


5-8-2018

UA1B1/7 Lavendar Recognition Ceremony

Western Kentucky University

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*LAVENDER
RECOGNITION
CEREMONY*

RECOGNITION OF LGBT GRADUATES

May 8, 2018 | Augenstein Alumni Center



WELCOME

*Salutations to the Fourth Annual Lavender Recognition
Ceremony Students*

*It is not our differences that divide us.
It is our inability to recognize, accept and
celebrate those differences.
- Audre Lorde*

*On May 8, 2018,
Western Kentucky University
formally celebrates and accepts your differences.
We celebrate you and your journey to degree completion.*

"The Spirit Makes the Master"

HISTORY OF LAVENDER GRADUATION

WKU's Lavender Recognition Ceremony builds on the university-wide commencement events as an officially supported ceremony celebrating and recognizing the achievements and contributions of our LGBTQ and ally graduates to the WKU community. The event is held prior to the academic commencement ceremony before the conclusion of the academic year.

The tradition of Lavender Graduation began at the University of Michigan in 1995 with just three graduates. Dr. Ronni Sanlo, then Director of the University of Michigan LGBT Campus Resource Center, coordinated the first Lavender Graduation in order to acknowledge the achievements of LGBTQ graduates. By 2001, there were over 45 institutions holding Lavender Graduation Ceremonies and the tradition continues to expand to additional colleges and universities across the country.

Lavender is important to LGBTQ history. It is a combination of the pink triangle that gay men were forced to wear in concentration camps and the black triangle designating lesbians as political prisoners in Nazi Germany. The LGBTQ civil rights movement took these symbols of hatred and combined them to make symbols and color of pride and community.

PROGRAM

Opening

Conner Hounshell

WKU SGA Chief of Staff

Welcome

President Timothy C. Caboni

Student Reflections

Jeremy McFarland

Keynote Address

Dr. Anthony McAdoo

Executive Director of WKU Alumni Association

Presentation of Graduation Stoles

Dr. Marko Dumancic

Sharon Hunter

Greetings from WKU Alumni Association

Anthony McAdoo

Executive Director for Alumni Association

Gift Challenge

Dr. Patricia Minter

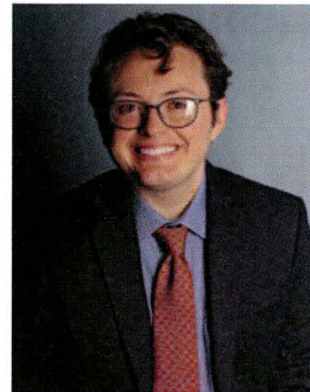
Professor of History

Closing

Conner Hounshell

WKU SGA Chief of Staff

STUDENT REFLECTIONS

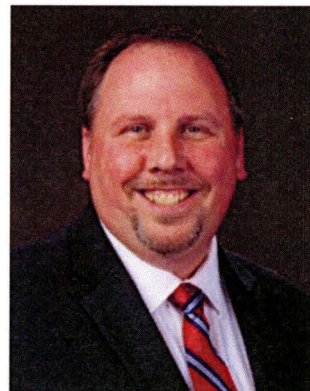


Jeremy McFarland

Jeremy McFarland, from Campbellsville, Kentucky, is graduating from Western Kentucky University with a Bachelor's of Arts degree, majors in English (Professional Writing) and Chinese. He was Vice President of the Chinese Club, on the leadership board of the Queer Student Union, and founded and led the Transgender Non-Binary Student Group. He was a student worker in the Department of Modern Languages and the founding intern in the WKU Pride Center. Jeremy is a Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship recipient. He is preparing to

spend his summer completing language classes and an internship in Beijing, China.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS



Dr. Anthony McAdoo

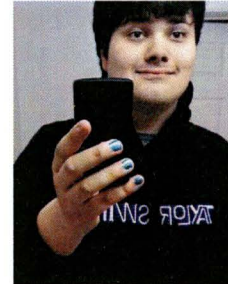
Executive Director of WKU Alumni Association

Dr. Anthony McAdoo currently serves as the Executive Director of the WKU Alumni Association.

He holds three degrees in agriculture and education from the University of Arkansas, including a doctorate in higher education leadership.

As an 18-year professional in higher education, Anthony has spent the last 15 years in alumni relations in progressive leadership roles. He served 10 years at the University of Arkansas Alumni Association where he oversaw all programming and engagement opportunities for alumni. After serving the University of Oregon as the Assistant Vice President for Advancement and Senior Director for the University of Oregon Alumni Association, Anthony moved to the Hill in June 2016.

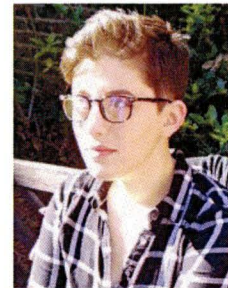
CLASS OF 2018



Sophia Arnold

Detroit, MI

B.A. Political Science; Religious Studies Minor

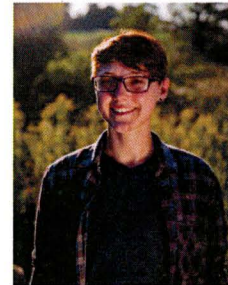


Rachel Blondheim

Montgomery, AL

B.A. Chinese; English Minor

Black Art Nouveau • Student Identity Outreach



Rowan Brown

Boston, KY

B.S. Math, Physics; Astronomy Minor

Society of Physics Students • Transgender & Nonbinary Groups



Chloe Brown

Albany, KY

M.A. Folk Studies

WKU Folk Studies Graduate Student Association • Alan Miller Memorial Award for Writing on the Environment • Ashen Egg Editor



Murphy Burke

Des Moines, IA

M.A. Public Relations; Legal Studies Minor; Citizenship and Social Justice Minor

WKU Forensics Team • Potter College Dean's Council of Student Ambassadors • SGA Public Relations Director • Honors College Scholar • Founder of WKU Generation Action • WKU iMedia • Student Representative on Presidential Transition Team • Patrick Henry Vincent Award for Oratory and Debate • WKU Forensics Service Award • Cherry Presidential Scholar



Kayla Dowdy

Bowling Green, KY

M.A. Organizational Leadership

WKU Student Affairs Staff



Breanna Carter

Louisville, KY

B.A. Communication Studies; Gender & Women's Studies and Citizenship and Social Justice

Lambda Pi Eta • Led a "Be You" self confidence workshop for a local Girl Scout Troop for CCSJ capstone project • Lead Zumba classes at the Preston Center • Golden Key Honors Society • NSCS



Miranda Ellison

Bowling Green, KY

B.S. Criminology; Sociology Minor



Kaylie Connors

Louisville, KY

B.A. Anthropology; Archaeology and Cultural Anthropology Concentration; Broadcast Communications Minor

Resident Assistant • Desk Assistant • Studied Abroad in Mongolia

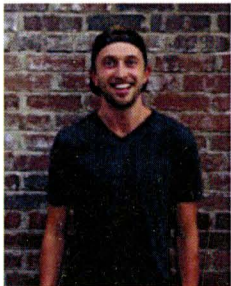


Caroline Ferro

Louisville, KY

Gatton Academy

QSU TNB • Bowling Green Fairness

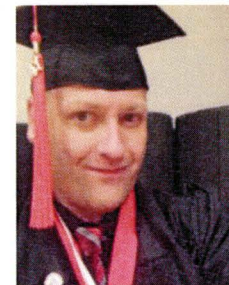


Zane DeZeeuw

Montrose, CO

M.F.A. Creative Writing - Fiction

2018 Potter College Award for Outstanding Student in English, MFA



Joshua Finn

Franklin, KY

B.A. Religious Studies; Folklore Minor

Theta Alpha Kappa • The National Society of Leadership and Success • Bowling Green Fairness Ordinance Involvement • Bowling Green Pride Festival • Trio Student Support Services Scholarship Winner • Trio Student Support Services Scholastic Excellence • President's List Spring 2016 and Fall 2016 • Dean's List Fall 2017



Kelsey Fox

Club Run, KY

M.A. English Literature

2018 Wood Award • 2018 Potter College Award for Outstanding Student in English M.A.



Leslie Fox

Oakland, KY

M.F.A. Creative Writing

Assistant Director of The Writing Center • Poem published in Pine Mountain Sand and Gravel



David Haydon

Springfield, KY

M.F.A. Creative Writing; Secondary Tract in Literature

Assistant Director of the WKU Writing Center • Intern at Creative Nonfiction Magazine



Tayyaba Iram

Bowling Green, KY

Master in Public Health

Resident Assistant (Zacharias Hall)

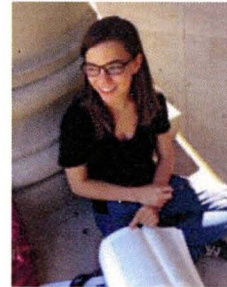


Bryan Knowles

Warner Robbins, GA

M.A. Rhetoric and Composition

English Club • Association for Computing Machinery (President) • Hope Harbor Volunteer



Madeline Kramer

Crestwood, KY

B.A. English, Psychology; American Sign Language Studies Minor

WKU Undergraduate Research Conference presenter • Honors College • Sigma Tau Delta • Jones, Thomas English Scholarship • Jim Wayne Miller Celebration of Writing Finalist



Sasha Malone

Pikeville, KY

B.S. Mathematics

QSU • Trans/Nonbinary Student Group • Johnson & Yarborough Awards (given to the WKU Mathematics Department's outstanding junior and senior, respectively)



Ashley McElveen

Russellville, KY

Associate Degree, Paramedicine

Paramedic

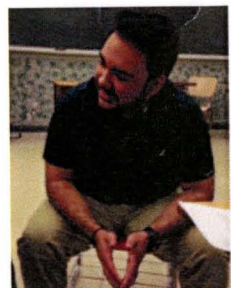


Jeremy McFarland

Campbellsville, KY

B.A. English (Professional Writing), Chinese

Chinese Club (Technical Writer, Vice President) • Transgender Non-Binary Student Group (Founder, Leader) • Queer Student Union (Leadership Board Member) • Campus Pride Index Committee • WKU Pride Center Intern • Chief Diversity Officer's Student Equity Council • Bowling Green Fairness • Department of Modern Languages Student Worker • WKU Dean's List (May 2016-May 2017) • Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship/Critical Language Scholarship



Cameron Moreno

Corpus Christi, TX

M.F.A. Creative Writing (Fiction); Rhetoric and Composition Minor

Finalist for SLAB Literary Magazine's Elizabeth R. Curry Poetry Contest • Outstanding Graduate Student in M.F.A.

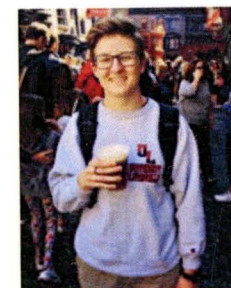


Allison Morris

Hendersonville, TN

Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies, Social & Behavioral Science Emphasis; Psychology and Clinical and Social Behavior Minors

WKU Rugby Team



Hayley Moss

Campbellsville, KY

B.S. Chemistry & Biology



Erick Murrer

Nancy, KY

B.A. Economics and Chinese; Spanish Minor

WKU College Heights Herald Opinion Columnist • WKU Student Equity Council Member • U.S. Department of State Foreign Affairs Campus Coordinator • American Model U.N. Student Ambassador • MyCampusToo LGBTQ Diversity Panelist • WKU Out for Undergrad Campus Ambassador • Learning Center Tutor • WKU Club de Español (President) • WKU Chinese Flagship Student Ambassador • Jewish Community Center Manhattan Literacy and Math Instructor • Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowship Finalist • U.S. Foreign Service Internship Program • Point Foundation Semi-Finalist • Paul B. and Ann R. Calico Scholarship Fund in Diversity • Kentucky Coal Scholarship • Kentucky Press Association • Student Publications Class II Best Feature Story



Lillian Nellans

Windsor Heights, IA

B.A. Philosophy, International Conflict Studies; Citizenship and Social Justice Minor

National Champion, WKU Forensics • Legislative Research Committee, Student Government Association • Co-President, WKU Planned Parenthood Generation Action • Instructor, Students Teaching Students • ESL Mentor, Cumberland Trace Elementary School • Cherry Presidential Scholar • Philosophy Student of the Year

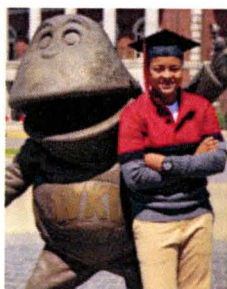


Nathan Read

Belleville, IL

B.A. Economics, International Affairs, Asian Religions and Cultures

WKU Student Alumni Ambassadors • Former President of Chinese Culture Club • Economics Club • Omicron Delta Epsilon International Economics Society • ESL English Tutor • Mahurin Honors College • Chinese Flagship Program • Volunteer English Teacher at Huilan English School (Hangzhou, China) • Department of Defense Boren Award • Critical Language Scholarship • WKU President's Scholar Award

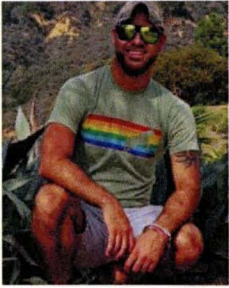


Katria Sanders

Campbellsville, KY

B.A. Advertising; Graphic Design Minor

WKU Women's Rugby Team • Volunteer at Warren County Humane Society • African American Museum • Warm Blessing • Cum Laude



Joshua Shaw

Munfordville, KY

B.A. Sociology; Criminology and Human Sexuality Minors



Grant Snowden

Louisville, KY

M.A. Adult Education

Member of Best Buddies



Kellsei Tate

Centralla, IL

M.A.E. Higher Education in Student Affairs

Residence Hall Director • Assistant Residence Hall Director • Queer Student Union Advisor • LGBT+ Living Learning Community Co-Developer • Campus Pride Index Team • Lavender Graduation Planning Committee • Sexual Assault Prevention Committee • Hope on the Hill Chair • Social Justice and Inclusion Committee (HRL)



Courtney Thompson

Shelbyville, KY

B.A. Sociology and Diversity and Community Studies; History and Nonprofit Administration Minors

WKU Chorale • WKU Treblemakers (Member, Business Manager) • Student Coalition for Renters' Rights (Secretary) • Global Brigades (Brigade to Panama to run a medical clinic) • Kentuckians for the Commonwealth Internship • Study Abroad (South Africa, London, Costa Rica) • Dean's List (Fall 2014, Spring 2016) • President's List (Spring 2015) • Spirit Makes the Master Scholarship • KEES • Keystops Scholarship • KHEAA Workstudy Program • ACDA Southern Division Performance with WKU Chorale



Kyla Wilkie

Berea, KY

Gatton Academy

QSU Trans and Nonbinary Group

GIFT CHALLENGE

The Lavender Recognition Ceremony is made possible by a gift from Dr. Patricia and Mr. Michael Minter creating an endowed fund for future celebrations. The "Dr. Patricia & Mr. Michael Minter Lavender Graduation Endowment" provides funding for an annual Lavender Graduation Ceremony to honor graduating lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and ally students and to acknowledge their achievements and contributions to the University. Graduating students, including undergraduates and graduates, are invited to take part in the celebration, which will occur each year prior to university-wide commencement events. The Minters invite others to donate to this endowment in support of the LGBTQ and ally campus community in the future. This gift is made in honor of the LGBTQ and ally community at Western Kentucky University, and in loving memory of Edward Johns.



THANK YOU

Lavender Recognition Ceremony Planning Committee

Lucinda F. Anderson

Director of Special Projects, Office of Philanthropy and Alumni Engagement

Dr. Marko Dumancic

Associate Professor of History

Minnette Ellis

Assistant Director for Housing and Residence Life

Kristina Gamble

Program Coordinator, Intercultural Student Engagement Center

Conner Hounshell

WKU SGA Chief of Staff

Sharon Hunter

Director, SEM & Retention Support

Jeremy McFarland

Dr. Patricia Minter

Professor of History

Tiffany Robinson

University Registrar

Kellsei Tate

Advisor, Queer Student Union

THANK YOU

This ceremony is made possible by the
generous donations of...

Lucinda F. Anderson

Wes Berry

Katie Corbin

Melinda Edgerton

Minnette Ellis

Niko Endres

Jane Fife

Jess Folk

Kristina Gamble

Elizabeth Gish

Rob Hale

Jennifer Hanley

Tony Harkins

WKU Housing & Residence Life

Dr. Ted Hovet

Sharon Hunter

Ladonna Hunton

WKU Intercultural Student Engagement Center

Audra Jennings

Angela Jones

Michael Minter

Patti Minter

Jane Olmsted

Peggy Otto

Tania Rhodes

Tiffany Robinson

Walker Rutledge

Trini Stickle

Ashley Stinnett

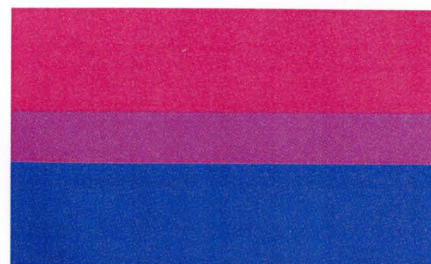
WKU Student Government Association

Leila Watkins

Elizabeth Winkler



Asexuality Pride Flag



Bisexuality Pride Flag



Pansexuality Pride Flag



Pride Flag



Trans Pride Flag





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