

# Commencement

FALL 2023

Saturday, December 16, 2023

Santander Arena



**PennState**  
Berks

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHANCELLOR

On behalf of the faculty, staff, and administration at Penn State Berks, it is my great honor to congratulate our 2023 Summer and Fall graduates.

The day you have been waiting for has finally arrived. Commencement is a significant milestone and a time of hope and excitement for the future. Take some time to celebrate your accomplishments with those who have believed in you and supported you along the way. Through determination and resilience, you have transformed and grown in many ways during your time at Penn State Berks. Now is the time to believe in yourself and have confidence in your knowledge and abilities.

It has been our privilege to help educate and guide you in preparation for your next adventure, whether it's beginning your career journey, pursuing entrepreneurial opportunities, or continuing your education. For some of you, the future may seem uncertain. No matter what path you to take, remember to pursue your passions and be open to new possibilities.

Now, as a new member of another Penn State community, you join more than 750,000 Penn State alumni around the state, nation, and world. I encourage you to remain connected to your Penn State Berks family in some way; we will be excited to hear from you, to welcome you back to the campus, and to learn about your accomplishments.

Thank you for the time you have spent as a member of the Penn State Berks community and for your contributions to the campus. Each and every one of you has made a lasting impression on the college.

As Penn State Berks alumni, you represent the future and you have the power to create a better, more sustainable world. We wish you continued success.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Radha Pyati". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Radha" and last name "Pyati" clearly distinguishable.

Dr. Radha Pyati, Chancellor

# COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM

## **PROCESSIONAL\***

Dr. Randall Newnham '88, College Marshal, Professor of Political Science  
Arizona Shreck, B.S. in Kinesiology; Fall 2023 Student Marshal

## **OPENING PROCLAMATION**

Dr. Lorena Tribe, Faculty Senate Chair, Associate Professor of Chemistry  
*Stage Assembly (Left to Right): Kevin Tobias, President, Penn State Berks Alumni Society; Nicol Varona Cancelmo and Cory Varona-Corniel, Commencement Speakers; Donald Cairns, Member, Board of Trustees; Dr. Radha Pyati, Chancellor; Dr. Lorena Tribe, Faculty Senate Chair; Dr. Pradip Bandyopadhyay, Science Division Head; Dr. Belén Rodríguez-Mourelo, Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences Division Head; Dr. Janelle Larson, Engineering, Business and Computing Division Head; Dr. Todd Migliaccio, Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Office*

## **NATIONAL ANTHEM\***

Performed by the Penn State Berks Choir, directed by Dr. David McConnell

## **PRESIDING AND GREETINGS**

Dr. Radha Pyati, Chancellor

## **“BUILDING A HOME WHEREVER YOU GO”**

Arizona Shreck, Student Marshal

## **COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS**

Cory Varona-Corniel '11, '18 and Nicol Varona Cancelmo '13, Cofounders of OCOA™ Beauty, Penn State Berks Alumni

## **TRUSTEE REMARKS**

Donald Cairns '88, Member, Board of Trustees

## **CONFERRING DEGREES**

Dr. Todd Migliaccio, Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer

## **AUTHORIZING CONFERRING DEGREES**

Dr. Radha Pyati

## **PRESENTING ASSOCIATE AND BACCALAUREATE DEGREE CANDIDATES**

Dr. Michele Ramsey, Associate Professor of Communication Arts and Sciences;

Presenting Division of Humanities, Arts and Social Studies

Dr. Pauline Milwood, Associate Professor of Hospitality Management;

Presenting Division of Engineering, Business and Computing

Dr. César Martínez-Garza, Associate Professor of Mathematics;

Presenting Division of Science

## **INDUCTION INTO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

Kevin Tobias '86, President, Penn State Berks Alumni Society

## **CLOSING REMARKS**

Dr. Radha Pyati

## **ALMA MATER\***

Performed by the Penn State Berks Choir, directed by Dr. David McConnell

## **RECESSIONAL\***

Stage Assembly and Graduates

\*Audience please stand.

Sign Language Interpreter:  
Nancy Abreu, NIC  
RID, Nationally Certified  
PA State Registered

# COMMENCEMENT SPEAKERS

## **Cory Varona-Corniel and Nicol Varona Cancelmo**

### **Cofounders of OCOA™ and Penn State Berks alumni**

When sisters Cory Varona-Corniel and Nicol Varona Cancelmo were growing up in the Dominican Republic, they were taught that their natural curly hair was “pelo malo” or bad hair. It wasn’t until they moved to the United States that they learned to truly embrace their natural beauty and curls. That’s when they took matters into their own hands and founded OCOA™, a high-end curly hair care line for the confident Latina inspired by the beauty of the Dominican Republic.

Their journey to create OCOA™ began in 2018 when Cory became certified as a natural formulator and developed the first base for their products, while Nicol helped to test them.

According to the OCOA™ website, their purpose is to honor curly-haired Latina women, while helping them to find confidence in their authentic natural beauty by using high-end, clean, minimal ingredients from their homeland and their culture.

Both sisters are Reading High School and Penn State Berks alumni: Cory graduated with a B.S. in business with a finance and accounting concentration, and she went on to earn an MBA with a concentration in finance at Penn State Great Valley. She is the CEO of OCOA™. Nicol earned a B.S. in business with a marketing concentration and a minor in Spanish in 2013 and went on to earn her social media certification from Georgetown University. She is the CMO of OCOA™ and she is also employed as a Marketing Manager at SEI.

The sisters have been recognized with the 2023 Berks County Latino Chamber Young Entrepreneurship Award. They are also 2023 Black Ambition Top 50 Finalists, 2023 Square Forward Scholars and part of the Amika x SoGal Rooted in Growth 2023 Cohort. In addition, they are alumni of the Digital Undivided – Philadelphia Breakthrough 2022 Cohort and the Credo for Change 2022 Cohort.

The sisters successfully juggle career, marriage and caring for young children with founding a successful company.

# FALL 2023 GRADUATES

## CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

### PRACTICAL NURSING

Hayle Bainbridge	Amanda Brettman	Alexandra Carpousis
Mamadou Diallo	Brittany Eisenberg	LaTasha Ellison
Michelle Getzfread	Yarilyn Helena	Breanna Landis
Chenise Morel	Isis Pichardo	Jaylynn Rivera
Jamie Seip	Nicole Straka	Auden Taylor
Karren Wenrich	Emiley Witman	Rachel Wollyung

## ASSOCIATE DEGREES

### DIVISION OF ENGINEERING, BUSINESS, AND COMPUTING

### ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE IN INFORMATION SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY

Noah Renner

### DIVISION OF SCIENCE

### ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Abrionna Ackley	Aubrie Bollinger **	Courtney Bolton **
Lillian Byrd	Jaclyn Fulford **	Megan Kenny
Karen Hope Lewis **	Katie Malone	Nicollette Moratori *
Olivia Sheridan	Kristina Valera	Karie Wagner

# BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

DIVISION OF HUMANITIES, ARTS, AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

## **BACHELOR OF ARTS IN COMMUNICATION ARTS AND SCIENCES**

Nathanael Fay

Cory Novik

Alexandria O'Neill

Patrick Warker

## **BACHELOR OF ARTS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

Brandon Pena Dominguez

## **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

Bailey Fanaro

Nautica Giraud

Carlos Luciano

Jared Moore

## **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ELEMENTARY AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**

Courtney Wilkes

# BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

DIVISION OF HUMANITIES, ARTS, AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

## **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP**

Gerson Guevara

Christopher Stachnik

## **BACHELOR OF ARTS IN PSYCHOLOGY**

Autumn Albert

Arianna Cruz

Troy Dietrich

Jennifer Honorat

## **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN REHABILITATION AND HUMAN SERVICES**

Nivia McNeil

Alicia Smith

## **BACHELOR OF ARTS IN WRITING AND DIGITAL MEDIA**

Michael McLaughlin

# BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

## DIVISION OF ENGINEERING, BUSINESS, AND COMPUTING

### **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ACCOUNTING**

Andrew Benek

Luke Cable

Mercedezs Espin

Bryan Mercado Irizarry

Phuc Tran

### **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BUSINESS**

Angelica Batista Bautista

Daniel Bernard Jr.

Angelina Boone

Donnez Brown

Colin Bunn

Andrew DiBiase

Ashley Dierolf

Duyen Ha

Jared Hart

Melinda Kurtis

Jeffrey Lorah Jr.

Bryan Meader

Andrew Myers

Ali Mohamed

Duc Nguyen

Adam Nordhoy

Erasmil Rodriguez

Liam Savarese

Ahmed Tarek Taher

Bryan Vanho

Michael Waters

### **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN CYBERSECURITY ANALYTICS AND OPERATIONS**

Timour Almakaev

Cameron Cranos

John McGee

Bryan Metz

Kyle Myer \*\*

Gordon Shaw \*\*

# BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

DIVISION OF ENGINEERING, BUSINESS, AND COMPUTING

## **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ELECTRO-MECHANICAL ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY**

Ghanem Achi

Jonathon Breneman

Lisa Brightbill

Cody Degler

Molly Kellom

Joziah Matos

Gennaro Mazzella-DiBosco

Zachary Rex

Nicolas Romero

Briana Samanns

Jesica Vargas

## **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT**

Patrick Hera

Amy Yu

## **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN INFORMATION SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY**

Ryan Breslin

Eric Granados

## **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

Ryan Flemm

Bryan Harms

Tristyn Hora

# BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

DIVISION OF ENGINEERING, BUSINESS, AND COMPUTING

## **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING**

William Parker

## **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN SECURITY AND RISK ANALYSIS**

Ryan Breslin

DIVISION OF SCIENCE

## **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BIOCHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY**

Eve Gibbs

Evan Graham

Keya Patel

## **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BIOLOGY**

Madeline Doll

Annalise Igyarto

Nelly Perez

Lyla Spencer

Jacob Viyuoh

Nathan Wessner

Kyle Yang

# BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

## DIVISION OF SCIENCE

### **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN KINESIOLOGY**

Diego Carbajal

Zachary Leshko

Arizona Shreck \*\*\*

Dylan Crosson

Jared Schwarz

Joshua Swift

Jason Deery Jr.

Madison Seidel

Jeffrey Weidner

### **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN SCIENCE**

Shirley Dilone

Amelia Menet

Hollie Williard

Chelsea Owens

# CANDIDATES FROM OTHER CAMPUSES

## **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BIOBEHAVIORAL HEALTH**

**LEHIGH VALLEY CAMPUS**

Malak Malak

## **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BUSINESS**

**LEHIGH VALLEY CAMPUS**

Lara Abdelahad \*\*

## **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN CHEMISTRY**

**UNIVERSITY PARK**

Hannah Jacobs

## **BACHELOR OF ARTS IN CORPORATE COMMUNICATION**

**LEHIGH VALLEY CAMPUS**

Tiffani Blevins

## **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

**SCHUYLKILL CAMPUS**

Krista Sausser

# CANDIDATES FROM OTHER CAMPUSES

## **BACHELOR OF ARTS IN LAW AND SOCIETY**

**WORLD CAMPUS**

Jamie Franklin

## **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN PSYCHOLOGY**

**SCHUYLKILL CAMPUS**

Sierra Brossman

## **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN REHAB AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**LEHIGH VALLEY CAMPUS**

Isaury Santo Estrella

## **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN SCIENCE**

**UNIVERSITY PARK**

Angela Haake

# PROGRAM NOTES

Congratulations on your achievements!

The information in this document was produced on October 4, 2023, as an unofficial list of students who indicated intent to graduate for the 2023 fall commencement. Students who indicated their intent to graduate after that date are not listed on the printed program, however they will be found on the digital copy through the QR code below.

**ASSOCIATE DEGREE:** The associate degrees granted by the University emphasize a liberal, professional, or scientific education and are conferred upon satisfactory completion of four semesters of study.

**BACCALAUREATE DEGREE:** The baccalaureate degrees granted by the University emphasize a liberal, professional, or scientific education and are conferred upon satisfactory completion of eight semesters of study.

**CANDIDATES FOR DISTINCTION:** Pre-Distinction was determined as of October 4, 2023.

\* Candidates for Cum Laude

\*\* Candidates for Magna Cum Laude

\*\*\* Candidates for Summa Cum Laude

“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.”

If you have question about your name, degree, or distinction listed in this program, please reach out to the Penn State Berks Registrar Office at [bk-registrar@psu.edu](mailto:bk-registrar@psu.edu).

## Photography

GradImages, a professional photographer of college and high school graduations, will be present at the ceremony. They will take photos of each graduate as they cross the stage. Students will be asked to complete a GradImages information card with their names, Penn State email addresses (valid for 6 months after graduation), and other contact information. Photo proofs will be available to graduates within 3-5 days following the ceremony. GradImages will send the proofs via USPS, email, and/or text based on the contact information they have received from each graduate.

## Digital Program

For those who would like a digital copy of the commencement program, please scan the QR code below.





**PennState**  
Berks

#PSUGrad  
#PSUBerks2023



**@PennStateBerks**

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 the Affirmative Action Office, The Pennsylvania State University, 328 Boucke Building, University Park, PA 16802-5901, Email: [aao@psu.edu](mailto:aao@psu.edu), Tel (814) 863-0471.

BKO U.Ed 24-27

