



---

# WINTER COMMENCEMENT

---

for the Conferring of Degrees

Sunday, January 22, 2017

1:00 PM

*Arnaud C. Marts Sports and Conference Center*

## THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

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?

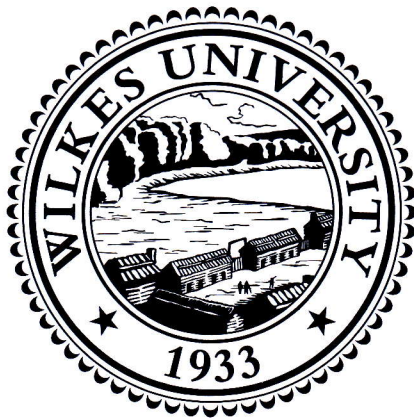
Words by Francis Scott Key  
Arranged by Philip G. Simon

## ALMA MATER

Wilkes, our Alma Mater,  
We pledge our hearts to thee,  
Honor, faith, and courage,  
Truth and loyalty,  
In our work and in our pleasure,  
Guide us as a friend;  
We shall always love thee,  
Loyal to the end.  
Thou shalt lead us onward  
In search of finer things.  
May we find the wisdom  
That thy spirit brings.  
May our deeds of love and service  
Ever swell thy fame —  
Wilkes, we stand to greet thee!  
Glory to thy name.

Words and Music by Eleanor C. Farley

A reception for graduates and their families will be held in the Ballroom of the  
Henry Student Center immediately following the ceremony.



WILKES UNIVERSITY'S

---

# WINTER COMMENCEMENT

---

for the Conferring of Degrees

# Order of Exercises

**\*FANFARE AND PROCESSIONAL**

*Entry and March of the Peers from Iolanthe* ..... *Arthur Sullivan*  
*Arranged by M. L. Lake*

**WELCOME** ..... *Anne A. Skleder*  
*Senior Vice President and Provost*

**\*INVOCATION** ..... *Kristin M. Osipower*  
*Coordinator, Campus Interfaith*

**\*THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER** ..... *Words by Francis Scott Key*  
*Arranged by Philip G. Simon*

**GREETINGS** ..... *Andrew P. Miller*  
*Chair, Faculty Affairs Council*  
*Associate Professor, Political Science*

*Susan K. Fisher '17*  
*Member of the Graduating Class*

*\*The audience is requested to rise.*

# Order of Exercises

CONFERRING OF THE DEGREES ..... Patrick F. Leahy  
*President*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ..... Patrick F. Leahy

\*ALMA MATER ..... *Eleanor C. Farley*  
*Arrangement, Terry Zipay*

\*BENEDICTION ..... *Kristin M. Osipower*  
*Coordinator, Campus Interfaith*

\*RECESSIONAL  
*Just a Closer Walk with Thee* ..... *Traditional*  
*Arranged by Don Gillis*

*Music provided by the Wilkes Faculty / Alumni Brass Quintet*  
*Dr. Philip G. Simon, Conductor*  
*Martina F. Barna '17, Vocalist*

*\*The audience is requested to rise.*

# DOCTOR OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES

Dr. Rhonda M. Rabbitt, *Dean*

\* George Miletti  
\* Mona Helen Nashman

\* Cheri L. Sload-Woyurka

# DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE

The Passan School of Nursing

Dr. Deborah A. Zbegner, *Dean*

Natalie E. Bastien  
\* Yukiko M. Boykin  
Darlene Helen Ferrer  
Susan K. Fisher  
Rebecca Hopper

\* Lia Ludan  
Beatrice McCullough Matthews  
Deborah Louise Nallo  
Janine Connors Quinlan

# DOCTOR OF PHARMACY CANDIDATES

The Nesbitt School of Pharmacy

Dr. Bernard W. Graham, *Dean*

<sup>15</sup> Stephen Thomas Sawka

Krista Zawistowski

<sup>15</sup> *Phi Lambda Sigma*

\* *Degree in Absentia*

# MASTER'S DEGREE CANDIDATES

## Master of Business Administration

Dr. Abel Adekola, *Dean*

Emily Lynn Absalom  
\* Thomas J. Baloga  
David L. Benway  
Amrinder Singh Dhindsa  
\* Jason Paul Dillman  
Karen M. Dougher  
Nour A. Elbattah  
\* Stephen M. Exeter  
Rohit Gupta  
Naomi E. Harding  
Thomas Levi Leyba  
\* William Robert Marozzi

Courtney Matus  
Tolulope E. Ofi  
Valerie Ann Saveri  
Donald R. Searfoss  
Michael Anthony Silletti  
Talwinderjit Singh  
\* Luke Sterling  
<sup>6</sup> Jill Elizabeth Tarantini  
<sup>6</sup> Michael John Valkenburg  
Brittaney Marie Welsh  
Kristen Zigmont

## Master of Science Education

Dr. Rhonda M. Rabbitt, *Dean*

\* Jay Christopher Adamson  
\* Arianne Addesa  
Aimee Alfredo  
Nicole Anderson  
Kaitlyn Andrews  
\* Ralph Andrews  
Natalie Apellaniz  
\* Christopher D. Aubertin  
\* Nicole A. Auker  
\* DePhilip M. Banks-Jackson  
\* Natasha Jo Berkheimer  
\* Nicholas Joseph Bilski  
\* Jon Bittenbender  
\* Matthew C. Blakeslee  
\* Brian Joseph Blase  
\* Tiffani Ann Bogart  
\* Joshua A. Bonner  
\* James Edward Booth  
\* Joseph Andrew Bouvier  
\* Karrie Lynn Bowman  
\* Gabrielle R. Casaceli  
\* Michele Lynn Chase  
\* Julia C. Cheripko  
\* Bridget Ann Ciolkosz  
\* Suzanne Conti  
\* Carla M. Craft  
Breann Nicole Crocker  
\* Christopher Cymbal  
Tracy Payne Davis  
\* Denyel Nicole Decker

Daniel John Delaney  
Andrew James Ditty  
\* Josefa Cerra Dombrosky  
Antonella Durante  
Kendra Dykes  
\* Kelly M. Ehrenfeuchter  
\* Alexandra Falconi-Vuletic  
Melissa A. Ferguson  
\* Lisa M. Findley  
\* Amy Elizabeth Fisher  
Cori Staci Frede  
\* Erica Jordan Furman  
\* Meredith Candice Gallo  
Neidin Gerber  
\* Shane Robert Grim  
Ashley Lynn Hack  
\* Melanie Hampton  
Amanda Harner  
\* Jennifer Marie Hart  
\* Eric Michael Heisey  
\* Holly Nichole Hepner  
\* Matthew Hill  
Alissa J. Hockley  
\* Tonda Holman  
\* Kyle Timothy Hoover  
\* Jill Marie Howe  
\* Theodore Paul Iacocca  
\* Joshua Michael Inzana  
\* Heather Lynn Jenkins  
\* Heidi Kathleen Johnson

<sup>6</sup> Delta Mu Delta

\* Degree in Absentia

# MASTER'S DEGREE CANDIDATES

## Master of Science Education — *Continued*

- \* Morgan Jane Johnson
- \* Kristen J. Kaminski  
Lori J. Kaschak
- \* Joseph M. Keefer
- \* Brianna M. Keeney  
Emily Michelle Kelley
- \* Kimberly Ann Kessler
- \* Catherine Mary King
- \* Kasey Janae Klahold
- \* Courtney E. Kline
- \* Cecilia Blanche Knox
- \* Lindsay Dauterive Kriebel  
Patricia McAtee Lackey
- \* Breana K. Lampo  
Danielle Lee  
Michele Irene LeHeup
- \* Richard E. Letts, Jr.
- \* Kathryn Lockett
- \* Melissa Catherine Lopez
- \* Teresa Main
- \* Kimberly Anne Marroli  
Mackenzie McGinnis
- \* Laura Beth McHugh
- \* Erika McLaughlin
- \* Justin Adam McNett
- \* Ashley Melanson  
Katelyn Ann Mock
- \* Stephanie Jenyne Monahan
- \* Wanda Fern Moncks
- \* John Marc Murphy
- \* Julie Rose Nagy
- \* Michelle Ann Nisly
- \* Katherine Christa Oehlerking
- \* Stacy Overcash  
Lauren Ann Owazany
- \* Debra Jo Painter
- \* Renae Perry
- \* Rebecca Lynne Peters  
Jason M. Petrello
- \* Michole L. Pignato  
Nancy L. Principe  
Anna Przybylski  
Jennifer K. Puhalla-Williams
- \* Kelly Ann Pulskamp
- \* Jason Quenzer
- \* Jenna Ashley Rau
- \* Breana J. Reilly
- \* Diane E. Rieker
- \* Keith Edward Robbins
- \* Janelle Nicole Roda
- \* Gina Christi Romanelli
- \* Susan Schiavo  
Denise Schloder  
Carolyn Keyes Scott  
David John Scott, Jr.
- \* Melissa Elizabeth Rubeo Shaak
- \* Kaylyn Amanda Shafer  
Michelle Lynn Shafer
- \* Elizabeth Sheaffer
- \* Kevin Richard Sickle
- \* Jared Daniel Snyder
- \* Stacey Joy Snyder
- \* Michael Andrew Sonnenberg
- \* Robert Chad Speicher
- \* Christal Yezovich Stagon
- \* Alyssa Danielle Stevenson
- \* Nicole Beth Stopay
- \* Janine Florinda Stottlemeyer  
Kyle R. Stout
- \* Bradley S. Sweigart  
Natalie Marie Trone
- \* Megan Sue Trupp  
Brenda Ann VanBuskirk
- \* Brittany Ann VanWert
- \* Jennifer Wagner
- \* Stacy Lynn Wagner
- \* Stephanie Elizabeth Wagner  
Tiara Dawn Walburn
- \* Gregory Walker
- \* Van Ho Wallick
- \* Ashley Wanniski
- \* Jill Marie Weaver
- \* Jeanine Ellen Weinreb
- \* Catherine Louise Welch-Kern
- \* Allysa Chantel Wenrich  
Melanie Lynn Widelko
- \* Susan K. Wilcox
- \* Darcie Ann Zenchuk

\* *Degree in Absentia*



# MASTER'S DEGREE CANDIDATES

## Master of Science in Bioengineering

Dr. William B. Hudson, *Dean*

\* Hanna DiFresco

## Master of Science in Electrical Engineering

Dr. William B. Hudson, *Dean*

Majed Mohammed S. Badabood

Ali Abdullah A. Habadi

## Master of Science in Engineering Management

Dr. William B. Hudson, *Dean*

\* Fahad Faraj Alrehaili

\* Waleed Abdullah A. Alsamari

\* Michael J. Thomas

## Master of Science in Nursing Passan School of Nursing

Dr. Deborah A. Zbegner, *Dean*

\* Charmaine Bade

Jennifer P. Bloch

Cindi Boderman

Veronica Leigh Calandra

Carly Cappello

Maureen Karen Clark

\* Julio R. Duran, Jr.

Charles Grove

\* Jason Joshua Heck

Michael F. Hennigan

Myra Faith Hensley

Kimberly A. Swoboda Kenzakoski

Angie Kim-Capone

\* Yvonne I. R. Megaludis

\* Bonnie Miltenberger

Mamie Nyobe

Audrey Goldberg Plough

Alessandro Rendina

Cortney Lynn Repanshek

\* Lindsey Romberger

Joleen Marie Schade

\* Victoria Sewell

Alicia Shelkin

\* Nannette Smith

Allison Elizabeth Tomczyk

Bryan Joseph Weinberg

Rebecca Wilde-Onia

\* *Degree in Absentia*

# BACHELOR'S DEGREE CANDIDATES

## The College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences

Dr. Paul T. Riggs, *Dean*

### Communication Studies

\* Michael B. Filipski

Emily Diane Marie Kramer  
*Psychology, Second Degree*

### Criminology

So Yon Jang  
*Political Science, Second Major*  
*Sociology, Third Major*  
Andrew Nutt

Abdelrahim Safar  
Stephen Seger

### Digital Design and Media Art

Thomas J. Coulter

Mary Kathleen Hannon

### English

<sup>22</sup> Tara Gabrielle Giarratano, *Summa Cum Laude*

### History

Jeffrey Allen Homschek

\* Charles S. Slavish, Jr.

### Psychology

\* Andrei Angheluta  
\* Francesca Bellantuono  
Joyce Eshun  
Emily Diana Marie Kramer  
*Communications, Second Degree*  
Eliza Neidlinger  
\* Tra My Thi Nguyen

<sup>19</sup> Billy Parsons  
<sup>19</sup> Kavan Kaur Rai, *Magna Cum Laude*  
<sup>19</sup> Brittany Aurora Scherer, *Magna Cum Laude*  
Noah Albert Solomon  
\* Makia Marie Stocker  
\*<sup>19</sup> Chelsea Marie Workman  
\* *Neuroscience, Second Degree*

### Sociology

Kaitlin Ann Crandall

Sydney Lynn Mohr

### Theatre Arts

April Stephanie Romanishan

<sup>19</sup> Psi Chi

<sup>22</sup> Sigma Tau Delta

\* Degree in Absentia

# BACHELOR'S DEGREE CANDIDATES

## The School of Education

Dr. Rhonda M. Rabbitt, *Dean*

### Elementary & Early Childhood Education

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <sup>11,12</sup> Jeanne Cannon, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>           | <sup>11,12</sup> Nicole Danielle Morgan, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i> |
| <sup>11,12</sup> Casandra Yvonne Cerulli, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i> | <sup>11,12</sup> Morgan Danielle Murphy, <i>Cum Laude</i>       |
| <sup>11,12</sup> Drew Devitt, <i>Cum Laude</i>                   | <sup>11,12</sup> Alexis Patrice Reed, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>    |
| <sup>*,11,12</sup> Jessica Difrenza, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>      |   |

### Middle Level Education

- <sup>11,12</sup> Amanda Tredinnick, *Cum Laude*

## The College of Science and Engineering

Dr. William B. Hudson, *Dean*

### Biology

- |                                      |                                    |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Bethany Rae Grace                    | <sup>4,24</sup> Kaitlin M. Schafer |
| <sup>*,24</sup> Alex Kowalczyk Magee |                                    |

### Computer Information Systems

Harsh Patel

### Earth and Environmental Sciences

Rita G. Willard

### Electrical Engineering

Fatemah Alhonayan  
*Mechanical Engineering, Second Degree*  
*Applied Engineering Sciences, Third Major*

### Environmental Engineering

- \* Levi Joseph Veppert

### Mechanical Engineering

Fatemah Alhonayan  
*Electrical Engineering, Second Degree*  
*Applied Engineering Sciences, Third Major*  
Alexandria Marie Bitzer

Hashim Mohammed Jaber, *Cum Laude*  
Paul Joseph Rochelle  
\* Autumn Leigh Werner

<sup>4</sup> Beta Beta Beta

<sup>11</sup> Kappa Delta Pi

<sup>12</sup> Pennsylvania Teacher Certification

<sup>24</sup> Sigma Xi

\* Degree in Absentia

# BACHELOR'S DEGREE CANDIDATES

## The College of Science and Engineering — *Continued*

### Neuroscience

<sup>19</sup> Vanessa Erdman  
*Psychology, Second Major*  
Jaclyn Michelle Gallick  
*Psychology, Second Major*

\* Chelsea Marie Workman  
*Psychology, Second Degree*

## The Jay S. Sidhu School of Business and Leadership

Dr. Abel Adekola, *Dean*

### Accounting

Patrick M. Devine  
\* Sarah Quach

Muhannad Zalali

### Business Administration

Elbert D. King

### Finance

Farraj Alamani  
\* Turki Bander M. Alotaibi, *Cum Laude*  
Hassan Saeed Alsharif  
Torre Elizabeth Atkinson

\* Turki Naif Bin Rubayan, *Magna Cum Laude*  
Matthew Aaron Seyer, *Magna Cum Laude*  
*Management, Second Major*

### Management

Ahmad Alkhamis  
Essa Yousef Almogbil

<sup>6</sup> Serina Steinbrenner, *Cum Laude*  
Shawn Michael Weyhenmeyer

### Marketing

Taylor Ann Lukasavage, *Cum Laude*

## The Passan School of Nursing

Dr. Deborah A. Zbegner, *Dean*

\* Deborah E. Saullo, *Magna Cum Laude*

<sup>6</sup> Delta Mu Delta

<sup>19</sup> Psi Chi

\* Degree in Absentia

# Scholarly Societies and Special Designations

- 1 *Denotes Membership in Alpha Chi, the National College Honor Scholarship Society.*
- 2 *Denotes Membership in Alpha Kappa Delta, the International Honorary Society in Sociology.*
- 3 *Denotes Membership in the Eta Pi Chapter of Alpha Sigma Lambda, the honor society recognizing the academic excellence of adult part-time students.*
- 4 *Denotes Membership in Beta Beta Beta, the National Honorary Society in Biology.*
- 5 *Denotes Membership in Chi Alpha Epsilon, the Honorary Society which recognizes students who were admitted to the University through Higher Education Access Opportunity programs.*
- 6 *Denotes Membership in the Zeta Psi Chapter of Delta Mu Delta, the National Honor Society in Business Administration.*
- 7 *Denotes Honors in Biology.*
- 8 *Denotes Honors in English.*
- 9 *Denotes Honors in Engineering.*
- 10 *Denotes Membership in Lambda Pi Eta, the National Honorary Society in Communications.*
- 11 *Denotes Membership in the Phi Phi Chapter of Kappa Delta Pi, the International Honorary Society in Education.*
- 12 *Denotes Candidates for Pennsylvania Teacher Certification.*
- 13 *Denotes Candidates for Pennsylvania Principal Certification.*
- 14 *Denotes Membership in Phi Alpha Theta, the National Honorary Society in History.*
- 15 *Denotes Membership in Phi Lambda Sigma, the Pharmacy Leadership Society.*
- 16 *Denotes Membership in Phi Sigma Tau, the National Honor Society in Philosophy.*
- 17 *Denotes Membership in Pi Kappa Delta, the National Honorary Forensic Society.*
- 18 *Denotes Membership in Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society.*
- 19 *Denotes Membership in Psi Chi, the National Honorary Society in Psychology.*
- 20 *Denotes Membership in Phi Eta Sigma, the National Honor Society for College Freshmen.*
- 21 *Denotes Membership in Rho Chi, the National Honor Society in Pharmacy.*
- 22 *Denotes Membership in Sigma Tau Delta, the National Honorary Society in English.*
- 23 *Denotes Membership in the Zeta Psi Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau, the International Honor Society for Nursing.*
- 24 *Denotes Membership in and acknowledgment by Sigma Xi, the Scientific Research Society.*
- 25 *Denotes Tom Bigler Scholar.*
- 26 *Denotes Pre-Medical Scholar.*
- 27 *Denotes Membership in the National Student Nurses Association.*
- 28 *Denotes Membership in Sigma Alpha Pi, the National Society of Leadership and Success.*
- \* *Degree in Absentia*

## Academic Costume

The celebration of Commencement is surrounded by rich traditions. The established community of scholars — the Faculty — convene to recognize officially the newest group of proven scholars — the Graduates — and welcome them in fellowship. Graduates don the attire that for years has symbolized scholarly attainment.

During the Middle Ages those seeking an education traveled to European centers of learning. Centers of learning and universities were closely allied with the clerics of the time, and the scholars donned garb similar to that worn by the clergy. This evolved into the academic uniform, a long black gown, hood, and cap, which proved useful for studying in unheated and drafty buildings. The hood served simultaneously as a head covering, a repository for coins and alms and the forerunner of the modern day book bag. The hood was adorned with the colors of the university and designated the young scholar's school or university affiliation. By their distinctive clothing the students were set apart and distinguished from the citizens of the town; hence the origin of the phrase "town and gown."

American colleges and universities adopted the wearing of the traditional apparel in Colonial times, and a common code for academic apparel was established in the mid-nineteenth century.

The hood is the most distinctive feature of academic regalia. The inside of the hood is lined with the official colors of the institution; today you see Wilkes graduates wearing hoods lined with the blue and gold colors of the University. The velvet trim around the outside of the hood designates the degree or field of study of the graduates. The velvet colors worn by today's graduates signify the following:

- Golden Yellow — Science
- White — Arts, Letters, Humanities
- Drab — Business Administration
- Brown — Fine Arts
- Olive — Pharmacy
- Blue — Education
- Apricot — Nursing

The style of the gown distinguishes graduates by the degree they have earned. Those earning the bachelor's degree wear a simple black gown with elongated pointed sleeves. Holders of the master's degree wear gowns with a longer, closed, square cut sleeve. The doctoral gown is trimmed with velvet stripes on the sleeves and panels of velvet on the front closure of the gown.

Some American universities have adopted doctoral gowns in their distinctive colors. You will notice the slate of Columbia, the red of Cornell, the burgundy of the University of Pennsylvania, the bright blue of the University of Michigan.

To have earned the privilege of wearing academic costume regalia signifies not only the completion of a program of studies, but entrance into the comradery of scholarship.



