

FIFTY-THIRD ANNUAL

## Spring 2023 Commencement Program

PROCESSION LED BY ..... Karen Stylianides, B.S., M.S.  
Associate Teaching Professor of Kinesiology  
President, Penn State Hazleton Faculty Senate  
Faculty Marshal

WELCOME ..... Elizabeth J. Wright, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.  
Chancellor

"STAR SPANGLED BANNER" +

REMARKS ..... Gabriel Charles Bragg '24  
President Elect, Student Government Association

GREETINGS FROM THE PENN STATE HAZLETON COUNCIL ..... John J. Beltrami, B.S. '80  
President, Penn State Hazleton Council

PRESENTATION OF ASSOCIATE DEGREE CANDIDATES ..... Albert Lozano-Nieto, B.S., Ph.D.  
Interim Director of Academic Affairs

CONFERRING OF DEGREES ..... Dr. Wright

PRESENTATION OF BACCALAUREATE DEGREE CANDIDATES ..... Dr. Lozano-Nieto

CONFERRING OF DEGREES ..... Dr. Wright

RECOGNITION OF SCHOLASTIC DISTINCTION AND VETERANS ..... Dr. Lozano-Nieto

KOSTOS AWARDS ..... Mrs. Stylianides

INTRODUCTION OF COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER ..... Dr. Lozano-Nieto

ADDRESS ..... Jennifer Malaga, B.A. '14

INDUCTION INTO PENN STATE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ..... Tiffany Veet, B.S. '14, M.S.  
President, Penn State Alumni Society

ALMA MATER +

*The audience is asked to join in the singing. Lyrics are on the inside front cover of the program.*

CHANCELLOR'S REMARKS ..... Dr. Wright

RECESSIONAL +

+ **PLEASE STAND**

# Commencement Information

## To Our Guests

Commencement, the solemn but joyful climax and recognition of the graduates' years of study, is an important occasion to the University, its faculty, staff, and students. All guests and participants are requested to avoid unnecessary conversation or moving about during the exercises.

Professional photos will be taken of each graduate with the chancellor and after exiting the stage. Visit <https://clients.dekkastudios.com/20230505/> and use the PIN 5835 to download web quality images from tonight's event at no charge. Love an image? Use the safe and secure online shopping cart to order printed photos, fine art prints, mounted prints, canvas wraps, metal prints, bamboo panels, or graduation cards (extra charges apply).

When the processional party enters at the beginning of the ceremony, the audience rises. They remain standing until all members of the platform party have taken their places on the platform.

Following the chancellor's closing remarks, there is a recessional. The audience is requested to remain at their seats during this period.

We welcome you to the fifty-third annual commencement exercises for associate and baccalaureate degree candidates at Penn State Hazleton.

## Academic Procession

The medallion worn by Chancellor Elizabeth J. Wright during the ceremony was instituted by the University in 1971. Symbolizing the authority to confer degrees, the bronze medallion is two and three quarters inches in diameter with the

founding date of the University on one side and the founding date of the Hazleton campus on the other side.

The mace carried by the Faculty Marshall is inscribed to honor the memory of Marlene Guers who served the campus for nearly thirty years in a range of positions including senior instructor in mathematics, coordinator of the honors program, and assistant director of Academic Affairs.

In academic commencement ceremonies, the mace is the symbolic extension of the chancellor. Most often carried in a commencement ceremony at the head of the marchers or immediately ahead of the chancellor, the mace serves as the object vested with the power of the institution.

## Academic Dress

Academic regalia originated in medieval monasteries to distinguish persons such as doctors, masters, and bachelors from the general population. In about 1895, American colleges and universities adopted the uniform code of academic dress that is used today.

### Caps

The traditional cap in the United States for all degrees is a black mortar board. The tassel is usually black, but the doctor's cap may have a gold tassel.

### Gowns

The design of the traditional academic black gown signifies the degree held. The bachelor's gown has pointed sleeves, while the master's gown has oblong sleeves that are open at the wrists. The doctor's gown has bell-shaped sleeves with three velvet chevrons.

## Hoods

Hoods are usually not worn by recipients of the bachelor's degree. The master's hood is three-and-a-half feet long and the doctor's hood is four feet long. The linings of the hoods are in official colors of the university conferring the degree. The velvet hood trim indicates the subject of the degree. Some colors associated with the disciplines include: arts, letter, and humanities – white; business – drab; economics – copper; education – light blue; engineering – orange; fine arts – brown; journalism – crimson; music – pink; speech – silver; philosophy – dark blue; physical education – sage green; science – golden yellow; and social work – citron.

## Cords

An honor cord provides an outward sign that these particular students have excelled in the classroom or have served or are serving our nation with pride.

Academic honor cords recognize the top 12 percent of degree candidates in each college and at every campus. Students who are graduating Summa Cum Laude are wearing a blue and white cord, students who are graduating Magna Cum Laude are wearing a blue cord, and students who are graduating Cum Laude are wearing a white cord.

Adult students excelling in the classroom while facing competing interests of home and work are recognized with membership into Alpha Sigma Lambda honor society. Members of Alpha Sigma Lambda are wearing a burgundy and gold cord.

Students who have honorably served, are serving, or are commissioned to serve in the U.S. military will be awarded an honor cord in recognition of their duty and sacrifice. The red, white and blue

cords will be given to eligible graduating students in the following groups: active duty, reserve and National Guard service members; veterans; and graduates receiving a commission through Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) and official U.S. Armed Forces recruiting programs.

Our graduate awarded an honor cord in recognition of his duty and sacrifice:

Ricky Montero

## About Our Commencement Speaker

### Jennifer Malaga

*Student Success Coach  
Penn State Hazleton*

Jennifer Malaga currently serves as a student success coach in the Student Success Center at Penn State Hazleton, where she provides students with critical academic resources and support.



Born in Peru, Malaga moved to the United States in 2007 when she was 16 years old. After graduating from Hazleton Area High School in 2009, she enrolled at Penn State Hazleton with the goal of earning an art degree.

Malaga's educational journey hit a snag in 2011 when she had to take an unexpected leave of absence. However, behind the encouragement of Penn State Hazleton faculty, she remained dedicated to the pursuit of her degree during this time and returned to campus.

After transitioning to the University Park campus, Malaga switched her career focus from art design to photography. That decision inspired her to spend her spring 2014 semester studying abroad at Studio Arts College International in Florence, Italy. She graduated in summer 2014 with a bachelor of arts degree in photography and a minor in Spanish.

Eager to start her career, Malaga launched Jennifer Malaga Photography soon after graduating, where she specializes in portraits. Her passion for photography soon took her to Florida, where she accepted a studio photographer position with Dean Stewart Photography. That role saw Malaga photograph high school students for their yearbooks, graduations and other significant events.

Her next role was as a photographer for Colorvision International at Universal Studios theme park in Orlando. Malaga photographed guests with theme characters throughout the park. She rose to the position of assistant manager in April 2018 where she oversaw numerous associates at several different store locations.

Wanting to be closer to her family, Malaga returned to Hazleton in late 2018. She volunteered for the Downtown Hazleton Alliance for Progress and worked as an administrative assistant for Sam-Son Productions.

At the same time, Malaga helped her parents as they began a commercial and residential cleaning business, Malaga's Cleaning Company. The family sought out the entrepreneurial resources and guidance of the campus-affiliated Hazleton LaunchBox supported by Pasco L. Schiavo Esq. to build a sustainable business and viable path to growth while Malaga worked in various administrative roles with her parent's business.

Since accepting her position at Penn State Hazleton, Malaga has utilized her bilingual skills, career journey and experiences as a Penn State student to guide current students towards academic success.

## Sobre Nuestra Oradora de Inicio

### Jennifer Malaga

*Entrenadora de Éxito Estudiantil  
Penn State Hazleton*

Jennifer Málaga actualmente sirve como una entrenadora de éxito estudiantil en el Centro de éxito estudiantil de Penn State Hazleton, donde ella provee a los estudiantes con apoyo y recursos académicos críticos.



Nacida en Perú, Málaga se mudó a los Estados Unidos en el 2007 cuando ella tenía 16 años. Después de graduarse de Hazleton Area High School en el 2009, ella se inscribió en Penn State Hazleton con la meta de obtener un título en arte.

La trayectoria educativa de Málaga se topó con un obstáculo en el 2011 cuando tuvo que tomar un permiso de ausencia inesperada. Sin embargo, gracias al apoyo del cuerpo docente de Penn State Hazleton, ella permaneció dedicada a la búsqueda de su título durante este tiempo y regresó al campus.

Después de la transición al campus de University Park, Málaga cambió su enfoque de diseño del arte a fotografía. Esa decisión la inspiró a pasar su semestre de primavera del 2014 estudiando en el extranjero en el Studio Arts College International en Florencia, Italia. Ella se graduó en el verano del 2014 con un bachiller de artes título en fotografía y un título menor en Español.

Ansiosa por comenzar su carrera, Málaga lanzó Jennifer Malaga Photography pronto después de graduarse, donde ella se especializa en retratos. Su pasión por la fotografía pronto la llevo a Florida, donde ella acepto una posición como estudio fotógrafa con Dean Stewart Photography. Ese papel llevo a Málaga fotografiar a estudiantes de secundaria para sus anuarios, graduaciones y otros eventos importantes.

Su próximo papel como fotógrafa para Colorvision Internacional en el Parque de Diversiones de Universal Studios en Orlando. Málaga fotografiaba a los visitantes con los personajes temáticos a través del parque.

Ascendió al puesto de subgerente en abril del 2018, donde supervisaba a numerosos asociados en varias tiendas.

Deseando estar cerca de su familia, Málaga regreso a Hazleton a finales del 2018. Ella fue una voluntaria para el Downtown Hazleton Alliance for Progress y trabajo como asistente administrativa para Sam-Son Productions.

Al mismo tiempo, Málaga ayudo a sus padres a que comenzaran su negocio propio de limpieza residencial y comercial, Malaga's Cleaning Company. La familia busco los recursos empresariales y orientación de los afiliados al campus Hazleton LaunchBox apoyado por Pasco L. Schiavo Esq. para construir un negocio sostenible y un camino viable hacia el crecimiento mientras Málaga trabajaba en varios roles administrativos en el negocio de sus padres.

Desde que acepto su puesto en Penn State Hazleton, Málaga ha utilizado sus habilidades bilingües, su trayectoria profesional y experiencias como estudiante de Penn State para guiar a estudiantes actuales hacia el éxito académico.

## Alma máter de Penn State

por Fred Lewis Pattee

Para la gloria del Penn State,  
Por sus fundadores, fuertes y grandes,  
Por el futuro que esperamos,  
Canta la canción, canta la canción,

Canta nuestro amor y lealtad,  
Canta nuestras esperanzas de que, brillantes y libres,  
Descansa, oh Madre querida, contigo.  
Todo contigo, todo contigo.

Cuando nos paramos en la puerta de la infancia,  
Sin forma en manos del destino,  
Tú nos moldeaste, querido Penn State,  
Querido Penn State, querido Penn State.

Que ningún acto nuestro traiga vergüenza  
A un corazón que ama tu nombre,  
Que nuestras vidas engrandezcan tu fama,  
¡Querido Penn State, querido Penn State!

# Associate Degree Candidates

## ASSOCIATE IN ARTS

### University College

#### Multidisciplinary Studies

Phillip James Crabb \*

## ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE

### University College

#### Business Administration

Natasha Liz Feliciano

Jeny Rivera

#### Medical Laboratory Technology

Alyssia Bailey

Nicholas Killian Coit

Dylan W. Everhart

Zachary D. Kreis

Elizabeth Sterowski

Brendan Varela-Keen

#### Physical Therapist Assistant

Halle Madeline Cox

Breann Lynnette Darkins

Meghan Riley Darrough

Macrina Lynady Demko

Madison Entz

Yvanka Figueroa Ortiz

Linsey Renee Fisk

Shawn Edward Houser

Corey Michael Klinger

Aniuska Montano Morejon

Raven Steele Van Gogh

# Baccalaureate Degree Candidates

## BACHELOR OF ARTS

### University College

#### Administration of Justice

James Christian Conza\*

#### Corporate Communication

Garrett Walter Engler\*  
Kiera Elizabeth Hinkle\*  
Mark J. Kokinda  
Faith Christina Letcher  
Jewel Newbern  
Jordan Joan Woitko

#### Criminal Justice

Jayla Abrianna Irvin

#### Psychology

Christie Marie Arias Rivera  
Kayleigh Bellido\*  
Kahlan A. Ciardullo  
Savannah Ariana Cothron  
Tiffani Alexis Sabolchick

## BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

### College of Education

#### Middle Level Education

Bethany Gavlick\*

### College of Engineering

#### Engineering

Paul R. Kramer  
Sidney Roberta Przybylski  
Logan Jonathan Yaletchko

### Eberly College of Science

#### Biology

Ashlyn Thuringer

### Smeal College of Business

#### Management

Ricky Montero\*

### University College

#### Business

Ashley Amigon  
Franny Marinel Bautista Lopez  
Kaitlyn Marie Bolinsky  
D'dsyrré Najee Khadora Coleman  
Bryce Andrew Dalpiaz  
Ian Thomas Hudock  
Aaron G. Kellmer  
Shawn Christian Lindsey  
Kyle E. Pacheco\*  
Angelina Lucia Schianodicola\*  
Kevin Christopher Tanribilir  
Ryan Scott Wingerter

\* Graduated fall 2022

# Baccalaureate Degree Candidates

## **Criminal Justice**

Jennifer Arevalo Moya\*  
Colton Paul Musolino  
David Leonard Zaleski, Jr.

## **Health Policy and Administration**

Heather Ann Lorah\*

## **Information Sciences and Technology**

Caitlin E. Croke  
Lauren Nicole Gombeda  
Frank Anthony Prinsziano

## **Project and Supply Chain Management**

Ashley Amigon  
Kevin Christopher Tanribilir

## **Psychology**

Rainy Johan Duran  
Depinder Singh\*

## **Rehabilitation and Human Services**

Justine Lisa Bernazeau  
Vincent Joseph Castrine  
Jocelyn E. Hafer  
Tabatha Mary Kanuck  
Bryan Anthony Kelly  
Erick Montero  
Courtney Evelyn Stone  
Caitlyn Rose Williams\*

## **Honors Group**

This group is made up of those students who have completed the required number of credits at the University and who are in the top 12 percent of their graduating class in their college. The 12 percent is divided into 2 percent "SUMMA CUM LAUDE," 4 percent "MAGNA CUM LAUDE," 6 percent "CUM LAUDE." This list was produced April 28, 2023, as an unofficial list of graduating students earning honors.

## **Summa Cum Laude**

Lauren Nicole Gombeda

## **Magna Cum Laude**

Elizabeth Sterowski

## **Cum Laude**

Aniuska Montano Morejon  
Angelina Lucia Schianodicola

\* Graduated fall 2022

# Academic Awards

## Frank C. Kostos Award

This award honors the late Frank C. Kostos, who ended a 27-year affiliation with Penn State Hazleton when he retired as campus director in 1973. It was established by the Penn State Hazleton Council, the campus advisory board.

This award is made annually to three students as follows:

1. to the full-time student with the highest grade-point average in Penn State course work and enrolled in a baccalaureate degree program at the end of the sophomore year;
2. to the full-time Penn State Hazleton baccalaureate degree student with the highest grade-point average in Penn State course work who intends to graduate;
3. to the full-time Penn State Hazleton associate degree student with the highest grade-point average in Penn State course work who intends to graduate.

The Kostos Award consists of a cash award and a replica of the Nittany Lion.

## BACCALAUREATE DEGREE

Kevin Lowen  
Microbiology

## PENN STATE HAZLETON BACCALAUREATE DEGREE

Lauren Nicole Gombeda  
Information Sciences and Technology

## PENN STATE HAZLETON ASSOCIATE DEGREE

Elizabeth Sterowski  
Medical Laboratory Technology

# PENN STATE HAZLETON COUNCIL

## Campus Advisory Board Members

John J. Beltrami ..... President  
Joseph P. Clifford ..... First Vice President  
Harsh Gandhi, M.D. .... Second Vice President  
Betty M. Corcoran ..... Secretary  
Anthony N. Cusatis ..... Treasurer  
Sharon E. Rohrbach, D.O. .... Immediate Past President

Donna M. Barna  
Matthew B. Bayzick  
Gordon L. Bigelow, J.D.  
Robert J. Caccese  
Denise M. Corcoran  
Neal DeAngelo III  
Fermin Diaz  
Joseph A. Donato, D.M.D.  
Rocco Formica  
Brian M. Harman  
Terry H. Jones

Megan Kennedy, Esq.  
Mary Celeste Kosko  
Gary F. Lamont  
Linda Z. Lease, Ph.D.  
Joseph F. Lettiere  
Zena-Marie Lewoc  
John R. Meier Jr.  
Donald M. Pachence  
Lisa R. Schugardt  
David Seamon  
Christopher B. Slusser, Esq.

## Ex-Officio

Sandra M. Lagana  
Albert Lozano-Nieto, Ph.D.  
Brittany Major  
Dixie J. McCoy  
Brian T. Uplinger  
Tiffany P. Veet  
Elizabeth J. Wright, Ph.D.

## Directors Emeriti

William J. Flood  
Eugene F. Gallagher  
Joseph G. Rudawski

# Program Notes

**RECEPTION:** Following the ceremony, please join us in the lobby of the Evelyn Graham Academic Building for a reception co-sponsored by the Hazleton Chapter of the Penn State Alumni Association and the Penn State Hazleton Alumni Society.

**ANNOUNCERS:** Pamela Black, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.  
Barbara Brazon, B.S. Ed., M.S.I.T.  
Lisa Goguen, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.  
Beth Greenberg, B.A., M.P.A., M.A.  
Garrett Huck, B.S., M.S., Ph.D.  
Joshua Parcha, A.S., B.S., M.A., Ph.D.  
Rosemarie Petrilla, B.H.S., M.P.T., D.P.T.  
Lori Reno, B.A., M.B.A.  
William Yourey, B.S., M.S., Ph.D.  
Lori Yeager, B.S., M.S., MLS (ASCP)

**GREETERS:** Karen Beruck  
Michele Foust  
Sabrina Krupko  
Kim Lombardo  
Lauren Millbyer  
Christine Ostrosky  
Colleen Racho  
Michele Yanuzzi

**LION AMBASSADORS:** Destiny Angel  
Ayrton Auman  
Julia Benjamin  
Tori Fox  
Matt Janson

**FACULTY GUIDES :** Garrett Huck, B.S., M.S., Ph.D.  
Amie Yenser, B.S., M.S.

**GRADUATE GIFTS:** Thank you to the following departments and organizations for contributing gifts to our graduates.

Hazleton Chapter of the Penn State Alumni Association  
Penn State Hazleton Alumni Society  
Penn State Hazleton Office of Student Services and Engagement

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The information in this document was produced on April 28, 2023, as an unofficial list of students who indicated an intent to graduate spring semester 2023. Changes may have occurred after this production date and may not be reflected in the content.

**This publication is available in alternative media on request.**

The University is committed to equal access to programs, facilities, admission and employment for all persons. It is the policy of the University to maintain an environment free of harassment and free of discrimination against any person because of age, race, color, ancestry, national origin, religion, creed, service in the uniformed services (as defined in state and federal law), veteran status, sex, sexual orientation, marital or family status, pregnancy, pregnancy-related conditions, physical or mental disability, gender, perceived gender, gender identity, genetic information or political ideas. Discriminatory conduct and harassment, as well as sexual misconduct and relationship violence, violates the dignity of individuals, impedes the realization of the University's educational mission, and will not be tolerated. Direct all inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policy to the Affirmative Action Office, The Pennsylvania State University, 328 Boucke Building, University Park, PA 16802-5901, Email: [aao@psu.edu](mailto:aao@psu.edu), Tel (814) 863-0471. U.Ed. HNO 23-80



## WELCOME TO THE PRIDE!

**Congratulations** on your graduation, and welcome to the Penn State Alumni Association —the largest and most powerful alumni network in the world.

New graduates receive a **complimentary one-year membership** in the Penn State Alumni Association.

As you enter the pride, you'll join the ranks of alumni who keep their connection to Penn State strong through membership. We encourage you to stay connected and learn more about the 30+ benefits that are included with your membership.

Membership materials, including your membership card, will be mailed to you after graduation. Benefits are available to you immediately upon receiving your membership card.

### Exclusive Member Benefits

#### CAREER AND EDUCATION



- **Alumni Career Services:** Attend premium Alumni Career Services events for free or at a substantial discount.
- **Discounts on Kaplan Test Preparation Services**
- **Alumni Library Online:** Exclusive access to Penn State Libraries Digitized Collections and University library databases.

#### NETWORKING AND EVENTS



Make new **connections**, reconnect with classmates and friends, have **new experiences**, and be enriched by participating in the world's largest **alumni network**.

#### DISCOUNTS



Members receive **access to discounts** including merchandise at Penn State Bookstore campus locations; access to discounted health, auto, renters, home, life, long-term care, and pet insurance; and more national and local discounts.

**Additional benefits include early invitations to Alumni Association events, access to the Alumni Directory, publications including the *Penn Stater* magazine, and much more!**