Commencement 2016 Video

Commencement 2016 – Stage View – Go Pro

Commencement 2016 in Less than Two Minutes – Go Pro

Class of 2016

Keynote Speaker

Honorary Class Speaker
Class of 2016

**Madison Cade Adams**
Cum Laude
Bachelor of Arts, *Spanish*
Norton, Virginia

**Hunter Bay Adkins**
Bachelor of Arts, *Health and Physical Education*
Ringgold, Virginia

**Brandon Christopher Aird**
Bachelor of Science, *Business Administration*
Richmond, Virginia

**Morgan Blair Aldridge**
Bachelor of Science, *Business Administration*
Gretna, Virginia

**Destiny Kerria Allen**
Bachelor of Science, *Sociology*
Chesterfield, Virginia

**Bryan Evans Andrews**
Bachelor of Science, *Business Administration*
Chesterfield, Virginia

**Scott Alan Arnette Jr.**
Bachelor of Science, *Software Engineering /Computer Science*
Wise, Virginia

**Samuel Wesley Arney**
Bachelor of Science, *Business Administration*
Wise, Virginia

**Justin Ray Asher**
Bachelor of Science, *Administration of Justice*
Wise, Virginia

**Megan Rene Atwell**
Bachelor of Arts, *Biology*
Bland, Virginia
J. Shane Bailey
Bachelor of Science, *Computer Science*
Grundy, Virginia

Melissa LeAnne Bailey
Bachelor of Science, *Management Information Systems*
Grundy, Virginia

Destiny Kalista Baker
Cum Laude
Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Big Stone Gap, Virginia

Michael Dakota Baker
Bachelor of Science, *Business Administration*
Clintwood, Virginia

Whitney Latroya Baker
Bachelor of Science, *Business Administration*
Clintwood, Virginia

Madan Bastakoti
Bachelor of Science, *Computer Science*
Manassas, Virginia

Arthur David Beal
Bachelor of Arts, *Communication Studies*
Fielddale, Virginia

Ashley Rachel Nicole Belcher
Bachelor of Arts, *Government*
Haysi, Virginia

Russell Wayne Lee Belcher
Bachelor of Arts, *Liberal Arts and Sciences*
Grundy, Virginia

David Wayne Berry
Cum Laude
Bachelor of Science, *Biology*
Blackwater, Virginia
Ahdel Evon Best
Bachelor of Science, Psychology
Newport News, Virginia

Daniel Tranmer Bettendorf
Bachelor of Science, Business Administration
Stafford, Virginia

Lauren Shae Bise
Bachelor of Science, Psychology
Clintwood, Virginia

Joshua Wayne Blackburn
Bachelor of Arts, Liberal Arts and Sciences
Abingdon, Virginia

Cassandra Collette Blackwell
Cum Laude
Bachelor of Science, Biology
Big Stone Gap, Virginia

Alexander Brandt Blankenship
Bachelor of Science, Administration of Justice
Richmond, Virginia

Michael Ryan Blevins
Bachelor of Arts, Music
Chilhowie, Virginia

Blake William Blizard
Bachelor of Science, Business Administration
Kingsport, Tennessee

Dora Lynn Bobrosky
Bachelor of Science, Computer Science
Big Stone Gap, Virginia

Rachel Bethany Bolling
Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Wise, Virginia

Lauren Leigh Bonney
Bachelor of Arts, Biology
Bachelor of Science, Sociology
Wise, Virginia

Kierra Sade Booth
Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Petersburg, Virginia

Ryan Joseph Bowden
Bachelor of Science, Business Administration
Roanoke, Virginia

Patricia Lynn Brock
Bachelor of Science, Accounting
Wise, Virginia

Billy Kendall Dakota Brown
Bachelor of Arts, History
Clintwood, Virginia

Charles Loran Campbell Jr.
Bachelor of Arts, Government
Wakefield, Virginia

Katrina Marie Campbell
Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Earlysville, Virginia

Jason Michael Candeto
Bachelor of Arts, History
Mineral, Virginia

Cody Brett Cantrell
Bachelor of Arts, History
Grundy, Virginia

Whitney Elaine Carico
Summa Cum Laude
Bachelor of Science, Psychology
Wise, Virginia

Kenisha LaShea Carter
Bachelor of Arts, Liberal Arts and Sciences
Jonesville, Virginia
Victoria Ellen Carter
Bachelor of Arts, History
Fredericksburg, Virginia

Hannah Mariah Carty
Bachelor of Science, Psychology
Wise, Virginia

Devin Johnathan Cash
Cum Laude
Bachelor of Science, Administration of Justice
Spotsylvania, Virginia

Hailey Morgan Cason
Bachelor of Science, Biology
Appalachia, Virginia

Matthew Robert Cassady
Bachelor of Arts, Art
Lebanon, Virginia

Zackery Austin Castle
Bachelor of Arts, English Literature
Fort Blackmore, Virginia

Mark Anthony Chapman III
Bachelor of Science, Psychology
Wise, Virginia

Joshua Shane Christian
Bachelor of Arts, Liberal Arts and Sciences
Big Stone Gap, Virginia

Aundrea Faith Church
Bachelor of Arts, Liberal Arts and Sciences
Norton, Virginia

Carlie Lauren Clark
Bachelor of Arts, English Literature
Drewryville, Virginia

Garrett Logan Clark
Bachelor of Arts, Government
Kingsport, Tennessee
Katie Denise Clevinger
Cum Laude
Bachelor of Arts, Liberal Arts and Sciences
Clintwood, Virginia

Ryan Keith Clevinger
Bachelor of Arts, Communication Studies
Haysi, Virginia

Jerome Demarkus Royall Cobb
Bachelor of Science, Business Administration
Lebanon, Virginia

Morgan Ashley Cochran
Bachelor of Science, Psychology
Norfolk, Virginia

Benjamin Richard Coffman
Bachelor of Arts, Health and Physical Education
Bachelor of Science, Business Administration
Fort Sam Houston, Texas

Nathan Alexander Cole
Bachelor of Science, Management Information Systems
Covington, Virginia

Codi Daniel Collins
Magna Cum Laude
Bachelor of Science, Administration of Justice
Appalachia, Virginia

Diana Lei Collins
Bachelor of Science, Medical Technology
St. Paul, Virginia

Michelle Nicole Collins
Bachelor of Arts, Biology
Castlewood, Virginia

Robert Austin Collins
Bachelor of Arts, Communication Studies
Newport News, Virginia
Melinda Marie Combs  
Bachelor of Science in Nursing  
Lebanon, Virginia

Sierra Gabrielle Combs  
Cum Laude  
Bachelor of Science, Biology  
Appalachia, Virginia

Lauren Rachelle Compton  
Bachelor of Science, Administration of Justice  
Castlewood, Virginia

Haleigh Alisabeth Compton  
Bachelor of Arts, Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Wise, Virginia

Adam James Cooper  
Bachelor of Science, Administration of Justice  
Midland, Virginia

Nicole Rheannon Copeland  
Bachelor of Science, Administration of Justice  
Wise, Virginia

Chelsea Alexandra Cornett  
Cum Laude  
Bachelor of Science, Psychology  
St. Paul, Virginia

Victoria Ruth Countiss  
Summa Cum Laude  
Bachelor of Arts, English Literature  
Wise, Virginia

Megan Lee Crabtree  
Bachelor of Science, Psychology  
Winchester, Virginia

Rachel Hunter Cradic  
Bachelor of Science, Psychology  
Gate City, Virginia
Mattie Nicole Crockett
Magna Cum Laude
Bachelor of Science, Psychology
Rose Hill, Virginia

Holly Denise Crum
Bachelor of Arts, Liberal Arts and Sciences
Chesterfield, Virginia

Kayla Brooke Daniels
Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Bristol, Virginia

Matthew Fredrick Day
Bachelor of Arts, Health and Physical Education
Buckhorn, Kentucky

Brittany LaGay Deel
Bachelor of Science, Administration of Justice
Haysi, Virginia

Kevin Thomas Derr
Bachelor of Arts, Government
Bristol, Virginia

Laura Summer Dickson
Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Roanoke, Virginia

Lawrence Ryan Dickt
Cum Laude
Bachelor of Science, Business Administration
Oak Hill, Virginia

Christian Sean Dimick
Bachelor of Arts, Music
Nora, Virginia

Kristy Lee Dixon
Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Jenkins, Kentucky
Katie Jo Dockery
Bachelor of Arts, Liberal Arts and Sciences
Oakwood, Virginia

Kelsey Nicole Dorton
Bachelor of Arts, Government
Pound, Virginia

Zachary Seth Dotson
Bachelor of Arts, History
Wise, Virginia

John Forrest Duncan
College Honors
Magna Cum Laude
Bachelor of Arts, Theatre / History
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Michael Allen Dupree
Bachelor of Science, Administration of Justice
Big Stone Gap, Virginia

Stephanie Danielle Edwards
Bachelor of Science, Administration of Justice
Clinchco, Virginia

Allison Nicole Eldridge
Bachelor of Science, Psychology
Jonesville, Virginia

Talia Shea Elliott
Cum Laude
Bachelor of Arts, Theatre
Bachelor of Science, Environmental Science
Fort Blackmore, Virginia

Marcus Jamar Elmore
Bachelor of Arts, Health and Physical Education
Blacksburg, Virginia

Cory Dean Elswick
Bachelor of Science, Computer Science
Vansant, Virginia
Koen Wesley Elswick
Cum Laude
Bachelor of Science, Biology
Clinchco, Virginia

Jacob Devoshen Faircloth
Bachelor of Science, Business Administration
Round Hill, Virginia

Ian Chamberlain Ferrand
Bachelor of Science, Business Administration
Wicomico Church, Virginia

Daniel Ian Ferrell
Magna Cum Laude
Bachelor of Science, Environmental Science
Wise, Virginia

Katla Elizabeth Figgatt
Bachelor of Science, Psychology
Lexington, Virginia

Jared Thomas Finch
Bachelor of Arts, Health and Physical Education
Nickelsville Virginia

Jasmine Brook Finch
Bachelor of Arts, Liberal Arts and Sciences
Coeburn, Virginia

Rachel Anastasia Fischer
Bachelor of Arts, History
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Lauren Elizabeth Fowler
Cum Laude
Bachelor of Arts, Health and Physical Education
Duffield, Virginia

Corey Alexander France
Cum Laude
Bachelor of Science, Psychology
Castlewood, Virginia
Lacey Brooke Frye  
Bachelor of Science, Biology  
Saltville, Virginia

Makayla Gayle Gamble  
Magna Cum Laude  
Bachelor of Arts, English Literature  
Gate City, Virginia

Jacob Scott Garman  
Bachelor of Science, Psychology  
New Castle, Virginia

Jordan Michelle Gilkerson  
Bachelor of Arts, Health and Physical Education  
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Erica Brooke Gilliam  
Bachelor of Arts, Biology  
Big Stone Gap, Virginia

Zemery Austin Gilliam  
Bachelor of Arts, Communication Studies  
Pound, Virginia

Morgan LeAnne Goodbrod  
Bachelor of Arts, Health and Physical Education  
Marion, Virginia

Brandon Samuel Goode  
Bachelor of Arts, Communication Studies  
Richmond, Virginia

Jenna Nicole Gray  
Magna Cum Laude  
Bachelor of Science, Psychology  
Patrick Springs, Virginia

Kehana Dawn Grayer  
Bachelor of Science, Sociology  
Salt Lake City, Utah
Darren Lynn Greear  
Bachelor of Arts, *Health and Physical Education*  
Coeburn, Virginia

Michael Grimes  
Bachelor of Science, *Biology*  
Coeburn, Virginia

Kelsie Makae Hale  
Bachelor of Arts, *Art*  
Coeburn, Virginia

James Patrick Hall  
Bachelor of Science, *Administration of Justice*  
Big Stone Gap, Virginia

John Rufus Hall III  
Bachelor of Science, *Mathematics*  
Coeburn, Virginia

Maya Gabrielle Hamlett  
Cum Laude  
Bachelor of Science, *Mathematics*  
Lynchburg, Virginia

Taylor Lee Harmon  
Bachelor of Arts, *Health and Physical Education*  
Bristol, Tennessee

Kelsey Elizabeth Harris  
Bachelor of Arts, *Liberal Arts and Sciences*  
Coeburn, Virginia

Wesley Todd Harris  
Cum Laude  
Bachelor of Arts, *Music*  
Big Stone Gap, Virginia

Benjamin Wayne Hartsock  
Bachelor of Arts, *History*  
Nickelsville, Virginia
Jessee Lee Hartsock
Bachelor of Science, Mathematics
Big Stone Gap, Virginia

Hannah Amber Heaton
Bachelor of Arts, Spanish
Bachelor of Science, Business Administration
Castlewood, Virginia

Alexzandrea Danielle Hickson
Bachelor of Science, Accounting
Chicago, Illinois

Christopher Daniel Hill
Bachelor of Science, Accounting
Coeburn, Virginia

Danielle Paige Hill
Bachelor of Arts, Liberal Arts and Sciences
Lebanon, Virginia

Zachary Alvin Hill
Bachelor of Arts, English Literature
Clintwood, Virginia

Kendra Brooke Hobbs
Cum Laude
Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Big Stone Gap, Virginia

Lucas Daniel Holcomb
Cum Laude
Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Kingsport, Tennessee

Elliott Detrone Holland Jr.
Bachelor of Arts, Health and Physical Education
Reston, Virginia

Damien Carson Holmes
Bachelor of Arts, Theatre
Lynchburg, Virginia
Isaac Lansing Holyfield
Bachelor of Science, Biochemistry
Big Stone Gap, Virginia

Rebecca Kristen Blagg Hopewell
Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Waynesboro, Virginia

Andrea Lauren Hopkins
Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Wise, Virginia

Kenonji Zsa'Mese Hughes
Bachelor of Science, Sociology
Cumberland, Virginia

Danielle Dawn Hutchison
Magna Cum Laude
Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Pound, Virginia

Beth Frances Hutson
Bachelor of Science, Sociology
Wise, Virginia

Ashleigh Ridgell Iannelli
Cum Laude
Bachelor of Science, Psychology
Woodbridge, Virginia

Dakota Blake Icenhour
Bachelor of Science, Psychology
Pound, Virginia

Nicholas Santo Impellizzeri
Bachelor of Arts, Government
Reston, Virginia

Kaytlin Joiner Ivey
Bachelor of Arts, Communication Studies
Cordele, Georgia
Cynthia Ann James  
Bachelor of Science, *Computer Science*  
Williamsburg, Virginia

Molly Ann Jenkins  
Bachelor of Science, *Sociology*  
Coeburn, Virginia

Alana Grace Johnson  
Magna Cum Laude  
Bachelor of Arts, *Communication Studies*  
Coeburn, Virginia

Grace M. Johnson  
Bachelor of Arts, *Interdisciplinary Studies*  
Glen Allen, Virginia

Jannike Charlene Johnson  
Bachelor of Science, *Biology*  
Castlewood, Virginia

Taylor Brooke Johnson  
Bachelor of Science, *Business Administration*  
Dryden, Virginia

Marcus Allen Jones  
Bachelor of Arts, *Health and Physical Education*  
Lynchburg, Virginia

BreAnna Faith Kelly  
Magna Cum Laude  
Bachelor of Science in Nursing  
Big Stone Gap, Virginia

Johnathan Blaine Kelly  
Bachelor of Arts, *History*  
Grundy, Virginia

Paul Kentes  
Bachelor of Science, *Business Administration*  
Alexandria, Virginia
Brett Tyler Ketron  
Bachelor of Arts, Music  
Coeburn, Virginia

Amanda Hope King  
Bachelor of Arts, English Literature  
Patrick County, Virginia

Steven Lee Klaiber  
Bachelor of Science, Administration of Justice  
Roanoke, Virginia

Kristine Marie Klink  
Bachelor of Arts, History  
Woodbridge, Virginia

Joseph Christopher Kostelac  
Bachelor of Science, Administration of Justice  
Charlottesville, Virginia

Faustina Kwarteng  
Bachelor of Science, Administration of Justice  
Warrenton, Virginia

Joseph Paul LaCava  
Bachelor of Science, Software Engineering /Computer Science  
Alexandria, Virginia

Brandi Nicole LaForce  
Bachelor of Science, Administration of Justice  
Dante, Virginia

Sara Elizabeth Lamb  
Bachelor of Arts, Communication Studies  
Pennington Gap, Virginia

Kelli Alexandra-Leigh Large  
Bachelor of Arts, Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Wise, Virginia

Aaron Michael Lawson  
Magna Cum Laude  
Bachelor of Science, Administration of Justice  
Wise, Virginia
Heather Nicole Lawson  
Bachelor of Arts, *Health and Physical Education*  
Coeburn, Virginia

Katelyn Marie Lawson  
Bachelor of Arts, *English Literature*  
Appalachia, Virginia

Lindsay Julanne Lawson  
Bachelor of Arts, *Chemistry*  
Coeburn, Virginia

Brittany Morgan Lester  
Bachelor of Arts, *Liberal Arts and Sciences*  
Wise, Virginia

Daniel Carlile Lewis  
Bachelor of Science, *Business Administration*  
Elk Grove, California

Tyler William Lighton  
Bachelor of Arts, *Health and Physical Education*  
Ashburn, Virginia

Christian David Lishen  
Bachelor of Science, *Psychology*  
Pierson, Florida

Connie Eugenia Little  
Bachelor of Arts, *English Literature /History*  
McClure, Virginia

Lyndon Brock Livesay  
Bachelor of Science, *Business Administration*  
Pennington Gap, Virginia

Isaac Tanner Logan  
Bachelor of Arts, *Health and Physical Education*  
Pound, Virginia

Laken Shaye Love  
Bachelor of Science in Nursing  
Duffield, Virginia
Jeffrey Tyler Lyall  
Bachelor of Science, Business Administration  
Haysi, Virginia

Tyler Lee Maggard  
Bachelor of Science, Business Administration  
Dryden, Virginia

Bernard Manatu  
Bachelor of Arts, Theatre  
Bachelor of Science, Biology  
Norton, Virginia

Heather Nicole Marchant  
Bachelor of Arts, Theatre  
Marion, Virginia

Christian Alexander Marquez  
Cum Laude  
Bachelor of Science, Business Administration  
Charlottesville, Virginia

Tye James Marshall  
Bachelor of Arts, Health and Physical Education  
Sevierville, Tennessee

Edward Sylvester Massaquoi  
Bachelor of Science, Administration of Justice  
Alexandria, Virginia

Kyle Scott Maternick  
Bachelor of Arts, Art  
Fairfax Station, Virginia

Sean Michael Matthews  
Bachelor of Science, Biology  
Chester, Virginia

Dustin Taylor Mays  
Bachelor of Science, Accounting  
Nickelsville, Virginia
Tessa Leigh McCoy-Hall
Bachelor of Arts, Communication Studies
Nora, Virginia

Jonathan Charles McCullough
Cum Laude
Bachelor of Arts, Music
Gate City, Virginia

Dustin Seth McGill
Bachelor of Science, Environmental Science
Sevierville, Tennessee

Maurice Nathan McGlone
College Honors
Magna Cum Laude
Bachelor of Science, Biology
Ewing, Virginia

Erika Leigh McLaughlin
Bachelor of Science, Administration of Justice
Haymarket, Virginia

Hannah Nicole McNew
Bachelor of Arts, Communication Studies
Gate City, Virginia

Richard Bradley McNew
Bachelor of Arts, Health and Physical Education
Meadowview, Virginia

Autumn Briana Meade
Bachelor of Arts, Health and Physical Education
Coeburn, Virginia

Ashley Suzann Minton
Bachelor of Science in Nursing
St. Paul, Virginia

Christopher O'Neil Mitchell
Bachelor of Science, Environmental Science
Smithfield, Virginia
Jasmine Nicole Mitchell  
Cum Laude  
Bachelor of Science, Accounting  
Big Stone Gap, Virginia

Joy Noelle Mitchell  
Magna Cum Laude  
Bachelor of Arts, Communication Studies  
Big Stone Gap, Virginia

Aubrey Anne Mixner  
Bachelor of Arts, History  
Mechanicsville, Virginia

Deventae Terece Mooney  
Bachelor of Arts, Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Coeburn, Virginia

William Gary Bradley Moore  
Bachelor of Science, Business Administration  
Coeburn, Virginia

Devon Thomas Moring  
Bachelor of Science, Psychology  
Portsmouth, Virginia

Lexus X'avia Morton  
Bachelor of Arts, History  
Atlanta, Georgia

Eric Tyler Mullins  
Bachelor of Arts, Communication Studies  
Pound, Virginia

Jesselyn Gabrielle Mullins  
Magna Cum Laude  
Bachelor of Science, Biology  
Norton, Virginia

Kaytlin Brooke Mullins  
Bachelor of Science in Nursing  
Clintwood, Virginia
Vanauvon Ann Mullins  
Bachelor of Science, Business Administration  
Wise, Virginia  

Jared Lee Musick  
Bachelor of Science, Administration of Justice  
Lebanon, Virginia  

Margaret Elizabeth Naas  
Bachelor of Science, Sociology  
La Porte, Indiana  

John Alexander Nauss  
Chancellor’s Medal  
Summa Cum Laude  
Bachelor of Science, Biochemistry  
Wise, Virginia  

Brandi Loren Neal  
Bachelor of Science in Nursing  
Stickleyville, Virginia  

Junetta Paige Nuckels  
Cum Laude  
Bachelor of Science, Chemistry  
Richlands, Virginia  

Elizabeth O'Quinn  
Bachelor of Arts, Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Haysi, Virginia  

Jessie Lynn O'Quinn  
Cum Laude  
Bachelor of Arts, Mathematics /Music  
Honaker, Virginia  

Elyssa Denise Orquiza  
Bachelor of Science, Accounting /Business Administration  
Chesapeake, Virginia  

Lindsey Marie Packard  
Bachelor of Arts, Health and Physical Education  
Leesburg, Virginia
Casey Logan Lee Page  
Bachelor of Arts, Music  
Coeburn, Virginia

Cherish Noel Page  
Bachelor of Arts, Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Pound, Virginia

Sara Ellen Paris  
Summa Cum Laude  
Bachelor of Arts, Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Susanville, California

Michael Ian Peck  
Bachelor of Arts, Art /Government  
Honaker, Virginia

Victoria Anne Pedigo  
Bachelor of Science, Psychology  
Pulaski, Virginia

Dustin Kyle Perrigan  
Bachelor of Arts, Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Dante, Virginia

Molly Denyse Perry  
Bachelor of Arts, Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Pound, Virginia

Sydney Nicole Perry  
Cum Laude  
Bachelor of Arts, Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Pound, Virginia

Malachi Emery Phillips  
Bachelor of Science, Administration of Justice  
St. Paul, Virginia

Michael Romey Phillips  
Bachelor of Science, Environmental Science  
Castlewood, Virginia
Darrian Nicole Pickett  
Bachelor of Arts, Communication Studies  
Leesburg, Virginia

Kenzie Mekkel Poindexter  
Bachelor of Science in Nursing  
Roanoke, Virginia

Adrienne Laren Pollard  
Cum Laude  
Bachelor of Arts, History  
Ruther Glen, Virginia

Chelsea Camille Polly  
Bachelor of Arts, History  
Bachelor of Science, Psychology  
Wise, Virginia

Jessica Paige Powers  
Bachelor of Science, Accounting /Business Administration  
Wise, Virginia

Amanda Paige Puckett  
Bachelor of Science, Sociology  
Lebanon, Virginia

Taylor Brooke Puckett  
Cum Laude  
Bachelor of Science, Accounting /Business Administration  
Clintwood, Virginia

Tyler Stone Ramsey  
Bachelor of Science in Nursing  
Wise, Virginia

Kayla Nicole Ratliff  
Summa Cum Laude  
Bachelor of Arts, History  
Council, Virginia

Madison Brooke Ray  
Summa Cum Laude  
Bachelor of Arts, Communication Studies  
Clintwood, Virginia
Mychaela Starr Richardson  
Magna Cum Laude  
Bachelor of Arts, Communication Studies  
Whitesburg, Kentucky

Travis D. Riggins Jr.  
Bachelor of Science, Psychology /Administration of Justice  
Virginia Beach, Virginia

April Dawn Rivers  
Bachelor of Science, Administration of Justice  
Martinsville, Virginia

Brenton Douglas Roberts  
Bachelor of Science, Administration of Justice  
Quantico, Virginia

Timothy Tyler Robinette  
Bachelor of Science, Business Administration  
St. Paul, Virginia

Meagan Rose Roth  
Bachelor of Science, Psychology  
Toms River, New Jersey

Virginia Michelle Rouse  
Bachelor of Science, Business Administration  
Glade Spring, Virginia

Kelie Anita Rumberger  
Bachelor of Arts, Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Wise, Virginia

Leigh Ann Rumberger  
Bachelor of Science, Psychology  
Clintwood, Virginia

Preston Winfield Sage  
Bachelor of Science, Business Administration  
Stickleyville, Virginia

Dawer Tanvir Sahi  
Bachelor of Science, Psychology  
Springfield, Virginia
Chassidy Rhea Salyer  
Bachelor of Science, Accounting  
Castlewood, Virginia

Oakley Joseph Salyers  
Bachelor of Science, Management Information Systems  
Norton, Virginia

Justis Terrell Sandidge  
Bachelor of Science, Business Administration  
Fincastle, Virginia

David Matthew Sandoval  
Bachelor of Science, Administration of Justice  
Roanoke, Virginia

Jeromy Dale Sartin  
Bachelor of Arts, Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Coeburn, Virginia

Melissa Danielle Meade Sartin  
Bachelor of Arts, Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Coeburn, Virginia

Nickelson Lee Showalter  
Bachelor of Science in Nursing  
Lynchburg, Virginia

Amberly Jeannette Showers  
Bachelor of Science, Environmental Science  
Afton, Virginia

Sass Santanah Sloce  
Cum Laude  
Bachelor of Science, Sociology  
Norton, Virginia

Sia Siahna Sloce  
Cum Laude  
Bachelor of Science, Biology /Sociology  
Norton, Virginia

Bryan Wayne Smith  
Bachelor of Science, Software Engineering /Computer Science
Weber City, Virginia

**Jordan Webster Smith**  
Bachelor of Arts, *Health and Physical Education*  
Richmond, Virginia

**Kelcie Lee Smith**  
Bachelor of Science in Nursing  
Louisa, Virginia

**Kelsey Lenn Smith**  
Bachelor of Arts, *Liberal Arts and Sciences*  
Kingsport, Tennessee

**Kristin Nicole Smith**  
Magna Cum Laude  
Bachelor of Arts, *Biology*  
Clintwood, Virginia

**Robert Lee Smith**  
Bachelor of Science, *Administration of Justice*  
Wise, Virginia

**Shaquille Rayshawn Smith**  
Bachelor of Science, *Business Administration*  
Roanoke, Virginia

**Amanda Celena Sneed**  
Bachelor of Science, *Business Administration*  
Big Stone Gap, Virginia

**Bradley Evan Spangler**  
Bachelor of Science, *Business Administration*  
Haysi, Virginia

**Jedediah Timothy Paul Spicer**  
Bachelor of Science, *Computer Science /Mathematics*  
Gate City, Virginia

**Madeline Shae Stallard**  
Bachelor of Arts, *Biology*  
Pound, Virginia

**Conner Daniel Stanley**
Bachelor of Science, Biology
Big Stone Gap, Virginia

**William Adam Steven**
Cum Laude
Bachelor of Science, Accounting/Economics
Fonthill, Ontario, Canada

**Shelby Leighann Stewart**
Cum Laude
Bachelor of Science, Mathematics
Appalachia, Virginia

**Danielle Ann Stoffelen**
Bachelor of Science, Business Administration
Centreville, Virginia

**James Walker Stowers**
Cum Laude
Bachelor of Science, Psychology
Bland, Virginia

**Jonathan Cecil Strouth**
Bachelor of Science, Computer Science
Pound, Virginia

**Jessica Dawn Sturgill**
Magna Cum Laude
Bachelor of Science, Mathematics
Norton, Virginia

**Katelyn Danielle Sturgill**
Cum Laude
Bachelor of Arts, History
Wise, Virginia

**Alex Landon Summers**
Bachelor of Science, Environmental Science
Castlewood, Virginia

**Marcus Daniel Sweet**
Bachelor of Science, Administration of Justice
Richlands, Virginia
Zachary Jennings Tate  
Bachelor of Science, *Computer Science*  
Big Stone Gap, Virginia

Ashlee Sue Taylor  
Cum Laude  
Bachelor of Science, *Biology*  
Honaker, Virginia

Molly Elizabeth Taylor  
Cum Laude  
Bachelor of Science in Nursing  
Coeburn, Virginia

Stephanie Leah Michelle Taylor  
Bachelor of Arts, *Health and Physical Education*  
Sevierville, Tennessee

Nicolette Brittany Thomas  
Bachelor of Arts, *Theatre*  
Fredericksburg, Virginia

Sara Lucille Thomas  
Bachelor of Arts, *Liberal Arts and Sciences*  
Jonesville, Virginia

Oliver Joel Thompson  
Bachelor of Arts, *Health and Physical Education*  
Richmond, Virginia

Tyler Blake Tindell  
Bachelor of Arts, *Government*  
Jonesville, Virginia

Derrick Scott Torres  
Bachelor of Science, *Chemistry*  
St. Paul, Virginia

Justin Lee Trent  
Bachelor of Science, *Business Administration*  
St. Paul, Virginia

Samantha Louise Umphlette  
Bachelor of Science, *Accounting*
Dunsville, Virginia

**Malory Jo Vance**  
Bachelor of Arts, *Liberal Arts and Sciences*  
Nora, Virginia

**McKenzie Rae VanDyke**  
Cum Laude  
Bachelor of Science, *Biology*  
Grundy, Virginia

**Cameron David Vanover**  
Bachelor of Science, *Management Information Systems*  
Clintwood, Virginia

**Garret Matthew Voltz**  
Bachelor of Science, *Computer Science*  
Lansdowne, Virginia

**Eric Dustin Walker**  
Bachelor of Science, *Business Administration*  
Woodbridge, Virginia

**Shannon Christine Walker**  
Bachelor of Arts, *History /Communications Studies*  
Sterling, Virginia

**Kimberly Marie Welty**  
Bachelor of Science, *Biochemistry*  
Hampton, Virginia

**Channing Tyler West**  
Summa Cum Laude  
Bachelor of Science, *Chemistry*  
Big Stone Gap, Virginia

**William Jordan Wheatley**  
Bachelor of Arts, *Liberal Arts and Sciences*  
Wise, Virginia

**Charles Alexander White**  
Bachelor of Science, *Administration of Justice*  
Lebanon, Virginia
Andrew Townley Williams  
Bachelor of Science, Management Information Systems  
Lexington, Virginia

Joseph Brent Wills  
Bachelor of Arts, Health and Physical Education  
Windsor, Virginia

Rocky Dallas Wireman  
Bachelor of Arts, History  
Coeburn, Virginia

Steven Richard Woodburn  
Bachelor of Science, Administration of Justice  
Rye Cove, Virginia

Alexandria Paige Wyatt  
Bachelor of Arts, Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Coeburn, Virginia

Faith Evangeline Wymer  
Bachelor of Science, Psychology  
Marion, Virginia

Hillary Annette Yates  
Bachelor of Science, Mathematics  
Coeburn, Virginia

Joshua Douglas Yates  
Bachelor of Arts, Chemistry  
Vansant, Virginia

Sarah Ann Yates  
Bachelor of Science, Psychology  
Gate City, Virginia

Terrence O'Neal Younger  
Bachelor of Arts, Health and Physical Education  
Naruna, Virginia

Karolina Zaoralova  
Magna Cum Laude  
Bachelor of Science, Business Administration  
Zlin, Czech Republic
Capers Penn Zentmeyer
Bachelor of Science, *Biology*
Martinsville, Virginia
Keynote Speaker

Rear Admiral Robert Shumaker, who helped devise a secret “tap” communication system during the eight years he spent as a prisoner of war in Vietnam, will deliver the Commencement address at The University of Virginia’s College at Wise on May 7.

“We are honored to have Rear Admiral Shumaker, a true American hero, as our speaker at Commencement 2016,” Chancellor Donna P. Henry said. “The harrowing story of his time as a POW in the Hanoi Hilton is one of sheer determination to overcome unimaginable conditions. The secret tap code that he and three fellow POWs devised to communicate is a riveting piece of American history that still resonates today. In fact, the tap code was a key plot element in a February 2016 episode of The Flash on the CW network. We are thrilled to welcome Rear Admiral Shumaker to UVa-Wise.”

Commencement 2016 is set for May 7 at 11 a.m. in the David J. Prior Convocation Center.

Shumaker graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1956 and after flight training, he joined fighter squadron VF32 and flew the F8 Crusader jet fighter. NASA considered him for astronaut training, but a temporary physical ailment blocked his selection.

In 1964, he earned a masters degree in aeronautical engineering from the United States Naval Postgraduate School. While attached to VF154 squadron, he was shot down on a mission over North Vietnam in February 1965. He was captured and spent the next eight years as a POW in Hanoi. He is held in high regard by his fellow POW’s for his resistance, leadership and communication skills during imprisonment.

It was in June 1965, that then Lieutenant Shumaker and three other POWs, Captain Carlyle Harris, Lieutenant Phillip Butler and Lieutenant Robert Peel, used a simple tap code while they shared a cell in the Hoa Lo prison, better known as The Hanoi Hilton. The code was a basic five-by-five alphabet matrix, and each letter was communicated by tapping in the proper sequence. The code spread through the prison when the men were eventually split up and moved to other cells.
Due to his resistance, Shumaker was subjected to torture and harsh treatment and placed in solitary confinement for three years, as were 10 others known as the Alcatraz Eleven. “Defiant,” a book published in 2012, describes their ordeal.

After repatriation in 1973, he resumed academic studies, which led to a second master’s degree and a doctorate degree in electrical engineering. He was at the Naval Air Systems Command for six years as a major project manager for precision guided munitions, where he helped develop Hellfire and Maverick missiles.

He was then promoted to flag rank and became the Superintendent of the Naval Postgraduate School. At the Pentagon, as a Rear Admiral, he was responsible for coordinating the research efforts of the Navy’s air, surface, electronics and space activities. He retired from the Navy in 1989 and began civilian life as an assistant dean at George Washington University and later on as an associate dean at the University of North Dakota.

Starting in 1991 he pursued his passion for aviation and built an airplane called a Glasair, which he and his wife have flown to such places as Alaska and the Bahamas. Admiral Shumaker’s military decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, two Silver Stars, four Legions of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, a Bronze Star, and two Purple Hearts.

In 2011 he was awarded the Distinguished Graduate Award from the Naval Academy. He and Lorraine, his wife of 52 years, now live in Fairfax Station, Virginia.
Honorary Class Speaker

Madison Brooke Ray, a communication studies major from Clintwood, Virginia, is the 2016 class speaker.

Ray, who graduates with top honors, was always interested in communication, but she was unsure about where her degree would take her. She soon learned that there was plenty of potential and many opportunities for communication majors.

“You can know everything, but if you can’t talk to people about it, it’s not going to get you very far,” she said.

The rhetorical part of communication studies drew her attention initially and kindled thoughts of a teaching career at the college level. Her leanings changed as she studied the interpersonal side of the discipline.

However, a health issue that Ray encountered in her junior year completely changed her way of life and her career goals. Headaches became common and she realized she just didn’t feel well most of the time. A physician diagnosed her with gluten sensitivity and a dietary change improved her condition, but she still did not feel completely well. Additional tests revealed a genetic morphism that affected her liver. The quick fix was a vitamin regimen.

“It completely changed my life,” she said.

Ray decided to use her communication skills to pursue a career that blends nutrition and communication to help patients who battle chronic illness. She plans to earn a master degree in professional communication and leadership at Armstrong State University in Savannah, Georgia and then pursue holistic nutrition studies.

“You can really set yourself apart if you can communicate and relate to your patients,” she said. “I love helping people with their health issues. I am grateful for everything that has happened because it has reconnected me with my faith and my life. It really was a journey.”
Ray also realized the benefits of a liberal arts education while she was tending to her health. Her genetics specialist was explaining the diagnosis and expressed concern that she may not be familiar with the terminology.

“I was in Professor Bruce Cahoon’s genetics class during this time and I knew exactly what the specialist was talking about,” she said. “I said ‘thank you liberal arts.’ My doctor was thrilled with what I knew.”

She has created an Instagram food blog and is conducting her student research project on communication between healthcare providers and chronically ill patients.

As she looks back on her time at UVa-Wise, Ray said she would never have dreamed of passing up a quality school that was in her own backyard. The strong relationship between faculty and students was also appealing.

“I see how beneficial my four years here has been when I look back,” she said. “People really care here on campus, and that is what sets us apart. I could go to any of my professors for help.”

Ray is grateful for the scholarships that fully paid her tuition and books, and she is thrilled to say that she earned her undergraduate degree debt free.

“I’m going to miss the closeness and the atmosphere, especially within our Communication Studies department,” she said.

Ray is a member of the Darden Society, Napoleon Hill Scholars, Delta Epsilon Iota Society and is president of Lambda Pi Eta.