# Commencement

Penn State Hazleton  
Friday, May 5, 2023  
Dr. Thomas M. Caccese Gymnasium  
7:00 p.m.

# 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 5385 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 graduates awarded an honor cord in recognition of their duty and sacrifice: Ricky Montero

# About Our Commencement Speaker

Jennifer Malaga  
Penn State Hazleton Student Success Coach

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 inspiro 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 asistenta 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.

**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; President, Penn State Alumni Society

**Alma Mater**

**Chancellor’s Remarks:** Dr. Wright

**Recessional**

# Associate Degree Candidates Associate in Science University College Multidisciplinary Studies

Phillip James Crabb \*

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 \*

# Bachelor of Science 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 \*

# Business

Ashley Amigon

Franny Marinel Bautista Lopez

Kaitlyn Marie Bolinsky

D’dsyrre 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

# 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 Prisinzano

# 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\*

\*Graduated fall 2022

# 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

Nikolas Edward Zasada

# 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, David Seamon, Lisa R. Schugardt, and 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, and Joseph G. Rudawski.

# Program Notes 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

## A message from the Penn State Alumni Association

### 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.