COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES
May 2021
TowneBank Arena, Jane P. Batten Student Center
COMMENCEMENT 2021

PROCESSIONAL

POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE  *By Sir Edward Elgar*

*University Mace*

BIRDSONG SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE
  Dr. Leslie Caughell, Dean

JOAN P. BROCK SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS AND NATURAL SCIENCES
  Dr. Victor Townsend, Dean

SUSAN S. GOODE SCHOOL OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES
  Dr. Steven M. Emmanuel, Dean

D. HENRY WATTS SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES
  Dr. Benjamin D. Dobrin, Dean

VWU GLOBAL CAMPUS
  Dr. Deirdre Gonsalves-Jackson, Dean

Gonfaloniers

BIRDSONG SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE
  Brianna Sandy ’21

JOAN P. BROCK SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS AND NATURAL SCIENCES
  Catherine Sedgwick ’21

SUSAN S. GOODE SCHOOL OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES
  Katharyn Niedzwiecki ’21

D. HENRY WATTS SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES
  Dalton Powers ’21

VWU GLOBAL CAMPUS
  Adam Perry ’21

Members of the Class of 2021

Marie Porter,  *University Chaplain*

Dr. Maynard Schaus,  *Vice President for Academic Affairs*

Dr. Scott D. Miller,  *President of the University*
Invocation

Birdsong School of Social Science

Joan P. Brock School of Mathematics and Natural Sciences

Susan S. Goode School of Arts and Humanities

D. Henry Watts School of Professional Studies

VWU Global Campus

 Welcoming Remarks

President Miller

Musical Selection

The Star-Spangled Banner by Francis Scott Key

Virginia Wesleyan Vox Vera

Presentation of Awards

Samuel Nelson Gray Distinguished Teaching Award

Frank and Jane P. Batten Distinguished Scholar Award

Service and Community Engagement Award

United Methodist Church General Board of Higher Education and Ministry Exemplary Teacher Award

Introduction of Speaker

President Miller

Address to the Class of 2021

Dr. Timothy Carter

President of Second Nature

Presentation of Dr. Carter for Doctoral Degree (honoris causa)

Presentation of Dr. Richard Ekman for Doctoral Degree (honoris causa)

Presentation of Dr. Susan Torma Beverly ’72 for Doctoral Degree (honoris causa)

Presentation of Dr. David R. Black for Doctoral Degree (honoris causa)

The Conferring of Degrees to the Class of 2021

President Miller, Dr. Schaus

Alma Mater

Virginia Wesleyan Vox Vera

Benediction

Marie Porter

Please remain seated until the graduates have recessed.
Commencement Speaker  
and Honorary Degree Recipient

Dr. Timothy Carter  
President of Second Nature  
Candidate for Doctor of Science (honoris causa)

Dr. Timothy Carter is the president of Second Nature, a national non-profit with a mission to accelerate climate action in, and through, higher education. As president, Dr. Carter provides strategic leadership for the organization, including a focus on decarbonization activity and climate leadership of the 400+ schools in Second Nature’s Climate Leadership Network and University Climate Change Coalition. Prior to Second Nature, Dr. Carter was the founding director of Butler University’s Center for Urban Ecology (CUE) where he built the CUE from a fledgling unit with two interns and a program manager to a thriving academic center with over $3M in externally funded initiatives. He has authored over 20 peer-reviewed publications in the fields of sustainability, ecology, and climate change. Dr. Carter received his Ph.D. in Ecology with distinction from the Odum School of Ecology at the University of Georgia (UGA) and completed his B.S. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts with his wife Katy and three children and is an avid coffee home-roaster.
Dr. Richard Ekman has served as president of the Council of Independent Colleges since 2000. Previously, Ekman served as vice president for programs of Atlantic Philanthropies and as secretary and senior program officer of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Earlier, he was at the National Endowment for the Humanities, successively as director of the Division of Education Programs and the Division of Research Programs; at Hiram College as vice president and dean, where he was a tenured member of the history faculty; and at the University of Massachusetts at Boston as assistant to the provost. He currently serves as a member of many boards, including those that provide guidance to the Harvard University’s Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, American Academic Leadership Institute, Emeriti Retirement Health, Yale-New Haven Teachers Institute, and Project Pericles. He has been awarded honorary degrees by Alvernia, Otterbein, St. Edward’s, and Marywood Universities, and Alderson-Broaddus, Bethany, Davis & Elkins, Georgetown, Hastings, and Ursinus Colleges, and is a recipient of the W.E.B. DuBois Medal of Harvard University. He is co-author, with Richard E. Quandt, of Technology and Scholarly Communication (University of California Press, 1999). His essays have appeared in the Chronicle of Higher Education, University Business, Inside Higher Ed, Carnegie Reporter, and Washington Post. Ekman earned his A.B. in History and Ph.D. in the History of American Civilization from Harvard University.
Honorary Degree Recipient

Dr. Susan Torma Beverly ’72
Retired School Administrator and Philanthropist
Candidate for Doctor of Humane Letters (honoris causa)

Dr. Susan Torma Beverly graduated from Virginia Wesleyan with a Bachelor of Arts in 1972, a Master of Science from Old Dominion University in 1975, a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study from Old Dominion in 1978, and a Doctor of Education from Virginia Tech in 1998. Most of her professional career has been in elementary education, where she served as principal of White Oaks Elementary School before her retirement from Virginia Beach City Public Schools. She also earned certification as a nurse assistant (CNA) and has worked part time at Westminster-Canterbury on Chesapeake Bay. Dr. Beverly has served on the Virginia Wesleyan University Board of Trustees with distinction for three terms. In 2011, she was inducted as an honorary member of the VWU Chapter of Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK), the National Leadership Honor Society. She remains active in the community serving on the Broad Bay Point Greens Garden Club, her civic league, and as a volunteer at Virginia Beach Sentara General Hospital and Virginia Beach United Methodist Church. Virginia Wesleyan University has been the recipient of Dr. Beverly’s philanthropic generosity, with the Susan Beverly Grand Terrace and Pond serving as a serene space for outdoor programming at the Goode Fine and Performing Arts Center. She has also made possible the recent updates to the original Fine Arts Building, now aptly named Susan T. Beverly Hall. She resides in Virginia Beach with her husband, Tom.
Dr. David R. Black is President-Emeritus of Lakeland University in Wisconsin and Eastern University in Pennsylvania. Dr. Black served as president of Lakeland from 1989-1997 and then again from 2017-2020. He was president of Eastern and Palmer Theological Seminary from 1998-2013. He started his career as a development officer at two private colleges and then served as a chief academic officer for 10 years. He holds B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees from Lee University, the University of Tennessee and Ohio University, respectively. Under his leadership at Eastern, the 2,300 student Eastern College grew into a 4,400 student doctoral-granting university with a residential college of arts and sciences, an honors college, a college of graduate and professional studies, an urban junior college, a seminary, and three research centers. At Lakeland, he established the university’s campus in Toyko, Japan, which now partners with Virginia Wesleyan and operates as Lakeland University Japan/VWU Global. Dr. Black has served as the Executive-in-Residence at VWU since 2015 and has been instrumental in the transformative growth of the University, including the creation of the Batten Honors College, the Work & Learn campus cooperative and the partnership with LUJ.
Candidates for the Degree of Master of Arts in Education

Zachary T. Burkhart
Education
Glenshaw, Pennsylvania

Dante B. Copeland
Education
Suffolk, Virginia

Lexis M. Holley
Education
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Matthew R. Miller-Hayes
Education
Chester, Virginia

Candidates for the Degree of Master of Business Administration

Victoria Abraham-Paul
Business Administration
Woodbridge, Virginia

Dylan A. Ardinger
Business Administration
Chesapeake, Virginia

Kelsey M. Bayzick
Business Administration
Bridgeton, New Jersey

Damon A. Brown
Business Administration
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Tiffany Mackenzie Cariker
Business Administration
Chesapeake, Virginia

Lauren A. Carroll
Business Administration
Norfolk, Virginia

Campbell Cobb
Business Administration
Stafford, Virginia

Clinton A. Collins
Business Administration
Chesapeake, Virginia

Kelly Irene Roenker Cordova
Business Administration
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Donald Reid Garlock
Business Administration
Dumfries, Virginia

Jahi J. Henley
Business Administration
Spotsylvania, Virginia

Anastasia E. Hernandez
Business Administration
Virginia Beach, Virginia
COMMENCEMENT 2021

VWU GLOBAL CAMPUS
Candidates for the Degree of Master of Business Administration

Mohammad T. Hyder
Business Administration
Jackson Heights, New York

Keeta M. James
Business Administration
Woodbridge, Virginia

Aderson Jean-Francois
Business Administration
Chesapeake, Virginia

Shrishti Kharel
Business Administration
Williamsburg, Virginia

Nicholas D. Lilly
Business Administration
Woodbridge, Virginia

Amber E. Little
Business Administration
Norfolk, Virginia

James E. Lynch
Business Administration
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Michelle Miller
Business Administration
Greensboro, North Carolina

Adam M. Perry
Business Administration
Chesapeake, Virginia

Valerie J. Smith
Business Administration
Coram, New York

Alina Velez
Business Administration
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Gwaltney W. Wright
Business Administration
Chesapeake, Virginia
BIRDSONG SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE
Candidates for the Degree of Bachelor of Arts

Nailah K. Alston-Iszard
Criminal Justice
Chesapeake, Virginia

Paul J. Atkinson, Jr., magna cum laude
Social Science Divisional
Norfolk, Virginia

Shianne N. Barlow
Psychology
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Yamrot D. Bekele
Psychology
Alexandria, Virginia

Daniel R. Beuschlein
Criminal Justice
York, Pennsylvania

Stephanie A. Bornholtz
Psychology
Fredericksburg, Virginia

Mary K. Brockenbrough, summa cum laude
International Studies & Political Science
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Nora E. Brooks
Criminal Justice
Norfolk, Virginia

Shaun Brooks
Criminal Justice
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Jason A. Brugman, magna cum laude
Political Science
Lorton, Virginia

Daja D. Burgee
History
Chesapeake, Virginia

Romina Cabrera Lasserre
Psychology
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Tyriq C. Campbell
Criminal Justice
Sicklerville, New Jersey

Christy D. Carroll, magna cum laude
History & Social Science
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Tyasha M. Casey
International Studies & Political Science
Hampton, Virginia

Michael B. Chopp
Criminal Justice
Newport News, Virginia

Kameron M. Clarke
Political Science &
Women’s & Gender Studies
Alexandria, Virginia

Dominique M. Coleman
Psychology
Virginia Beach, Virginia
BIRDSONG SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE
Candidates for the Degree of Bachelor of Arts

Zoe A. Cruz, magna cum laude
Psychology
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Taylor A. Cunningham, cum laude
Criminal Justice & Sociology
North Chesterfield, Virginia

Arielle L. Damasco, cum laude
Psychology
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Maria R. Dart
Criminal Justice
Chesterfield, Virginia

Analaysia C. Davis
Sociology
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Meghan M. Dearing
Criminal Justice
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Jeritza I. DeJesus
Political Science
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Gina N. Derdzinski
Psychology & Recreational Therapy
Chesapeake, Virginia

Valerie E. Dickens
Social Science
Chesapeake, Virginia

Hunter M. Draut
International Studies & Political Science
New Bern, North Carolina

Jacob K. Dudek
History
Chesapeake, Virginia

Sarah G. Edwards, cum laude
History & Social Science
Mathews, Virginia

Kiara M. Fisher
Psychology
Fredericksburg, Virginia

George A. Galeota
History & Social Science
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Dylan C. Gentry
Criminal Justice
Midlothian, Virginia

Tionna A. Gibson
Social Science
Norfolk, Virginia

Heather N. Gonzales
Political Science
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Cherelle Gooch
Psychology
Ft. Washington, Maryland
Candidates for the Degree of Bachelor of Arts

**Cosray E. Govan, II**
Criminal Justice & Psychology
Chesterfield, Virginia

**Takara N. Grant**
Social Science
Norfolk, Virginia

**Jessica C. Gurley, magna cum laude**
Psychology
Norfolk, Virginia

**Jilliann M. Hallman, magna cum laude**
Social Science
Chesapeake, Virginia

**Matthew T. Hardy, cum laude**
Criminal Justice
Newport News, Virginia

**Kylie L. Hargrave, cum laude**
History & Social Science
Gloucester, Virginia

**Shannon Sylvia Harris**
Criminal Justice
Elmont, New York

**Katelyn F. Hayden**
Criminal Justice
Virginia Beach, Virginia

**Sarah L. Heinbaugh**
Psychology
Fairfield, Pennsylvania

**Reagan K. Holmes, cum laude**
Psychology
Chesapeake, Virginia

**Madigan L. Horne**
Criminal Justice
Severna Park, Maryland

**Zion R. Howard, magna cum laude**
Psychology
Lincoln, Delaware

**Chelsea M. Jacox, cum laude**
Criminal Justice & Social Sciences Divisional
Virginia Beach, Virginia

**Aleigha K. Johnson**
International Studies & Political Science
Elkins Park, Pennsylvania

**Anikka Danielle Jones**
Criminal Justice
Richmond, Virginia

**Sabrina E. Jones**
Criminal Justice & Sociology
Fredericksburg, Virginia

**Lindsey Paige Kirkland**
Criminal Justice
Lynchburg, Virginia

**Miah R. Kurtz**
International Studies
Topton, Pennsylvania
BIRDSONG SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE
Candidates for the Degree of Bachelor of Arts

Trevor B. Lalande
History & Social Science
Oak Hill, Virginia

Sarah Faith Mister
History & Social Science
Herndon, Virginia

Danielle M. Lehner
Criminal Justice
Gaithersburg, Maryland

Jordan N. Moilanen
Psychology
Castle Rock, Colorado

Joshua L. Livermon
Criminal Justice
Midlothian, Virginia

Cheyenne D. Moore
Psychology
Concord, Virginia

20 Jacqueline L. Lopez, magna cum laude
Social Science
Virginia Beach, Virginia

21 Jacqueline M. Munoz, magna cum laude
Social Science
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Sherry L. Lopez, magna cum laude
Social Science
Manassas, Virginia

Emma Ngosa
Social Science
Fairfax, Virginia

Cole W. Maguire
Criminal Justice & Political Science
Haymarket, Virginia

Layne N. Nooner
Psychology
Belleville, Illinois

Laura P. Manning
Social Science
Chesapeake, Virginia

William E. Peyton, Jr.
Criminal Justice
King George, Virginia

Alexis X. Martin
Psychology
Waldorf, Maryland

Alex M. Powers, summa cum laude
Political Science
Collegeville, Pennsylvania

Tatiana M. Mauri
Criminal Justice
Virginia Beach, Virginia

BHC Asha J. Richards, cum laude
International Studies & Political Science
Silver Spring, Maryland
Kirstin N. Rideout, *cum laude*
International Studies & Political Science
*Gloucester Point, Virginia*

Anthony T. Robinson
Criminal Justice
*Virginia Beach, Virginia*

Edwin A. Salguero
Social Science
*Fairfax, Virginia*

BHC
Brianna N. Sandy, *summa cum laude*
Political Science
*Chesapeake, Virginia*

Erykah L. Scesco
Social Science
*Newport News, Virginia*

Lamont D. Steward, Jr.
Criminal Justice
*Norfolk, Virginia*

Danielle E. Stewart
Criminal Justice
*Centreville, Maryland*

Nicole C. Stottlemyer
Psychology
*Virginia Beach, Virginia*

Jessica G. Switzer
Criminal Justice
*Norfolk, Virginia*

Alexandria Faith Teeter
Psychology
*Virginia Beach, Virginia*

Samantha R. Tinston
Criminal Justice & Psychology
*Herndon, Virginia*

BHC
Jennifer Vega, *magna cum laude*
Political Science & Theatre
*Chesapeake, Virginia*

Maria M. Vermeulen
Criminal Justice
*Virginia Beach, Virginia*

Gracelyn C. Walker
Criminal Justice
*Norfolk, Virginia*

Ashlyn M. Watts, *summa cum laude*
Psychology
*Stuart, Virginia*

Jonathan D. Webb
Psychology
*Norfolk, Virginia*

Carli H. Williams
Psychology
*Chester, Virginia*

Nicholas D. Williams
History
*Virginia Beach, Virginia*
Candidates for the Degree of Bachelor of Arts

**BIRDSONG SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE**

*Candidates for the Degree of Bachelor of Arts*

**BHC**

**Anthony L. Wilson**, *cum laude*
Criminal Justice
*Lynchburg, Virginia*

**Colin P. Wolf**, *posthumous*
Psychology
*Washington, District of Columbia*

**Emily M. Wright**, *magna cum laude*
Criminal Justice
*Virginia Beach, Virginia*

**Charleston S. Yancey**, *magna cum laude*
Psychology
*Norfolk, Virginia*

**20 Victoria G. Zuppa**, *summa cum laude*
Criminal Justice & Psychology
*Aberdeen, New Jersey*

Candidates for the Degree of Bachelor of Science

**Reina A. Araujo**
Psychology
*Virginia Beach, Virginia*

**Xavier M. Hess**
Psychology
*Etters, Pennsylvania*
JOAN P. BROCK SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS AND NATURAL SCIENCES
Candidates for the Degree of Bachelor of Arts

BHC
Audrey Lydie Nora Bally
Mathematics
Nice, France

Reilly M. Barnhart
Biology
Derry, Pennsylvania

Matthew A. Dagostino
Biology
Scotia, New York

Marisa M. Dobson, cum laude
Earth & Environmental Sciences
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Julie Marie Fassl
Environmental Studies
New Egypt, New Jersey

Latoya M. Fentress
Environmental Studies
Mount Holly, North Carolina

Mary Elizabeth Haines
Environmental Studies
Hampton, Virginia

Jeremy A. Hight
Computer Science
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Morgan Nicole Hinkley, magna cum laude
Environmental Studies
Norfolk, Virginia

21
Elidah R. Hopkins
Environmental Studies
Norfolk, Virginia

Michael A. Iwuji
Biology
Woodbridge, Virginia

Tyler M. Jenkins, magna cum laude
Mathematics & Religious Studies
Portsmouth, Virginia

20
John K. Jennings
Computer Science
Chesapeake, Virginia

Ashanti L. Kincannon
Earth & Environmental Sciences
Norfolk, Virginia

Mallory J. Langford
Biology & Psychology
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Tatum J. O’Brien, cum laude
Mathematics
Norfolk, Virginia

Shelton A. Reisch
Environmental Studies
Southern Shores, North Carolina

21
Ryan J. Richardson
Environmental Studies
North Chesterfield, Virginia
Christian Roden
Environmental Studies
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Ashley B. Roehrman, *cum laude*
Environmental Studies & Sociology
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Jackson E. Simmons
Computer Science & Music
Chesapeake, Virginia

Christian L. Vik
Environmental Studies
Charlottesville, Virginia

Armon Rashad Waymone Wade
Environmental Studies
Chesapeake, Virginia

Frank H. Whitton
Earth & Environmental Sciences
Collegeville, Pennsylvania
JOAN P. BROCK SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS AND NATURAL SCIENCES

Candidates for the Degree of Bachelor of Science

Alysha M. Archangel-Banrey
Biology
Norfolk, Virginia

Alexi E. Baumgardner
Biology
Emmitsburg, Maryland

Matthew R. Bavuso, magna cum laude
Biology
Weems, Virginia

Marie Y. Bazile
Biology
Norfolk, Virginia

Katelyn N. Biando
Biology
Suffolk, Virginia

Mikayla Lee Bowers
Biology
Hampton, Virginia

Shannon Grace Bradley
Chemistry
Bushkill, Pennsylvania

Aleah K. Brinn
Mathematics
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Tessa H. Burleson
Biology
Montpelier, Virginia

Ashley C. Christiansen
Biology
Norfolk, Virginia

Tatiana V. Crawl
Chemistry
Bowie, Maryland

Maria R. Dart
Chemistry
Chesterfield, Virginia

Janine V. De Perio
Biology
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Molly E. Delmont, cum laude
Biology
Glen Allen, Virginia

Robert E. Eley
Chemistry
Petersburg, Virginia

Rose M. Ernstn, magna cum laude
Earth & Environmental Sciences
Fredericksburg, Virginia

Kitana Milena Finley
Chemistry & Mathematics
Fredericksburg, Virginia

Matthew N. Freeman, cum laude
Computer Science
Timberlake, North Carolina
Carla L. Hall  
Biology  
Rocky Mount, Virginia

Peyton B. Harris, *cum laude*  
Biology  
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Haille H. Hatter  
Biology  
Newport News, Virginia

Ezekiel J. Herrera-Bevan, *summa cum laude*  
Earth & Environmental Sciences  
San Diego, California

Tyson Malik Howard  
Computer Science  
Chesapeake, Virginia

Zachary D. Hubbard, *magna cum laude*  
Earth & Environmental Sciences  
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Skyler Lattuca, *summa cum laude*  
Earth & Environmental Sciences and  
Sustainability Management  
Middle Island, New York

Joseph A. Leo  
Biology  
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Teah N. Lorenzi  
Earth & Environmental Sciences  
Gainsville, Virginia

Hannah F. Lowery  
Biology  
Chesapeake, Virginia

Nicole Catherine Lucia  
Biology  
Stafford, Virginia

Zachary A. Masalski  
Biology  
Phoenixville, Pennsylvania

Christian J. McGiveron, *cum laude*  
Computer Science  
Chesapeake, Virginia

Kayleen Meinen, *magna cum laude*  
Earth & Environmental Sciences  
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Taylor Lynne Morich  
Biology  
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Phoebe C. Murrell, *summa cum laude*  
Earth & Environmental Sciences  
Norfolk, Virginia
JOAN P. BROCK SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS AND NATURAL SCIENCES
Candidates for the Degree of Bachelor of Science

21 Duncan James Newman
Mathematics
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Ukari S. Perkins
Biology
Hyattsville, Maryland

Sarah Elizabeth Polk
Biology
Smithfield, Virginia

BHC Alex M. Powers, summa cum laude
Mathematics
Collegeville, Pennsylvania

Nicholas Price
Biology
Royersford, Pennsylvania

21 Morgan M. Richardson
Biology
Suffolk, Virginia

#21 Dylan T. Roberts
Chemistry
Chesapeake, Virginia

20 Candice M. Salazar
Computer Science
Norfolk, Virginia

Catherine E. Sedgwick
Biology
Alexandria, Virginia

BHC Andrew J. Taylor, cum laude
Earth & Environmental Sciences
Hubert, North Carolina

21 Kyle A. Wilson
Biology
Virginia Beach, Virginia

BHC James D. Wyatt
Mathematics
St. Stephens Church, Virginia
Alyssa J. Balanta, magna cum laude
Hispanic Studies
Clinton, Maryland

Aramynta S. Borga, summa cum laude
English
Virginia Beach, Virginia

John Brooks
Latin
Suffolk, Virginia

Chloe Jewel Patience Clarke
Art
Smithfield, Virginia

Shelby Clinedinst
Classical Studies
Norfolk, Virginia

Grace M. Cooper
English
Ararat, Virginia

Amanda Winnett Cote, magna cum laude
Comprehensive Liberal Studies
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Jenah M. Creecy, magna cum laude
English & Individualized Studies
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Vanessa Elizabeth DelCid
English
Richmond, Virginia

Janell C. Dobransky
Comprehensive Liberal Studies
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Gabrielle L. Duplessis, cum laude
English
Cooperstown, New York

Daria M. Ellis
Religious Studies
Portsmouth, Virginia

Makiah Ellis
Communication
Chesapeake, Virginia

Brendan W. Ferguson, magna cum laude
Communication
Norfolk, Virginia

Isabelle D. Figueroa
Comprehensive Liberal Studies
Chesapeake, Virginia

Joshua A. Gray
Communication
Ashburn, Virginia

Isaac M. Guzman
Communication
Passaic, New Jersey

Maria Hall, summa cum laude
English
Portage, Indiana
21 Jennifer M. Hendricks
Classical Studies
Chesapeake, Virginia

20 Jessica M. Houlker
Art
Norfolk, Virginia

Mary Alexis Ann Jackson
Communication
Manassas, Virginia

India K. Khanna
English & Psychology
Alexandria, Virginia

Ayanna S. King
Comprehensive Liberal Studies
Yeadon, Pennsylvania

Destiny N. Kinka, summa cum laude
Hispanic Studies & Religious Studies
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Gene A. Lambey
Art
Washington, District of Columbia

Joseph A. Leo
Music
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Gavin Thomas Lyter
English
York, Pennsylvania

BHC Yuxiang Skylar Mao, cum laude
Hispanic Studies
Ningbo, China

☆ Robert M. Mazingo, Jr., cum laude
Communication
Queenstown, Maryland

Nicholas A. Mundy
Communication
Montros, Virginia

Juliana K. Mushala
English
Lanham, Maryland

21 Lars C. Neel
Music
Norfolk, Virginia

#BHC21 Katharyn M. Niedzwiecki
Philosophy
Spotsylvania, Virginia

BHC Sarah Katherine Ramsey, magna cum laude
English
Roanoke, Virginia

21 Krystal M. Rodriguez
Hispanic Studies
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Cody Joseph Schneider
Communication
Chesapeake, Virginia
SUSAN S. GOODE SCHOOL OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES
Candidates for the Degree of Bachelor of Arts

Wesley I. Seals
English
Woodstock, Maryland

Jennifer K. Sieracki
Comprehensive Liberal Studies
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Taylor H. Simpson
Music
Newport News, Virginia

Donna C. Smith
Music
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Victoria Steele, magna cum laude
Religious Studies
Bealeton, Virginia

Megan N. Stredler
Comprehensive Liberal Studies
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Mike Justin I. Sumulong
English
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Hayden J. Thornbrugh, cum laude
English & Psychology
Chester, Virginia

Michelle Elizabeth Titus
Music
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Tuwonob M. Uddin
Communication
Silver Spring, Maryland

Margaret E. Warner
Comprehensive Liberal Studies
Wilmington, North Carolina

Dylan P. Westling
English
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Jenna J. Whitener, summa cum laude
English
Clemmons, North Carolina

Candidates for the Degree of Bachelor of Musical Arts

Thomas H. Reinhold
Applied Music
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Serena Victoria Smith, summa cum laude
Applied Music
Virginia Beach, Virginia
D. HENRY WATTS SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES
Candidates for the Degree of Bachelor of Arts

Tyler A. Arnold
Business
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Bethany Carleen Arrington
Sport & Recreation Management
Sykesville, Maryland

Douglas W. Avery, Jr.
Business
Greenwood, Delaware

Bethel Banabu
Business
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Brian M. Beaume-Vinasco
Business
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Jason Blevins, Jr.
Business
Sterling, Virginia

Adam Tyler Brooks
Recreational Therapy
Chester, Virginia

William Dylan Bultje
Sport & Recreation Management
Midlothian, Virginia

Deryck T. Burczyk
Business
Colgate, Wisconsin

Holly A. Butt
Business
Chesapeake, Virginia

Emily Paige Canter
Sport & Recreation Management
Williamsburg, Virginia

Qi Chen, cum laude
Business
Yinzhou District, China

Allison N. Churchman
Business
Chesapeake, Virginia

Sarah E. Clark
Business
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Kacey L. Clough
Business
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Sierra D. Coleman
Sport & Recreation Management
Richmond, Virginia

Carter D. Collier
Business
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Hayley E. Crews
Comprehensive Liberal Studies
Curricular Emphasis
Virginia Beach, Virginia
COMMENCEMENT 2021

D. HENRY WATTS SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES
Candidates for the Degree of Bachelor of Arts

Tyson C. Crowe
Business
South Hill, Virginia

20
Brendon W. Curzio, cum laude
Business
Chesapeake, Virginia

Jacob S. Davis
Comprehensive Liberal Studies
Curricular Emphasis
Virginia Beach, Virginia

MeMe M. Dawson
Business
Hampton, Virginia

Timothy J. Dias
Business
Virginia Beach, Virginia

21
Caroline Domo
Recreational Therapy
Chester, Virginia

21
McKenna Dowd
Recreational Therapy
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Jessica Taylor Duncan
Comprehensive Liberal Studies
Curricular Emphasis
Norfolk, Virginia

Tyler B. Duncan
Business
Chesapeake, Virginia

21
Eric C. Fisher, III
Sport & Recreation Management
Virginia Beach, Virginia

21
Bradley T. Frederick
Recreational Therapy
Chesapeake, Virginia

Dasia L. Fulp
Comprehensive Liberal Studies
Curricular Emphasis
Suffolk, Virginia

Madison F. Glaubke
Recreational Therapy
Virginia Beach, Virginia

21
Jessica C. Goldyn
Sport & Recreation Management
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Nicholas H. Griffin
Recreational Therapy
Chester, Virginia

20
Alaira G. Groomes, cum laude
Business
Germantown, Maryland

Davion J. Harmon
Business
Melfa, Virginia

Travis J. Harrington
Business
Conway, South Carolina
D. HENRY WATTS SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES
Candidates for the Degree of Bachelor of Arts

Andrew A. Hohle
Business
Stafford, Virginia

Jollene A. Holman, cum laude
Business
Virginia Beach, Virginia

20 Ryan C. Horan, magna cum laude
Business
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Liam Michael Hurley
Business & Hispanic Studies
Williamsburg, Virginia

20 Innocent Igho
Business
Christiansburg, Virginia

21 Daniel A. Iwuji
Business
Woodbridge, Virginia

21 Aaron H. Johnson
Recreational Therapy
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Braden C. Knight, cum laude
Business
Cedar Park, Texas

Madison Rose Koch, cum laude
Recreational Therapy
Chalfont, Pennsylvania

Anna Elizabeth Krussow
Recreational Therapy
Youngsville, North Carolina

Brian J. Lane
Sport & Recreation Management
Crofton, Maryland

Antoinette M. Lloyd, cum laude
Comprehensive Liberal Studies
Curricular Emphasis
Chesapeake, Virginia

Hunter R. Lloyd
Sport & Recreation Management
Stephens City, Virginia

Mary Jane M. Maramba
Business
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Carrie L. McClellan
Comprehensive Liberal Studies
Curricular Emphasis
Chesapeake, Virginia

Jamie N. McKinney
Business
South Mills, North Carolina

Mia E. Meinhardt
Recreational Therapy
Midlothian, Virginia

21 Dominique J. Nieves
Recreational Therapy
Covington, Georgia
Ashaunti Darnele Parker, magna cum laude
Business
Suffolk, Virginia

Anna E. Pedicone
Recreational Therapy
Lansdale, Pennsylvania

Celvin Pelaez-Gonzalez, magna cum laude
Business
Ocean City, New Jersey

Jacob M. Phillips
Business
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Catherine L. Ponack, magna cum laude
Comprehensive Liberal Studies
Curricular Emphasis
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Dalton M. Powers, magna cum laude
Business
Chesterfield, Virginia

Michaela V. Proffitt
Recreational Therapy
Chesapeake, Virginia

Kevin J. Prophet, Jr.
Sport & Recreation Management
Upper Marlboro, Maryland

Emily J. Purdin, magna cum laude
Comprehensive Liberal Studies
Curricular Emphasis
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Morgan M. Reed
Recreational Therapy
Highlands Ranch, Colorado

Reese R. Reid
Business
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Derek A. Ringer
Business
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Justin B. Robins, summa cum laude
Business & Religious Studies
Mechanicsville, Virginia

Jacob R. Ross
Sport & Recreation Management
Chesapeake, Virginia

Melissa R. Runo
Comprehensive Liberal Studies
Curricular Emphasis
Vernon, New Jersey

Robert C. Scott
Business
Williamsburg, Virginia

Nathan Scott Sheirburn
Business
Ocean City, Maryland

Damon J. Showers
Recreational Therapy
Virginia Beach, Virginia
D. HENRY WATTS SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

Candidates for the Degree of Bachelor of Arts

21 Julia M. Sinnett
Sport & Recreation Management
Woodbridge, Virginia

21 Margo Lynn Smallwood
Business
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Robert L. Solomon
Business & Communication
Chester Springs, Pennsylvania

20 Millie Christina Taylor, magna cum laude
Business
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Morgan R. Thomas
Business
Virginia Beach, Virginia

#21 Veronica J. Zamora
Business
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Alexandra M. Zecca
Business
Thornton, Pennsylvania
D. HENRY WATTS SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES
Candidates for the Degree of Bachelor of Social Work

Evelyn J. Arias
Social Work
Stamford, Connecticut

Kayla E. Gush
Social Work
Horseheads, New York

Dazjae A. Johnson
Social Work
Chesapeake, Virginia

Marissa C. Sanchez
Social Work
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Victoria Steele, magna cum laude
Social Work
Beaeton, Virginia

Ania Naychelle Turner
Social Work
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Debbie Winters
Social Work
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Diplomas distributed by Regina Cotter, Virginia Wesleyan University Registrar
Students listed are candidates for degrees as of April 28, 2021
2021 Retiring Faculty

Cathal Woods, Associate Professor of Philosophy
16 Years of Service
Musical selections performed by Virginia Wesleyan Vox Vera

VIRGINIA WESLEYAN VOX VERA

Jacob Barnett          Thomas Reinhold
Rachel DeMay           Jackson Simmons
Rebecca Gardner        Serena Smith
Aleigha Johnson        Jennifer Vega
Robert Jones           Lindsay White
Lars Neel              Andre Wiggins

Dr. Bryson Mortensen
Conductor
Associate Professor of Music and Chair of Fine and Performing Arts

VIRGINIA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY ALMA MATER
Music by David Clayton, Words by Sandra Billy

On Lake Taylor by the Bay, seagulls soar where Marlins play.
Sunlight streams across the fields and shimmers through the trees.
Our paths may lead around the world, but our hearts stay at Wesleyan.
Academic Regalia

The three academic degrees generally recognized are the bachelor’s, master’s and doctorate. The name of each degree seems to have been determined by medieval custom. The bachelor’s degree, the baccalaureate, takes its name from the practice of referring to novices in trade guilds, knightly orders and universities as “bachelors.” The master’s degree was equivalent to a license to teach, and sometimes was followed by the express words licentia docendi. The doctorate degree derived from the habit of addressing scholars of great learning by the title “doctor.” Today, of course, all three degrees are generally earned by following a prescribed course of academic study. However, honorary degrees are granted for meritorious service and for distinction in public or private endeavor. In the medieval university, students and teachers wore gowns indicating their status and scholastic achievement. In 1895, an intercollegiate commission drafted a uniform code governing the use of academic caps, gowns and hoods in the United States. The vast majority of colleges and universities in the nation, including Virginia Wesleyan University, adhere to those guidelines.

Those holding the bachelor’s degree wear a black gown distinguished by long pointed sleeves hanging to the knees. The master’s gown, worn open, features even longer sleeves which are closed at the bottom. There are slits about midway for the arms. The doctorate gown has full-length lapels of velvet and bell-shaped sleeves with three horizontal velvet bars.

A hood may be worn with the gown and is made of the same material. Each hood is lined in silk with the colors of the institution which granted the degree. In the case of Virginia Wesleyan, for example, the colors are blue and white. The bachelor’s hood is three feet long, with a two-inch strip of velvet. The master’s hood is three and one-half feet long, faced with a three-inch velvet strip. The doctor’s hood is four feet long, faced with a five-inch strip of velvet. The color of the velvet strip on the hood indicates the field of study in which the University degree was earned or granted, for example:

- Arts White
- Science Yellow
- Music Pink
- Social Welfare Citron
- Theology Scarlet

The appropriate cap for all degrees is the familiar “mortar board.” A tassel, hanging to the left of the face, is also appropriate for all degrees. Holders of the doctoral degree may wear a soft velvet cap of the color indicating their field of study and a tassel of gold thread.

Gonfalons

Serving as the backdrop for the Virginia Wesleyan University Commencement Ceremony are the institutional banners, or gonfalons. The institutional gonfalon leads the procession, reflecting the University’s rich history and commitment to liberal arts education. It is followed by banners for the Batten Honors College, the Birdsong School of Social Science, the Joan P. Brock School of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, the Susan S. Goode School of Arts and Humanities, the D. Henry Watts School of Professional Studies, and Virginia Wesleyan University Global Campus. Each contains imagery and colors signifying its respective area of discipline. The style of the gonfalons processing today was unveiled in 2017 with design by Christine Hall and hand stitching by McIlhenny Banners of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. They replace the University’s original gonfalons, which were created and hand stitched by Judy Tinsley and Judy Coltrane, with additional design from the Art Department. The first set of gonfalons are preserved in the Office of Academic Affairs and remain an important visual tribute to Virginia Wesleyan history.
**Presidential Medallion**

A symbol of the Office of the President of Virginia Wesleyan University, the medallion was commissioned upon Virginia Wesleyan's transition from College to University status in 2017.

It features the official University seal and hangs on a cloth ribbon in VWU blue. The original sterling silver and blue enamel medallion (1993-2017) also utilized the University seal as its main design element.

**Honorary Degrees**

**Doctor of Arts** *(honoris causa)*: This degree is awarded to individuals who have distinguished themselves in the Arts.

**Doctor of Divinity** *(honoris causa)*: First awarded in 1786, this degree is awarded to individuals who have distinguished themselves in endeavors related to religion.

**Doctor of Humane Letters** *(honoris causa)*: First awarded in the 1880s, this degree is awarded to individuals who have distinguished themselves in the humanities.

**Doctor of Laws** *(honoris causa)*: First awarded in 1773, this degree is awarded to individuals who have distinguished themselves in general service to state, to learning and to mankind.

**Ceremonial Mace**

A mace, once designed for use as a tool of medieval warfare, has served in recent centuries as a symbol of authority and vitality by legislative bodies and institutions of higher education. In the latter context it becomes a ceremonial staff, bearing engraved images and words which represent distinguishing characteristics of the institution.

The Virginia Wesleyan University mace was created by goldsmith Suzannah Wagner of Ashland, Virginia. The cherry wood for the mace was harvested in southeastern Virginia in the 1930s and the base of the shaft contains grains of earth preserved from the original campus groundbreaking ceremony on July 18, 1965. Latin inscriptions on crystal panels evoke mind, body, spirit and community. Additional engravings on crystal and silver reflect agricultural, maritime and other regional symbols; the United Methodist cross and flame; and scenes of the campus.

The mace is carried in academic processions and at other times is displayed on the campus accompanied by a narrative describing the symbols which it bears.
Thank You

Thank you for attending the
COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY
at Virginia Wesleyan University

As a courtesy to others, please silence and refrain from using
cell phones and other devices during the ceremony.
Smoking is prohibited in all campus buildings at Virginia Wesleyan University.
Your consideration and cooperation are greatly appreciated.

Photography

Lifetouch Special Events Photography is pleased to provide this complimentary service
for each graduate who crosses the dais during the Commencement Ceremony.
For information about Commencement photographs, visit events.lifetouch.com/vwu.
Questions can be addressed to specialevents@lifetouch.com or 800.505.9496
Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-6 p.m. EST, or online at contact.lifetouch.com.
There is no obligation to purchase photos.

Please DO NOT approach the stage to take your own photographs,
as this may interfere with the ceremony and the work of the photographers.

Live Streaming

The Virginia Wesleyan University Commencement Ceremonies are being livestreamed
on the VWU Digital Broadcasting Network and will be archived for future viewing.

All greenery and floral arrangements are living plants and
will be returned safely to their natural environment.

Thank you to our volunteers.