

VIRGINIA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

Commencement



MAY 2021

VIRGINIA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY



COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES

May 2021

TowneBank Arena, Jane P. Batten Student Center

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

Jason Brugman '21

Joan P. Brock School of Mathematics and Natural Sciences

Aleah Brinn '21

Susan S. Goode School of Arts and Humanities

Destiny Kinka '21

D. Henry Watts School of Professional Studies

Justin Robins '21

VWU Global Campus

Keeta James '21

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

Dr. Schaus

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.

Honorary Degree Recipient

DR. RICHARD EKMAN

*President of the Council of Independent Colleges
Candidate for Doctor of Humane Letters (honoris causa)*



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-Broadbudds, 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.

*Baccalaureate Speaker
and Honorary Degree Recipient*

DR. DAVID R. BLACK

*President-Emeritus of Lakeland University and Eastern University
Candidate for Doctor of Divinity (honoris causa)*



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.

VWU GLOBAL CAMPUS

Candidates for the Degree of Master of Arts in Education

Zachary T. Burkhart

Education

Glenshaw, Pennsylvania

Lexis M. Holley

Education

Virginia Beach, Virginia

Dante B. Copeland

Education

Suffolk, Virginia

Matthew R. Miller-Hayes

Education

Chester, Virginia

Candidates for the Degree of Master of Business Administration

²⁰ **Victoria Abraham-Paul**

Business Administration

Woodbridge, Virginia

²⁰ **Campbell Cobb**

Business Administration

Stafford, Virginia

Dylan A. Ardinger

Business Administration

Chesapeake, Virginia

²⁰ **Clinton A. Collins**

Business Administration

Chesapeake, Virginia

Kelsey M. Bayzick

Business Administration

Bridgeton, New Jersey

Kelly Irene Roenker Cordova

Business Administration

Virginia Beach, Virginia

Damon A. Brown

Business Administration

Virginia Beach, Virginia

²⁰ **Donald Reid Garlock**

Business Administration

Dumfries, Virginia

Tiffany Mackenzie Cariker

Business Administration

Chesapeake, Virginia

Jahi J. Henley

Business Administration

Spotsylvania, Virginia

²⁰ **Lauren A. Carroll**

Business Administration

Norfolk, Virginia

²⁰ **Anastasia E. Hernandez**

Business Administration

Virginia Beach, Virginia

VWU GLOBAL CAMPUS

Candidates for the Degree of Master of Business Administration

²⁰ **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

²⁰ **James E. Lynch**
Business Administration
Virginia Beach, Virginia

²⁰ **Michelle Miller**
Business Administration
Greensboro, North Carolina

Adam M. Perry
Business Administration
Chesapeake, Virginia

²⁰ **Valerie J. Smith**
Business Administration
Coram, New York

²⁰ **Alina Velez**
Business Administration
Virginia Beach, Virginia

²⁰ **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
- ²¹ **Shianne N. Barlow**
Psychology
Virginia Beach, Virginia
- ²¹ **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
- ²⁰ **Shaun Brooks**
Criminal Justice
Virginia Beach, Virginia
- ^{BHC} **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
- ²¹ **Tyasha M. Casey**
International Studies & Political Science
Hampton, Virginia
- Michael B. Chopp**
Criminal Justice
Newport News, Virginia
- ^{#21} **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
- ²⁰ **Arielle L. Damasco**, *cum laude*
Psychology
Virginia Beach, Virginia
- Maria R. Dart**
Criminal Justice
Chesterfield, Virginia
- Analaysia C. Davis**
Sociology
Virginia Beach, Virginia
- ²⁰ **Meghan M. Dearing**
Criminal Justice
Virginia Beach, Virginia
- ²⁰ **Jeritza I. DeJesus**
Political Science
Virginia Beach, Virginia
- ²¹ **Gina N. Derdzinski**
Psychology & Recreational Therapy
Chesapeake, Virginia
- ²⁰ **Valerie E. Dickens**
Social Science
Chesapeake, Virginia
- ^{BHC} **Hunter M. Draut**
International Studies & Political Science
New Bern, North Carolina
- ²¹ **Jacob K. Dudek**
History
Chesapeake, Virginia
- Sarah G. Edwards**, *cum laude*
History & Social Science
Mathews, Virginia
- ²¹ **Kiara M. Fisher**
Psychology
Fredericksburg, Virginia
- ²⁰ **George A. Galeota**
History & Social Science
Virginia Beach, Virginia
- Dylan C. Gentry**
Criminal Justice
Midlothian, Virginia
- Tionna A. Gibson**
Social Science
Norfolk, Virginia
- ²⁰ **Heather N. Gonzales**
Political Science
Virginia Beach, Virginia
- ²¹ **Cherelle Gooch**
Psychology
Fr. Washington, Maryland

BIRDSONG SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

Candidates for the Degree of Bachelor of Arts

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

²⁰ **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

²⁰ **Shannon Sylvia Harris**
Criminal Justice
Elmont, New York

^{# 21} **Katelyn F. Hayden**
Criminal Justice
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Sarah L. Heinbaugh
Psychology
Fairfield, Pennsylvania

²⁰ **Reagan K. Holmes**, *cum laude*
Psychology
Chesapeake, Virginia

Madigan L. Horne
Criminal Justice
Severna Park, Maryland

²⁰ **Zion R. Howard**, *magna cum laude*
Psychology
Lincoln, Delaware

²⁰ **Chelsea M. Jacox**, *cum laude*
Criminal Justice & Social Sciences Divisional
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Aleighta 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

^{BHC} **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

Danielle M. Lehner

Criminal Justice
Gaithersburg, Maryland

Joshua L. Livermon

Criminal Justice
Midlothian, Virginia

²⁰ **Jacqueline L. Lopez, magna cum laude**

Social Science
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Sherry L. Lopez, magna cum laude

Social Science
Manassas, Virginia

Cole W. Maguire

Criminal Justice & Political Science
Haymarket, Virginia

Laura P. Manning

Social Science
Chesapeake, Virginia

Alexis X. Martin

Psychology
Waldorf, Maryland

²⁰ **Tatiana M. Mauri**

Criminal Justice
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Sarah Faith Mister

History & Social Science
Herndon, Virginia

²¹ **Jordan N. Moilanen**

Psychology
Castle Rock, Colorado

Cheyenne D. Moore

Psychology
Concord, Virginia

²⁰ **Jacqueline M. Munoz, magna cum laude**

Social Science
Virginia Beach, Virginia

²¹ **Emma Ngosa**

Social Science
Fairfax, Virginia

Layne N. Noonan

Psychology
Belleville, Illinois

William E. Peyton, Jr.

Criminal Justice
King George, Virginia

Alex M. Powers, summa cum laude

Political Science
Collegeville, Pennsylvania

^{BHC} **Asha J. Richards, cum laude**

International Studies & Political Science
Silver Spring, Maryland

BIRDSONG SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

Candidates for the Degree of Bachelor of Arts

Kirstin N. Rideout, *cum laude*
International Studies & Political Science
Gloucester Point, Virginia

Anthony T. Robinson
Criminal Justice
Virginia Beach, Virginia

²⁰ **Edwin A. Salguero**
Social Science
Fairfax, Virginia

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

²⁰ **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. Stottlemeyer
Psychology
Virginia Beach, Virginia

²⁰ **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

²⁰ **Maria M. Vermeulen**
Criminal Justice
Virginia Beach, Virginia

²¹ **Graclyn C. Walker**
Criminal Justice
Norfolk, Virginia

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

²¹ **Jonathan D. Webb**
Psychology
Norfolk, Virginia

Carli H. Williams
Psychology
Chester, Virginia

²⁰ **Nicholas D. Williams**
History
Virginia Beach, Virginia

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

²¹ **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

²⁰ **Latoya M. Fentress**

Environmental Studies

Mount Holly, North Carolina

²¹ **Mary Elizabeth Haines**

Environmental Studies

Hampton, Virginia

²⁰ **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

^{#BHC21} **Mallory J. Langford**

Biology & Psychology

Virginia Beach, Virginia

Taitum 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

JOAN P. BROCK SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS AND NATURAL SCIENCES

Candidates for the Degree of Bachelor of Arts

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

²⁰ **Alysha M. Archangel-Banrey**

Biology
Norfolk, Virginia

BHC **Alexi E. Baumgardner**

Biology
Emmitsburg, Maryland

BHC **Matthew R. Bavuso**, *magna cum laude*

Biology
Weems, Virginia

BHC **Marie Y. Bazile**

Biology
Norfolk, Virginia

Katelyn N. Biando

Biology
Suffolk, Virginia

Mikayla Lee Bowers

Biology
Hampton, Virginia

BHC **Shannon Grace Bradley**

Chemistry
Bushkill, Pennsylvania

BHC **Aleah K. Brinn**

Mathematics
Virginia Beach, Virginia

BHC **Tessa H. Burleson**

Biology
Montpelier, Virginia

²¹ **Ashley C. Christiansen**

Biology
Norfolk, Virginia

BHC **Tatiana V. Crawl**

Chemistry
Bowie, Maryland

Maria R. Dart

Chemistry
Chesterfield, Virginia

Janine V. De Perio

Biology
Virginia Beach, Virginia

BHC **Molly E. Delmont**, *cum laude*

Biology
Glen Allen, Virginia

BHC²⁰ **Robert E. Eley**

Chemistry
Petersburg, Virginia

BHC **Rose M. Ernstn**, *magna cum laude*

Earth & Environmental Sciences
Fredericksburg, Virginia

BHC **Kitana Milena Finley**

Chemistry & Mathematics
Fredericksburg, Virginia

²⁰ **Matthew N. Freeman**, *cum laude*

Computer Science
Timberlake, North Carolina

JOAN P. BROCK SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS AND NATURAL SCIENCES

Candidates for the Degree of Bachelor of Science

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

^{BHC} **Alexander James Leonard**

Earth & Environmental Sciences

Apex, North Carolina

Teah N. Lorenzi

Earth & Environmental Sciences

Gainsville, Virginia

²⁰ **Hannah F. Lowery**

Biology

Chesapeake, Virginia

^{BHC20} **Zachary A. Lubick**, *cum laude*

Chemistry

Bracey, Virginia

Nicole Catherine Lucia

Biology

Stafford, Virginia

^{BHC} **Zachary A. Masalski**

Biology

Phoenixville, Pennsylvania

Christian J. McGiveron, *cum laude*

Computer Science

Chesapeake, Virginia

^{BHC} **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

SUSAN S. GOODE SCHOOL OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Candidates for the Degree of Bachelor of Arts

Alyssa J. Balanta, *magna cum laude*
Hispanic Studies
Clinton, Maryland

²⁰ **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

^{BHC} **Jenah M. Creecy**, *magna cum laude*
English & Individualized Studies
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Vanessa Elizabeth DelCid
English
Richmond, Virginia

²⁰ **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

²⁰ **Maria Hall**, *summa cum laude*
English
Portage, Indiana

SUSAN S. GOODE SCHOOL OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Candidates for the Degree of Bachelor of Arts

²¹ **Jennifer M. Hendricks**
Classical Studies
Chesapeake, Virginia

²⁰ **Jessica M. Houliker**
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

^{BHC} **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
Montross, 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

²⁰ **Taylor H. Simpson**

Music

Newport News, Virginia

Donna C. Smith

Music

Virginia Beach, Virginia

Victoria Steele, *magna cum laude*

Religious Studies

Bealeton, Virginia

²⁰ **Megan N. Stredler**

Comprehensive Liberal Studies

Virginia Beach, Virginia

²⁰ **Mike Justin I. Sumulong**

English

Virginia Beach, Virginia

^{BHC} **Hayden J. Thornbrugh**, *cum laude*

English & Psychology

Chester, Virginia

Michelle Elizabeth Titus

Music

Virginia Beach, Virginia

Tuwanob M. Uddin

Communication

Silver Spring, Maryland

Margaret E. Warner

Comprehensive Liberal Studies

Wilmington, North Carolina

Dylan P. Westling

English

Virginia Beach, Virginia

^{BHC} **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

- ²¹ **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

- ²¹ **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

^{#BHC20} **Qi Chen, cum laude**

Business

Yinzhou District, China

Allison N. Churchman

Business

Chesapeake, Virginia

²⁰ **Sarah E. Clark**

Business

Virginia Beach, Virginia

^{#21} **Kacey L. Clough**

Business

Virginia Beach, Virginia

²¹ **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

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

D. HENRY WATTS SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

Candidates for the Degree of Bachelor of Arts

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

BHC **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

²¹ **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

Bealeton, Virginia

Ania Naychelle Turner

Social Work

Virginia Beach, Virginia

²⁰ **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

²⁰ December 2020 Graduate

²¹ August 2021 Candidate

Potential Latin Honors Graduate

BHC Batten Honors College

✦ Graduates who have completed requirement
for teacher licensure in Virginia

☆ ROTC Candidate

✪ Military Veteran

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
Aleighta 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.

Truth and honor. Service, knowledge. Wisdom lights the way.

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	Public Health Salmon
Science Yellow	Fine Arts Brown
Music Pink	Education Light Blue
Social Welfare Citron	Business Drab
Theology Scarlet	Philosophy Blue

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.

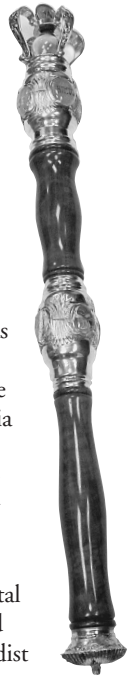
Doctor of Laws (*honoris causa*): First awarded in 1773, this degree is awarded to individuals who have distinguished themselves in general service to state, to learning and to mankind.

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.



5817 WESLEYAN DRIVE | VIRGINIA BEACH | VIRGINIA 23455