

Commencement

SPRING 2021



PENN STATE HAZLETON

Saturday, May 8, 2021
Sports and Recreation Field
11:00 a.m.



PennState

National Anthem

by Francis Scott Key

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, thro' 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 thro' the night that our flag was still there.
O say, does that Star-Spangled Banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

Alma Mater

by Fred Lewis Pattee

For the glory of old State,
For her founders, strong and great,
For the future that we wait,
Raise the song, raise the song,

Sing our love and loyalty,
Sing our hopes that, bright and free,
Rest, O Mother dear, with thee.
All with thee, all with thee.

When we stood at childhood's gate,
Shapeless in the hands of fate,
Thou didst mold us, dear old State,
Dear old State, dear old State.

May no act of ours bring shame
To one heart that loves thy name,
May our lives but swell thy fame,
Dear old State, dear old State!



PennState
Hazleton

Dr. Gary M. Lawler
Chancellor

Penn State Hazleton
76 University Drive
Hazleton PA 18202-8025

570-450-3032
Fax: 570-450-3055
gml13@psu.edu
hazleton.psu.edu



Dear graduates, families, and friends,

Welcome to the Penn State Hazleton 2021 commencement ceremony! We are honored to celebrate the accomplishments of the men and women who are graduating today.

First of all, congratulations to our graduates! Your hard work and determination have helped you achieve this significant milestone in your life. We are proud of what you have accomplished and the academic and personal growth we have witnessed in you. Your degree from Penn State will be a great advantage to you as you begin your career and throughout your life. You join a legacy of Penn State alumni and are always welcome to return to Penn State Hazleton for a visit.

To the families of our graduates, thank you for your encouragement and support of our students during their time at Penn State and into the rest of their lives. That support is essential for their success. While this is certainly a milestone for them, marking this new beginning is a milestone for you as well. I know you are even more proud of them than we are.

To our friends of the campus, thank you for joining us today and your continued support of our mission of teaching, research, and service that has been the hallmark of Penn State University since its founding. We are glad you were able to visit our campus tonight and celebrate our graduates!

On behalf of all of us at Penn State Hazleton, thank you for the investments you have made in the lives of these new Penn State alumni. We eagerly anticipate hearing about their achievements and how they are making the lives of others better.

Best wishes,

Dr. Gary M. Lawler
Chancellor

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.

A professional photo will be taken of each graduate after exiting the stage. The photo will be emailed to the graduate's Penn State email account a few days after the ceremony.

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-first annual commencement exercises for associate and baccalaureate degree candidates at Penn State Hazleton.

COVID-19 Guidelines

This ceremony will follow state and federal guidelines for gatherings. All students, guests and employees are required to wear face masks and maintain physical distancing from others to minimize the risk of spreading COVID-19. Penn State staff will be on site to answer questions and provide guidance; please follow their instructions about health and safety protocols. All guests who will be attending a commencement ceremony are expected to take health and safety precautions when traveling and during commencement weekend. In addition, please do not attend an in-person ceremony if within the last 14 days you

think you have been exposed, are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, are awaiting test results or have tested positive for COVID-19.

Academic Procession

The medallion worn by Chancellor Gary M. Lawler 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 graduates awarded an honor cord in recognition of their duty and sacrifice:

Dominic M. Lamont

Amanda Montz

About Our Commencement Speaker

Krista Schneider '92

Krista Schneider is a serial social entrepreneur and community change-maker. A practicing urban designer and community planner with more than 25 years' experience, she currently serves as executive director of the Downtown Hazleton Alliance for Progress, a nonprofit economic development and community revitalization organization she helped found in 2014. In this role, Schneider has raised more than \$6 million of public and private funding to implement key community revitalization projects and programs in downtown Hazleton. This includes the establishment of a new city arts center, a new community park, and a new welcome center. She also serves on the steering committee for the Hazleton LaunchBox supported by Pasco L. Schiavo Esq., which opened in 2019. Schneider also helped initiate the Downtown Hazleton First Friday program and the Downtown Hazleton Farmer's Market.



In 2009, Schneider founded the 1.5-acre Butler Township Community Garden and its "Growing Markets" ag-entrepreneurship program, which provides hands-on learning opportunities to young people interested in organic farming, gardening, and community-supported agriculture.

Schneider earned a bachelor's degree in landscape architecture from Penn State and a master's degree in urban design from Harvard University. A former U.S. Army officer, Schneider is also proud to have served her country both in the U.S. and abroad.

FIFTY-FIRST ANNUAL

Spring 2021 Commencement Program

PROCESSION LED BY Barbara Brazon, B.S. Ed., M.S.I.T..
Program Coordinator and Assistant Teaching Professor of Information Sciences and Technology;
President, Penn State Hazleton Faculty Senate;
Faculty Marshal

WELCOME Gary M. Lawler, A.S., B.S., M.A., Ph.D.
Chancellor

"STAR SPANGLED BANNER"

REMARKS..... James Walsh
President, Student Government Association

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES..... Elizabeth J. Wright, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.
Director of Academic Affairs, Penn State Hazleton; Associate Dean for Academic Affairs,
Office of the Senior Vice President for Commonwealth Campuses, Penn State

Maggie Gordon Froehlich, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.
Associate Director of Academic Affairs

CONFERRING OF DEGREES Dr. Lawler

RECOGNITION OF SCHOLASTIC DISTINCTION AND VETERANS Dr. Wright

KOSTOS AWARDS Dr. Froehlich

INTRODUCTION OF COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER Ms. Brazon

ADDRESS Krista Schneider '92

ALMA MATER +

CHANCELLOR'S REMARKS Dr. Lawler

RECESSIONAL +

+ PLEASE STAND

Associate Degree Candidates

ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE

University College

Business Administration

Michelle Hackenberg

Information Sciences and Technology

Christian D. Meyers

Physical Therapist Assistant

Erica Adamczyk

Cassidy Sue Buser

Mark Chapman

Alexa Rose Clark

Brianna Rae Clark

Laura Elizabeth Dorsey

Madison Felty

Megan Amanda Houser

Michael Anthony Hudson

Mitchell Lacerda

Kasey Lynn Leidy

Bailey Leslie

Abigail G. Majeski

Maria Noel Muentz

Kevin Ogorzalek

Juan Ortiz

Garrett James William Rokosky

Adam Specht

Shannon Stewart

Brian Richard Thomas

Hannah Mae Ulsh

Abigail Weaver

Jercora Witherspoon

Christiana Yoder

Baccalaureate Degree Candidates

BACHELOR OF ARTS

University College

Administration of Justice

Lexi L. Kenny

Corporate Communication

Dominic M. Lamont

Anthony Louis Salazer Jr.

Letters, Arts, and Sciences

Camille Nicole Principe

Psychology

Andrew James Whitesall

Dominika Zandrowicz

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

College of Engineering

Engineering

Daniel Joseph Galffy

Colin Knoll

University College

Administration of Justice

Elizabeth Madurki

Silvio Alejandro Reyes

Business

Sean Choley

Mackenzie Joy

Owen R. Klingaman

Catherine Elizabeth Matyas

Alfonso Penilla

Carlos Jeanpierre Torres

Marisol Velazquez

Michael Witczak Jr.

Information Sciences and Technology

Mohammed Babji

Carlos E. Colon Castillo

Jacob Deremer

Satchit Sharath Hegde

Kaellen Henderson

Anush Iyer

Yugandhar Mankar

William Matthew Moses

Steven Rafael Santiago Perez

Lee Michael Pliska

David S. Wontor II

John Wray

Project and Supply Chain Management

Lauren Emylee Gober

Brian Patrick Zinman

Psychology

Abby L. Bessoir
Megan Elizabeth Hudock

Rehabilitation and Human Services

Erin Dull
Jennifer Fisher
Amanda Montz
Liz Debbie Rosa De Aza
Lynn Karen Rosa De Aza
Samantha Shamonsky

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 23, 2021, as an unofficial list of graduating students earning honors.

Summa Cum Laude

Catherine Elizabeth Matyas
Anthony Louis Salazer Jr.

Cum Laude

Michelle Hackenberg
Anush Iyer
Yugandhar Mankar
Amanda Montz
Garrett James William Rokosky
Marisol Velazquez

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

Lauren Matyas
Business

PENN STATE HAZLETON BACCALAUREATE DEGREE

Anthony Louis Salazer Jr.
Corporate Communication

PENN STATE HAZLETON ASSOCIATE DEGREE

Michelle Hackenberg
Business Administration

PENN STATE HAZLETON COUNCIL

Campus Advisory Board Members

Sharon E. Rohrbach, D.O. President
John J. Beltrami First Vice President
Joseph P. Clifford Second Vice President
Betty M. Corcoran Secretary
Anthony N. Cusatis Treasurer
Lisa R. Schugardt 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
Harsh Gandhi, M.D.
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
David Seamon
Christopher B. Slusser, Esq.
William Ziegler, D.D.S.

Ex-Officio

Sandra M. Lagana
Gary M. Lawler, Ph.D.
Brittany Major
Dixie J. McCoy
State Representative Tarah Toohil
Brian T. Uplinger
Tiffany P. Veet
Elizabeth J. Wright, Ph.D.
State Senator John T. Yudichak

Directors Emeriti

William J. Flood
Eugene F. Gallagher
C. Jeffrey Mason
Joseph G. Rudawski

Program Notes

GREETERS:

Karen Beruck
Lauren Gombeda
Robert Knight Jr.
Colleen Racho

LION AMBASSADORS:

Courtney Aubain
Asha Chandrika
Aliyah Green-Dotson
Vivian K. Ho
Jewel Newbern
Nikki O'Neil

FACULTY GUIDES :

Ken Dudeck, B.S., M.S.
Rosemarie Petrilla, B.H.S., M.P.T., D.P.T.

ASL INTERPRETER:

David J. Piehota, CI, CT, Ed: K-12

GRADUATE GIFTS:

Thank you to the following departments and organizations for contributing gifts to our class of 2021 graduates.

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

The information in this document was produced on April 26, 2021, as an unofficial list of students who indicated an intent to graduate spring semester 2021. 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, Tel (814) 863-0471. U.Ed. HNO 21-77 MPSC158522



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 Service 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.

ALUMNI EMAIL



Members of the Alumni Association can sign up for a **personal Penn State email account** (@alumni.psu.edu). Accounts are hosted by Google for Education and also include **unlimited online storage** and a collection of digital tools.

DISCOUNTS



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

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

To access a full list of membership benefits and to find your local Penn State Alumni Association chapter, visit:
alumni.psu.edu/newalumni



