# PIEDMONT UNIVERSITY

## UNDERGRADUATE COMMENCEMENT

Friday, May 10, 2024 | 9:00 a.m.



### PROGRAM

#### Presiding

Marshall M. Criser III President of the University

PROCESSIONAL	"Festival Grand March from The Queen of Sheba" United States Marine Band
Т	he 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 AND INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER	President Criser
COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS	Senator Bo Hatchett Georgia Senator
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 Bruce Willis, will present the dean of 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 Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Fine Arts, Bachelor of Science, and Bachelor in Science in Nursing.

#### 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.

Verse 1 Where the Georgian hills grow purple In the sunset glow, Proudly stands our Alma Mater In the vale below.

Refrain Green and Gold float on for aye, Old Piedmont for thee, We, thy loyal sons and daughters Bless thy memory.

Verse 2 As around the mighty oak tree Clings the ivy vine, So around thee, dear old Piedmont Loyal hearts entwine. (Refrain)

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)

Faculty Marshal Albert Pleysier, Professor of History

Melissa Fortner Registrar

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

Gonfalon Bearer Hannah Franks

#### COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

Senator Bo Hatchett is currently the Georgia Senator for District 50, spanning nine counties in the northeastern region. Senator Hatchett is a Habersham County native where he attended Habersham Central High School lettering four years in swimming and was the guarterback in football for three years. He attended Presbyterian College before transferring to Georgia Tech to pursue swimming. He graduated from Georgia Tech in 2013 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. He graduated with a Juris Doctor from the University of Georgia School of Law in 2017. Senator Hatchett was elected to the Georgia Senate in 2020 and reelected in 2022. He currently serves as the Senate Floor Leader for Governor Brian Kemp. He serves on the Children and Families, Reapportionment and Redistricting, Agriculture & Consumer Affairs, Ethics, Health & Human Services, and Judiciary Committees. Outside of elected office, Hatchett is an attorney at McDonald and Cody, specializing in personal injury, medical malpractice, and product liability cases. Senator Hatchett and his wife, Ashley, are proud parents of 4 children.

#### **DESCRIPTION OF AWARDS**

#### H.M. STEWART, SR. AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

The H.M. Stewart, Sr. Award of Excellence is presented annually to the top honor graduate of Piedmont University, identified as the senior with the highest grade-point average. H.M. Stewart was a groundbreaking leader in communications in Georgia and a long-time friend of Piedmont University. The H.M. Stewart Award celebrates the recipient's academic achievement in two ways: the honoree's name is inscribed on a large trophy that is displayed in the Arrendale Library's honors corner, and the honoree receives a miniature of the trophy as a commemoration of his or her achievement.

#### THE MICHAEL AND EMILY ROBERTSON KINDNESS AWARD

The Michael and Emily Robertson Kindness Award is established by Michael S. and Emily K. Robertson to encourage and recognize kindness within the student body of Piedmont University. The donors' sincere desire is to acknowledge the words of the prophet in Micah 6:8, "...what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God." (ESVUK) By recognizing kindness as an important personal characteristic, the donors hope that this award will, in some small way, encourage kind behavior. The award is given annually to the student who has demonstrated kindness to others through his or her actions within the Piedmont University community. The recipient is determined by a committee of students and employees. This award is for any undergraduate student who attends either the Demorest or Athens campus.

#### OUTSTANDING UNDERGRADUATE ADVISOR AWARD

The Piedmont University Outstanding Undergraduate Advisor Award is presented annually to an undergraduate academic advisor who has demonstrated in an exceptional manner the qualities essential for sound advising.

#### **VULCAN MATERIALS COMPANY TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD**

Established in 1991, the Vulcan Teaching Excellence Award is awarded annually to honor an outstanding professor on selected member campuses of the Georgia Independent College Association. The award recognizes an outstanding faculty member who demonstrates strong academic skills in the classroom and who provides leadership and support in other areas of campus life. The recipients are faculty who assist the institutions in nurturing an academic climate which fosters teaching and who provide leadership to enhance the campus community.

### **DEGREE CANDIDATES**

#### COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Steve Jacobs, Dean

#### **BACHELOR OF ARTS**

Julian Margaret Benson Art

Jennifer Nicole Broach Criminal Justice

Matthew Byrne Buckis *History Education* 

Ella Grace Cain Mass Communications

Bentley Hope Cronic *History Education* 

Sof Delgado Interdisciplinary Studies

Aaliyah Monserrate Doddridge Criminal Justice

Christophe Donsereaux Sports Communications

Jahkida Doyle Criminal Justice & Political Science

Lakhiya Kiera Na'Kole Franklin English

Leonardo Galarza Sports Communications

Madi Gallarelli Psychology

John A. Gardner Criminal Justice

Anna Wren Greubel Psychology

Gary R. Halverson Art

Joshua Hebrink Psychology Hailey Johnson Mass Communications

Ellawyn Jean Ketch *Music* 

Matthew Charles Kodrowski Mass Communications & Sports Communications

Conner Doyle Land History & Philosophy and Religion

Kayla M. Lathon Mass Communications

Abby Rosa Mauldin Psychology

Cameron S. McDonald Biology Education

Caden N. Nelms Mass Communications

Ally D. Nguyen English

Halee Summer Porter *Psychology* 

Connor Paxson Rogers Sports Communications

Wesley Alan Rogers Psychology & Sociology and Anthropology

Tyler Robert Roon Criminal Justice

Silas Sandles Sports Communications

Kellianne Elizabeth Schlosser Criminal Justice

Kayla Brianne Sullivan *Art Education* 

Austin Vaughn Political Science

Abigail Grace Venham Mass Communications & Sports Communications Alexa Taylor Washburn Criminal Justice

James Robert Whitmer Sports Communications

Dante Jordan Wilson Film Production & Theatre Arts

Katherine Grace Windham *Art Therapy & Psychology* 

Jesselle Danielle Witter Art

#### **BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS**

Sarah Michelle Brooks Art

Elizabeth Lane Carter Art

Imani Monet Spence Art

#### **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE**

Kelley Michele Anderson Interdisciplinary Studies

Jenna Naomi Ash Biology

Lauren E. Atkin Forensic Science

Kaylen Avila Soto Forensic Science

Connor James Fitzgerald Forensic Science

Madi Gallarelli Neuroscience

Anna Wren Greubel Neuroscience

Brooklyn Gunn Mathematics Education

Jesse Harbin Applied Physics Domonique M. Hill Biology

Kendall Jenkins Biology

Julia Rose Ludwick *Biology* 

Maci Syloan Nipper Interdisciplinary Studies

Emily Brook Patton Biology

Janiah Nicole Rakestraw Chemistry

Emily Yuxin Rankin Biology

Patrick Monroy Richmond Forensic Science

Maxwell Lawrence Shaughnessy Biology

Hannah Grace Simmons Biology

Margaret Elaine Spratlin Forensic Science

Samantha M. Williams Interdisciplinary Studies

Angela May Winston Interdisciplinary Studies

Megan Zeldenrust Mathematics

### WALKER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

J. Kerry Waller, Dean

#### **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE**

Brayden Keith Brooks Accounting

Cameron Walker Capelle Business Administration

Alicia B. Collier Business Administration

Aidan David Cooney Accounting & Business Administration

William Joseph Donaldson Accounting & Business Administration

Jentry Rene Elliott Business Administration

Danice Rose Evans Accounting

John Clayton Foster III Business Administration

Jack Michael Gilsenan Business Administration

Joseph Michael Helenbrook Business Administration

Owen Robert Helgesen Business Administration

Kennedi Eve Henson Business Administration

Kolton Hicks Business Administration

Kelton Lynn Kieschnick Business Administration

Joseph Nolan Ledbetter Business Administration Gillian Lloyd Business Administration

Winnfred David Martin Business Administration

John D. Matrona Business Administration

Cierra Janaé McFerrin Business Administration

Calli Telle Moen Business Administration

Megan Monge Business Administration

Isaak David Mullanack Business Administration

Eric Nathaniel Penland Business Administration

Michael Porcelli Accounting

Christian Brady Puckett Business Administration

Noah Liam Reardon Business Administration

Mary-Grace Shaw Accounting & Business Administration

Marion Amy Sloyan Business Administration

Jacob Wells Business Administration

Schuylar Frances Willis Business Administration

Megan Zeldenrust Business Administration

### COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Octavius Mulligan, Dean

#### **BACHELOR OF ARTS**

Taylor Andrews Elementary Education

Rebecca K. Bailey Educational Studies

Bailey Grace Baker Elementary Education

Macie Grace Benson Elementary Education

Zoey Alexandra Brock Middle Grades Education

MacKenzie L. Clemens Elementary Education

Vanessa Kaye Davidson Elementary Education

Shania Etwara Elementary Education

Amy L. Farlow Elementary Education

Samantha Foster Special Education

Amber Froyen Elementary Education

Perla Gonzalez Elementary Education

Grace Camryn Gove Elementary Education

Jennifer Marie Higgins Elementary Education

Alisha Marie Hope Elementary Education

Catherine Siena Howard Middle Grades Education Wendy Duke Lane Middle Grades Education

Meghan Lee Elementary Education

Ana Gabriela Lopez Prado Middle Grades Education

Tiffiany Nicole Mayweather Elementary Education

Christina Marie McCall *Special Education* 

Trista Belle Morris Elementary Education

Hallee McCall Nash Elementary Education

Denisse Paramo Elementary Education

Micaela Quesada Elementary Education

Tracey Rico Educational Studies

Marybeth Stevens Elementary Education

Allison Ann Sutton Elementary Education

Kara May Taylor Elementary Education

Katyhusca Tedford Elementary Education

Montana Thomas Elementary Education

Bailey Rae Webb Elementary Education

Jessie Brae' Yeargin Elementary Education

### COLLEGE OF NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES

Jaime Johnson-Huff, Dean

#### **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE**

Jillian Addy Exercise and Sport Science

Selah Elisabeth Anderson Applied Health Science

Elizabeth Ann Arrendale Health Care Administration

Rebecca Ryleigh Bell Exercise and Sport Science

Cortney Ann Brown Health Care Administration

Madison Carver Communication Sciences and Disorders

Marlo Loraine Coker Communication Sciences and Disorders

Destiny Deetz Health Care Administration

Kody D. Dills Applied Health Science

Matthew F. Luther Exercise and Sport Science

Brady Francis McGuire Applied Health Science

Catherine Mote Exercise and Sport Science

Anika Nguyen Applied Health Science

Madelyn F. Parris Applied Health Science

Jaycie Taylor Ponce Communication Sciences and Disorders

Colby Grace Reed Athletic Training Haley Marie Rizzo Exercise and Sport Science

Samantha Seymour Applied Health Science

Marion Amy Sloyan Health Care Administration

Hannah Grace Smith Exercise and Sport Science

Lauren Elizabeth Stone Health Care Administration

Matthew Ellis Turner Exercise and Sport Science

Lindley Marie Ward Applied Health Science

Amyah Nicole Williams Exercise and Sport Science

Emma Williams Communication Sciences and Disorders

#### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

Presley Arnold Destiny B. Arwood Derrick Christian Bahnsen Alexa Leann Benefield Kaylee Yamileth Bermudez Tatiana Bocanegra Jaycie Noelle Bowen Taylor Ann Buckner Chelcea Sierra Carper Michelle E. Cerra Grace Chancey Morgan Charise Copeland Chloe Renee Crawford Maria Guadalupe Cruz Acosta Michael Dale Lauren Daria Rowan Arielle Delf-Montgomery Tamara Rae Delgado Cianna Dodds Kallie McKenzie Doster Mary R. Felice Kassondra Lee Gaddy Dhanraj Mahesh Gajjar **Emalee Grace Griggs Elizabeth Lee Harris** Artizana Hasaj Gabriella Rose Hayes Chaelyn Breeze Hembree Matisyn Grace Hill John Braxton Hodge Kilby Elizabeth Hunnicutt Abigail Whitaker Lang Kelvin Lopez Alaina Ann McDonald Shadae A. McFarlane Nikki Mercadel Jordana Melana Sophia Mills **Delaney Grace Morcom** Victor Manuel Murillo Katherine Michelle Navarro Victoria MyHuyen Nguyen

**Breanna Nine** Katy Alise Ogle Maybelline Gissela Ordonez Cierra Rayann Pedraza Ali Powell Ashley Elizabeth Pugh Joanna Giselle Rodriguez **Brittany Rutledge** Abigail Claire Ryan Jaclyn M. Sampson Abigail Taylor Seagraves Cynthia Ama Serwaah Simranjot Singh Ashley Taylor Smith Marissa Taghon **Constance Tatom Gwyneth Thomas** Meagan Delois Thompson Jackson Traylor Joanna Emmanuela Tsesmelis Whitley Ward Meredith Renae Whisenant Lu Woolfolk Harlee Yarbrough **Brianne Young** 

### HONOR SOCIETIES, ORGANIZATIONS, & GROUPS

#### ALPHA ALPHA ALPHA

Rebecca K. Bailey Chelcea Sierra Carper Michelle E. Cerra Bentley Hope Cronic Michael Dale Kody D. Dills Lakhiya Kiera Na'Kole Franklin Leonardo Galarza Artizana Hasaj Domonique M. Hill Caden N. Nelms Abigail Taylor Seagraves Hannah Grace Simmons Meredith Renae Whisenant Samantha M. Williams

#### ALPHA LAMBDA DELTA

Breanna Nine Abigail Taylor Seagraves

#### ALPHA PSI OMEGA Sof Delgado Dante Jordan Wilson

#### AMERICAN MARKETING ASSOCIATION

Brayden Keith Brooks Jentry Rene Elliott Jack Michael Gilsenan Owen Robert Helgesen Gillian Lloyd Cierra Janaé McFerrin Noah Liam Reardon

#### **CHI ALPHA SIGMA**

Jillian Addv Jenna Naomi Ash Jennifer Nicole Broach Cortney Ann Brown **Bentley Hope Cronic Destiny Deetz** Kody D. Dills William Joseph Donaldson Jahkida Dovle Danice Rose Evans John Clayton Foster III Madi Gallarelli Jack Michael Gilsenan Anna Wren Greubel Gabriella Rose Haves Joshua Hebrink **Owen Robert Helgesen** Kolton Hicks Gillian Llovd Julia Rose Ludwick John D. Matrona Abby Rosa Mauldin Nathan Rvan Mix **Breanna Nine Emily Brook Patton Eric Nathaniel Penland** Javcie Tavlor Ponce Michael Porcelli Ashley Elizabeth Pugh Micada Quesada Noah Liam Reardon Haley Marie Rizzo Wesley Alan Rogers Mary-Grace Shaw Marion Amy Sloyan Margaret Elaine Spratlin Jackson Traylor Austin Vaughn Lindley Marie Ward Emma Williams Lu Woolfolk Megan Zeldenrust

#### COLLEGE OF NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES HONOR SOCIETY

Selah Elisabeth Anderson **Derrick Christian Bahnsen** Kaylee Yamileth Bermudez Grace Chancey Chloe Renee Crawford **Destiny Deetz** Rowan Arielle Delf-Montgomery Tamara Rae Delgado Kody D. Dills Mary R. Felice Gabriella Rose Hayes Kilby Elizabeth Hunnicutt Ashley Taylor Smith Jackson Traylor Meredith Renae Whisenant Emma Williams Harlee Yarbrough

#### **DELTA MU DELTA**

Owen Robert Helgesen John D. Matrona Eric Nathaniel Penland Mary-Grace Shaw

#### NATURAL SCIENCE HONORS PROGRAM

Jenna Naomi Ash Domonique M. Hill Julia Rose Ludwick Emily Brook Patton Janiah Nicole Rakestraw Emily Yuxin Rankin Maxwell Lawrence Shaughnessy Hannah Grace Simmons

#### **PSI CHI**

Madi Gallarelli Anna Wren Greubel Abby Rosa Mauldin Wesley Alan Rogers

#### RESIDENTIAL LIVING/ RESIDENT ASSISTANTS

Kaylen Avila Soto Kody D. Dills Leonardo Galarza Anna Wren Greubel Ana Gabriela Lopez Prado Jaycie Taylor Ponce Patrick Monroy Richmond Wesley Alan Rogers Maxwell Lawrence Shaughnessy Alexa Taylor Washburn Katherine Grace Windham

#### SIGMA TAU DELTA

Lakhiya Kiera Na'Kole Franklin Ally D. Nguyen

#### SOCIETY OF COLLEGIATE JOURNALISTS

Hailey Johnson Matthew Charles Kodrowski

### **PIEDMONT STOLES & CORDS**

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

#### R.H. Daniel School of Nursing Athletics

#### 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

#### Society:

Alpha Lambda Delta Alpha Psi Omega Natural Science Honors Program Chi Alpha Sigma Delta Mu Delta National Society Leadership and Success Psi Chi College of Nursing and Health Science Honor Society Sigma Tau Delta Society for Collegiate Journalists Apricot stole Green stole

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

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

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.

### COMMENCEMENT

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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 (clerci) 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 fulllength 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 postbaccalaureate 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).



