50th Annual Spring Commencement

May 13, 2023
Kent State University at Stark
50th Annual Spring Commencement
MAY 13, 2023

“The Star-Spangled Banner”
Performed by Timothy Culver,
assistant professor of voice at Kent State
University’s Hugh A. Glauser School of Music

Welcome
Rev. Ryan Johanning, Executive Director,
Interfaith Campus Ministry

Introduction of Special Guests
Denise A. Seachrist, Ph.D.,
Dean and Chief Administrative Officer

Recognition of Students with Institutional Honors
Dr. Denise A. Seachrist

Introduction of Speaker
Dr. Denise A. Seachrist

Convocation Address
“You Matter”, Betty M. Smith,
Founder and Executive Director of EN-RICH-MENT

Presentation of Associate Degree Candidates
Robert D. Sturr, Ph.D., Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs

Presentation of Baccalaureate Degree Candidates
Dr. Robert D. Sturr

Conferral of Degrees
Dr. Denise A. Seachrist

Orator
Stephen E. Neaderhiser, Ph.D.

Presentation of Award of Distinction
and Distinguished Teaching Award
Dr. Denise A. Seachrist

Closing Remarks
Dr. Denise A. Seachrist

“Hail to Thee, Our Alma Mater”
Performed by the Kent State University
Men’s Chorus directed by Dr. Benjamin Ayling
Commencement Speaker
Betty M. Smith,
Founder and Executive Director of EN-RICH-MENT

Betty Smith graduated from Logansport High School in Indiana in 1958 and earned her Bachelor of Arts in Public Administration from Northeastern Illinois University in 1976. She has also completed professional development programs and graduate courses at Mundelein Seminary, DePaul University, and Notre Dame University.

Betty was employed by Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago for 28 years where she created programs for youth and families. Her proudest accomplishment was founding Forever Free, a recovery home for women, especially women with children, recovering from drugs and alcohol. While in Chicago, she served as organist and choir director in the music department at the Apostolic Church of God. She also began her career as an arts advocate and entrepreneur, founding the Joyful Noise Christian Entertainment Center and Stretchnastics Aerobic Exercise Studio. During this time, she recorded Do Your Heart A Favor (1984), a Christian aerobics album.

In 1998, Betty married Rev. Mark Smith and moved to Canton, continuing her service to the community. She founded Multi-Development Services of Stark County (MDS) in 1999, a non-profit organization that created a homeless shelter and developed transitional housing plans, offered parenting classes and other programs for women with children, organized a food pantry, and sparked a neighborhood revitalization program.

She continued to share her gifts as a musician when she created or facilitated community-based programs such as Canton Idol (2003-2016), Gospel Joins Symphony (2005-2008; 2013-2015), and the Downtown Nu-Zone Festivals (2005-2008). For 20 years, local students saw Betty on the Canton City Schools TV program, On Track with Betty Mac.

CONTINUED »
In 2012, Betty co-founded and became the executive director of EN-RICH-MENT, a non-profit organization that provides a foundation in the arts to underserved urban youth, ages 5-18 free of charge. EN-RICH-MENT offers music lessons, access to instruments, dance instruction, and other forms of music education so that the talented students of Canton can participate in musical theatre, choir, drumline, and other performance opportunities. EN-RICH-MENT also holds classes in art, horticulture, cooking, TV production, and graphic design.

Betty has been recognized by many local organizations for her pioneering work on behalf of the young people of Stark County. A partial list of her honors includes the Community Salutes Award of Appreciation from the Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce (2016), a People’s Champion Award from The Repository (2018), a Special Spotlight Award from Coming Together Stark County (2019), a United Way Gold Key Award (2022), and the Award of Merit from the Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce (2022).

Betty is the author of two books, Unexpected Blessings in the Midst of My Pain (2010) and Man with a Vision: Bishop Arthur M. Brazier (1996). The guiding principle in Betty’s life is that “with God, all things are possible.”
ACADEMIC YEAR 2022-2023

ASSOCIATE DEGREE CANDIDATES

**Associate of Arts**
Ross M. Cibella
Mackenzie A. Draman
Timothy L. Johnson
Dava D. McDay
Xavier F. Ortiz
Bailie Ann Stanley
* Jenna G. Stanley

**Associate of Science**
Mariella C. Barson
*Joshua T. Dunn
*Michael S. Farkash
Wyatt S. Hines
Marissa Renee Kessler
Lilian H. Meissner
Kennedy M. Moore

**Associate of Applied Science**
in Criminology and Justice Studies
Kathy M. Franks

* Graduating with Distinction: “With distinction” is awarded to associate degree graduates with a grade point average of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale.
ACADEMIC YEAR 2022-2023
BACCALAUREATE DEGREE CANDIDATES

COLLEGE OF APPLIED AND TECHNICAL STUDIES
Bachelor of Science
Matthew D. Snyder
Brent T. Vigil

COLLEGE OF THE ARTS
Bachelor of Arts
*Paige Jeanette Johnson

Bachelor of Science in Music Technology
*Brianna Nicole Allen
**Joshua T. Blasko
Devon T. Cain Crooks
Julian L. Larew
**Adam Jacob McCloskey
**Dominic Anthony Merlitti
Thomas Emmons Sarver
***Sharon Walsh
Joshua C. Warren

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
Bachelor of Arts
*Amanda Elaine Baxter
Kalina Elizabeth Beaber
Anooj S. Bhatt
Preston Lee Brown
***Christel Campbell
Ashley Cherubini
***Makayla H. Clos
Jayden Collins
**Sean Paul Craney Jr.
Landon T. Ellis
Nicholette O. Garaux
*Gabrielle C. Grimes
Jennifer Ellen Hinton
**Lana M. Hollis
Alexis M. Hymes
***Kayla D. Maloof
**Lauren Olivia May
ACADEMIC YEAR 2022-2023

BACCALAUREATE DEGREE CANDIDATES

Dakota Jeffrey Mazon
Mikaela Nicole McCallup
***Katherine Christine Miller
**Mark T. Moldovan
Xavier F. Ortiz
Alexander W. Pearsall
Anders Fulton Peterson
Katie L. Shatzer
Austin J. Sklack
Addie C. Tucke
**Hailey Elizabeth Marie Weaver
**Brayden N. Wikoff
Christian-Scott Pennington Williams

Bachelor of Integrative Studies
Latisha A. Culler
MarTaysia T. Holland

Bachelor of Science
**Elaine Margaret Bast

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
Bachelor of Business Administration
Hannah Victoria Agosta
**Mason I. Batty
Cameron M. Bower
*Selah M. Brown
Andrew G. Carozza
Nicholas J. Foster
Melissa K. Myers
*Cole S. Nichols
***Brooklyn T. Pugh

COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION
Bachelor of Arts
*Jaclyn L. Delamater  Lindsay N. Ricker
Timothy L. Johnson  Ryan Paul Tomcsik
***Kendall V. Kelley  Courtney Elizabeth Walters
*Navarre L. Medlock
ACADEMIC YEAR 2022-2023

BACCALAUREATE DEGREE CANDIDATES

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Bachelor of Science
Morgen L. Durant
Dacia Marie Hannay
*Raini K. Hershey
Desiree D. Stoltzfus
Delaney Kaitlin Tillman

Bachelor of Science in Education
**Joshua T. Dunn
Wyatt S. Hines
**Madeline E. Kurtz
**Jennifer Rae Mellinger
Dylan Matthew Ohm

COLLEGE OF NURSING

Bachelor of Science in Nursing
***Brittany Nicole Alterio
Bethany Sue Carr
Megan Marie Chatelain
Hannah O. Coblentz
Cassandra M. Duplin
**Kyle Christian Jack Gruber
Ottie Nicole Hosler
*Candace D. Hull
*Ashley Nicole Knoch
*Thomas Erich Metz
Kennedy Madison Marie Moore
Taylor Rae Murray
*Taylor Nicole O’Lear
**Joan Marie Oster
*Olivia Ellen Paoletti
Carson Pirie
*Samanta Emily Schippert
**Megan Nichole Somerick
Rachel L. Stitt

***Graduating Summa Cum Laude
**Graduating Magna Cum Laude
*Graduating Cum Laude
The Honors College

Seniors in the Honors College who, by having completed a senior honors project or thesis in their major field and by having evidenced exceptional academic performances, have fulfilled the requirements for Graduation with University, General or Department Honors or Honors College Scholar designation.

Honors College Scholars
Brittany Alterio
Mason Batty
Katie Shatzer
Megan Somerick

University Honors (Completed 30 hours and a thesis)
Daniel Earley
Katherine Miller

Americana Cords
Select members of today’s class have committed themselves to serve our country through the Armed Forces. Veterans and active military members graduating today are wearing red, white and blue cords.

Honor Cords

Summa Cum Laude
Highest honors awarded to students with a grade point average of at least 3.9 on a 4.0 scale.

Blue and Gold - This is equivalent to an A average.

Magna Cum Laude
High honors awarded to students with a grade point average of at least 3.7 on a 4.0 scale.

Gold - This is equivalent to a B+ average.

Cum Laude
Honors awarded to students with a grade point average of at least 3.5 on a 4.0 scale.

Blue - This is equivalent to a strong B average.
2023

Distinguished Teaching Award & Award of Distinction Recipients

Distinguished Teaching Award Recipient
Ashley Meinke
Lecturer
Mathematical Sciences

Award of Distinction Recipient
Wayne McDonald
Adjunct Faculty
Music

Distinguished Teaching Award Finalist
Cynthia Barb, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Mathematical Sciences

Distinguished Teaching Award Finalist
Lucas Engelhardt, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Economics
Past Distinguished Teaching Award Recipients

Alexis Baker 2022
Sebastian Birch 2021
Deepraj Mukherjee 2019
Mason Shuman 2018
Lindsay Starkey 2017
Matthew Lehnert 2016
Paul Andaloro 2015
Julie Cremens-Smith 2014
Paula Sato 2013
Carey McDougall 2012
Robert Hamilton IV 2011
Daniel A. Castaneda 2010
Leslie A. Heaphy 2009
Robert King 2008
Don Thacker 2007
John Harkness 2006
Carrie E. Schweitzer 2005
Kim R. Finer 2004
Leslie A. Heaphy 2003
Robert D. Sturr 2002
Bathi A. Kasturiarachi 2001
Penny L. Bernstein 2000
Philip C. Weeks 1999
María José Delgado 1998
Cynthia M. Barb 1997
Kim R. Finer 1996
John Harkness 1995
Kathryn A. Cartechine 1994
Russell L. Ensign 1993
Sharon Camner 1992
Thomas M. Norton-Smith 1991
James G. Brooks 1990
Inga E. Mullen 1989
Patricia A. Grutzmacher 1988
Sharon B. Carson 1987
Marylouise Bush 1986
Thomas Sosnowski & Kathi Walz 1985
John Harkness & Howard Tritt 1984
Charles W. Dayton & George E. Klee 1983
Warren Norton & Gaylord Shaw 1982
John Carson & Terry Sosnowski 1981
Sharon B. Carson & Frederick M. Worrell 1980
Linda Dooley & Kendall Ward 1979
Inga Mullen & Thomas Sosnowski 1978
John Harkness & James Lotze 1977
Maryanne Metcalfe & Phillip Robb 1976
Marylouise Bush & John Carson 1975
Laura McGregor & Kathi Walz 1974
Kent State University at Stark
Advisory Board Members

Renato “Ren” Camacho
President and Chief Executive Officer,
Akron-Canton Airport

Ajay Das
Vice President of Strategy and Business Development,
The Timken Company

Jacqueline DeGarmo
President/Lead Consultant,
Hilliard Jeane

John Humphrey, M.D.
Executive Director,
North Canton Medical Foundation

Mary Ellen Icaza
Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director,
Stark Library

Brent May
Superintendent,
Plain Local Schools

Thomas Norton-Smith, Ph.D.
Emeritus Professor,
Kent State University at Stark

Scott Pollock - Chair
President,
Aspen Industrial Consulting Services

Richard S. Regula
Stark County Commissioner

J. Kirk Schuring
Ohio Senator District 29

Tracy W. Stevens
External Affairs Manager,
Dominion East Ohio Gas

EX OFFICIO
Denise A. Seachrist, Ph.D.
Dean and Chief Administrative Officer,
Kent State University at Stark
Kent State University Alma Mater
Hail to Thee, Our Alma Mater

SOPRANO

From the beauty land Ohio comes universal praise, 'Tis the

ALTOS

song of Alma Mater that her sons and daughters raise. 'Tis a Hail to Kent for-

TENOR

ever, on the Cuyahoga shore, Now we join the loving thousands as they

BASS

sing it o'er and o'er, Hail to thee our Alma Mater O, how beautiful thou

art, High enthroned up on the hill-top, Reigning over every heart.