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WKU Gatton Academy of Mathematics & Science in Kentucky


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THE GATTON  
ACADEMY   
*of Mathematics and Science*

CLASS OF 2022  
COMMENCEMENT



MAY 7, 2022  
2:00 PM

VAN METER HALL  
WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

# ORDER OF EXERCISES

May 7, 2022, 2:00 PM

**GRAND MARCH.....BRASS QUINTET**  
(AUDIENCE SEATED) NATALIE ADCOCK, LEE BLAKEMAN,  
TROY PUCKETT, TROY STOVALL, AND JOE STITES

**INTRODUCTION.....DR. LYNETTE BREEDLOVE**  
DIRECTOR, THE GATTON ACADEMY

**NATIONAL ANTHEM.....BETH POPE**  
WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY MUSIC FACULTY MEMBER

**MOMENT OF SILENCE IN HONOR OF  
MR. C. M. "BILL" GATTON ...DR. LYNETTE BREEDLOVE**

**WELCOME AND RECOGNITION OF GUESTS  
...DR. LYNETTE BREEDLOVE**

**REMARKS FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
...DR. JULIA LINK ROBERTS**  
MAHURIN PROFESSOR OF GIFTED EDUCATION,  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, THE GATTON ACADEMY

**REMARKS FROM GATTON ACADEMY SENIOR  
...ARI SRIVASTAVA**  
WARREN COUNTY

**REMARKS FROM GATTON ACADEMY SENIOR  
...BARRETT GIBBS**  
WHITLEY COUNTY

**COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS...DR. BRUCE KESSLER,  
DR. CLAUS ERNST, AND DR. UTA ZIEGLER**  
RETIRED WKU PROFESSORS

**PRESENTATION OF DIPLOMAS  
...GATTON ACADEMY ADMINISTRATORS**

**CONFERRING OF DIPLOMAS AND REMARKS  
...DR. LYNETTE BREEDLOVE**

**ODE TO JOY.....BRASS QUINTET**  
(DISMISSAL)

**AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE.....ASL INTERPRETERS**  
LINDSEY TURLEY AND JULIE BUCKHAM

## THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER

*Oh, say can you see by the dawn's early light  
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?  
Whose broad stripes and bright stars thru the perilous fight,  
O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming?  
And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air,  
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.  
Oh, say does that star-spangled banner yet wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?*

## ONE LITTLE STEP

WRITTEN BY BRUCE KESSLER

*Tiny little kid, finally made the climb,  
Now they're inching their way out on the high dive.  
Gearing up for the biggest leap of their life.  
Little heart thumping, never felt such fear,  
But a pool-full of people are starting to cheer,  
Saying "You can do it! It's only one little step!" They said.*

*Don't look down, you're going up anyway,  
Don't look back, might miss something in your way.  
Don't back down, that direction is not your friend.  
Don't give up, when you fall down, get up, do it again.*

*In everyone's life, there'll be chances to take,  
Challenges faced, hard decisions to make,  
They may find you or maybe you seek them out.  
When you feel that fear welling up inside,  
Just remember that kid up on the high dive, and  
Remember – it's only one little step. So*

*Don't look down, you're going up anyway,  
Don't look back, might miss something in your way.  
Don't back down, that direction is not your friend.  
Don't give up, when you fall down, get up, do it again.*

## GATTON ACADEMY TEACHER/ADMINISTRATOR RECOGNITION

Gatton Academy students often had a teacher, counselor, or principal who helped them achieve their goal of coming to The Gatton Academy. The following teachers and administrators were selected by a graduating senior to be recognized this year as instrumental to their Gatton journey.

ALESA BAKER  
SCOTT BOYD  
COURTNEY CALVERT  
VALERIYA FRITZ

GENNY JENKINS  
JOHN KARANJA  
LAURA LEEPER  
CHAD MUNCY

LISA PETRIE  
SCOTT PILE  
KELLEY RANSELL  
CLAIRE RINEHART

ROBBIE ROBERTS  
DENISE STICE  
MARK WOLFF

# THE CLASS OF 2022

**Nikhil Akula** ▲  
Western Hills High School  
Franklin County

**Brendan Michael Allison**  
Meade County High School  
Meade County

**Peyton Elizabeth Ash** ▲  
South Oldham High School  
Oldham County

**Abigail Mackenzie Beth**  
McCracken County High School  
Ballard County

**Chetas Sanjay Chavda** ▲  
Hopkinsville High School  
Christian County

**Apirada Chetawata** ▲  
Murray High School  
Calloway County

**Sahil Aryan Chhabra** ▲  
Bowling Green High School  
Warren County

**Molly Clements** ▲  
Beechwood High School  
Kenton County

**Katie E. Compton** ▲  
Belfry High School  
Pike County

**Keegan Isaac Congleton** ▲  
Trimble County High School  
Trimble County

**Owen Campbell Craig**  
Todd County Central High School  
Todd County

**Taylor Evelyn Dooley**  
Edmonson County High School  
Edmonson County

**Connor Daniel Flick** ▲  
Connor High School  
Boone County

**Hayden Riley Flickinger** ▲  
Marshall County High School  
Marshall County

**Tristan James Fuchs**  
Walton Verona High School  
Boone County

**Hithan Garla**  
Western Hills High School  
Franklin County

**Barrett Paul Gibbs**  
Corbin High School  
Whitley County

**Harrison Taylor Gover** ▲  
Bowling Green High School  
Meade County

**Brooke Haden**  
North Oldham High School  
Oldham County

**Emma Kathryn Harris** ▲  
Hickman County High School  
Hickman County

**Jacob William Harris** ▲  
McCracken County High School  
McCracken County

**Leah Grace Hartman**  
Allen County Scottsville High School  
Allen County

**Jana Franziska Hebenstiel**  
Randall K. Cooper High School  
Boone County

**Anna Marie Humphrey**  
Metcalfe County High School  
Metcalfe County

**Kole McKlellan Ingram** ▲  
Knott County Central High School  
Knott County

**Xander Marco Jarvis** ▲  
Rowan County High School  
Rowan County

**Isabella Pope Karn** ▲  
Owensboro High School  
Ohio County

**Aidan Layne Kash** ▲  
St. Francis High School  
Jefferson County

**Kentaro Kawata** ▲  
Larry A. Ryle High School  
Boone County

**John Joseph Kellogg**  
Nelson County High School  
Nelson County

**Thomas Joseph Kolb** ▲  
Atherton High School  
Jefferson County

**Sahil Naresh Krishnani** ▲  
duPont Manual High School  
Jefferson County

**Maya Elizabeth Lebedinsky**  
Bowling Green High School  
Warren County

**Avery Josephine Lenihan** ▲  
Randall K. Cooper High School  
Boone County

**Allen Lin**  
Larry A. Ryle High School  
Boone County

**Landon Everett Littleton**  
Ohio County High School  
Ohio County

**Sarisha Suresh Lohano** ▲  
Kentucky County Day  
Jefferson County

**Claire Elizabeth Lusk** ▲  
Randall K. Cooper High School  
Boone County

**Reina Kai Lykins**  
Rockcastle County High School  
Rockcastle County

**Donovan Gregory Marcum**  
Oldham County High School  
Oldham County

**Elizabeth Katherine Mikeworth** ▲  
Rockcastle County High School  
Rockcastle County

**Shaleena Beth Nicole Millay** ▲  
Davies County High School  
Davies County

**Yasmina Muradova** ▲  
Muhlenburg County High School  
Muhlenburg County

**Chloe Byrne Murphy**  
Frankfort Christian Academy  
Franklin County

**Marcus Negrón**  
Western Hills High School  
Franklin County

**Bella Nicole Norman** ▲  
Greenwood High School  
Warren County

**Isabel Juliana Ocegueda** ▲  
Fort Knox High School  
Hardin County

**Andrew Samuel Park**  
South Oldham High School  
Oldham County

**Cristina Isabel Cabral Pauig**  
Corbin High School  
Laurel County

**Anish Varma Penmecha** ▲  
Western Hills High School  
Franklin County

**Elisha Keith Piercefield**  
Webster County High School  
Webster County

**Angelo Matthew Mariano Pimienta** ▲  
Pikeville High School  
Floyd County

**Chaney Marie Robinson** ▲  
Calloway County High School  
Calloway County

**Haven Gabrielle Romero** ▲  
Lafayette High School  
Fayette County

**Lucy Elizabeth Rosys** ▲  
Piarist School  
Floyd County

**Mulamba Nestor Ezekiel Salama** ▲  
Louisville Collegiate School  
Shelby County

**Samirah Ndane Salifu** ▲  
Greenwood High School  
Warren County

**Seren Catli Revoir Semrau**  
South Oldham High School  
Oldham County

**Sahil Parwez Shaik**  
Western Hills High School  
Franklin County

**Kaustaaub Srivatsan Shankar** ▲  
Eastern High School  
Jefferson County

**Lauren Cailin Sotingeanu** ▲  
North Laurel High School  
Madison County

**Arivumani Balin Srivastava** ▲  
Greenwood High School  
Warren County

**John Logan Stewart**  
Oldham County High School  
Oldham County

**Moss Brynn Thacker**  
Whitley County High School  
Whitley County

**Christina Thao Mi Tran** ▲  
duPont Manual High School  
Jefferson County

**Nathan Hardee Turlington**  
Central Hardin High School  
Hardin County

**Kimberly Anne Turner** ▲  
Greenwood High School  
Warren County

**Emily Jade Tutt**  
Jackson County High School  
Jackson County

**Katherine Grace Vanderpool** ▲  
Bullitt East High School  
Bullitt County

**Satyasree Vangoor** ▲  
North Oldham High School  
Oldham County

**Dexter Atticus Vilt**  
Oldham County High School  
Oldham County

**Bhavya Vishal Vyas** ▲  
duPont Manual High School  
Jefferson County

**Brendan James White**  
Central Hardin High School  
Hardin County

**Promise Faith Willhite** ▲  
Logan County High School  
Logan County

**Hunter Alexander Wimsatt** ▲  
Owensboro Catholic High School  
Davies County

**Lily Eliza Workman**  
Randall K. Cooper High School  
Boone County

**Helen M. Xu**  
Rowan County High School  
Rowan County

## GATTON COMMUNITY SCHOLAR

These graduates are recognized for completing two semesters of research with a research outcome that is presented to a professional audience after being accepted through a vetted process OR four semesters of participation in STEM+, AND documenting 60 hours of service.

# MISSION

The goals of The Carol Martin Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science in Kentucky are to enable Kentucky's exceptional young scientists and mathematicians to learn in an environment which offers advanced educational opportunities and to prepare them for leadership roles in Kentucky.

The Gatton Academy offers a residential program for bright, highly motivated Kentucky high school students who have demonstrated interest in pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The Gatton Academy also seeks to provide its students with the companionship of peers; to encourage students to develop the creativity, curiosity, reasoning ability and self-discipline that lead to independent thought and action; and to aid students in developing integrity that will enable them to benefit society.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE CLASS OF 2022

The fifteenth graduating class of Gatton Academy seniors represents thirty-seven counties from across the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Twenty-six members of the class were selected as National Merit semi-finalists. 73% of graduates participated in faculty-sponsored research during their Gatton Academy experience. Additionally, 17 graduates completed the STEM + Critical Languages sequences in either Arabic, Mandarin Chinese, or Russian. Among the graduates are six students who advanced to the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF). Graduates won U.S. Department of State National Security Language Initiative for Youth scholarships, and one was named a U.S. Presidential Scholar semifinalist. These seniors completed 4,451 hours of community service over two years, an average of 57.8 hours per graduate.

## THE SIERPIŃSKI TRIANGLE



The Sierpiński triangle is often used as an elementary example of fractals. A fractal is a geometric object that is similar to itself on all scales. If you zoom in on a fractal object, it will look similar to the original shape. The Sierpiński triangle is formed by connecting the midpoints of each side of an equilateral triangle and removing the middle triangle. This removal of triangles repeats indefinitely, and the resulting pattern is the Sierpiński triangle. The Sierpiński triangle is a basic pattern that can be used to teach in-depth concepts. When repeated an infinite number of stages, the Sierpiński triangle has a number of triangles approaching infinity but an area approaching zero. It has connections to other patterns and applications to real-world modeling.

The Sierpiński triangle is a simple concept that opens doors to a vast number of connections and applications. The Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science is a simple concept that opens doors for young people to discover connections with others like themselves and to be challenged academically, applying their intellects in a setting designed to meet their interests, needs, and abilities. The Class of 2022 now stands as a beacon of excellence for Kentucky and a testament to the infinite possibilities that lie ahead.

## THE GATTON ACADEMY STAFF

**Dr. Julia Roberts**  
*Executive Director*

**Dr. Lynette Breedlove**  
*Director*

**Ms. Melodie Bird**  
*Residential Counselor*

**Mr. Jacob Bowen**  
*Residential Counselor*

**Dr. Pokey Bowen**  
*Assistant Director  
Counseling Services*

**Mr. Allen Clark**  
*Lead Residential Counselor  
Logistics*

**Mrs. Jodi Dosier**  
*Regional Admissions  
Counselor*

**Mr. Samuel Earls**  
*Assistant Director  
Academic Services*

**Mrs. Jamie Garden**  
*Counselor*

**Ms. April Gaskey**  
*Coordinator  
Student Success*

**Ms. Beth Hawke**  
*Assistant Director  
Student Life*

**Ms. Cheryl Kirby-Stokes**  
*Coordinator  
Academic Opportunities*

**Ms. Danielle Klein**  
*Residential Counselor*

**Ms. Emma Looney**  
*Residential Counselor*

**Ms. Melanie Redden**  
*Office Coordinator*

**Mrs. Ashley Taylor**  
*Assistant Director  
Alumni Relations and Outreach*

**Mr. Wade Vierheller**  
*Lead Residential Counselor  
Activities*

**Mr. Noah Wills**  
*Residential Counselor*

