

Pfeiffer

UNIVERSITY



Commencement Exercises

SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2026 at 9 am

NORTH LAWN
MISENHEIMER, NC

PFEIFFER UNIVERSITY

2026 COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

Scott W. Bullard, Ph.D., President, Presiding



Prelude	Francis McBeth <i>“Cavata”</i> Pfeiffer University Wind Ensemble and Friends Tim Hedrick, Director
* Processional	Sir Edward Elgar <i>Pomp and Circumstance</i>
* Invocation	Rev. Kristina K. Mares <i>University Chaplain</i>
Welcome	Dr. Scott W. Bullard <i>President</i>
Welcome from the Board of Trustees	Mr. Russell C. Ring Trustee
Reflections from the Class of 2026	Miss Gabriela M. Edwards '26
Musical Selection	Pinkzebra <i>“Fly Away Home”</i> Lisa Ewers '89 - Vocalist Carmella Hedrick - Accompanist
Introduction of Keynote Speaker	Dr. Bullard
Commencement Keynote Address	Dr. Joseph D. Armstrong, III '82 <i>Chief Marketing Officer at TCG GreenChem, Inc.</i>
Recognition of Senior Scholastic Achievement	Dr. Dennis Carroll <i>Provost & Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs</i>
Commencement Prayer	Mr. Darcy McFayden '26

Remembering Our Classmates

Dr. Bullard

Presentation of Candidates for Baccalaureate Degrees

Conferring of Baccalaureate Degrees

Presentation of Diplomas

Presentation of Candidates for Graduate Degrees

Conferring of Graduate Degrees

Presentation of Diplomas

* Pfeiffer University Alma Mater

Dr. Richard Brewer

Hail, Alma Mater! All Hail to thee!
It's Pfeiffer University, in the land of the free.
Everlasting friendships found will ever remain.
Our loyalty reigns evermore. All Hail! All Hail!

Hail, Alma Mater! All Hail to thee!
The ringing chimes and chapel spire for all they inspire.
Black and gold our colors wave forever on high.
And Pfeiffer University, All Hail! All Hail!

*Benediction

Rev. Mares

*Recessional

Joe Derhake
"The Crowning Glory March"

*The audience will please rise.

Participation in the commencement ceremony is not official verification of graduation requirements. Likewise, the appearance of an individual's name in the program does not constitute acknowledgement that all degree requirements have been completed. The official status for the conferral of all degrees is maintained by the Registrar's Office.

2026 BACCALAUREATE DEGREE CANDIDATES

Brandon Matthew Allen
Tecumseh, ON Canada
B.S. Business Management & Leadership

Michael Landon Almond
New London, NC
B.S. Criminal Justice

Maria Fernanda Altamirano
Mooresville, NC
B.A. Psychology

John Dale Basinger, Jr.
Woodleaf, NC
B.A. Strategic Communication & Social
Media

Onales Hope Baucom
Albemarle, NC
B.S.N. - B.S in Nursing

Mallory Faith Bentley
Salisbury, NC
B.A. Psychology

Chase Cameron Benton
Johnstown, NY
B.S. Health & Physical Education

Jordan Lyn Blake
Mount Pleasant, NC
B.A. Psychology

Madison Paige Blankenship
Asheboro, NC
B.A. Elementary Education

Jake Nicolas Blevins
Salisbury, NC
B.S. Business Management & Leadership

Jack Michael Brandle
Charlotte, NC
B.S. Business Management & Leadership

Loretta Lynn Brandon
Durham, NC
B.A. History

Brenda Jean Brock
Troy, NC
B.S.N. - B.S in Nursing

Andrew Charles Brown
Metarie, LA
B.A Sports Management

Andrew Bruss
Concord, NC
B.A. Sport Management

Malika Butler
Albemarle, NC
B.S. Business Management & Leadership

Lola Amera Cabaniss-Ali
Mint Hill, NC
B.S. Accounting

Juan Pablo Cabrera Pena
Charlotte, NC
B.S. Criminal Justice
B.A. Strategic Communication & Social
Media

Briana Roxanne Calvin
Gastonia, NC
B.A. History

Niccolo Cantini
Capannori, FC Italy
B.A. Sport Management

Tommaso Cantini
Capannori, FC Italy
B.A. Sport Management

Skylla-Jo Charette
Fort Myers, FL
B.A. Psychology

Sydney Ann Cohen
Indian Land, SC
B.A. Psychology

Kristen Marie Colie
La Grange, NC
B.S. Business Management & Leadership
B.A. Strategic Communication & Social
Media

Taylor Sydney Cooke
Winston-Salem, NC
B.A. Sport Management

Charly Lynn Cooper
Bullock, NC
B.A. Educational Studies

Kade Jaycob Cooper
New London, NC
B.A. Educational Studies

Braelyn Elise Couick
Albemarle, NC
B.S. Business Management & Leadership

Joseph Landon Cromer
Salisbury, NC
B.A. Strategic Communication & Social
Media

Reece Alexander Crump
Norwood, NC
B.S. Business Management & Leadership

Lapo Nicola D'Amato
Rimini, Italy
B.S. Business Management & Leadership

Christian R. Daniels
Apex, NC
B.S. Biology

Benjamin Arthur De Aguilar
Rockingham, NC
B.S. Business Management & Leadership

Mychal Elon DeBerry
Indian Trail, NC
B.A. Strategic Communication & Social
Media

Victoria Anne Dharanikota
Midland, NC
B.S. Biology

Emily Danielle Dickerson
Blacksburg, VA
B.S. Health & Exercise Science

Beverly M. Dodson
Atlantic, IA
B.S. Biology

Jahari Heru Dozier
Charlotte, NC
B.A. Psychology
B.S. Criminal Justice

Alyson Paige Drake
Concord, NC
B.S.N. - B.S in Nursing

Chelsey Marie Drye
Denton, NC
B.S. Business Management & Leadership

Gabriela Michelle Edwards
Catawba, NC
B.S. Criminal Justice
B.A. History

Makayla Marie Eastman
Salisbury, NC
B.S.N. - B.S in Nursing

Juanita Yvette Evans
Aberdeen, NC
B.S.N. - B.S in Nursing

Savannah Lee Faircloth
Albemarle, NC
B.S. Health & Exercise Science

Micah Rylee Felts
Lowgap, NC
B.A. Psychology

Amanda Faith Finch
Winston Salem, NC
B.A. Elementary Education

Madeline Alene Flinchum
Franklinville, NC
B.S. Health & Exercise Science

Yasmin Elizabeth Flores Perez
Concord, NC
B.S. Business Management & Leadership

Crysty Elizabeth Flores Perez
Concord, NC
B.S. Business Management & Leadership

Vanessa Garcia Flores
Ocean Isle Beach, NC
B.S. Accounting

Olivia Rose Garver
Clover, SC
B.S.N. - B.S in Nursing

Justin Harrison Gaten
Coconut Creek, FL
B.S. Business Management & Leadership

Madison Gram
Albemarle, NC
B.S. Computer Information Systems

Robert Arie Hanlon
Summerfield, NC
B.S. Business Management & Leadership

Briana Zorian Iona Hanson
Winston-Salem, NC
B.A. Psychology

Joely Madison Harrelson
Lexington, NC
B.S. Criminal Justice

Autumn Grace Helms
New London, NC
B.A. Psychology
B.S. Criminal Justice

Sawyer Ray Helms
Concord, NC
B.A. Sport Management

Thomas Chase Henderson
Greensboro, NC
B.S. Business Management & Leadership

Jacob Henkel
Ada, MI
B.A. Sports Management

Faith Sarah Hollar
Salisbury, NC
B.A. History

Rylee Danielle Honeycutt
Clinton, NC
B.S. Criminal Justice
B.A. Psychology

Tiger Hopkins
Lewiston, ME
B.A. Interdisciplinary Studies

Dahmiya A'Lesia Horton
Statesville, NC
B.A. Sport Management

Victoria Jane Howard
Little River, SC
B.A. Sport Management

Chance Lee Hunt
Norwood, NC
B.S. Business Management & Leadership

Stefan Iordache
Bucharest, Romania
B.S. Health & Exercise Science

Riley Makayla Isley
Rockwell, NC
B.S. Criminal Justice
B.A. Psychology

Hannah Scott Isley
Rockwell, NC
B.S. Health & Exercise Science

Joseph Vincent Javier
Kannapolis, NC
B.S. Computer Information Systems

Evan Courtney Jenkins
Cary, NC
B.A. Interdisciplinary Studies

Christopher Eugene Johnson
Temecula, CA
B.S. Health & Exercise Science

Kohen David Johnson
Kings Mountain, NC
B.S. Health & Exercise Science

Jackson Johnson
Albemarle, NC
B.A. Psychology

Joshua Johnson
Raleigh, NC
B.A. Sport Management

Tim Lloyd Jones
Franklinville, NC
B.A. Educational Studies

Caleb Kemer
Rockledge, FL
B.S. Business Management & Leadership

Eric Scott Lackey
Clover, SC
B.S. Accounting

Emma Gail LaFave
Jacksonville, NC
B.S.N. - B.S in Nursing

Brianna Michelle Lail
Denton, NC
B.S. Business Management & Leadership
B.A. Strategic Communication & Social Media

Kennedy Grace Laney
Albemarle, NC
B.A. Psychology

Katelyn Bryanna Lentz
Salisbury, NC
B.S. Health & Exercise Science

Simeon C. Lerell-Tokoto
Cary, NC
B.A. Sport Management

Abigail Dawn Lewis
Roxboro, NC
B.S. Biology

Thad J. Lewis
Cary, NC
B.A. Sport Management

Wilson Lohrer
Charlotte, NC
B.S. Business Management & Leadership

Madison Ann Lomax
Mount Gilead, NC
B.S. Health & Exercise Science

Brandon Gregory Luft
Palmyra, PA
B.S. Criminal Justice

Craig Majid
Greenlawn, NY
B.A. Interdisciplinary Studies

Sara Elizabeth Martin
Concord, NC
B.S.N. - B.S in Nursing

Leighanne Inez Martin Ford
Asheboro, NC
B.A. Elementary Education

Kaylee A. McCarthy
Stafford, VA
B.A. Psychology

Haedyn Grace McGrath
Buford, GA
B.S. Health & Exercise Science

Haley Rebekah McManus
Coord, NC
B.A. Elementary Education

Faith Anne Miller
Toccoa, GA
B.S. Biology

Lauren Paige Miller
Salisbury, NC
B.A. Counseling & Human Services

Cameron Jerome Mills
Reidsville, NC
B.S. Business Management & Leadership

Jennifer Minus
Dorchester, SC
B.S.N. - B.S in Nursing

Hayden Lee Mishak
Gold Hill, NC
B.S. Criminal Justice

Kiernan Michael O'Connell
Greensboro, NC
B.S. Business Management & Leadership

Kaylee Helen Ollis
Morganton, NC
B.S. Health & Exercise Science

Kerosi Onkoba Nyamveya Omundi
Durham, NC
B.S. Computer Information Systems

Kirstyn Nicole Page
King, NC
B.A. Psychology

Mia Isabella Parra-Cordero
Salisbury, NC
B.A. Psychology

Kyler Rae Perdue
Asheboro, NC
B.S. Health & Exercise Science

Micah Isaiah Potter
Jacksonville, NC
B.A. Psychology

Laurin Maurice Rauer
Melle, Germany
B.S. Biology

Rachel Elizabeth Reeder
Betsy Layne, KY
B.A. Educational Studies

Jackson Tyler Reese
Bluffton, SC
B.A. Psychology
B.S. Criminal Justice

Emma Elizabeth Riedel
Albemarle, NC
B.A. Psychology

Yailine Danieda Riera
Albemarle, NC
B.S. Justice & Professional Studies

Jacob Zander Rocha
St Petersburg, FL
B.S. Environment and Sustainability Studies

Saul Rodriguez
Concord, NC
B.S. Biology

Julia Renata Romero Picon
Ciudad del Carmen, Mexico
B.S. Business Management & Leadership
B.A. Counseling & Human Services

Samuel Isaac Safrit
China Grove, NC
B.S. Business Management & Leadership

Brionna Paige Saunders
Star, NC
B.S. Biology

Annika Pylar Schneider
Stanfield, NC
B.S. Business Management & Leadership

Ashton Scott Shoaf
Marshville, NC
B.A. Communication

Ethan Michael Silber
Indian Trail, NC
B.S. Health & Exercise Science

Josiah Nicholas Simmons
Staley, NC
B.S. Computer Information Systems

Virginia Lee Wagoner
Misenheimer, NC
B.S.N. - B.S in Nursing

Journey Grace Sisung
New London, NC
B.A. Psychology

LaRaylon Jonelle Warren
Charlotte, NC
B.A. Health Administration

Joseph Aaron Smith
Denton, NC
B.S. Justice & Professional Studies
B.A. History

Nicholas Warrington
Pasadena, MD
B.S. Health & Exercise Science

Jocelyn Smith
Star, NC
B.A. Educational Studies

Carson Matthew Whitehead
Ramseur, NC
B.S. Business Management & Leadership

Douglas Ja'Qyce Smith
Badin, NC
B.A. Sport Management

Robert Austin Wood
Dallas, NC
B.S. Business Management & Leadership

Emma Leigh Snow
Ramsuer, NC
B.A. Psychology

Bogdan Ioan Stan
Margate, FL
B.S. Health & Exercise Science

Ashlyn Alane Strickland
Greensboro, NC
B.S. Business Management & Leadership

Mason Alidor John Tardiff
Peterborough, ON Canada
B.S. Criminal Justice

Madison Gray Tate
Lexington, NC
B.S.N. - B.S in Nursing

Jadelyn Joan Taylor
Clover, SC
B.A. Psychology

Cayden Lee Usher
Salisbury, NC
B.S. Criminal Justice

CHIEF FACULTY MARSHAL

Dr. Mark McCallum

ASSOCIATE FACULTY MARSHAL

Dr. Deborah Burris

FACULTY MARSHALS

Dr. David Cartrette
Dr. Edward Royston

STUDENT MARSHALS

Molly Wright, Chief Marshal
Hailey Barnes
Emily Campbell
Bridget Duggan
Drew Garro
Kelsey Hussey
Anna Jordan
Landry Stewart

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETR

Dwana Johnson

Live stream the ceremony at www.pfeiffer.edu/live

COLOR GUARD

Drake Stewart - Crucifer
Lily Bido
Christian Gray
Christopher McDonald
Sean Sucarichi

ORDER OF THE SUNDIAL

Andrew Bruss
Gabriela Edwards
Stefan Iordache
Kaylee Ollis
Kirstyn Page
Micah Potter
Laurin Rauer
Julia Romero Picon

FRANCIS SCHOLARS

Stefan Iordache
Julia Romero Picon
Annika Schneider
Emma Snow

*Gold cord denotes honor graduates. Purple cord denotes Order of the Sundial.
Gold and blue cords denote Phi Delta Sigma. Green and white cords denote student leaders.*

Note: Due to this program's publication deadline, the list of degree candidates reflects information available prior to the end of the Spring 2026 semester.

2026 GRADUATE DEGREE CANDIDATES

Cody John Acosta
Burlington, NC
Master of Science Organizational
Change & Resource Management

Makalie Elizabeth Appleton-Sackett
Wilmington, NC
Master of Science Occupational Therapy

Thomas Page Ashby
Spartanburg, SC
Master of Business Administration

Melissa A. Balder
York, SC
Master of Business Administration

Kendra Deal Bowman
Mooresville, NC
Master of Business Administration

Alishia Tneal Breland
Charlotte, NC
Master of Arts in Marriage & Family
Therapy

Taylor Lynnette Brigman
China Grove, NC
Master of Business Administration

William Bruner
Rock Hill, SC
Master of Arts in Teaching

Marc Vincent DeLuca
Charlotte, NC
Master of Science Organizational
Change & Resource Management

Kendrick Eugene Duldulao
Wesley Chapel, FL
Master of Health Administration
Master of Business Administration

Sarina Dunn
Concord, NC
Master of Business Administration

Sarah Lynn Elliott
Asheboro, NC
Master of Health Administration

Amanda Faith Finch
Winston Salem, NC
Master of Arts in Teaching

Sharon Cotton Holman
Wake Forest, NC
Master of Health Administration

Hunter Matthew Hopkins
Lexington, NC
Master of Business Administration

Jamie Nicole Kazenmayer
Kannapolis, NC
Master of Business Administration

Kristen Rivenbark Kubitz
Fort Mill, SC
Master of Business Administration

Barbara Teresa Kuntz
Waxhaw, NC
Master of Arts in Marriage & Family
Therapy

Jackson Maynard
Charlotte, NC
Master of Business Administration

Darcy McFayden
Hope Mills, NC
Master of Science Organizational
Change & Resource Management

Desmond Ja'nae McGlown-Caldwell
Statesville, NC
Master of Arts in Marriage & Family
Therapy

Kayla Imani Mcilwain
Lancaster, SC
Master of Arts in Marriage & Family
Therapy

Caitlin Sallie Mickles
Morganton, NC
Master of Arts in Teaching

Gabriella Molina
Jackson Heights, NY
Master of Business Administration

Justen Wendell Morgan
Kannapolis, NC
Master of Business Administration
Master of Science in Leadership

Christopher Isaac Nalley
Charlotte, NC
Master of Business Administration

Taylor Nicole Parrish
Rockingham, NC
Master of Health Administration

Grace Turner Pressley
Charlotte, NC
Master of Business Administration

Irese Lizzette Robinson
Princeville, NC
Master of Science Organizational
Change & Resource Management

Eden U. Rufus
Concord, NC
Master of Arts in Marriage & Family
Therapy

Jasmin Opal Rush
Kannapolis, NC
Master of Arts in Marriage & Family
Therapy

Kourtney Lauren Scott
Charlotte, NC
Master of Arts in Marriage & Family
Therapy

Dania Sofia Shoaf
Winston Salem, NC
Master of Science Occupational Therapy

Chandler K. Spencer
Greensboro, NC
Master of Health Administration
Master of Business Administration

Casandra Stack
Benson, NC
Master of Science in Leadership

Aaliyah Hasannah Stokelin
Monroe, NC
Master of Health Administration
Master of Business Administration

Jaela Thomas
Middle River, MD
Master of Science Occupational Therapy

Christopher Toney
Statesville, NC
Master of Business Administration

Amanda Tuck Vizi
Denver, NC
Master of Business Administration

Jiwon Yun
Huntersville, NC
Master of Business Administration

Marta Luz Quijano Zapata
Charlotte, NC
Master of Business Administration
Master of Organizational Change &
Resource Management

ACADEMIC REGALIA

The formal academic dress worn today originated more than 600 years ago. The apparel has changed little in appearance but has taken on a significant role in identifying the degree and alma mater of its wearer.

Gowns for those with bachelor's degrees have pointed sleeves; those with master's degrees wear oblong sleeves and holders of doctoral degrees wear bell-shaped sleeves. Doctoral gowns have velvet facing on the front and three velvet stripes on each side. Hoods indicate the colors of the institution from which the degree was received and the color of the hood's border represents the academic discipline in which the degree was earned. Some of the more common disciplines are listed below:

Arts & Letters, Humanities.....	White
Business/Accounting.....	Olive Brown
Economics.....	Copper
Education.....	Light Blue
Engineering.....	Orange
Fine Arts & Architecture.....	Brown
Health Administration.....	Salmon
Communications/Journalism.....	Crimson
Law.....	Purple
Medicine.....	Green
Music.....	Pink
Nursing.....	Apricot
Occupational Therapy.....	Slate Blue
Physician Assistant.....	Kelly Green
Physical Education.....	Sage Green
Public Health.....	Salmon Pink
Science.....	Golden Yellow
Theology.....	Scarlet

The standard academic cap is appropriately known as a mortarboard. Faculty members holding master's or doctoral degrees may opt for a velvet tam.

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

Dr. Joseph D. Armstrong, III '82

Chief Marketing Officer , TCG GreenChem, Inc.



Dr. Joseph D. Armstrong graduated cum laude with a BS in Chemistry and Mathematics from Pfeiffer College in 1982. He earned his Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry from the University of Colorado Boulder and completed his postdoctoral research at the University of Virginia. As a boy, he told his Momma, Norma Armstrong, that he “wanted to make a difference and help people.” Years later, he attended a lecture by Pfeiffer professor Dr. Steve Dial, who said, “The way to help the most people is to go into pharmaceutical research.” From that moment, Dr. Armstrong dedicated his life to pursuing that dream.

Dr. Armstrong is a high energy scientific leader with extensive experience across all aspects of the drug development process. During his 28-year career at Merck & Co. Inc, he co-led the filing of the FDA new drug application for JANUVIA® in less than 4 years – well ahead of the typical 10-to-12 year timeline – helping generate approximately \$75 billion and benefiting more than 50 million people worldwide. His abilities were consistently recognized, resulting in increasing responsibility, including leadership of sites in the United Kingdom, Japan, and Montreal, and culminating in his service as Executive Director.

In 2019, Dr. Armstrong co-founded TCG GreenChem. Inc., a global contract development and manufacturing organization focused on innovative research, development, and manufacturing solutions for the pharma industry where he serves as Chief Marketing Officer.

Extending his commitment to helping others, and driven by a vision to preserve indigenous heritage, Dr. Armstrong co-founded Chakarunas SRL (“Bridgebuilders”) with Sergio Cam. The organization exports fair-trade maca globally and, since 1998, has supported approximately 10,000 Quechua families, providing sustainable livelihoods that protect traditional ways of life and help prevent the displacement of highland communities.

Dr. Armstrong is blessed to be husband to Dr. Helen Armstrong, and father to two highly accomplished daughters, Maddy and Kate.

Remembering Our Classmates

In Remembrance of Cameron “Cam” Stout

Cameron Stout, affectionately known by friends and family as Cam, joined Pfeiffer University as a member of the Class of 2026, pursuing a major in Health and Physical Education. Tragically, his life was cut short after his sophomore year. Although his time with us was brief, Cam continues to be an integral part of the Class of 2026 and the Pfeiffer community. Today, as we celebrate the achievements of this graduating class, we honor his memory and hold his loved ones, classmates, faculty, and friends close in our hearts.

In Remembrance of Lily Jane Taylor

Lily Jane Taylor is remembered with love and deep affection by the Pfeiffer community. Her life ended far too soon, leaving a profound sense of loss among those who knew her. She was celebrated for her kindness, her enthusiasm for collaborating with other students, and her growing interest in campus activities. While Lily’s major was undeclared, she expressed a passion for working with children. Lily remains a cherished member of the Class of 2026, and her presence and spirit are greatly missed.

