# Commencement

Penn State Hazleton  
Friday, May 3, 2024  
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/psh2024/> and use the password 2024nittany 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 and Chief Academic Officer 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

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

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.

**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. Assistant Chief Academic Officer, Associate Teaching Professor of Biology

**Conferring of Degrees:** Dr. Wright

**Presentation of Baccalaureate Degree candidates:** Ms. Yenser

**Conferring of Degrees:** Dr. Wright

**Recognition of Scholastic Distinction and Veterans:** Ms. Yenser

**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; Criminal Justice Program Coordinator; Discipline Coordinator for Social Science and Education, University College; Beth Greenberg, A.A., B.A., M.P.A.; Ph.D. 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.H.S., Teaching Professor of Physical Therapy, Physical Therapist Assistant Program Coordinator.

**Induction into Penn State Alumni Association:** Keith Maurer, B.S. ‘87; President, Penn State Alumni Society

**Alma Mater**

**Chancellor’s Remarks:** Dr. Wright

**Recessional**

# 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

# 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

# Bachelor of Science College of Engineering Computer Science Alberiluz Alcantara Nicole Allison Frederick Kiany Gutierrez Dhruv H. Patel Bryan Tejeda Zoquier

# Engineering

Dario Lobo Garcia  
Brian James Tylutke

# 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

# 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 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. 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, 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, Rich Shema, David Seamon and and Christopher B. Slusser, Esq

Ex-Officio: State Sen. David G. Argall, State Rep. Micheal Cabell, Brittany Major, Keith Maurer, Dixie J. McCoy, Brian T. Uplinger, Tiffany P. Veet, State Rep. Dane Watro] and 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.

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, 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 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.