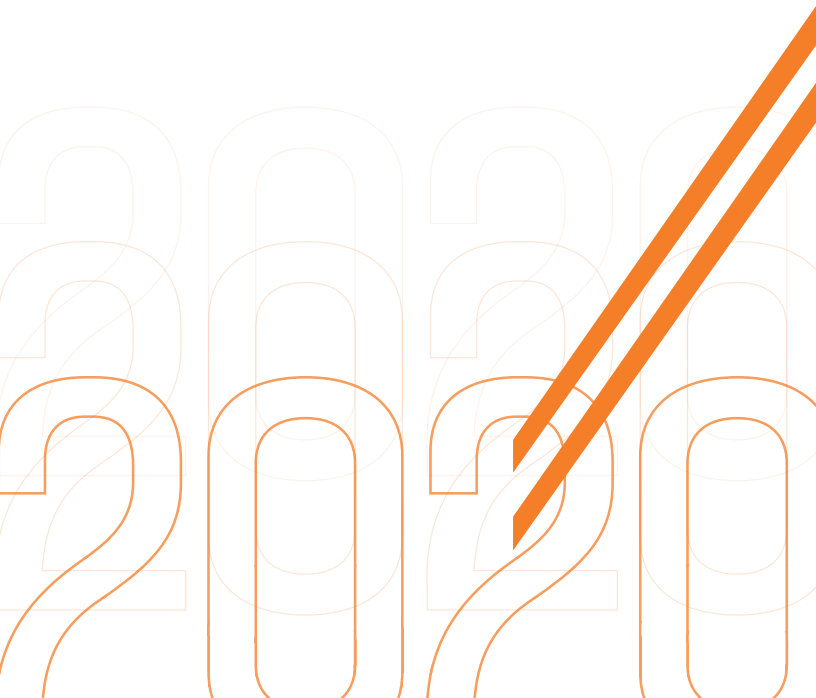




DEC. 18 | FALL 2020

COMMENCEMENT

149TH YEAR OF THE UNIVERSITY





UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT

6:30 P.M., FRIDAY, DEC. 18, 2020

PRELUDE AND SLIDESHOW

POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE

Virginia Tech Brass Ensemble

Derek Shapiro

Conductor

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

Virginia Tech Chamber Singers

Dwight Bigler

Conductor

GREETINGS AND INTRODUCTION
OF STUDENT SPEAKERS

Timothy D. Sands

University President

OPENING REFLECTIONS

Cortney Steele

Doctor of Philosophy in Human
Nutrition, Foods, and Exercise,
Class of 2020

MESSAGE FROM
THE UNDERGRADUATE
CLASS PRESIDENT

Grant Bommer

President, Class of 2021

INTRODUCTION OF QUEEN CLAYE

Timothy D. Sands

MESSAGE TO THE CLASS OF 2020

Queen Harrison-Claye

Class of 2010

INTRODUCTION OF LINSEY MARR

Timothy D. Sands

MESSAGE TO THE CLASS OF 2020

Linsey Marr

Charles P. Lunsford Professor of Civil
and Environmental Engineering

INTRODUCTION OF HOMER HICKAM

Timothy D. Sands

MESSAGE TO THE CLASS OF 2020

Homer Hickam

Class of 1964





MESSAGE FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Deseria Creighton-Barney
President, Virginia Tech Alumni Association Board of Directors, Class of 1987

ALMA MATER

Aly Fuller
Bachelor of Arts in Music Performance, Class of 2021

CLOSING REMARKS

Timothy D. Sands

POEM FOR CLASS OF 2020

Nikki Giovanni
University Distinguished Professor in the Department of English

VIDEO

Humans of Virginia Tech

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



2020

UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT SPEAKERS



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 longtime service and support to the university when she was named the Class of 2020 ring namesake, an honorary role given to her by students.



**QUEEN
HARRISON-CLAYE**

Queen Harrison-Claye made Virginia Tech history by becoming only the second Hokie, and first female Tech athlete, to earn a spot on the U.S. Olympic squad. Harrison-Claye is a sprinter and hurdler.

She's a member of the Class of 2010 and majored in sociology.

Harrison-Claye set all-time ACC and East Region records. Harrison-Claye set the school record in the outdoor 400-meter dash coming in at 52.88 at the Georgia Tech Invitational. Before coming to Virginia Tech she was also a two-time Virginia AAA state champion, winning the outdoor long jump in 2004 and the indoor long jump in 2005.

2020

2020

UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT SPEAKERS



HOMER HICKAM

Homer Hickam is a nationally known freelance writer and best-selling book author. He is the recipient of the 2007 University Distinguished Achievement Award in recognition of his personal and professional achievements.

Hickam graduated from Virginia Tech with a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering in 1964. He later served as first lieutenant in the Fourth Infantry Division in Vietnam, where he was awarded the Army Commendation and Bronze Star medals. Hickam was subsequently employed as an engineer for the U.S. Army Missile Command from 1969 until 1981, when he became employed with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration as an aerospace engineer. During his time with NASA, he worked in spacecraft design and crew training and, until his retirement in 1998, was the payload training manager for the International Space Station Program.

Hickam is a critically acclaimed writer. His second book, "Rocket Boys," is one of a series of four novels based on the author's life experiences and recollections of Coalwood, W.Va. The book inspired the popular film "October Sky."



LINSEY MARR

Linsey Marr is the Charles P. Lunsford Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering who since March has led the global conversation about the airborne transmission of COVID-19. She's shared research

and advice on topics ranging from how the virus spreads indoors and the impact of different face coverings to how to grocery shop safely and embrace loved ones with a lower risk of contagion.

Marr came to Virginia Tech in 2003 after earning her bachelor's in engineering science from Harvard and her doctorate from the University of California at Berkeley. She has racked up numerous honors during her time at the university. They include a National Institutes of Health New Innovator Award in 2013 and an appointment to a National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine board in January.

In 2019, Marr earned the Excellence in Teaching Award from the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, which recognizes a faculty member's effective, engaged, and dynamic approaches and achievements as an educator.

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**

CLASS OF 2020 CLASS RING



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

2020



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.

POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE

VIRGINIA TECH
BRASS ENSEMBLE

CONDUCTOR
Dwight Bigler

BAND

Jacob Banerjee
Stewart Bridgeforth
Jay Crone*
Jason Dech
Jacob Downing
Wallace Easter*
Jeffery Gill
Calvin Godfrey
Lisa Herdegen
Jordan Marshall
Julian Thomas
Emma Grace Woolsey

** Notes professors
at Virginia Tech*

NATIONAL ANTHEM

VIRGINIA TECH
CHAMBER SINGERS

CONDUCTOR
Dwight Bigler

SINGERS

Josie Bowman
Aly Fuller
Maggie Good
Isabella Kitts
Willow Pedersen
Jordyn Birden
Stefanie Draper
Sarah Kauffman
Emma Maguire
Camry Sidick
Rebecah Storms
Mary Wright
Logan Codella
Collin Deans
Jonathan Elmore
Robert Walters
Will Ivey
Evan Mallery
Dawson Naccarato
Skyler VonDeben
Kevin Zhang

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

The Marching Virginians for playing
the Hokey Pokey.





VIRGINIA TECH.™

