

PIEDMONT UNIVERSITY

UNDERGRADUATE & GRADUATE COMMENCEMENT

Friday, December 13, 2024 | 10:00 a.m.
Johnny Mize Athletic Center



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
Graduate Student, Piedmont University

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

ADDRESS Mark Evans
Assistant Professor, Education

Mark Evans, Assistant Professor of Education at Piedmont University, is the 2024 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 2021. Evans earned an Associate of Arts degree (1992) from New Mexico Military Institute, a Bachelor of Arts (1998) from University of Maryland, Baltimore County, a Master of Education (2002) from University of North Georgia, and an Education Specialist (2009) from University of Georgia. Mr. Evans serves as a faculty representative to the faculty senate. He also serves as the vice president of the Clark County School Board, where the citizens of the ninth district elected him. In his downtime Professor Evans and his wife, Melissa, have two children.

CONFERRING OF DEGREES Vickie Turner
Vice President of Academic Affairs

The conferring of degrees is authorized by the Board of Trustees upon the recommendation of the President and Faculty. VPAA Vickie Turner will introduce the dean of college and Dr. Bob Glass, Dean of Libraries and College Librarian 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 Science, Master of Arts in Teaching, Master of Arts, Education Specialist, and Doctor of Education.

HYMN TO THE ALMA MATER.....Piedmont University Singers

Please rise as Piedmont University Singers perform the Hymn to the Alma Mater. Remain standing until the conclusion of the recessional.

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| <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

RECESSIONAL "Radetzky March"*JOHANN STRAUSS SR.*

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

- Registrar** Melissa Fortner

- Student Marshals** Sheena Patrick, *Associate Registrar*
 Natalie Hale, *Registrar Specialist*
 Lily Cranford, *Registrar Specialist*
 Yareli Vazquez, *Registrar Specialist*

- Gonfalon Bearer** Rylie Erickson

DEGREE CANDIDATES

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Steve Jacobs, Dean

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Drew Lilly Graham
Criminal Justice

Angelina Michele Green
Criminal Justice

Grace Marcella Kopf
Criminal Justice

Anna Elizabeth Lassiter
History and Government

Victoria Alexis Martin
Criminal Justice

Hannah-Reagan MacKenzie Mercado
Psychology

Luke Micham
Mass Communications

Nathan Ryan Mix
Sports Communications

David Harrison Park
Leadership Studies & Sociology

Jarrett J Ray
*Mass Communications &
Film Production*

Chloe Nacala Spradlin
*Mass Communications &
Sports Communications*

Robert Bryce Van Order
Criminal Justice

Hannah Bethany Walker
Psychology

Sophia Elliott Wells
Art Therapy

Kyle Scott York
History Education

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Victoria Drouin
Forensic Science

Landon B Ketchie
Interdisciplinary Studies

Jaslyn Olivia Lee
Forensic Science

Matthew Zane Morgan
Forensic Science

Madison Sierra Nance
Forensic Science

Zack George Schramm
Engineering Physics

Ebony Brion Teasley
Interdisciplinary Studies

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Courtney Chappell

Randi Rowland Davis

Stephanie Fekete

Charli Shephard

WALKER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

J. Kerry Waller, Dean

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Zoey Rae Fulbright
Business Administration

Samuel Manning Hall
Business Administration

Kareem D. Harvey
Business Administration

Mackenna Belle Johnson
Business Administration & Accounting

Justin Alexander Manus
Business Administration

Hannah M Minix
Business Administration

Brian Robles-Valera
Business Administration

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Zackary Hoopaugh

Kaitlin Maisie Isley

Ann Mariee Knight

Dakota Wilkes

R.H. DANIEL COLLEGE OF NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES

Jaime Johnson-Huff, Dean

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Caden Marqavious Collins
Exercise and Sport Science

Amanda Grace Price
Exercise and Sport Science

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Octavius Mulligan, Dean

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Barrett Michael Binder
Elementary Education

Ashleigh Olivia Brothers
Elementary Education

Cassandra R. Burch
Educational Studies

Hannah Grace Callaway
Elementary Education

Hanna Lee Carroll
Elementary Education

Jacob H Carver
Elementary Education

Celina Faye Chitwood
Educational Studies

Mya Monique Clark
Elementary Education

Deitra Gray
Elementary Education

Andelin Joy Hill
Elementary Education

Mikira Selisia Jennings
Elementary Education

Sophonie Joseph-Canel
Elementary Education

Lauren A Knowles
Elementary Education

Rebecca Davis McDonald
Elementary Education

Jamie S Moore
Elementary Education

Macy Thompson Owens
Special Education

Sandra Owens
Elementary Education

Cortni Peterson
Educational Studies

Destiny Roberts
Elementary Education

Anna Lauren Tolbert
Elementary Education

Kathryn Torregrossa
Elementary Education

MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING

Belina Berchini
Special Education

Christian Carruth
Middle Grades Education

Julia Rae DeMello
Music Education

Katrina Elliott
Special Education

Cynthia Harper
Special Education

Sarah Grace Hustey
Middle Grades Education

Jerri-Ann Jacobs
Special Education

Megan Jenkins
Elementary Education

Trevor Latimore
Music Education

Jordan Miller
Elementary Education

Rachel Myers
Special Education

Matthew Newbold
Middle Grades Education

Presley Ray
English Education

Angela Robinson
Special Education

Sarabia K.N. Royal-DuBose
Elementary Education

Alexandra Victoria Sorto
Art Education

Jennifer Williams
Middle Grades Education

MASTER OF ARTS

Erin McCrickard Beck
Elementary Education

Cara Boyd
Elementary Education

Morgan Taylor Calhoun
Elementary Education

Ansleigh Carroll
Middle Grades Education

Cara Rose Crump
Elementary Education

Ellie Chandler Downey
Elementary Education

Kealey Grizzard
Middle Grades Education

Nicole Head
Elementary Education

Morgan Mason
Middle Grades Education

Skye McCormick
Elementary Education

Sharon McGaugh
Educational Studies

Racheal Mills
Special Education

Rachel Moser Rafinski
Elementary Education

Laken Elizabeth Stiles
Elementary Education

Erin Thomas
Elementary Education

Kayla Wallace
Elementary Education

Erica Watson
Art Education

EDUCATION SPECIALIST

Suzanne Janette Bailey
Curriculum and Instruction

Simone Bowden
Curriculum and Instruction

Jennifer Anne Box
Curriculum and Instruction

Jennifer Renee Brewer
Curriculum and Instruction

Kimberly Brumagen
Art Education

Tammy Cantrell
Curriculum and Instruction

Winter Ja'Ne Cardwell
Curriculum and Instruction

Charles Clinkenbeard
Art Education

Robert Davidson
Music Education

Reagan Day
Curriculum and Instruction

Karla Landeros Deese
Curriculum and Instruction

Diego Dixon
Curriculum and Instruction

Windee Lyn Dixon
Curriculum and Instruction

Johnathan Elakman
Art Education

Ryan George
Curriculum and Instruction

Jalanda Goff
Curriculum and Instruction

Demetrica Rena Gorden
Curriculum and Instruction

Dorota Hang
Curriculum and Instruction

Lashawn Harrell
Curriculum and Instruction

Emily R. Harrison
Curriculum and Instruction

Jeanna Hawthorne
Curriculum and Instruction

Shanice Holt
Art Education

Bradford Irwin
Curriculum and Instruction

Alyssa Aikens Johnson
Curriculum and Instruction

Cheryl S. Jones
Music Education

Sara Jones
Curriculum and Instruction

Jada Mack
Art Education

Ashley Martin
Curriculum and Instruction

Emily Mueller Mickel
Art Education

Kelly Mraz
Curriculum and Instruction

Savanna Pollard
Curriculum and Instruction

Melissa Savage
Curriculum and Instruction

Karisa W Seymour
Music Education

Jessica Arien Simmons
Curriculum and Instruction

Morgan Sipsy
Curriculum and Instruction

Andrea Hayes Sirard
Curriculum and Instruction

Jason Sirard
Curriculum and Instruction

Sara Ann Steward
Curriculum and Instruction

Kiana Alexis Sullivan
Curriculum and Instruction

Angela Nichole Tallent
Curriculum and Instruction

Thomas Traficante
Curriculum and Instruction

Cassie Vaughan
Art Education

Makayla Wade
Curriculum and Instruction

William E Walker
Curriculum and Instruction

Ami Walls
Curriculum and Instruction

Kristen Watts
Music Education

Jeremy Deione Webster
Music Education

Kaci Whiddon
Curriculum and Instruction

Heather Buchanan Williams
Curriculum and Instruction

Victoria Wilson
Music Education

Amy Carter Young
Art Education

Diana Young
Curriculum and Instruction

Chynna Zimmerman
Curriculum and Instruction



DOCTOR OF EDUCATION

Tawanna Robertson

B.A., Clark Atlanta University

M.Ed., Brenau University

Ed.S., NOVA Southeastern University

Dissertation: *Roses Do Grow Through Concrete:
An Embedded Mixed Methods Correlational
Study Examining the Impact of Mentor-Facilitated
Interventions on Black Girl Pushout in an Urban
School District*

Dr. Toni Bailey, Committee Chair

HONOR SOCIETIES & ORGANIZATIONS

CRIMINALISTICS CLUB

Angelina Michele Green

Jaslyn Olivia Lee

Madison Sierra Nance

TEAM PIEDMONT

Amanda Grace Price

SOCIETY FOR COLLEGIATE JOURNALISTS

Chloe Nacala Spradlin

Jarrett J Ray

PIEDMONT STOLES & CORDS

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

R.H. Daniel School of Nursing

Apricot stole

Athletics

Green stole

Criminalists Club

Blue stole

Organization:

American Marketing Association

Navy Blue, White cord

Fellowship of Christian Athletics (FCA)

Royal Blue, Red, Gold cord

Health Science Leadership Academy

Old Gold, White cord

Piedmont University Student Nurses Assoc, NSNA

Silver, Light Blue, Purple cord

Team Piedmont Ambassadors

Forest Green, Black cord

Student Government Association

Green, Gold cord

Zeta Tau Alpha

Teal, Gray cord

Society:

Alpha Lambda Delta

Red, Gold, White cord

Alpha Psi Omega

Light Blue, Gold cord

Natural Science Honors Program

White, Gold cord

Chi Alpha Sigma

Gold, Black cord

Delta Mu Delta

Purple, Gold cord

National Society Leadership and Success

Silver, Black cord

Psi Chi

Blue, Silver cord

College of Nursing and Health Science Honor Society

Green, White cord

Sigma Tau Delta

Cardinal Red, Black cord

Society for Collegiate Journalists

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

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).

