

# Commencement

SUMMER / FALL SEMESTER 2023



**PENN STATE ABINGTON**

December 15, 2023



**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!

# To Our Graduates and Guests

## Ceremony Notes

We welcome you to the summer/fall 2023 commencement exercises for the Abington College of The Pennsylvania State University, instituted July 1, 1997. Because of this distinction, the Abington College is permitted to award its own degrees as reflected in this program. Students from other colleges within Penn State may have elected to process at Abington College's commencement, but their diplomas reflect their colleges at University Park or other locations.

Commencement exercises at the various locations of the University were instituted in 1971 for candidates for the associate degree. Candidates for the baccalaureate degree have been able to receive their diplomas at commencement exercises at a location other than University Park since 1976.

As commencement is the solemn but joyful climax of the graduates' years of study, it is an important and meaningful occasion to the University, its students, faculty, and staff. In keeping with this feeling, guests and participants are requested to avoid unnecessary conversation or moving about during the exercises. Only authorized press and University photographers are permitted in the aisles to take pictures while the exercises are in progress. Family and friends of the graduates may take photos during the ceremony but are asked to do so from their seats.

Pages 2–6 of this program are correct as of the December 12, 2023, publication date. If you have a question about a name, degree, or distinction listed, please contact the Office of Strategic Communications and Community Engagement at [pds13@psu.edu](mailto:pds13@psu.edu).

## About Penn State Abington

The Abington College of the Pennsylvania State University was formerly the site of The Ogontz School and Junior College. In 1950, when the historic girls' school had concluded its 100th academic year, the grounds, original buildings, and library were given to The Pennsylvania State University by the late Abby A. Sutherland, owner and principal.

The new Ogontz Center of Penn State opened in September 1950 with 225 students. An equal number of students continued at the previously established Swarthmore Center, which was discontinued in 1951. In order to better reflect its position in the community, Penn State Ogontz was renamed Penn State Abington-Ogontz in 1995.

Beginning July 1, 1997, upon completion of its forty-sixth academic year, the Abington-Ogontz campus became Penn State Abington College. As a degree-granting college, it continues its commitment to the land-grant concept of providing practical and liberal education in response to the needs of the citizens of the Commonwealth.

Penn State Abington currently enrolls 3,095 students in credit courses, principally from Philadelphia, Montgomery, and Bucks counties, who are served by 157 full-time and 131 part-time faculty members. Both baccalaureate and associate degree programs can be completed through the Abington College.

## About Penn State University

Chartered in 1855 as the Farmers' High School, Penn State opened in 1859 with a faculty of four teaching sixty-nine students, eleven of whom graduated in 1861. In 1862, Abraham Lincoln signed the Morrill Land-Grant Act, offering each state free public land for a college where "the leading objectives shall be to teach . . . agriculture and the mechanic arts in order to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes. . . ." Renamed the Agricultural College of Pennsylvania, in 1863 Penn State was designated Pennsylvania's land-grant institution by the Legislature of the Commonwealth. From that beginning, Penn State has grown to be a distinguished university of 88,116 students with a full-time faculty of 6,396 at twenty-four locations and online.

Growth was rapid after the Civil War. In 1871, the first women were admitted. In 1874, the name was changed to the Pennsylvania State College. Curricula were added, the college was reorganized into schools, and new buildings were erected. In 1953, Penn State's name was changed to The Pennsylvania State University in formal recognition of what it long since had become—one of the leading universities of the nation.

As the land-grant institution of Pennsylvania, Penn State has developed a complex of statewide facilities and services to fulfill its mandate to provide education for the citizens of the Commonwealth "at times and places convenient to them." The extensive development of the statewide system of Penn State locations has enabled the University to offer a wide range of needed services—not only to the young, but also to a growing number of adults seeking continuing education.

Major research projects are conducted in each of the academic colleges of the University and its intercollege research institutes, centers, and laboratories. Research and development expenditures totaled \$1.239 billion in 2022–2023.

The University has conferred more than 950,000 degrees since its founding. Of the living alumni, 395,630 live and work in Pennsylvania. The Penn State Alumni Association—a powerful network of 174,200 members—is the largest dues-paying alumni association in the world.

# Program

## **Academic Processional**

Please rise, if you are able

*Pomp and Circumstance*, Sir Edward Elgar

## **National Anthem**

Please remain standing,  
if you are able

Members of the Penn State Abington Choir  
*The Star Spangled Banner*, Francis Scott Key

## **Welcome and Recognition of Marshals**

Andrew August, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.  
Interim Chancellor

## **Commencement Address**

The Honorable Madeleine Dean  
U.S. Representative, Pennsylvania's 4th Congressional District

## **Conferring of Degrees**

Dr. August

### **Associate and Baccalaureate Degrees**

Nicole Stokes, B.A., B.S., M.A., M.P.S., Ph.D.  
Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

## **Special Recognition**

### **Recognition of Honors Group**

Dr. Stokes

### **Presentation of Pennsylvania Legislative Citation**

Dr. August

## **Welcome to the Alumni Association**

Leilani Fox, B.A., '04  
President, Penn State Abington Alumni Society Board

## **Alma Mater**

Please rise, if you are able

Members of the Penn State Abington Choir

## **Recessional**

Please rise and remain standing,  
if you are able

*Trumpet Voluntary*, Henry Purcell

# Academic Processional

## Abington College Marshal

Judith Ozment, B.S., Ph.D.  
Associate Professor of Chemistry  
Chair, Abington College Faculty Senate

## Student Marshals

Camile Infante  
Alysse Tucker

## Faculty Marshals

Friederike Baer, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.  
Associate Professor of History  
Division Head for Arts and Humanities

Michael Bernstein, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.  
Professor of Psychology  
Interim Division Head for Social Sciences, Business, and Education

Matthew Fury, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.  
Professor of Mathematics  
Division Head for Science and Engineering

# Candidates for Associate Degrees

## Associate in Arts

### ABINGTON COLLEGE

Dara Alston                      Daniel Hardcastle                      Joanna Texidor

## Associate in Science

### ABINGTON COLLEGE

Todd Cline                      Jeena Patel                      John Yoffee

### ALTOONA COLLEGE

Jeremy Stevenson

# Candidates for Baccalaureate Degrees

## Bachelor of Arts

### ABINGTON COLLEGE

Hussein Al-Abyad	Emma De Mey	Sthasy Guerrero	Emma Mason
Matthew Behrle	Shanell Dozier	Siearra Hutchinson	Ivory Matthews
Samuel Carper	Michael Duell	Helga Imaku	Melissa McKinley
Emily Chan	Melissa Feilen	Kristine Kilcoyne	Sydney Moody
Deon Cryor	Andrew Finney	Aja Kreider-Lane	Alanna Moore
Miley Davila Delbrey	Tyler Gilmore	Alan Kuzmenko	Julia Nagielska

Subject to completion of all degree requirements, degrees will be conferred as indicated upon the individuals listed herein and upon such others as may meet the requirements.

## Bachelor of Arts (continued)

### ABINGTON COLLEGE (CONTINUED)

Colin Patton	Amy Posada	Alexander Salata III	Neeyah Turner
Michael Pham	Brian Randolph III	Rosa Sanchez	Isabella Vazquez
Paige Pitcairn	Patrick Reynolds	Megan Staeb	Jenna Waclawski
Persis Pochara	Catherine Sabatini	Fernando Trejo	Youssef Yakmour

### COLLEGE OF THE LIBERAL ARTS

Nicholas Gehman

## Bachelor of Science

### ABINGTON COLLEGE

Hadel Abuali	Jason Dasch	Howard Jiang	Kevin Mirales
Jwan Adel	Darren Deeck	Stephen John	Leena Misra
Selva Adel	Brianna Dejesus	Katrice Johnson	Kaher Motan
Amadin Ahmed	Gabrielle DiBernardino	Smit Joshi	William Murray
Abdullah Aldghim	Nicholas Dinofa	Olga Karpachev	Nina Nguyen
Jawad Ali	Angelo DiSandro	Jason Keen	Gabriel Nulman
Anthony Altimari	Anthony Ditri	James Kehan III	Darshan Patel
Chandler Alvarez	Marcus Donaldson	Isaac Kennon IV	Dhruvilkumar Patel
Matthew Assali	Bohan Dong	Tin Khuu	Priya Patel
Sara Becker	Matthew Duplessis	Cristo Kolathu	Samarth Patel
John Biletz	Kaylee Esbensen	Andrew Kozempel	Shiv Patel
Gerald Brady Jr.	Thomas Esbensen	Navdeep Kumar	Shivani Patel
Kenneth Branford III	Audrey Fefeti	Norsang Lama	Jasmine Perez
Mathias Burdumi	Matthew Finn	Hieu Le	Alexa Piker
Christian Butler	Colin Foster	Grant Leiby	Ashbel Pious
Edward Cahoe	Ronald Gabor Jr.	Tyler Leiby	Haley Pomponio
Cristina Camacho	Brennan Gage	Mya Lepard	Stephen Pons
Jenna Carp	Timothy Gardner	Kayla Lopez	Maria Preobrajenskaya
Emily Carpenter	Chad Giardinelli Jr.	Tamara Lopez	Arsino Prendi
Shawn Chey	Scott Gill	Nicholas Lydon	Rachael Prokopowycz
Audrita Chowdhury	Marcus Gonzalez	Mariam Makadji	Mahfuzur Rahman
Noah Clark	Evan Green	Giancarlo Mandarano	Naima Rahman
Tyler Cole	Anaiya Harvey	Bianka Maradiaga Bonilla	Kelly Rearick
Cheyenne Cooper	Heather Hoensch	Orlando Martinez Diaz	Ryan Rinkus
William Cosgrove III	Zachary Hollenbach	Thomas Matthews	Victor Roman
Diana Crowley	Joseph Horton	Patrick McCallum	Tinatin Sadzaglishvili
Shannon Cummins	MD Hossain	Madalyn McCann	Danaysi Salazar
Ian Cunningham	Camile Infante	Liam McGovern	Angi Sayid
Thomas Curran	Michael Janoski Jr.	Nikhil Mehta	Brandon Schaffer
Deise Da Paz Silva	Jose Jeronimo-Maravilla	Jacob Miller	Matthew Schmidt

Subject to completion of all degree requirements, degrees will be conferred as indicated upon the individuals listed herein and upon such others as may meet the requirements.

## Bachelor of Science (continued)

### ABINGTON COLLEGE (CONTINUED)

Hansi Seitaj	Jacqueline Stoudt	William Trimble II	Summer Widgins
Jarron Shaffer	Alexander Stranzl	Alysse Tucker	Michael Widgins-Brown
Julianna Slover	Sharier Suvo	Brendan VanDeVen	Mishama Willson
Avinash Sookram	Damara Tabarez	Eni Vejseli	Tyshelle Wynne-Roye
Tyler Sowden	Brandon Taing	Chanrath Voeun	Aaron Yuan
Patrick Stofan	Katelin Thai	Brandon Whitman-Orlin	

### BEHREND COLLEGE

Victoria Arapakos

### CAPITAL COLLEGE

Tiyanna Alexander      Jessica Wynn

### COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

Samantha Cheese-Thompson

### COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Molly Carney

### COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Christian Flynn

### COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Kelli Reynolds      Kayla Whelan

### COLLEGE OF INFORMATION SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY

Andrew Caratello      Elyas Hagos      Heyi Xu

### COLLEGE OF THE LIBERAL ARTS

Jennifer Adams      Rahi Patel

### EBERLY COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

John Guirguis

### INTERCOLLEGE

Melanie Werner

### UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Karim Moukrem

### ROSS AND CAROL NESE COLLEGE OF NURSING

Maureen Gainey      Illette Jackson      Alyssa Meuleners      Tenzin Yonten

Subject to completion of all degree requirements, degrees will be conferred as indicated upon the individuals listed herein and upon such others as may meet the requirements.

# Special Recognition

## Honors Group

This group is made up of those students who have completed the required number of credits at the University and who are in the top 12 percent of their graduating class in their college. The 12 percent is divided into 2 percent "summa cum laude," 4 percent "magna cum laude," and 6 percent "cum laude." A student's distinction level is determined on the final cumulative grade point average in the semester in which the degree is conferred. Subject to completion of all degree requirements and satisfaction of minimum criteria, distinction may be conferred as indicated upon the individuals listed herein and upon such others as may meet the requirements.

### SUMMA CUM LAUDE

Camile Infante	Tinatin Sadzaglishvili	Alysse Tucker
Mahfuzur Rahman	Hansi Seitaj	

### MAGNA CUM LAUDE

Jawad Ali	Olga Karpachev	Samarth Patel	Haley Pomponio
Timothy Gardner	Aja Kreider-Lane	Paige Pitcairn	Sharier Suvo

### CUM LAUDE

Jason Dasch	Alyssa Meuleners	Alexa Piker	Maria Preobrajenskaya
Andrew Kozempel	Jacob Miller	Persis Pochara	
Grant Leiby	Julia Nagielska	Amy Posada	



# Board of Trustees

## MEMBERS EX OFFICIO

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<b>Khalid N. Mumin</b>	Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Education
<b>Russell C. Redding</b>	Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

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## IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT, ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Kelley M. Lynch

## GOVERNOR'S NON-VOTING REPRESENTATIVE

Evan A. Myers

# Leadership

## Pennsylvania State University

**President** Neeli Bendapudi, B.A., M.B.A., Ph.D.

**Executive Vice President  
and Provost** Justin Schwartz, B.S., Ph.D.

## Abington College

**Interim Chancellor** Andrew August, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.

**Academic Affairs** Nicole Stokes, B.A., B.S., M.A., M.P.S., Ph.D.  
Interim Vice Chancellor

**Athletics** Erin Foley, B.S., M.Ed.  
Director

**Business Operations** Theresa Giardino, B.A.  
Director

**Continuing Education** Christine Cicio, B.A., M.P.A.  
Director

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Alumni Relations** Karen Weiss Jones, B.A.  
Director

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and Retention** Whitney Arjun, B.A., M.S., Ed.D.  
Director

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Director

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Financial Officer

**Human Resources** Melinda Kennedy, B.A., M.Ed.  
Regional Strategic Partner

**Inclusive Excellence** Boni Wozolek, B.A., M.A.T., Ph.D.  
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Director

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Director

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and Community Engagement** Patrick Dunne, B.A.  
Director

**Student Affairs** Gina D'Amato-Kaufman, B.A., M.S.  
Director

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**Advisory Board** Lynda Williams, B.S., M.S., Ph.D.  
Chair



## 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 Services 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.

#### NETWORKING AND EVENTS



Make new **connections**, reconnect with classmates and friends, have **new experiences**, and be enriched by participating in the world's largest **alumni network**.

#### DISCOUNTS



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

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



**PennState**  
Abington