



VIRGINIA
TECH.®

COMMENCEMENT

MAY 12 | SPRING 2023

GRADUATE COMMENCEMENT

3:30 P.M., WEDNESDAY, MAY 10

ACADEMIC PROCESSIONAL

POSTING OF COLORS

**Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets
Color Guard**

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

Haley Hansen

B.A. Candidate in Music, Class of 2024

GREETINGS

Timothy D. Sands

University President

Cyril R. Clarke

Executive Vice President and Provost

SPEAKER INTRODUCTIONS

Aimée Surprenant

Graduate School Dean

GRADUATE STUDENT REMARKS

Kayla Alward

Ph.D. Candidate Animal
Sciences - Dairy

Megan Van-Spanje

Master's Degree Candidate in
Forest Resources and Environmental
Conservation

Mohannad Elhamod

Ph.D. Candidate in Computer Science

REFLECTIONS

Aimée Surprenant

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES
AND CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

**Aimée Surprenant
and Timothy D. Sands**

READING OF NAMES

Joseph Merola

Cayce Myers

CLOSING REMARKS

Timothy D. Sands

RECESSIONAL



UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT

8:30 A.M., FRIDAY, MAY 12

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POSTING OF COLORS

**Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets
Color Guard**

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

Haley Hansen
B.A. Candidate in Music, Class of 2024

GREETINGS AND INTRODUCTION
OF STUDENT SPEAKERS

Timothy D. Sands
University President

OPENING REFLECTIONS

Marley McCartney
Secretary, Class of 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE CLASS
PRESIDENT

Prince Wang
President, Class of 2023

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE
ALUMNI DISTINGUISHED SERVICE
AWARD RECIPIENTS

Charlie Phlegar '78
Senior Vice President,
University Advancement

ACCEPTANCE OF THE ALUMNI
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

A. Carole Pratt '72
Jay S. Poole '78

INTRODUCTION OF JEAN CASE

Timothy D. Sands

GRADUATION ADDRESS

Jean Case
National Geographic Society
Chairman and Case Foundation CEO

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY
DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT
AWARD, *UT PROSIM* MEDAL, AND *UT
PROSIM* SCHOLAR AWARD

Timothy D. Sands





UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT

8:30 A.M., FRIDAY, MAY 12

ACCEPTANCE OF THE UNIVERSITY
DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT
AWARD, *UT PROSIM* MEDAL, AND *UT
PROSIM* SCHOLAR AWARD

Andy Beckstoffer '61

Frank M. Beamer '69

Nikki Giovanni

PRESENTATION OF UNDERGRADUATE
DEGREE CANDIDATES

Cyril R. Clarke

Executive Vice President
and Provost

and College Deans

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

Timothy D. Sands

ALMA MATER

Haley Hansen

CLOSING REMARKS

Mason Mulrooney

Vice President, Class of 2023

CONCLUDING REMARKS AND
INTRODUCTION OF NATHAN LAVINKA

Timothy D. Sands

GREETINGS FROM THE
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Nathan Lavinka '11

Virginia Tech Alumni Association
Board of Directors President

RECESSIONAL





UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT

SPEAKER

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY CHAIRMAN AND CASE FOUNDATION CEO JEAN CASE

Case spent two decades of her career in the private sector, building innovative tech-driven businesses. Case was at the forefront of the movement to bring the internet to the masses, working as a top executive at AOL for nearly a decade, where she oversaw all marketing that established AOL as the No. 1 internet brand and the first internet company to go public.

After leaving AOL, Case and her husband, Steve, created the Case Foundation to address social challenges. Case has since furthered her leadership in impact investing with the launch of For What It's Worth in 2021 focused on expanding interest in investing for social good and providing the resources, news, and trends new investors need to confidently invest for both profit and purpose. In all her endeavors, Case applies Be Fearless principles to her work, which call for taking risks, being bold, and failing forward.

That philosophy is the foundation of Case's bestselling book, "Be Fearless: 5 Principles for a Life of Breakthroughs and Purpose." The book explores how to make a difference in work, community, and life by taking bold risks and also includes moments from Case's own life and work.

Case has served on advisory boards at Harvard Business School, Stanford, and Georgetown, and as an executive in residence at Georgetown's McDonough School of Business. She also led the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation, where she was appointed chair by President George W. Bush. She currently serves on the board of the White House Historical Association, the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum, and on the advisory board of the Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative.





UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT

AWARD RECIPIENTS

UT PROSIM MEDAL

FRANK M. BEAMER '69

Beamer is the winningest coach in Virginia Tech history and led the Hokies to their first appearance in the BCS National Championship at the Sugar Bowl. He has also been a devoted alumnus to Virginia Tech and in 2019 was given the Alumni Distinguished Service Award.

He is a member of the Virginia Tech Sports Hall of Fame. His No. 25 jersey was retired in 2002. His name adorns the Hokies' locker room, and the street in front of Lane Stadium is named Beamer Way. When he retired in 2015, Beamer was the winningest active coach in Football Bowl Subdivision history.

Beamer is also known for his philanthropy across the region. His program, Herma's Readers, provides books and other resources to schools to promote literacy throughout Southwest Virginia. The program was named after his mother, who was a school teacher.

UT PROSIM SCHOLAR AWARD


UNIVERSITY DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR EMERITA NIKKI GIOVANNI

Renowned especially for her poetry, Giovanni has used her literary gifts to raise awareness of social issues, particularly those of gender and race. When she received her bachelor's degree in history from Fisk University in 1967, she was already an outspoken activist for civil rights and equality.

She has published more than two dozen volumes of poetry, essays, and edited anthologies, as well as 11 illustrated children's books, including "Rosa," an award-winning biography of Rosa Parks. Her autobiography, "Gemini," was a finalist for the 1973 National Book Award. In 2004, her album, "The Nikki Giovanni Poetry Collection," was a Grammy finalist for the Best Spoken Word Album.

Giovanni has received numerous awards, including the inaugural Rosa L. Parks Woman of Courage Award, the American Book Award, the Langston Hughes Award, the Virginia Governor's Award for the Arts, and the Emily Couric Leadership Award. She is also a seven-time recipient of the NAACP Image Award.

A devoted teacher, Giovanni has been a visiting professor and poet-in-residence at many colleges and encourages all students to express themselves creatively through writing.



UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT

AWARD RECIPIENTS

ALUMNI DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

A. CAROLE PRATT '72

Pratt served as senior policy advisor in the administrations of Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe and Gov. Ralph Northam. In this role, she focused on rural health and health care workforce concerns, oral health, prescription and illicit drug abuse, and addiction.

Pratt previously practiced general dentistry with her husband, Rick Mansell, in rural Southwest Virginia for 32 years, during which time she served four terms as chair of Virginia's Board of Health and vice chair of the Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services.

She is the past chair of the board of trustees at Lewis Gale Hospital in Pulaski and was a fellow of the National Rural Health Association. In 2011, Pratt served as a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Fellow and in the office of Sen. John D. Rockefeller, IV.

A dedicated alumna, Pratt served on the Virginia Tech Alumni Association board of directors as its president, and as a member of the Virginia Tech Foundation Board, the College of Science Dean's Roundtable, the Department of Biological Sciences Advisory Board, and the advisory council for Virginia Tech Inspiring Women in Lifelong Leadership.

ALUMNI DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

JAY S. POOLE '78

Poole has 30 years of experience in government relations, communications, and strategic planning. Twenty of those years were spent in corporate affairs at Altria, first in Washington, D.C., then Richmond, and then New York City.

Poole's key accomplishments at Altria include the role his communications team played in the planning and execution of the internal and external communications strategies surrounding the company's name change from Philip Morris Companies Inc. to Altria. His Shared Solutions Program, an award-winning corporate agricultural relations constituency program, envisioned a new company engagement model with numerous external organizations.

All of Poole's professional and personal experiences were called to action in April 2007 when he traveled to Blacksburg to offer support in the aftermath of the Virginia Tech shootings. Initially engaged as a volunteer to support communications efforts, he subsequently accepted a senior leadership role in the university's long-term response to the tragedy.

He served as rector of the Board of Visitors at Radford University for five years and is currently on the boards of the Alpha Gamma Rho Foundation, the Council for Rural Virginia, and Virginia21. He is also the past board chair of the Virginia Tech Athletic Fund.



UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT

AWARD RECIPIENTS

UNIVERSITY DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

W. ANDREW “ANDY” BECKSTOFFER ’61

Few have made a larger impact on the evolution of Northern California’s wine industry than Andy Beckstoffer, who has been named “Napa’s most powerful grape grower” by the Wall Street Journal and Wine Spectator.

For more than 50 years, Beckstoffer Vineyards has been at the forefront of putting Napa Valley and California wine on the global stage. Beyond his impressive vineyard portfolio, which includes Beckstoffer To Kalon, often called America’s most famous vineyard, one of Beckstoffer’s most notable industry contributions was the initiation of a new grape pricing structure, which created a major and lasting shift in how the California wine industry views the importance of wine growers and grape quality. Agricultural preservation and sustainability efforts also have been a continuous theme in Beckstoffer’s career.

Born in Richmond, Beckstoffer earned a bachelor’s degree in construction management engineering at Virginia Tech in 1961 and an MBA at Amos Tuck School in 1961 and an MBA at Amos Tuck School at Dartmouth in 1966.





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 that 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:

ACCOUNTANCY, COMMERCE,

BUSINESS: Drab (Yellow-Brown)

AGRICULTURE: Maize (Pale Yellow)

ARCHITECTURE: Blue-Violet (Purple)

ARTS, LETTERS, HUMANITIES: White

ECONOMICS: Copper

EDUCATION: Light Blue

ENGINEERING: Orange Natural

RESOURCES: Russet (Rust)

PHILOSOPHY: Dark Blue

VETERINARY MEDICINE: Gray

SCIENCE: Bright Gold (Golden Yellow)

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.



CLASS OF 2023 LOGO AND MOTTO

2023 MOTTO

Pote Ad Acta (Possibility to Actuality)



CLASS OF 2023 OFFICERS

President: **Prince Wang**

Vice President: **Mason Mulrooney**

Secretary: **Marley McCartney**

Treasurer: **Grace Allan**

Historian: **Jeremy Small-Hawks**

Cadet Member-At-Large: **Christina Van Meter**

Female Member-At-Large: **Amber Douglas**

Male Member-At-Large: **Nate Doggett**

CLASS OF 2023 CLASS RING



BOARD OF VISITORS

Ms. Letitia A. Long, Rector

Mr. Edward H. Baine, Vice Rector

Ms. Shelley Butler Barlow

Mr. David L. Calhoun

Ms. Carrie H. Chenery

Ms. Sandy Cupp Davis

Ms. Greta Harris

Mr. Charles T. Hill

Mr. Brad Hobbs

Ms. Anna James

Ms. Sharon Brickhouse Martin

Dr. Melissa Byrne Nelson

Mr. Chris Petersen

Mr. Jeff E. Veatch

Dr. Robert Weiss, Faculty Representative

Ms. Holli Drewry, A/P Faculty Representative

Ms. Serena Young, Staff Representative

Mr. Jamal Ross, Undergraduate Student Representative

Ms. Anna Buhle, Graduate Student Representative



ALMA MATER

Sing praise to Alma Mater dear, For V.P.I. we'll ever cheer;
Come lift your voices, swell the song, Our loyalties to her belong.

Chorus

So stand and sing all hail to thee. VT, all hail to thee.

The Orange and Maroon you see, That's fighting on to victory;
Our strife will not be long this day, For our glory lies within this fray.

Chorus

All loyal sons and daughters, one, We raise our banner to the sun;
Our motto brings a spirit true, That we may ever serve for you.

Chorus



