



MARY BALDWIN  
UNIVERSITY

184<sup>TH</sup> COMMENCEMENT

---

MAY 10, 2026



THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY-FOURTH  
COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

---

MAY 10, 2026  
BARBARA KARES PAGE TERRACE  
9 O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING

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DR. TODD TELEMECO  
*President*

ELOISE CHANDLER '77  
DR. CONSTANCE DIERICKX  
*Board of Trustees Co-Chairs*

**ACADEMIC PROCESSIONAL**

*Pomp and Circumstance, No. 1*

*By Sir Edward Elgar*

Faculty, Administration

2026 Graduates

**PRESENTING THE COLORS** Virginia Women's Institute for Leadership Cadets

*The Star-Spangled Banner*

Maia Ott '26

**WELCOME AND INVOCATION**

Dr. Katherine Low

University Chaplain

**COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS**

Dr. James D. Lott

Dean Emeritus, Professor Emeritus of English

**HONORS AND AWARDS**

The Algernon Sydney Sullivan Student Award

President Telemeco

with the Mary Keith Fitzroy Award

The Algernon Sydney Sullivan Non-Student Award

The Martha Stackhouse Grafton Award

Dr. Paul Deeble

Recognition of Academic Award Recipients

Interim Vice President of

Recognition of Military Officers

Academic Affairs

**STUDENT SPEAKER**

Elise Marston '18, MEd '26

**HOODING AND DEGREE CONFERRAL**

President Telemeco

and Deans

*Undergraduate, Master's, Doctoral*

*Hooding and Graduate Gift*

Gold College of Arts and Sciences

Dr. Amy Diduch, Dean of Institutional Effectiveness,

Dean of Gold College

## Murphy Deming College of Health Sciences

Dr. Shelia Talbott, Associate Dean and Director, School of Nursing  
Dr. Lori Conyers, Director, Family Nurse Practitioner Program  
Dr. Nancy Freeborne, Director, Physician Assistant Program  
Dr. Sarah McCadden, Interim Director, Occupational Therapy Program  
Dr. Jennifer McPherson, Director, Nurse Anesthesiology Program  
Dr. Kim Nine, Director, Healthcare Administration Program  
Dr. Catherine “Cassy” Turner, Director, Physical Therapy Program

## Palmer College of Professional Studies

Charles W. “Will” Webb, Chief Growth Officer, Sr. Vice President  
and Dean of Palmer College  
Dr. Pamela Bailey, Associate Dean and Director, School of Education  
Catherine Ferris “Cat” McPherson, Associate Dean and Director,  
School of Business

## PRESIDENTIAL CHARGE

President Telemeco

## HYMN AND CLOSING BLESSING

Dr. Low

### ***A HYMN FOR MARY BALDWIN***

*Melody: Scandinavian Folk Song*  
*Lyrics by Professor Emeritus of Music*  
*Gordon C. Page*

Tucker Crossley '26, Haven Duncan '26,  
Nyjia Freeman '26, Joan Lee '26,  
Justyn Mills '26, Maia Ott '26

1. *To these halls where Wisdom reckons,  
To these hills where Beauty dwells;  
Where the search for Learning beckons,  
Where its tumult never quells.*
2. *Here we bring our childhood visions  
Stirring in the quest for Truth;  
Here we forge the mind's decisions  
Tempered by the faith of youth.*
3. *Friendship, honor, sorrow, laughter  
Are the ways by which we learn,  
Knowledge first, then Wisdom after,  
Love that seeks not for return.*
4. *When we reach the last tomorrow  
Of our days in class, on field,  
We will know how we must borrow,  
Mary Baldwin, from thy yield.*

## ACADEMIC RECESSIONAL

# MARY BALDWIN UNIVERSITY

## Class of 2026

### DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE — ANESTHESIOLOGY

Shannon Agne	☆ Damon Chen Duarte	Lauren Kimberly Morrison
Ahmed Olaitan Alebiosu	☆ Hannah Brannon Duffy	☆ Ashley Nelson
☆ Shabre Almeida	☆ Na'Quesheun Edgeston	Anna Neumeister
☆ Amenda Almonte	Andargachew Ejigu	☆ Danielle Parker
Elyse Renee Ascher	☆ Monzerrat Parajeles Fuller	Stephanie Lauren Pitts
Darby Ellen Bagshaw	☆ Adam Gold	Matthew Pizzariella
Jennifer Beard-Vaughn	Hannah Harding	Rodderrick Preacher
☆ Troy Alexander Boulden, Jr.	☆ Elizabet Hasanaj	Savannah Richey Truxell
☆ Marcus Bowen	Ali Heidari	☆ Hali Schilling
☆ Donathan Bryant	Alexandra Hogg	☆ Hayley Nicole Shafer
☆ Allison Catherine Burks- Paysour	☆ Landen Horton	Danielle Shepherd
☆ Yi Chang	Natalie Jean-Baptiste	☆ Bria Sherrod
Jena Beth Conway	☆ Cassandra Marie Keefe	Tiffany Elise Williams
Fritznelle Corneille	Dongrim Lee	☆ Myra DeAnn Williamson
Danielle Wyatt Donovan	☆ Daniel Lloyd	Sebastian Stanislaw Zebracki
	☆ Gabriella Ireland Miskell	

### DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE

Oluwapelumi Cecillia Kudin

### DOCTOR OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Rebecca Ann Allison	Haley Fisher	Grace Lillie Mckiernan
Alyssa Antolin	Rebecca Sarah Hussion	Breonna Chyanne Miller
Anna Denise Arneson	Acaylia Jensen	Morgan Nicole Overaitis
Valerie Cecil-Lovett	Amanda Isabella Kavaja	Cassie Brooks Tinder
Lauren Champ	Mary Patricia McCombs	
Carly Marie Coker	Teagan Anne McKay	

## DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

Branton Adams	Zachary Charles Gray	Abigail Shiflett
Jordan Bass	Christian Loop	Kerry Andrew Showalter
Samantha Burgess	Leah Mattinson Marsh	Sophie Alexandra Sulesky
Rhonda D. Cook	Isaiah R. Minns	Alexis Renee Tibbs
Riley Elizabeth Croghan	Amy Mulder	Sara Juliet Wash
Brandon Tucker Dagliano	Haleigh Jo Myrtle	Anyka Wilkin
Makayla Fannin	Melissa Oczkowski	☆ Matthew Wilson
Bridgette Farmmer	Louis Floyd Peifer	Kathryn Suzanne Windsor
Anna Elizabeth Fisher	Alexander Reginald	Imani Frederique Yeboah
Sheila Marie Garcia	Robinson	

## MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING — FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER

☆ Aleyda Baldelomar	Nathan Anthony Hall	☆ Abigail Nelson
☆ Tamara Billingsley	☆ Kasie Diana Houff	Gabrielle Alexis Rivera
☆ Keely Edwards	Ashlie Ann Koiner	Ryne Michael Smith

## MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING — ADMINISTRATION & LEADERSHIP

Mary Elizabeth Satterlee

## MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

☆ Caroline Berry	Sophia Elizabeth Hoffman	Jayne Michaela Price
Kathryn Berta	Balpreet Kaur	Juliana Elizabeth Provenzale
Caroline Bolyard	Nicole Day Keller	Megan Jessica Ranalli
Alicia Renee Campbell	Kathleen Anne LoBue	Julia Lindsey Rill
Danielle Joy Chapdelaine	Naomi Phuong Quan Luu	Kristen Nicole Salter
Madison Elise Chapman	☆ Maria Emilia Malcolm	Julia Cecile Shreve
Ann Mason Cobb	Sierra Marie McCance	Katherine Grace Smith
Alyssa Conrad	☆ Justin Connor Mcdermott	William Andrew Tosick III
☆ Olivia Sarah Grinnell Egan	Rachel Anne Mcgirl	Kathy H. Tran
Katherine Julia Fike	Tate Elizabeth McLean	Jenna Elizabeth Tucher
Madison Paige Floriano	Regan Elyse Miller	Catie Williams
Zain Raida Ghul	Sophia P. Paladino	Hannah Williamson
Lauren Mackenzie Hall	Diana Marie Polovick	Elizabeth Meade Wilson

## MASTER OF HEALTHCARE ADMINISTRATION

☆ Ingrid Baillie	Emma Camden Piller	☆ Theresa Ann Kimble
Elizabeth Ann Breaux	Hoover	Amber Schacht
☆ George Hernandez	John Alex Iskander	☆ Whitney Turner

## MASTER OF FINE ARTS IN SHAKESPEARE AND PERFORMANCE

Louis Michael Altman  
Emily Danielle Bassett  
Grayson Joseph Casterline  
Kim Cincotti

Sydney Brooke Crittenden  
Dakotah Scarlet Darling  
Grayson Whitaker Fulp  
Dennis Colin Graham

Megan Kathleen Parlett  
Jacob Woodrow Raiter  
Joan Paulina Raube-Wilson  
Rebecca Lynn Westbrook

## MASTER OF LETTERS IN SHAKESPEARE AND PERFORMANCE

Haleigh Grace Acosta  
Samuel Miguel Acosta  
Rebecca Lynn Bailey  
Xander Burdette  
Lydia Sophia Christensen  
Sarah Joan Clayton  
Madeleine Margaret Cook  
Austin D. Cox  
Che J. Flory

Nora Frankovich  
Christopher-James Heriberto  
Helt  
Irene Orgill Keeney  
Rachael V Klein  
Lora Lassiter  
Margaret Marie Lengerich  
Eliana Lewis-Eme  
Kathleen McDaniel Mitchell

Sage Elizabeth Mocko  
Trent Stephens  
Austin M. Sweatman  
Emmet Temple  
Riane Mia Tolliver  
Nicholas Michael Trusty  
Larisa M. West

## MASTER OF SCIENCE — APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS

Jtaijah Deonna Akins  
Chasity Dawn Allen  
Aramis Arroyo  
Asma Ayaz  
Elizabeth Barb  
Eliana Carmen Black  
Ashley B Blanks  
Kaeley Boyd  
Aaren June Burgess  
Rianna Chupeyda  
Rachel Church  
Ashley Elizabeth Cobb  
Tamby Norohanitra  
Randrianantenaina Cohen  
Robin Paulayla Cooter  
Jeremy Mikhael de Tenorio  
Eva Noel Demetriades  
Isabel Fernandez Agramonte  
Mary Alexandra Fincham  
Rebecca Frasher  
Jessica Rose Friedman  
Justine Galarneau  
Shelby Grant

Nicolai Erik Gravina-Kursell  
Keirra Hamiel  
Megan Supriya Hardatt  
Mitchell Patrick Joseph  
Harrison  
Angela Marrissa Hempfer  
Amber Dawn Wyatt Herald  
Cassandra Leigh Hobbs  
Kiwana Ikita Howse  
Mikhala Jeanine James  
Elizabeth Jamison  
Jacqueline Deborah Johnson  
William Jones  
Alexis S Kirby  
Lyric Jade Kline  
Lauren Kopanski  
Gillian Lamontagne  
Jessica Mattox  
Walters Mba Mba  
Megan Gala McCreary  
Caroline Mary Merriman  
Tomomi Nakayama  
Angelica G. Oppermann

Magdalena Grace Otal  
Haven Overstreet  
Kaila Rae Phillips  
Nicole Purugganan  
Meylin Maria Ricardo  
Sanchez  
Seth Rogers  
Berno Scribante  
Shequana Slader  
Lydia Mae Smith  
Ciera Spagolla  
Samara Nicole St Clair  
Kade'Jah Stevens  
Maura Suarez  
Olivia Fay Sundman  
Christina Tarson  
Courtney Thacker  
Jasmine Ann Thattil  
Cole Turcotte  
Miranda Urquhart  
Katerine Suzet Vasquez De  
Leon  
Danielle Walker

## MASTER OF EDUCATION

April Beasley	Kelly Hunt	Brittany Pritt
Christina Belcher	Kathlyn Page Jones	Lindsey Cameron Skelton
Kelly Bowman	Jessica Kirby	LaTisha A. Smith
Daniel August Broggin	Justyne Laura Louk	Jodi Leigh Stone
Shannon Carole Cloke	Elise Kathryn Marston	Marybeth Strickler Jobe
Taylor Corona	Christina Lacy Neece	Madison Paige Sweitzer
Nicole Deal	Sherton'ya Khiliah Nelson	Alexandra Love Szucs
Kopper Kelli Ernst	Alison Nicole Norman	Madelyn Sutton Underwood
Melissa Anna Flaminio	Sarah Pool	Da'Shawn Malik Wilson
Olivia Gore	Mayra Yvette Portillo	Abigail Yowell

## MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING

Anna Byrd Furlich	Jacquelyne L North	Kristin Wood
Krystalyn Geneva Hassett	Andrew George Raymond	

## MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

☆ Ingrid Baillie	Joslynn Larra-Pearl Hillis	Mary Elizabeth Satterlee
Geddy Paul Bartosch	Jaden Sixto P. Ignacio	Amber Schacht
Brianne R. Bayne	John Alex Iskander	☆ KeiAjha Shanahya Rebeka Shelton
Jason Alexander DeSantis	Danielle Keaton	☆ Whitney Turner
Bryan Alberto Diaz- Hernandez	Candace Duda Kelly	John Brady Ward
Quentin M. Hart	Khodr Khalil	
☆ George Hernandez	Tomasa Mendez	
	Victoria Hope Raymond	

**BACHELOR OF ARTS, BACHELOR OF SCIENCE,  
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING,  
AND BACHELOR OF SOCIAL WORK**

	Noel Tamirat Abshir	☆	Rhaidon J. Cann
‡	Alyssa L. Aleshire		Alexis R. Carrigan
	Lana Ali		Leah Ann Cash
	Justin Taylor Almond	☆	Joseph Rocco Castrilli
	Arielle E. Alston		Kayla Ashley Celenza
* ≈ ◇	Kaneesha Monaye Anderson		Natalie Chapman
	<i>cum laude</i>		
◇	Amiyah Lynette Anglin	†	Matthew B. Charles
†	Blake Tristen Argenbright	☆	Madison Paige Christensen
	<i>cum laude</i>		Devin Clark
*	Deja-Alexis Kamry Armstrong-Rush	◇	Ryleigh Annette Clark
	Joshua Alfredo Arroyo	☆	Janelle Clayborn
	Lucas Baker	† ◇	Aidan Alexander Clemmer
	<i>cum laude</i>		<i>magna cum laude</i>
	Jada Elise Baldwin	*	Deaneria R. Coby
	Mayah Ballesteros		Cecilia Collins
†	Tristen Bannasch	‡	Brooke Ambler Cook
	<i>magna cum laude</i>		Na'Kiyah U. Cooper
	Jacob Barber		Gabriela X. Correa
	<i>cum laude</i>		Madison Paige Couch
* ◇	Logan Barbour		<i>cum laude</i>
	<i>cum laude</i>	*	Deon Gilbert Cox Jr.
	Amelia Ryanne Bartley		Anna Cranfill
*	Michelle Bautista Gomez		Jamiyah Shana Crawford
	Kayden Beam		Abigail Rose Crosby
	Cali Lynn Beaudry		Cohen Jordan Croslin
	Chylynn Belcher	◇	Tucker Everett Crossley
	<i>cum laude</i>		<i>summa cum laude</i>
	Darian Troy Belisle		Jacob Andrew Cude
	Sandra Beltran		Alfreda Sophia Dandridge
	Raymond Darrel Benton Jr.		Jonathan Delgado
	Rochelle Monet Bills		Rachel Devore
	Harrison Black	† ◇	Mama Maria Diallo
‡ ◇	Aaliyah Blue		Eveleen Diep
☆	Olivia Grace Bourne		<i>summa cum laude</i>
† ≈ ◇	Kaitlin Amy Bower	†	Jenna Nicole Dimiceli
*	Faith Marie Bowman		Breana Nichole Donnell
	<i>magna cum laude</i>	* ☆	Samarra Jazelle Douglas
	Caitlyn Lee Brenner	*	Tia Loni Duboise
† ☆	Samia Marie Brooks		Sarah Haven Duncan
	Mia M Brown	†	William David Earnesty
*	Holland Budd		<i>magna cum laude</i>
	Kynedi Grace Butts		Briana Nicole Elder
	Hunter Sterling Campbell		Gage Dawson Elder
	<i>cum laude</i>	☆	Lantaizia L. Elliott
			Harlie Ann Elizabeth Ellis

◇	Sinagtala Reyes Emano <i>magna cum laude</i>	‡ ◇	Taylor Hensley <i>magna cum laude</i>
	Ayden E. Embrey	†	Alexia Marie Hernandez
‡	Gia Emmanuel		Yefferson Alexander Hernandez
◇	Shannon Marie Etheridge <i>summa cum laude</i>		Alicia Henward Hilliard
	Karlie Elizabeth Evans		Cody William Hoffer <i>cum laude</i>
	Casey Elizabeth Eversull		Tiara Angelique Holman
	Megan Brooke Felicio	‡	Makayla Horn
	Alexis Marie Fertig		Brooklyn Nicole Hottinger
	Marie Fink-Mohler	*	Azjanea Inez Howard
†	Alex Marshall Flanagan		Jordan Mariah-Nicole Hudson
	Rebecca Ann Ford		Jack William Hughes
	Reagan Anne Frazier <i>magna cum laude</i>	‡	Alva L. Ibarra
☆	Nyjjea Freeman	◇	Maya Elizabeth Indigo
* ◇	Kendall Patrice Furry	◇	Lee Iraheta <i>summa cum laude</i>
	Charlotte Abigail Galloway <i>magna cum laude</i>	‡ ◇	Rachael Jackson
	Gianni Rain Gardner	◇	Thomas Lorenzo Jackson <i>cum laude</i>
‡	Jacqueline L. Garrett	☆	Grayson Indigo
†	Caiden Gartner		Brandon Alexandro Jones
†	Mya Victorya Gaudier	* ◇	Elle Ciara Jones <i>summa cum laude</i>
◇	Breanna Faith Goodwin <i>summa cum laude</i>		Losamo Jones
‡ ◇	Tanya Alisa Gorbenko <i>summa cum laude</i>	*	Alexis Renee Jordan
‡	Brooklyn Sykes Green		Shyann Jordan
◇	Hunter Gregory <i>summa cum laude</i>		Micah Leondra Joyner
	Riley Mackenzy Grigg		Zoe Ryan Kaufman <i>cum laude</i>
* ◇	Blair Priscilla Franco Grimes <i>magna cum laude</i>		Davis Kausland
◇	Grace Claudia Grindstaff		Ryan Kehrer
	Megan Grizzle <i>cum laude</i>		Brandon Dean Kincaid
	Dalton Lynn Hall	*	Amari C. King
	Hannah Jane Hall <i>cum laude</i>		Kristen Nicole Kobylarz <i>cum laude</i>
*	Victoria Michelle Hamner		Heather Kowell <i>cum laude</i>
†	Jordan Danielle Hange	†	Omarion Lacroix
* ◇	Melanie A. Harris <i>cum laude</i>		Lanayah Ladouceur
	Lydaisya Harrison		Hana Mae Lagana
	Edward Anthony Headley	◇	Kathryn Grace Laing
◇	Christopher Hedrick <i>magna cum laude</i>		Victoria Elizabeth Lambert <i>cum laude</i>
◇	Josanna Alexandria Rebecca Henry <i>cum laude</i>		Hannah Brielle Landes <i>summa cum laude</i>
		‡ ◇	James Patrick Larmour
		‡	Tanner LaRoque
		◇	Lauren McKenna Lasher <i>summa cum laude</i>

	Charletta Law	† ≈	Cassidy Brooke Newcomb
‡	Stephanie Layman		<i>magna cum laude</i>
	Joan Jin Lee		MaKenna Sue Newell
*	Melody Elizabeth Lehman	☆	Morgan Rylie Nikolic
‡ ◊	Marianne Soberano Leite		Elizabeth Norford
	<i>summa cum laude</i>		<i>summa cum laude</i>
	Christian George Lewis Jr.		Ayn Elizabeth Obenschain
	Brandy A. Little	≈ ◊	Kwame Agyemang Opoku
	Terrell Littman		<i>magna cum laude</i>
	Angel Eliana Locklear		Viviana Ordonez
	Keniya Mone T Loving		Dominic Alexander Orellana-Duron
	Paige Lynn-Fix Lowe	*	Makai Elijah Organ
	Jayden Amya Lurz		Maia Halina Ott
†	Alexis Raeanne Mansfield		<i>magna cum laude</i>
	Emma Blake Marcum		Courtney Rae Overton
	<i>cum laude</i>		Dana Lorraine Owens
*	Jacquelyn Melissa Marin	†	Thalia Jade Paiz
*	Nakeisha Ronshellle Marrow		<i>cum laude</i>
†	Lamiyah Victoria Martinez		Kiersten Denise Pascale
	Crystal Michele Massie		<i>magna cum laude</i>
	<i>magna cum laude</i>		Leighann A. Patterson
	Mary Alexandra Mathews		Emily Matilda Penny
☆	KeSeanna Monique Matthews	‡	Ashley Wood Phillips
†	Hadley May	◊	Kali Canova Plaisance
†	Sergio McCoy		<i>summa cum laude</i>
◊	Marley Anne McGrath		Brenden Matthew Plogger
	Hannah Leigh McMillian		Chelsea Ann Poindexter
	Kaitlyn Elizabeth McNamara		<i>cum laude</i>
	<i>magna cum laude</i>		William Austin Pollard
	Mina Mihajlovic		Nolan Antony Popp
	Keyetta S. Miles		Chelsie Danielle Porterfield
	Isaiah Evon Miller		Elizabeth Grey Powell
	<i>summa cum laude</i>	* ≈ ◊	Madison Powell
	Justyn Mills		<i>magna cum laude</i>
†	Daniel Minnigh	*	David Althemon Pryce
	<i>magna cum laude</i>		<i>cum laude</i>
‡	Corinne Cihan Monday	†	Jaren Samuel Purvis
	Ashleigh Renee Morgan		Bethany Kaden Racette
†	Tyler-James Brendan Morley		<i>magna cum laude</i>
* ◊	Vanessa Ann Morris	☆	Noracelina Ramirez
	<i>cum laude</i>		Leanna Elizabeth Rankin
	Naomi Rebekah Mozeleski		Jenny Reforzo
	<i>cum laude</i>		<i>magna cum laude</i>
	Riley Mull		Adrian Valle Reyes
	<i>magna cum laude</i>		Cydney Elise Reyes
	Michael Anthony Muller		Jasmin Ariela Reyes
	<i>cum laude</i>		William Noe Reyes
	Celesse Djiman Murdock	†	Hailley Diane Rhodes
	Brandon Roland Murphy	◊	Megan Dawn Rickett
	Kevin Michael Neilson-Hall		<i>summa cum laude</i>

	Autumn Roberson <i>cum laude</i>	◇	Analise Katelyn Toone <i>cum laude</i>
	Madison Rogers		Jada N. Torez <i>magna cum laude</i>
† ≈ ◇	Mirah Li Rose <i>summa cum laude</i>		Debrah Jazira Torres Flores
	Chkyia M. Roulhac	‡ ◇	Gabriel Tovar <i>summa cum laude</i>
	Alexis Victoria Rowe	† ≈ ◇	Harper Arez Trace <i>magna cum laude</i>
‡ ◇	Graham Ruckman	◇	Leslie Ratcliffe Tutwiler <i>summa cum laude</i>
	Haja Bilkis Sesay Sankoh	≈	Carmela Rose Uhron <i>cum laude</i>
☆	Phoenix Saunders	‡ ◇	Alisa Victoria Usachev
	Margaret Schermerhorn <i>cum laude</i>	☆	Ana E. Vassej Samantha Villegas LaJoy Janae Wade Alycia A. Warburton
*	Isaiah Norman Alexander Scotland	†	Amaya Nicole Warner
	Diamond Scott	◇	Shaun Winfred Blaine Waters II <i>cum laude</i>
◇	Deanna Michelle Seay		Megan Madison Weatherholt <i>cum laude</i>
	Mariah Sepeda	◇	Kevin Wayne Weaver <i>cum laude</i>
	Josie Nicole Sheets <i>magna cum laude</i>		Jenna Weber <i>cum laude</i>
	Mackenzie Hope Shores		Hailea Marie White Rypli Lynn Wilcox <i>magna cum laude</i>
	David Thomas Shultz Jr.		Jamie Lauren Wilkins <i>cum laude</i>
	Alyssa Simpson	‡ ☆	Aaron Boyd Will Amber Leigh Williams Isaiah James Williams <i>cum laude</i>
	Sundari Devika Theadosha Singh		Isaac Wright Ophelia Raven Wright Em Jean Yuhasz
	Christina Marie Sloan		
	Amari Naji Smalls		
	Lawrence Smith		
* ◇	Hanna Snow		
☆	Mika Diane Sorrels Tucker Logan Speak <i>cum laude</i>		
†	Allyson E. Spears		
	Emma Karen Stevens		
‡ ◇	Christopher Stewart <i>summa cum laude</i>		
	Tanya Hall Stewart <i>cum laude</i>		
◇	Bethany Marie Stone <i>magna cum laude</i>		
◇	Alexis Nichole Sumblin <i>summa cum laude</i>		
	Keyairra Janae Talley		
	Treyvon Prince Isaiah Taylor		
	Jonah C. Thomas <i>magna cum laude</i>		
	Rachel Morgan Thompson <i>magna cum laude</i>	≈	Honors Degree
	Sydney Alanna Thompson	◇	Distinction in Major
	Emily N. Tiller	†	Bachelor of Science
† ◇	Adiba Tojimirzaeva <i>summa cum laude</i>	‡	Bachelor of Science in Nursing
		*	Bachelor of Social Work
		☆	Walking Only

# HONORS AT MARY BALDWIN UNIVERSITY

## LATIN HONORS

Traditionally, the students achieving the very highest grades in a graduating class are awarded their degrees *summa cum laude*, which means in Latin “with highest praise.” The next two designations with which the faculty recognizes exceptionally high grades are *magna cum laude* (“with great praise”) and *cum laude* (“with praise”).

## HONORS DEGREE

At Mary Baldwin University, Honor Scholars may elect to pursue an honors degree by taking a number of specially designed advanced courses and writing and defending an honors thesis.

## WITH DISTINCTION IN THE MAJOR

Any student may be designated by the faculty in his or her major as having earned the title of “with distinction” in that major, usually for high grades and an unusually fine senior project.

## RECOGNITION OF ACADEMIC AWARD RECIPIENTS AND MILITARY OFFICERS

Academic awards recognizing outstanding achievement within individual departments and programs were presented at the Honors Convocation held prior to Commencement. Military officers were also recognized for their leadership and service during a separate ceremony. A complete list of award recipients and military officers is linked on the Commencement website, [marybaldwin.edu/commencement](http://marybaldwin.edu/commencement).

## BACCALAUREATE REGALIA

Graduation robes or academic regalia go back to the Middle Ages. The clergy and students in the universities wore black gowns to hide ink stains resulting from daily note-taking and copying texts using a quill pen dipped in horns filled with liquid ink.

A detachable black hood was part of the standard medieval dress as well. It hung over the shoulders and could be pulled up over the head to keep the sun or rain off, or pulled off with a little rear extension called the liripipe.

By the Renaissance, hats were in and hoods were out. Most hats were soft, flat bags like a tam. The larger ones needed a cardboard stiffener to keep them from falling down over the wearer’s eyes. In the 18th century in Oxford, poor undergraduates asked tailors to use as little fabric as possible, so the cardboard was all that remained. People thought they resembled the boards masons carried on their heads when working so the term “mortarboard” came into use.

Also in the 18th century, hoods became more colorful and were often made in colors that indicated a particular college or degree. Ornamental tassels were added to the mortarboard and were generally worn after graduation, hanging off the left side to keep a clear view of the writing hand. The whole regalia — cap, hood, gown — was worn to lectures and at formal college functions until the 19th century.

At Mary Baldwin, seniors put on their caps and gowns for the first time on Founders Day in October of their senior year. Hoods, lined with Mary Baldwin’s white and yellow colors, are added at Commencement. The white facings represent the liberal arts. Specialized degrees all have their own colors, but the liberal arts, like white light, are composed of all the colors. Bachelor of Science in Nursing hoods are designated with an apricot facing.

## MASTER’S REGALIA

Gowns worn by all candidates for master’s degrees are longer than those worn by bachelor’s degree candidates and have long, bat-wing shaped sleeves. The master’s hood is wider and longer than the bachelor’s hood, and for all Mary Baldwin University master’s degrees it is lined with yellow and white silk to show Mary Baldwin’s colors.

The velvet outer facing of the hood for the Master of Letters degrees is white, representing the liberal arts. The facing of the hood for the Master of Arts in Teaching and Master of Education is light blue, representing education. The Master of Science in Applied Behavior Analysis facing is gold, representing the applied sciences, while the Master of Science in Nursing is apricot, representing nursing. The Master of Fine Arts hood's facings are a light brown color (fawn), representing the arts. The Master of Business Administration hood facing is drab, representing business. The Master of Science in Physician Assistant hood's facings are green, representing medicine. The Master of Healthcare Administration hood is trimmed in salmon, the traditional color of public health. Graduates with dual degrees of Master of Science in Nursing and Master of Healthcare Administration will wear hoods with apricot velvet, representing nursing. Graduates with dual degrees of Master of Healthcare Administration and Master of Business Administration will wear hoods with salmon velvet, representing public health.

## DOCTORAL REGALIA

Gowns worn by doctoral degree candidates are distinguished by the colored velvet panel on the front and three horizontal bars at the sleeves. The teal velvet trim on the hood is the traditional color of the Doctor of Physical Therapy degree; the Doctor of Occupational Therapy degree is distinguished with Rhodes blue trim; and the Doctor of Nursing Practice by apricot. The colors of the lining, yellow and white, are Mary Baldwin University's colors. A velvet tam and tassel are used instead of the undergraduate cap.

## FACULTY REGALIA

Baccalaureate and master's-level gowns are usually black and are untrimmed, with the sleeves of the master's gown generally longer. Velvet panels down the front distinguish doctoral gowns, which may be black or a school color of the university granting the degree. Three horizontal velvet bars on the sleeves, usually of the color representing the wearer's degree, also mark the doctorate. Only doctoral caps may be made of velvet.

The length of a hood indicates the degree, with the bachelor's being three feet long, the master's three and one half, and the doctoral four feet. The color of the lining indicates the university at which the degree was earned and is usually the school color. The border of the hood indicates the academic discipline in which the degree was earned; for most faculty this is the dark blue of philosophy, indicating an earned PhD (doctor of philosophy, typically the highest degree in an academic discipline), or the EdD (light blue for education), or MBA (drab).

*Student marshals, wearing gold sashes, are chosen from the Honors List in each class.*

## PRESIDENTIAL REGALIA, MEDALLION, AND CHAIN OF OFFICE

The presidential regalia is a black gown with the university seal and black velvet details on the front, and four velvet stripes on the sleeves. The seal features the university's Latin motto, *Non Pro Tempore, Sed Aeternitate*, which means "Not for time, but for eternity." The fourth velvet stripe is an honor reserved for university presidents. The velvet is trimmed with gold for Mary Baldwin University. The presidential hood is a doctoral-length hood with yellow and white lining and gray velvet to represent MBU's colors.

Given by an anonymous donor, the Chain of Office and Presidential Medallion are worn by the president with academic regalia on ceremonial occasions. The chain and medallion, dating from medieval times, honor the highest official at an educational institution as symbols of the responsibility and leadership vested in that office. The four-inch circular medallion features the seal

of Mary Baldwin University, which represents the university's commitment to truth, courage, curiosity, academic excellence, and service. The seal honors the legacy of the Baldwin family and includes an industrious and lively squirrel, strong and enduring oak leaves, and the university's Latin motto. The year 1842 represents the founding date of the university as the Augusta Female Seminary. The wreath of acorns encircling the design symbolizes wisdom, strength, and endurance.

## THE MARY BALDWIN UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE COIN

This year, Mary Baldwin University inaugurates a new Commencement tradition with the presentation of two challenge coins to each graduate. Rooted in a custom most closely associated with the United States military, challenge coins have, for more than a century, served as symbols of identity, achievement, loyalty, and shared purpose. While accounts of their earliest beginnings vary, the modern tradition is most commonly traced to the First World War, when coins bearing a unit insignia were carried as emblems of belonging and recognition. Over time, they came to represent excellence, service, and the enduring bonds formed through a common mission. In that spirit, the Mary Baldwin Challenge Coin honors both individual accomplishment and lifelong connection to the university community.

One side of the coin bears the university seal and the inscription *Non pro tempore sed aeternitate* — “Not for time, but for eternity.” It affirms that the value of a Mary Baldwin education is not confined to a single season of life, but endures across time, vocation, and service.

The reverse side features the torch and flame, representing the light graduates now carry forward into the world, together with three guiding ideals: **Enduring Light** — the responsibility to share knowledge, hope, and wisdom wherever life may lead; **Professional Excellence** — the pursuit of the highest standards of competence, integrity, and service; and **Inspired Leadership** — the courage to lead with vision, humility, and purpose in service to others.

Graduates are invited to keep one coin as a personal reminder of all they have achieved and of the classmates with whom they share this milestone. The second coin is intended to be presented to a person whose encouragement, sacrifice, mentorship, or steadfast support helped make this achievement possible.

As this new tradition begins, may these coins remind every graduate that they leave Mary Baldwin not only with a degree, but with a lasting bond to one another and to the values that will guide them wherever their journey unfolds.

## THE UNIVERSITY MARSHALS, MACE, AND BATON

Two faculty members are elected by the faculty to serve as marshals, officials who ensure the orderly conduct of public ceremonies. The university marshal bears the mace, and the associate marshal the baton, both symbols of self-governance and authority of the institution. They resemble those used since colonial times in Virginia by the legislature.

The mace and baton were gifts from the Alumni Association, and their design was taken from the Baldwin family crest and the memorial stained glass window in Grafton Library. On the mace, the squirrel is a symbol of industriousness, curiosity, dignity, grace, and liveliness. On the baton, the acorn symbolizes strength, and the oak leaves stand for durability, courage, and truth. The maces are made of local walnut, a wood that represents longevity and hidden wisdom. Gold represents wisdom and honor, and the green of the oak leaves stands for life.

University Marshal 2026

Dr. Chandra Mason  
Professor of Psychology

Associate Marshal 2026

Janet Ewing  
Associate Professor of Business Administration

*Congratulations to the graduates of Mary Baldwin University.  
Our very best wishes go with you.*