yet wave,
O’er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

WELCOME President Criser

CONFERRING OF DEGREES Bruce Willis
Vice President for Academic Affairs

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

HYMN TO THE ALMA MATER *WESTMORELAND*
Please rise as Piedmont University Singers perform 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 The Reverend Joyce Acree

- Faculty Marshal** Albert Pleysier, *Professor of History*

- Registrar** Melissa Fortner

- Student Marshals** Sheena Patrick, *Associate Registrar*
 Natalie Hale, *Student Services Specialist*
 Elizabeth Bates, *Student Services Specialist*

- Gonfalon Bearer** Hannah Franks



DEGREE CANDIDATES

R.H. DANIEL COLLEGE OF NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES

Jaime Johnson-Huff, Dean

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Colby Grace Reed

WALKER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

J. Kerry Waller, Dean

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Ja'Sae Alexcia Lawrence

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Octavius Mulligan, Dean

MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING

Chester Adams

Madelyn Bigelow

Keri Brooks

Charles Bradley Cochran

Katelynn Dixon

Billy Dufresne

Georgia Eatherly

Peyton Elder

Brittany Everett

Sunshine Michelle Foster

Sarah Ghann

Erica R. Hill

Dylan Marie Jones

Kristy Onjinea Lightsey

Kristolyn Long

Robert Daniel Morris

Tara Hale Phelps

Alison Sapp

Essence Scott

Marcus Russell Shockley

Renu Singh

Shannon Mize Sokol

April Nicole Swing

Anna Katherine Thomas

Mary Margaret Thompson

Mary Katharine Truett

Kelly Johnson Walkey

Rita Worley

MASTER OF ARTS

Meagan Akins

Kaylee Elizabeth Bosley

Lauren Marie Brickle

Taylor Brooks

Jamie Kathleen Brynteson

Emily Gerry

Hayleigh Virginia James

Emily McNeese

Rebecca L. Murphy

Brandi Patterson

Cory Rumbaugh

Jamie Shultz

Carolyn Simonds

Joshua Streetman

Allison Thornton

Nakiyah Washington

Taylor Juliet Wyatt

EDUCATION SPECIALIST

Heather Bowden

Nicole Burgess

Charlesse L. Charles

Krista Cordova

Jessica Dietsch

Carmen Durham

Maryann Elliott

Monica Gambrell

Cole Glommen

Jonathan Grant Gustin

Michael Herrin

Anna Watson Humble

Angela F. Jackson

Sarah Elizabeth Jolley

Candace McLendon King

Kalyn Martin

Maggi Martinez

Sara Melcher

Susan Muñoz

Jami Briggs North

Brittany Pate

Matthew Putman

Ray Austin Rains

Sharon Saunders

Savannah Simpson

Joyce Patrice Smith

Tangi Smith

Jasmine Kiana Sparks

Jenna Marie Soares

Quanterica Uriah

Ashlyn Waits

Sanica Walker

Shenericka Walton

Amber Nicole Washington

Riley Wildeman

LaDina L. Williams

Mallory Wood

Jamila Kibler Youmans

DOCTOR OF EDUCATION

Stacia Dillin

B.B.A. – Georgia Southern University
M.A.T. – Valdosta State University
Ed.S. – Lincoln Memorial University

Dissertation: *School Choice and Impact on High School Graduation*

Dr. Perry Rettig, Committee Chair

Renato Britto Ferreira

B.F.A. – University of Georgia
M.A. – Piedmont University
Ed.S. – Piedmont University

Dissertation: *A School of the Arts Embedded Evaluation: Defining a System of Values as Curricular Design*

Dr. Jackie Ellett, Committee Chair

Jennifer Gibbons

B.S. – Piedmont University
M.A.T. – Piedmont University
Ed.S. – Piedmont University

Dissertation: *Exploring the Effect of Gifted Service Models on the Growth of Student Creativity*

Dr. Sarah Sumners, Committee Chair

Michaela Marie-Norman Hicks

B.S. – Kennesaw State University
M.A. – Piedmont University
Ed.S. – Piedmont University

Dissertation: *Understanding Secondary Educators' Self-Experiences with Technology Integration*

Dr. Sarah Sumners, Committee Chair

Lyndsey Klempay

B.S. – Miami University
M.A. – Piedmont University
Ed.S. – Piedmont University

Dissertation: *Exploring Teacher Backgrounds: How Teacher Mathematical Journeys Shape Classroom Instruction*

Dr. Sarah Sumners, Committee Chair

Angela Marie Kretschmar

B.S. – Reinhardt University
M.Ed. – Mercer University
Ed.S. – Piedmont University

Dissertation: *Comprehensive Reading Instruction: A Program Evaluation Study of a School's Blended Approach to Reading Instruction, Including Components of Structured and Balanced Literacy*

Dr. Perry Rettig, Committee Chair

Brad Jason Sikes

A.S. – Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College
B.S. – University of Georgia
M.Ed. – University of Georgia
Ed.S. – University of Georgia

Dissertation: *Effects of Elementary Principal Traits on Teacher Perceptions of Competence, Relatedness, and Autonomy*

Dr. Toni Bailey, Committee Chair

Jahmar Tate

B.S. – Georgia Southern University
M.Ed. – Fort Valley State University
Ed.S. – Piedmont University

Dissertation: *Evaluating the Impact of a Behavior-based Intervention Program on Minority Adolescent Students*

Dr. Sarah Sumners, Committee Chair

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 black. 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: purple and gold (Louisiana State University); red and black (University of Georgia); crimson and white (Indiana University); silver and red (Georgia State University); blue and gold (West Virginia University); gold and white (Georgia Institute of Technology); white and light blue (Pennsylvania State University); orange and white (University of Tennessee); crimson and white (University of Alabama); blue and white (University of Kentucky); and blue and buff (The George Washington University).

