

Commencement
2024



University of Pittsburgh
Bradford

The Twenty-eighth of April, Two Thousand and Twenty-Four
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

Wearing academic regalia dates back as far as the 12th century, and each part of the regalia holds special meaning.

The central part of the regalia is the robe. At Pitt-Bradford, graduates who are receiving an associate degree wear blue. Those receiving a bachelor's degree wear black.

The color of the hood, the shawl-like collar that drapes down the back of the robe, represents the institutional colors from where the degree was earned. The hood of University of Pittsburgh graduates features a blue-and-gold chevron design.

The color of the velvet border, which extends down the back and outlines the hood, depends on the type of degree earned. The border for University of Pittsburgh graduates is white for those receiving a Bachelor of Arts and gold for those receiving a Bachelor of Science.

Pitt-Bradford graduates who earn academic honors – summa cum laude, magna cum laude or cum laude – wear medallions with blue and gold ribbons, and graduates who are members of honor societies also wear cords, stoles, or medallions:

Alpha Lambda Delta Freshman Honor Society	Red, white and gold cords
Pi Gamma Mu International Honor Society in Social Sciences	Blue and white cords
Psi Chi National Honor Society in Psychology	Gold cords with gold and blue tassels
Phi Epsilon Kappa Honors Fraternity for Sport and Exercise Science	Gold stoles
Beta Beta Beta National Biological Honor Society	Red and green cords
Alpha Sigma Lambda National Honor Society for Non-traditional Students	Burgundy and antique gold cords
Sigma Tau Delta International English Honor Society	Black and red cords
Chi Alpha Sigma National College Athlete Society	Bronze medallion

Graduates may wear stoles to represent their participation in a club, activity, or organization, including resident advisors, student-athletes, and members of Student Government Association and Blue and Gold Society.

This year, graduates also will wear a lapel pin to commemorate the 60th anniversary of Pitt-Bradford's founding in 1963.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Esch', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

President Esch

PROGRAM

PRELUDE Ray Sprout, organist John Maguda, trumpeter	Various Composers
PROCESSIONAL	“March” from the Overture to the Occasional Oratorio G. F. Handel
OPENING OF COMMENCEMENT	BioDun Ogundayo, Ph.D. Grand Marshal 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	K. James Evans, Ph.D. Retired Vice President and Dean of Student Affairs
RECOGNITION OF GRADUATES and CONFERRAL OF DEGREES	Jeffrey Johnson, DMA Vice President and Dean of Academic Affairs
CLOSING COMMENTS ALMA MATER	Mr. Esch
CLOSING OF COMMENCEMENT RECESSIONAL	Dr. Ogundayo

STUDENTS RECEIVING ASSOCIATE DEGREES

Associate of Arts

Associate of Science

Ashlyn M. Avenali	Nursing
Josiah R. Butterfield	Nursing
Jared Rae Dudgeon	Liberal Studies
Emily M. Egger	Nursing
Jared L. Gnage	Information Systems
Michael Griffin	Nursing
Nicholas W. Haner	Engineering Science
Holden C. Hoffman	Petroleum Technology
Micah R. Jordan	Nursing
Jessica Lynn McDivitt	Nursing
Julia C. Mullikin	Nursing
Gustave B. Napoleon	Engineering Science
Olivia L. Reese	Nursing
Jessica Smith	Nursing
Druanna Kelli Streicher	Nursing
Cooper A. Sunderlin	Petroleum Technology and Engineering Science
Mia C. VanScoter	Nursing
Erica Jordan Williams	Information Systems
Lennie Rae Williams	Nursing

STUDENTS RECEIVING BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

Bachelor of Arts

Bachelor of Science

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Eukie G. Akrong

Paige Allan

Heather Lynn Anderson

Summer V. Anderson

Nadiya D. Andrews

Alexandra Asp

Bret S. Babcock

Evan D. Baldwin

Chloe E. Bellis

Andrew J. Bokulich

Eve L. Brink

Breanna Nicole Brooks

Kelsey L. Brown

Joshua E. Burwell

Makenna R. Butler

Linda K. Cardaci

Chad J. Carlson

Kayla M. Challingsworth

Haylee Cherry

Madeline Q. Cincala

Madison E. Coffman

Brianna M. Conner

Peyton E. Cook

Shardave K. Cooper

Judah J. Council

Kira J. Crawford

Sammantha K. Curcio

Stephanie Abena Danquah

Randell Darpoh

Justin D. Dattoli

Business Management

Broadcast Communications

Biology

Biology

Biology

Psychology

Exercise Science

Biology

Health and Physical Education

PreK-12

Biology

Early Level Education PreK-4

Early Level Education PreK-4

Communications

Criminal Justice

Biology

Biology

Health and Physical Education

PreK-12

English Education 7-12

Radiological Science

Biology

Early Level Education PreK-4

Criminal Justice

English Education 7-12

Psychology

Computer Information Systems

& Technology

Biology

Biology

Sociology

Criminal Justice

Sport & Recreation Management

Willie Davis	Business Management
Markenley Desrosier	Accounting
Heaman Dhimal	Biology
Heather L. Doud	Early Level Education PreK-4
Janelis Duran	International Affairs and History-Political Science
Lydia R. Ehrensberger	Business Management
Kassandra L Esch	Early Level Education PreK-4
John M. Festa	International Affairs and History-Political Science
Abdul-Qadir Ibn-Keefe Fields	Biology
Nathan A. Fillman	Exercise Science
Hannah Fisher	Exercise Science
Kierstin Fisher	Early Level Education PreK-4
Olivia Fitzgerald	Psychology
Owen Charles Fitzsimmons	Business Management
Lauren Fobes	History-Political Science
Sydney A. Fowler	Interdisciplinary Arts
Evan Fragela	International Affairs and History-Political Science
Olivia M. Freer	Environmental Science
Morgan Frishkorn	Biology
George Gallagher	Biology
Allyson M. Gardner	Business Management
Colton Gietler	Exercise Science
Andrea Tionne Gordon-Peace	Early Level Education PreK-4
Taylor Graham	Psychology
Luke M. Gratz	Biology
Jordan Mikayla N’kem Gray	Business Management
Tye Marue Grimes	Psychology
McKenzie L. Gross	Early Level Education PreK-4
Julianna L. Grover	Biology
Matthew Gullotti	Broadcast Communications
Allison L. Gutowski	Accounting and Business Management
Hali Hahn	Business Management
Gary Domenic Hall	Business Management
Zoe L. Halpate	Biology

Nicholas W. Haner	Mechanical Engineering Technology
Cameron R. Harrier	Accounting and Business Management
Jayson A. Hayes	Exercise Science
Gretchen K. Henneman	Early Level Education PreK-4
Morrigan J. Henry	Communications
Hannah M. Hopkins	Exercise Science
Aiden M. Hulings	Computer Information Systems & Technology
Isaac V. Ibarra	Biology
Elena M. Isaman	Computer Information Systems & Technology
Temitope Ishola	Biology
Austin L. Jacobs	Exercise Science
Kyron James	Criminal Justice
Jennifer L. Jordan	Communications
Jameela K. Joseph	Biology
Laney E. Kahle	Business Management
Brielle May Kalacinski	Radiological Science
Thorin J. Kardell	History-Political Science
Lancie Kear	Biology
McKenna L. Kelly	Accounting
Haley Kennedy	Psychology
Hugh Kennedy	Broadcast Communications
Alisha Khadka	Biology
Anna Elizabeth Killingbeck	Chemistry and Forensic Science
Jordan M. Knight	Interdisciplinary Arts
Emily Christine Koniak	Business Management
Isatu Koroma	Biology
Ilia Kruglikov	Biology
Kaylee May Larsen	Psychology
Katelyn J. Lewke	Forensic Science
Elizabeth R. Lowman	Biology
Dylan Lydic	Computer Information Systems & Technology
Rachel L. Lyle	Exercise Science
Kyler P. Majka	Health and Physical Education PreK-12

Nicholas J. Marotta
Alexander James Marrone
Abigail S. Martin
Daniel R. Martinec

Gavyn J. Mason
Liam Henry McIlwain
Faith J. McLaughlin
Jackson McManus

Rachel L. Mertz
Dylan J. Meyer
Sara G. Micholas
Maximus G. Mickley
Claudia A. Miller
Kayden M. Miller
Sheldon Thomas Miller
Tammy E. Mix
Oviya Shivani Mohanraj
Jenna Elizabeth Morgan
Mik Renae Mortimer
Paiton G. Murgitroyde
Alec Murray

Wonlehkay K. Nanka
Gustave B. Napoleon

Brody S. Nay
Farhid Negahban
Joshua D. Nelson
Tyler R. Nelson
Giovanna R. Nema
Abigail Neri
Sarah O. Newland

Carlos R. Nolasco
Lexi Novosel
Dianne Lynn Null
Kelsey L. Nuttall

Hospitality Management
Energy Science and Technology
Business Management
Computer Information Systems
& Technology
Exercise Science
Nursing
Psychology
Accounting and Business
Management
Accounting
Criminal Justice
English and Writing
Forensic Science
Radiological Science
Criminal Justice
Chemistry
Sociology
Biology
Nursing
Interdisciplinary Arts
Environmental Studies
International Affairs and
History-Political Science
Biology and Psychology
Mechanical Engineering
Technology
Criminal Justice
Criminal Justice
International Affairs
History-Political Science
Biology
Criminal Justice
Accounting and Business
Management
Communications
Business Management
Interdisciplinary Arts
Exercise Science

Opeyemi Oliyide
Joshua M. Palko
Cole F. Palmer
Dakota A. Panighetti
Andi Parana
Anjali Patel
Miguel A. Perez

Alyssa L. Persichini
Alexandra Nicole Peters
Chesika Ishanita Peters
Kate L. Pfeil

Arianna K. Piller
Ian G. Pollack
Caden G. Rees
Jordyn Rice
Shane Bryant Rogers
Chyann M. Rose
Kailey Ruhlman

Madison S. Sauley
Jared L. Scarlett
Evan J. Schmidt
Alex Jeffery Seeley
Veronica R. Shaffer

Chanelle M. Shoemake

Payton D. Shupe
Daniel James Sibel

Spencer A. Sklar

Angela S. Smith
Delaney Stowe
Devin Stowe

Interdisciplinary Arts
Broadcast Communications
Early Level Education PreK-4
Criminal Justice
Exercise Science
Criminal Justice
Computer Information Systems
& Technology
Early Level Education PreK-4
Nursing
Exercise Science
Applied Mathematics &
Mathematics Education 7-12
Exercise Science
Biology
Business Management
Accounting
Biology
Early Level Education PreK-4
Computer Information Systems
& Technology
Radiological Science
Exercise Science
Criminal Justice
Accounting
Accounting and Business
Management
Business Management and
Economics
Business Management
Computer Information Systems
& Technology
Sport & Recreation
Management
Business Management
Exercise Science
Sport & Recreation
Management

Ethan C. Strother	Computer Information Systems & Technology
Cooper A. Sunderlin	Energy Science and Technology
Ryen T. Sutton	Chemistry
Sofiya Synychych	Psychology
Justin W. Taylor	Sport & Recreation Management
Chelsea D. Thomas	Environmental Studies
Brandon Tinder	Applied Mathematics
Brandon C. Torrey	Computer Information Systems & Technology
Mackenzie R. Torrey	Psychology
SarahMae M. Toth	Psychology
Virginia L. Van Fleet	Forensic Science
Avery Vazquez	Exercise Science
Tanaya L. Washington	Biology
Nathaniel J. Wasserman	Criminal Justice
Noah R. Wichert	Sport & Recreation Management
Torie A. Wiest	Forensic Science
Willie G. Williams IV	Business Management
Erica Jordan Williams	Business Management
Ekaterina Nicola Wilson	Early Level Education PreK-4
Ian T. Woytowich	Computer Information Systems & Technology
Sarie E. Yohe	Early Level Education PreK-4
Godwin Young	Biology
Chelsea Zarzuela	Environmental Science
Abigail L. Zechman	Radiological Science

**STUDENT RECEIVING
MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK DEGREE**

Kelly D. Kumpf

Social Work

PBAA ALUMNI AWARD OF DISTINCTION

For more than four decades, Thomas Cole '80-'82 has been a marketing executive, a brand builder, a strategic planner, and an entrepreneur.

Mr. Cole currently serves as chairman and CEO at Tandem Theory, a marketing firm he founded that provides marketing services to national and global brands, including Baskin Robbins, Purina, Benihana and Ruby Tuesday.

A Bradford native, Mr. Cole began his long and distinguished career in marketing in his hometown at his father's car dealership, Casey Cole Chevrolet Inc.

He started working at the dealership at 13 and remained there while taking classes at Pitt-Bradford. The experience exposed him to the various aspects of the business – from managing cash flow to addressing employee issues – and motivated him to venture into the business world on his own.

After two years at Pitt-Bradford, Mr. Cole transferred to the Pittsburgh campus to complete a bachelor's degree in business administration and economics. He also earned a Master of Business Administration from Pitt in 1987, then landed a position as regional marketing manager at PepsiCo Inc., Pizza Hut Division. During his time at PepsiCo, his portfolio and responsibilities grew, culminating in his serving as vice president of marketing.

After leaving PepsiCo, Mr. Cole served in several leadership roles: three years as partner and executive vice president/president at The Forbes Group in Dallas; executive vice president, then



president at Havas Advertising Inc. in Chicago and Dallas, respectively; and executive vice president, global business director at J. Walter Thompson USA Inc. in Detroit.

However, in 2005, after nearly 30 years in the corporate world, he decided to venture out on his own and established his own company, Razor Competitive Edge, a retail marketing agency that specialized in brand building, marketing strategy, and communications.

Just one year after its founding, Razor received numerous accolades, including being ranked No. 1 on the 2006 Advertising Age Agency Report Card on the fastest-growing agencies list.

In addition to bachelor's and master's degrees from Pitt, Mr. Cole has an executive MBA from Harvard Business School.

Mr. Cole and his wife, Rose, live in Dallas. He is the father of three children.

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER and PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF DISTINCTION

For 42 years, Dr. K. James Evans inspired and mentored Pitt-Bradford students as vice president and dean of student affairs, leaving a legacy of kindness and compassion that continues today.

When Dr. Evans was hired as the new dean of students in 1976, Pitt-Bradford was still a relatively new campus – it was founded only 13 years before – and the student affairs staff was small, just Dr. Evans and a part-time nurse.

Knowing that students needed many more services on a college campus, he began building the student affairs area to include career services, counseling and health services, new student orientation, residential life and housing, student activities, community engagement and the chapel, and student conduct.

In 1994, Dr. Evans was named vice president, and for several years as vice president and dean of student affairs, he oversaw the offices of admissions, financial aid, and athletics and recreational sports in addition to student affairs.

When Dr. Evans retired in 2018, he was the longest-serving administrator in the college's then 54-year history and the longest-serving chief student affairs officer in the history of the University of Pittsburgh.

In addition to dedicating nearly all of his professional life to Pitt-Bradford, Dr. Evans is deeply committed to serving the region.

Currently he serves as president of the Board of Trustees of the Community Foundation of the Northern Alleghenies, parent organization of the Elk County Community Foundation and the McKean County Community Foundation.



He also serves on the Board of Directors of the Bradford Ecumenical Home.

Dr. Evans served as an elected member of the Bradford City Council, was a member of the Board of Directors of the United Way of the Bradford Area, and for nine years was a member of the Board of Representatives for Penn State Public Broadcasting (WPSU-FM and WPSU-TV), where he chaired the Education Committee.

Dr. Evans is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force, having served on active duty as an officer in the Strategic Air Command in the early 1970s.

He holds a doctorate from the University of Pittsburgh, a master's degree from South Dakota State University, and a bachelor's degree from Grove City College.

Evans lives in Bradford with his wife, Dr. Lisa M. Fiorentino, associate professor emerita of nursing at Pitt-Bradford and a former director of both the Department of Nursing and the Center for Rural Health Practice.

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*	2008	Harvey L. Golubock* Harry R. Halloran Jr.*
1992	The Honorable John E. Peterson	2009	Dr. William Conrad* The Stackpole-Hall Foundation
1993	Harriett B. Wick Sarah B. Dorn*	2010	Dr. James V. Maher Thomas R. Bromeley*
1994	Dr. Robert C. Laing*	2011	George B. Duke
1995	Samuel Gregg Jr.*	2012	Rev. Leo Gallina
1996	William F. Higie*	2014	Chancellor Mark Nordenberg
1997	Robert D. Galey* Lester Rice*	2015	Craig A. Hartburg '73-'75
1998	Howard L. Fesenmyer* Henry P. Pruch*	2016	Greg Booth
2000	Marilyn Horne	2017	Al Filoni*
2002	Edwin Clemens*	2018	Pitt-Bradford Advisory Board
2004	Dennis Lowery*	2019	Dr. Patricia Beeson
2005	Dr. Richard E. McDowell	2022	Dr. Livingston Alexander
2006	The Honorable John M. Cleland	2023	George Repchick '82
2007	Madeline Miles		* Deceased