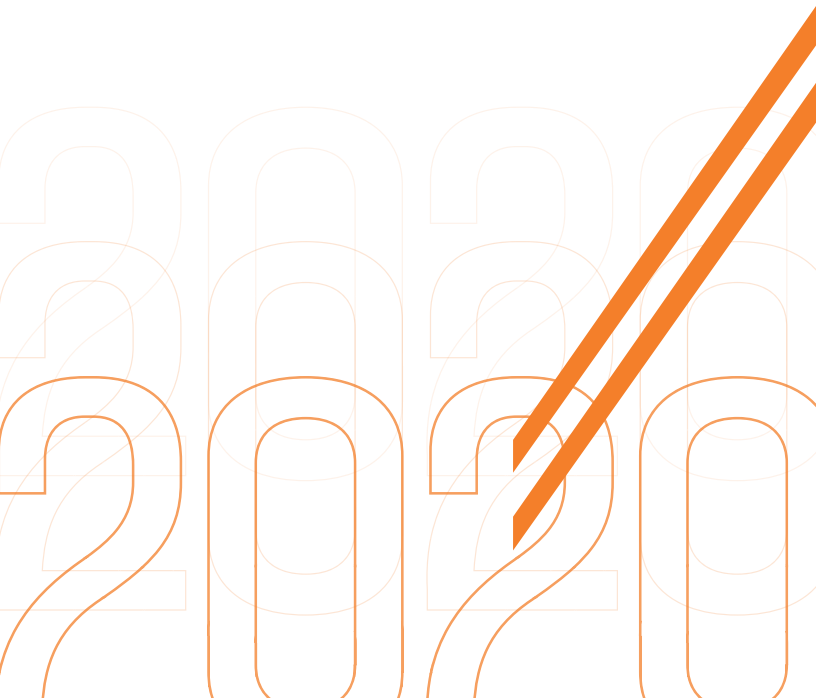




MAY 15 | SPRING 2020

COMMENCEMENT

149TH YEAR OF THE UNIVERSITY





UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT

6:30 P.M., FRIDAY, MAY 15

PRELUDE AND SLIDESHOW

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

Virginia Tech Chamber Singers
Dwight Bigler
conductor

GREETINGS

Timothy D. Sands
University President

OPENING REFLECTIONS

Noha Elsherbiny
Doctoral candidate in computer
science, Class of 2020

MESSAGE FROM
THE UNDERGRADUATE
CLASS PRESIDENT

Gregory Klatt
President, Class of 2020

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE WILLIAM
H. RUFFNER MEDAL AWARD RECIPIENT

Timothy D. Sands

ACCEPTANCE OF THE WILLIAM
H. RUFFNER MEDAL AWARD

Michael J. Quillen
Class of 1970

INTRODUCTION OF CAMILLE SCHRIER

Timothy D. Sands

MESSAGE TO THE CLASS OF 2020

Camille Schrier
Miss America 2020, Class of 2018

INTRODUCTION OF BUD FOSTER

Timothy D. Sands

MESSAGE TO THE CLASS OF 2020

Bud Foster
Special Assistant to the Virginia Tech
Athletic Director

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 DOCTORAL DEGREES

Timothy D. Sands

PRESENTATION OF DOCTORAL CANDIDATES

Cyril R. Clarke

CONFERRAL OF DOCTORAL DEGREES

Timothy D. Sands

PRESENTATION OF MASTER'S AND EDUCATION SPECIALIST DEGREES

Cyril R. Clarke

CONFERRAL OF MASTER'S AND EDUCATION SPECIALIST DEGREES

Timothy D. Sands

PRESENTATION OF UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE CANDIDATES

Cyril R. Clarke

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

Timothy D. Sands

MESSAGE FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Deseria Creighton-Barney

President, Virginia Tech Alumni Association Board of Directors, Class of 1987

ALMA MATER

Jonathan Elmore

Bachelor of Arts in Music, Class of 2020

CLOSING REMARKS

Timothy D. Sands

POEM FOR CLASS OF 2020

Nikki Giovanni

University Distinguished Professor in the Department of English



2020

UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT SPEAKERS



CAMILLE SCHRIER

Camille Schrier '18 is Miss America 2020. Her year of service is dedicated to reducing opioid abuse, medication errors, and the associated mortality of both by educating across communities and demographics,

from pediatrics to geriatrics. She was recently awarded the Engineering Champion Award by the Phi Sigma Rho National Sorority for her work in promoting women in engineering and technical fields.

Schrier graduated with honors from Virginia Tech with dual bachelor of science degrees in biochemistry and systems biology, and is currently pursuing a doctorate of pharmacy at Virginia Commonwealth University.

In June 2019, Schrier was named Miss Virginia after breaking from tradition to perform the “catalytic decomposition of hydrogen peroxide” as her onstage talent. Her unique talent performance and focus on women in STEM has sparked a positive reaction of inclusivity.



BUD FOSTER

Bud Foster coached Virginia Tech football for 33 years, 25 as the team’s defensive coordinator. He retired last year after working alongside former head football coach Frank Beamer for decades and bridging the

gap to Justin Fuente. He continues to be an ambassador for the program.

Foster was the architect of Tech’s famed Lunch Pail Defense, and, when he retired, was by far the longest continually tenured FBS assistant coach at the same school.

He was a key component in helping the Hokies build the nation’s longest active bowl streak, a 27-year stretch that began in 1993.

2020

2020



NIKKI GIOVANNI

Nikki Giovanni is a University Distinguished Professor in the Department of English. Renowned especially for her poetry, Giovanni has long used her literary gifts to raise

awareness of social issues, particularly those of gender and race. By the time she received her bachelor's degree in history from Fisk University in 1967, she was already an outspoken activist for civil rights and equality. A year later, she published her first books of verse.

Giovanni 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. Giovanni has also received numerous awards, including the inaugural Rosa L. Parks Woman of Courage Award.

A devoted teacher, Giovanni encourages students of all ages to express themselves creatively through writing.

In 2018, Giovanni was honored for her long-time service and support to the university when she was named the Class of 2020 ring namesake, an honorary role given to her by students.

WILLIAM H. RUFFNER MEDAL RECIPIENT



MICHAEL QUILLEN

Michael Quillen, '70, '71 spent decades leading in the energy industry and serving as a volunteer leader in his community and at his alma mater. He founded Alpha Natural Resources in 2002 and served as the company's

first CEO, guiding it through rapid expansion. Under his leadership, Alpha Natural Resources grew into a Fortune 500 company with thousands of employees.

Quillen has contributed to the growth and success of Virginia Tech through his service and philanthropy. He is a former rector of the Board of Visitors, serves on the steering committee for Boundless Impact: The Campaign for Virginia Tech, and is a member of the President's Circle within the Ut Prosim Society of Virginia Tech's most generous donors.

Quillen is a member of the College of Engineering Committee of 100 and was named Distinguished Alumnus for the college in 2006. Along with his service to Virginia Tech, Quillen is deeply engaged in promoting the economic prosperity of Virginia. As a chairman for the Go Virginia economic development initiative, he is responsible for Region One, which spans the 13 counties in the southwesternmost corner of the commonwealth.

2020



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:

- 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.



2020

CLASS OF 2020 LOGO AND MOTTO

2020 MOTTO

De Eodem Saxo - From the Same Stone



CLASS OF 2020 OFFICERS

President: **Gregory Klatt**

Vice President: **Bailey Spell**

Secretary: **Elizabeth Barron**

Treasurer: **Kelley Lazor**

Historian: **Geo Min**

Cadet Member-At-Large: **Megan Dennis**

Female Member-At-Large: **Cindy Yu**

Male Member-At-Large: **Sam Dickerson**

BOARD OF VISITORS

Mr. Horacio A. Valeiras, Rector

Ms. Letitia A. Long, Vice Rector

Mr. Edward H. Baine

Ms. Shelley Butler Barlow

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. Dennis H. Treacy

Mr. Jeff E. Veatch

Mr. Preston M. White

Dr. John Ferris, Faculty Representative

Ms. Tamarah Smith, Staff Representative

Mr. David King, Graduate Student Representative

Ms. Madelynn Todd, Undergraduate Student Representative

2020



VIRGINIA TECH CHAMBER SINGERS

CONDUCTOR

Dwight Bigler

SOPRANO

Josie Bowman

Aly Fuller

Maggie Good

Isabella Kitts

Willow Pedersen

TENOR

Logan Codella

Collin Deans

Jonathan Elmore

Robert Walters

BASS

Will Ivey

Evan Mallery

Dawson Naccarato

Skyler VonDeben

Kevin Zhang

ALTO

Jordyn Birden

Stefanie Draper

Sarah Kauffman

Emma Maguire

Camry Sidick

Rebecah Storms

Mary Wright

ALMA MATER LYRICS

VERSE:

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.

VERSE:

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

CHORUS:

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

VERSE:

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

CHORUS:

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





VIRGINIA TECH.™

