

PIEDMONT UNIVERSITY

UNDERGRADUATE & GRADUATE COMMENCEMENT

Friday, July 19, 2024 | 10:00 a.m.
Piedmont University Chapel



PROGRAM

Presiding
Marshall M. Criser III
President of the University

PROCESSIONAL “The Liberty Bell March” *United States Army Field 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” *Julia DeMello*

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 Melissa Fortner
Registrar

The conferring of degrees is authorized by the Board of Trustees upon the recommendation of the President and Faculty. Registrar Melissa Fortner will introduce the dean of college and Dr. Bob Glass, Dean of Libraries and College Librarian 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 Science, Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Master of Business Administration, Master of Science, Master of Arts in Teaching, Master of Arts, and Education Specialist.

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.	Verse 2 As around the mighty oak tree Clings the ivy vine, So around thee, dear old Piedmont Loyal hearts entwine. (Refrain)
Refrain Green and Gold float on for aye, Old Piedmont for thee, We, thy loyal sons and daughters Bless thy memory.	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)



BENEDICTION The Reverend Joyce Acree

RECESSIONAL “Radetzky March” *JOHANN STRAUSS SR.*

Faculty Marshal Albert Pleysier, *Professor of History*

Registrar Melissa Fortner

Student Marshals Sheena Patrick, *Associate Registrar*
 Natalie Hale, *Student Services Specialist*
 Lily Cranford, *Student Services Specialist*

Gonfalon Bearer Rylie Erickson



DEGREE CANDIDATES

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Steve Jacobs, Dean

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Devin Dean
Psychology

Rebeca Concepcion Garcia
Psychology & Sociology

Shyla Sheffield
Psychology

John Westmoreland
Interdisciplinary Studies

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Michael Edward Anderson
Interdisciplinary Studies

Peyton Xavier Tillery
Engineering Science & Mathematics

WALKER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

J. Kerry Waller, Dean

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Andrew David Bennett
Business Administration

Jack Harrison Jump
Business Administration

Marisol Rojas Perez
Business Administration

William Tucux
Business Administration

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Logan Cranford

Collyn Cown Sackett

R.H. DANIEL COLLEGE OF NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES

Jaime Johnson-Huff, Dean

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Toi Mekhi Watson
Communication Sciences and Disorders

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

Victoria MyHuyen Nguyen

Constance Tatom

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Aria Solano

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Octavius Mulligan, Dean

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Tonya Ellene Hart
Special Education

Elizabeth Mary Jackson
Educational Studies

MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING

Jasmine Alvarado

Tori Lynn Christen

Joni Estep

Brianna Nichole Gladney

Mia Hall

Jarius Ramon Johnson

Alison Barry Sapp

Sara Katherine Wagler

MASTER OF ARTS

Janell Nicole Bloom

Dorothy Cheyenne Bryant

Elizabeth Callahan

Dorothy Leigh Cowan

Ashley Berryman Craig

Joel Anthony Harris

Joy Kummel

Brian Levine

Bethany Martin

Megan Rose Moon

Kara Payne

Yanyetta Brante Robinson

Caitlyn Wooldridge

Hannah Yarber

EDUCATION SPECIALIST

Emily Sanford Bracken

Shamiya Brown

Brandon M. Bullock

Miranda Burnell

Rebecca Chandler

Haley Bowles Crowder

Jennifer Orr Czarowitz

Chloe Davis

Katherine Deal

La Verne Kitchens Duthie

Juan Enrique Garcia

Page Henning

Kristen Nicole Herringdine

Savannah Meghan Hokanson

Savannah Holman

Marlen Huato Penaloza

Alice Lamb

Chelsea McCreary

Thomas McCreary

Candice L. Merritt

Jennifer Murphy

April Nicholson

Shonta' Golden Pauldin

Andrea Porter

Krystal Shearon

Moira Templeton

Rebecca Theros

Isabel Maria Valencia Leon

Julie D Whitmire

Allison Williams

Catherine Young

Darius Deniece Young

HONOR SOCIETIES

RESIDENTIAL LIVING & RESIDENT ASSISTANTS HONOR SOCIETY

Rebeca Concepcion Garcia

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

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).

