

# PIEDMONT UNIVERSITY

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## UNDERGRADUATE & GRADUATE COMMENCEMENT

Friday, May 9, 2025 | 9:00 a.m. | 1:00 p.m.  
Johnny Mize Athletic Center



# PROGRAM

## Presiding

Marshall M. Criser III

*President of the University*

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**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” ..... Natalie Edith Gonzalez  
*Undergraduate, 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** ..... Honorable Doug Collins  
*United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs*

**CONFERRING OF DEGREES** ..... Vickie Turner  
*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 Vickie Turner, will introduce the dean of colleges, 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 Fine Arts, Bachelor of Science, Master of Arts in Teaching, Master of Arts, Master of Science, Master of Business Administration, 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.*

### 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)

**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*  
Yareli Vazquez, *Student Services Specialist*

**Gonfalon Bearer**      Nicole Robinson

## COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

The Honorable Douglas A. Collins was sworn in as the 12th secretary of Veterans Affairs on Feb. 5, 2025.

A native of Gainesville, Georgia, Mr. Collins saw public service modeled by his father, a Georgia State Trooper, and mother, who provided care to local senior citizens. He earned a degree in 1988, in political science and criminal justice from the University of North Georgia. Secretary Collins earned his master's degree in divinity from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in 1996, and his community roots deepened in the eleven years he pastored Chicopee Baptist Church. In 2006, the people of Georgia's 27th State House District elected Mr. Collins to represent them. During his first term in the state legislature, Collins graduated in 2007 from Atlanta's John Marshall Law School and established his own legal practice.

As a U.S. Air Force Reserve chaplain, Mr. Collins has ministered to our country's military since 2002. He completed a 2008-2009 deployment to Iraq while stationed at Balad Air Base. He remains a colonel in the Air Force Reserve. Secretary Collins served as a U.S. Representative for Georgia's Ninth Congressional District from 2013-2021. While he is a public servant, attorney, and practicing military chaplain, he remains foremost a husband to Lisa and father to daughter Jordan and sons Copelan and Cameron. Lisa was a lifelong educator in Georgia's public schools, and together she and Doug are actively involved at Lakewood Baptist Church.

## 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.

## COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

J. Kerry Waller, Dean

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### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Tania Iveth Almendarez Calderón  
*Business Administration*

Jason Joseph Aussin  
*Accounting & Business Administration*

Noah McGill Barton  
*Business Administration*

Blake Simon Bolen  
*Business Administration*

Prestin Cole Boyd  
*Accounting & Business Administration*

Abbey Michelle Brock  
*Accounting*

James Cash  
*Accounting & Business Administration*

Michael Mayfield Cate III  
*Accounting*

Ryan James Colwell  
*Business Administration*

Bodie Maxwell Eilertson  
*Business Administration*

Cole Alexander Ellis  
*Accounting & Business Administration*

Jordyn Leeanne Green  
*Accounting*

Elizabeth Anne Harden  
*Business Administration*

Carson Phillip Huber  
*Business Administration*

Cateia Demyra Jones  
*Business Administration*

Maxwell D Kaufman  
*Business Administration*

Briana Elizabeth Laidman  
*Accounting & Business Administration*

Connor Joe Lane  
*Business Administration*

Isaiah Richard Lopez  
*Business Administration*

Cameron Jon Lucas  
*Business Administration*

Jackson Blaze Mason  
*Accounting & Business Administration*

Adam David Metivier  
*Business Administration*

Tyler Nelson  
*Business Administration*

Mallory Lyn O'Brien  
*Accounting & Business Administration*

Rachel O'Neal  
*Business Administration*

Kylar Allen James Potter  
*Business Administration*

Kyle Jeffrey Rutberg  
*Business Administration*

Draylon Tysean Starks  
*Business Administration*

Megan L Steinmeyer  
*Business Administration*

Ezekiel Von Swartz  
*Business Administration*

Josiah Tillett  
*Accounting & Business Administration*

Rachel Michelle Verner  
*Accounting*

Carson Gregston Vikos  
*Business Administration*

Kayden R White  
*Business Administration*

Kennlie Jamison Wright  
*Accounting & Business Administration*

## MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Peyton Skip Irvin

Suzanne Jones

Dylan Michael Lindsey

Griffin Tanner Neville

Christine Elizabeth Sledge

Randall Jared Worley

Valeriya Vadimovna Zhurakovskaya

### MASTER OF SCIENCE

Erica Peyton Etheridge  
*Management*

Anna Carol Joerschke  
*Management*

## COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Octavius Mulligan, Dean

---

### BACHELOR OF ARTS

Tiffani Noel Arriaga  
*Middle Grades Education*

Ashlyn Breigh Boswell  
*Elementary Education*

Mackenzie Michelle Bratton  
*Elementary Education*

Kimberly Carzan Crawford  
*Middle Grades Education*

Chloey Marie Davis  
*Elementary Education*

Tiffany Dispain  
*Elementary Education*

Emma Elizabeth Frost  
*Elementary Education*

Patricia Lynn Goodman  
*Elementary Education*

Lauren Paige Hambrick  
*Elementary Education*

Sydney Faith Horne  
*Elementary Education*

Kiarra Howard  
*Elementary Education*

Rosalinda Jimenez  
*Elementary Education*

Chantel Johnson  
*Elementary Education*

Chelsey Faith Lewis  
*Elementary Education*

Mariajose Montoya Talavera  
*Middle Grades Education*

Lashonda Tierra Nash  
*Elementary Education*

Amy Nieves  
*Elementary Education*

Nina Palomino  
*Elementary Education*

Bailey Mackenzie Parham  
*Elementary Education*

Zoe Patton  
*Elementary Education*

Catherine Rose Payne  
*Elementary Education*

Julie D. Power  
*Elementary Education*

Bailey Elizabeth Rayner  
*Middle Grades Education*

Jordan Leigh Reichert  
*Elementary Education*

Theresa Shumake  
*Middle Grades Education*

Diana Carpenter Williams  
*Middle Grades Education*

## MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING

Katrina Ann Adams  
*Elementary Education*

Octavia Ammons  
*Elementary Education*

Deidra Lavonne Bulger  
*Elementary Education*

Alexis Michelle Carson  
*History Education*

Cecelia Coke  
*Secondary Education*

Jennifer Downs  
*Special Education*

Leigh Dawn Evans  
*Elementary Education*

Angle Fulks  
*Middle Grades Education*

Tierra Gilchrist  
*Middle Grades Education*

Joseph Greene  
*Special Education*

Jessica Danielle Hawkins  
*Art Education*

Kristen Brooke Henson  
*Elementary Education*

Ciera Hickman  
*Special Education*

Jaquavius Hunt  
*Art Education*

Ansley Kiplinger  
*Elementary Education*

Kelly Lissimore  
*Elementary Education*

Amanda Lowe  
*Special Education*

Vintravious Bernard Martin  
*Special Education*

Nicholas Miller  
*Special Education*

Katrina Mitchell  
*English Education*

Shrutika Nagarkar  
*Elementary Education*

Jada W Osborne  
*Special Education*

Faran Pacheco-Marban  
*Elementary Education*

Carolyn Poling  
*Middle Grades Education*

Melanie Elizabeth Ponchot  
*Art Education*

Katelyn Breanne Poole  
*Special Education*

Jacqueline Ocon Ramirez  
*Elementary Education*

Sammantra Randolph  
*Elementary Education*

Jacob Reece  
*Special Education*

DeeJay Sexton  
*Special Education*

Heather Kristin Stewart  
*Secondary Education*

Tazjuana Thompson  
*Special Education*

Wesley Echols Walker  
*English Education*

Whitney Kenita Waller  
*Middle Grades Education*

## MASTER OF ARTS

Eliana Suzette Burkhalter  
*Elementary Education*

Britney Henderson  
*Elementary Education*

Holly Ruf Jones  
*Elementary Education*

Nicholas Thomas Knox  
*Educational Studies*

Melanie Faye Ledford  
*Middle Grades Education*

Ashley Powers  
*Elementary Education*

Ashley Roberts  
*Elementary Education*

Tailor Scotland  
*Middle Grades Education*

Emma Thompson  
*Elementary Education*

Jada Pollett White  
*Elementary Education*

## EDUCATION SPECIALIST

Georgia Lynn Allen  
*Curriculum and Instruction*

Jimrekis Howard Allen  
*Curriculum and Instruction*

Linden Kelsey Napier Allen  
*Curriculum and Instruction*

Tammara Lekisha Allen  
*Curriculum and Instruction*

Brittany Anderson  
*Curriculum and Instruction*

Anslyn Ballstadt  
*Curriculum and Instruction*

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*Curriculum and Instruction*

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*Curriculum and Instruction*

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*Curriculum and Instruction*

Rebekah O'Rourke Bowen  
*Curriculum and Instruction*

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*Art Education*

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Laura Katherine Brown  
*Curriculum and Instruction*

Chandler Burnell  
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*Curriculum and Instruction*

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*Curriculum and Instruction*

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*Curriculum and Instruction*

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*Curriculum and Instruction*

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*Curriculum and Instruction*

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*Curriculum and Instruction*

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*Curriculum and Instruction*

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*Curriculum and Instruction*

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*Curriculum and Instruction*

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*Curriculum and Instruction*

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*Curriculum and Instruction*

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*Curriculum and Instruction*

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*Curriculum and Instruction*

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*Curriculum and Instruction*

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*Curriculum and Instruction*

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Casey Woods Mitchell  
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Karen Nichols Mullins  
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Patrice Jones Darby Neal  
*Curriculum and Instruction*

Jennifer Orage  
*Curriculum and Instruction*

Julianna Rose Payne  
*Curriculum and Instruction*

Karsyn Lee Pearson  
*Curriculum and Instruction*

Meghann Lee Pruett  
*Curriculum and Instruction*

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*Curriculum and Instruction*

Otansia Ramsay  
*Curriculum and Instruction*

Morgan Redmond  
*Curriculum and Instruction*

Destiny Shanae Reynolds  
*Curriculum and Instruction*

Meagan Rice  
*Curriculum and Instruction*

Shambreka Ross  
*Curriculum and Instruction*

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*Curriculum and Instruction*

Shedra Greene Searcy  
*Curriculum and Instruction*

Colby Shaw  
*Curriculum and Instruction*

Courtney Ketner Sholl  
*Curriculum and Instruction*

Karoline Jean Sholl  
*Curriculum and Instruction*

Kile Sholl  
*Curriculum and Instruction*

Cameron Shannon Shuler  
*Curriculum and Instruction*

Jerica Shuntel Simmons  
*Curriculum and Instruction*

Mischele Stafford  
*Curriculum and Instruction*

Gina Suckow  
*Curriculum and Instruction*

Claudia Tankersley  
*Curriculum and Instruction*

Thomas Traficante  
*Curriculum and Instruction*

Cristina Vargas  
*Curriculum and Instruction*

Allison Wagner  
*Curriculum and Instruction*

Summer Elizabeth Ward  
*Curriculum and Instruction*

Zuri West  
*Curriculum and Instruction*

Lasondra S. Wooding  
*Curriculum and Instruction*

Karley Wright  
*Curriculum and Instruction*

## DOCTOR OF EDUCATION

### Julie Ann Alderson

B.S. – Brenau University

M.Ed. – Brenau University

Ed.S. – Piedmont University

**Dissertation:** *Rapid Automatic Naming as a Sight Word Fluency Intervention*

Dr. Sarah Sumners, Committee Chair

### Matthew Richard Bonk

B.A. – The University of Pittsburgh

B.S. – Slippery Rock University

M.A. – Piedmont University

Ed.S. – Piedmont University

**Dissertation:** *A Case Study: Parent Perceptions on Play and Kindergarten Readiness*

Dr. Sarah Sumners, Committee Chair

### Carla Alicia Jordan

B.A. – Florida A&M University

M.Ed. – Piedmont University

Ed.S. – Piedmont University

**Dissertation:** *The Emerging Lotus: Cultivating Intellectual Autonomy within English Language Arts Classrooms in an Urban Academy School. A Qualitative Action Research Study*

Dr. Toni Bailey, Committee Chair



## COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Steve Jacobs, Dean

---

### BACHELOR OF ARTS

Alexis Nicole Baumgardner  
*Mass Communications*

Emerson Gianna Coccoziello  
*Art Therapy*

Morgan Grace Cooper  
*Psychology*

Haylee Meredith Lehr Dornan  
*History & Sociology*

Nicolas C Eberhart  
*Art*

Jonathon Eric Edmonson  
*Sports Communications*

Abigail Joyce Evans  
*Criminal Justice*

Jadeyn Cherisse Fields  
*Art*

Leandro Forero  
*Mass Communications &  
Sports Communications*

Noah Lee Glenzinski  
*Criminal Justice*

Natalie Edith Gonzalez  
*Music*

Sophie Carissa Haines  
*Film and Documentary Production &  
Mass Communications*

Jacob Everett Hasbrouck  
*Psychology*

Simon Haras Johnstone  
*Sports Communications*

Danielle Nichole Justus  
*Psychology*

Paige Marie Kluba  
*Mass Communications &  
Sports Communications*

Jameson Elizabeth Keiley Listermann  
*Art*

Clayton Clyde Maddox  
*Theatre Arts*

Vanessa Sanchez Manzo  
*Psychology & Sports Communications*

Olivia Grace Martin  
*English & Philosophy and Religion*

Rachel Elaine McClellon  
*Leadership Studies*

Haley Morgan McKay  
*Art*

Alyssa Kate McSpadden  
*Art Education*

Iman Kareen Ollie  
*Human Services Administration*

Ian Gage Parr  
*Psychology*

Tyler Lee Pellegrino  
*Theatre Arts*

Carolaine Elizabeth Pettit  
*Mass Communications*

Hunter J Reum  
*Interdisciplinary Studies*

Genie Christina Robbins  
*Art*

Sandra Camila Ruiz-Lopez  
*History and Government*

Kelbi C Sceau  
*Political Science*

Jessica Noel Sconyers  
*Mass Communications &  
Sports Communications*

Eden Rebecca Shepherd  
*Art Therapy*

Georgia Rose Smith  
*Art*

Nahomi Itzel Solorzano Centeno  
*Film and Documentary Production &  
Mass Communications*

Denasia Styles  
*Criminal Justice*

Amy Jo Tavernier  
*Sociology*

Gracie Mae Tipton  
*Drama Education*

Bryn Kayrin White  
*History and Government & Psychology*

Emerson Davis Wilkes  
*History Education*

### BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS

Lauren Elizabeth York  
*Art*

### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Hannah Jean Anderson  
*Forensic Science*

Carson Amador Becerra  
*Environmental Science*

Addison May Bowen  
*Chemistry & Forensic Science*

Shannon Yuri Brown  
*Biology*

Merryn Lea Bumpass  
*Biology*

Bailey T Davis  
*Forensic Science*

Allie Claire Feltus  
*Forensic Science*

Erick Matthews Fortner  
*Biology*

Sarah Fox  
*Environmental Science*

Jadon Gonzales  
*Biology & Environmental Science*

Marinda Annette Grubb  
*Biology*

Logan Marie Hawkins  
*Interdisciplinary Studies*

Avonlea Delaney Kirby  
*Environmental Science*

Alexander Thomas Long  
*Mathematics*

Nicholas Lawrence McHan  
*Biology*

Glynn Ray Morgan  
*Biology*

Meredith Jean Pollette  
*Mathematics*

Victoria Sierra  
*Mathematics*

Garrett William Stadler  
*Applied Physics*

Lucas Aaron Stoffle  
*Biology*

Ava Nicole Trankina  
*Forensic Science*

Miracle Ann Turner  
*Neuroscience*

## **COLLEGE OF NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES**

**Jaime Johnson-Huff, Dean**

---

### **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE**

Madison Louise Adams  
*Communication Sciences and Disorders*

Chloe Rose Alexander  
*Communication Sciences and Disorders*

Savannah Alexis Barefoot  
*Applied Health Science*

Aubrey Dowdy  
*Communication Sciences and Disorders*

Lauren English  
*Communication Sciences and Disorders*

Brynne Olivia Gillilan  
*Applied Health Science*

Ashley Howe  
*Communication Sciences and Disorders*

Chelsea R Jordan  
*Communication Sciences and Disorders*

Jocelyn K. Maseda  
*Communication Sciences and Disorders*

Keshawn Marquis Maxwell  
*Applied Health Science*

Kaylee Grace Moreland  
*Exercise and Sport Science*

Heartly Lily Nepveux  
*Applied Health Science*

Andrew Thomas Nolt  
*Health Care Administration*

Austin Olivia Norris  
*Communication Sciences and Disorders*

Kinsey Abigail Quick  
*Communication Sciences and Disorders*

Hollan Grace Rabensdorf  
*Applied Health Science*

Jaiden Brynn Ramatowski  
*Applied Health Science*

Alyssa Reece  
*Sport and Fitness Administration*

Madison Paige Rogers  
*Communication Sciences and Disorders*

Ashley Renee Scott  
*Athletic Training*

Lindsey Ellen Tavenier  
*Communication Sciences and Disorders*

Kennedy Jean Votava  
*Communication Sciences and Disorders*

### **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING**

Arianna Jazmine Adams

Jeannie Whitfield Ausburn

Jennifer Barajas

Addison Barrett

Grace Nicole Beasley

Lacey Danielle Beauchamp

Olivia Kadee Bechtel

Samantha T. Bridges

Destiny Kiarra Brown

Danielle Grace Canup

Tiffany Denise Cooper

Tucker Cox

Ethan Ryan Cummings

Tommy Do

Kaely Grace Duckworth

To'Yonnah Chantal Edmond

Amanda Smith Foy  
Zayda H Gonzalez  
Lauren Lowe Hammond  
Emmaleigh Nicole Harris  
Molly Dian Head  
Harley Paige Helms  
Trinesha Quenterra Henderson  
Kimberly Hernandez-Cabrera  
Destiny Michelle Higginbotham  
Jenna Kathryn Hood  
Amy Beth Houston  
Rebekah Ann Jennings  
Annamarie Johnson  
Hannah Johnson  
Frances Irene Kalin  
Ziya Onassiss Amanda Killings  
Athena Quinn Lovelace  
Gracie Elizabeth Martin  
Ashlyn McEntyre  
Ansley Brooke McLean  
Courtney Leigh Miller  
Mitzi Gallego Natera  
Ola Princess Teresa Otis  
Taylor Nicole Patterson  
Autumn S Redd  
Amy Remely  
Samuel Risse  
McNeely Esther-Daisy Rockwell

Jennifer A Rowell  
Jaime Adrian Rugerio  
Lindsay Jonelle Brown Sealey  
Marlene Ramick Seeber  
Ashley Veronica Simmons  
Caitlin Hannah Simmons  
Rachel Kathleen Smith  
Breanna Jace Sosebee  
Katherine Elizabeth Stigall  
Georgia Robinson Torbert  
Helen Carina Ulloa  
Samara lia Valencia  
Ayndi McKenna Wimmer  
Autumn Celeste Woodard  
**MASTER OF SCIENCE**  
Reaghan Elizabeth Anderson  
*Athletic Training*  
Ariel Berry  
*Athletic Training*  
Courtney Alison Cates  
*Athletic Training*  
Rylie Jade Dingfelder  
*Athletic Training*  
Sarah Catherine Duggan  
*Speech Language Pathology*  
Kaitlyn King  
*Speech Language Pathology*  
Ansley Grace Konkle  
*Speech Language Pathology*  
Avery Elizabeth McAllister  
*Athletic Training*

Sarah Elyzabeth Moore  
*Speech Language Pathology*  
Jaycie Taylor Ponce  
*Speech Language Pathology*  
Molly Claire Presley  
*Speech Language Pathology*  
Allye Madison Rogers  
*Speech Language Pathology*  
Ashley Renee Scott  
*Athletic Training*  
Baylor Grace Simpson  
*Speech Language Pathology*  
Trinity Weese  
*Speech Language Pathology*  
Emma Caroline Whitfield  
*Speech Language Pathology*  
Carsyn Riley Wilker  
*Speech Language Pathology*  
Andrea Williams  
*Athletic Training*  
Aubrey James Woodruff  
*Speech Language Pathology*

# HONOR SOCIETIES, ORGANIZATIONS, & GROUPS

## ALPHA LAMBDA DELTA

Alexis Nicole Baumgardner  
Addison May Bowen  
Haylee Meredith Lehr Dornan  
Chelsey Faith Lewis  
Meredith Jean Pollette  
Ashley Veronica Simmons  
Josiah Tillett

## ALPHA PSI OMEGA

Clayton Clyde Maddox  
Tyler Lee Pellegrino  
Hunter J Reum

## AMERICAN MARKETING ASSOCIATION

Elizabeth Anne Harden  
Connor Joe Lane  
Megan L Steinmeyer  
Ezekiel Von Swartz

## CHI ALPHA SIGMA

Olivia Kadee Bechtel  
Merryn Lea Bumpass  
Tucker Cox  
Bailey T Davis  
Haylee Meredith Lehr Dornan  
Cole Alexander Ellis  
Abigail Joyce Evans  
Allie Claire Feltus  
Leandro Forero  
Erick Matthews Fortner  
Emma Elizabeth Frost  
Jordyn Leeanne Green  
Kiarra Howard  
Simon Haras Johnstone  
Paige Marie Kluba  
Briana Elizabeth Laidman  
Vanessa Sanchez Manzo  
Jocelyn K. Maseda

Alyssa Kate McSpadden  
Mariajose Montoya Talavera  
Kaylee Grace Moreland  
Tyler Nelson  
Mallory Lyn O'Brien  
Alyssa Reece  
Jessica Noel Sconyers  
Josiah Tillett  
Ava Nicole Trankina  
Rachel Michelle Verner  
Kennedy Jean Votava  
Bryn Kayrin White

## DELTA MU DELTA

Blake Simon Bolen  
Prestin Cole Boyd  
Jordyn Leeanne Green  
Carson Phillip Huber  
Jackson Blaze Mason  
Mallory Lyn O'Brien  
Rachel O'Neal  
Josiah Tillett

## LILLIAN E. SMITH SCHOLARS

Haylee Meredith Lehr Dornan

## NATURAL SCIENCE HONORS PROGRAM

Addison May Bowen  
Merryn Lea Bumpass  
Erick Matthews Fortner  
Jadon Gonzales  
Marinda Annette Grubb  
Avonlea Delaney Kirby



## **PIEDMONT PEER TUTORS**

Blake Simon Bolen  
Addison May Bowen  
Shannon Yuri Brown  
Marinda Annette Grubb  
Frances Irene Kalin  
Avonlea Delaney Kirby  
Alexander Thomas Long  
Olivia Grace Martin  
Gracie Elizabeth Martin  
Hollan Grace Rabensdorf  
Jaime Adrian Rugerio  
Victoria Sierra

## **PSI CHI**

Morgan Grace Cooper

## **SOCIETY OF COLLEGIATE JOURNALISTS**

Alexis Nicole Baumgardner  
Jonathon Eric Edmonson  
Leandro Forero  
Sophie Carissa Haines  
Paige Marie Kluba  
Vanessa Sanchez Manzo  
Carolaine Elizabeth Pettit  
Jessica Noel Sconyers  
Nahomi Itzel Solorzano Centeno

## **TRI ALPHA**

Kimberly Carzan Crawford  
Rosalind Jimenez  
Frances Irene Kalin

# 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

Campus Activities Board (CAB)

Light Yellow cord

Fellowship of Christian Athletics (FCA)

Royal Blue, Red, Gold cord

Health Science Leadership Academy

Old Gold, White cord

M.A.N.E.

Forest Green, Silver cord

Piedmont University Student Nurses Assoc, NSNA

Silver, Light Blue, Purple cord

Piedmont Peer Tutors

Service Pin

Resident Assistants

Service Pin

SAIL

Service Pin

Student Government Association

Green, Gold cord

Team Piedmont Ambassadors

Forest Green, Black cord

Zeta Tau Alpha

Teal, Gray cord

### Society:

Alpha Alpha Alpha (Tri-Alpha)

Navy Blue, Gray/Silver cord, and Service Pin

Alpha Lambda Delta

Red, Gold, White cord

Alpha Psi Omega

Light Blue, Gold cord

Chi Alpha Sigma

Gold, Black cord, and Gold medallion

College of Nursing and Health Science Honor Society

Green, White cord

Delta Mu Delta

Purple, Gold cord

Lillian E. Smith Scholars

White cord

Natural Science Honors Program

White, Gold cord

National Society Leadership and Success

Silver, Black cord

Psi Chi

Blue, Silver 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).

