

FIFTY-FOURTH ANNUAL

Spring 2024 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 and Chief Academic Officer

“STAR SPANGLED BANNER” +

REMARKS Gabriel Charles Bragg '24
President, 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 Amie Yenser, B.S., M.S.
Associate Teaching Professor of Biology
Assistant Chief Academic Officer

CONFERRING OF DEGREES Dr. Wright

PRESENTATION OF BACCALAUREATE DEGREE CANDIDATES Ms. Yenser

CONFERRING OF DEGREES Dr. Wright

RECOGNITION OF SCHOLASTIC DISTINCTION AND MILITARY SERVICE Ms. Yenser

FRANK C. KOSTOS AWARDS Joseph Ranalli, B.S., Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Engineering
Discipline Coordinator for Engineering, University College
Pamela Black, A.A., B.A., M.A., Ph.D.
Professor of Criminal Justice
Discipline Coordinator for Social Science and Education, University College
Criminal Justice Program Coordinator
Beth Greenberg, A.A., B.A., M.P.A., M.A.
Lecturer in Health Policy and Administration
Health Policy and Administration Program Coordinator
Lori Yeager, B.S., M.S., MLS (ASCP)
Lecturer in Medical Laboratory Technology
Medical Laboratory Technology Program Coordinator

INTRODUCTION OF COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER Dr. Wright

ADDRESS Rosemarie Petrilla, B.H.S., M.P.T., D.P.T.
Teaching Professor of Physical Therapy
Physical Therapist Assistant Program Coordinator

INDUCTION INTO PENN STATE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION Keith Maurer, B.S. '87
President, Greater Hazleton Chapter of the Penn State Alumni Association

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. To download web quality images from tonight's event at no charge, visit:

<https://clients.dekkastudios.com/psh2024/>

and enter your email address and **2024nittany** as the password. 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-fourth 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.

About Our Commencement Speaker

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

*Teaching Professor of Physical Therapy
Physical Therapist Assistant Program Coordinator
Penn State Hazleton*



An experienced licensed physical therapist, Rosemarie Petrilla joined Penn State Hazleton's physical therapist assistant program faculty part time in 1991. She was hired full time as an assistant professor of physical therapy in 1993 and was named coordinator of the PTA program in 2001. In June, she will retire after more than 30 years at Penn State Hazleton.

During her tenure, the PTA program has enjoyed tremendous longevity. Based on its initial accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) in 1983, the PTA program is tied for oldest in the state, according to the American Physical Therapy Association. It was the first program within Penn State.

Since arriving at Penn State Hazleton, Petrilla has leveraged her extensive knowledge and skillset in the physical therapy field to educate students, including roles as a staff physical therapist at Hazleton General Hospital and John Heinz Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine, a supervisor managing inpatient and outpatient physical therapy departments at St. Joseph Medical Center and as a per diem physical therapist at Greater Hazleton Health Alliance, AllCare Home Care and Modern Therapeutics.

As program coordinator, Petrilla played a key role in developing new courses and assessments of existing curriculum to ensure quality and proper measurement of program outcomes.

In addition, she served as an integral part of the program as its enrollment and reputation grew, its labs and classrooms in the lower level of the Physical Education Building expanded, and it successfully completed several reaccreditation cycles through CAPTE.

She has also served as a team leader for CAPTE since 2006, a role that saw her complete numerous on-site visits to other PTA programs as those programs navigated their own accreditations, which provided insight into best practices she incorporated into Penn State Hazleton's program and policies. The PTA program's next accreditation is scheduled for June 2026.

Consistently mindful of bolstering her professional development, Petrilla participated in numerous webinars, workshops, seminars and conferences in the physical therapy field. She has also shared her own expertise as a presenter at other professional development events at Penn State Hazleton, the University and throughout the region.

Additionally, Petrilla has served as a member Penn State Hazleton Faculty Senate, where she advocated for faculty members and addressed faculty-related concerns. She also served on the campus' Strategic Planning, Faculty Affairs, Academic Integrity committees.

At the University level, she was elected to numerous other roles within the Faculty Senate. She was twice elected as a University College Representative on Senate Council. From 2018-21, she served in the Faculty Adviser Council to former Penn State President Eric Barron. Additional committees included chair of the Promotion and Review Committee for Teaching Professor, co-chair of the Commonwealth Caucus, vice-chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee and chairperson of the Intra-University Relations Committee. She was also a representative for the University College Curriculum committee.

At Penn State Hazleton, she was honored with the Chancellor's Excellence Award in 2007 and 2010 in recognition of her service, scholarship and teaching.

Petrilla received her bachelor's degree and master's degree, both in physical therapy, from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science. She earned her doctorate in physical therapy from Temple University. She is a member of the American Physical Therapy Association.

Associate Degree Candidates

ASSOCIATE IN ARTS

University College

Multidisciplinary Studies

Cristal Marie Nader Almonte

Kimberly Ann Lescowitch*

ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE

University College

Business Administration

Jason T. Rosario

Rachel K. Smith

Medical Laboratory Technology

Kaylynn Brumbaugh

Sean Robert Demczyszyn

Hattie Elizabeth Flood

Physical Therapist Assistant

Breann Lynette Darkins*

Sierrah Faust

Matthew Hilty

Brooke Iobst

Trevor Kisler

Corey Michael Klinger*

Andrew Nadler

Carl Angelo Ramos

Garrett Timco

Kyla Wolfe

Lidiya Zaitseva

* Graduated fall 2023

Baccalaureate Degree Candidates

BACHELOR OF ARTS

University College

Art

Jenna Ann Corra*

Corporate Communication

Gretchen Marie Pucklavage

Criminal Justice

Yokaira Concepcion*

Jayla Abrianna Irvin

Multidisciplinary Studies

Rebecca Marie Foose

Psychology

Tegann Anderson

Ameerah Elizabeth Ensley

Jamie Lee Flores

Winton Nunez

Kacy Ramirez

Maya Ann Rizkalla

Jenna Rose Rossell

Cynthia Vadnie Winn

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

College of Education

Workforce Education and Development

Justin Chad Wright*

College of Engineering

Computer Science

Alberiluz Alcantara

Nicole Allison Frederick

Kiany Gutierrez

Dhruv H. Patel

Bryan Tejada Zoquier

Engineering

Dario Lobo Garcia

Brian James Tylutke

Intercollege

Business

Tiffany Marie Ustynoski

* Graduated fall 2023

Baccalaureate Degree Candidates

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

University College

Business

John Thomas Bindas
Gregory M. Brannan*
Gabriel Charles Bragg
Jett Chen
Kevin Richard Fergel
Jeremy Harper*
Colin Michael Hoy*
Tina Huang
Brian Robert Katchur
Christopher Neyhard
Michelle Ramirez
Joshua Michael Robin
Thomas Shafer Jr.
Carmen L. Valerio
Edward Joseph Wess
D'Andre Tyler Wright*

Criminal Justice

Lorna Marie Bragg
Solomon Arthur Grant
Jessica Tineo*
Jason V. Venne Jr.*
Amber Rose Waters

Health Policy and Administration

Nayrovi Abreu De La Cruz
Matthew Janson
Riley Wehr

Information Sciences and Technology

Jonah Michael Baksa
Stephen John Betterly*
Randy Curtis Miller
Freilin J. Pujols Moreta

Project and Supply Chain Management

Jett Chen
Tina Huang
Brian Robert Katchur
Carmen L. Valerio
D'Andre Tyler Wright*

Psychology

Brandon Ronald Crockford

Rehabilitation and Human Services

Meghan Darrough*
Dalton Kramer
Jadyn Michelle Michael
Shane Miller
Alexus Morra

* Graduated fall 2023

Scholastic Distinction and Military Service Recognition

Scholastic Distinction

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 19, 2024, as an unofficial list of graduating students earning honors.

Summa Cum Laude

Lorna Marie Bragg

Kaylynn Brumbaugh

Matthew Janson

Magna Cum Laude

Andrew Nadler

Cum Laude

Tina Huang

Garrett Timco

Riley Wehr

Military Service

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.

Our graduates awarded an honor cord in recognition of their duty and sacrifice:

Sean Robert Demczyszyn

Matthew Hilty

Andrew Nadler

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

Ian Kramer
Mechanical Engineering

PENN STATE HAZLETON BACCALAUREATE DEGREE

Lorna Marie Bragg
Criminal Justice

Matthew Janson
Health Policy and Administration

PENN STATE HAZLETON ASSOCIATE DEGREE

Kaylynn Brumbaugh
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. CorcoranSecretary
Anthony N. Cusatis Treasurer
Sharon E. Rohrbach, D.O. Immediate Past President

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Matthew B. Bayzick
Gordon L. Bigelow, J.D.
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Denise M. Corcoran
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Ex-Officio

State Senator David G. Argall
State Representative Michael Cabell
Brittany Major
Keith Maurer
Dixie J. McCoy
Brian T. Uplinger
Tiffany P. Veet
State Representative Dane Watro
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, A.A., B.A, M.A., Ph.D.
Barbara Brazon, B.S. Ed., M.S.I.T.
Jeffrey Chiampi, A.S., B.S., M.B.A., M.S.E.
Chuck Dewald, B.A., M.A.
Lisa Goguen, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.
Beth Greenberg, A.A, B.A., M.P.A., M.A.
Lorie Kramer, B.S., M.S., D.Ed.
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
Lauren Gombeda
Sabrina Krupko
Christine Ostrosky
Colleen Racho
Gina Regula
Michele Yanuzzi

LION AMBASSADORS: Imani Becarie
Max Mehalshick

STUDENT GUIDES : Douglas Edmonds, B.S., M.S., Ph.D.
Ryan Mutter, A.S., B.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 Engagement19

The information in this document was produced on April 19, 2024, as an unofficial list of students who indicated an intent to graduate spring semester 2024. 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.

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You're a Lion for life...



**PennState
Alumni Association**

...and you belong in the Alumni Association.

Congratulations on your graduation! You've earned your place in the largest and most powerful alumni network in the world.

The Penn State Alumni Association connects you to the global community of more than 775,000 Penn Staters and keeps your connection to Dear Old State strong. It also includes more than 30 benefits, including exclusive discounts, access to our local chapters, and members-only networking and career services.

Watch the mail for your welcome kit and make the most of your complimentary one-year membership.

Benefits of Belonging



**Local
Connections**



**LionPerks
Discounts**



**Career
Resources**



Networking



**Exclusive
Content**



**PennState
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