

Commencement

SPRING SEMESTER 2020



PENN STATE ALTOONA

May 9, 2020



PennState



National Anthem

by Francis Scott Key

O say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming;
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, thro' the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air
Gave proof thro' the night that our flag was still there.
O say, does that Star-Spangled Banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

Alma Mater

by Fred Lewis Pattee

For the glory of old State,
For her founders, strong and great,
For the future that we wait,
Raise the song, raise the song,

Sing our love and loyalty,
Sing our hopes that, bright and free,
Rest, O Mother dear, with thee.
All with thee, all with thee.

When we stood at childhood's gate,
Shapeless in the hands of fate,
Thou didst mold us, dear old State,
Dear old State, dear old State.

May no act of ours bring shame
To one heart that loves thy name,
May our lives but swell thy fame,
Dear old State, dear old State!

A Message from the Chancellor and Dean

On behalf of the faculty and staff at Penn State Altoona, it gives me great pride and pleasure to welcome you to today's commencement ceremony. Today we recognize the dedication and hard work of our soon-to-be graduates in achieving a significant milestone in their academic careers. Further, we recognize that their success is a reflection of the support given to them by their families and friends.

To our new graduates, we wish you well in your future endeavors. There will, of course, be times of accomplishment and times of challenge ahead. We urge you to approach them with confidence and a realization that learning is a life-long process.

Our sincere congratulations!



Dr. Lori J Bechtel-Wherry
Chancellor and Dean

About Penn State Altoona

Penn State Altoona is a full-service, four-year residential campus located less than forty-five miles from the University Park campus. The college enrolls approximately 3,200 students and offers 23 baccalaureate degree programs, six associate degree programs, and the first two years of course work for more than 275 Penn State majors that can be completed at other Penn State campuses.

Penn State Altoona's Ivyside campus, home to the college since 1947, consists of all-purpose athletic fields, turf soccer field with eight-lane track, reflecting pond, thirty-three buildings, and four residence halls. In 1999, the college added its first location in downtown Altoona with the leasing of the former Playhouse Theater. Since then, the college has expanded its footprint in the downtown, which is now home to Devorris Downtown Center (classrooms and conference facilities), Aaron Building (communications suite, nursing simulation labs, Dining Car Downtown, William J Castle Executive Quarters and Sutter Suites), Kazmaier Family Building (Development and Alumni Relations Office), The Sheetz Center for Entrepreneurial Excellence (entrepreneurship program and Sheetz Fellows program), and Penn Building (classrooms, office space, and Enactus).

The college boasts world-class faculty in all of its four academic divisions: Arts and Humanities; Business, Engineering, and Information Sciences and Technology; Education, Human Development, and Social Sciences; and Mathematics and Natural Sciences. Small classes and excellent support systems enable students to reach their fullest potential. The small campus environment allows for a comprehensive learning experience while combining the high standards of a major research university.

Penn State Altoona believes that the college experience should include more than just classroom learning and therefore is proud to offer its students a wide array of extracurricular opportunities. These opportunities include: 60+ clubs and organizations, Greek letter organizations, community service opportunities, honor societies, pre-professional groups, student government, fourteen club sports, and student leadership programs.

An NCAA Division III member, with primary conference membership in the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference (AMCC) and secondary conference membership in the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC), Penn State Altoona offers fifteen varsity sports for men and women.



WELCOME TO THE PRIDE!

Congratulations on your graduation, and welcome to the Penn State Alumni Association —the largest and most powerful alumni network in the world.

New graduates receive a **complimentary one-year membership** in the Penn State Alumni Association.

As you enter the pride, you'll join the ranks of alumni who keep their connection to Penn State strong through membership. We encourage you to stay connected and learn more about the 30+ benefits that are included with your membership.

Membership materials, including your membership card, will be mailed to you after graduation. Benefits are available to you immediately upon receiving your membership card.

Exclusive Member Benefits

CAREER AND EDUCATION



- **Alumni Career Services:** Attend premium Alumni Career Service events for free or at a substantial discount.
- **Discounts on Kaplan Test Preparation Services**
- **Alumni Library Online:** Exclusive access to Penn State Libraries Digitized Collections and University library databases.

ALUMNI EMAIL



Members of the Alumni Association can sign up for a **personal Penn State email account** (@alumni.psu.edu). Accounts are hosted by Google for Education and also include **unlimited online storage** and a collection of digital tools.

DISCOUNTS



Members receive **access to discounts** including travel and merchandise at Penn State Bookstore campus locations. They also receive access to discounted health, auto, renters, home, life, long-term care, and pet insurance.

Additional benefits include early invitations to Alumni Association events, access to the Alumni Directory, publications including the *Penn Stater* magazine, and much more!

To access a full list of membership benefits and to find your local Penn State Alumni Association chapter, visit:

alumni.psu.edu/newalumni

Spring 2020 Commencement

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Amina Faye '20, Musical Theatre,
College of Arts and Architecture

PRESIDING

Eric J. Barron, B.S., M.S., Ph.D.
President of The Pennsylvania State University

SPECIAL REMARKS

President Barron

REMARKS AND INTRODUCTIONS

Nicholas P. Jones, B.E., M.S., Ph.D.
Executive Vice President and Provost of the University

AUTHORIZATION TO CONFER DEGREES

Mark H. Dambly, B.S.
Chair, Board of Trustees

RECOGNITION OF MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT

Penn State Students

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

Presiding: Provost Jones
Conferring: President Barron

INDUCTION INTO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Randolph B. Houston, Jr., B.A., J.D.
President, Penn State Alumni Association

SPECIAL THANKS

Penn State Students

PENN STATE ALMA MATER

Penn State Students
Penn State Blue Band

Honor Societies

ALPHA PHI SIGMA

(National Criminal Justice Honor Society)

Blue and gold braided cords

Allison Hope Williamson

BETA BETA BETA

(National Biological Honor Society)

Forest Green and red cords

Kristina Franklin
Allison E Lenz
Nathan Emanuel Lose
Jeremy Alan Wasik

CHI ALPHA SIGMA

(National College Athlete Honor Society)

Medallion with black ribbon

Emily Jean Bryan
Trey A Butterworth
Chase Michael Clouser
Lauren Taylor Diller
Lucia Perez
Annie Lauren Ruggles
Kaley Nicole Strittmatter
Andrew Kouch Ung
Tanner Richard Yaw

KAPPA DELTA PI

(International Honor Society in Education)

Green and purple cords

Megan Renee Burley
Amanda Rae Camarote
Emily Lucille Cretin
†Stephanie Kathryn Davis
Lauren Taylor Diller

Rylee Maclayne Duck
Shaelyn Leigh Imler
Dinah Rae Johnson
Emily Faith Lloyd
Tierra Josalynn Mahute
Mackenzie P Mohr
Annie Lauren Ruggles
Clarice Marie Schultz
Kaley Nicole Strittmatter

LAMBDA PI ETA

(National Communication Association Honor Society)

Gold cords

Brooke Catharine Maurer

NATIONAL RESIDENCE HALL HONORARY

(Blue and White Chapter)

Blue and white cords

James Owen Patane
Jamie Elizabeth White

PENN STATE ALTOONA HONORS PROGRAM

Royal purple cords

Thomas A Brotzman
Peter A Casey
Nathan Emanuel Lose
Kristin C Newvine
Abigail Orr
†Taylor Stoudnour
Jamie Elizabeth White
Allison Hope Williamson

SCHREYER HONORS COLLEGE SCHOLARS

The Scholars Medal

Allison Hope Williamson

† Student Marshal

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Sheetz Fellows

The Sheetz Fellows program is the vision of Steve and Nancy Sheetz. It was established as part of the couple's historic gift to Penn State Altoona in 2009.

Sheetz Fellows participate in advanced instruction and activities that promote an enhanced awareness and understanding of leadership, service, and ethics. Established academic standards must be met to maintain status within the program. Other requirements include completion of a study abroad experience, credit-bearing internship, and a minor or option in entrepreneurship.

Sheetz Fellows processing in the commencement ceremony are identified by the specially crafted medallion that is worn proudly around their necks as a symbol of their commitment to academic excellence.

SHEETZ FELLOWS

Medallion with blue ribbon

Emily Jean Bryan
Makala Brie Doyle
~Amber R Friday
Min Lo Hsieh
~Madison Brooke Kreider
Lucia Perez
Blayz T Shartzter
Taylor Stoudnour
Nicholas Tyler Swetkowski
Adrianna Lynn Zernick

SIGMA BETA DELTA

(International Honor Society for Business, Management and Administration)

Green and gold cords

Kelsey Alysen Alwine
Catcher Cumming
Makala Brie Doyle
Lucia Perez
Blayz T Shartzter
Stephanie Joann Sierra
Adrianna Lynn Zernick

SIGMA TAU DELTA

(International English Honor Society)

Red and black cords

~Susana Jean Spradling

TAU ALPHA PI

(National Honor Society for Engineering Technology)

Green and gold cords

Lucas Eckenrode
Brad James Long
Jessie Marie Lunger
Benjamin Robert Smith
Evan Michael Wess

† Student Marshal

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Student Marshals

Each of the four student marshals is an outstanding student chosen by his or her division head to represent their respective academic division. We are proud to publish the following personal narratives highlighting their experiences at Penn State Altoona.

DIVISION OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

BRANDIS NICOLE AJAY

Bachelor of Arts, Integrative Arts

Something that I quickly learned after coming to Penn State Altoona is that anything is possible when you're surrounded by the right people. I started college without any significant experience as a singer, and now I will be leaving with a solid resume. I would not have been able to achieve any of this without the support of my friends, family, and the amazing faculty at Penn State Altoona—especially my voice teacher, Dr. Bonnie Cutsforth-Huber. Dr. Cutsforth-Huber, or “Doc” as I call her, is the reason I am pursuing a career in music. She taught me that I can accomplish anything if I put my mind to it. Without her, I would have likely given up a long time ago.

When I reflect on these past few years, it feels as if my first semester was five minutes ago. Now, I'm about to become a Penn State alumnus. That being said, I learned to cherish each and every moment because as soon as they're over, they'll only exist in your memory. As much as I'd love to go back to those memorable times, I realize that it's time to move on and start the next chapter of my life. I used to be afraid of making that transition, but now I'm looking forward to it. I feel more than ready to enter the “real world,” and I have my families both at home and at Penn State Altoona to thank for that.

DIVISION OF EDUCATION, HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

EMILY JEAN BRYAN

Bachelor of Science, Business Administration

Being a first-generation college student, the thought of beginning college was both intimidating and exciting to me. When I found Penn State Altoona, I knew I had found my second home. Originally, I came here to play volleyball, but after a very short time, I knew there was so much more that the Penn State community had to offer. Throughout my short four years here, I have made friends that will last a lifetime and earned an education that is going to excel me far into my future career. The one-on-one time spent with my professors here has shown me that this is a campus where you are truly more than just a number. My experience as a college athlete taught me that life can be both extremely hard and rewarding. The team truly became my second family. Without them, I would not be where I am today. And my journey through the Sheetz Fellows program has reiterated that with hard work and dedication, anything is possible.

I have learned how important being an active member of your community is and just how truly inspiring one act of kindness can be to someone. Graduating today, as a Penn State grad, I am proud. I am proud not only of myself but my fellow graduates. Together we have spent countless hours studying, shed stressful tears, laughed until our stomachs hurt, supported each other, and are standing side by side as we become Penn State grads. Today is the day all of our hard work pays off and the world is truly at the tip of our fingers. It's only up from here!

We are, Penn State Grads!

**DIVISION OF EDUCATION, HUMAN DEVELOPMENT,
AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

STEPHANIE KATHRYN DAVIS

**Bachelor of Science, Elementary and
Early Childhood Education**

Four years ago, I would never have pictured my college career to lead me here. I feel so honored to be named the Division of Education, Human Development, and Social Sciences Student Marshal for the graduating class of spring 2020. Penn State Altoona has provided me with more opportunities than I could have ever imagined possible. I could not be more thrilled with my decision to study Elementary and Early Childhood Education here at Penn State Altoona. During these four short years, I have been able to grow and truly find myself as well as my passion for teaching. I am so excited to see what the future holds.

To my professors and the rest of the education program at Penn State Altoona, thank you for creating such a nurturing, welcoming, and positive learning environment for myself and my peers. To my mentor teacher, thank you for shaping me into the teacher I have become and forever will be. Student teaching has truly been an impactful and life-changing experience for me. To my mom and dad, I would not be here today without your constant love and support. I can never thank you enough for everything you do, I love you forever.

And to the Penn State Altoona graduating class of spring 2020, you're going to do big things. Good luck with all of your future endeavors. Now and forever, We Are Penn State!

**DIVISION OF MATHEMATICS AND
NATURAL SCIENCES**

TAYLOR STOUNOUR

Bachelor of Science, Biology

To all my fellow seniors:

This is not the ending we expected. The work, sweat, and tears we have all experienced to get here were real. It might feel like that is being taken away from us, but that is just not true. In times of crisis, we must seek opportunity. We change our perspective to see the light in the dark. Adversity is what makes us. It is what has made us over the past four years. The difficult times make us grow stronger. It is in these times that we have learned who we are and what we are really made of. The 2020 pandemic is just another mountain to climb. We will conquer. We will find strength for the future. These past four years have been full of discovery, adventure, and teamwork. Penn State Altoona, it's incredible professors, and our fellow students have had a tremendous impact all of our progression personally and professionally. All of these amazing people form a team that collaborates and pushes each other to improve. Our professors have helped us learn so much about the world around us and ourselves. Thank you for taking the time out of class and caring about your students. Your abundance of energy, humor, and thoughtfulness has made the past four years so enjoyable. The friendships, connections, and memories made during this time will be cherished. Thank you to all of the family and friends for your unconditional support of this incredibly strong group of students! I'm truly honored to be chosen as Student Marshal for the Penn State Altoona Division of Mathematics and Natural Sciences.

PLEASE NOTE

The information in this document was produced on April 30, 2020, as an official list of students who indicated an intent to graduate. Students who indicated their intent to graduate after that production date are not listed.

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*Dear Graduates:
If you have question about your name, degree or distinction, listed in this program, please reach out to Strategic Communications at 814-949-5160 or mdb186@psu.edu.*

Congratulations on your achievements!

CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

DIVISION OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Associate in Science
Letters, Arts, and Sciences
Altoona College

Patricia Ann Hicks

Bachelor of Arts
Communications
Altoona College

Joshua Edward Bruce
Anais M Feliciano
Brooke Catharine Maurer, *Magna Cum Laude*

Bachelor of Arts
History
Altoona College

Peter A Casey, *Cum Laude*
Kristin C Newvine
Allison Rose Schwartz

Bachelor of Arts
Integrative Arts
Altoona College

† Brandis Nicole Ajay, *Summa Cum Laude*
Julie Hunter
Milan K Ramson
~ Brandon Robert Spradling
~ Susana Jean Spradling

Bachelor of Arts
Letters, Arts, and Sciences
Altoona College

Heidi Jane Imgrund
Kennedy Elizabeth Moon
Andrew C York

Bachelor of Arts
Political Science
Altoona College

Zechariah Clark Allen, *Magna Cum Laude*
Skylar J Umholtz

Bachelor of Arts
Visual Arts Studies
Altoona College

Andrea A Regalbuto
Gary Joshua Weyandt

† Student Marshal

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DIVISION OF BUSINESS, ENGINEERING, AND INFORMATION SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY

Associate in Science
Business Administration
Altoona College

Kathryn Elizabeth Kulp, *Summa Cum Laude*
Jacob Eric Schrift
Dayton Kyle Strength

Bachelor of Science
Accounting
Altoona College

Collin Blane Musselman, *Cum Laude*
James Owen Patane
Kassidy Sorichetti
Nicholas Tyler Swetkowski
Grace Margaret Veltri
Tanner Richard Yaw

Bachelor of Science
Business Administration
Altoona College

Kelsey Alysen Alwine, *Cum Laude*
†Emily Jean Bryan, *Magna Cum Laude*
Paige A Burk
Chase Michael Clouser
Catcher Cumming, *Cum Laude*
Oliver John Dailey
Makala Brie Doyle
~Amber R Friday
Min Lo Hsieh
Patrick R Keefer
Adam Jeffrey Kifer
~Madison Brooke Kreider
Brayley A Lewis
Matthew S Maruska
Lucia Perez
~Ryan Michael Reed
Tia Rose Marie Romano
Clevon Paquito Scott
Blayz T Shartzter
~Stephanie Joann Sierra
Alexander David Stabler
~Aubrey B Stitt
Adrianna Lynn Zernick

Bachelor of Science
Electro-Mechanical Engineering Technology
Altoona College

Thomas A Baer
Curtis M Bell
Avery Scott Dixon
Lucas Eckenrode, *Magna Cum Laude*
Austin Lane Foor
Garrett Colin Isenberg
Kyle Gordon Knowles
Kurt Joseph Kowalchuk
Zane E Leister
Brad James Long
Jessie Marie Lunger
Joshua McClelland
Melvin Maximiliano Meighan
Mackenzie Allison Mortimore
Douglas L Musser
Matthew James Richards
Evan Daniel Rieg
Sara Roselius
Joseph Michael Sheckler
Anthony Michael Sisak
Benjamin Robert Smith, *Magna Cum Laude*
Joseph A Stuck
Roshan V Vidyadhar
Evan Michael Wess

Bachelor of Science
Rail Transportation Engineering
Altoona College

~Eric Charles Freas
Michael Robert Kozik, *Magna Cum Laude*
Nathan Allen Norris, *Cum Laude*
Tyler Benjamin Stauss
John Michael Yohn

Bachelor of Science
Security and Risk Analysis
Altoona College

Zechariah Clark Allen, *Magna Cum Laude*
Robert Alvarado Jr
Corey Kunz
Gaetano J Matro
Nicholas M McIntyre
Vaibhvkumar V Patel
Nicholas Robert Rosario
Joseph Matthew Spei III
Jonathan Christopher Todd

† Student Marshal

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DIVISION OF EDUCATION, HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Associate in Science
Criminal Justice
Altoona College

John B Dunmire, *Cum Laude*

Bachelor of Arts
Criminal Justice
Altoona College

George Matthew Stiuso

Bachelor of Arts
Psychology
Altoona College

Amarillys V Aponte-Lee
Alexa Euceda, *Magna Cum Laude*
Julie Hunter
Ceara McGill
Madison Deseree Rhoads
John Luke Salcedo, *Cum Laude*
Ashley Elizabeth Snyder

Bachelor of Science
Criminal Justice
Altoona College

Peter Nelson Jacobs
Ariana Ortiz
Russell Charles Pentland
Jordan Robert Swope
Nicole Lynn Wall
Sheldon Tyree Williams
Allison Hope Williamson, *Magna Cum Laude*
Robert Wright Jr

Bachelor of Science
Elementary and Early Childhood Education
College of Education

Sophia Renee Black
Megan Renee Burley, *Cum Laude*
Trey A Butterworth
Amanda Rae Camarote
Emily Lucille Cretin
†Stephanie Kathryn Davis, *Magna Cum Laude*
Lauren Taylor Diller
Rylee Maclayne Duck
Shaelyn Leigh Imler
Dinah Rae Johnson
Emily Faith Lloyd
Tierra Josalynn Mahute
Mackenzie P Mohr
Kristina Marie Rios
Annie Lauren Ruggles
Clarice Marie Schultz, *Cum Laude*
Kaley Nicole Strittmatter

Bachelor of Science
Human Development and Family Studies
Altoona College

Marynicole Brown
Iyhanna Levon Ford
Cala N Lampel
Marissa Lyn Plouse
Kacey Alexis Poorman
Casaundra Lee Salyards
Abby Elizabeth Showers
Erin Rachyl Tavani
Myrriah Ashleigh Wertz, *Cum Laude*
Haleigh Nicole Zeiders

Bachelor of Science
Nursing
College of Nursing

Rebecca Elizabeth Aquino
Taylor Alexis Bachman
Thomas A Brotzman
Yasmene Brown
Marissa Jordan Byler
Katherine Marie Flick
Madeleine Flory
Ian Scott Gabrielson

† Student Marshal

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DIVISION OF MATHEMATICS AND NATURAL SCIENCES

Kelsey Raynea Greslick
Sage Madison Heckendorn
Courtney May Huffman
Cheyenne Star Johnston
Kennedy Christine Keirn, *Cum Laude*
Jodie Lynn Knobler
Michaela Alexis Kurty
Ian Charles Lancaster
Casey Jordan Lee
Amber R Liegey
Onyedikachi Opara
Abigail Orr
Brian Palko
Megan Ann Parrish
Adrianna Catherine Powell
Kendra Renee Pysher
Marissa Nicole Raia
Alexis Dawn Reed
Mariah Nicole Robison
Miranda M Ruk
Tanner Shirk
Samantha Blake Shoemaker
Katherine Smeltzer
Kasey Lynn Smith
Megan Marie Smith
Madison Stessney, *Magna Cum Laude*
Hanna Thompson
Kaitlyn Marie Umstead
Gabrielle Vega
Barron Nicholas Vogt
Jamie Elizabeth White
Stephanie D Wright

Bachelor of Science **Psychology** Altoona College

Paige Elisabeth Cole
Sereina L Fan
Maci Lane Heitsenrether
Megan Keith
Brianna Nichole McClellan
Marissa Ann McCoy
Joshua Andrew Owen
Kennedy Turner
Andrew Kouch Ung

† Student Marshal

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Bachelor of Arts **Environmental Studies** Altoona College

Dylan Dale Bates

Bachelor of Science **Biology** Altoona College

Kristina Franklin
Aaron M Gallagher
~Cameron Javan Gardner-Nicholson
Sheila M. Hutchinson
~Kelsey Elizabeth Lantz
Allison E Lenz
Nathan Emanuel Lose
Jenna Marie Mickel
Ethan Oswald
David Anthony Schmitt
†Taylor Stoudnour, *Summa Cum Laude*
Jeremy Alan Wasik

Bachelor of Science **Environmental Studies** Altoona College

Andrew Ryan Culp
Nicole L Kemerer
Sidney V Shultz
Nathan M White

This publication is available in alternative media on request.

The University is committed to equal access to programs, facilities, admission, and employment for all persons. It is the policy of the University to maintain an environment free of harassment and free of discrimination against any person because of age, race, color, ancestry, national origin, religion, creed, service in the uniformed services (as defined in state and federal law), veteran status, sex, sexual orientation, marital or family status, pregnancy, pregnancy-related conditions, physical or mental disability, gender, perceived gender, gender identity, genetic information, or political ideas. Discriminatory conduct and harassment, as well as sexual misconduct and relationship violence, violates the dignity of individuals, impedes the realization of the University's educational mission, and will not be tolerated. Direct all inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policy to Dr. Suzanne C. Adair, Associate Vice President for Affirmative Action, Affirmative Action Office, The Pennsylvania State University, 328 Boucke Building, University Park, PA 16802-5901; Email: sca917@psu.edu; Tel 814-863-0471.



PennState
Altoona