

Commencement) Ceremony

May 2021

May 6th - 8th, 2021

CHARGE FROM THE FACULTY

What an extraordinary way to wrap up your undergraduate studies--during a global pandemic! We have all been so busy that I know, at least for me, that I have not spent enough time thinking about what has happened over the last fifteen months. Since graduation is a time for reflection, let's take a moment to think about the unusual--and unusually challenging--times we're living through.

In early 2020, we began to hear about the virus that started on the other side of the world. By March, LEC had shifted to an online format and, over the span of a weekend, you realized that you would not be spending time on campus with your friends and professors, but would somehow have to navigate the rest of your educational journey through Zoom. You spent the summer isolated from friends and family or spent it on the front lines because you were considered an essential worker. In the Fall, LEC started in-person classes for the academic year but with strict guidelines from the CDC--and the entire campus looked different! You may have contracted the virus or been placed in quarantine because you were exposed to it. You may have been a member of an athletic team with your entire season put on hold. You were probably worried about family members or even worse, you may have loved ones missing today because of the pandemic. But think about what you have also accomplished amidst this pandemic--you learned new technologies, did not run from change, put fear aside and graduated despite very troubling times. You found ways to succeed and are better prepared for the next part of your journey.

Nationwide, the virus exposed cracks in our healthcare system and the inherent socioeconomic disparities within it, and perhaps even widened them. However, it also revealed our resilience. Healthcare workers worked--and are still working--tirelessly so that others (like you and I) can stay home, stay safe, and take care of our families. Essential workers--those who stock the shelves in our supermarkets and make our food and deliver our purchases, those who kept our classrooms sanitized and safe, those who worked at food banks or other charitable organizations to ensure that people had their basic needs met--these are the people who have kept the country going--they are the true backbone of this (or any) nation. Perhaps this year has taught us to value them and recognize their contribution to maintaining our way of life. Perhaps this year has made us reevaluate what "essential" really means.

We have seen that change can take place under the most unlikely circumstances--in the middle of a pandemic, there were human rights protests: people from different backgrounds, races, and experiences marched together so that everyone could feel safe on the streets of America. Hopefully, in front of the TV, in classrooms, and on dinner tables across the nation, difficult, but necessary, conversations were taking place--surrounding race, class, justice, and policing in America. I can only hope that, as a result of that introspection, we have gained some insight into our own shortcomings and made plans, however small, to be a part of the solution to our problems.

These last fifteen months have also taught us a few things about ourselves--perhaps we learned what's important; what's dispensable; and what we should reconsider. Perhaps it helped us see the beauty in our relationship with nature, with our families, and--perhaps most importantly--with ourselves. And what can we do with the knowledge that we have hopefully gained from our experiences?

This is what we can do: we can learn to be better. To do better. To reach out to those who live lives that are different from our own and to share our privilege with them. This may take the

form of meeting people in different communities through outreach activities; or it may take the form of donations to organizations working with the underprivileged; or it may involve having conversations and opening up our minds to understand the race, gender, and class struggles that still exist in our country.

What we can do is realize that an education is not static or frozen in time, like the certificate that you will receive today--rather, the true value of this education is the doors that it will open for you and the good that you can do as a result of those opportunities.

Congratulations, Class of 2021! May you use your education for the good of the many instead of the comfort of the few.

Faria Huq, Ph.D. Assistant Professor of Quantitative Methods in Business, Lake Erie College

LEC COMMENCEMENT

Commencement has taken place in various locations on campus since the first graduation in 1860. Early Commencements took place in The Grove, located where the residence halls are today, with the graduates proceeding from the lawn in front of College Hall, then the only building on campus. Commencements were then held in Memorial Hall beginning in 1890 and in the Helen Rockwell Morley Memorial Music Building after it was completed in 1927. Ceremonies from 1986 to 2006 (weather permitting) were held on the College Green, with the back porch of College Hall used as the stage. Since 2007, the May Commencements have been held in the Jerome T. Osborne Family Athletic & Wellness Center and since 2013 the December Commencements have again been held in the Helen Rockwell Morley Memorial Music Building.

THE ALMA MATER

The Class of 1957 set the words of their Senior Class Song to the Welsh tune "The Ash Grove." Subsequent classes modified the lyrics for each graduating class, who then sang it at Class Dinners. In 1972, the tradition of singing the Senior Class Song at Commencement began. It was sung by each graduating class until 1990 when it was played on the carillon in the Dickinson Tower of College Hall. After President Michael T. Victor took office in 2006, the lyrics were changed to fit the tune of "The Ash Grove," and this Alma Mater has been sung at each Commencement since 2007.

We sing of Lake Erie, the green and the white, The friendships we make here will never grow old. The mem'ries of Lake Erie — ideals and

The mem'ries of Lake Erie — ideals and traditions —

As we grow together, horizons unfold.

Our goals ever nearer, our loyalties dearer, Endeavors rewarded in our college days.

Too soon we will leave you, but always remember The halls of Lake Erie, the green and the white.

DONA NOBIS PACEM

This prayer was sung as the Senior Hymn at Commencement by the graduating class of 1966. Translated as "Give Us Peace," the melody by Mozart was written to be sung as a round. In 1990, the performing of "Dona Nobis Pacem" by the graduating students was discontinued, but the tradition of performing the prayer has remained an integral part of Commencement to this day.

DEGREE CONFERRALS

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the printed program with respect to degrees awarded and honors conferred. The appearance of a name on this list of degree candidates should not be interpreted as official degree completion. Honors recognized in this program are based upon each student's cumulative grade point average in the prior semester of enrollment. Each student's permanent academic record will indicate the official designation in regard to honors received and degrees conferred.

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Devon A. Timm

Parker Viele

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Riley Heffron
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Jesse Lee Jerrome Barrios
Breanna Bauer
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Chloe Beach
Michael Beebe
Thomas Bichsel
Gregory Bostick Jr.
Sam Browning

Erin Byrne

Susana Paulina Chavez Gonzalez Deisy Cisneros Aranda Hannah Costanzo **Iarod Davis** Karry DeBose Jr. Hamady Diallo David Dunnigan Michelle Jeanette Eski-Bohbot Beniamin Feder Re'Allatee Simone Simar Gambrell Cassandra R. Geesey Jason Givens-Brewster Nicholas Grear Nicole Christine Gurley David Luke Hackney Autumn R. Herrera Nicholas P. Iapaolo Tom John Luke Knisely Carissa Kruter Nicole Brooke Large Alexander Lieb Jayla Lindsey Cameron Malkamaki Meagan Maxwell Sean Michael McGlaughlin Kelly Elizabeth McMullen Tyler Mocarski Philip Orley Joshua Benjamin Parisi

Morgan Elizabeth Piecuch

Kyle Andrew Rebenock

Harrison Collier Riggs

Andrew Potesta

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Michael Swanson

Isaiah Thelusma Ennis De'Van Thomas

Sean A.P. Tonni

Devin Uzelac

Caleb Waller

Tareeq Delano Welch

Shaun Wright

Abdullaah Yaseen

David Anthony Zehe

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Kyleigh Marie Ryan Arianna Straja

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Justin Collins
Micah Daigle
Lindsey Ann Downs
Christopher Mutter Jr.
Nicole Nark
Jeff Olley
Nina Omiecinski
Shelby Pandy
Mario A. Pisano II
Leah Christine Pollifrone
Marlena Vernonica Puhalj
Cole Richards

Brock Schafer

Morgan Smith

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Megan Elizabeth Galasky Leah Marie Green Bethany Haramis Kate Madeline Hovick Madalyn Ireton Ronald Krsolovic Dominique Maneice Connor McCaughey Phylicia L. Salinas Courtney Renee Sandmann Derek Stout Samantha Walker Cassandra Ruth Wendall

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Alexandrea Bedirian Eric M. Bendel Andrius P. Biliunas Gabriella Ebers Katherine Fox Gianna Christine Gallese Courtney Hill Jessica Holiday Noah Theodore Jenkins Rachael Rose Jenkins Libby Jobe Haylee E. Kallas Tataum Keller Youness Kettani Nicholas Klein Giana Malvasi Sydney McGiffin Austin Minnick Shyanna Neu Brittany D. Samberg Alexandra Somogyi

Alicia R. Tooker

Beth Zanko

Genévieve Underwood

Steven Edward Zigman

LATIN HONORS

LATIN HONORS

Latin Honors indicate the level of academic distinction with which an academic degree was earned. At Lake Erie College, Latin Honors are given to those undergraduate students who have achieved notable cumulative grade point averages and a minimum of 64 credit hours in residence.

SUMMA CUM LAUDE With Highest Honor 3.8-4.0 GPA

Teri A. Allbaugh Anna Pauline Barthol Chloe Beach Emily Ann Boban Leah Rose Buck Erin Byrne Peyton Frankovich Nicole Christine Gurley Luca Hartman Lila Kalina Cameron Malkamaki Hannah Mandell Chelsea McMullen Kelly Elizabeth McMullen Theodore Messenger IV Nicole Nark Gabriela Marie Peters Leah Christine Pollifrone Cami R. Price Harrison Collier Riggs

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MAGNA CUM LAUDE With Great Honor 3.6-3.79 GPA

Breanna Bauer
Michael Beebe
Charli Morgan Brown
Jessica Tegan Burley
Susana Chavez Gonzalez
Deisy Cisneros Aranda
Hannah Costanzo
Lindsey Ann Downs
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Natali Ortiz Morgan Elizabeth Piecuch Marina Puhalj Arianna Straja

CUM LAUDE With Honor 3.5-3.59 GPA

Jesse Carpenter Re'Allatee Simone Simar Gambrell Cassandra R. Geesey Nicholas Grcar David Luke Hackney Tyler Mocarski

Alicia Bardzilauskas

HONORS PROGRAM

Nicole Brooke Large

Nina Omiecinski

The Lake Erie College Honors Program focuses on an interdisciplinary core of courses designed to challenge and stimulate our brightest students. Through their honors coursework, students in the Honors Program develop 21st-century skills at a high level of performance and demonstrate their commitment to academic excellence.

Chloe Beach Leah Rose Buck Deisy Cisneros Aranda Benjamin Feder Peyton Frankovich Maura Jo Virginia Galanti Susana Chavez Gonzalez Luca Hartman Lila Kalina Nicole Nark Nina Omiecinski Gabriela Marie Peters Leah Christine Pollifrone Harrison Collier Riggs Anna Stowe Alexandra Strawbridge Yasmine C'Mone Thornton

HONORS PROGRAM CONT.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Anna Barthol Re'Allatee Gambrel Luca Hartman Hannah Mandel Nicole Nark

MALE SCHOLAR ATHLETE AWARD

Michael Barish

FEMALE SCHOLAR ATHLETE AWARD

Luca Hartman

DEAN'S AWARD

Nathan Birtley

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Gabriela Marie Peters

IN MEMORIAM GRADUATES

Arianna Cope

V.E.T.S PROGRAM

The Veteran Education and Transition Support (V.E.T.S.) Program at Lake Erie College assists individuals who have served or are currently serving in the armed forces of the United States of America, as well as their dependents, in attaining their educational goals.

Teri A. Allbaugh U.S. Navy

Dominique Maneice United States Air Force

Jeff Olley U.S. Navy

Raechel Lynn Toesing United States Army Reserve

Steven Eduward Zigman United States Army

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ACADEMIC REGALIA

Academic regalia is a survival of the everyday dress of Western Europe in the 13th and 14th centuries. Students and faculty of the early universities wore long gowns and hoods to protect themselves from the weather and from cold drafts in lecture halls. As everyday dress changed, the academic community retained its characteristic costume. American colleges and universities followed the practices of British institutions.

Gowns are usually black or the school's color. The bachelor's gown is plain with pointed sleeves. The master's gown is fuller and the pointed sleeves are longer. The doctor's gown is more elaborate and of a fuller cut. Three stripes of velvet decorate each sleeve, and velvet panels at the front of the gown may bear the symbol of the university that awarded the degree.

The black cap is modeled from the Oxford mortarboard. A close-fitting cap supports a flat, square surface, with one corner facing forward. A black or school-colored tassel is attached to a button at the center of the square. Most doctors choose a tassel of metallic gold, and some wear soft, velvet caps.

The hood identifies the college or university and the degree awarded. The length identifies bachelor, master or doctor as does the width of the velvet in the border. The color of the border designates the field in which the degree was conferred. Today's graduates are identified by light blue for education, light brown for business and dark green for the sciences.

The satin lining of the hood identifies the college or university awarding the degree. Lake Erie College is identified by the interior satin of green with a double white chevron, an inverted V-shaped figure that occupies the central third of the lining.





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