MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY

Inaugural

GRADUATE COMMENCEMENT

THURSDAY, MAY ELEVENTH, TWO THOUSAND SEVENTEEN

WEST LONG BRANCH, NEW JERSEY
THE ACADEMIC PROCESSION AND REGALIA

The commencement ceremony processional begins with faculty marshals designated by the provost leading the faculty followed by the student marshals who lead the candidates for degree. The platform party follows and consists of members of the president’s cabinet, vice provost for graduate studies, academic school deans, members of the Board of Trustees, clergy, faculty council chair, honorary degree recipient and the president.

The history of academic dress reaches far back into the earliest days of the oldest universities. A statute of 1321 required that all “Doctors, Licentiates, and Bachelors” of the University of Coimbra wear gowns. In England, in the second half of the fourteenth century, the statutes of certain colleges prescribed the wearing of a long gown. In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries in Europe, the wearing of a robe often signified a degree candidate’s political or religious affiliation; in the northern universities and those of the British Isles, the robes signified that tuition and boarding fees of the wearer had been paid and also entitled him to special immunities in civil law—as well as providing him warmth at lectures and chapel.

When American colleges and universities desired to adopt some suitable system of academic apparel, a conference held at Columbia University in 1895, made up of representatives from various institutions, drew up a “By-Law, Regulation, or Statute” for the establishment of a suitable code of academic dress for colleges and universities in the United States. This code, with modifications made in 1959 by the Committee on Academic Costumes and Ceremonies of the American Council on Education, is still in force; the costumes and colors, trimmings, and patterns you will see are traditional, and interpret both the degree and field of learning. The bachelor’s gown, designed to be worn closed, has pointed sleeves; the master’s gown, which may be worn open or closed, has an oblong sleeve open at the wrist that hangs down in the traditional manner. The rear part of its oblong shape is square cut, and the front part has the arc cut away. The doctor’s gown has bell-shaped sleeves. It may be worn open or closed.

Black is the recommended color for all academic gowns. Bachelor’s and master’s gowns are untrimmed. Doctor’s gowns are faced with black velvet, with three bars across the sleeves, or the color of the velvet may be that which is distinctive to the degree, agreeing with that of the edging of the hood. In the 1960s, many American land-grant universities adopted the British and the Scottish tradition of using the official school color(s) for the robes of their doctoral recipients—for instance, Yale: sky blue; Harvard: crimson; University of Pennsylvania: scarlet and blue; Columbia: slate gray; Rutgers: deep red and black.

The colors you will see in the hoods of our faculty represent the various fields in which the degrees were taken:

- Apricot: Nursing
- Brown: Fine Arts
- Citron: Social Work
- Crimson: Journalism
- Dark Blue: Philosophy
- Golden Yellow: Science
- Green: Medicine
- Lemon-Yellow: Library Science
- Light Blue: Education
- Orange: Engineering
- Pink: Music
- Purple: Law
- Sage Green: Physical Education
- Salmon Pink: Public Health
- Scarlet: Theology
- Yellow-Brown: Commerce, Business, Accountancy
- White: Arts, Letters, Humanities

The hoods, differing in length for the three degrees—bachelor’s, master’s, and doctor’s—are lined with the official colors of the university or college conferring the degree, usually with one color forming a chevron pattern over the other. Hoods are edged and bound with velvet or the color appropriate for the degree. You will see in our procession many hoods edged with dark blue, representing doctor of philosophy.

Mortarboards are the approved headgear. The tassel, worn on the left side of the cap, may be of gold if the holder has a doctor’s degree.

In the procession, first come the faculty members, then the candidates for degrees arranged in the order in which degrees are to be conferred, and finally, the speakers, trustees, administrative officers, candidates for honorary degrees, and other members of the platform party.
Founded in 1933, Monmouth is a private, mid-sized, comprehensive university with a broad commitment to the liberal arts. Monmouth University offers 32 undergraduate and 24 graduate degree programs, including a doctoral program in nursing practice.

Students benefit from a rigorous academic experience, small classes, and professors who meet the highest standards for scholarship and teaching. Our students participate in more than 100 active clubs and organizations, including 16 fraternities and sororities, six media organizations, and a NCAA Division I athletics program fielding 23 teams.

Monmouth’s beautiful 159-acre coastal campus, close to New York City and Philadelphia, includes a blend of historic landmarks and state-of-the-art facilities.
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Robert B. Sculthorpe ’63 HN ’15

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FACULTY MARSHALS

Patrizia Bonaventura, Thomas Pearson

STUDENT MARSHALS

AbdulMuhsin J. Al-Kandari, Christine M. Hennigan
MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY  
INAUGURAL GRADUATE COMMENCEMENT

May 11, 2017  One o’clock p.m.

Grey J. Dimenna, Esq., President of Monmouth University, Presiding

ACADEMIC PROCESSION .................................................. Pomp and Circumstance, Sir Edward Elgar

NATIONAL ANTHEM ............................................................ Alexandra Stambaugh, Soloist

INVOCATION ........................................................................... Reverend William Lago  
Pastor, St. Denis Roman Catholic Church, Manasquan, NJ

GREETINGS .............................................................................. Henry D. Mercer, III ’87  
Chair, Monmouth University Board of Trustees

CONFERRAL OF HONORARY DEGREE ..................................... Joseph M. Rigby ’83M 
Presented by Trustee Christopher Maher

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS ................................................... Mr. Rigby

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES IN COURSE  
School of Science  
Leon Hess Business School  
Wayne D. McMurray School of Humanities and Social Sciences  
School of Education  
Marjorie K. Unterberg School of Nursing and Health Studies  
School of Social Work

ALMA MATER ............................................................................. Alexandra Stambaugh

BENEDICTION ............................................................................. Reverend Lago

RECESSIONAL ............................................................................ Trumpet Voluntary, Henry Purcell

All Commencement participants and guests are requested to remain in their seats until the conclusion of the ceremony and after the faculty and platform party processes out. You are to please refrain from the use of cell phones and other electronic devices during the ceremony.
HONORARY DEGREE

JOSEPH M. RIGBY '83M

Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*

Presented by Trustee Christopher Maher

Joe Rigby was chairman of the board, president and chief executive officer of Pepco Holdings, Inc. (PHI), a regional energy company that provides utility service to over 2 million customers in the mid-Atlantic region, headquartered in Washington, D.C. Rigby served in that role from March 2009 until March 2016, retiring at the completion of the merger with Exelon Corporation. PHI is the parent company of Potomac Electric Power Company, an electric utility serving the District of Columbia and suburban Maryland; Delmarva Power, an electric and gas utility serving Delaware and several counties in Maryland; and Atlantic City Electric, an electric utility serving southern New Jersey.

Rigby joined Atlantic City Electric in 1979 and advanced through a number of management positions in the accounting, finance, business systems, human resources, and merger integration areas. Following the merger with Delmarva Power in 1998 to form Conectiv, Rigby served as vice president/general manager of gas delivery, and then vice president/general manager of the entire energy delivery group. Following the merger with PHI in 2002, he was elected president of Conectiv Power Delivery.

He was promoted to senior vice president and chief financial officer of PHI in May 2004 and served in that role until September 2007, when he was promoted to executive vice president and chief operating officer of PHI. In that role he was responsible for the day to day operations of PHI’s utility businesses, along with information technology and corporate communications. In March 2008, Rigby was elected president and chief operating officer, adding responsibility for the non-regulated businesses of PHI. In March 2009, Rigby was elected president and chief executive officer, adding the role of chairman of the board in May 2009.

Rigby earned a bachelor’s degree in accounting from Rutgers University in 1978, and an M.B.A. from Monmouth University in 1983. He was also a licensed Certified Public Accountant in the state of New Jersey.

Rigby is past chair of the United Way of the National Capital Area, and is a member of the senior council of the Greater Washington Board of Trade, having served as its chairman. He has served on the boards of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the Edison Electric Institute, the Federal City Council, and the Economic Club of Washington. Rigby currently serves on the Rutgers University Board of Governors, and as a board member of Energy Insurance Mutual (Tampa, FL), South Jersey Industries (Folsom, NJ) and Dominion Resources (Richmond, VA).
HIGHEST RANKING MASTER'S DEGREE RECIPIENTS

ANTHROPOLOGY–MA
Nicola Anne Kelly

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION–MBA
Robert Jay Ghanem

COMPUTER SCIENCE–MS
Avi B. Ginsberg

CORPORATE AND PUBLIC COMMUNICATION–MA
Frank Domenico Cipriani

CRIMINAL JUSTICE–MA
Joseph Michael Zak

EDUCATION–MAT
Timothy Patrick Behan
Christine Repoli Cicero
Christine M. Connery
Sarah Dongkyung Lee

ENGLISH–MA
Ivy Melody Hollander
Kathryn Christine Gehrsitz

HISTORY–MA
Thomas James Evancho
Cindy Marie Warren

HOMELAND SECURITY–MS
Michael Anthony Giannini

INFORMATION SYSTEMS–MS
Naif Salman S Almutiry

MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING–MS
Maria Jean Clemente

NURSING–MSN
Kimberly A. Zeiser

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT–MS
Cassandra Marie Martin

PRINCIPAL–MSED
Vanessa Marie Gianmanco
Lindsay Ann Mulligan
Maria Domenica Wills

PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELING–MA
Oluwadamilola Temidayo Adetunji

PUBLIC POLICY–MA
Susan Pagano

SCHOOL COUNSELING–MSED
Caitlin Rose Comforti
Sarah Elizabeth Jacobson
Morgan Beth Rhodes

SOCIAL WORK–MSW
Seton E. Danish
Kayla Victoria Firsichbaum
Ashley Menichini
Bethany Rachelle Pacifico
Hanna Elizabeth Tracy

SOFTWARE ENGINEERING–MS
Mary Fatima Menges

SPECIAL EDUCATION–MSED
Michelle Rose Sperling
Achau Nhu Nguyen

SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY–MSED
Margaret Lynn Lukenda
GRADUATE CANDIDATES
May 11, 2017

THE SCHOOL OF SCIENCE

Naif Salman S Almutiry, MS, Information Systems
Nikhil Gupta Anaji, MS, Information Systems
Kyle Christopher Blazier, MS, Software Engineering
Nico Anthony Flora, MS, Software Engineering
Avi B. Ginsberg, MS, Computer Science
Pallavi Sree Gopagani, MS, Information Systems
Nikhil Kumar Gudumalla, MS, Information Systems
Liam Samuel Innes, MS, Software Engineering
Gokul Kattamanichi, MS, Computer Science
Srinath Marthala, MS, Computer Science
Mary Fatima Menges, MS, Software Engineering
Matthew C. Morchel, MS, Information Systems
Swarna Muralidharan, MS, Software Engineering
Krupa Dipak Naik, MS, Information Systems
Ryan Joseph O’Rourke, MS, Software Engineering
Jithendra Padavala, MS, Information Systems
Reshma Sudra, MS, Information Systems
Lahari Naidu Tammisetty, MS, Computer Science
Venkata Naga Sai Meghana Tangirala, MS, Computer Science
Adarsh Shirish Vadodkar, MS, Information Systems
Rajeswar Reddy Veeraballi, MS, Information Systems
Akanksha Manoj Watts, MS, Information Systems
Shan Yi, MS, Information Systems

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Sharon Marie Berardi, MBA
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Anthony Cramutolo Jr., MBA
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Megan D. DeSalvo, MBA
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Christopher Alan Gonzalez, MBA
Megan Laureen Hazard, MBA
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Brittany Elizabeth Lamb, MBA
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Kyle Hendrick Van Cleef, MBA
Anthony John Vazzana, MBA

MA: Master of Arts
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MBA: Master of Business Administration
MS: Master of Science
MSEd: Master of Science in Education
MSN: Master of Science in Nursing
MSW: Master of Social Work
Oluwadamilola Temidayo Adetunji, MA, Psychological Counseling
Hana Abdallah Alayfi, MA, Psychological Counseling
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Stephen Thomas Bonora, MA, Corporate and Public Communication
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Kathryn Christine Gehrsitz, MA, English
Michael Anthony Giannini, MS, Homeland Security
Diane Girgis, MS, Mental Health Counseling
Marissa L. Hennicke, MS, Mental Health Counseling
Ivy Melody Hollander, MA, English
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Rebecca Elizabeth Latimore, MA, Public Policy
Avi Yaniv Lejbik, MA, English
Christina Lupo, MS, Mental Health Counseling
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Joseph Michael Zak, MA, Criminal Justice

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Education-Special Education
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Physician Assistant
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Ma Brigida Sayson Viaje, MSN
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Christopher Stuart Whitehead, MS, 
Physician Assistant
Erik John Woxholdt, MS, 
Physician Assistant
Kimberly A. Zieser, MSN

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Educational Counseling
Janelle Lynn Woolridge, MSED, 
Education-Special Education
THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

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Christa Jean Adduchio, MSW
Judith J. Alfano, MSW
Justine Marie Arrigo, MSW
Joy Arumemi, MSW
Lauryln Elaine Balestiero, MSW
Natalie Ann Bednarczyk, MSW
Emma Suzanne Berin, MSW
Jessica Lynn Bragen, MSW
Courtney Evelyn Joy Braxton, MSW
Kira Lynn Brennan, MSW
Rachel Amie Brochhagen, MSW
Lorie Citarella, MSW
Giovanna Danielle Coppola, MSW
Kristina E. Corvasce, MSW
Brianni Shavonne Crawford, MSW
Dana Cux, MSW
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Seton E. Danish, MSW
Melanie Selina Davis, MSW
Whitney Michelle Dean, MSW
Nicole F. DeCarvalho, MSW
Kerri A. D’Esposito, MSW
Hawa Diaby, MSW
Mariana Nicole Dubose, MSW
Bryan Robert Epstein, MSW
Alisha M. Farley, MSW
Kathleen Michelle Finch, MSW
Kayla Victoria Firsichbaum, MSW
Sarah Rebecca Fischbein, MSW
Rebecca Mary Fornaro, MSW
Sarah Khalid Franka, MSW
Bianna Maria Freno, MSW
Erica Mae Friedhoff, MSW
Jessenia Andrea Gaviria, MSW
Monique S. Goncalves, MSW
Amanda Marie Goodwin, MSW
Zofit Sheindel Gottlieb, MSW
Amanda Marie Graga, MSW
Alyssa Marie Hansen, MSW
Kimberly Danielle Hill, MSW
Amanda Jeanne Hogan, MSW
Robert Edward Houston Jr., MSW
Kristin Huffaker, MSW,
Kristen Lucia Jones, MSW
Alexa Nicole Joyce, MSW
Alaysha Elease Kearney, MSW
Amanda Hope Kuenstle, MSW
Stephanie Leigh Landwehr, MSW
Jessica Marie Leider, MSW
Emma Alice Locke, MSW
Shawna Manfredi, MSW
Samantha Lynn Marino, MSW
Meghan Elizabeth McAleer, MSW
Jessica D. McAveney, MSW
Christina G. McDermott, MSW
Ashley Menichini, MSW
Lucas John Miller, MSW
Jessica Mochel, MSW
Renee Andrus Moffett, MSW
Lauren Kayla Moore, MSW
Rebecca Anne Nannarone, MSW
Lauren Elizabeth Orgorzat, MSW
Bethany Rachele Pacifico, MSW
Kaitlyn Marie Penna, MSW
David Perez, MSW
Lucio Antony Perez, MSW
Mary Elizabeth Pinnella, MSW
Megan Patricia Poeschl, MSW
Tyshawn A. Purnell, MSW
Samantha May Randazzo, MSW
Jessica Paige Rimmer, MSW
Caitlyn Melissa Roberts, MSW
Tomah Lafayette Roberts, MSW
Victoria Marie Sarno, MSW
Kelly J. Schultz, MSW
Shantanai Laresa Sealy, MSW
Emily A. Sellmann, MSW
Alec Michael Shover, MSW
Caroline Ann Silva, MSW
Courtney Ellen Smith, MSW
Samantha Hall Snyder, MSW
Minah Song, MSW
Judith Sosa, MSW
Hannah Elizabeth Tracy, MSW
Jessica Rae Traino, MSW
Milton Augustus Tracy Jr., MSW
Megan Beth Tuohy, MSW
Allison M. Turnbach, MSW
Cristina Marie Turner, MSW
Jessica Kathryn Waleck, MSW
Jillian Walek, MSW
Jennifer Lynn Whartnaby, MSW
Kristen Erin Wilkens, MSW
Jessica Ann Williams, MSW
Patricia Wright, MSW
Jennifer Haley Ydiarte, MSW
Bianca Nicole Zullo, MSW

MA: Master of Arts
MAT: Master of Arts in Teaching
MBA: Master of Business Administration
MS: Master of Science
MSEd: Master of Science in Education
MSN: Master of Science in Nursing
MSW: Master of Social Work
PRIZES AND AWARDS

THE LEON HESS BUSINESS SCHOOL AWARDS

MBA Academic Achievement Award ............................................................................................. Eric Burgagni, Robert Ghanem
Beta Gamma Sigma Excellence in the MBA Program ............................................................... Eric Burgagni, Robert Ghanem

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AWARDS

Elementary Education Graduate ................................................................................................. Chantel Caprice Pedro
Excellence in Master of Arts in Teaching .................................................................................. Sarah Dongkyung Lee
Excellence in College Counseling/Student Affairs ...................................................................... Jordan P. Shannon
Excellence in Educational Counseling ..................................................................................... Jennifer P. Mora
Excellence in Educational Leadership ....................................................................................... Maria D. Wills
Excellence in Master of the Arts in Teaching ............................................................................ Chantel C. Pedro
Excellence in MSEd Special Education ..................................................................................... Sarah A. Meyer
Excellence in Speech Language Pathology ................................................................................ Megan K. Foley
Excellence in Teaching English as a Second Language ............................................................. Christine M. Connery
Secondary Education Graduate ............................................................................................... Timothy Patrick Behan
The Dean’s Award Graduate ...................................................................................................... Achau Nhu Nguyen

THE WAYNE D. McMURRAY
SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES AWARDS

Clinical Skills Award .................................................................................................................. Anne-Margaret Smullen
Community Leadership and Service Award ............................................................................ Juliet Quiles, Joanna E. Tieso
Corporate and Public Communication Academic Excellence Award ........................................ Ashley S. Medina
Corporate and Public Communication Outstanding Scholarship Award .................................... Kevin M. New
Department of History and Anthropology Service Award .......................................................... Nicola Kelly
Graduate Academic Achievement Award in Criminal Justice .................................................... Joseph M. Zak
Graduate Academic Achievement Award in Homeland Security ............................................. Michael A. Giannini
Outstanding Academic Achievement MS in Mental Health Counseling ..................................... Kaitlyn Hammesfahr
Outstanding Graduate Scholar in Anthropology ........................................................................ Matthew LoBiondo
Outstanding Graduate Scholar in History .................................................................................. Dane Stephenson
Personal Growth Award ............................................................................................................ Javier Argueta
Service to the Counseling Profession ......................................................................................... Barbara Fulmer
Sociology Academic Excellence Award ...................................................................................... Barbara Fulmer
The Joyce Carol Oates Award ..................................................................................................... Colleen Adele King
Tom Crane Service Award ........................................................................................................ Susan Pagano
THE MARJORIE K. UNTERBERG
SCHOOL OF NURSING AND HEALTH STUDIES AWARDS

2017 MSN Academic Excellence Award ................................................................. Kimberly A. Zieser
2017 MSN Leadership Award ................................................................................... Kristen Elizabeth Inzana
2017 MSN Service Award ........................................................................................ Elyse Kathleen Roddy
Academic Excellence in Physician Assistant ....................................................... Nicole Lupo
All Around Excellence in Physician Assistant .................................................. Cassandra M. Martin
Clinical Excellence in Physician Assistant ......................................................... Marisa Ayvaliotis
Pi Alpha National Honor Society ........................................................................ Deanna Lapp, Nicole Lupo, Nikie Lee McCabe

SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AWARDS

Academic Excellence Award-Computer Science .................................................. Avi Ginsberg, Lei Wang
Academic Excellence Award-Information Systems .............................................. Sunita Mohapatra, Rajeswar Reddy Veeraballi
Academic Excellence Award-Software Engineering ............................................ Aseem Anand, Mary Menges
Outstanding Service & Leadership Award, CSSE ............................................. AbdulMuhsin Al-Kandari, Mary Menges

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK AWARDS

MSW Academic Excellence Award ........................................................................ Seton Danish
MSW Social Justice Award ................................................................................... Hawa Diaby
Taiyeb and Amta Mama International Social Work Scholarship Award ............. Whitney Dean, Mariana Dubose

THE MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY LIBRARY AWARDS

Monmouth University Library Research Award ................................................... Julia Molettiere

STUDENT ACTIVITIES AND LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Student Veteran Leadership Award ....................................................................... Robert Houston
Student Veteran Scholarship Award ....................................................................... Sonya Spradley
Monmouth University Alma Mater

Music by: Beethoven
Lyrics by:
Louis P. Nappen '90, '92

Moderato

1. Symbol of our skills and virtues herald of our
dignity; with these praises we salute you
will remain. Forging true our lives foundations

Monmouth University Soaring from the
with each goal that we attain.

Jersey shore upon the wind, our wings unfurl'd.

High above the ocean's roar, the Blue Hawks rise to meet the world.