4-24-2021

Utah State University Commencement, 2021 – Eastern Campus

Utah State University

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COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

April 24, 2021
ACADEMIC HERALDRY

The history of academic heraldry reaches back into the early days of the university. A statute of 1321 required that all “Doctors, Licentiates and Bachelors” of the University of Columbia wear gowns. When American colleges and universities decided to adopt some suitable system of academic apparel, it seemed best to agree on one that all might follow. From a conference of various institutions’ board representatives held at Columbia University in 1895 came a code of academic dress for higher learning institutions in the United States, which most adopted.

GOWNS

The academic gown for the bachelor’s degree has pointed sleeves and is designed to be worn closed. Master’s degree gowns have an oblong sleeve, open at the wrist. The sleeve base hangs down in the traditional manner. The rear part of its oblong shape is square cut, and the front part has an arc cut away. It is designed this way so it can be worn open or closed. The gown for the doctoral degree has bell-shaped sleeves and may be worn open or closed.

COLORS

For all academic purposes, including trimmings of doctoral gowns, edging of hoods and tassels of caps, the colors associated with the different academic disciplines are as follows:

- Agriculture, *Maize*
- Arts, *Brown*
- Business, *Drab*
- Education and Human Services, *Light Blue*
- Engineering, *Orange*
- Humanities and Social Sciences, *White*
- Natural Resources, *Russet*
- Science, *Gold-Yellow*
- School of Graduate Studies, *Black*
- Associate Degrees, *Black*
- Integrated Studies, *Black*

HOODS

Academic hoods are worn by recipients of advanced degrees. Master’s degree hoods are three-and-one-half feet in length and lined with the official color(s) of the college or university conferring the degree, which at Utah State University are navy blue and white, displayed in the heraldic chevron. The doctoral hood consists of a larger and longer assemblage of institutional color draped over the recipient’s shoulders, falling well down the back. The binding or edging of the hoods is of velvet or velveteen, three inches wide for the Master’s degree and five inches wide for the doctoral degree.

CAPS

Academic caps come in two forms: the traditional mortarboard (from Oxford) or square cap, and a soft cap that resembles an oversized beret (from Cambridge). The mortarboard used by Utah State University is worn with a tassel.

ACADEMIC PROCESSION

The commencement procession is composed of three divisions: (1) color guard, University President, Regents and the Board of Trustees, administrative officers and special guests; (2) the faculty; and (3) candidates for degrees.
UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY EASTERN
COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

PROCEDENTIAL

NATIONAL ANTHEM

WELCOME
Greg Dart
Associate Vice President, USU Eastern

STUDENT SPEAKERS
James Memmott
Valedictorian
Sione Siaki
Student Body President

INTRODUCTION OF COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER
Greg Dart
Associate Vice President, USU Eastern

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER
Deanie Wimmer
Co-Anchor, KSL News

PRESENTATION OF THE COMMUNITY CHAMPION AWARD
Greg Dart
Associate Vice President, USU Eastern

INTRODUCTION OF VAL J. HALAMANDARIS
CARING AWARD RECIPIENT
Greg Dart
Associate Vice President, USU Eastern

CONFERRING OF DEGREES
Noelle E. Cockett
President

PRESENTATION OF DIPLOMAS
Greg Dart
Associate Vice President, USU Eastern

GREETING TO GRADUATES
Laurel Cannon Alder
USU Alumni President

RECESSIONAL
DEANIE WIMMER
CO-ANCHOR, KSL NEWS
Commencement Speaker

Deanie Wimmer currently co-anchors KSL News at 5, 6, 6:30 and 10pm. She is also an Emmy award-winning reporter who covers education. Wimmer moved up the ranks in the KSL 5 newsroom as weekend anchor, political reporter, general assignment reporter, and producer. She was born and raised in Salt Lake City and began her broadcasting career at KSL Television as a University of Utah intern. Education has always been important to Deanie. She earned her Master’s degree in political communication and bachelor’s degree in communication from the University of Utah. She attended a fellows program on education and journalism through the University of Washington. Deanie won a Lifetime Achievement Silver Circle Award from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Rocky Mountain Chapter. She also won regional Emmy Awards for education and child safety reporting. The National Association of Broadcasters awarded KSL and Read Today with its highest award, the Education Foundation Service to America, for the Read Today Literacy program she recently had the ‘bucket list’ opportunity to interview President Obama and members of his cabinet at the White House. In her free time, she loves recreating in Utah’s mountains. She is often trail running, mountain biking, hiking, alpine skiing and skate skiing. She’s an avid reader, and her favorite thing is to spend time with family. She’s married to Phil Kirk, who works in law enforcement. They live with their two boys in Park City.
MICHAEL KOURIANOS
MAYOR, PRICE CITY
Recipient of the Community Champion Award

Mike Kourianos is a life-long resident of Price, UT. His love of the community runs deep. A descendent of Greek ancestry and culture, Mike understands the value of a diversity of people and backgrounds. He knows there is strength in bringing people of different cultures and viewpoints together. Mike was in the Carbon High School graduating class of 1979, and he is proud to say that he and his classmates won the “Gold Brick” their sophomore, junior, and senior years. After securing his education Mike went on to a career with Pacificorp that now spans 41 years. He has been a dedicated employee and proponent of secure, low-cost energy and has served in various capacities in Pacificorp. Currently he is an operations supervisor at the Huntington Power Plant. Mike has witnessed, first hand, how Utah’s booming economy has been built on the backs of Utah’s energy and power industry. Economic drivers like Silicon Slopes are not entirely possible without the work and sacrifice of the people of Price who bring low-cost energy to the table. With that in mind, and a desire to help Price further diversify its economic portfolio, Mike decided to run for mayor and was elected in 2018. He remains committed to the practical and pragmatic principles that Utah needs a balanced energy portfolio that must include traditional energy generation. He also knows that to plot a course for the future, higher education is a key asset in helping the people of Price secure lasting economic mobility. To that end, Mike serves on the Utah Coal Country Strike Team, and he spearheaded the Rural Workforce Network with the Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce, Department of Workforce Services, and EDCUtah which has brought significant private and legislative funding to Price City. He also serves on the board of Southeast Utah Association of Local Government. Mike and his wife are the parents of three children and four grandchildren. He loves his mom, has fond memories of Greek rummy, and enjoys driving the USU Eastern bus. Most of all, he loves promoting Price City and its people, and as he is fond of saying “I will always have your back!”
JAMES ADAM MEMMOTT
VALEDICTORIAN
Student Speaker

James Memmott, SUN Center Student Leader and former USU Eastern Student Advocate, is the son of Christopher and Nicol Zambos. Born and raised in Magna, Utah, he graduated from Cyprus High uncertain of his future. Without the money or drive to attend college, James decided to work full-time for a year at The Grand America Hotel where he found an appetite for helping others. Using the money he earned, he decided to pursue psychology to better his understanding of others and immediately felt at home at USU Eastern. Serving as a leader for the past two years, James has strived to amplify each student’s voice on campus. He is grateful for the opportunities USU Eastern has given him as he’s played a major role in bettering the food quality on campus and fighting for a new gymnasium for students. James plans to pursue his bachelor’s degree in psychology and aspires to bring his knowledge of behavior and the mind to assist businesses all over the world.

MARISSA CRIBBS
SALUTATORIAN

Marissa Cribbs grew up in Las Vegas, NV and graduated from Palo Verde High School. She is the daughter of Andrea and Jason Cribbs. She is currently pursuing a degree in nursing, and she is graduating with her Associate of Science degree. She has been involved in many different aspects on campus. For the past two years she has been a member of the women’s soccer team and a Resident Advisor for Aaron Jones Hall. She is also the 2020-2021 Miss USU Eastern. Her platform was “Title IX: Our Line of Defense,” where she worked to bring awareness and prevention for sexual misconduct on college campuses. She also enjoys music by playing the piano, ukulele, and singing. She has loved her time at USU Eastern and is grateful for the opportunities it gave her to meet new people and grow as a person.
Sione Siaki
STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT
Student Speaker

Sione Siaki is a proud first-generation Tongan-American student serving as Student Body President at Utah State University Eastern this year. He is currently pursuing a degree in Sociology with an emphasis in Criminal Justice and a Minor in English. Sione hopes to continue to work in community and civic engagement in the future, after having gained valuable leadership experience under organizations such as the USU Eastern Serving Utah Network, the Utah System of Higher Education, the Utah Pacific Islander Civic Engagement Coalition, and the Lieutenant Governor’s Commission on Service & Volunteerism. As student body president, Sione aspired to foster an environment of equity, inclusion, and transparency at USU Eastern, with a goal of addressing structural barriers and advocating to establish institutional change. During this challenging school year, Sione had the chance to collaborate with respective leaders, representatives and professionals in effort to close opportunity and achievement gaps for underrepresented students throughout the state of Utah. In the future, Sione hopes to have more opportunities to create positive, lasting, and effective change within our communities.

Carson Enlow
VAL J. HALAMANDARIS AWARD

Carson was born in Salt Lake City and grew up in Davis County, Utah. She was twelve years old when her mom first volunteered for a humanitarian mission with Operation Smile in China. She also went on missions to Russia, India, and Israel. Carson was able to help with the fundraising for those missions. That experience launched her love of volunteering and helping others. She had the honor and privilege of volunteering on missions with the people of the Blackfoot Indian Reservation and in underprivileged areas in Denver, Colorado, with Youth Works. She has enjoyed volunteering at the Utah Food Bank and raising funds for Safe Harbor in Davis County. Her most meaningful volunteering effort was with her teammates on the USU Eastern Dance Team in support of a very young dance student with terminal cancer. Carson is looking forward to spending this summer in Mexico on a humanitarian mission teaching children English. Carson said, “I am proud to have been part of the USU Eastern Student Body and the USU Eastern Dance Team, and I am truly honored to receive the Val J. Halamandaris Award.”
2021 CANDIDATES FOR GRADUATION

Names listed in this program do not constitute graduation.

SERVICE LEARNING SCHOLARS

Angel Alvarez                  Prisma Mendez
Alicia Austin                  Bryson Pugh
Stevie Hanna                  Jillian Pugh
Shealce Heywood               Chad Rowley
Makayla Jensen                Brittany Smith
Jordan Lupo                   Atley Thompson
James Memmott                 Laynee Wilson

CERTIFICATE

LAW & SOCIETY
AREA STUDIES
Brooke McFarlane
John Powell

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

APPRENTICE ELECTRICIAN
Dalton McKee
Chance Priano

AUTO MECHANICS
Chad Rowley
John Stoddard

COSMETOLOGY
Raegan Baker
Jordyn Fitch
Jessie Lobato
Litzy Lugo
Brenna Martin
Melia Mouna
Kennedy Nelson
Dusty Passarella
Karsyn Short
Heidi Smith
Rachel Staley

Sadie Utley
Kara Wallberg

DIESEL MECHANICS
Emilio Gonzales
Brytan Hansen

ENGINEERING DRAFTING
& DESIGN TECHNOLOGY
Gage Jensen
Benjamin Merrell
Rylin Snyder
Braxton Wright

GENERAL TECHNOLOGY
Isaac Arellano

MEDICAL ASSISTING
Kriselynn Blanton
Elece Burr
Brooke McKendrick
NURSING & HEALTH PROFESSIONS
Sherry Clement

PRACTICAL NURSING
Jesse Anderson
John Barnett
Dalia Batioja
Cyene Bigelow
Lizbeth Rodriguez Celestino
Darla Chaves
Lexi Chynoweth
Sherry Clement
Dansie Hardy
Senaida Juggert
Daniel Lester
Makayla Lupo
Tiana McElprang
Hanna Mills
Britni Moreno
Brigit Muava’a
Gentry Noyes
Brooklynn Olsen
Stasha Pressett
Jeridi Price
Dustin Rich
Miranda Shaw

SMALL BUSINESS OPERATIONS
Jacqueline Blackham+

WELDING
Jasper Brodhead
Brennen Brooks
Jaden Defa
Conner Fallon
Fernando Fierro
Oscar Guzman
Drake Hoffman
Gunnar Jeffs
Benche’et Kenney
Colby Kerstetter
Tyler McArthur
Zachary Mead
Dalton Murray
Kelton North
Joshua Saunders
Benjamin Scott
Jacob Service
Anthony Shober
Matthew Warren
Lukas Worthington
Jon Zamantakis

CERTIFICATE OF PROFICIENCY

CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT
Kriselynn Blanton
Jennifer Martinez
Sayer Nelson

DIGITAL DESIGN
Joseph Piccolo
Sabrina Van Wagoner

COMMERCIAL DRIVER’S LICENSE
Samantha Beckstead
Colton Grange
Clayson Hutchings
Kale Lamb
Lesa Miller

HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR
Clayson Hutchings
Kale Lamb
Autumn Snyder
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John Stoddard+

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Brighton Bullock
Jordyn Fitch++
Jessie Lobato+
Lizzy Lugo
Brenna Martin+
Melia Mouniga++
Kennedy Nelson++
Dusty Passarella
Karsyn Short++
Heidi Smith
Rachel Staley
Sadie Utley+
Kara Wallberg++

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Tiffany Howell+
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Colton Denver
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Sione Siaki
Qunsija Sylestine

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Eduardo Aviles
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AdriAnne Childs
Raquel Christensen
Kamri Chynoweth++
Macy Clements++
Caitlyn Collins++
Marissa Cribbs++
Trevin Dansie
Taycie Davis
Meg Edwards++
Peyton Falslev++
Gina Forsyth-Kinder++
Tristan Garvin
Shelbey Gnagy
Dylan Greer
Kaia Haffner
Megan Hall+
Stevie Hanna+
Teresa Hansen
Jessica Haro
Maci Harrop++
Trinalee Hatch++
Jordan Hathaway+
Hailey Haymond
Jorge Martinez-Hernandez
Shealee Heywood++
Skiler Hohrein+ 
Emily Holt++
Tyler Hunt++
Mollee Hurst
Bowdie Jacobson
Lauren Janes
Brooklyn Jessop+
Jillian Johnson
Abigail Jones
RyLee Jones++
Mackenzie Kalista+
Kunda Kampeshi
Taylor Karns+
Logan Kay
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Zoey Kocks
Kaden Kunz+
Tanner Latimer++
Justin Lee+
Dallon Lessar
Mary Littlefield++
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Madisen Luck++
Janie Lyman
Avery Maclean
Emma Marchant++
Riley Marshall+
Carson Martinez
Andres Martinez+
Lexi Martinez+
Mallorie Martinez
Daryn Mason
Kayla Maynes+
Maycee McCourt
Kinlee McMillan++
Aurelio Rodriguez Medrano++
James Memmott++
Prisma Mendez++
Mariah Morley
Ericka Morris
Stuart Moss++
Carmen Mueller
Muhammad Nawaz
CheyAnn Needles++
Brylee Nelson++
Dallin Nelson++
McKay Nelson++
Mason Nielson
Natalie Nihipali++
Santiago Novoa
Brooklyn Olsen+
Madison Oman
Angela Osuna
Zander Pace
Brooklyn Palmer++
Rayna Paskett
Edgar Pena
Sunny Perry+
Ryder Peterson
Rhys Picton+
Kennedy Poulton++
Emily Powell
Emily Prescott
McKylie Prettyman+
Kyaera Price
Alexis Proctor++
Jillian Pugh++
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Hannah Stock
Rachel Stout++
Jenna Sutliff+
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The quality of performance in academic work enables those indicated to be graduates with distinction:

++High Honors ................................................................................................................. grade point average of 3.75 to 4.00

+Honors ............................................................................................................................. grade point average of 3.50 to 3.74

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Kinlee Toomer++
Kacelyn Toomer++
Imagen Turner
Sadie Waller
Brittany Walls
Jessica Whimpey+
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Shalae Van Wagoner
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The quality of performance in academic work enables those indicated to be graduates with distinction:

***Summa Cum Laude ................................................................. grade point average of 3.95 to 4.00
**Magna Cum Laude................................................................. grade point average of 3.80 to 3.94
*Cum Laude................................................................................. grade point average of 3.50 to 3.79
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