Salem College
Commencement Exercises
The Two Hundred and Forty-Ninth Session

Ten o’clock
Saturday, May 8, 2021
Truist Stadium
THE ALMA MATER

Strong are thy walls, O Salem,
Thy virgin trees stand tall,
And far athwart the sunlit hills,
Their stately shadows fall.

Chorus:
Then sing we of Salem ever,
As proudly her name we bear,
Long may our praise re-echo,
Far may our song ring clear.
Long may our praise re-echo,
Far may our song ring clear.

Firm is thy faith, O Salem,
Thy future service sure,
The beauty of thy heritage
Forever shall endure.

Chorus
True is our love, O Salem,
Thy name we proudly own,
The joy of comradeship is here,
Thy spirit makes us one.

Chorus
Music - Dr. Charles G. Vardell
Lyrics - Marian Hunt Blair ’17 and
Anna Pauline Shaffner Slye ’27

THE ACADEMIC MACE

The ceremonial academic mace of Salem College is a gift of the Class of 1979. The mace has long symbolized dignity and power. Beginning as a weapon, it soon became an emblem of royalty. Later, the use of the mace was transferred to the academic community, where it came to represent the importance of education.

Salem’s mace is thirty-seven inches long and weighs approximately three pounds; it is handcrafted of black walnut and sterling silver. Carved in two sections—shaft (the columna) and a sphere (the caput)—the mace is ornamented by a silver band at the neck. The caput bears one of the original seals of Salem College, and the columna is decorated by a silver shield bearing the inscription “Salem College, Class of 1979.” The finial is carved in the shape of a flame, which symbolizes the enlightenment provided by education.

THE SOPHISTEIA AWARD

There are two Sophisteia Awards given each year. The Sophisteia Award for a traditional student began as a gift to Salem College from the Class of 1978, in conjunction with the Class of 1973. It is presented to the traditional senior graduate with the highest grade point average over four full years. The Sophisteia Award for a student from the Martha H. Fleer Center for Adult Education began as a gift to Salem College from the Prime Times Alumnae Club. It is presented to the Fleer graduate who has achieved the highest grade point average with full-time enrollment over a minimum of two full years of study at Salem.

MARSHALS

Faculty
Barbara Lister-Sink, Artistic Director, School of Music;
Director, Graduate Music Program, Professor of Piano

Junior
Mary Genevieve Cancellieri
Lauren K. Chiaradio
Marjorie Bleggi Doran
Haley Rae McDonough
Jordan Amelia Tomberlin

COMMENCEMENT COORDINATORS

Claire Natalie Allen
Grace Lucille Barger
Tajauna L. Batchelor
Regina Denise Jordan
Megan Elizabeth Pleimann
Andraea Alexzandra Royal
COMMENCEMENT

Processional

Invocation

Welcome

Greetings from the Board of Trustees

Greetings from the Alumnae Association

Greetings from the Student Body

Introduction of Commencement Speaker

The Commencement Address

Presentation of Degree Candidates

The Conferring of Degrees

Announcements of Honors and Prizes

The Sophisteia Award

The Pfohl Award

Special Recognition

Farewell

The Alma Mater

Blessing

Recessional

Moravian Quintet

Van Krause, Tommy Williamson, trumpets;
Donna Rothrock, horn; Thomas Deese, trombone;
Barry Collins, tuba

Moravian Quintet

Amy J. Rio
Chaplain, Salem Academy and College

Tajauna L. Batchelor
President, Class of 2021

McDara P. Folan, III
Chair, Salem Academy and College Board of Trustees

Anne Berger Salisbury
President, Salem College Alumnae Association, Class of 1971

Meg Sigler
President, Student Government Association, Class of 2021

Susan Henking
Interim President, Salem Academy and College

Camara Phyllis Jones, MD, MPH, PhD
Family Physician, Epidemiologist, Anti-Racism Activist

Daniel Prosterman
Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs
Dean of the College

Dr. Henking

Dr. Prosterman

Dr. Henking

Kristin Schwecke
Affiliated Instructor of Voice, School of Music
Moravian Quintet

Rev. Dr. Rio

Moravian Quintet
SENIOR AWARDS

The Oak Award .......................................................................................... Isabella Srikhirisawan
Robert E. Elberson Merit Award .............................................................. Natalie Eleanor Patterson
Constance J. Kick Scholar ......................................................................... Olivia Noel Kleven
Lucy Hanes Chatham Scholar ................................................................. Olivia Elohor Chipi
John Preston Davis Scholar ...................................................................... Tylin Alexis Conner
Sue Jones Davis Scholar ........................................................................... Isabella Srikhirisawan
Virginia Weyand Scholar .......................................................................... Ariana Emily Wieland
Edith Willingham Womble Scholar .......................................................... Grace Elizabeth Vowels
Elizabeth Whitaker Scholar ....................................................................... M. K. Thompson
Westmoreland Lowe Scholar ..................................................................... Kennadi Elissa Nester

Presidential Scholars .............. Claire Natalie Allen Molly Isabelle Palmer
MacKenzie Lauren Boyles Michelle Elizabeth Shore
Peyton Grace Corder Meg Sigler
Fafa Aku Glover-Tay Kathleen Elizabeth Wagner
Augusta Marie Graham Miriam Jean White
Brianna Nicole Johnson Abigail Grace Williams
Cailey Nicole Neuschaefer

Merit Scholars ....................... Lizet Bahena Alexandria E. L. Higginbotham
Khadija M. Bangura Haley Alexis Hutchens
Miranda Dawn Barker Cindy Veronica Leija Garcia
Sarah Joy Benson Ariel Nicole Montgerard
Teresa Gonzalez Merali Morales
Barbara Gonzalez Lara La’renamaysha Rogers
Erin Rae Griego Una Isabella Stroszeck
Krislynn Diane Hatcher

Salem Scholars ..................... Grace Lucille Barger Mayra Ramirez Manriquez
Gladys Gutierrez-Santos Mollie Jean Sutphin
Isreal Sieara Hale Cara Michelle James
Kathryn Alexis Hennessee Hanna Gale Smith
Kayla Marie Ogle Priscila Sosa Cruz
Hailey “Skylar” Parker Maya Mizani Stills
Megan Elizabeth Pleimann

Gramley Scholars ............... Tajauna Lanelle Batchelor Rayani Trebreh Lee
Savannah Victoria Franz Alyssa Corrin Shores
Arin Hannah Hester Collette Leana Vladimery

Heritage Scholar ................. Yulia Gree Trogdon

Salem Sisters Scholars ........ Cara Michelle James Priscila Sosa Cruz
Hanna Gale Smith Maya Mizani Stills
The Program Prizes

Accounting ............................................................... La'renamaysha Sasha-Mary Rogers
Art History ............................................................... Fatima Amjad
Biochemistry ........................................................... Tajauna L. Batchelor
Biology .................................................................. Abigail Grace Williams
Chemistry ................................................................. Isabella Srihirisawan
Communication and Media Studies ...................... Savannah Grace Franz
Creative Writing ...................................................... Miriam Jean White
Dance Studies ......................................................... Megan Elizabeth Pleimann
Design .................................................................... Erin Catherine Pait
Economics ................................................................. Ana Samer Alberto Toledo
English ................................................................... Grace Elizabeth Vowels
Exercise Science ........................................................ Cassidy Diane Matlock
History .................................................................... Kayley Elizabeth Pontillo
Integrative Studies ................................................... Kendall Warren Place
Mathematics ............................................................. Grace Lucille Barger
Music ...................................................................... Teresa Gonzalez
Political Science ...................................................... Fafa Aku Glover-Tay
Psychological Studies .............................................. Molly Isabelle Palmer
Religious Studies ..................................................... Meg Sigler
Sociology ................................................................... Wynston Hale
Studio Art ................................................................ Augusta Marie Graham
Teaching, Schools, and Society............................ Ashten Maria Rempe

Katherine B. Rondthaler Awards

Poetry ....................................................................... Natalie Eleanor Patterson
Prose ....................................................................... La’renamaysha Sasha-Mary Rogers
Music ...................................................................... Celeste Mamie Watson
Choreography .......................................................... MacKenzie Lauren Boyle
Design ..................................................................... Karen Kasandra Romero-Mendieta

Lovin History Award ................................................. Grace Elizabeth Vowels

Phi Alpha Theta Inzer Byers History Honor Society Award .......... M.K. Thompson

The Mary Ann Campbell Davis C’74 Education Award .......... Kayley Elizabeth Pontillo

Women in Science and Mathematics Program Prize .......... Abigail Grace Williams

Jess Byrd Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award .................... Kathryn Annette O’Connell

SGA Susan E. Pauly Social Justice Award ......................... Meg Sigler

Mortar Board .......................................................... Fatima Amjad
          Olivia Elohor Chibi                              Andraea Alexandra Royal
          Courtney Barker Gibson                         Alyssa Corrin Shores
          Augusta Marie Graham                           Candace Dawn Simmons
          Mary Allison Gray                               Hanna Gale Smith
          Maggie Louise Jacobs                             Isabella Srihirisawan
          Brianna Nicole Johnson                          Una Isabella Stroszeck
          Olivia Noel Kleven                                Maria Guadalupe Uribe
          Cailey Nicole Neuschaefer                        Collette Leana Vladimery
          Kathryn Annette O’Connell                       Miriam Jean White
          Megan Elizabeth Pleimann                         Ariana Emily Wieland
          Briceyda Ruby Zepeda