



2023 WINTER COMMENCEMENT

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2023, 9:00 A.M.

LEONIDAS S. JAMES PHYSICAL EDUCATION COMPLEX

BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY
WINTER 2023
COMMENCEMENT

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2023
AT NINE O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING
LEONIDAS S. JAMES PHYSICAL EDUCATION COMPLEX**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

President, Bowie State University	2
Commencement Speaker	3
Distinguished Alumna	4
Music	5
ALMA MATER	5
LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING	5
The Order of Exercises	6
Degrees Conferred	8
The Graduate Program	9
DOCTOR OF SCIENCE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE	9
DOCTOR OF EDUCATION IN EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP	9
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES	10
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS	10
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION	11
The Undergraduate Program	13
LATIN HONORS	13
ACADEMIC RECOGNITION	13
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES	14
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS	16
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION	17
COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES	18
Academic Commencement Traditions	20
University System of Maryland Board of Regents	22
Bowie State University Foundation Board of Directors	22
University Cabinet	23
Bowie State University National Alumni Association Executive Board	23
Commencement Ceremony Officials	24
Commencement Committee	24
University History	25
University Highlights	27

PRESIDENT, BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

DR. AMINTA H. BREAUX

PRESIDENT, BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY



Dr. Aminta H. Breaux has served as the visionary 10th president of Bowie State University since July 2017. From the beginning of her presidency, she has been committed to building on the legacy and rich history of Maryland's oldest historically Black university. She has initiated a university-wide focus to infuse entrepreneurship education across all disciplines and spearheaded the opening of the Entrepreneurship Living Learning Community in the fall of 2021 to provide a hub for student innovation. As president, she is laser focused on ensuring the long-term viability of the institution.

A leading voice in higher education, Dr. Breaux has been tapped to serve in multiple leadership roles. She was appointed to the President's Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities and the Governor's P-20

Leadership Council of Maryland. She is chair of the Board of Directors for the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA).

Dr. Breaux is very committed to serving the community, specifically with programs and support activities that enrich the lives of children and youth. She serves as a member on the board of directors for the Greater Prince George's Business Roundtable, Prince George's County Chamber of Commerce and the University of Maryland Capital Region Health. She is also a member of the Board of Trustees of the Strada Education Network and the Maryland Corps Program Advisory Board. She is an emeritus trustee of the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia after serving there for 16 years.

Her most recent honors include the Educator of the Year Award from the National Council of Negro Women and the Trailblazer Award from the Bowie Business Innovation Center, in conjunction with Capital One and the Capital City Chapter Links Inc. Leadership Award.

Dr. Breaux previously served as vice president for advancement at Millersville University, where she oversaw fundraising, alumni engagement, event management and external relations. She also served as their vice president for student affairs. Previously, she was dean of students at the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia, and served as assistant provost, and as director of co-operative education and career services at Drexel University. She began her career in higher education as a counselor at the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Breaux holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Temple University, a master's degree in psychological services in education from the University of Pennsylvania, and a doctorate in counseling psychology from Temple University. She is also a graduate of the Harvard Institute for Executive Management and the American Association for State Colleges and Universities Millennium Leadership Institute.

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

ABBY PHILLIP

ANCHOR, CNN, NEWSNIGHT WITH ABBY PHILLIP



Abby Phillip anchors CNN NewsNight with Abby Phillip airing weeknights at 10:00 p.m. Phillip takes a sharp approach to the day's biggest stories, driven by the facts and pursuit of the truth. With her award-winning background in dogged Washington reporting, Phillip brings a unique context to the complexity of current affairs. Phillip holds powerful leaders accountable with hard-hitting interviews and hosts interesting conversations from a variety of perspectives.

She was previously CNN's senior political correspondent and anchor of Inside Politics Sunday. She joined the network in 2017 to cover the Trump Administration and served as a White House Correspondent through 2019. In January 2020, she moderated CNN's Democratic

Presidential Debate in Iowa. She also anchored special coverage of election night in America surrounding the 2020 election. In January 2021, she covered the CNN Special Report: Kamala Harris: Making History about the vice president's barrier-breaking career and the childhood experiences that helped shape her. Phillip has been an essential player in CNN's special coverage of political events, including election nights, State of the Union Addresses and the January 6th Committee hearings.

Phillip joined CNN from The Washington Post. She previously worked at ABC News and Politico. Throughout her career, she has covered multiple presidents, campaign finance, lobbying and several presidential campaigns.

Phillip was named to the Time100 Next list in 2021 and she was the recipient of the National Urban League's Women of Power award.

Phillip was raised in Bowie, Md., and is a graduate of Harvard University with a degree in government. When not on television, she spends time with her husband, daughter and their pup Booker T.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA

DR. THELMA THOMAS DALEY



Dr. Thelma Thomas Daley is a nationally recognized counselor/educator, organizational leader, college professor and activist. She has devoted her career to empowering others through her professional, charitable and public service endeavors. She is a graduate of Bowie State University, New York University and George Washington University.

She had a long professorial tenure with Loyola University in its Graduate School Counseling Program. Other professorial roles include George Washington University and the Harvard University Summer Institute for Counselors.

Dr. Daley broke racial barriers when she was elected President of the American School Counselor Association, representing school counselors across the country. She again broke racial barriers as President of the American Counseling Association, the largest counseling association in the world and received their Wrenn Humanitarian Award, its highest award. Ebony Magazine also listed her among the 100 Outstanding Black Americans.

She is a humanitarian who willingly shares her knowledge and skills and has been at the forefront of endeavors that seek to bring justice to everyone. She has conducted workshops and given speeches across the U.S., Europe, Asia and Africa. She has also led the Women in NAACP in building schools in Benin, West Africa.

Dr. Daley has fought for social justice and equity on the local, state, and national levels, and served as one of Maryland's ten Electors in the 2020 Electoral College where she cast votes for President Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris. In September 2023, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Interior appointed her to the National Historic Site Advisory Commission for the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House. In February 2023, The Baltimore Sun recognized her as a Living Civil Rights Legend, and in 2020, she was inducted into the Baltimore Gas and Electric and The Baltimore Sun's Business & Civic Hall of Fame.

She served as president of five national organizations, and on January 1, 2023, she completed a successful term as the 8th president and chair of the National Council of Negro Women. She currently serves as NCNW Affiliates Chair, is the 16 National President of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. and is Vice Chair of the sorority's D4 Women in Action.

MUSIC

ALMA MATER

CHARLOTTE B. ROBINSON

There's a spot in my heart that never grows cold,
There's a place in my memory that never grows old.
There's a prayer on my lips that I'll ever be true
To God and my country,
To Bowie State, my school.

(REFRAIN)

Oh, Bowie State, dear Bowie State
May you forever be, the flame of faith,
The torch of truth,
To guide the steps of youth.
There's a song in my heart that I'll ever sing
Of the beauties of Bowie State that each season brings.
There's a pledge in my heart that I'll ever keep true
To uphold the standards of Bowie State, my school.

(REFRAIN)

Oh, Bowie State, dear Bowie State
May you forever be, the flame of faith,
The torch of truth,
To guide the steps of youth.

LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING

JAMES WELDON JOHNSON

Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise, high as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

THE ORDER OF EXERCISES

DR. AMINTA H. BREAUX

President of the University, Presiding

ACADEMIC PROCESSIONAL



POSTING OF THE COLORS

BSU Army Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC)
Lieutenant Colonel Kareem Y. Fernandez, U.S. Army
Department Chair, Military Science



“THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER”

by Frances Scott Key
Led by Jade Frasier, Senior
Bowie State Gospel Choir

“LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING”

by James Weldon Johnson & J. Rosamond Johnson
Arrangement by Latonya Wrenn, Director
Bowie State Gospel Choir



MOMENTS OF REFLECTIONS

Led by Dr. William Lewis, Mace Bearer



GREETINGS & CHARGE TO THE GRADUATES

Dr. Aminta H. Breaux, President

SPECIAL MUSICAL SELECTION

Myles Frost

Tony Award winner, Grammy Award nominee, "MJ: The Musical"

William T. Wood

Regent, University System of Maryland Board of Regents

Stephanie Nelson

President, Senior Class

Linda Orajekwe

President, Graduate Student Association



SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

Karen J. Shaheed, Esq.

Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Chief of Staff



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA PRESENTATION

Dr. Thelma T. Daley

THE ORDER OF EXERCISES

INTRODUCTION OF THE SPEAKER

Dr. Aminta H. Breaux
President



COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Abby Phillip
Anchor, CNN, NewsNight with Abby Phillip



“AERIUS”

by Carl Strommen
Performed by the Bowie State University Symphonic Band
Mr. Billy Bennett, Director



RECOGNITION OF HONOR GRADUATES

Dr. Guy-Alain Amoussou
Acting Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs



CONFERRING OF DEGREES

Candidates for Degrees presented by
Dr. Guy-Alain Amoussou



PRESENTATION OF GRADUATES

Dr. Janet Guyden
Interim Dean, Graduate School

Dr. George Acquah
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

Dr. Regina Tawah
Interim Dean, College of Business

Dr. Rhonda Jeter
Dean, College of Education

Dr. Cheryl Blackman
Dean, College of Professional Studies



INDUCTION INTO THE BSU NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Darren M. Swain ('93 & '95), President, BSU National Alumni Association



ALMA MATER

Led by Laila Gwathmey, Junior, Bowie State Gospel Choir



RETIRING OF THE COLORS

BSU Army ROTC



ACADEMIC RECEPTIONAL

DEGREES CONFERRED

THE GRADUATE PROGRAM

Doctor of Science in Computer Science
Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership
Master of Arts
Master of Arts in Teaching
Master of Business Administration
Master of Education
Master of Public Administration
Master of Science
Master of Science in Management Information Systems
Master of Science in Nursing

THE UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

Bachelor of Arts
Bachelor of Science

The list of candidates for graduation was prepared within the time limits imposed for the printing of the program. Therefore, the list of names is not conclusive. Only those candidates who have met all graduation requirements will be granted a degree.

THE GRADUATE PROGRAM

DOCTOR OF SCIENCE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

Abdullah Abdulhadi Al Gahtani

Catonsville, Maryland

M.S. — Lawrence Technological University

B.S. — King Faisal University

"Building an Intelligent Framework Using a Novel Combination of Ensemble Classification to Predict Heart Disease"

Bander Ayed Allogmany

Columbia, Maryland

M.S. — California Lutheran University

B.S. — Taiban University

"Dealing with Concept Drift in Personalized Learning Systems"

DOCTOR OF EDUCATION IN EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Dallas Donnell Lee

Bowie, Maryland

B.A. — Langston University

M.S. — Trinity Washington University

"Examining Culturally Responsive School Leadership on Student Engagement in the Title 1 and TSI Middle School Setting"

Reginald Riddick

Hanover, Maryland

B.A. — Delaware State University

M.A. — Strayer College

"Retention of African American Male Students at a Historically Black College from the Perspective of Athletes Identifying Strategies for Success"

Dawn Jakaye Riddick

Hanover, Maryland

B.S. — Delaware State University

M.A. — Hampton University

M.Ed. — Bowie State University

"Alternative Certified Teachers' Perceptions of the Obstacles, Catalysts, and How School Administrators Provide Appropriate Resources to Help Retain Teachers in an Urban School District"

*Denotes Summer 2023 Completion

THE GRADUATE PROGRAM

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

MASTER OF ARTS IN ORGANIZATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS

Ijenakhe Abudu-Sule

Benin City, Nigeria
B.S. — King Faisal University
M.S. — Lawrence Technological
University

Ericka Anjelica Holt

Upper Marlboro, Maryland
B.A. — North Carolina
Central University

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

Patrick Nana Addison

Hanover, Maryland
B.S. — Pentecost University College

John Bright Affam

Bowie, Maryland
B.S. — University of Maryland
College Park
B.S. — University of the
District of Columbia

Tunde Olumide Ayodele

Lanham, Maryland
B.S. — Computer Science
University of Benin

Dwayne D. Grant

Oxford, Maryland
B.A. — University of Maryland
Baltimore County

Tolulope Oladipupo Okeowo

Bowie, Maryland
B.S. — Lagos State University

Wasiu Adebisi Sanyaolu

Parkville, Maryland
B.S. — Ladoko Akintola University
of Technology
M.S. — Towson University

Abhishek Sirra

Chantilly, Virginia
B.S. — Aurora's Scientific
Technological & Research
Academy

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN MATH

Yves-Marc Cherilas

Baltimore, Maryland
B.A. — City University of
New York, Hunter College

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN INTERNET OF THINGS & INTERNET TECHNOLOGY

Ryley Danielle Hinson

Jessup, Maryland
B.S. — Bowie State University

Elesha M. Jackson

Ellicott City, Maryland
B.S. — Bowie State University

John S. Koroma

Lanham, Maryland
B.S. — Bowie State University

Chijioke M. Nwadike

Farmers Branch, Texas
B.S. — Bowie State University

Clarence E. Ray

Laurel, Maryland
B.S. — Towson University

Danielle Stewart

Bowie, Maryland
B.S. — Bowie State University

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Bolametiren Cecilia Akinlaja

Bowie, Maryland
B.S. — Redeemer University

Eric Abdul Dunbar

Woodbridge, Virginia
B.S. — Virginia Union

Ashanti Laurine Eadie

Brandywine, Maryland
B.S. — Frostburg University

Stephanie Denise Martin*

Bowie, Maryland
B.A. — Laboratory Institute of
Merchandising

Elijah Boluwatife Ogunniran

Millersville, Maryland
B.S. — Eastern Mediterranean
University

Ashley Marie Paquet

Glenn Dale, Maryland
B.A. — University of Pittsburgh

Uvel A. Paul Jr.

Brandywine, Maryland
B.S. — Bowie State University

Robert Nesta Thomas

Savage, Maryland
B.S. — Bowie State University

Tonya Marie Turner

Fort Washington, Maryland
B.A. — Trinity Washington
University

MASTER OF ARTS IN HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Gabrielle L. Christian

Elkridge, Maryland
B.S. — University of Maryland
Eastern Shore

Lauren Shanice Heath

Severn, Maryland
B.A. — University of West Indies

Auzsa L. Hopkins

Olney, Maryland
B.A. — Bowie State University

Camille Michelle Johnson

Baltimore, Maryland
B.S. — Bowie State University

Lauren Elaine Morse

Bowie, Maryland
B.S. — Bowie State University

Omotolani Oluwanisola Oguntoye

Hyattsville, Maryland
B.S. — University of Maryland
Eastern Shore

Linda Nnedinma Orajekwe

Laurel, Maryland
B.A. — Lagos State University

Charles Alexander Rivers*

Minneapolis, MN
B.A. — University of North Florida

Randel R. Williams

Lanham, Maryland
B.S. — Bowie State University

MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Shaneeka Labelle Becton

District Heights, Maryland
B.S. — Bowie State University

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THE GRADUATE PROGRAM

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Alexis Nicole Branch

Upper Marlboro, Maryland
B.A. — Bennett College

Omari Michael George

Baltimore, Maryland
B.S. — Bowie State University

Jakeya N. Johnson

College Park, Maryland
B.S. — Western Governors
University

Chiedozie Okwudili Kalu

Laurel, Maryland
LL.B. — University of
Nigeria Nsukka

Raven Lorien Lott

Dumfries, Virginia
B.S. — Christopher Newport
University

Crystal McDonald

Hyattsville, Maryland
B.S. — University of Maryland
Global Campus

Kiana Janai Nicholson

Nottingham, Maryland
B.S. — Morgan State
University

Angela Jeanne Rouson

Accokeek, Maryland
B.S. — Hampton University

Markell Nefertiti Smith

Owings Mills, Maryland
B.S. — Towson University

**MASTER OF SCIENCE
IN MANAGEMENT
INFORMATION SYSTEMS****Ayomide Samuel Awobiyi**

Laurel, Maryland
B.S. — Babcock University

Ieisha K. Hall

Jessup, Maryland
M.B.A. — American
InterContinental University
B.B.A. — North Carolina
Central University

Kenneth Chimezie Nnolim

Bryans Road, Maryland
B.S. — Ahmadu Bello University

**Samuel Chukwunwike
Nwulu**

Edgewood, Maryland
B.S. — University of Benin

Boluwatife Teniola Ogunjobi

Bowie, Maryland
B.S. — Kwara State University

Adetoyese Emmanuel Olajide

Springdale, Maryland
B.S. — Lead City University

**Adeyinka Wuraola
Shokoya-Eleshin**

Bowie, Maryland
B.S. — University of Lagos
M.S.— Brunel University London

Dennis Nathaniel Wolley Jr.

Upper Marlboro, Maryland
B.S. — Towson University

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

**MASTER OF ARTS
IN COUNSELING
PSYCHOLOGY****Deborah Temitope Aiyegbusi ***

Montgomery Village, Maryland
B.S. — Frostburg State University

Sarah Victoria Cardenas

Silver Spring, Maryland
B.S. — University of Maryland
College Park

Quionne Chevon Flythe

Temple Hills, Maryland
B.S. — Bowie State University

Vanessa A. Lamison

White Plains, Maryland
B.A. — Bloomfield College of
Montclair State University

Tre'Al Deann McCarden

Laurel, Maryland
B.S. — University of Maryland
Eastern Shore

Shandra Marica Ridgely*

Baltimore, Maryland
B.S. — Morgan State University

Gwinn Alene Spence

Crownsville, Maryland
B.S. — University of Maryland
University College

Marsha Alethea Spence-Gayles

New York, New York
B.S. — Bowie State University

**MASTER OF ARTS
IN MENTAL HEALTH
COUNSELING****Latasha Marie Coleman**

Upper Marlboro, Maryland
B.S. — Coppin State University

Justin Tyler Donadio

Catonsville, Maryland
B.S. — Towson University

Emilia Guadalupe Henry

Frederick, Maryland
B.S. — Liberty University

Jazmine Korneisha Jackson

Severn, Maryland
B.S. — Towson University

Takia Allana Johnson

Crofton, Maryland
B.S. — Bowie State University

Michelle McAndrew*

Pasadena, Maryland
B.S. — University of Maryland
Baltimore County

Simone Elyse Murphy

Bowie, Maryland
B.A. — University of Maryland

David Antonio Riddick

Crownsville, Maryland
B.S. — Ashford University

Catherine T. Romero Barahona

Gaithersburg, Maryland
B.S. — University of Maryland
Baltimore County

Nyair R. Washington

Upper Marlboro, Maryland
B.S. — Bowie State University

**MASTER OF ARTS
IN TEACHING****Chinua T. Abubakar***

Fort Washington, Maryland
B.S. — University of Maryland
College Park

Michelle Renee Vinson

Clinton, Maryland
B.S. — University of Maryland
College Park

**MASTER OF EDUCATION
IN READING****Bria Marie Gregg ***

Glenn Dale, Maryland
B.S. — University of Maryland
College Park

Alexis Chonte Hawkins *

Upper Marlboro, Maryland
B.S. — Bowie State University

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THE GRADUATE PROGRAM

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

MASTER OF EDUCATION IN READING

CONTINUED

Matthew Jacob Sapienza *

Bowie, Maryland
B.S. — Bowie State University

Patrice Jasmine Willis *

Upper Marlboro, Maryland
B.A. — Ohio Western University

MASTER OF EDUCATION IN CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE TEACHER LEADERSHIP

Jasmine Monteil Bland

Annapolis, Maryland
B.S. — Towson University

Mekrina Carmel Knoll

Hyattsville, Maryland
B.A. — The Catholic University
of America

Nicole A. Robinson

Odenton, Maryland
B.S. — University of Delaware

Rachel Dominique Thomas

Suitland, Maryland
M.A. — Tennessee State
University
B.S. — Morgan State University

MASTER OF EDUCATION IN SCHOOL COUNSELING

Macualay Rashad Baker

Baltimore, Maryland
B.A. — Shaw University
M.S. — Tiffin University

Peter Carlton Bell

Halethorpe, Maryland
B.A. — The University
of Oklahoma

Monica S. Chica Valdez

Hyattsville, Maryland
B.S. — Washington Adventist
University

Daijah Imani McManus

Bowie, Maryland
B.S. — Bowie State University

Elijah Christopher Richardson

Union Bridge, Maryland
B.S. — Towson University

Nicholas Rodgers

Bowie, Maryland
B.S. — Morehouse College

MASTER OF EDUCATION IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

Kathy Belsches-Reynolds

Elkridge, Maryland
B.A. — James Madison University

Reyonna Jalene Buck

Lusby, Maryland
B.S. — Marymount University

Erica M Crudup

White Plains, Maryland
B.S. — Bowie State University

Stacey Ann Daniel

Owings, Maryland
B.S. — University of Maryland
College Park

Vickie Kelene Hunt

Waldorf, Maryland
B.S. — Park University

Maiah Jones

Waldorf, Maryland
B.S. — Bowie State University

Maria Christina Marcella

Prince Frederick, Maryland B.
B.A. — Western Governors
University

Kim J Sbordone

La Plata, Maryland
B.S. — State University of New
York at New Paltz

Michelle Danielle Turner

Upper Marlboro, Maryland
B.S. — University of Maryland
Global Campus
M.A. — Ashford University
M.Ed. — Grand Canyon University

Hannah H Walker

Bowie, Maryland
B.S. — Salisbury University
M.Ed. — American College of
Education

Shanna Nadine Williams-Carr

Columbia, Maryland
B.S. — University of Maryland
College Park
M.A. — University of Maryland
College Park

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THE UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

LATIN HONORS

Summa Cum Laude

Naomi Elle Beach
Temari L. Brown
Virginia Carter
Victoya Payne Chittams
Briana Briones Colendres
Jayne Michelle Considine
Ronald E. Franklin Jr.
Autumn Mikal Pate
Chris Geo Aleligay Provido
Lana R. Scott
Gina Loren Sirenne
Corrina Victoria Stevenson
Yutzilt J. Tapia Vargas
Hong Ngoc Tran
Talisa M. Watson

Magna Cum Laude

Daniel Enoch Aboagye
Jade Anne Aguisando Aguilar
Yousef Abdullah Algheliga
Faisal Alkhelaiwi
Aron Dovid Bishop
Trondelle Laquan Brooks
Davon T. Brown
Diedra Shantelle Campbell
Joshua W. Carter
Kandee Antonette Clark
Jasmyne M'Ychele Crawford
Victoria A. Garrus
Anthea Rhonda Glassman
Terrence J. Griffin
Cynthia Obiageli Ikeazor
Carlyle A. Lee
Dejah M. Miles
Phylicia Chevonne Murray
Marieme Ndiaye
Justin Ikechukwu Odum
Dorchelle Lashawn Parker
Jocelyn R. Parker
Steve Landry Pokam Njoya
Subhechha Rijal
Ricardo Deion Simms
Raven Tyra Stclair
Brandon J. Thompson
Isabel Grace Van Valkenburgh
Sarahi Del Rosario Villalba-Lopez

Cum Laude

Bader Aldossary
Kafayat Omotoke Alejo
Nnaemeka Princewill Ariwaodo
Lynn D. Battle
Jaylen C. Blagmon
Kevin J. Davis
Sandra N. Ebenki
Awungnjia Fontem Etiendem
Mikail Sydney Green
Kyndal C. Griffin
Lashae D. Jones
Joshua G. Lindler
Nincy Martinez
Keva Malea Cari McCray
Monica T. Ojetola
Cesar F. Paredes
Brian Keith Ross
Faith Nneka Udah
Joy Olivia Udah
Eden Tamene Waka

Summa Cum Laude 3.85 – 4.00

Magna Cum Laude 3.65 – 3.84

Cum Laude 3.50 – 3.64

ACADEMIC RECOGNITION

Transfer students who have earned 30-59 semester hours at
Bowie State University with a GPA of 3.50 or higher.

Zoe Jumakae Agunbiade
Alexis R. Allen
Miguel Earl Barajas
Dariela J. Carcamo Urrea
Kenyan T. Chambers
Christopher Jaden Clayton
Daniel Sharay Clemons

Joshua David Denning
Khiya Derricott
Angelique L. Epps
Raven Goings
Maria Rubit Guzman
Aaron Michael Harrison
Ngulefac Nzeffe

Sonya Michele Odum
Delante J. Peete
Kelsey Joanna Reyes
David M. Velasquez Chamorro
Joseph Randy Vivens
Ladawn Williams

This list of Honors and Recognition was compiled as of December 12, 2023.

THE UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

BACHELOR OF ART IN ENGLISH

Carlyle A. Lee
Churchton, Maryland

Joseph Randy Vivens
Rockville, Maryland

Alisdair J. Wooddell
Waldorf, Maryland

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN FINE ARTS

Nnaemeka Princewill Ariwaodo*
Greenbelt, Maryland

Myles J. Frost
Fort Washington, Maryland

Kelsey Joanna Reyes
Laurel, Maryland

Marcus A. Smith
Parkville, Maryland

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BIOINFORMATICS

Jariah C. Bartlett
Severn, Maryland

Moinena A. Seisay
Hyattsville, Maryland

Natasha Nicole Wynter
Hagerstown, Maryland

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BIOLOGY

Seyi K. Akinwale
Laurel, Maryland

David I. Akinyemi
Middle River, Maryland

Annaya Ashanti Andrews
Washington, D.C.

Mikkel Anyangwe Awanda
Upper Marlboro, Maryland

Naomi Elle Beach
New Carrollton, Maryland

Cameryn Dubose
Washington, D.C.

India Nichelle Edmondson
Waldorf, Maryland

Lucy O. Ekeh
Catonsville, Maryland

Krystal Monae England
Upper Marlboro, Maryland

Zsarya Ford
Waldorf, Maryland

Jacey Tai Lee
Baltimore, Maryland

Aria Celeste Mason
Canton, Maryland

**Charles Chukwuemeka
Meregini**
Annapolis, Maryland

Krystina Morant
Lanham, Maryland

Kamsi F. Nebo*
Silver Spring, Maryland

Osayimwense E. Obahiagbon
Silver Spring, Maryland

Angel Alexandria Porter
Rockville, Maryland

Asia S. Pridgen
Temple Hills, Maryland

Chris Geo Aleligay Provide
Upper Marlboro, Maryland

Subhechha Rijal
Pasadena, Maryland

Elijah T. Roberts
Glen Burnie, Maryland

Jessica N. Shaw
Fort Washington, Maryland

Gary Shikwa
Laurel, Maryland

Fareedah Temitope Shitta-Bey
Hyattsville, Maryland

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN COMMUNICATIONS

Devin Simone Hodge
Clinton, Maryland

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN COMMUNICATIONS

Calil P. Brown
Camp Springs, Maryland

Kaleb Chester
Grayson, Georgia

Christopher Jaden Clayton
Montgomery Village, Maryland

Mikayla Jewell Davis
New Haven, Connecticut

Khiya Derricott
Washington, D.C.

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THE MEDALLION



The ceremonial medallion offers a unique opportunity to honor the presiding president and the former presidents of the university. The chain designed for Bowie State University, an institution rich in tradition, depicts the university's heritage in intricate detail. Inscribed on each banner of the chain are the former president's name and term of office, while the center banner features the name of the university's current president.

Each presidential banner that makes up the chain is one and three-eighths inches. The Bowie State University medallion includes the university seal which is three and one-eighth inches in diameter and surrounded by a decorative bezel.

ACADEMIC COMMENCEMENT TRADITIONS

THE MACE & ACADEMIC REGALIA

THE MACE

The mace, introduced in twelfth-century France by Philip II and in England by Richard I, was designed as an emblem signifying the authority of state officials, sergeants-at-arms, royal bodyguards and ecclesiastical dignitaries. It has been adopted for its symbolism by colleges and universities in the United States and is traditionally borne in academic processions by the faculty marshal.

The Bowie State University mace stands 50 inches tall and contains design details that represent the rich legacy of the institution's history and pay homage to its alma mater. The tapered mahogany staff bears seven, gold-plated engraved banners that designate major epochs in the school's history and changes in its name.

The staff supports an eight-inch brass flame that sits atop a four-sided base, with each side displaying a three-inch, gold-plated medallion. One side of the base features a medallion with the university seal — the opposing side depicts a replica of the African Baptist Chapel on Saratoga Street in Baltimore, where the original school was founded in 1865. The other two medallions bear the words, "Flame of Faith" and "Torch of Truth," echoed in the alma mater. The lyrics carry the hope that Bowie State will continue to serve generations of students for years to come.



ACADEMIC REGALIA

The custom of wearing academic dress can be traced to the Middle Ages when scholars were also clerics and wore the costume of their monastic order. The hood originally was a cowl attached to the gown, which could be slipped over the head for warmth. The originally round cap later became the square mortarboard commonly seen today.

Under contemporary rules of protocol, only holders of the doctorate may wear the four-sided, six-sided, or eight-sided velvet tam. The gown worn varies according to the degree earned. The bachelor's gown, for example, is worn closed and can be distinguished from the rest by its long pointed sleeves. The master's gown is designed to be worn open, with slits at the elbow of the sleeves to accommodate the arms. The doctor's gown, also worn open, has full, bell-shaped sleeves with three horizontal bars stitched across the upper arm. A velvet panel that is stitched down the front edges is draped around the neck.

The doctor's hood is four feet long, of fuller shape, and rounded at the base. The hood is bordered with velvet, the color of which typically indicates the field of study in which the wearer's degree was earned: dark blue for philosophy, light blue for education, orange for engineering, gold/yellow for science, green for medicine, salmon pink for public health, purple for law, white for arts and letters, etc. The silk lining of the hood carries the colors of the institution that granted the degree. If more than one degree is held, the gown and hood symbolic of the highest degree are worn.

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UNIVERSITY HISTORY



Bowie State University is an outgrowth of a school opened in Baltimore, Maryland, by an organization dedicated to offering educational opportunities that the state failed to provide for its black citizens. From those humble beginnings, Bowie State has become a comprehensive university with more than 6,200 diverse students, offering 27 undergraduate majors and 35 master's, doctoral and advanced certification programs in a broad range of disciplines. Bowie State University continues to build on its legacy of providing access to high-quality education.

FOUNDING OF THE FIRST SCHOOL

The Baltimore Association for the Moral and Educational Improvement of the Colored People was organized in 1864 by 46 men, comprised of businessmen, lawyers, clergymen and Quakers, committed to opening schools to educate the state's newly emancipated citizens. One of those men was Joseph M. Cushing, an outspoken champion for the education of the black population.

As chairman of the Educational Committee for Maryland's Constitutional Convention in 1864, Cushing chastised the committee's refusal to fund schools for black people: "There will come a time when this state will be forced by public opinion to provide means for educating our colored population."

The association opened its first Baltimore school, School #1, on January 9, 1865, in the African Baptist Church in Crane's Building on the corner of Calvert and Saratoga Streets. The school offered courses in the elements of education, and c. Courses to train teachers were added in 1866.

The facility was woefully inadequate. In 1867, with the aid of the Freedmen's Bureau, the Quakers of England and others, the Baltimore Association purchased and renovated the Old Friends Meeting House at the corner of Saratoga and Courtland Streets to house the Baltimore Normal School for Colored Teachers.

MOVE TO BOWIE

After repeated petitions from the Baltimore Normal School trustees, the state legislature authorized the Board of Education to assume control of the school in 1908 and redesignated it as State Normal School No. 3, finally fulfilling the dream of Cushing and the Baltimore Association. By 1910, the state decided to relocate the school to Bowie, Maryland, purchasing a 187-acre tract formerly known as Jericho Farm dating to 1716. The school opened at the new location in 1911 with about 60 students and Don Speed Smith Goodloe as the first black man to head the school as principal. In 1914, its name changed to the Maryland Normal and Industrial School at Bowie.

Under President Leonidas James, the school began a two-year professional curriculum in teacher education in 1925, which expanded to a three-year program in 1931. A four-year program to train elementary school teachers was introduced in 1935, and the school was renamed the Maryland Teachers College at Bowie.

Teacher education continued to expand under the 25-year tenure of President William Henry. The institution established programs to train teachers for junior high school (1951) and secondary education (1961) and advanced toward becoming a liberal arts college.

BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY HISTORY

TRANSITION TO A STATE LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE

The Maryland State Legislature authorized the College to become Bowie State College in 1963, following the establishment of a liberal arts program. New majors in English, history and general social science were added, expanding offerings beyond teacher education.

Under President Samuel Myers, the college established its first graduate degree program, offering the Master of Education in 1969. The first director of the graduate division was Dr. J. Alexander Wiseman, a graduate of the Maryland Teachers College at Bowie and the first African-American to earn a doctoral degree from the University of Maryland, College Park.

EMERGENCE AS A COMPREHENSIVE UNIVERSITY

In 1988, Bowie State College became Bowie State University, under President James Lyons, reflecting significant growth in academic programs, enrollment and community service. On the same day, the university also became one of the member institutions of the newly formed University System of Maryland.

Bowie State University gained recognition as a leader in the education of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines. In 1995, Bowie State won an 11-year, \$27 million award from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration/National Science Foundation, becoming one of only six national Model Institutions for Excellence in STEM.

TODAY'S BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

Bowie State University ranks among the nation's top comprehensive universities, cultivating next-generation leaders by providing opportunities for students to discover their strengths through focused academic experiences and opportunities to tackle real-world problems.

U.S. News & World Report ranks Bowie State among the top 16 Historically Black Colleges and Universities and among the top 10 public HBCUs. Bowie State's cybersecurity programs are recognized as a National Center for Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education by the National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security.

Now more than ever, Bowie State University is committed to preparing students for success in a highly technological, global society.

BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY HIGHLIGHTS



LEADING BOWIE STATE INTO THE FUTURE

Bowie State University empowers more than 6,000 students with a rigorous curriculum and the support they need to find their strengths and prepare to compete in a changing world. The university has made great strides on the path to becoming one of the nation's top comprehensive universities, with expanding academic initiatives and modern facilities that provide opportunities for innovative teaching, learning and research.

KEY HONORS

- U.S. News & World Report ranks Bowie State in the top 20 historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs), one of the most innovative schools in the nation and a leader in advancing social mobility of its students.
- Bowie State's cybersecurity programs are recognized as a National Center for Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education by the National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security.
- The College of Education has maintained continuous accreditation of its professional teacher programs since 1954. The college has also received national recognition for the quality of its partnerships with local schools that place student interns.

FIRST-CLASS TEACHING & RESEARCH

- Undergraduate natural sciences students who choose a research track work with faculty mentors to find breakthroughs in health and medicine.
- By partnering with local school districts, the College of Education has launched initiatives to prepare more students to become certified educators.

- The Bowie Business Innovation Center, a partnership with the city of Bowie, is Maryland's only business incubator at an HBCU. Students interested in starting a business can enroll in the new entrepreneurship and small business management program and get support from the Entrepreneurship Innovation Center.

CAMPUS IMPROVEMENTS

- The Entrepreneurship Living Learning Community is a hub of innovation and home to 500+ students, designed to nurture their passion to start a business.
- The Center for Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Nursing includes research and instructional laboratories, flexible classrooms, a nursing simulation wing and a fully enclosed greenhouse.
- The Fine and Performing Arts Center has the distinction of being an All-Steinway facility, featuring only Steinway pianos in both practice and performance spaces.
- The Student Center received LEED Gold certification for its environmentally sustainable design, making Bowie State the first HBCU to receive that honor for a student center.



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