

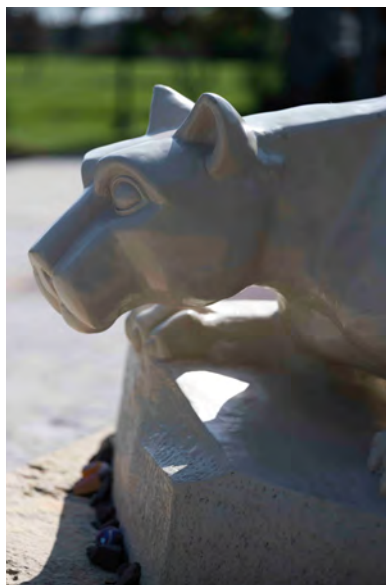
Commencement 2024



PennState
Wilkes-Barre

Saturday, May 4, 2024 | 10:00 a.m.
Athletic and Recreation Building

To our guests



We welcome you to the commencement exercises for baccalaureate and associate degree candidates.

Commencement, the solemn but joyful culmination and recognition of the graduates' years of study, is an important occasion for the University, its faculty, staff, and students. All guests and participants are requested to avoid unnecessary conversation or moving about during the exercises.

Only authorized press and University photographers are permitted on the floor to take pictures once the exercises are in progress. You are welcome to take pictures from your seat, but please be mindful of those seated behind you.

When the processional party enters at the beginning of the ceremony, the audience rises. Please remain standing until all members of the platform party have taken their places on the platform and during the singing of the national anthem. Applause is welcome during presentation of the individual candidates.

Following the singing of the alma mater, there is a recessional. The audience is requested to rise during this period.

Helpful information



ACCOMMODATIONS

Penn State encourages persons with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation or have questions about the physical access provided, please contact Business Services at 570-675-9110.

ASSISTED LISTENING DEVICES

To request a device, please ask any campus employee to direct you to a member of our IT staff.

LOST AND FOUND

Lost items will be taken to the Police and Public Safety Office in Nittany Courts E-F (behind the Science Building).

RESTROOMS

Find restrooms on either side of the building hallway. Additional restrooms are located across the road in the Student Commons.

PLEASE NOTE: *The possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages, tobacco and e-cigarettes on campus is prohibited. Your admission to any facility is conditional upon compliance with the above. The University reserves the right to refuse admission to, or remove, any person who violates this prohibition.*



Resources for new alumni

Penn State Alumni Association

The Penn State Alumni Association is the largest and most powerful alumni network in the world, and new graduates receive a complimentary one-year membership. As you enter the pride, you'll join the ranks of alumni who keep their connection to Penn State strong. We encourage you to stay connected and learn more about the 30+ benefits included with your membership.

To access a full list of benefits and to find your local Penn State Alumni Association chapter, visit **alumni.psu.edu/newalumni**.

Questions about getting involved in campus initiatives as a new alum?
Contact Jackie Warnick-Piatt: **jackiewp@psu.edu**

Career Services

Penn State Wilkes-Barre's Career Services department is here to support you with your career planning. More information is available at **wilkesbarre.psu.edu/career-services**.

Registrar's Office - Requesting Official Transcripts

Call 814-865-6357 for instructions on ordering transcripts or visit **www.registrar.psu.edu**.





CAMPUS HISTORY



THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY was chartered in 1855. The Land Grant Act of 1862, signed by Abraham Lincoln, gave the University its early growth. In 1874, the name was changed to The Pennsylvania State College; and in 1953, changed to The Pennsylvania State University in formal recognition of what it had long since become: one of the leading universities in the nation.

Penn State Wilkes-Barre traces its history back to 1916, making it the oldest higher educational institution in the Wyoming Valley. It began in May of 1915, when two Penn State graduates, reacting to the needs of the local anthracite mining industry, proposed the development of a Penn State engineering center in Wilkes-Barre. "King Coal" reigned supreme at that time in the Wyoming Valley and engineers were needed to improve mining methods and worker safety. The response from local citizens and civic organizations was overwhelming, and on November 7, 1916, the Penn State Department of Engineering Extension began offering evening classes to 150 students in the former Coughlin High School. The new Penn State Department of Engineering Extension offered courses in Advanced Mathematics, Surveying, Reinforced Concrete and Mechanics.

By 1923, three-year certificate programs were added in Mechanical, Electrical, Civil and Mining Engineering. Later, three-year courses in Aeronautical and Textile Engineering and a two-year course in Air-conditioning were added.

During the years spanning World War II, the school, now known as The Pennsylvania State College Wilkes-Barre Technical School Center, offered tuition-free, government-sponsored courses to train women and older men to replace the younger men in industry who joined the war effort. The non-credit, college-level courses trained workers already in war production to take over more highly skilled jobs. Women took the courses to help in the production of war materials.

Until 1947, all of the courses were offered exclusively in the evening. However, due to the persistent requests of returning veterans who wanted to earn a degree more quickly, day courses were initiated.

The courses (Business Administration, Building Construction, Industrial Electricity, and Mechanical and Production Tool Design) were approved by the Veterans Administration under the "on-the-job training" provisions of the G.I. Bill of Rights. Much of the success of the school can be attributed to the flexibility of its offerings. Programs were added and removed as demand directed.

Each passing year brought more change and growth to the school. In 1949, the Engineers' Council for Professional Development recognized the engineering courses taught at the institute with accreditation. Then, during the 1953-54 academic year, the two-year program leading to an associate degree in Engineering began. Thirty-nine students completed this program and were the first in the University to receive their associate degree in Engineering.

In 1957, the two-year Surveying Technology program was approved, the only one of its type in Pennsylvania. Today, Penn State Wilkes-Barre is the only location in the commonwealth offering a baccalaureate degree in Surveying Engineering.

In 1950, needing more space, the school moved its classes to the Guthrie Building in Wilkes-Barre. It remained there until the mid-1960s when Richard and Helen Robinson of Connecticut gave Hayfield House and the surrounding farm property in Lehman to the University.

Valued at approximately one million dollars, Hayfield House was built by coal baron John N. Conyngham and his wife, Bertha, in the early 1930s. The Conynghams spent about four months each year at Hayfield Farm. They raised Highland cattle, Clydesdale horses, Chester White pigs, sheep and a variety of unusual animals, including buffalo and Sardinian donkeys. In addition to traditional vegetables and fruits, the farm also produced large amounts of hay and other feed.

The mansion was converted into administrative offices and classrooms. Most of the original furnishings are gone from Hayfield House, but visitors still can enjoy the magnificent architectural aspects of the building and the unique characteristics of each room. The former 19-car garage now houses the Student Commons and bookstore. A 15-acre wooded walkway displays a wide variety of trees and shrubs, some imported from Europe.

Penn State Wilkes-Barre provides a Big Ten education with all the advantages a small campus has to offer.

Students can choose the degree plan that's right for them, whether that's two years at home and two years at another campus to finish one of Penn State's 275+ degrees, or all four years at Penn State Wilkes-Barre. The campus offers seven bachelor's degree and four associate degree programs, including the only 4-year Surveying Engineering program in the commonwealth. Ninety-one percent of students receive financial assistance, including scholarships. Students will find caring faculty, undergraduate research opportunities, and experienced advisers to prepare them for the career they want.



[Click here to read more about the campus' historic Hayfield House.](#)



Chancellor's Congratulations

Dear Graduates:

On behalf of the entire Penn State Wilkes-Barre campus community, I offer our congratulations on the completion of your Penn State degree. It is an honor to be with you today as we collectively celebrate your achievements.

The paths you have traveled to achieve your degree are undoubtedly different, each of you with your own stories and experiences that have paved the way for you to reach this significant milestone. You should feel incredibly proud. Today, we honor each of those unique journeys. But we also honor the similarities among this group and the ties that bind us as Penn Staters forever.

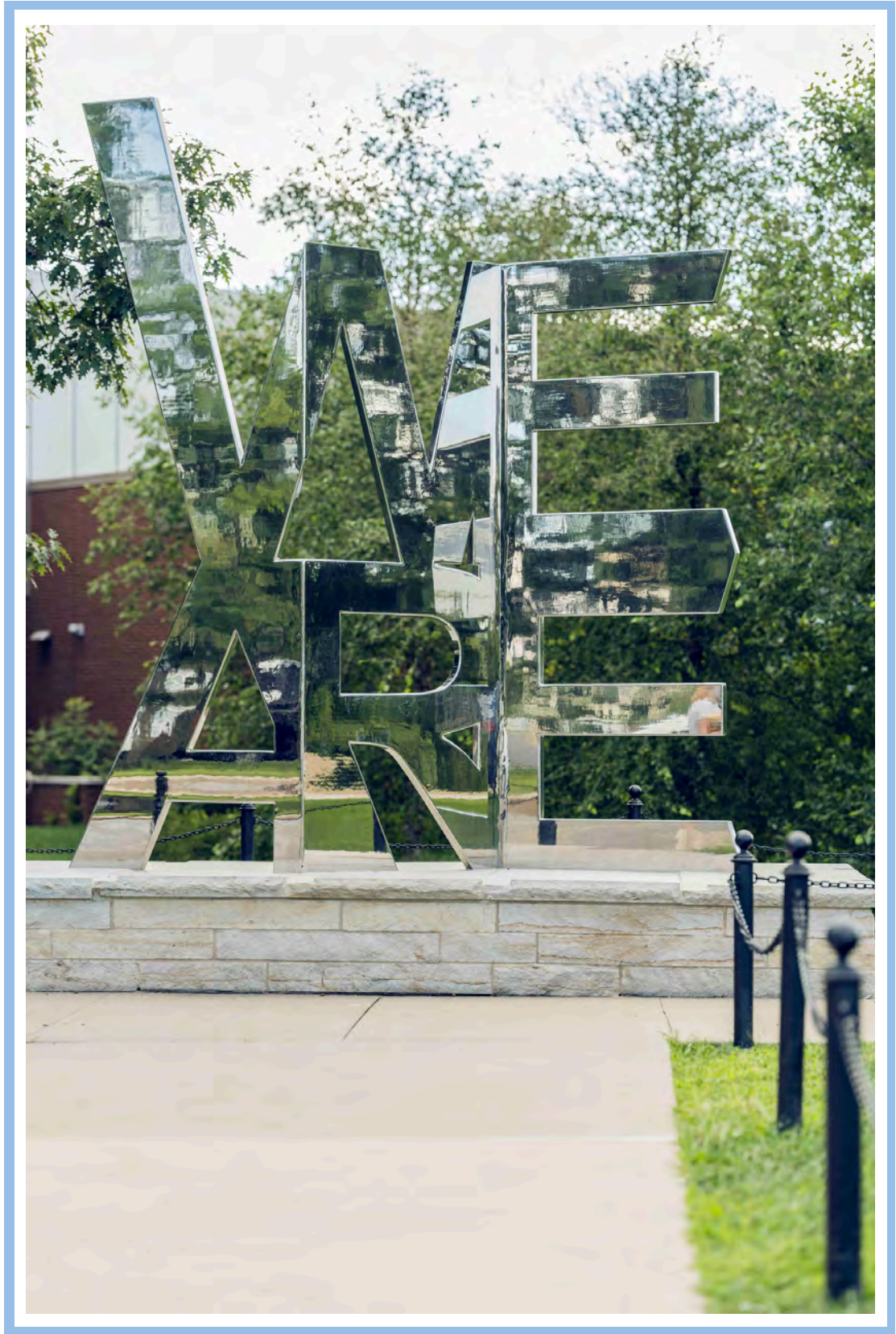
The bonds you have formed at Penn State Wilkes-Barre are enduring, lasting long after today's commencement exercises are complete. Today, you officially join over 750,000 Penn State living alumni worldwide—a vibrant and supportive community of individuals with whom you have the opportunity to make professional connections for life. These relationships will serve you well as you embark on your next steps to achieve the career aspirations and personal goals that will impact your community. Continue to be the relationship-driven Penn Stater who nurtures the friendships and mentorships you've made here while embracing new experiences and people. Remain the innovative Penn Stater who transforms the world with your tenacity and talent. Inspire others as a generous Penn Stater who consistently reaches out to open the doors of opportunity, creating sustainability for future generations.

We are so very proud of you and look forward to seeing all that you continue to accomplish.



Dr. Lynda Goldstein
Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer
Penn State Wilkes-Barre





Commencement Speaker

Ashley Hoeffner '08



Hoeffner attended Penn State Wilkes-Barre for two years before completing her bachelor's degree in marketing with a minor in international business from the Smeal College of Business at University Park. She graduated in December 2008, a semester early, and moved to New York City to begin her career with a role as a customer equipment specialist for an office solutions provider. A native of Duryea, she is a graduate of Pittston Area High School and completed a marketing internship at Pepperjam while at Penn State Wilkes-Barre. She lives in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, with her wife, Melissa Kravitz Hoeffner, and their rescue dog, Finley.

“I am honored and humbled to be asked to be the commencement speaker. Penn State Wilkes-Barre was a formative experience for me that has carried through in a number of different ways in my life, including the relationships I’ve made and maintained. It allowed me to flourish in a new environment and see the value in relationships I could build and the contributions I could provide to other people.”

She has worked at Indeed for 12 years in nine different roles, rising to the rank of senior director of global product solutions and sales readiness. She leads a team of approximately 100 people who serve as conduits between product and engineering teams and Indeed's sales team, working to bring new products to the marketplace and helping clients adopt Indeed's new solutions.

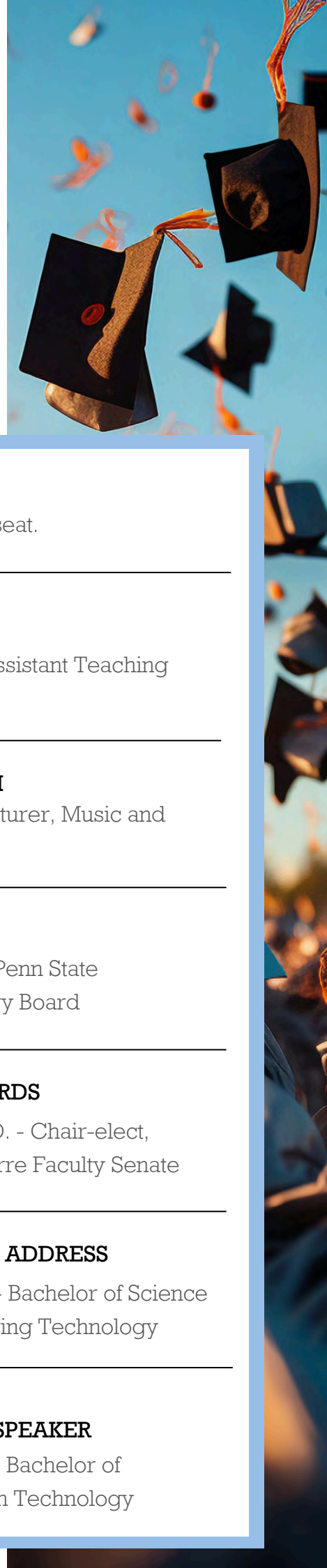


Hoeffner and friends at the University Park campus, 2005

[Click here to read Hoeffner's full story.](#)

Commencement Ceremony

Order of Events



PROCESSIONAL

Please stand at your seat.

CALL TO ORDER

Erin Brennan, J.D. - Assistant Teaching Professor, Business

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Jonathan Pineno - Lecturer, Music and Art

WELCOME

Jill Schwartz - Chair, Penn State Wilkes-Barre Advisory Board

HONORS AND AWARDS

Rebecca Sarver, Ph.D. - Chair-elect, Penn State Wilkes-Barre Faculty Senate

STUDENT MARSHAL ADDRESS

John Rylee Stone '23 - Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering Technology

INTRODUCTION OF COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

Cloe Mazzatosta '24 - Bachelor of Science in Information Technology



COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Ashley Hoeffner '08 - Senior Director
at Indeed

CONFERRING OF DEGREES

Lynda Goldstein, Ph.D. - Chancellor
and Chief Academic Officer

INDUCTION INTO PENN STATE WILKES-BARRE ALUMNI SOCIETY

Mary Conti '06 - President, Penn State
Wilkes-Barre Alumni Society

ALMA MATER

Jonathan Pineno - Lecturer, Music and Art

RECESSIONAL

Please remain standing at your seat.

COMMENCEMENT MARSHALS

Erin Brennan, J.D. - Assistant Teaching
Professor, Business

Jeremy Olson, Ph.D. - Assistant
Professor, Criminal Justice

STUDENT MARSHALS

John Rylee Stone '23 - Bachelor of Science
in Electrical Engineering Technology

Cloe Mazzatosta '24 - Bachelor of
Science in Information Technology

ACADEMIC DRESS

The traditional costume worn at commencement exercises is a record of the academic achievement of the individuals taking part. Its use originated at English and European universities during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. Medieval institutions of higher learning were customarily operated by monastic orders, and students as well as faculty wore the habit of monks.

The hood seems to have developed from those worn by monks to protect their shaved heads in the winter and used as a container in which to collect alms. The mortarboard cap is a modification of the skull caps also worn by the monks of the Middle Ages.

The level of degree is indicated by the gown's cut. Doctoral gowns have full sleeves that are round and open. Gowns worn by the masters have long, closed, somewhat fuller sleeves, with an arc near the bottom; the arm goes through a slit, giving the appearance of short sleeves. Baccalaureate gowns have long, pointed sleeves. Both the baccalaureate and master's gowns are untrimmed, but the doctoral is faced with velvet, either black or in a color to indicate the nature of the degree; three velvet bars adorn each sleeve. The gold tassel on the cap also signifies the doctorate.

The most significant part of the academic dress is the hood: the longer the hood, the more advanced the degree. The color of the velvet border indicates the academic field: arts, white; theology, scarlet; law, purple; medicine, green; music, pink; philosophy, dark blue; science, golden yellow; engineering, orange; economics, copper; public health, salmon pink; fine arts, brown; accountancy and commerce, drab; library science, lemon; and education, light blue.

The colors of the lining inside the hood indicate the school that granted the degree; Penn State's colors are dark blue and white.

ACADEMIC HONOR CORDS

Led by the Office of Undergraduate Education, the academic honor cord initiative recognizes the top 12 percent of baccalaureate degree candidates in each college and at every campus, including associate degree recipients, which is the equivalent of approximately 1,900 students who annually graduate with academic honors. Students who have earned Summa Cum Laude will receive a blue and white cord; those who have attained Magna Cum Laude will receive a blue cord; and those who have earned Cum Laude will receive a white cord.

This group is noted throughout the program with the following key:

* Cum Laude (Distinction)

** Magna Cum Laude (High Distinction)

*** Summa Cum Laude (Highest Distinction)

CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

The baccalaureate degree is conferred after the satisfactory completion of a minimum of 120 credits in one of the four-year majors. The associate degree is conferred after the satisfactory completion of a minimum of 60 credits in one of the two-year majors.

MILITARY HONOR CORDS

Penn State recognizes those who have honorably served or are currently serving in the United States Armed Forces by awarding a red, white and blue honor cord in recognition of their duty and sacrifice.

STUDENT-ATHLETE CORDS

Students who participated on a Penn State Wilkes-Barre athletic team have been awarded silver cords in recognition of their dedication in the classroom and in competition. This group is noted with a 🏆 symbol in the program.

Note: This program contains the list of candidates for graduation as of May 2, 2024, 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.

Associate degree graduates

College of Health and Human Development

Human Development and Family Studies

College Representative, Heather Paris

Erica Elizabeth Rey

University College

Information Sciences and Technology

Program Co-coordinators, Wei-Fan Chen, Ph.D. and Brian Reese

Chase Santayana 

Kirsten Irene Shults 

Business Administration

Program Coordinator, Theresa Clemente

Jason T. Rosario

College of Engineering

Surveying Engineering Technology

Program Coordinator, Dimitrios Bolkas, Ph.D.


Francesco Andrew Nocito 


Lucas Resti

Taylor Lynn Sitkowski 

James Franklin Weller

Nicholas Thomas Winot

 *Fall 2023 graduate*

 *Expected summer 2024 graduate*

 *Student-athlete*

Baccalaureate degree graduates

College of Engineering

Bachelor of Science in Surveying Engineering

Program Coordinator, Dimitrios Bolkas, Ph.D.

Faisal Nasser A Altwaim

Jacob Timothy Connolly ☀️

Andrew Sean Fennell

Verena Joenelle Lake** 🏆

John Michael Volansky Jr.

Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering Technology

Program Coordinator, Timothy Sichler

J Duncan Cordaro 🍃

Evan C. DeMuzzio

Jason James Eiden

Virginia Mae Gugliotti 🍃

Nathaniel Chapman Huey** 🍃

Robert William Murawski*

Elijah James O'Connell

Joseph Jacob Polanowski 🏆

Brian G. Sokol 🍃

John Rylee Stone*** 🍃

Zachary John Wallick 🍃

University College

Bachelor of Arts in Corporate Communication

Program Coordinator, Natalya Vodopyanova, Ph.D.

Jaymes Kenyatta Jackson 🍃 🏆

🍃 *Fall 2023 graduate*

☀️ *Expected summer 2024 graduate*

🍃 *Expected fall 2024 graduate*

🏆 *Student-athlete*

Baccalaureate degree graduates

Bachelor of Arts in English

Program Coordinator, Christyne Berzsenyi, Ph.D.

Kyler Jaqueline Burke** 🏆

Bachelor of Science in Project and Supply Chain Management

Program Coordinator, Theresa Clemente

Lesly Negrete*

Matthew Jon Zasada

Bachelor of Science in Business

Program Coordinator, Theresa Clemente

Wilvens Fleurizard 🏆

Donald Joseph Gardner

Nicholas Calvin Kline*

Rian Tylar Long 🍃 🏆

Anthony Picott 🍃 🏆

Emma Sands**

Kasie Weidner** 🍃

Christopher Zim 🍃

Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice

Program Coordinator, Rebecca Sarver, Ph.D.

Matthew Alan Carroll ☀️

🍃 *Fall 2023 graduate*

☀️ *Expected summer 2024 graduate*

🏆 *Student-athlete*

Baccalaureate degree graduates

Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice

Program Coordinator, Rebecca Sarver, Ph.D.

Trevon Jamel Artis Randolph 🍃 🏆

Mykenna Rose Dekin

Tinatin Guruli

Hunter Malia

Kiarra Arie Moore ☀️

Dealla Lynn Rasmus

Bachelor of Science in Information Sciences and Technology

Program Co-coordinators, Wei-Fan Chen, Ph.D. and Brian Reese

Malik Addison 🍃 🏆

Bachelor of Science in Information Technology

Program Co-coordinators, Wei-Fan Chen, Ph.D. and Brian Reese

George John Chronowski

Patrick Joseph Gatusky

Simon Girman

Ethan Halas

Cloe Mazzatosta**

Connor McAndrew 🍃

Collin Mosier

Vlad Yaroshenko 🍃

🍃 *Fall 2023 graduate*

☀️ *Expected summer 2024 graduate*

🏆 *Student-athlete*

Bachelor of Science in Rehabilitation and Human Services

Program Coordinator, Melisa Littleton

Kaylee Lynn Chaban

Anna Marie Ferraris ☀️

Brandon Jones*

Hanna Morgan 🍃

Professional certificate

Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) with Systems, Applications and Products (SAP) certificate

Lesly Negrete



🍃 *Fall 2023 graduate*

☀️ *Expected summer 2024 graduate*

2023-2024 GRADUATE PHOTOS



Malik Addison

Bachelor of Science in
Information Sciences and
Technology



Faisal Nasser

A Altwaim

Bachelor of Science in
Surveying Engineering



Trevon Jamel Artis

Randolph

Bachelor of Science in
Criminal Justice



Kyler Jaqueline Burke

Bachelor of Arts
in English



Matthew Alan Carroll

Bachelor of Arts in
Criminal Justice



Kaylee Lynn Chaban

Bachelor of Science in
Rehabilitation and
Human Services

2023-2024 GRADUATE PHOTOS



George John Chronowski
Bachelor of Science in
Information Technology



Jacob Timothy Connolly
Bachelor of Science in
Surveying Engineering



J Duncan Cordaro
Bachelor of Science in
Electrical Engineering
Technology



Mykenna Rose Dekin
Bachelor of Science in
Criminal Justice



Evan C. DeMuzzio
Bachelor of Science in
Electrical Engineering
Technology



Jason James Eiden
Bachelor of Science in
Electrical Engineering
Technology

2023-2024 GRADUATE PHOTOS



Andrew Sean Fennell
Bachelor of Science in
Surveying Engineering



Anna Marie Ferraris
Bachelor of Science in
Rehabilitation and
Human Services



Wilvens Fleurizard
Bachelor of Science
in Business



Donald Joseph Gardner
Bachelor of Science in
Business



Patrick Joseph Gatusky
Bachelor of Science in
Information Technology



Simon Girman
Bachelor of Science in
Information Technology

2023-2024 GRADUATE PHOTOS



Virginia Mae Gugliotti

Bachelor of Science in
Electrical Engineering
Technology



Tinatin Guruli

Bachelor of Science in
Criminal Justice



Ethan Halas

Bachelor of Science in
Information Technology



Nathaniel Chapman Huey

Bachelor of Science in
Electrical Engineering
Technology



**Jaymes Kenyatta
Jackson**

Bachelor of Arts in
Corporate Communication



Brandon Jones

Bachelor of Science in
Rehabilitation and
Human Services

2023-2024 GRADUATE PHOTOS



Nicholas Calvin Kline
Bachelor of Science
in Business



Verena Joenelle Lake
Bachelor of Science in
Surveying Engineering



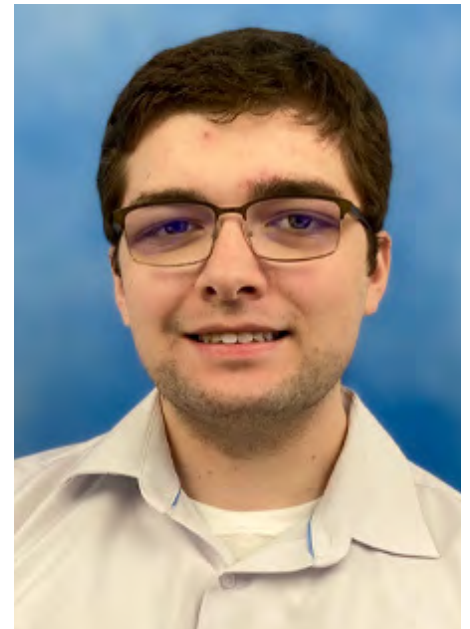
Rian Tylar Long
Bachelor of Science in
Business



Hunter Malia
Bachelor of Science in
Criminal Justice



Cloe Mazzatosta
Bachelor of Science in
Information Technology



Connor McAndrew
Bachelor of Science in
Information Technology

2023-2024 GRADUATE PHOTOS



Kiarra Arie Moore
Bachelor of Science in
Criminal Justice



Hanna Morgan
Bachelor of Science in
Rehabilitation and
Human Services



Collin Mosier
Bachelor of Science in
Information Technology



Robert William Murawski
Bachelor of Science in
Electrical Engineering
Technology



Lesly Negrete
Bachelor of Science in
Project and Supply Chain
Management;
SAP Certificate



Francesco Nocito
Associate Degree in
Surveying Engineering
Technology

2023-2024 GRADUATE PHOTOS



Elijah James O'Connell
Bachelor of Science in
Electrical Engineering
Technology



Anthony Picott
Bachelor of Science in
Business



**Joseph Jacob
Polanowski**
Bachelor of Science in
Electrical Engineering
Technology



Dealla Lynn Rasmus
Bachelor of Science in
Criminal Justice



Lucas Resti
Associate Degree in
Surveying Engineering
Technology



Erica Elizabeth Rey
Associate Degree in
Human Development
and Family Studies

2023-2024 GRADUATE PHOTOS



Jason T. Rosario
Associate Degree in
Business Administration



Emma Sands
Bachelor of Science in
Business



Chase Santayana
Associate Degree in
Information Sciences and
Technology



Kirsten Irene Shults
Associate Degree in
Information Sciences and
Technology



Taylor Lynn Sitkowski
Associate Degree in
Surveying Engineering
Technology



Brian G. Sokol
Bachelor of Science in
Electrical Engineering
Technology

2023-2024 GRADUATE PHOTOS



John Rylee Stone

Bachelor of Science in
Electrical Engineering
Technology



**John Michael
Volansky Jr.**

Bachelor of Science in
Surveying Engineering



Zachary John Wallick

Bachelor of Science in
Electrical Engineering
Technology



Kasie Weidner

Bachelor of Science in
Business



James Franklin Weller

Associate Degree in
Surveying Engineering
Technology



Nicholas Thomas Winot

Associate Degree in
Surveying Engineering
Technology

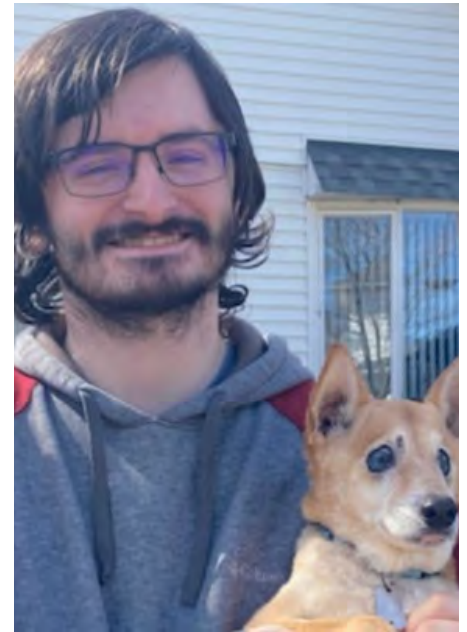
2023-2024 GRADUATE PHOTOS



Vlad Yaroshenko
Bachelor of Science in
Information Technology



Matthew Jon Zasada
Bachelor of Science in
Project and Supply Chain
Management



Christopher Zim
Bachelor of Science in
Business



Penn State Wilkes-Barre

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Career Services, Student Success Services

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Daniel Blessner, Assistant Teaching Professor, Science and Mathematics

Dimitrios Bolkas, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Surveying Engineering 🏰

Ann Brennan, Ph.D., Associate Teaching Professor English and Assistant Chief Academic Officer

Erin Brennan, J.D., Assistant Teaching Professor, Business

Luciana Caporaletti, Lecturer, Biology

Anson Carter, Lecturer, Mathematics

Wei-Fan Chen, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Information Technology 🏰

Jeffrey Chiampi, Assistant Teaching Professor, Computer Science

Theresa Clemente, Assistant Teaching Professor, Business 🏰

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Anatoli Ivanov, Ph.D., Distinguished Professor, Mathematics

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Brian Reese, Lecturer, Information Technology 🏰

Rebecca Sarver, Ph.D., Assistant Teaching Professor, Criminal Justice 🏰

Timothy Sichler, Associate Teaching Professor, Electrical Engineering Technology 🏰

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Natalya Vodopyanova, Ph.D., Assistant Teaching Professor, Corporate Communication 🏰

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Heather Paris, First-Year Seminar

Kaitlin Rando, English

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U.Ed. WBO 24-35