



---

---

BRYANT UNIVERSITY  
COMMENCEMENT

*Graduate Programs*

---

---

THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2025

# *Welcome*

---

*A most cordial welcome is  
extended to relatives, friends,  
faculty members, alumni,  
administrators, and staff who  
gather here to celebrate  
Commencement for the  
Graduate Programs.*

## PROGRAM

---

### ACADEMIC PROCESSION

The audience is requested to remain standing if you are able through the Invocation.

### MARSHALS

Chief Marshal, Janet J. Prichard, Ph.D.  
Platform Marshal, Charles Cullinan, Ph.D.  
Graduate Marshal, Lori A. Coakley, Ph.D.  
Graduate Marshal, Robert Massoud, MBA  
Graduate Marshal, Mehreen Pasha, MBA  
Graduate Marshal, Elena Precourt, Ph.D.  
Graduate Marshal, Srdan Zdravkovic, Ph.D.

### UNIVERSITY MACE BEARER

John K. Visich, Ph.D.

### THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

Ashley Siravo '25

The audience is requested to remain standing if you are able through the Invocation.

### INVOCATION

Pastor Kevin White  
Bryant University Protestant Chaplain

### PRESIDING

Ross Gittell, Ph.D.  
President of Bryant University

### CONVENING OF THE 2025 COMMENCEMENT FOR GRADUATE PROGRAMS

D. Ellen Wilson '79  
Chair of the Board of Trustees, Bryant University

### CONFERRING OF HONORARY DEGREE

Ross Gittell, Ph.D.

### CITATION

Kirsten Hokeness, Ph.D.  
Director, School of Health and Behavioral Sciences

---

---

#### HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT

**Martha L. Wofford**

#### TRUSTEE PRESENTER

**Ann-Marie Harrington '86**

#### HOODING OF HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT

**Rupendra Paliwal, Ph.D.**

Provost and Chief Academic Officer

#### COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

**Martha L. Wofford**

#### PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR GRADUATE DEGREES

**Rupendra Paliwal, Ph.D.**

#### CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

**Ross Gittell, Ph.D.**

#### INTRODUCTION OF CANDIDATES

**Alex Cole, Ed.D.**

Executive Director of Graduate and Professional Education

#### PRESENTATION OF DIPLOMAS

**Rupendra Paliwal, Ph.D.**

#### HOODING OF CANDIDATES

*College of Arts and Sciences:*

*Master of Science in Actuarial Science*

**Veronica McComb, Ph.D.**

Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

*College of Business:*

*Master of Business Administration*

*Master of Science in Accounting*

*Master of Science in Business Analytics*

*Master of Science in Data Science*

*Master of Science in Taxation*

**Todd Alessandri, Ph.D.**

Dean, College of Business

*School of Health and Behavioral Sciences:*

*Master of Science in Healthcare Informatics*

**Kirsten Hokeness, Ph.D.**

Director, School of Health  
and Behavioral Sciences

#### ALUMNI GREETINGS

**Samuel Broomer '93, P'25**

President, Alumni Leadership Council

Bryant University Alumni Association

---

## BENEDICTION

**Aisha Manzoor**

Bryant University Muslim Chaplain

## ADJOURNMENT OF THE 2025 COMMENCEMENT FOR GRADUATE PROGRAMS

**D. Ellen Wilson '79**

## RECESSION

Please remain in place until the platform party and faculty members leave the Commencement area.

## RECEPTION

You are cordially invited to attend a reception immediately following the ceremony in the Heidi and Walter Stepan Grand Hall of the George E. Bello Center for Information and Technology.

## GUEST SERVICES

---

- Restrooms are located in Barrington House and in the Fisher Student Center.
- Bryant memorabilia can be purchased at the Bookstore.
- A limited number of listener-assisted headsets are available at the sound control booth at the back of the tent.

*Please ask an usher if you need assistance in locating any of these services.*

## DEGREE CANDIDATES

---

### CODE KEY

The 2025 Bryant University Graduate Commencement honors certified graduates and degree candidates schedule to complete coursework by August 2025.

#### **Honors**

To graduate with Honors, a student must attain a grade-point average of 3.75 or better. Honors are tentatively calculated by the last term attended prior to the end of the spring 2025 semester.

#### **β Beta Gamma Sigma**

A member inducted into Beta Gamma Sigma must have a grade point average of 3.75 or above and be ranked in the top 20 percent of the graduating master's class.

### *College Of Arts and Sciences*

#### **MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ACTUARIAL SCIENCE**

Lisa Marie Puglisi  
Carissa June Veit, *Honors*  
Signy Marie Heyd Weber, *Honors*  
Christine Kovach Whisler, *Honors*

### *College of Business*

#### **MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

Daniah Al Wakeel, *Honors*  
Tanner Bryon Alexander, *Honors*  
Ran Tianna Alix-Garth, *Honors*  
Diego Alvarez Santiago  
Benjamin Thomas Andrade, *Honors*  
David Michael Annunziata, *Honors*  
Andrea Lea Antinarelli  
Lucas Robert Ascoli  
Lillian Macey Auger  
Emilio Rafael Barbosa Martinez Alvarez  
Jennifer Barron  
Jeremy Billiel, *Honors*  
Samantha Sophie Borges  
Elisa Ann Boschetti, *Honors*  
Cameron Bowden  
Cagney Ann Boyle, *Honors*  
Alice Brigham  
Jennifer Brousseau, *Honors*, β  
Alex Daniel Burgjohann, *Honors*  
Jared Theodore Burrows, *Honors*  
Leslie Christine Bushey  
Jordan F. Cabral, *Honors*, β  
Melissa Alexandria Calise, *Honors*  
Peter John Calise  
Brett Edward Callahan  
Nickolas Scott Capela  
Sean D. Cartwright, *Honors*, β  
Samantha Mueller Centofante, *Honors*  
Connor Patrick Champlin, *Honors*  
Jason S. Clark

---

Jessica Marie Colalillo, *Honors*  
Christopher James Cormier, *Honors*  
Taylor Jean D'Anna, *Honors*  
Kelly L. Dean, *Honors*  
Evan Jonathan DeBassio  
Thomas C. Desrosiers, *Honors*  
Vaibhav Duggirala, *Honors*  
Vishwas Duggirala, *Honors*  
Andrew Joseph Dunn  
Tyler Robert Dupuis  
Katherine Lee Dustin  
Dr. Ewa M. Dźwierzynski, *Honors*  
Alejandro Echevarria, *Honors*  
Colin Evan Elliott, *Honors*,  $\beta$   
Brooks Ey  
Ana Filomena Falcone, *Honors*  
Dennis Charles Field, *Honors*,  $\beta$   
Denise Elaine Fillis, *Honors*  
Alexander G. Fox, *Honors*  
Tristan James Franchere  
Mauricio Garcia Campos, *Honors*  
Sage Michael Garito  
Nicholas Peter Glekas, *Honors*  
Jacob Ebright Goff, *Honors*  
Sydni Fallon Grossman, *Honors*  
Jarrett Neil Guest  
Antreas Hadjigavriel  
Jacob Robert Healy  
Siddharth Ajit Hingorani, *Honors*  
Kayla Marie Hodge, *Honors*,  $\beta$   
Kacee Jordan Hooker, *Honors*  
Adam James Horowitz  
Magielette Hudson, *Honors*  
Tyler Paul Hurlburt  
Mahdi Ali Hussein, *Honors*  
Alaiza Jal Irani  
Jose Ricardo Jimenez Cortes  
Mackenzie Hagan Kaut, *Honors*  
Cihan Kaya, *Honors*  
George H. Kennedy III, *Honors*  
Ethan M. Kmiecik, *Honors*,  $\beta$   
Allison Elizabeth Kostiw, *Honors*  
Brian Christopher Kostiw  
Killian O'Brien Lathrop

Ewelina A. Leja, *Honors*,  $\beta$   
Hanmo Lin  
Robert Lough, *Honors*  
William K. Ly, *Honors*  
Jessica Lyn Maffe, *Honors*  
Nicholas James Matthews, *Honors*  
Shane Patrick McDonald, *Honors*  
Robert Henry McFadden, *Honors*,  $\beta$   
Christian Andrew McLellan  
Andrew Daley McNaught, *Honors*  
Jorge H. Mejia, *Honors*  
Andrew George Mihailides,  
*Honors*,  $\beta$   
Sarah Margaret Monsini, *Honors*,  $\beta$   
Matthew Mordini, *Honors*  
Ahmed Abdullah Muhammad  
William Paul Mulgrew, *Honors*  
Morgan Frances Murray, *Honors*,  $\beta$   
Camden Peter Neddo, *Honors*  
Ariana Millitina Nieves, *Honors*  
Jimmie S. Norris  
Maranda Nyborg  
Max Hunter O'Connell, *Honors*  
Patrick O'Connor  
Christian A. Padova  
Collin Joseph Paquin, *Honors*  
Ian Edward Peck  
Michael J. Platek, *Honors*  
Jack Dylan Pletter  
Joshua Steven Porter  
Patricia A Rais-Keeley, *Honors*  
Sepehr Dean Raissi  
Diego Alberto Rodriguez, *Honors*  
Matthew Michael Roethlein  
Nathan John Roethlein  
Ayush Kumar Roy  
Kerri Leigh Rubino, *Honors*  
Andrew David Sayles, *Honors*  
Erik M. Schmidt  
Alexander Michael Seymour,  
*Honors*,  $\beta$   
Aden Joseph Silva, *Honors*,  $\beta$   
Benjamin Silver, *Honors*  
Nicholas Gene Simeone

Nina L. Singer  
Aman Inder Singh Sohi, *Honors*  
Megan Desjarlais St. Amant  
Amelia Sarah Stowell, *Honors*  
Ghulam Mustafa Surti, *Honors*  
Caitlin Elizabeth Sweeney  
Marc Daniel Taglieri Jr.  
Robert Eugene Tessier, *Honors*  
Carolina Tobon-Andreoni  
Nicholas Andrew Toepfer  
Gabriella Francis Traver, *Honors*,  $\beta$   
Meaghan Nadine Trayner, *Honors*  
Diego Nicolas Trejo  
Julia Marie Tricarico, *Honors*  
Nakia L. Tull, *Honors*  
Zachary Ryan Umans, *Honors*  
Jude Anthony Umunakwe  
Nicholas Morrow Vance  
Jonathan P. Varghese  
Henry Juban Watson  
Alexander James Whatley  
Jeffery Dwayne Woods Jr.  
Nayda Angelica Ya  
Bowen Yang  
Jeremy Albert Young  
Alexander Gregory Zacchio, *Honors*  
Paige Dominique Zuber-Weishaus

## MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ACCOUNTING

Emily Maura Blondin, *Honors*,  $\beta$   
Greyson John Boudreau  
Joseph Robert Chittum, *Honors*  
John Raymond Colafrancesco  
Shelby Ann DeGrenier  
Breanna Natalie Ferrell  
Evan John Fuller  
Yue Gao, *Honors*  
Steven Garafano Jr.  
Russell Adam Gaston Jr.  
Xiaobing Huang  
Olivia Sara Jankowski  
Jenna Tracy Kosoff

---

Weizhen Lai  
Matthew Nolan Lewitzky  
Christy K. Mak, *Honors*, B  
Elizabeth Ekaterini Marses,  
*Honors*  
Adam Matthew McDonagh  
John Anthony Nardolillo Jr.  
Paul Michael Newton  
Olufunmilola Esther Ogunsola  
Matthew Richard Rodrigues  
Emma Higgins Sears, *Honors*, B  
Ashley F. Siravo  
Christopher Kenneth Sprague,  
*Honors*  
Benjamin Richard Studholme  
Allyson Kaitlyn Tatro  
Albert James Tatton

**MASTER OF SCIENCE  
IN BUSINESS ANALYTICS**

Marilyn Maisy Nana Adwoa  
Adu-Awuah, *Honors*, B  
Filippo Censini  
Kaedric Avery Cobbs, *Honors*  
Vamsi Praneeth Gonugunta  
Deekshita Pamudurthi  
Sravya Pappu  
Praveen Kumar Suresh Kumar,  
*Honors*  
Daniel Jose Varela

**MASTER OF SCIENCE  
IN DATA SCIENCE**

Lesley Bencosme, *Honors*  
Katherine Farley  
Linga Prasad Kakanaboyana  
Sowjanya Kummari  
Luis Fernando Paul, *Honors*  
Alex James Rowson, *Honors*  
Jame Raymond Roy  
Margaret Kathleen Sikand, *Honors*  
Alexander James Slotter, *Honors*

**MASTER OF SCIENCE  
IN TAXATION**

Anays Mercedes Caceres  
Vincent Joseph Conti, *Honors*  
Frank Joseph DiRenzo Jr.  
Rebecca Claire McHugh  
John D. Morales, *Honors*  
Matthew David Smidt  
Kevin Vieira, *Honors*, B

*School of Health and  
Behavioral Sciences*

**MASTER OF SCIENCE IN  
HEALTHCARE INFORMATICS**

Hema Surya Adapa, *Honors*  
Vinil Reddy Ankavagari, *Honors*  
Sushma Arikilla  
Koushik Bojja, *Honors*  
Jonas Cervera Anchel, *Honors*  
Gopi Cherukuri, *Honors*  
Teja Bhargavi Chilukoti  
Uroš Djoković, *Honors*  
Rachel A. Girard, *Honors*  
Makayla Elizabeth Griffin, *Honors*  
Valerie Hartnett, *Honors*  
Swathika Kothmiri, *Honors*  
Gavin Noriega  
Mansiben Patel, *Honors*  
Yuvaraj Naik Pathlavath, *Honors*  
Pradeep Rayapally, *Honors*  
Mark Anthony Scamardella, Jr.  
Dhanush Shamala, *Honors*  
Sasikala Yaparla  
Pranavi Yerram, *Honors*



## HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT

---

### *Martha L. Wofford*

#### HONORARY DOCTORATE IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION



Martha L. Wofford is the 8th President and CEO of Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island, the leading health plan in the Ocean State.

Martha came to Blue Cross from DaVita, where she led the company's commercial value-based care division. Ms. Wofford also oversaw patient experience and patient education at DaVita's 2,800 dialysis clinics nationwide and led a joint venture between Health Care Partners and Centura Health.

Prior to joining DaVita, Martha worked at Aetna for a decade in various leadership roles. She led the company's digital effort to help consumers navigate the healthcare system; helped start up Aetna's Medicare

Advantage and Prescription Drug Plan business; built and ran Aetna's national direct-to-consumer sales capability; and served as the general manager for the Northeast Region.

Ms. Wofford was a consultant with Booz Allen Hamilton from 2000 to 2005, focusing on growth strategies in healthcare and media. She served in the Clinton Administration for more than six years in communications and legislative positions in The White House, the U.S. Agency for International Development, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Martha earned her MBA from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University, where she focused on strategy and managerial economics. She received a BA in history from Swarthmore College and was a three-sport athlete, earning twelve varsity letters.

Martha serves on the boards of directors of the Blue Cross & Blue Shield Association, Prime Therapeutics, and Synergie Medication Collective. She is a co-chair of the Aspen Group, a non-partisan group of healthcare leaders dedicated to developing and promoting meaningful solutions that advance the health and healthcare of all Americans. Martha also serves on the Healthcare at Kellogg Advisory Council and as the Vice Chair of the Kellogg Alumni Council. She is also on the board of the Rhode Island Community Food Bank.

---

### THE HARRIET E. JACOBS MEMORIAL MACE

The University Mace is carried at Commencement exercises and at other University celebrations. Crowned in gold, the mace has two dominant emblems: the seal of the State of Rhode Island and the seal of Bryant University.

### THE PRESIDENT'S CHAIR

The President's Chair, a gift to the University from Priscilla Angelo and her husband, John Eng-Wong, is used on ceremonial occasions. It is a Victorian-style chair rendered in walnut and copied from an original French design from the period of the University's founding in 1863. The carved crest top includes the Bryant University bronze seal.

### BRYANT MEDALLION

The Bryant Medallion is worn by the president during academic ceremonies such as Commencement, Convocation, and the bestowing of honorary degrees. One side of the medallion bears a likeness of the University seal, the other, the names of all Bryant University presidents. The formal installation of a president is marked by the presentation of the medallion to the president by the chair of the Board of Trustees.

### THE BRYANT SEAL

The Bryant Seal represents the educational mission of the University and its worldwide implications. The central symbol is an ellipsoid globe with quills on each side to signify the traditional emblem of communication in business. In the center, behind the globe, is a torch symbolizing liberty, the spirit of free inquiry, academic freedom, and learning. The Archway, forming the background for the globe, torch, and quills, is a University landmark affectionately remembered by thousands of alumni. The Latin motto expresses the purpose of the University: "Cognitio. Virtus. Successus." – Knowledge. Character. Success.

## ACADEMIC HERALDRY

---

The history of academic dress worn today dates back to the universities of the Middle Ages. A statute in 1321 required the wearing of gowns by all scholars and clerics. Probably, the warm gown and hood were practical in the unheated buildings.

Students at most American universities wore caps and gowns daily while in residence until after the Civil War. These varied in design until they were standardized by the American Intercollegiate Commission in 1895. While the academic costume code has been modified over the years, the general characteristics of the initial requirements still prevail. The uniform system of academic heraldry serves to indicate the level of degree, the field of study in which it was earned, and the institution by which it was granted.

The gown for the bachelor's degree has pointed sleeves and is designed to be worn closed. The gown for the master's degree has an oblong sleeve and can be worn open or closed. The gown for the doctoral degree has bell-shaped sleeves with black velvet facing down the front and three bars of the same across the sleeves. However, these facings and crossbars may be in the color distinctive to the subject to which the degree pertains.

The academic hoods are lined with the color of the university granting the degree. The length of the hood varies slightly for bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees. It is often traditional for the candidates for degrees to wear the mortarboard tassel on the right front side before the degree is conferred and to shift it to the left when the degree is awarded.

At Bryant University, the president, trustees, and honorary degree recipients wear specially-designed gold robes trimmed with black, representative of the University's colors.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

---

### CHAIR OF THE BOARD

D. Ellen Wilson '79, Executive Vice President (Retired), UnitedHealth Group

### VICE-CHAIR OF THE BOARD

Joseph F. Puishys '80, Chairman of the Board, SitelogIQ

### SECRETARY OF THE BOARD

Nancy DeViney '75, Vice President, Strategy and Solutions, Sales & Distribution (Retired), IBM Corporation

### MEMBERS

Kim Anderson '22H, Founder, EverHope Capital; Creator and Co-Founder, Plant City

Tim Barton '85, Managing Partner, Barton Muhammad Search, Inc.

David M. Beirne '85, General Partner, X10 Capital

George E. Bello '58, '96H, Executive Vice President and Controller (Retired), Reliance Group Holdings, Inc.

P. James Brady, CPA '81, Executive, Madison Dearborn Partners

Alexia Brandao '24, (Recent Alumni Trustee), Asset and Wealth Management Analyst, Goldman Sachs

Robert J. Calabro '88, Partner, PwC

Erin D. Champlin '85, Senior Vice President of People Experiences (Retired), Humana

William J. Conaty '67, '22H, Senior Vice President, Corporate Human Resources (Retired),  
General Electric Company

Julia Di Natale '22, (Recent Alumni Trustee), MAS Onboarding and Portfolio Change Management Analyst,  
Goldman Sachs

Scott C. Donnelly '14H, Chairman and CEO, Textron, Inc.

Jaime L. Eichen, CPA '98, Partner, Ernst & Young, LLP

Sharon Garavel '85, Managing Director, Operations Executive (Retired), JP Morgan Chase & Co.

Ross Gittell, Ph.D, President, Bryant University

Eric Handa '97, President and CEO, APTelecom LLC

Ann-Marie Harrington '86, Advisor, Investor, Consultant

Frank Hauck '81, P'08, President and General Manager, Banking (Retired), NCR Corporation

Christine Katziff '86, Chief Audit Executive (Retired), Bank of America

Diane A. Kazarian '83, Managing Partner, GTA (Retired), PwC

Beverly Ledbetter '18H, Senior Counsel (Retired), Brown University

Gregory S. Lyden '82, Principal, GSL Realty Advisory Services LLC

Kristian P. Moor '81, P'17, President and CEO (Retired), Chartis Insurance Company

Patricia O'Brien P'15, VP and Associate Provost for Academic Budgets & Planning, Boston University

Donald Quattrucci '83, P'16, President, Marketing (Retired), BNY Mellon Wealth Management

Daniel J. Rice IV '03, CEO, NET Power

James V. Rosati '72, President and CEO (Retired), Beacon Mutual Insurance Co.

Cynthia Schmitt-Sprinkle '81, CFO (Retired), Pitney Bowes, Inc.; Consultant, Advisory Services

David Sorbaro '85, Co-CEO, Mavis Tire Express Services Corporation

Frank Stasiowski FAIA '75 MBA, Founding Owner, President and CEO, PSMJ Resources

Margaret M. Van Bree, MHA, Dr.PH., President, VanBree Consulting

Raul Villar, Jr. '89, CEO, Paycor

Scott C. Voss '92, P'25, Managing Director, Harbourvest Partners

Jake Williams '23, (Recent Alumni Trustee), Investment Analyst, Investment Banking Program,  
John Hancock/Manulife

Rita Williams-Bogar '76, Founder, President and CEO, Personal Development Solutions, LLC,  
and the PDS Institute, LLC

## COMMENCEMENT COMMITTEE

---

### PRIMARY CO-CHAIR

**Nicole Beauregard**, Senior Director, University Events & Conference Services

### CO-CHAIRS

**Lindsay Amper, Ph.D.**, Lecturer of Psychology, School of Health and Behavioral Sciences

**Carrie Kell, M.Ed.**, Lecturer of History, Literature, and the Arts, College of Arts & Sciences

**Sonal Kumar, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Finance, College of Business

### MEMBERS

**Todd Alessandri, Ph.D.**, Dean, College of Business

**Victoria Atkins**, Senior Assistant to the President and Board of Trustees

**Stephen Bannon**, Assistant Vice President of Public Safety & Transportation

**Jeffrey Chandler**, Media Services Analyst

**Alex Cole**, Executive Director, Graduate and Professional Education

**Paul Deary**, Assistant Director of Public Safety & Patrol

**Melissa Desmarais**, Administrative Assistant to the Chief Marketing Officer

**Rebecca Eriksen**, Director of Campus Visit Experience

**Liza Gentile**, Senior Director, Alumni & Parent Engagement

**Kirsten Hokeness, Ph.D.**, Director, School of Health & Behavioral Sciences

**Monica Houde**, Associate Registrar

**Drew Hutchinson**, Director, Student Activities

**Kim Keyes**, Senior Assistant Director of Graduate Operations

**Christina Kochan**, Administrative Assistant to the Provost

**Lisa Laliberte**, Senior Project Manager

**Sarah Linker**, Senior Associate Director, Executive Communications

**Philip Lombardi**, Director, Academic Computing and Lab Technology

**Veronica McComb, Ph.D.**, Dean, College of Arts & Sciences

**Betin Robichaud**, Registrar

**John Ruppert**, Deputy Director of Athletics

**Scott Sargent**, Director of Facilities

**Stan Stowik**, Director, Bryant University Bookstore

