Black Hawk College
Quad-Cities Campus

2015 Commencement Ceremony

iWireless Center
7:00 p.m. | Thursday, May 21, 2015
On Academic Regalia

On at least one solemn occasion during the academic calendar – Spring Commencement - the faculty of the college publicly display their full academic regalia and participate in the ritual of a processional and recessional from the commencement ceremony. The purposes of commencement are well-known, but the reasons for the peculiar dress of the celebrants and the order of the procession are often as confusing to the audience as they are, in fact, to the faculty. This note may help to explain academic costumes.

Today’s academics are descendants of clerical schoolmen in the universities of medieval Europe. Like clergy, members of the bench and bar, and other learned professionals, the medieval scholar clothed himself in heavy robes to keep out the draft from unheated, windowless buildings. Like all members of medieval society, faculty enjoyed the visible symbols of their rank. These outward signs of accomplishment and authority were tailored into the robes. The need for such voluminous garments to keep the scholar from catching a cold is long past but the use of them to symbolize the dignity of the profession remains.

Caps and gowns worn by our faculty are black. Black was the color adopted by mutual agreement among American colleges and universities at the end of the 19th century. In Europe, each university has its own distinctive gowns, varying in color and cut with each institution. A European commencement is a far more colorful occasion than its American counterpart.

There are four basic academic degrees: the associate degree, the baccalaureate or bachelor’s degree, the master’s degree and the doctorate. Each has a special robe. The associate and bachelor’s gowns are trim, neat and unadorned, as benefits apprentices. The master’s gown is still simple, but fuller, with a hood draped from the shoulders down the back. Once used to keep the shaved heads of medieval clerks from freezing, the hood now is solely a badge of degree of scholarly achievement. The master’s hood is small and narrow, but displays the colors of the institution that awarded the degree. The doctorate robe has a generous cut, is faced with velvet, and emblazoned with velvet stripes on the ample sleeves. Most of the velvet facings and chevrons or stripes are black, but some are other colors. According to personal taste, doctors may display the color of their doctoral degree on their sleeves and facings: for example; royal blue for philosophy, green for medicine, purple for law, scarlet for theology. The doctor’s hood is lined in satin with the colors of the degree itself. All academic costumes include the square cap called a mortarboard. The doctor’s tassels may be either black or gold. Tassels of all other degrees may be black or the colors of the college or department from which the student graduated or is graduating.

Stage party members wearing black, gold and red hoods are members of the Black Hawk College Board of Trustees. Their hoods do not represent academic rank; they indicate the trustees’ public service through their governance of the local college district. The three colors represent an integration of the colors of the college’s Quad-Cities Campus and East Campus.

Graduating nurses will also receive a pin tonight as they leave the stage. The first pinning ceremony directly related to graduating nurses occurred in the 1860s at the Nightingale School of Nursing at St. Thomas Hospital in London. Florence Nightingale had been awarded the Red Cross of Saint George for her extraordinary service to the Crimean War. By 1916, pinning was common in schools across the United Kingdom and North America. The pinning ceremony is rich in both beauty and tradition. The nursing pin has become a distinctive mark of nursing excellence and service to others. It also indicates to patients and others that the nurse has completed a nursing education program.
Commencement Program

Prelude Music .................................................................Black Hawk College Community Band
Sean Talbot, Director
Black Hawk College Chamber Singers
Dr. Tamara Fudge, Director

(Please stand for the Presentation of the Colors and remain standing for the Academic Procession, National Anthem, Moment of Silence and Loyalty Song.)

Presentation of the Colors......................................................IL-962 Color Guard
Rock Island High School
United States Air Force JROTC
Student Marshals
Black Hawk College
Student Leadership Council Senators

Academic Procession............................................................“Pomp and Circumstance”
Sir Edward Elgar
Black Hawk College Community Band

National Anthem...............................................................“The Star-Spangled Banner”
Francis Scott Key
John Stafford Smith
arranged by Bill Moffit
Black Hawk College
Community Band/Choir

Colors Retired/Moment of Silence

(As the Colors are retired, please remain standing in a moment of silence in respect for our country and in honor of the members of our military.)

Music Selection.................................................................“Black Hawk College Loyalty”
R. Keeley/D. Moe
arranged by Dr. C. Edgar Crockett
Black Hawk College
Community Band/Choir
Professor Emeritus Presentation ................................................................. Dr. Bettie A. Truitt
   *President, Black Hawk College*

   David L. Emerick, Jr.
   *Board Chair, Black Hawk College*

Student Remarks ......................................................................................... Jessie Golden
   *2015 Black Hawk College Graduate*

Faculty Remarks .......................................................................................... Dr. Todd M. Linscott
   *Associate Professor*
   *President, Quad-Cities Campus Faculty Senate*

Presidential Address ..................................................................................... Dr. Bettie A. Truitt

Presentation of the Class of 2015 ................................................................. Dr. Lee J. Weimer
   *Interim Vice President for Instruction and Student Services*

Awarding of Certificates and Conferring of Degrees ..................................... Dr. Bettie A. Truitt
   *Board of Trustees*
   *Dr. Todd M. Linscott*

Recessional ................................................................................................. Black Hawk College Community Band

*A sign language interpreter will be on the right-hand side of the stage.*

Following this evening's commencement, there will be a reception for graduates at the back of the arena sponsored by the Quad-Cities Campus Student Leadership Council.

Families and friends may also take photos in front of Section 107 where a special backdrop has been arranged.
The Black Hawk College Seal

The official college seal was adopted in May 1969. It incorporates some of the oldest symbols known. The “Y,” or fork, is a key sign symbolizing the up reaching spirit, the striving of being. Above the key sign is the flame which represents knowledge, specifically the knowledge of liberal arts and sciences programs. The old chemical sign at right is for basic metals, which represents vocational and technical education. On the left is the philosopher’s sign which describes the nature of human intellect and symbolizes the active intellect present in adults who continue their education. The enclosing circle represents the continuing circle of education. The Latin phrase, Collegium Pro Populo, identifies Black Hawk as the College for the People.

Graduation Honors

Summa Cum Laude graduates are identified by a gold honor cord. (60 cumulative hours and a 3.95 GPA or higher)

Magna Cum Laude graduates are identified by a white honor cord. (45 cumulative hours and a 3.85 GPA or higher)

Cum Laude graduates are identified by a red honor cord. (30 cumulative hours and a 3.75 GPA or higher)
ACCOUNTING CLERK
Diane D. Kpomassy, East Moline

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE SUPPORT
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Tara Sweeney, East Moline

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Sarah Lynn Morgan, Milan

AutoCAD
Daniel P. Simpson, Keithsburg

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Rayninka D. Adams, Rock Island
Isabell Aguilara, Rock Island
Ivy Marguerite Anderson, Milan
Kara Bailey, Silvis
Alana Gabriela Marie Bainter, Coal Valley
Laurie A. Barton, Moline
MacAllister Anne Blakley, Geneseo
Jessica Brachtel, Moline
Alishia Braden, Milan
Dominique Brooks, Moline
Nicole Bunton, Andover
Shelby Burroughs, Milan
Brandie Carden, Rock Island
Alyssa Cattan, Geneseo
Ariel Craig, Rock Island
Rachelle Lynn Kathern Decker, Wyoming
Morgan DeSmet, Rock Island
Jasmine Diaz-Rodriquez, Rock Island
Kiana Dugger, Rock Island
Julie–Ann Elliott, Milan
Vailette N. Feliki, Rock Island
Madison L. Flaherty, Geneseo
Danielle Garcia, Rock Island
Victoria Gomez, Rock Island
Melanie Hester, Davenport, IA
Ben Hicock, Rock Island
Zachary Jungwirth, Rock Island
Elizabeth Kasimu, Rock Island
Elizabeth Keith, East Moline
Lindsey C. Kelley, St Paul, MN
Courtney Kernan, Rock Island
Latoya Shanice Lee, East Moline
Jessica L. Market, Norfolk, NE
Kaylea Matter, Rock Island
Kasey McCracken, Rock Island
Roberto G. Nache, Rock Island
Oshiana Nephew, Rock Island
Carlie Newton, Geneseo
Tiffani Bessie Palmer, Sherrard
Angel Parker, Rock Island
Eh Paw, Rock Island
Hailey Petty, Moline

Hannah Petty, Moline
Khaaliyah Phanhalthy, Rock Island
Teanna Randolph, Moline
Rachael Catherine Rastetter, Geneseo
Shaleka Rhoden, Rock Island
Bailey Noel Ries, Geneseo
Rozanne Robinson, East Moline
DeBrisha S. Scales, Rock Island
Elizabeth Sedlock, New Windsor
Jessica Spencer, Milan
Wendy A. Spencer, Rock Island
Haleigh Therese Stegall, Rock Island
Moshe Stewart, Rock Island
Pamela Swanson, Orion
Sengyumuva Thiery, Rock Island
Odalys Trigueros, Moline
Hanna Vanderheyden, Geneseo
Denise M. VanDeWoestyne, Cordova
Charissa Warren, Milan
Sarah Jane Willihite, Milan

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Arthur J. Ortiz, Rock Island

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Cristobal Villasenor, East Moline

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Yaogan Dossou-Solegadj, Moline
John Goeden, East Moline
Mohamed A. Ismail, East Moline
Shannon Jannie, Kewanee
Kossi Ametefe Kluga, East Moline
Shannon Jannie, Kewanee
Kossi Ametefe Kluga, East Moline
Dossou Kowou, Moline
Gnandi Kpante, East Moline
Papy Mbambi, East Moline
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Jason Willey, East Moline

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Caiyun Wurslin, Geneseo

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Danielle B. James, Milan
Sunshine Lauer, Rock Island
Tamara Lukac, Rock Island
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Claudia Yvette Martinez Hernandez, Rock Island
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Christina Marquis, Rock Island
Rebecca Ann Marquis, Milan
Morgan Marshall, Milan
Sue-Ella Mae Mathis, Port Byron
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Nashira Brianne Williams, Rock Island
Glen W. Williamson, Canyon Country, CA
Dan Yeager, Rock Island
Nicole Young, Sherrard
Raeann Zawada, Milan
Phi Theta Kappa, Honor Society for Two-Year Colleges

Note: Phi Theta Kappa graduates may be identified by a gold stole.

Alpha Beta Gamma, International Business Honor Society

Note: Alpha Beta Gamma graduates may be identified by a blue stole with Greek letters or a blue stole with emblem and Greek letters.

All-USA Community College Academic Team Nominee

Psi Beta, National Honor Society in Psychology for Community and Junior Colleges

Note: Psi Beta graduates may be identified by a blue and gold cord.

Academic All-American Award

Note: Academic All-American graduates may be identified by a purple cord.

Sigma Kappa Delta, the English Honor Society for Two-Year Colleges

Note: Sigma Kappa Delta graduates may be identified by a green and gold cord.

Military Service

Note: Military service members honorably discharged or currently serving may be identified by a red, white and blue honor cord.
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