

2024 SPRING COMMENCEMENT



FRIDAY, MAY 24, 2024, 9 A.M. BULLDOG STADIUM, BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

SPRING COMMENCEMENT



Friday, May 24, 2024 at Nine O'Clock in the Morning Bulldog Stadium Bowie State University Bowie, Maryland

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PRESIDENT, BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

DR. AMINTA H. BREAUX



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.

Dr. Breaux is very committed to serving the community, specifically with programs and activities that enrich the lives of children and youth. She serves as chair of the Board of Directors for the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association, the Board of Trustees of the Strada Education Network and the Maryland Corps Program Advisory Board. She is also a member on the Board of Directors for the Greater Prince George's Business Roundtable, the Prince George's County Chamber

of Commerce and the University of Maryland Capital Region Health.

Previous leadership appointments include the President Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and the Governor's P-20 Leadership Council of Maryland.

Her most recent honors include the Maryland Daily Record Top 100 Women in 2020 and 2024, The Maryland Daily Record Power List 100 in 2023, the President Joseph R. Biden's Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award in 2023, the Maryland Daily Record Influential Marylander in 2021 and the Diversity in Business Award, Washington Business Journal in 2021. She has also received the Educator of the Year Award from the National Council of Negro Women, 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 and vice president of student affairs at Millersville University. Earlier in her career, she held positions at the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia, and 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

WANDA DURANT

PRESIDENT, DURANT FAMILY CHERITABLE FOUNDATION



Wanda Durant was born in Prince George's County, Maryland, and nurtures the youth of her community through various educational, athletic, and social opportunities. She believes in the value of resilience, compassion and the power of giving back and has instilled those same beliefs in her two sons, Anthony Durant and NBA superstar Kevin Durant.

As President of The Durant Family Charitable Foundation, Durant spearheads the initiative to improve the lives of low-income teens by providing opportunities for advancement through numerous community projects. She has co-founded and serves as president of OUR Mothers Inc., a group of mothers affiliated with the NBA. These passionate mothers have raised notable NBA players, and they use their insights and connections to impact children, families, and the communities around them.

Her unwavering advocacy extends to various regional and national charitable organizations, including the Single Parents Support

Network, Baller Moms, Positive Tomorrows, The Boys & Girls Club of America, The Salvation Army, Mothers of Professional Basketball Players and NBA Cares.

Bloomfield College awarded her an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters for her dedication to humanitarian causes and advocacy. She also serves on the Board of Tigress Financial Partners, a Fortune 100 Company championing financial literacy initiatives for vulnerable women nationwide.

Durant is a dynamic leader, a beacon of inspiration, an advocate and a force for change who uses her platform to empower champions. She delivers messages of hope, resilience, and the power of belief throughout corporations, non-profit organizations, college campuses and youth audiences.

She has delivered the keynote address to various organizations, including J.P. Morgan Chase, the Ford Foundation, Thomson Reuters, Brown Brother Harriman, and the Flamboyan Foundation. She also spoke at the White House United States of Women Summit and the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Annual Legislative Conference.

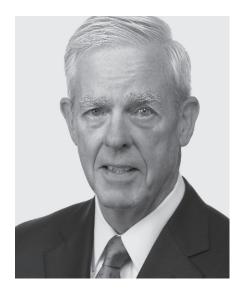
Durants' impactful message resonates with diverse audiences across national and international media. She appeared on CNN, Access Hollywood, ESPN, Fox, Sports, NBC, Comcast Sports, ABC, CBS, Good Morning America, The Wendy Williams Show, The Today Show, Tamron Hall, The New York Times and the Washington Post. One of her most notable highlights is an op-ed article titled, "'Air' Shows Crucial Role of Black Mothers in Children's Success," featured in USA Today.

Durant continues to inspire individuals to embrace their potential, pursue their dreams and believe in the transformative power of hope. The film "The Real MVP: The Wanda Durant Story," produced by Queen Latifah, captures her remarkable journey and unwavering determination, and her tireless efforts and profound impact exemplify the real MVP.

HONORARY DOCTORATE OF HUMANE LETTERS

JAMES J. MAGUIRE SR.

CHAIRMAN EMERITUS, PHILADELPHIA COLIDATED HOLDING CORPORATION



James J. Maguire Sr., founder and chairman emeritus of Philadelphia Consolidated Holding Corporation, is a business innovator, academic supporter and committed humanitarian. From his initial company, The Maguire Insurance Agency, known for the specialized insurance solutions it provided for the automobile industry to the holding company that today includes several subsidiaries offering coverage in over 80 niche business markets across all 50 states, he has been at the forefront of advancing the insurance industry in America. At the same time, a compassionate heart has led Maguire to support various nonprofit and educational institutions across Philadelphia; and to create the Maguire Academy of Insurance and Risk Management at Saint Joseph's University, Gallaudet University and Bowie State University to diversify future insurance professionals.

Maguire began his academic pursuits at Niagara University on a basketball scholarship but was declared academically ineligible after his first year. He later worked with the Reverend Hunter Guthrie at Saint Joseph's

University and learned he had dyslexia. He overcame his reading disability and graduated in 1958 with a 3.0 GPA.

After graduating, Maguire formed the Maguire Insurance Agency in 1960. In 1969, his agency landed its first national account with Chevrolet dealerships and led the comprehensive WHEELWAYS program for automobile dealerships. This innovative program allowed his agency to expand to 15 offices by the mid-1970s. In 1980, he formed the Philadelphia Consolidated Holding Corporation, which now owns several subsidiaries including the Maguire Insurance Agency, Inc., an insurance marketing company, Tokio Marine Specialty Insurance Company, approved to write surplus lines insurance in all states, and the Philadelphia Insurance Company, licensed to write property and casualty insurance in all 50 states.

Maguire is also committed to giving back to his community through the Maguire Foundation which he founded with his wife, Frances. The effects of their philanthropy are visible throughout Philadelphia and beyond. The foundation focuses its support on education through the Maguire Scholars Program for early learners through college scholars and has endowed a scholarship at Bowie State University, its' first Historically Black University partner. Since 2018, 13 Bowie State students have received Maguire Scholarships for up to four years of matriculation. The foundation also provides support for arts & humanities in the community, and to alleviate hunger and homelessness.

Saint Joseph's University recognized Maguire's long-term support by naming their new 38-acre Merion campus the James J. Maguire '58 Campus as a testament to his sustained philanthropy. The university also awarded him the Shield of Loyola, the highest honor awarded by the institution.

A Korean War veteran, James J. Maguire Sr. is a testament to hard work, dedication and community commitment. He is a recipient of the Horatio Alger Award that recognizes outstanding individuals who personify the American dream. His autobiography "Just Show Up Every Day," chronicles the history of Philadelphia Insurance Companies, the Maguire family, and his struggle with dyslexia.

REGENT, UNIVERISTY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND

WILLIAM T. WOOD



William T. "Bill" Wood was appointed in 1999 by Maryland's Governor to the Board of Regents and reappointed for a term beginning July 1, 2018. He is the immediate past Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the University of Maryland Baltimore Foundation and currently serves on the Board of Directors of the University System of Maryland Foundation. He has also served on the Board of Visitors of the University of Maryland University College and as the founding President of the University of Maryland College Park Alumni Association.

Wood earned a B.S. degree in Economics from the University of Maryland, College Park and a J.D. degree from the Francis King Carey School of Law. He founded Wood Law Offices, LLC, Rockville, Maryland; has been a practicing lawyer for over 40 years; is Past President of the Maryland Trial Lawyers Association; has been listed in The Best Lawyers in America, The Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers, Super Lawyer's Magazine, Top Attorneys in Washington, D.C. by D.C. Magazine, Top Lawyers by The Baltimore Sun; the National

Trial Lawyers Top 100 Trial Lawyers in Maryland; and is AV rated by Martindale-Hubbell. He has been a criminal prosecutor, Treasurer of the President's Council of the American Trial Lawyers Association and State Delegate to ATLA. He also has lectured extensively on litigation related matters and has appeared periodically on Channel 5 Fox Television News in the Washington-Metropolitan area and MSNBC nationally pertaining to legal issues of local and national interest. He has served sitting judges as Treasurer and courthouse candidates as Campaign Manager.

Wood and his wife Marie live in Chevy Chase, Maryland and have four children and two grandchildren: Mary Beth Wood Olson, Brian Wood, John Wood, and James Wood, deceased, and Mary Beth and her husband Nick's two children George and Helen Olson.

THE ORDER OF EXERCISES

DR. AMINTA H. BREAUX

President, Bowie State University, Presiding

ACADEMIC PROCESSIONAL

POSTING OF THE COLORS

BSU Reserve Officers Training Corps LTC Kareem Y. Fernandez, Commander

"THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER"

by Frances Scott Key Arranged by Mark Hayes Kayla Adams, Soloist, & the University Symphonic Band

"LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING"

by James Weldon Johnson and J. Rosamond Johnson Arrangement by Brandon Felder, Director Bowie State University Concert Choir

MOMENT OF REFLECTION

Dr. William Lewis Mace Bearer

GREETINGS & CHARGES TO THE GRADUATES

Dr. Aminta H. BreauxPresident, Bowie State University

William T. Wood Regent, University System of Maryland

Stephanie NelsonPresident, Senior Class

Ephonia Green

President, Graduate Student Association

VIDEO CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2024

Kamala Harris

Vice President of the United States

Wes MooreGovernor of Maryland

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

Karen J. Shaheed, Esq.
Executive Vice President, General Counsel & Chief of Staff

"ALL WE ASK"

by Donnie McClurkin Arranged by Cliff Duren Bowie State University Concert Choir

THE ORDER OF EXERCISES

INTRODUCTION OF THE SPEAKER

President Aminta H. Breaux

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Wanda Durant President, Durant Family Charitable Foundation

"ZOOM!"

by Ayatey Shabazz University Symphonic Band Billy Bennett, Director

PRESENTATION OF HONORARY DOCTORATE DEGREE

James J. Maguire, Sr.

RECOGNITION OF HONOR GRADUATES

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

CONFERRING OF DEGREES

Dr. Guy-Alain Amoussou

PRESENTATION OF GRADUATES

Dr. Janet Guyden, Interim Dean, Graduate School
Dr. George Acquaah, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Dr. Regina Tawah, Acting 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

President, National Alumni Association

ALMA MATER

The Bowie State University Concert Choir

RETIRING OF THE COLORS

BSU Army Reserve Officers Training Corps LTC Kareem Y. Fernandez, Commander

ACADEMIC RECESSIONAL

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.

DEGREES CONFERRED

THE GRADUATE PROGRAM

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 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.**

DOCTOR OF SCIENCE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

Mahfoudh Mohammad Batarfi

Fairfax, Virginia
B.A. — King Saud University
M.A. — King Saud University
"Optimization of Graph Convolutional
Networks with Variational Graph
Autoencoder Architecture for 3D Face
Reconstruction Task"

Anthony Antonio Herron

Upper Marlboro, Maryland B.S. — Bowie State University "Action Selection Using Active Logic for Target Search in Unknown Environments"

Hubert Kyeremateng-Boateng

Severn, Maryland
B.A. — Baylor University
M.L.A. — Harvard University;
"Trustworthiness of Neural
Network Predictions"

DOCTOR OF EDUCATION IN EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Everett M. Davis

Gaithersburg, Maryland
B.A. — University of Maryland
College Park
M.S. — Bowie State university
"Where is the Village? Ways to Promote
Increased Family Engagement for
Students of Color Through the Lens of
Pupil Personnel Workers (PPWs)"

Annette Cheryl Harris

Columbia, Maryland
B.A. — University of Maryland
Eastern Shore
M.S. — University of Maryland
Baltimore County
"Examining Factors Impacting Parental
Engagement Among African American
and Latina Mothers of Kindergarten

Title I Students in a Large Suburban School System in a Mid-Atlantic State"

Victoria Alisa Holmes

Waldorf, Maryland
B.S. — Hampton University
M.A. — Saint Louis University
"Secondary Social Studies Teachers'
Perspective on the Role of Professional
Development in Enhancing
Literacy Instruction"

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

Tariq Fahad Alluhaidan

Vienna, Virginia B.S. — King Saud University

Abraham Tadesse Ewnetu

Upper Marlboro, MarylandB.S. — University of Maryland
Global Campus

M.S. — Bowie State University

Olufifunmi Timothy Iwasanmiv

Hyattsville, Maryland B.E. – Federal University of Technology

Ayen Kuol Deng Kuol

Plano, Texas

B.S. — Florida International University

Uchenna Florence Ndolo

Upper Marlboro, Maryland B.S. — University of Maryland Global Campus

Joseph Dassault Ndoumin

Hyattsville, Maryland B.S. — University of Douala

Pius Oyugi Odhiambo

Burtonsville, Maryland B.E. – Kenyatta University

M.S. — University Maryland Global Campus

Adeniyi Emmanuel Owoeye

Bowie, Maryland

B.E. - University of Ilorin

Fahmina Nur Salma

Laurel, Maryland

B.S. — Manarat International University

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN INTERNET OF THINGS & INTERNET TECHNOLOGIES

Louise Bassog

Laurel, Maryland B.S. — Bowie State University

Devin Andre Clifton Cash

Springdale, Maryland B.S. — Bowie State University

Louis E. McDonald

Bowie, Maryland

B.S. — Bowie State University

Oluwafunmilola E. Ogunseye

Bowie, Maryland

B.S. — Bowie State University

MASTER OF ARTS IN ORGANIZATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS

Tasheka Barnett

Hyattsville, Maryland B.A. — University Of Maryland Global Campus

Ashley Monet Brehon

Severn, Maryland B.S. — Southern New Hampshire

Jordan Alexander Christian

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

Marena Jeneva Ford

Frederick, Maryland B.S. – Bowie State University

Keshane D. Hinckley

Laurel, Maryland

B.S. – Bowie State University

Zakiya R. McFarlane

Silver Spring, Maryland

B.A. — Washington Adventist University

Zachary J. Montgomery

White Plains, Maryland

B.S. - Bowie State University

Olasunkanmi Adesanya Ogunade

Owings Mills, Maryland

B.S. — University of East London

Keshi Parker

Capital Heights, Maryland B.S. — Howard University

Torya McCardy Powell

Upper Marlboro, MarylandB.S. — University of Maryland
Global Campus

Leheist Samuel Tavares

Upper Marlboro, Maryland B.S. – University of Largos

Calbeah Marie Thompson

Hyattsville, Maryland

B.S. — Bowie State University

Vanessa Turkson

Crofton, Maryland

B.B.A. - University of Ghana

Angelica A. Tyler

Gaithersburg, Maryland

B.S. — Mount St. Marys University

Daionna Dayquon Camille Young

Bowie State University

Lanham, Maryland

B.S. — Bowie State University

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Dyamond Denise Blackman-Buckle

Gaithersburg, Maryland B.S. — Bowie State University

Paige Marie Chatmon

Bowie, Maryland

B.S. - Morgan State University

Jordan Edward Conn

Montgomery Village, Maryland B.S. — Hampton University

Ismaila Diakite

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

Awungjia Atemnkeng Foretia

New Carrollton, Maryland

B.S. — Pennsylvania State University M.S. — Bowie State University

Tiffany Hunt

Upper Marlboro, Maryland B.A. — Hampton University

A'Hja M. Mays

Mays Landing, New Jersey
B.S. — Montclair State University

Britnee Felicia McCauley

Bowie, Maryland

B.S. – Bowie State University

Oluwademilade Olamire Tope-Banjoko

Rockville, Maryland

B.S. — University of Maryland College Park

Brandon Lynn Williams

District Heights, Maryland

B.S. — Deleware State University

B.S. — Bowie State University

MASTER OF ARTS IN HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Ibitola Naomi Akin-Ogunti

Hyattsville, Maryland

B.S. - University of Abuja

Meshal Mansour M. Albesher Sr.

Sterling, Virginia

B.S. — Lasell University

Tiffany Leah Brown

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

Stephanie Renee Gilliam

LaPlata, Maryland

B.A. - Lancaster Bible College

Tishy Greene Hall

Crofton, Maryland

B.S. — University of North Carolina Greensboro

Odell S. Mark

Hanover, Maryland

B.A. - American Public University

Chinenye Gbemisola Okatta

Upper Marlboro, Maryland B.S. — Pan-Atlantic University

Anna Lee Ricks

La Plata, Maryland

B.S. - American Public University

Rya L. Soden

Windsor Mill, Maryland

B.S. — Bowie State University

Allan Christopher Stubbs

San Jacinto, California

B.S. - Black Hills State University

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN INFORMATION SYSTEMS & SCIENCES

Damilola Victor Akinola

College Park, Maryland

B.S. – Bowen University

Ayokunle Josiah Akinsanya

Largo, Maryland

B.S. — University of Largos & Largos City Polytechnic

Roberta W. Biney-Afful

Severn, Maryland

B.S. — Bowie State University

Demetrius Nathaneil Brown

Bowie, Maryland

B.S. - Bowie state University

Jonathan D. Hairston

Accokeek, Maryland

B.S. - North Carolina A&T State University

Adeola Remilekun Ibitogbe

Ellicott City, Maryland

B.S. - Afe Babaloa University

Kelechi C. Nwadike

Silver Spring, Maryland

B.S. — Bowie State University

Ademola Olanrewaju Obisesan

Laurel, Maryland

B.S. — University of Ibadan

Adetunji Adeyemo Oduduwa

Ellicott City, Maryland

B.S. — Obafemi Awolowo University M.B.A. — Obafemi Awolowo University

Jaelyn J. Powell

Fort Washington, Maryland

B.S. — Delaware State University

Jakerya Janai Randolph

Baltimore, Maryland

B.S. — Frostburg State University

Ifeoluwa O Talabi

Clinton, Maryland

B.S. — Black Hills State University

MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Erika Nasheal Banks

Windsor Mill, Maryland

B.S. — Frostburg State University

Tovoia Michelle Bing-Young

Capitol Heights, Maryland

B.S. — University of Maryland Global Campus

Calvin John Charles III

Fort Washington, Maryland

B.A. — Hampden-Sydney College

Anthony Tunde Esho

Beltsville, Maryland

B.S. — Towson University

Jailyn Erica Faith Kelley

Clinton, Maryland

B.S. - Towson University

Alpha B. Lewally

Lanham, Maryland

B.S. - Devry University

Nicole Mack

Gwynn Oak, Maryland

B.A. — University of Baltimore

Devon T. McCready

Elkridge, Maryland

B.S. - Morgan State University

Hilda S. Nalukwago

Brooklyn, Maryland

B.S. — American Public University

Grace Marie Okorie Onwuchekwa

Upper Marlboro, Maryland

B.S. — Schiller International University

Tiffany Monique West

Washington, D.C.

B.S. — Trinity Washington University

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

MASTER OF ARTS IN COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY

Christopher Joseph Ashford

Clinton, Maryland

B.S. — Bowie State University Anthony Arthur Barnes

Upper Marlboro, Maryland B.S. — Concordia College New York

Karima Sumayyah El-Amin

Montgomery Village, Maryland B.S. – University Of Maryland Global Campus

Janyl Meri Hardisty

Odenton, Maryland B.S. – Towson University

Destiny Chabriay Harris-Nelson

Washington, D.C.

B.S. — University of Maryland Eastern Shore

Grace O. Kolawole

Odenton, Maryland

B.S. - Bowie State University

Sydni Nicole Love

Temple Hills, Maryland

B.A. — North Carolina A&T State University

Deanna Lanell Moore

GwynnOak, Maryland

 ${\sf B.A.-Salisbury\ University}$

 ${\sf B.A.-University}\ of\ Maryland$

Eastern Shore

Sandra Obidiegwu

Nottingham, Maryland

B.S. — California State East Bay

T'Ana Ja'Nette Patterson

Laurel, Maryland

B.S. - Morgan State University

Mysore Shyam

Hagerstown, Maryland

M.B.A. — Cameron University

Grace Waithera Smith

Middle River, Maryland

B.S. - University of Nevada Las Vegas

Shomari Todd

Fort Washington, Maryland B.S. — Sewanee, The University of the South

MASTER OF ARTS IN MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING

Jessica Johannah Creekmore

Edgewater, Maryland

B.S. — University of Maryland College Park

Christiana DuBose

Bowie, Maryland

B.S. – Western New Mexico University

Asia Simone Farmer

Bowie, Maryland

B.S. – Christopher Newport University

Aya Louise Porter

Baltimore, Maryland

B.S. — Fayetteville State University

Whalnisha Rita Verbal

Baltimore, Maryland

B.S. — Fayetteville State University

MASTER OF EDUCATION IN SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY

Keirrah Danielle Beckett

Suitland, Maryland

B.S. — Bowie State University

Samantha Marie Hunt

Davidsonville, Maryland

B.A. – Ashford University

Jessica Robinson

Brandywine, Maryland

 ${\rm B.A.-North\ Carolina\ A\&T\ State\ University}$

M.E. - Coppin State University

Dajonaire Washington

Waldorf, Maryland

B.S. — Bowie State University

Lisa Marie Woods

Baltimore, Maryland

B.S. - Notre Dame of Maryland University

Tisam Yusuf

Silver Spring, Maryland

B.A. — University of Maryland College Park

MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING

Naya T. Davis

Laurel, Maryland

 ${\sf B.A.-University} \ {\sf of} \ {\sf Maryland}$

Baltimore County

Anthony Lenhardt

Laurel, Maryland

B.S. - North Carolina Central University

Katherine M. Saniga

Dunkirk, Maryland

B.S. - Towson University

Ashley Alexanora Smith

Silver Spring, Maryland

B.S. - Towson University

Amon Yisrael

Bowie, Maryland

B.S. — Miami University Hamilton

MASTER OF EDUCATION IN READING

Jennah Asiya Abdul-Aziz

Gwynn Oak, Maryland

 ${\sf B.S-Towson}$ University

Sydney Marie Campbell

Cheverly, Maryland

B.A. - University of Maryland

Eastern Shore

Malaika T. Jackson

Severn, Maryland

B.A. - Bowie State University

Jazmine Nicole Newton

College Park, Maryland

B.S. — Bowie State University

Devica A. Pitter

Silver Spring, Maryland

B.S. — Bowie State University

Silvia Yanneth Ramos Rios

Riverdale, Maryland

B.S. - Bowie State University

Arthelia Latanya Seymour

District Heights, Maryland

B.S. — Bowie State University

Tola S. Walker

Laurel, Maryland

B.S. — Trinity Washington University

RETURN TO TOC

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

MASTER OF EDUCATION IN SCHOOL COUNSELING

Alexandria Nichole Buettner Nottingham, Maryland B.S. — Towson University

Belvette Militza Gomez Cordon Bowie, Maryland B.S. – Marymount University Helen Sarah Hardy

Waldorf, Maryland B.A. — University of Maryland Eastern Shore

Alicia Monique Mills
Takoma Park, Maryland
B.S. — Bowie State University

Caila Marie Suda White Baltimore, Maryland B.S. — McDaniel College Syeedah J. White

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

MASTER OF EDUCATION IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

Evelyn Ruth BuehlmanEllicott City, Maryland
B.S. — Morgan State University

COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

Samantha Marie ChildBaltimore, Maryland
B.S. — Towson University

Matthew Joseph Gordon

Bowie, Maryland
B.S. — State University of New York
DownState Health Sciences University

Yashica Nakitia LadejobiUpper Marlboro, Maryland
B.S. — Bowie State University

Bobbie Le'Ann Walker

Atlanta, Georgia
B.S. — Morgan State University

LATIN HONORS

Summa Cum Laude 3.85 – 4.00 Magna Cum Laude 3.65 – 3.84 Cum Laude 3.50 – 3.64

SUMMA CUM LAUDE

Olaoluwa O. Adewoye Grace Etonam Agbali Kevon Deandre' Allen Steffanny G. Avila Giselle Balderas Sean Christopher Bean Olusola E. Beckley Carrie Lynn Cluster Desia Latrice Couser Jordyn A. Crockett-Hill Amanda Renee Cusick Medina Symone Daiyaan Terrence R. Douglas Diana E. Francisco Karen Marie Fritzges Casey Lee Gargagliano Sydney A. Hailes Donna Lee Heffner Ellianna V. Henneberg Stefanie Rose Jung Rayna N. King Ian Gabriel G. Mondares Phillip Nguyen Zina Fenay Oliver Percival Abigania Parlade Jr Lj Damaso Ramirez Norsha C. Rankine

Hunter V. Samuel Ali T. Smith Dawn Marie Smith Jontae Shane Stewart Michael Kenneth Sutton Dai'Zae I. Taft Sangam Thapa Kyle R. Vermette Janay Gabrielle Wilson

MAGNA CUM LAUDE

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Shane Austin Thomas
Meghan Leeandra Tucker
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Matthew Quetine Williams

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Signal Corps — U.S. Army Active Duty

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ACADEMIC COMMENCEMENT TRADITIONS

THE MEDALLION



The ceremonial chain is being worn by an increasing number of leaders in higher education. The chain designed for Bowie State University, an institution rich in tradition, is one that depicts the university's heritage.

The ceremonial medallion offers a unique opportunity to honor the presiding president and the former presidents of the university. The Bowie State University medallion includes the university seal, which is three and one-eighth inches in diameter surrounded by a decorative bezel. Each presidential banner that makes up the chain is one and three-eighths inches. Each banner is inscribed with each former president's name and term of office.

ACADEMIC COMMENCEMENT TRADITIONS

THE MACE AND 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, reimagined in 2018 and first used during the inauguration of Dr. Breaux, 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 cap, originally round, 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 29 undergraduate majors and 36 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. 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 in 1951 and secondary education in 1961 and advanced toward becoming a liberal arts college.

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.

UNIVERSITY HISTORY

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 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 20 HBCUs. Bowie State's cybersecurity programs are recognized as a National Center for Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Education by the National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security.

Bowie State University remains committed to preparing students for success in a highly technological, global society.



UNIVERSITY HIGHLIGHTS

LEADING BOWIE STATE INTO THE FUTURE

Bowie State University empowers more than 6,400 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 best comprehensive universities, with expanding academic initiatives and new modern facilities that provide opportunities for innovative teaching, learning and research.

KEY HONORS

- U.S. News & World Report Best Colleges 2024 ranks Bowie State at #16 among the nations top HBCUs making it #10 among public HBCUs.
- Bowie State's cybersecurity programs are recognized as a National Center for Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Education by the National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security.
- Bowie State University's graduate programs in education, nursing, computer science and public administration were recognized among the nation's best by the U.S. News & World Report's 2023 Best Graduate Schools ranking,

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 the prestigious 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.

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 Academy.



HISTORY OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

- 1. Leonard Waterman *Principal (1865–1866)
- 2. **H.F. Hartwell** *Principal (1866–1869)
- 3. **P. J. Doran** *Principal (1869–1870)
- 4. Anne Coore *Principal (1870–1872)
- 5. **M. A. Newell** *Principal (1872–1893)
- Alexander Chaplain
 *Principal (1893–1893)
- 7. **George Harrison** *Principal (1893–1911)
- 8. Dr. Don Speed Smith Goodloe *Principal (1911–1921)
- 9. Dr. Leonidas S. James *Principal (1921–1938) President (1938–1941)

- Dr. Joseph Alexander Wiseman Interim President (December 1941–February 1942)
- 11. Dr. William Edward Henry President (1942–1967)
- 12. **Dr. Samuel Lloyd Myers** President (1967–1977)
- 13. Edmund C. Mester
 Interim President
 (He became ill in December
 1977. Carolyn Reid-Wallace
 was appointed by the Board
 to administer without a presidential
 appellation from December 1977–
 May 1978.)
- 14. Dr. Rufus L. Barfield President (1978–1982)
- 15. Marcellina Brooks
 Acting President
 (January 1983–September 1983)
- 16. Dr. James Lyons Sr. President (1983–1992)

- 17. **Dr. Harold Delany** Interim President (July 1992–July 1993)
- 18. **Dr. Nathanael Pollard**President (1993–1999)
- 19. **Dr. Wendell Holloway** Interim President (January 1999–April 15, 2000)
- 20. Dr. Calvin W. Lowe President (2000–2006)
- 21. Dr. Patricia Pierce Ramsey Interim President (July 1–August 31, 2006)
- 22. Dr. Mickey L. Burnim
 President
 (September 2006–June 2017)
- 23. **Dr. Aminta H. Breaux**President
 (July 2017–Present)

SPECIAL THANKS

Special thanks to ABM Janitorial Services, Bowie State University Bookstore, BSU Conference & Event Services, PG County Police Department and Maryland Transit Administration.

^{*}The title of the Chief Executive Officer was changed from Principal to President in 1938.



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