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.

- Andre 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 of 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

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

Kayie Connors
Louisville, KY
B.A. Anthropology; Archaeology and Cultural Anthropology Concentration; Broadcast Communications Minor
Resident Assistant • Desk Assistant • Studied Abroad in Mongolia

Zane DeZeeuw
Montrose, CO
M.F.A. Creative Writing - Fiction
2018 Potter College Award for Outstanding Student in English, MFA

Kayla Dowdy
Bowling Green, KY
M.A. Organizational Leadership
WKU Student Affairs Staff

Miranda Ellison
Bowling Green, KY
B.S. Criminology; Sociology Minor

Caroline Ferro
Louisville, KY
Gatton Academy
QSU TNB • Bowling Green Fairness

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 & Yarbrough 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 • MyComputer LGBTQ Diversity Panelist • WKU Chief 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. Celico Scholarship Fund in Diversity • Kentucky Civil Rights 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 • ESJ English Tutor • Malaurin Honors College • Chinese Flagship Program • Volunteer English Teacher at Huiyi English School (Hangzhou, China) • Department of Defense Benet 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 • Com Lunde
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 • KEE5 • Keyprep Scholarship • KHEAA Workstudy Program • ACDA Southern Division Performance with WKU Chorale

Kyla Wilkie
Berea, KY
Gatton Academy
QLU Trans and Nonbinary Group
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 LG-BTQ and ally community at Western Kentucky University, and in loving memory of Edward Johns.

Thank you to the following members of the 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

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