

— CLASS OF 2021 —



171st
COMMENCEMENT

HISTORY AND ORDER OF CEREMONY

Bucknell
UNIVERSITY

COMMENCEMENTS AT BUCKNELL 1851–2021

It was a festive occasion on Wednesday, Aug. 20, 1851, when the first seven graduates of the University, all men, received their undergraduate degrees. Curators and trustees, family members and friends of several graduates, some faculty members, and dignitaries from Washington, D.C., Philadelphia and Harrisburg, Pa., traveled by stage and canal boat to attend the ceremony. Among them was the former U.S. Senator from Pennsylvania and Secretary of State under President James K. Polk, the Honorable James Buchanan, a curator of the University who was elected president of the United States in 1856.

The long hours of the Commencement ceremony began with a processional from the Baptist church (a public parking lot is now on the Third Street site, behind the post office) to the Academy Building (now Taylor Hall). Curators, trustees, professors, graduates and visitors marched along the boardwalk that divided the Grove and the farmland along what is now University Avenue. Not all of the visitors found seats on the upper floor of the Academy Building, the site for chapel services during the school year, which was designated as Commencement Hall for this event.

These seven graduates had begun their studies in the basement of the old Baptist church in 1847 (a new church was completed in 1870), one year after the University received its charter, and continued their studies in the Academy Building, completed in 1848, and in the west wing of Old Main (now part of Roberts Hall), completed in 1850.

Evergreen dominated the platform on which the graduates and dignitaries were seated, and an arch of artificial flowers festooned with the word *Ducimus* (“we lead the way”) framed the heads of the speakers. The candidates for degrees shared one academic gown, exchanging it in a booth to the rear of the platform, when each came forward to deliver an oration.

Male attire was white vests, black cutaway coats and black pants. Each of the seven members of the Class of 1851 wore a blue artificial rose on his left lapel as a symbol of his new status.

Oratory and music filled the next several hours. Professor George Bliss spoke for the faculty, and each graduate spoke briefly. Acting President Stephen W. Taylor (for whom Taylor Hall is named) made a brief address, and later in the program, gave his farewell remarks. The chairman of the Board of Trustees responded to the remarks of the acting president and installed the Rev. Howard Malcom as the first president. Malcom, in turn, gave his inaugural address. Amid these speeches, James Buchanan presented the seven candidates to Professor Taylor, who, speaking in Latin, awarded each senior the A.B. degree.

When the ceremony ended, the acting president, who was to depart for Hamilton, N.Y., to be president of Madison University (now Colgate), entertained trustees, curators, faculty, graduates and other guests at a dinner in Klines’ Hotel (now the Lewisburg Hotel). This event was to become a part of the Commencement tradition and continued for many years as the “Corporation Dinner” hosted by the president of the University.

From the first academic ceremony came also a pattern of events that was retained for many years. Commencement moved from August to July (1857) and then to June (1870), but as was true in 1851, Commencement Day continued to be the culmination of a week of ceremonies that began on the preceding Sunday with a baccalaureate service. During the week, examinations were held for the promotion of students, the certification of candidates for degrees, and for admission of students to the college. The Board of Trustees convened for its annual meeting at mid-week and, before 1882, so did the Board of Curators. In addition, there were meetings and anniversaries for the alumni and alumnae — the Alumni Association having been formed in 1851 by the first seven graduates — and by the 1880s, participation by various student organizations, including band concerts and recitals.

From 1855 to 1857, Commencement was held in the Grove in front of the west wing of Old Main (across from the President’s House). In 1858, the site was changed to the third floor of Old Main.

Starting in 1886, when Bucknell Hall was completed as the University chapel, the academic processional began at this new site. Underclassmen and guests formed a line along the path to observe graduates and the faculty as they processed up the hill to the site of the ceremony.

A major interruption to this schedule came in the summer of 1863, when all the young men of the college and the academy volunteered for duty to protect Harrisburg from the invasion of Gen. Robert E. Lee's Confederate troops. The University Guards, as the company was known, departed from Lewisburg on June 17 and soon assumed duties guarding the bridge across the Susquehanna at Marysville, Pa. Plans for Commencement from July 26 to 30 remained unchanged; on July 27, all but one member of the senior class (who was confined to a Harrisburg hospital) returned to campus. All were excused from the customary final examinations for degree candidates.

Although women had studied at the Female Institute since the founding of the University, college classes were not opened to them until 1883. At the 1885 Commencement, Chella Scott became the first woman graduate, receiving her A.B. degree with honors.

One year later, on June 22, 1886, during Commencement Week and following the dedication of Bucknell Hall, the Board of Trustees at its annual meeting voted to change the name of the institution from the University at Lewisburg to Bucknell University. In 1889, as William Bucknell slowly ascended the path from Bucknell Hall to Old Main at the last Commencement he would ever attend, the student body, guests and townspeople gave a rousing ovation in tribute to the man who had done so much to preserve the institution named in his honor.

Commencement Hall in Old Main served as the site for the ceremony from 1858 until 1925. In 1926, the ceremony was moved outdoors to the College Quadrangle, with the steps and porch of the Carnegie Building (then the library) serving as the platform. The outdoor site was changed in 1933 to the "Women's Campus," with the porch and steps of Hunt Hall serving as the platform. When Davis Gymnasium was completed in 1938, it became the site of Commencement. Outdoor events were planned in 1960 and 1964, but were held in the gym because of rain. The new Academic Quadrangle (now Malesardi Quadrangle) was selected as the site in 1970.

More than a century ago, in 1887, orange and blue appeared on the platform as the colors of the University, adopted by the trustees at the suggestion of the student body. At the 96th Commencement, held from June 27 to 30, 1946, the University observed its Centennial with elaborate ceremonies, including more than 150 delegates from colleges and universities who helped Bucknell mark this milestone.

Fifty years later, in 1996, Bucknell observed its 150th anniversary on the Academic Quadrangle during a beautiful Saturday morning Commencement ceremony. It was one of many events held during the year-long Sesquicentennial celebration to recognize the University's distinguished past and its promising future.

Due to space limitations presented by the global pandemic, the University will conduct its 171st Commencement at Christy Mathewson-Memorial Stadium, where more than 900 undergraduates will become part of the history and traditions of an ever-changing institution committed to seeking new ways to meet its founders' goal "to be serviceable to the human race."

ORDER OF CEREMONY

PROCESSIONAL Bucknell Brass Ensemble
William Kenny, conductor

*INVOCATION** Kurt Nelson
University Chaplain

*THE NATIONAL ANTHEM** Artemisia Ashton
Class of 2021

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION John C. Bravman
President of the University

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS Audra Wilson
Class of 1994

PRESENTATION OF DEGREE CANDIDATES John C. Bravman

Presentation of Candidates

Elisabeth Mermann-Jozwiak, *Provost*
Karl Voss, *Douglas K. Candland Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences*
Patrick T. Mather, *Richard E. Garman Dean of the College of Engineering*
Raquel Alexander, *Kenneth W. Freeman Professor and Dean of the Freeman
College of Management*
Robert M. Midkiff Jr., *Vice President for Strategic Initiatives*

CLASS RESPONSE Ruby Crystal Lee
Class of 2021

A LAST WORD John C. Bravman

**The audience is requested to stand.*

ALMA MATER "Dear Bucknell"*
by S.S. Merriman, *Class of 1886*

Alexandra Cathryn Abravanel, Maxwell Allan Code, Delia Jane Hughes,
Catherine Ann MacKay, Abigail Brooke McMullin, Jessica Kathryn Mount,
Xavier Phelan, Colette Carson Sachs

*Dear Bucknell, oft of thee we're thinking,
And mem'ries fond come trooping by;
The tireless stars may cease their blinking,
But thoughts of thee shall never die;
And though the years steal swiftly o'er us,
And winter comes with biting sting,
Our hearts with youth's undaunted chorus,
Shall e'er with praise of Bucknell ring.*

*RECESSIONAL**

**The audience is requested to stand.*

THE CLASS CREST



"Pursue Greatness, Prevail Relentlessly, Prosper Together."

The class banner depicts the class crest with the chosen class colors, blue and silver.
The class motto is Pursue Greatness, Prevail Relentlessly, Prosper Together.

ACADEMIC APPAREL

The history of academic apparel dates back to the early days of the oldest universities. Some colleges in England during the second half of the 14th century prescribed wearing long gowns to avoid "excess in apparel." Gowns also may have been necessary for warmth in the unheated buildings used by medieval scholars. It is still debatable whether academic apparel originated chiefly for ecclesiastical or secular dress

Hoods originally may have served to cover the tonsured heads of clergy and scholars until superseded by the skull cap. This was later replaced with a headdress similar to the mortarboard cap commonly in use. Some authorities believe the cap is square to represent a scholar's books; others say it was derived from a master workman's mortarboard; still others suggest it was patterned after the quadrangular shape of the Oxford campus.

Although European institutions still show great diversity in their academic apparel, American colleges joined together in 1895 to establish a standard code of academic dress. The code specifies three types of gowns: the gown for the bachelor's degree has pointed sleeves; the gown for the master's degree has an oblong sleeve with the front cut in an arc; and the gown for the doctor's degree has bell-shaped sleeves. The doctor's gown is trimmed in velvet with three bars on the sleeves and

facing down the front. The velvet trim is in black or the color appropriate for the field of learning.

The tassel is the distinguishing feature of the mortarboard. It is black or a color appropriate to the subject, except for the holders of doctoral degrees or governing officers, who may have gold tassels.

The hood is the most distinctive feature of academic dress. In early years, it was used as a cowl, a shoulder cape, and as a container in which to collect alms. The hoods are lined with the official colors of the college or university conferring the degree, while the color of the border indicates the field of learning in which the degree is earned. The bachelor's hood is 3 feet long with a 2-inch velvet border; the master's is 3.5 feet long with a 3-inch border; and the doctor's is 4 feet long with a 5-inch border.

Individuals in an academic procession normally wear the gown appropriate to the highest degree they hold. Exceptions are made for members of the Board of Trustees, who may wear doctoral gowns but whose hoods must be appropriate to the degrees they actually hold, and for official representatives of institutions.

HOOD BORDER COLORS INDICATING FIELDS OF LEARNING

Agriculture	Maize	Medicine	Green
Arts, Letters, Humanities	White	Music	Pink
Commerce, Accountancy, Business	Drab	Nursing	Apricot
Dentistry	Lilac	Oratory (Speech)	Silver Gray
Economics	Copper	Pharmacy	Olive Green
Education	Light Blue	Philosophy	Dark Blue
Engineering	Orange	Physical Education	Sage Green
Fine Arts, including Architecture	Brown	Public Administration, including Foreign Service	Peacock Blue
Forestry	Russet	Public Health	Salmon Pink
Home Economics	Maroon	Science	Golden Yellow
Journalism	Crimson	Social Work	Citron
Law	Purple	Theology	Scarlet
Library Science	Lemon	Veterinary Science	Gray
Management	Sapphire Blue		

THE PRESIDENTIAL CEREMONIAL CHAIN

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees on Jan. 19, 1849, three years after the founding of the institution in 1846, the trustees approved a resolution calling for a committee of three members “to report the form and devise of a seal for the University at Lewisburg.” On April 17, 1849, the new seal was approved.

A copy of the University seal forms the centerpiece of the ceremonial chain worn by the presidents of the University. The seal shows the sun, an open book and waves, symbolizing the light of knowledge and education surmounting the storms of life. Eighteen small gold medallions represent the tenure of 17 presidents and one acting president, Stephen W. Taylor, the first educational leader of the institution.

These medallions form a chain that symbolizes the continuity of the traditions of the University for the past 170 years. The medallion of the 17th president, John C. Bravman, is linked to the seal. The years of service for each president and a capsule comment about that individual's major contribution to the University are indicated on the reverse side of the medallion. The filigree that completes the chain takes the form of ivy that suggests growth and renewal in the succession of institutional leaders.

The ceremonial chain was first presented in 1965 to Charles H. Watts II at his inauguration as the 11th president of Bucknell University.

THE UNIVERSITY MACE

On May 31, 1997, the Bucknell University Alumni Association formally presented the University Mace to William D. Adams, 14th president of Bucknell University, during Reunion Weekend. Designed and produced by Leonard Urso, a silversmith and sculptor from Rochester, N.Y., the mace is simple yet elegant in design, contrasting the dark, wave-like grain of the 4-foot-long rosewood handle with a pure silver decorative top. Urso hand-carved the University seal and a replica of the Bertrand Library tower, which graces the top of the mace.

Maces originally represented the power of a bishop in battle and served as protection for the clergy, who were forbidden to draw blood. Later they became symbolic of power and authority in civic ceremonies. In the 16th century, Oxford University began using a decorated mace in its ceremonial processions to signify academic independence and excellence. Since that time, the mace has been a sign of educational tradition and distinction.

THE CHRISTY MATHEWSON–MEMORIAL GATEWAY PROCESSION

In August 2017, the Class of 2021 processed through the Christy Mathewson–Memorial Gateway following the Matriculation Ceremony. The ceremony and the procession mark the moment when students begin their journey of self-discovery as members of the

Bucknell community. Traditionally, as students prepare to graduate from Bucknell, they again process through the Christy Mathewson–Memorial Gateway to signify their transition from students to alumni.

The appearance of a name or the designation of an honor in this program is presumptive evidence of graduation or honor, but it must not be regarded as conclusive. The diploma of the University is the official testimony to attainment of a degree or entitlement to an academic honor.

To view Commencement Ceremony photos, please visit bucknell.edu/commencement.