Commencement
2023

University of Pittsburgh
Bradford

The Thirtieth of April, Two Thousand and Twenty-Three
Two o'Clock in the afternoon
The National Anthem

O 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 through the perilous fight,
O’er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets’ red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there;
O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave,
O’er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

Alma Mater

Alma Mater, wise and glorious,
Child of Light and Bride of Truth,
Over Fate and Foe victorious,
Dowered with eternal youth,
Crowned with love of son and daughter,
Thou shalt conquer as of yore,
Dear old Pittsburgh, Alma Mater,
God preserve Thee evermore!

The Colors of Scholarship

The history of the academic gowns and regalia worn at Commencement goes back as far as the 12th century. Although scholars in the United States wore academic regalia year-round as late as the 19th century, the display of regalia today is reserved for special academic occasions. The cut of the robes, the colors worn, the fabric of the caps, all have special meaning.

Central to each costume is the robe. Except for certain colleges (e.g., Harvard and Yale), the robes for the bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees are black. A different color is recommended for associates degree holders, and at Pitt-Bradford that color is dark blue. The associates and bachelor’s degree robe both have pointed, open sleeves. The master’s degree sleeve is closed, with a slit for the wrist. A bell-shaped sleeve denotes a holder of a doctoral degree. Additionally, the doctoral gown has velvet trim down the front and three velvet bars on each sleeve. The velvet may be black or reflect the color of the discipline.

The most colorful part of the academic costume is the hood, the large shawl-like collar that drapes down the back of the robe. The color of the satin lining in the back represents the institutional colors where the degree was earned. The University of Pittsburgh hood has a blue-and-gold chevron design. Beginning at the front of the neck, a velvet border extends down the back and outlines the lining. For those receiving their baccalaureate degrees, a white border signifies a bachelor of arts, while gold indicates a bachelor of science.

The velvet borders on master’s and doctoral hoods display the color of the scholars’ discipline. A white band can represent arts, English, letters, literature, sociology or history. The color for business is drab tan. Brown is worn by the fine and performing arts, pink is worn by musicians, and economics is represented by copper. Education scholars wear light blue, crimson represents communications and journalism, and speech is denoted with silver. Engineers wear orange, and nurses wear apricot. Library science is represented by lemon yellow, while mathematics, criminology and all sciences wear science gold. Sage green is for physical education, and magenta represents continuing education or student affairs. Traditionally, dark blue was worn only by philosophers, but now may be worn by anyone who has earned the Ph.D.

Pitt-Bradford graduates who are members of honor societies wear cords, stoles or medallions that drape down the front of their gowns. Members of Alpha Lambda Delta, the Freshman Honor Society, wear red, white and gold cords. Blue and white cords signify membership in Pi Sigma Mu, the International Honor Society in Social Sciences. Phi Epsilon Kappa, the Honors Fraternity for Sport and Exercise Science, its members wear gold cords with the fraternity’s initials and flower on the front. Red and green cords represent Beta Beta Beta, the National Biological Honor Society. The cords worn by Alpha Sigma Lambda, the National Honor Society for Students in Continuing Higher Education, are burgundy and antique gold. Sigma Tau Delta, the International English Honor Society, signifies membership with its black and red cords. Students in Chi Alpha Sigma, the National College Athlete Society, display a bronze medallion on a black neck ribbon.

Caps come in two varieties, the more familiar mortarboard, known as the Oxford cap, and the softer beret-type Cambridge cap. Velvet is reserved for holders of the doctoral degree. Pitt-Bradford graduates wear the mortarboard, but caps worn by faculty are dictated by the institution from which they earned their highest degree.

Tassel color may reflect the discipline, but only those with a doctoral degree may wear gold tassels. Although there are no standards for where the tassel on the cap is to be worn, tradition at many schools, including Pitt-Bradford, suggests that the tassel be kept on the right until the degree is actually conferred, at which time the tassel is moved to the left.
Dear Graduates,

Congratulations! All of us at Pitt-Bradford are very proud of what you have accomplished and are happy to celebrate this special day with you and your family and friends.

As you prepare to begin the next phase of your journey, I hope you will do so with confidence because, with your Pitt-Bradford education and your University of Pittsburgh degree, you are well prepared to take on any challenge, achieve any goal, and surpass any expectation.

Though you have now graduated, you will always be a member of our Pitt-Bradford family. Please stay in touch with us to keep us updated on your achievements and how you are making a positive impact in your profession and your community. I also encourage you to stay connected through the Pitt-Bradford Alumni Association.

Regards,

President Esch
PROGRAM

PRELUDE
Ray Sprout, organist
John Maguda, trumpeter

PROCESSIONAL
“March” from the Overture to the Occasional Oratorio
G. F. Handel

OPENING OF COMMENCEMENT
Matt Kropf, Ph.D.
Grand Marshall and President of Faculty Senate

NATIONAL ANTHEM
WELCOME
Richard T. Esch ’83, MBA
President

PRESENTATION OF ALUMNI AWARD
OF DISTINCTION
Mr. Esch

PRESENTATION OF PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL
OF DISTINCTION
Mr. Esch

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER
Mr. Esch

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS
George Repchick ’82
CEO of Embassy Healthcare

RECOGNITION OF GRADUATES
and
CONFERRAL OF DEGREES
David Fitz, Ph.D
Interim Vice President and Dean of Academic Affairs

CLOSING COMMENTS
Mr. Esch

ALMA MATER

CLOSING OF COMMENCEMENT
Dr. Kropf

RECESSIONAL
STUDENTS RECEIVING ASSOCIATE DEGREES

Associate of Arts
Associate of Science

Bryce Evan Aniszewski
Kaitlyn Elizabeth Blake
Taylor Asia Brooks
Callie Jayne Brunner
Avitamarie Cassandra DeMieri
Brianna Teresa Foy
Hattie Johnson
Liam Henry McIlwain
Zachary K. Minium
Jenna Elizbeth Morgan
Alexandra Nicole Peters
Meghan Nicole Peterson Paige
Abigail Richner
Haily Michele Schatz
Haley Grace Sickel
Emily J. Smith
Jennifer Diane Swanson
Bailley Nicole Taggart Kindra
L. Wessels
Allee Joseph Williams Miniah
Willis

Engineering Science
Nursing
Nursing
Nursing
Nursing
Nursing
Liberal Studies
Nursing
Nursing
Nursing
Nursing
Nursing
Nursing
Nursing
Nursing
Liberal Studies
Nursing
Liberal Studies
Engineering Science
Nursing
STUDENTS RECEIVING BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

Bachelor of Arts
Bachelor of Science
Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Alannah Marie Allen Nursing
Aisha Rocio Alzubi Biology
Eric P. Anderson Business Management
Nadiya D. Andrews Biology
Bryce Evan Aniszewski Energy Science and Technology
Matthew Paul Avery Interdisciplinary Arts
Tyler Babinski Computer Information Systems & Technology

Shaquan Umar Bagot Psychology
Lillian Dorothy Baldwin Nursing
Alexandra M. Bennardi Business Management
Sarah Anne Border Biology
Nicholas J. Boser Biology
Devon R. Briggs History-Political Science & International Affairs

Aidan J. Broderick Business Management
Evan A. Brooks Business Management
Jasmine O. Brooks Broadcast Communications
Daizjah Jachele Brown Exercise Science
Emilee Bruno Criminal Justice
Sean William Campbell Business Management
Makailla Sylvia Dawn Carnessali Radiological Science
Megan A. Carofano Mathematics Education 7-12
Stephanie Carson Business Management
Kaitlyn Michelle Case Exercise Science
Damian Tanner Challingsworth History-Political Science & Social Studies Education 7-12

Kameo Chambers Interdisciplinary Arts
Po-Jui Chen Computer Information Systems & Technology
Leila J. Ciccarelli Computer Information Systems & Technology
Scott Louis Compson  Health and Physical Education  PreK-12
Matthew A. Copfer  Sociology
Chloe F. Cordova  Sport & Recreation Management
Madison Nicole Correll  Radiological Science
Peyton Samuel Crays  Accounting
Amanda Cruz  Criminal Justice
James F. Dahlke  Computer Information Systems & Technology

Dominique G. D’Amore  Chemistry
Lindsay Marie Daub  Psychology
Kassandra Dawson-Sepulveda  Biology
Autumn DeBlock  Exercise Science
Marguerite Elizabeth DeFranco  Criminal Justice
Andrew M. Delasandro  Exercise Science
John H. Devine  Business Management
Jerika S. Dexter  Criminal Justice
Wyatt D. Druckenmiller  Chemistry
Stephanie L. Eaton  Interdisciplinary Arts
Tyler J. Eberly  Biology
Nikolas Richard Erickson  Criminal Justice
Steele Evangelisti  Business Management
Noah Roberts Evers  Psychology
Agatha M. Fadale  Psychology
Craig J. Faris  Computer Information Systems & Technology

Hailey N. Figliola  Exercise Science
Shante Alexis Marie Fortson  Psychology
Rebecca J. Fuller  Sociology
Anthony Roman Gabriel Jr.  Exercise Science
Adriana Elizabeth Gallas  Biology
David A. Gebhard  Criminal Justice
Madeline R. Gillespie  Criminal Justice
Cianna L. Gland  Criminal Justice
Emily M. Goetz  Exercise Science
Jacob A. Goldsmith  Psychology
Jordyn Taylor Graham  Psychology
Lindsey Taylor Greto  Early Level Education PreK-4
Wassilatou Guiro  Biology
Ashley N. Hall  
Zachary Isiah Hanton  
Alyssa Jean Hardy  
Tehya Simone Harris

Natali L. Heater  
Cheyanne E. Heffner  
Austin James Hogan  
Rajaa A. Holly  
Yancey J. Howe

Imani Tshari Shanti’ Jackson  
Julia Jiang  
Robert James Jimerson II  
Cade R. Johnson

Evan Jordan  
Kai Alexander Joseph  
Jenna L. Kale  
Thorin J. Kardell  
Andrew W. Kays  
Raychel Jane Keller  
Wilhelmina W. Kemcha  
Cassidy King  
Sydney N. Kircher  
Sydney L. Klaiber  
Brianne N. Kloss  
Beck N. Labesky  
Jorj Lemay  
Gabrielle M. Lewis  
Jacob A. Lister  
Haylee Aileen-Marie Ludington

Jada Luther  
Taylar R. Mager  
Gianna Rose Mangoni  
Khaday Y. Marah  
Jarett Bradley Mathes  
Imani Simone Matthews

Sport & Recreation Management  
Accounting  
Early Level Education PreK-4  
History-Political Science & International Affairs  
Forensic Science  
Sociology  
Criminal Justice  
Accounting  
Computer Information Systems & Technology  
Exercise Science  
Biology  
Business Management  
Computer Information Systems & Technology  
Biology  
Hospitality Management  
Forensic Science  
History-Political Science  
Environmental Studies  
Criminal Justice  
Psychology  
Exercise Science  
Biology  
Business Management  
Business Management  
Accounting  
Broadcast Communications  
Sociology  
Environmental Science  
Environmental Studies & Environmental Science  
Exercise Science  
Early Level Education PreK-4  
Criminal Justice  
Biology  
Applied Mathematics  
Business Management
Raymond Edward Maze  
Hanna May McAvoy  
Whitney N. McCormick  
Matthew M. McEwan  
Natalie Elaine Mix  
Lauryn E. Moore  
Kaylee E. Morgan  
Devin Moultrie  
Caitlyn P. Naff  
Bryce Jordan Nelson  
Jaclynn A. Nelson  
Joshua D. Nelson  
Tyanne Nelson  
Tyler Newton  
Anthony Morounfouluwa Ogunlade

Social Studies Education 7-12  
Biology  
Criminal Justice  
History-Political Science & International Affairs  
Interdisciplinary Arts  
Exercise Science  
Biology  
Interdisciplinary Arts  
Criminal Justice  
Sport & Recreation Management  
Social Studies Education 7-12  
International Affairs  
Psychology  
Exercise Science  
Computer Information Systems & Technology

Bryce C. Okerlund  
Basirat O. Omotesho  
Haley M. Packer  
Aekta Patel  
Paris W. Pearson  
Austin W. Persing  
Macy R. Petersen  
Andrew J. Piganelli  
Angela P. Potter  
Nathan W. Powley  
Rachel Marie Przybysz  
Simone Shyanne Pullens-Nelson  
Dominic Michael Puma  
Crosby Noah Ravert  
Kevin D. Rehak  
Ambria S. Richardson  
Alexander J. Rodriguez  
Brian Rodriguez  
Wesley Paul Roeder  
Alexander J. Ronan

Communications  
Business Management  
Biology  
Nursing  
Criminal Justice  
Criminal Justice  
Social Studies Education 7-12  
Exercise Science  
Nursing  
Criminal Justice  
Accounting  
History-Political Science  
Exercise Science  
Applied Mathematics  
Business Management & Economics  
English  
History-Political Science  
Criminal Justice  
Computer Information Systems & Technology  
History-Political Science
Brooke L. Rosener
Jenna L. Rouse
Brandon G. Ruef
Amine M. Sabil

Fatimatou Zara-Aliyah Saccoh
Emily C. Schneider
Nathan Schneider
Hannah M. Seeley
Kaitlyn G. Sexton
Kendra A. Shaefer
Trey Donovan Shaw
Kaylee P. Shelton
Jolaina M. Shetler
Michael J. Shulnes

Patricia Claire Gidor Siana
Sihle Sizani
Cody Smith

Dashana Natanya Smith
Emily M. Snyder
Seth T. Spaich

Alison R. Stadtler
Kurstian Stankiewicz
Julia Stayer
Ashley Noelle Stein
Sophia I. Stevens
Tyler R. Stewart
Marcellus D. Stillwell
Logan E. Sunafrank
Aaron Jon Suranofsky
Taylor Sutryk

Addie M. Swansbrough
Joel J. Talladay

History-Political Science
Biology
Environmental Studies
Computer Information Systems & Technology

Biology
Psychology
Biology
Exercise Science
Exercise Science
Exercise Science
Sport & Recreation Management
Biology
Radiological Science
Computer Information Systems & Technology

Biology
Sport and Recreation Management
Computer Information Systems & Technology

Sport and Recreation Management
Psychology
Exercise Science
Forensic Science
Criminal Justice
Psychology
Communications
Psychology
Writing
Health and Physical Education PreK-12

Psychology
Computer Information Systems & Technology
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Major</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>James Thompson Taylor IV</td>
<td>Nursing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ryan E. Taylor</td>
<td>Hospitality Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alyson D. Thompson</td>
<td>Computer Information Systems &amp; Technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wayne Q. Tian</td>
<td>Computer Information Systems &amp; Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patrick Tolerico</td>
<td>Interdisciplinary Arts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emily Lynn Townsend</td>
<td>Forensic Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christine Troll</td>
<td>Interdisciplinary Arts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andrew L. Truman</td>
<td>Broadcast Communications</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amanda M. Van Houten</td>
<td>Hospitality Management</td>
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<td>Chelsea Nicole Vazquez</td>
<td>Biology</td>
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<td>Tabitha Walker</td>
<td>Biology &amp; Environmental Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nicholas D. Ward</td>
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<td>Brianna Rose Weisner</td>
<td>Early Level Education PreK-4</td>
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<td>Connor Joseph Weiss</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jarrell C. Wells</td>
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<td>Emma M. Weng</td>
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<td>Daytona E. Wentzel</td>
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<td>Sarah Wood</td>
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<td>Zachary Woodel</td>
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<td>Ian T. Woytowich</td>
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<td>Brandon Yingling</td>
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<td>Jazmyn O. Young</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dania Zavala-Garcia</td>
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<td>Garrett L. Zeigler</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aidan S. Zink</td>
<td>Chemistry &amp; Forensic Science</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dr. Larry Schardt ’72-’74, is a college professor, bestselling author and motivational speaker who has dedicated his life to encouraging, motivating and inspiring others to live life to the fullest.

For nearly 30 years, Dr. Schardt has been a professor at The Pennsylvania State University, where he has taught writing-intensive teaching, natural resources, and independent study classes and worked closely with student interns to provide them with field experience.

In addition to his career in higher education, he has written two books, “My Runaway Summer,” a best-selling memoir and coming-of-age story; and “James Conner: The Triumphs of a Football Hero,” which was rated one of the best sports biography books of all time by Book Authority and was featured on CNN, Forbes and Inc.

His other stories have been published in the “Chicken Soup for the Soul” books, including “Find Your Happiness,” “The Power of Gratitude,” and “Your 10 Keys to Happiness.” Several of his short stories also have been included in the anthologies “Shell House,” “Over the River and Through the Woods” and “Into the Woods.”

Dr. Schardt is the co-coordinator of more than 20 Mindful Writers Retreats and since 2014 has written a daily Facebook post to entertain, celebrate and pay forward the positives in life.

He is a motivational speaker and has given his “Success that Rocks!” presentation to many groups, businesses and organizations in several U.S. states and territories to encourage executives, students and seniors to live life to the fullest.

Dr. Schardt has spread his passion for life wherever he goes, including at his alma mater.

He frequently returns to Pitt-Bradford for Alumni and Family Weekend, where he flashes his signature peace sign and shouts, “Rock and Roll!” to everyone he sees. To help students afford their Pitt-Bradford education, he established the Larry “Rock ‘n’ Roll!!!” Schardt Scholarship, which has helped several students so far.

Dr. Schardt earned a doctorate in extension education and instructional systems, a master’s degree in extension education and communications, and a bachelor’s degree in soil conservation, all from Penn State.
George Repchick ’82, throughout his distinguished career and relationship with his alma mater, has shown unparalleled drive, passion and generosity.

Mr. Repchick has spent his entire career in health care and for more than 20 years has operated nursing and assisted living facilities in several U.S. states.

In 2001, he and his partner, Bill Weisberg, began Saber Healthcare Group LLC by operating a single inner-city nursing home in Cleveland and growing it to more than 100 skilled nursing and assisted living facilities in six states.

Additionally, Mr. Repchick led an initiative to develop and build state-of-the-art nursing homes in all of Saber’s markets. He successfully co-founded businesses in the institutional pharmacy, oxygen and durable medical equipment, home health, ambulance and even the restaurant industries.

In 2019, he stepped down as president of Saber. A year later, he started as CEO of Embassy Healthcare, which operates a range of assisted living, adult day care, and skilled nursing and rehabilitation centers throughout Ohio, Pennsylvania and Florida. Most recently, Embassy broke ground on a facility in Morehead City, N.C.

Throughout his successful and demanding career, he has found time to serve his community as well as his alma mater and its students.

He is a member of Pitt-Bradford’s Advisory Board and a former member and president of the Pitt-Bradford Alumni Association Board. He has chaired the PBAA’s Scholarship Committee and the Strategic Planning Committee. Each year, he hosts Dinner With a Panther, meeting with many students over a meal, and has spoken on campus at several events, including Backpack to Briefcase and the Executive Speaker Series.

Mr. Repchick credits his success, in part, to the mentoring he received in the classroom and the coaching he received on the field as a member of the baseball team, which he said boosted his confidence and increased his comfort level.

He earned a Bachelor of Arts in human relations in 1982. A year later, he received a Master of Science in health care administration from the University of Scranton.
PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF DISTINCTION

One characteristic of higher education is that it is shaped by society at the same time it is shaping society. It is people, working both within and outside higher education, and not just the institutions themselves, who make significant contributions to the broader community, either by advancing higher education or by fostering values important to higher education. It is important that higher education accord these individuals appropriate recognition.

The Pitt-Bradford Presidential Medal of Distinction advances this premise for those people associated with Pitt-Bradford and those connected with the college’s service region.

PAST RECIPIENTS OF THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF DISTINCTION

1991 Dr. Robert B. Bromeley* Virginia L. Miles*
1992 The Honorable John E. Peterson
1993 Harriett B Wick Sarah B. Dorn*
1994 Dr. Robert C. Laing* Harriett B. Wick Sarah B. Dorn*
1995 Samuel Gregg Jr.*
1996 William F. Higie*
1997 Robert D. Galey* Lester Rice*
1998 Howard L. Fesenmyer* Henry P. Pruch*
2000 Marilyn Horne
2002 Edwin Clemens*
2004 Dennis Lowery*
2005 Dr. Richard E. McDowell
2006 The Honorable John M. Cleland
2007 Madeline Miles
2008 Harvey L. Golubock* Harry R. Halloran Jr.*
2009 Dr. William Conrad The Stackpole-Hall Foundation
2010 Dr. James V. Maher Thomas R. Bromeley
2011 George B. Duke
2012 Rev. Leo Gallina
2014 Chancellor Mark Nordenberg
2015 Craig A. Hartburg
2016 Greg Booth
2017 Al Filoni*
2018 Pitt-Bradford Advisory Board
2019 Dr. Patricia Beeson
2022 Dr. Livingston Alexander

* Deceased