VIRGINIA TECH

COMMENCEMENT

DEC. 15 | FALL 2023

UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT

10:30 A.M., FRIDAY, DEC. 15

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

Mary Wright

B.A. Candidate in Music, Class of 2024

POSTING OF COLORS

Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Color Guard

GREETINGS AND INTRODUCTION OF STUDENT SPEAKERS

Timothy D. Sands

University President

OPENING REMARKS

Erin Highland

English, Class of 2024

INTRODUCTION OF AMY PRUDEN

Timothy D. Sands

GRADUATION ADDRESS

Amy Pruden

University Distinguished Professor

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

Cyril R. Clarke

Executive Vice President and Provost and College Deans

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

Timothy D. Sands

INTRODUCTION OF NATHAN LAVINKA

Timothy D. Sands

GREETINGS FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Nathan Lavinka '11

Virginia Tech Alumni Association Board of Directors President

CLOSING REMARKS

Timothy D. Sands

RECESSIONAL

GRADUATE COMMENCEMENT

2:30 P.M., FRIDAY, DEC. 15

ACADEMIC PROCESSIONAL

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

Mary Wright
B.A. Candidate in Music, Class of 2024

GREETINGS

Timothy D. Sands
University President

Cyril R. Clarke
Executive Vice President and Provost

GRADUATE ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Aimée Surprenant
Graduate School Dean

SPEAKER INTRODUCTIONS

Aimée Surprenant

GRADUATE STUDENT REMARKS

Imani Lewis

Master's in Public and International Affairs

Ikhlas Rabab'ah

Ph.D. candidate in Architecture and Design Research

Norovbanzad Tsogt-Ochir

Master's in Civil Engineering

REFLECTIONS

Aimée Surprenant

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES AND CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

Aimée Surprenant and Timothy D. Sands

MESSAGE FROM THE FACULTY

Joseph Merola

REMARKS FROM ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Nathan Lavinka '11

Virginia Tech Alumni Association Board of Directors President

CLOSING REMARKS

Aimée Surprenant

RECESSIONAL

UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT

SPEAKER

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

UNIVERSITY DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR AMY PRUDEN

Pruden is the W. Thomas Rice Professor in the Charles E. Via, Jr. Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, where her research program focuses on using DNA-based tools to track pathogens and antibiotic resistance in the environment.

Prior to joining Virginia Tech's College of Engineering in 2008, Pruden was a faculty member in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Colorado State University. Pruden earned a B.S. in Biological Sciences and a Ph.D. in Environmental Science from the University of Cincinnati.

Pruden's Research Team uses next-generation DNA sequencing tools to probe the microbiomes of natural and engineered water systems. By zooming in on the DNA of disease-causing bacteria and the genes that prevent antibiotics from killing them, she is able to identify effective water treatment processes that are protective of public health. Pruden's team has used similar approaches to track antibiotic resistant bacteria from farm to fork and assess the effects of antibiotic use in livestock.

Pruden served as lead author on the United Nations Environment Programme 2023 Bracing for Superbugs report and is currently a working group leader of the Quadripartite Technical Group on Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance.

From 2017-2019 she served on the National Academies of Science Engineering and Medicine Consensus Committee on Management of Legionella in Water Systems, which is the No. 1 source of waterborne disease in the U.S. She has published more than 200 peer-reviewed book chapters and manuscripts and is a Fellow of the International Water Association.

In addition to being a University Distinguished Professor, Pruden is the recipient of several awards, including the Alumni Award for Research Excellence, the Outstanding Graduate Student Mentoring Award and the Dean's Award for Excellence in Research from the College of Engineering, the Water Research Innovator Award, the Presidential Early Career Award in Science and Engineering, and the Paul L. Busch Award from the Water Environment Research Foundation.

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.

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

Edward H. Baine, Rector
David L. Calhoun, Vice Rector
Carrie H. Chenery
Sandy Cupp Davis
Nancy Dye
Greta Harris
Brad Hobbs
William Holtzman
Donald Horsley
Anna James
Letitia Long
Chris Petersen
John Rocovich
Jeff E. Veatch
Joeseph Merola, Faculty Representative
Janice Austin, A/P Faculty Representative
LaTawnya Burleson, Staff Representative
William Storey, Undergraduate Student Representative
Emily Tirrell, Graduate Student Representative


VIRGINIA
TECH