UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT
6:15 P.M., FRIDAY, MAY 14

PRELUDE AND SLIDESHOW

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM
Virginia Tech Chamber Singers
Dwight Bigler
Conductor

GREETINGS AND INTRODUCTION
OF STUDENT SPEAKERS
Timothy D. Sands
University President

OPENING REFLECTIONS
Joseph Kozak
Doctor of Philosophy in Electrical Engineering, Class of 2021

MESSAGE FROM
THE UNDERGRADUATE CLASS PRESIDENT
Grant Bommer
President, Class of 2021 Bachelor of Science in Business, Finance

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE UT PROSIM SCHOLAR AWARD RECIPIENTS
Timothy D. Sands

ACCEPTANCE OF THE UT PROSIM SCHOLAR AWARD
Carla Finkielstein
Director of the Molecular Diagnostics Lab at the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute at VTC
Linsey Marr
Charles P. Lunsford Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering

INTRODUCTION OF FRANCIS COLLINS
Timothy D. Sands

MESSAGE FROM THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Francis S. Collins
Director, National Institutes of Health

INTRODUCTION OF LETITIA LONG
Timothy D. Sands
MESSAGE TO THE CLASS OF 2021

Letitia A. Long
Chairman of the Board of the
Intelligence and National Security
Alliance and Vice Rector of the
Virginia Tech Board of Visitors,
Class of 1982

VIDEO

Humans of Virginia Tech

RECOGNITION OF VIRGINIA TECH
CARILION SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
GRADUATES

Cyril R. Clarke
Executive Vice President and Provost

PRESENTATION OF VIRGINIA-
MARYLAND COLLEGE OF VETERINARY
MEDICINE DEGREE CANDIDATES

Cyril R. Clarke

CONFERRAL OF VIRGINIA-MARYLAND
COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
DOCTORAL DEGREES

Timothy D. Sands

PRESENTATION OF DOCTORAL
CANDIDATES

Cyril R. Clarke

CONFERRAL OF DOCTORAL DEGREES

Timothy D. Sands

MESSAGE FROM THE ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION

Deseria Creighton-Barney
President, Virginia Tech Alumni
Association Board of Directors,
Class of 1986

ALMA MATER

Josie Bowman
Bachelor of Science in Business,
Accounting and Information Systems,
Bachelor of Arts in Music, Vocal Arts,
Class of 2021

CLOSING REMARKS

Timothy D. Sands

POEM FOR CLASS OF 2021

Kwame Alexander
Poet, Writer, Award-Winning Author
Class of 1989
UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT SPEAKERS

FRANCIS S. COLLINS

Collins is the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Director. A key figure in the response to COVID-19, he is the only presidentially appointed NIH director to serve more than one administration.

Appointed and sworn in as NIH director in 2009, Collins oversees the work of the largest supporter of biomedical research in the world, spanning the spectrum from basic to clinical research.

Before becoming one of the most prominent voices during the pandemic, Collins was known for his landmark discoveries of disease genes and his leadership of the international Human Genome Project. He served as director of the National Human Genome Research Institute at NIH from 1993-2008.

Collins is also an elected member of both the National Academy of Medicine and the National Academy of Sciences, was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in November 2007, and received the National Medal of Science in 2009.

In 2020, he was elected as a Foreign Member of the Royal Society and was also named the 50th winner of the Templeton Prize, which celebrates scientific and spiritual curiosity.

KWAME ALEXANDER ’89

Alexander is a poet, educator, publisher, and New York Times bestselling author.

He has written 35 books, including SWING, BECOMING MUHAMMAD ALI, co-authored with James Patterson, BOOKED, which was longlisted for the National Book Award, REBOUND, which was shortlisted for prestigious UK Carnegie Medal.

A regular contributor to NPR’s Morning Edition, Alexander is the recipient of numerous awards, including The Lee Bennett Hopkins Poetry Award, The Coretta Scott King Author Honor, Three NAACP Image Award Nominations, and the 2017 Inaugural Pat Conroy Legacy Award.

In 2018, he founded the publishing imprint VER- SIFY, and opened the Barbara E. Alexander Memorial Library and Health Clinic in Ghana, as a part of LEAP for Ghana, an international literacy program he co-founded. He is also the writer and executive producer of THE CROS OVER TV series on Disney+.
Letitia A. Long ’82

Long is the chairman of the Board of the Intelligence and National Security Alliance and vice rector of the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors. She was the first woman to lead a major U.S. intelligence agency.

Long directed the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency from August 2010 until October 2014, culminating a career that spanned all aspects of organizational leadership, business functions, and global operations at the agency.

Long’s distinguished service as a civilian in the Department of Defense and the intelligence community started even before she earned her bachelor’s in electrical engineering from Virginia Tech in 1982. She began as a civilian intern with the U.S. Navy in 1978, transitioned to the Office of Naval Intelligence, and served in multiple leadership positions, including deputy director of naval intelligence.

Long served as the first deputy undersecretary of defense for intelligence (policy, requirements, and resources), was the first chief information officer at the Defense Intelligence Agency, and later became deputy director of that agency.
THE ACADEMIC PROCESSION

The following information, digested from “An Academic Costume Code and Ceremony Guide” prepared by the American Council on Education, may prove helpful in identifying the costumes you will see in the Commencement Procession.

When American colleges and universities desired to adopt some suitable system of academic apparel many years ago, a conference held at Columbia University in 1895 made up of representatives from various institutions drew up a “By-Law Regulation, or Statute” for the establishment of a suitable code of academic dress for colleges and universities in the United States. This code, with modifications made in 1959, is still in force; the costumes and colors, trimmings, and patterns you will see are all traditional and interpret both degree and the field of learning. The bachelor’s gown, designed to be worn closed, has pointed sleeves; the master’s gown, which may be worn open or closed, has an oblong sleeve open at the wrist which hangs down in traditional manner. The rear part of its oblong shape is square cut and the front part has the arc cut away. The doctor’s gown has bell-shaped sleeves. It may be worn open or closed. Bachelor’s and master’s gowns are untrimmed. Doctor’s gowns are faced with black velvet with three bars across the sleeves; or the color of velvet may be that which is distinctive of the degree, agreeing with that of the edging of the hood. The colors you will see in the hoods and gowns of our faculty represent the various fields in which the degrees were taken. A few are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Color</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACCOUNTANCY, COMMERCE, BUSINESS</td>
<td>Drab (Yellow-Brown)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGRICULTURE</td>
<td>Maize (Pale Yellow)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARCHITECTURE</td>
<td>Blue-Violet (Purple)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTS, LETTERS, HUMANITIES</td>
<td>White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECONOMICS</td>
<td>Copper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUCATION</td>
<td>Light Blue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGINEERING</td>
<td>Orange Natural</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RESOURCES</td>
<td>Russet (Rust)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHILOSOPHY</td>
<td>Dark Blue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VETERINARY MEDICINE</td>
<td>Gray</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCIENCE</td>
<td>Bright Gold (Golden Yellow)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The hoods, differing in length for the three degrees (bachelor’s, master’s, and doctor’s), are lined with the official colors of the university or college conferring the degree, usually with one color forming a chevron pattern over the other (for example, orange and maroon for Virginia Tech). Hoods are edged and bound with velvet of the color appropriate for the degree. You will see in our procession many edged with dark blue for doctor of philosophy. Mortarboards are the approved headgear. Tassels are worn on the right side prior to receiving a degree and on the left side after the degree has been conferred. The tassel may be of gold if the holder has a doctor’s degree.

Among the bachelor’s candidates, honor students are distinguished by special sashes in white.
BOARD OF VISITORS

Mr. Horacio A. Valeiras, Rector
Ms. Letitia A. Long, Vice Rector
Mr. Edward H. Baine
Ms. Shelley Butler Barlow
Ms. Carrie H. Chenery
Ms. Greta J. Harris
Mr. Charles T. Hill
Ms. Anna L. James
Ms. Sharon Brickhouse Martin
Dr. Melissa Byrne Nelson
Mr. Chris Petersen
Mr. Mehul P. Sanghani
Mr. Jeff E. Veatch
Mr. Preston M. White
Mr. Eric K. Kaufman, Faculty Representative
Ms. Tamarah Smith, Staff Representative
Ms. Sabrina Sturgeon, Graduate Student Representative
Ms. Camellia Pastore, Undergraduate Student Representative

CLASS OF 2021
LOGO AND MOTTO

2021 MOTTO
Durate Salire - Keep Jumping

CLASS OF 2021 OFFICERS

President: Grant Bommer
Vice President: Grace Stevens
Secretary: Juliana Lee Jones
Treasurer: Rachel Trebour
Historian: Emily Calvert
Cadet Member-At-Large: Jenna Bender
Female Member-At-Large: Tate Horman
Male Member-At-Large: Lucas DuMez

CLASS OF 2021 CLASS RING