

THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-SECOND COMMENCEMENT CONVOCATION



THE COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

Friday, the Sixth of May
Two Thousand and Twenty-Two
Seven O'Clock in the Evening

The Charlie W. Johnson Stadium
Benedict College
Columbia, South Carolina

Dr. Roslyn Clark Artis
President and CEO

THE ORDER OF THE EXERCISES

Dr. Roslyn Clark Artis
President and CEO
Presiding

THE PRELUDE: *Barnum and Bailey Favorites*.....Karl L. King
The Benedict College Instrumental Ensemble
Mr. H. Wade Johnson, Director of Bands
Mr. Ronald T. Green, Assistant Director of Bands

THE ACADEMIC PROCESSION: *Pomp and Circumstance, Theme from March No. 1*
(Land of Hope and Glory) Sir Edward Edgar

The assembly will please remain seated during the academic procession.
Please rise for the presentation of the colors and remain standing through the singing of
Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing.

THE PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS Benedict College Army Reserve
Officers' Training Corps - Color Guard

THE ANTHEMS: *The Star-Spangled Banner* Francis Scott Key and John Stafford Smith
Benedict College Concert and Gospel Choirs
Mr. Bryon Black, Director, Concert Choir
Dr. Kabra Benford, Director, Gospel Choir

Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing James Weldon Johnson and J. Rosamond Johnson
Benedict College Concert and Gospel Choirs

THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

O! say can you see by the dawn's early light
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous
fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?

And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there;
O! say does that Star-Spangled Banner yet wave,
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

LIFT EV'RY VOICE AND SING

Lift ev'ry voice and sing, 'til 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 'til victory is won.

THE GREETINGDr. Roslyn Clark Artis

THE COMMENCEMENT PRAYERMinister Cameron Seawright
Student Campus Minister

THE OCCASIONMs. Kennedy Carey
President, Senior Class
Class of 2023

MUSIC: *On a Hymn Song of Philip Bliss*.....arr. Hollisinger
The Benedict College Instrumental Ensemble
Mr. H. Wade Johnson, Director of Bands
Mr. Ronald T. Green, Assistant Director of Bands

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE SPEAKER Ms. Sonalis Muhammad
President, Student Government Association
Class of 2023

THE COMMENCEMENT ADDRESSDr. Dietra Trent
Executive Director, White House Initiative
on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)
Washington, DC

MUSIC: *Worship Medley*.....Joe Pace
The Benedict College Concert and Gospel Choirs

THE CONFERRING OF THE HONORARY DEGREES Dr. Roslyn Clark Artis
Trustee G. Tyrone Bonds
Vice Chair, Benedict College Board of Trustees

THE ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Ms. Leandra Hayes Burgess
Vice President for Institutional Advancement

**THE RECOGNITION OF THE ARMY RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORP (ROTC)
COMMISSIONED OFFICERS**..... Dr. Roslyn Clark Artis

THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF ACADEMIC HONORSDr. Janeen P. Witty
Vice President for Academic Affairs

**THE PRESENTATION OF THE OUTSTANDING GRADUATE AND
SENIOR AWARDS**.....Dr. Roslyn Clark Artis

**THE PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR BACCALAUREATE AND
GRADUATE DEGREES**Dr. Janeen P. Witty

Dr. Leon Geter
Interim Dean, (Elect) School of Communication, Arts, and Social Sciences

Dean Robert N. Garner
School of Science and Engineering

Dean Tracy H. Dunn
Tyrone Adam Burroughs School of Business and Entrepreneurship

Dean Akilah Carter-Francique
School of Education, Health, and Human Services

Dean Tracy H. Dunn
Tyrone Adam Burroughs School of Business and Entrepreneurship
Master of Business Administration Program

Dean Akilah Carter-Francique
School of Education, Health, and Human Services
Master of Sport Management Program

THE CONFERRING OF DEGREES Dr. Roslyn Clark Artis

THE READING OF NAMES OF GRADUATES Mr. Scott E. Blanks
Senior Class Advisor and Professor of Theater

THE PRESENTATION OF THE CLASS OF 2022-2023..... Dr. Roslyn Clark Artis

THE INDUCTION OF GRADUATES INTO THE

BENEDICT COLLEGE NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATIONTrustee Cedelle Gates

President

Benedict College National Alumni Association

ALUMNI PLEDGE

I hereby solemnly pledge unbroken allegiance to my Alma Mater,
in appreciation of the opportunities for development
afforded me at Benedict College.

I pledge my active membership in the Benedict College
National Alumni Association, wherever I may be.

Through association with my fellow alumni, I shall
forever do my best to uphold the ideals and traditions
of my Alma Mater.

I pledge, as a person, to exemplify high ideals by rendering
positive and dignified service to the community, the state, the
nation, and the world—thus, living to bring honor and respect
to Benedict College and represent “TheBESTofBC.”

***The assembly will lease stand for the Alma Mater and the
benediction. Please be seated for the recession.

THE ALMA MATER Lyrics by Anna I. Douglas
Benedict College Instrumental Ensemble, Choirs, and Audience

I

Where the golden sunshine falls,
Rustling leaves about her,
Breezes whispering round her walls,
Stands our Alma Mater.

III

We’ll remember in the years,
Coming swiftly toward us,
All the smiles, but not the tears,
Alma Mater brought us.

II

Students all, a sturdy band,
Loud our voices ringing,
Of her kindly helping hand,
Of our love, we’re singing.

IV

If the path of life be dim,
And the way be dreary,
Alma Mater points to Him,
Who will guide the weary.

Chorus

Alma Mater, strong and true,
Alma Mater, ever,
Benedict, we sing to you,
Faithful we forever.

THE BENEDICTION Minister Cameron Seawright

THE ACADEMIC RECESSION: *Pomp and Circumstance, Theme from March No. 1*
(Land of Hope and Glory) Sir Edward Elgar

POSTLUDE: *I’m so Glad*arr. Ronald T. Green
The Benedict College Instrumental Ensemble

HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT DR. DIETRA TRENT

The Doctor of Laws (LL.D.) Degree

Throughout your career, the mission of Dietra Trent has been to bring communities together in pursuit of a more equitable and inclusive society. When asked what made you choose to engage in this work, you responded, “As a public-school teacher for 40 years, my grandmother not only made an incredible impact on her community, but she also motivated me to continue her efforts. She was my teacher, but she was also my mentor, and so she believed that every child, if given the right opportunity, could succeed. She worked with high poverty kids in our communities – a lot of minority students.”

You earned a bachelor’s degree in sociology and criminal justice from Hampton University and completed your master’s and doctoral degrees in public administration and policy from Virginia Commonwealth University. You have over twenty-five years of experience working to advance equity for Virginia’s most disadvantaged. Like your grandmother, you are interested in how public policies impact students and others living in marginalized communities. In pursuit of your life-long passion, you served in several leadership positions at George Mason University, including chief of staff and interim Vice President for Compliance, Diversity, and Ethics. Later you were appointed as Virginia’s Secretary of Education. Prior to that appointment, you served as Deputy Secretary of Education. Having served in the Administrations of three former Governors of Virginia, you have a wealth of federal, state, and higher education experience and you have witnessed the tremendous impact that public policies play in increasing, or reducing, opportunities for groups and individuals.

You spoke of your blessings “to hold significant positions in three governor’s offices” and to see how policy has worked to either include or exclude individuals as roles that has fueled your passion around issues of equity.”

In February 2023, President Joseph Biden appointed you as Executive Director of the White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence and Economic Opportunity through Historically Black Colleges and Universities. You are the first Black woman to be appointed to this position and you currently bear the awesome responsibility for advocating in the halls of government for 101 Historically Black Colleges and Universities and 280,000 students. As a proud graduate of Hampton University, an HBCU, you have “spent many years working to advance the mission and elevate the status of these great institutions.” Noting that HBCUs were founded when other institutions refused to accept Black students, you stated they have “fostered academic excellence and created pathways to opportunity and you look forward to spending the next few years advancing and promoting HBCUs.”

GlobalMindED network wrote that it is “thrilled to see the intentional election of a Black woman in this role. This selection symbolizes a recognition of the power, leadership, and importance in having diverse voices at the table, especially when representing our future leaders and change makers of the United States.”

And, for these reasons, Benedict College is pleased to welcome you to its distinguished family of honorary degree recipients.

The Doctor of Laws (LL.D.) Degree is conferred upon persons who have distinguished themselves in general service to the state, to learning, and to mankind.

HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT

DR. MARSHALL C. GRIGSBY

The Doctor of Laws (LL.D.) Degree

Marshall C. Grigsby has impacted higher education for more than fifty years after graduating from Morehouse College. After serving with distinction at the University of Chicago Divinity School, Howard University, and Hampton University, you have returned home to Benedict College where you had your greatest accomplishments as President from 1985-1993. Your remarkable educational career prepared you for servant leadership based upon your immersion in scripture at the Divinity Schools and immersion in solving real life challenges and possibilities at some of the nation's most celebrated Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU)s.

At Howard University Divinity School, your success at fundraising more than doubled the school's enrollment and budget. As executive vice-president, provost, and chief operating officer of Hampton University, you successfully navigated the day-to-day operations of the University's academic and student affairs divisions as well as its athletic programs. You also served with distinction on Capitol Hill on the staff of the Committee on Education and Workforce of the United States House of Representatives for Higher Education and conceptualized and developed policy, strategic and legislative initiatives that advanced the causes of access, retention, accountability, and availability of educational opportunities for all.

After serving eight years on Capitol Hill, you established and serve as President and CEO of Grigsby and Associates, an educational, legislative and policy development consulting firm that specializes in educational policy issues, strategic planning and consults on minority recruitment initiatives and management concerns. Current and recent clients include: The U. S. Department of Education, the White House Initiative on HBCUs, the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Education (NAFEO), and the United Negro College Fund (UNCF).

It was your role as the twelfth President of Benedict College that you provided your most memorable contributions to academia. During your eight-year tenure, programs were initiated that helped the institution achieve national recognition to include the implementation of the first undergraduate environmental health science program in the Southeast and establishment of the first college-wide honors program. You also initiated Project AFTER (Armed Forces Teacher Education for Retirees), a teacher education recruitment targeting African American male retired military personnel. You also established the Charter Day Awards Program which recognized the accomplishments of South Carolina corporations in advancing the cause of diversity and inclusion within their ranks and became the premiere college fundraising event.

In 1991, Benedict was one of five liberal arts colleges selected nationwide as a recipient of the Knight Foundation Presidential Leadership Award designed to recognize creative and innovative presidential leadership at small liberal arts colleges throughout America. Benedict College was also identified in both the 1992 and 1993 editions of Money Magazine's College Guide as offering one of the best values in American Higher Education for the dollar. In addition, during your tenure, unrestricted giving to the College increased by 85% and restricted giving by 86%, and the College's land holdings increased from 20 to 160 acres.

And, last but certainly not least, your two daughters, two grandchildren and wonderful wife have helped you understand at an even deeper level the importance and meaning of patience, understanding, forgiveness and love.

Benedict College is pleased to invite home one of its illustrious former Presidents and is proud to welcome you to its distinguished family of honorary degree recipients.

The Doctor of Laws (LL.D.) Degree is conferred upon persons who have distinguished themselves in general service to the state, to learning, and to mankind.

THE ACADEMIC REGALIA

The caps, gowns, and hoods worn at college and university functions date back to the Middle Ages. Monks and students used them to keep warm in medieval castles and halls of learning. From these practical origins, they have developed into the accepted garb which symbolizes scholarly achievement.

The master's degree gown is worn open, and the sleeve is cut so that the forearm comes through a slit just above the elbow. Gowns for the doctor's degree are also worn open. They carry broad, velvet panels down the front, and three velvet bars on the full round sleeves. This velvet trimming may be either black or the color distinctive of the degree.

Mortarboards or caps worn with baccalaureate and master's gowns have black tassels. The tassel of the doctoral cap is usually made of gold bullion.

The hood gives color and real meaning to the academic costume. Its silk lining bears the color of the institution conferring the degree. The hood is bordered with velvet of a prescribed width and color to indicate the field of learning to which the degree pertains as follows: medicine, green; music, pink; nursing, apricot; pharmacy, olive green; public administration, peacock blue; science, golden yellow; social work, citron; theology, scarlet; architecture, blue-violet; arts, letters, and humanities, white; business, drab; dentistry, lilac; education, light blue; engineering, orange; fine arts, brown; law, purple; and philosophy, dark blue.

Faculty members and guests in today's procession are wearing gowns and hoods which represent their disciplines, their degrees, and the institutions from which they received degrees.

THE MEDALLION OF HONORS

To demonstrate their high academic achievement through the School of Honors, these graduates receive the Medallion of Honors. The gold medallion contains a torch inside a V for Victory and is hung on a purple and white ribbon. The medallion is worn by Honors Seniors at formal convocation activities, graduation, and serves as a reminder of their commitment to world service.

THE COLLEGE MACE

The ceremonial academic mace is an historical amalgam of the regal scepter of rulers with the weapon-like instrument known as a mace. Academic maces are historically regarded as manifestations of the 'immortal dignity' of colleges and universities and thus represent the past, present and future. The College Mace is carried in procession on occasions of outstanding importance, such as commencements, convocations, and formal dedications. The placement of the Mace on its stand signals that the proceedings are about to come to order; its retirement indicates the conclusion of the exercises.

The College Mace was commissioned as a gift to the College by the Class of 2002. It was designed and fashioned by sculptor and Assistant Professor of Art, Michael Hale of Benedict College. It is fifty-two inches in length, constructed of bronze, velvet, and oak. Surmounting the Mace is the Great Seal of the College cast in solid bronze. A sphere made of four bronze stanchions represents the Office of the President, Administration, Academic Affairs, and Student Affairs. The sphere sits upon a bronze greave representative of the College's Board of Trustees. The staff of the Mace is constructed of solid oak with sixteen cabochon amethysts set in 24-carat gold bezels. The oak staff represents the strength of our academic programs, and the amethysts are representative of the College's faculty, staff, students, eleven academic departments and five schools that existed in 2002. The solid bronze greave at the base of the staff is representative of our founder, Mrs. Bathsheba Benedict. The Mace is completed with a final bronze sphere. The four stanchions of the

final sphere represent the original vocations offered by the College: Teaching, Preaching, Painting, and Carpentry.

Ms. Kennedy Carey, President of the Senior Class is carrying the College Mace at today's convocation.

THE PRESIDENT'S MEDALLION

The 3 1/2" cast bronze President's Medallion encompasses the Benedict College Seal inscribed with the words, "Office of the President," on the outer border.

The Medallion is suspended from the neck chain containing fourteen small bronze panels and two decorative laurel wreaths on the connecting links. Thirteen bronze panels are engraved with the names of the former Benedict College presidents. The fourteenth bronze panel is engraved with the name of the current president.

The President's Medallion was carried aboard the space shuttle Columbia in its 2.5-million-mile voyage around the Earth in 1986.

**OUTSTANDING SENIOR
SPRING 2023**

SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

MR. LAJAY LAWRENCE

A leader inside and outside the classroom, Mr. Lajay Lawrence truly exemplifies what it means to represent TheBESTofBC.

Mr. Lawrence is an outstanding student with a 3.95 GPA, a winner of the President's Trophy, and a member of the Benedict College Honors Program. Additionally, he is a member of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) and the International Student Association (ISA). According to his professors, Mr. Lawrence has an exceptional understanding of technology concepts and displays strong leadership skills including but not limited to problem-solving, time management, and teamwork. As a peer, Mr. Lawrence has committed over 120 hours each year to tutoring fellow students since he enrolled at Benedict College. In addition to tutoring, he is also a founding member and the first lead of the Google Developer Student Club, which has created a relationship between Benedict College and Google to bring necessary industry resources to campus to expand the students' skills and learning processes.

Not only has Mr. Lawrence excelled in academics, but he is also an active community member in causes that he is passionate about. He has been the director of information technology at the Jamaica Coalition Against Domestic Violence since his freshman year and is currently the youngest person serving on the board of directors. He also worked as a graphic designer for International Friendship Ministries based in Columbia, South Carolina.

He is the founder and President of GOLD (Giving Others Love through Diversity) Charity, established in 2016, it is a nonprofit organization committed to providing resources and scholarships for low-income students to support their educational goals and achievements.

Mr. Lawrence has also completed numerous internships throughout his academic experience at Benedict, including Google as a software engineer in 2021 and 2022. His hard work and stellar performance both in the classroom and at Google have culminated with Mr. Lawrence receiving a lucrative job offer from Google, which he has accepted.

It is a true honor to say that Lajay will be completing his degree at Benedict College. Throughout his time at this institution, he has not only been a peer leader on campus but also in the community. This year's choice for the Outstanding Senior Award representing the School of Science and Engineering truly represents TheBESTofBC.

**OUTSTANDING SENIOR
SPRING 2023**

**TYRONE ADAM BURROUGHS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

MR. KASEY M. COOPER

Benedict College is very proud of each of its graduates, but it is a longstanding tradition at each Commencement Convocation to recognize one individual who truly exemplifies the ideal Benedict College graduate. The Outstanding Senior Award is given to the graduate who has demonstrated the highest standards in academic excellence, service to the college, and service to the community.

The recipient of this year's Outstanding Senior Award, Mr. Kasey M. Cooper, embodies the qualities of a true scholar, student leader, and ambassador for the College. Mr. Cooper's individual's academic accomplishments and service to the college and community have truly earned him the distinguished honor of Outstanding Senior for the Tyrone Adam Burroughs School of Business and Entrepreneurship.

Mr. Cooper is a member of the Benedict College Honors Program and as a freshman was a Founder's Scholarship recipient. Throughout his matriculation at Benedict, Mr. Cooper has held consistent placement on either the President's List or the Dean's List. Additionally, he was recently inducted into Delta Mu Delta, an international business honor society.

Mr. Cooper has a long career of leadership on Benedict's campus. Starting in his sophomore year, he was elected Vice-President of the Burroughs Scholars Program. In his junior year, he held the position of President of the National Association of Black Accountants (NABA) on campus and Vice-President of the Benedict College Honors Program. As a senior, he has maintained his leadership roles with the Burroughs Scholars Program and NABA in addition to serving as the president of the Benedict College Honors Program and treasurer of the Collegiate 100.

Mr. Cooper has been an active contributor to the fabric of the local community through his annual participation in the Internal Revenue Service's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program, a program that provides free tax preparation services to the underserved. Additionally, he has maintained a commitment to the Harvest Hope Food Bank starting in his freshman year, and using his influence as a leader, has organized several food drives.

Graduating with a 3.95 GPA, our outstanding senior has completed two internships with Deloitte US, a company that offers services in audit, advisory, tax, and consulting. This summer he will return to Deloitte to complete his third internship with the company in Houston, Texas. Although this outstanding senior has been accepted into four graduate programs, he has chosen to pursue a Master of Business Administration degree at Benedict College.

The Outstanding Senior Award Recipient from the Tyrone Adam Burroughs School of Business and Entrepreneurship for Spring 2023 is Mr. Kasey Cooper.

**OUTSTANDING SENIOR
SPRING 2023**

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND HUMAN SERVICES

MR. DARREN WILLIAMS

"Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice, and most of all, love of what you are doing or learning to do." — Edson Arantes do Nascimento aka Pele

The School of Education, Health and Human Services 2022-2023 Outstanding Undergraduate Student, Mr. Darren Williams, embodies Pele's sentiment as a social work major under the leadership and mentorship of Dr. Eunika Simons, Mrs. Christina Freeman, and Mr. Felix Weston.

It's no surprise that Mr. Williams is graduating with honors. In addition to completing the program-required courses and maintaining a 4.0 GPA, he added value to his degree by obtaining certifications in Child Protective Services, Interdisciplinary Gerontology, Johns Hopkins Contact Tracing, and Community Based Preparatory Action Research.

Mr. Williams added additional value to his degree, through his service to Benedict College and the surrounding community. At Benedict College, he served the campus as a representative in the Student Government Association (2021-2022); as vice president of the International Student Association (2021-2022); as Co-Founder of the Benedict College Food Pantry (2022); as secretary of the DreamBee Foundation (2022); and, as the graduate chapter liaison and member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc.

He also served as a tutor for middle school students with a belief that college students can play a vital role in supporting middle schoolers' growth and development to helping them achieve their full potential. Mr. Williams stated that college students "can help (K-12) students overcome academic challenges, develop new skills and strategies, and gain confidence in their own abilities" through engaging in tutoring efforts.

Service-Learning is a core element of the Benedict College academic experience, and as such Mr. Williams gained an understanding of the value of collaboration, empathy, and creativity through raising money to eradicate child abuse and neglect. And more importantly, he earned through his participation the power that he can enact as a college student acknowledging the importance of social justice and how advocacy and action can make a lasting contribution to the common good.

It is with this mindset that Mr. Williams recently declared his commitment to serve with the receipt of his letter of Acceptance into the Advance Standing Program at the University of South Carolina's Master of Social Work program. With a love for what he will learn to do and the goal of opening his own non-profit in his home country of the Bahamas, the School of Education, Health, and Human Services is proud to recognize Darren Williams as the 2023 Outstanding Undergraduate Student. Congratulations!

**OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENT
SPRING 2023**

**TYRONE ADAM BURROUGHS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND
ENTREPRENEURSHIP
MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM**

DR. SILAS O. GBENLE

Benedict College launched its Master of Business Administration program in July 2019 and created a tradition of recognizing one graduate student who truly exemplifies the ideal Benedict College MBA student. The Outstanding Graduate Student Award is given to the graduate student who has demonstrated the highest standards in academic and professional achievements, service to the college, and service to the community.

The recipient of this year's Outstanding Graduate Student Award, Dr. Silas O. Gbenle, embodies the qualities of a life-long learner with a strong commitment to scholarship, leadership, and the advancement of Benedict College. His academic and professional accomplishments and service to the college and community have truly earned him the distinguished honor of Outstanding Graduate Student for the Benedict College MBA Program.

Dr. Gbenle earned this master's degree in one year while working full-time as a practicing physician. He has a passion for geriatric medicine and is committed to addressing the needs of the world's aging population. He also maintains a commitment to improving the health and quality of life for those living in rural communities.

Dr. Gbenle holds a certificate in Organizational Excellence in Health Care Delivery from Harvard Business School. He has also trained at Emory University School of Medicine and the Morehouse School of Medicine.

Dr. Gbenle is graduating with a cumulative 4.0 GPA and plans to use the knowledge gained in the Benedict College MBA Program to become a hospital administrator where he can have greater impact.

The Tyrone Adam Burroughs School of Business and Entrepreneurship Master of Business Administration Program's Outstanding Graduate Student Award Recipient from Spring 2023 is Dr. Silas Gbenle.

**OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENT
SPRING 2023**

**SCHOOL OF EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND HUMAN SERVICES
MASTER OF SPORT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

MR. FRANK HYLAND

The School of Education, Health and Human Services 2022-2023 Outstanding Graduate Student, Coach Frank Hyland, represents one of the inaugural cohorts for the Health and Sport Management department's master's in sport management degree.

Desirous to perform at the highest level in every way, he took on the challenge of returning to school after 30 years and performed with excellence, maintaining a 4.0 GPA as he worked full-time while pursuing his degree.

This excellence extended to his service to Benedict College, often speaking on behalf of the Masters in sport management program. Taking every moment in stride, Coach Hyland worked to balance classes, career obligations, and responsibilities, as well as manage his own mental health and wellness.

Interestingly, this student was also a teacher, serving as the head cross country and track & field coach for Benedict College. In this leadership role, his service was central to his daily duties. Coach Hyland promoted diversity through recruitment efforts of students from across the United States and the globe, particularly from the Caribbean as they are a native of Trinidad and Tobago. In this vein he stated, "I diversified the teams by recruiting student-athletes from all countries and states. This recruitment method helped the student-athletes learn and respect diverse cultures yet build lifelong bonds with people from different backgrounds and beliefs." These efforts embraced and reflected the Benedict College mission.

His further service efforts included sharing the gift of sport participation as an engagement that promotes the transferable qualities of commitment, dedication, and individual willpower. For example, one such activity was in collaboration with the Richland One, the Richland County Sheriff's Department Field, along with the Benedict College track and field program, offered a meaningful experience for elementary, middle, and high school students. With the guidance of this SIAC men and women's cross country and track & field coach of the year, the young students learned athletic drills and skills; and then, excitedly – they participated in a track event with one of our very own Benedict College SIAC Champion student-athletes.

Upon completion of the Masters in Sport Management program, Coach Hyland accepted the head men and women's track & field and cross-country coach position at Virginia State University. With a key to the city of Columbia, the School of Education, Health, and Human Services Master of Sport Management program is proud to recognize Coach Frank Hyland as the 2023 Outstanding Graduate Student. Congratulations!

**CANDIDATES FOR THE BACHELOR OF ARTS
DEGREE**

**SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION, ARTS AND
SOCIAL SCIENCES**

Studio Art

Brittany Clinkscales.....Graniteville, SC
Elijah Elam*.....Hephzibah, GA
Marcus Evans*^D.....Hephzibah, GA
Alyssa Guyton***.....Atlanta, GA
Bryson Jeffery^{PS}.....Timmons ville, SC
Camren McKinney*.....Frederick, MD
Kierra Nance**.....Indianapolis, IN
Madison Roberts***.....Columbia, SC

English

Emani Dawkins.....Simpsonville, SC
Kayla Rolle***.....Freeport, BS
Mesha Smith**.....Chicago, IL
Keishay Swygert**.....Sacramento CA

Interdisciplinary Studies

Stayce Elder*.....McBee, SC
Heather Hart.....Blythewood, SC
Jellisa Jones***.....Charleston, SC

Mass Communication

Kino Ambrister***.....Nassau, BS
Amiya Brown*^D.....Greenwood, SC
Cassie Chandler.....Waxhaw, NC
Myesha Craven***.....Auburn, WA
Aaliyah Hairston*.....Winston Salem, NC
Khari Haynes*.....Detroit, MI
Alexus Highley.....Batesburg, SC
Jordan Hollinshead.....Columbia, SC
Marvens Marc*.....Lawrenceville, GA
Cierra McCullough**.....Columbia, SC
Brittany Orr***.....Columbia, SC
Kmyl Pete*.....Houston, TX
Azhane Pontoo.....Columbia, SC
Lorenzo Rollins.....Redford, MI
Nina Rutherford**.....Temple Hills, MD
Alajah Scott.....Orangeburg, SC
Arenesa Seals.....Elloree, SC
Trevor Stanley, Jr.....Conyers, GA
Khaleil Washington.....West Columbia, SC
Justice Williams**.....Clarkston, MI
Oscar Wyatt*.....Atlanta, GA

Music

Israel Alford*.....Dillon, SC
Tayania Brewer***.....McBee, SC
Fernando Derisca*.....Marietta, GA
Marcus Franklin*.....Lake City, SC

Jeremiah Frazier*^D.....North Charleston, SC
Joseph Fulton.....Lawrenceville, GA
Imani Grant**.....Darlington, SC
Milik Green**.....Cordova, SC
Joshua Jefferson**.....Timmons ville, SC
Pablo Perez**.....Powder Springs, GA
Cetabia Pinder*.....Columbia, SC
Elesse Raymond.....Allendale, SC

Political Science

Deborah Kifle***.....Lexington, SC
LaKorie McIlwain.....Cayce, SC

Cybersecurity

Kamon Jernigan*.....Upper Marlboro, MD
Egeria Montgomery.....Ellenwood, GA

**CANDIDATES FOR THE BACHELOR OF
SCIENCE DEGREE**

**SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION, ARTS, AND
SOCIAL SCIENCES**

Criminal Justice

Breanna Smith.....Spartanburg, SC
Reubyn Walker.....York, SC

Criminal Justice Administration

Myah Adderley**.....Hollywood, FL
Shaleita Bonnette.....Columbia, SC
Crissie Chaffin.....Greensboro, GA
JeMari Cryer^{PS}.....Summerville, SC
Jamir Cummings.....Macon, GA
Erin Eaton*.....Baltimore, MD
Shafali Giles*^D.....Douglasville, GA
Nichole Hughes**.....Union City, GA
Desiree Johnson*.....Columbia, SC
Nakeya Lewis**.....Port Tobacco, MD
Christen Macon*^D.....Albany, GA
Brittany Martin.....Decatur, GA
Malachi McCoy**.....Nassau, BS
Ashante Miller.....Lancaster, SC
Myles Pinckney*.....Ridgeland, SC
Barrinique Pinder**.....Freeport, BS
Fabeina Riggins***.....San Diego, CA
Kenneth Robinson.....Johns Island, SC
Chase Shoemaker-Cohee.....Beaufort, SC
Jordann Simons*.....Atlanta, GA
Kristyn Singleton*.....Gaston, SC
DANTE Stroman.....Columbia, SC
Linda Taylor^{PS}.....Chicago, IL
Astede Thomas-Whittle*^D.....East Orange, NJ
Sierra Walker**.....Albany, GA
Antonio Wallace^D.....North Charleston, SC
DeRun Williams.....Mableton, GA
Corey Witter***.....Columbia, SC

**CANDIDATES FOR THE BACHELOR OF
SCIENCE DEGREE
SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING**

Biology

Plutney Alcime**Mableton, GA
 Sapphire Askins*Philadelphia, PA
 Lavencia Balfour*George Town, BS
 Arianna Bastian***Kernersville, NC
 Nyrimbi Brantley*Miami Gardens, FL
 Khadija Bundu**Riverdale, MD
 Kenya Burns**Columbus, GA
 Kennedy Carey*Johnstown, OH
 Ketora Clarke*Freeport, BS
 Lashaun Cole**Columbia, MD
 Zionasia CunninghamColumbia, SC
 Hannah Davis*Freeport, BS
 Melrose Edden***Freeport City, BS
 Karla Farquharson***George Town, BS
 Kwadetrius Fountain*Pensacola, FL
 Lissan Francis***Portland, JM
 Krysanna Fuller***Columbia, SC
 Joshua Garbutt**North Las Vegas, NV
 Samyra Gilliam**Capitol Heights, MD
 Aldrenia Grant**Columbia, SC
 Halimatou Haidara**Bowie, MD
 Shaniqua Henry*Varnville, SC
 Jade Hollins*Mobile, AL
 Naji-Capri HughesColumbia, SC
 Alexandra Jean- Louis**Nassau, BS
 Tenae Johnson^{PS}Nassau, BS
 Jaden Jones*Las Vegas, NV
 Sage Mangual^DMacon, GA
 Janae McCloud***Marietta, GA
 Jaronda McCrimmon**Dillon, SC
 Jayde McKenzie**Columbia, SC
 Terrencia Miller**Henderson, NV
 Khristian Minus*Ladson, SC
 Naloni Moore***^DWaynesboro, GA
 Raphael Olorunfemi*Upper Marlboro, MD
 Adam Pemberton*^DHollywood, SC
 Ariana Pettaway-Chamberlain**Gwynn Oak, MD
 Shyetriss Pitts**Atlanta, GA
 Lee-Ann Pryce***Columbia, SC
 Phache RichardsonWest Columbia, SC
 Shalynda Roberts*Macon, GA
 Rykell Robinson**Baltimore, MD
 Lauren Rowe*Westland, MI
 Darrian RussellCovington, GA
 Ashlee Sands**Freeport, BS
 Anuli Segree***Columbia, SC
 Janelle Shaw**Columbia, SC
 Vanessa Sikora**Indianapolis, IN
 Kiara Simmons***Allenhurst, GA

Kennajha Stubbs**Freeport, BS
 Jada ThomasMoncks Corner, SC
 Nakeisha Watson*Columbia, SC
 Devia Williams***Columbia, SC
 Shakerria Williams**Augusta, GA
 Aaron WitherspoonSummerville, SC
 Ayoub Zouaoui***Columbia, SC

Chemistry

Eugenelda Pierre^{PS}Indianapolis, IN
 Taniah Thompson**Foley, AL
 Vanessa Tucker***East Orange, NJ

Computer Science

Dachanelle Anderson***Columbia, SC
 Antoine Bowleg^{PS}Freeport, BS
 Mark Chigaazira^{PS}Beaumont, CA
 Jasmine Gholson*Waldorf, MD
 Christopher Hay*Blackville, SC
 Decordre Johnson^{PS}Nassau, BS
 Lawrence Jolo**Bowie, MD
 Lajay Lawrence***Hollywood, FL
 Kristin Major*^DColumbia, SC
 Ashanique Moore***Beaumont, CA
 Craig MortonHyattsville, MD
 Fatinah Muhammad**Atlanta, GA
 Mercedes-Antoni Preston^{PS}Atlanta, GA
 Shantel Thomas**Columbia, SC

Computer Engineering

Aderonke Adelegan*Hyattsville, MD
 Candice Colebrooke**Columbia, SC
 Jordan Hill**Covington, GA
 Jarin Jones^DColumbia, SC
 Diamon Rice*Macon, GA
 Tasha Symonette**Opa Locka, FL
 Kelvin Tillman*Athens, GA
 Maurice Wilson, II*Jacksonville, FL

Electrical Engineering

Quincy Anderson*Columbia, SC
 Darnell Coicous*Columbia, SC
 Akil Dyson*Hyattsville, MD
 Brandon Lacey*^DSouthfield, MI
 Terrencia Martin**St. Thomas, VI
 Conrad Newry**Columbia, SC
 Kibonke Niyomugabo**Indianapolis, IN
 Denzel Paul**Nassau, BS
 Charlton Rolle*Freeport, BS
 CarDrez SlocumbWarrenton, GA

Environmental Engineering

Crysele Evans*Nassau, BS

Environmental Health Science

Tametrya Brown**Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Japheth Kipruto*Columbia, SC
Tyrese Mapp^D.....West Palm Beach, FL
Devonta Newbold**Columbia, SC
Zackary Rhodes.....Columbia, SC
Shatera Spriggs^D.....Bowie, MD

Physics

Dania Collie**Columbia, SC
Ostonya Thomas**.....Freeport, BS

TYRONE ADAM BURROUGHS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Accounting

Kasey Cooper***Sumter, SC
Randall Curry*Upper Marlboro, MD
Samuel Felder^D.....Orangeburg, SC
Amber Francis**Alice Town, BS
Shanice Francis***Freeport, BS
Jahavheed George***St Thomas, VI
Rajada Lloyd**Nassau, BS
Ryusei Takahashi**.....Ridgeway, SC
Hydeia Thomas***Riverdale, GA
Donavon Wilmott***Nassau, BS

Business Administration (General)

Edbonie Benefield.....Columbia, SC
Markel Carswell^D.....Dry Branch, GA
Demarrie Copeland..... Chicago, IL
Di'Nesha English***Columbia, SC
Bryson Harris*Orlando, FL
Jamar Holliday*Lynchburg, SC
Tyra Holmes.....Lizella, GA
Gerald Kelley*Columbia, SC
Elijah Kelly*Trenton, NJ
Christopher Murray*Walterboro, SC
RaiMia Powell^D.....Baltimore, MD
Niara Smith.....North Las Vegas, NV

Business Administration (Entrepreneurship)

Rezhane Alston**Ridgeland, SC
Mecca Austin**Las Vegas, NV
Kierra Bowman^D.....Summerton, SC
Iyanna Freeman***Fort Washington, MD
Shailyn Kenon**Capitol Heights, MD
Timere Lanterman*** Syracuse, NY
Kabria Mackey**Nassau, BS
Shawn Smith**Albany, GA
Chyna Ward***McDonough, GA

Business Administration (Management)

Femi Akinola***Columbia, SC
Preston Alexander**Columbia, SC
Josue Bopeya^D.....Milwaukee, WI
Simone Bryant**^{PS}McCordsville, IN
Steven Campbell**Fountain Inn, SC
Darranique Drayton.....Mullins, SC
Jalen Gholson***Waldorf, MD
Pierre Lahens**Linden, NJ
NyQuan McCombs.....Staten Island, NY
Ebony Taylor*Columbia, SC
Ajaneer Wheeler*Latta, SC

Business Administration (Marketing)

Danielle Barnes*^{PS}Laurel, MD
Lirante Jackson*Athens, GA
James Jordan***Vineland, NJ
Kassie Jordan*Cincinnati, OH
Kelly Nixon***Nassau, BS
Mariana Paredes**Rock Hill, SC
Jordan Reeves*Birmingham, AL
Mitchell Romig**Orange Park, FL
Elijah Watson^D.....Kathleen, GA
Reason Woods***Rockford, IL

Economics (Finance)

Garcia Baldwin*Ellenwood, GA
Kennedy Byrd**Detroit, MI
Jaida Daniel***Fort Washington, MD
Kentel Lloyd**Nassau, BS
Emori Mitchell*Pittsburg, CA
Cheyanne Powell***Destin, FL
Aaliyah Roker**Freeport, BS
Dimaggio Williams**^{PS}Freeport, BS

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND HUMAN SERVICES

Child/Family Development

Shylaya Davis.....Columbia, SC

Educational Studies

Marcia Bacchus*Union City, GA
Deondre Brunson*Summerton, SC
Sarah Burnett.....Irmo, SC
Latifah Busby***Orangeburg, SC
Noah Cocklin**Columbia, SC
Rudolph Elzy^D.....Stone Mountain, GA
Desiree Gunnells.....Varnville, SC
Jordyn Jenkins***Ridgeville, SC
Kendrieona Johnson**Timmonsville, SC
Jewel Jones.....Baltimore, MD
Victoria Jones.....Albany, GA
Rainah Khan^D***Thomson, GA
Nacole Manigault*North Charleston, SC
Alice Matthews*Kingstree, SC

Chesney Miller*.....Pageland, SC
 Lauryn Moses*^D.....Santee, SC
 Quentin Nicholson*^D.....Emporia, VA
 Lamia O'Neal**.....Albany, GA
 Emmonti Payne^D.....Elgin, SC
 DaSean Seymour^D.....Sumter, SC
 Ryann Smith*.....Baltimore, MD
 NaSiya Stout*.....Jacksonville, FL
 Santeyanna Turner.....Chapin, SC
 Damian Tyler*.....West Columbia, SC
 Diamond Washington**.....District Heights, MD

Public Health

Caldwell Guinyard***^D.....Orangeburg, SC
 Leyah Hanserd*^D.....Detroit, MI
 Jihad Humes**.....Nassau, BS
 Enaisha Jenkins*^D.....North Charleston, SC
 Alynna Jones*.....Trenton, NJ
 Naja Muhammad^{PS}.....North Las Vegas, NV
 Jamarra Williams**.....Indianapolis, IN

Sport Management

Lawrence Aaron^{PS}.....Inglewood, CA
 Josiah Atkins*^D.....Columbia, SC
 Brikyia Benjamin*.....Hephzibah, GA
 Miguel Bethea.....Dillon, SC
 Timothy Bing^D.....District Heights, MD
 Quinton Blair^{PS}.....Columbia, SC
 Quaasia Brittingham.....Camden, NJ
 Stefano Brooks***.....Columbia, SC
 Zakiya Brown^{PS}.....Simpsonville, SC
 Jereme Calhoun^D.....Grand Terrace, CA
 Leron Davis.....Marion, SC
 Madison Golden*.....Irmo, SC
 Xzavier Goldsmith*^D.....Orangeburg, SC
 Jazmin Grayson*.....Port Wentworth, GA
 Chardell Hales*.....Stapleton, GA
 Joshua Heyward.....Johns Island, SC
 Kerry Holmes.....Lithonia, GA
 Blaque Jarvis**.....Pensacola, FL
 Bryson Johnson*.....Columbus, GA
 Janae Johnson**.....Las Vegas, NV
 Dameion Jones.....Florence, SC
 Journey Jones.....Birmingham, AL
 Jordan Kennedy^D.....Bluffton, SC
 Jaron Kilpatrick***^D.....Auburndale, FL
 Jaylynn Kirk*.....Columbia, SC
 Elilika Lane***^D.....Columbia, SC
 Deyonce Lewis*.....Forest Park, GA
 Taylor Lewis-Stone^{PS}.....Atlantic City, NJ
 Syeur Louis*.....Atlanta, GA
 Sinia Massillon**.....Tampa, FL
 Shemar Miller**.....Lillington, NC
 Eric Phoenix*.....Savannah, GA
 Christopher Rivers.....Columbia, SC
 Brandon Robinson.....Wellford, SC
 Jayden Thomas*.....Hampton, GA

Freddie Walker^D.....Hephzibah, GA
 Dorsey Wansley^{PS}.....Sandersville, GA
 Savion Watson.....Chesterfield, SC

**CANDIDATES FOR THE BACHELOR OF ARTS
 DEGREE**

**SCHOOL OF EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND
 HUMAN SERVICES**

Psychology

Levona Bland*.....Georgetown, SC
 Arlinzia Boyd***.....Winnsboro, SC
 Kaira Boyd.....Winnsboro, SC
 Kayla Brabham.....Columbia, SC
 Shanae Culmer**.....Nassau, BS
 Zoe Doan*.....Palo Verdes, CA
 Mytrece Edwards***.....Columbia, SC
 Leylani Garcia**.....Orlando, FL
 Tyshala Garnett**.....Augusta, GA
 Sofia Gomez***.....Adairsville, GA
 Fadlyna Jean-Francois.....Covington, GA
 Ayanna Kelly.....Ruffin, SC
 Carynton McDaniel*^D.....Southfield, MI
 Joana Mejia***.....Powder Springs, GA
 Granjhnell Murphy**.....Nicoll's Town, BS
 Malik Perrin-Cypress.....Columbia, SC
 Arianna Prescott**.....Savannah, GA
 Antonio President*^D.....Charleston, SC
 Norah St. Jean*.....Orlando, FL
 Maliah Watters*.....Charlotte, NC

**CANDIDATES FOR THE BACHELOR OF
 SOCIAL WORK DEGREE**

Social Work

Jelaya Blackwell*.....Lavonia, GA
 Xavier Clemons**.....Taylor, MI
 Taniah Duvall**.....Capitol Heights, MD
 Malecia Ellsworth**.....Roanoke Rapids, NC
 Keonya Lee**.....Reno, NV
 Marissa McDaniel^{PS}.....Florence, SC
 Arianna Minns***.....Hyattsville, MD
 Sonalis Muhammad***.....Riverdale, GA
 Sandreka Pixley**.....Batesburg, SC
 Mya Smith*.....North Las Vegas, NV
 Mercy Voker***.....Philadelphia, PA
 Kenya Whitener**.....Greenwood, SC
 Darren Williams***.....Columbia, SC

**SPECIAL CATEGORIES
CHILD MALTREATMENT CERTIFICATE
PROGRAM**

Xavier Clemons.....Taylor, MI
 Taniah Duvall.....Capitol Heights, MD
 Malecia Ellsworth.....Roanoke Rapids, NC
 Keonya Lee.....Reno, NV
 Marissa McDaniel.....Florence, SC
 Arianna Minns.....Hyattsville, MD
 Sonalis Muhammad.....Riverdale, GA
 Sandreka Pixley.....Batesburg, SC
 Mya Smith.....North Las Vegas, NV
 Mercy Voker.....Philadelphia, PA
 Kenya Whitener.....Greenwood, SC
 Darren Williams.....Columbia, SC

**INTERDISCIPLINARY GERONTOLOGY
CERTIFICATE PROGRAM**

Keonya Lee.....Reno, NV
 Sonalis Muhammad.....Riverdale, GA
 Sandreka Pixley.....Batesburg, SC
 Mya Smith.....North Las Vegas, NV
 Mercy Voker.....Philadelphia, PA
 Kenya Whitener.....Greenwood, SC

**TYRONE ADAM BURROUGHS
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND
ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Joshua Brimmer*^D.....Jacksonville, FL
 Babajide Falana***.....Atlanta, GA
 Silas Gbenle***.....Smyrna, GA
 Melvin Heyward*^D.....Columbia, SC
 Satinderpal Kaur**^D.....Tracy, CA
 Nytea Knight*^D.....Swansea, SC
 John Lampley*.....Kennesaw, GA
 Fareed Mizelle, Jr.*.....Brookhaven, PA
 Bradon O'Connor**^D.....Columbia, SC
 Reginald Rogers*.....Spartanburg, SC
 Olivia Roker***.....Columbia, SC

**SCHOOL OF EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

MASTER OF SPORT MANAGEMENT

SPORT MANAGEMENT

Tristain Armstrong***^D.....Columbia, SC
 David Blount***^D.....Fairburn, GA
 Loraine Dunbar**^D.....Columbia, SC
 Savionna Glover***^D.....Saint Helena Island, SC
 Daniel Holback***^D.....Eules, TX
 Frank Hyland, Jr.***^D.....Denmark, SC
 Semar Hylton***^D.....Columbia, SC
 Tre'Vohn Jeffery*^D.....Columbia, SC
 Teri Mills*^D.....Columbia, SC
 James Rice**^D.....Columbia, SC
 Deldrick Swilley***^D.....Hopkins, SC
 Bridget Williams***^D.....Columbia, SC
 Ezekiel Williams.....Stone Mountain, GA

Summa Cum Laude***Gold and White Cord --- Magna Cum Laude**Gold Cord --- Cum Laude*White Cord --- Honors Program - Gold Stole and Medallion of Honors --- December Graduates ^D ---Projected Summer^{PS}

NOTE: The inclusion of a name on any list in this program must not be considered as conclusive evidence of graduation. Persons who are listed on the program and who have fulfilled all requirements of the College will receive the degree indicated.