

Allegany College of Maryland 58th Commencement Ceremony: Virtual Ceremony Live-streamed from Zimmer Theater

Order of Exercises

- Processional: *Pomp and Circumstance* March No. 1, Trio; Ms. Melody Gaschler.
- The National Anthem (sing along); The U.S. Army Band.
- Welcome: Dr. Cynthia S. Bambara, President.
- Greetings: Mr. Kim B. Leonard, Board of Trustees.
- Introduction of Commencement Addresses: Dr. Ronald P. Jenkins and Ms. Jennifer E. Thompson.
- Commencement Addresses: Ms. Carol Lusk and Ms. Khushmani Singh.
- Candidates Presented: Dr. Kurt W. Hoffman, Senior Vice President of Instructional and Student Affairs.
- Recessional: *Pomp and Circumstance* March No. 1, Trio; Ms. Melody Gaschler.

Processional: Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1, Trio; Ms. Melody Gaschler.

[Music plays.]

The National Anthem (sing along); The U.S. Army Band.

[Music plays.]

Welcome: Dr. Cynthia S. Bambara, President.

Good evening everyone and welcome to the spring & summer commencement ceremony of Allegany College of Maryland. I am Cynthia Bambara, President of the College. It is a privilege and honor to extend my sincere congratulations to you, the graduates of the Class of 2020.

The current pandemic has required all of us to make extraordinary sacrifices, including postponing the in-person graduation ceremony originally planned for this past May. This virtual ceremony is certainly not the graduation celebration that any of us expected; however, it in no way lessens your accomplishments and achievements. Rather, this experience reminds us of your incredible perseverance, adaptability and resilience.

Graduates, you are among 318 individuals who have completed the requirements for 382 associate's degrees and certificates awarded this spring and summer. At Allegany College of Maryland, our primary goal is to assist our students meet their academic aspirations. Their academic success is our success.

Graduates, we know we have successfully met this goal when you earn your ACM degree or certificate. Today, you make all of us very proud as we celebrate your graduation. Congratulations!

Graduates, you are the shining stars of ACM, our community, our nation and our world. You are the future. As you begin your journey as a graduate of ACM, ask yourself how you can make a difference. Now is your time.

This pandemic has forced all of us to expect the unexpected, conquer many obstacles and find new opportunities.

I share with you a piece from Apple Computers "Think Different" marketing campaign that launched in the late 1990s. Former Apple CEO Steve Jobs offered this inspiration:

“Here’s to the crazy ones, the misfits, the rebels, the troublemakers, the round pegs in the square holes... the ones who see things differently -- they’re not fond of rules... You can quote them, disagree with them, glorify or vilify them, but the only thing you can’t do is ignore them because they change things... they push the human race forward, and while some may see them as the crazy ones, we see genius, because the ones who are crazy enough to think that they can change the world, are the ones who do.”

Graduates, I challenge you to “think different,” be a little crazy and be the change the world needs today.

Again, congratulations graduates!

At this time, I would like to introduce the platform guests, who will stand as they are identified.

Board of Trustees with us this evening are Mr. Kim Leonard, Chair, and board member Mr. Jim Pyles.

Our administrative team includes Senior Vice-President of Instructional and Student Affairs, Dr. Kurt Hoffman; Vice-President of Advancement and Community Relations and Executive Director of the ACM foundation, Mr. David Jones; and Vice-President of Finance and Administration, Mrs. Christina Kilduff.

You will also hear from our student speakers this evening: Carol Lusk, introduced by Dr. Ron Jenkins, Associate Professor of English, and Khushmani Singh, introduced by Ms. Jennifer Thompson, Associate Professor of Dental Hygiene.

At this time, I would like to acknowledge the faculty and staff of Allegany College of Maryland. Graduates, I know that you will agree, without the dedication and commitment of these individuals, who have aided you on your educational journey, you would not be here today.

Parents. Grandparents. Spouses. Children and grandchildren. Friends and other family members. Your support to these graduates has truly helped in the achievement of their goals. So, today as we honor the graduates, we also honor you and thank you for your support.

As you can imagine, creating a virtual ceremony requires a lot of work. I would like to thank those who helped make the ceremony possible: The commencement committee plans the graduation ceremony and insures that it is a celebration for all of you to remember. To this committee, I offer all of you my sincere gratitude. This live-stream ceremony would not have been possible without the countless hours from Mr. John Bone, Associate Professor and Multimedia Technology Program Director. He has worked tirelessly over the past several weeks, taking pictures, recording speakers and directing the live-stream of today’s celebration. Thank you!

I would also like to recognize our Grand Marshal, Professor Stacey Rohrbaugh; our Assistant Grand Marshal, Professor Donna Brunelli, as well as Professor Rick Cooper and Professor Sandy Clark, who serve as the readers for this evening’s ceremony.

At ACM, commencement is an exciting time when everyone in the College community works together to support this very special celebration.

Special thanks to the staff in admissions and registration, financial aid, advancement, instructional and student affairs, physical plant, media services, and computer services. Thank you all.

It is now my privilege to introduce Mr. Kim Leonard, Chairman of the Allegany College of Maryland Board of Trustees.

Greetings: Mr. Kim Leonard, Board of Trustees.

On behalf of the Allegany College of Maryland Board of Trustees CONGRATULATIONS on our first virtual graduation.

You can be very proud of your accomplishments. It is now time to put into practice everything you have learned. The very best faculty and staff have provided you with a great platform for success. Let's thank them.

Speaking of learning, I would like to share some thoughts by comedian George Carlin.

I've learned that no matter what happens, life does go on... like this pandemic.

I've learned that you can tell a lot about a person by the way he/she handles a rainy day and lost luggage.

I've learned that life usually gives you a second chance.

I've learned that even when I have pains. I don't have to be one.

I've learned that whenever I decide something with an open heart, I usually make the right decision.

I've learned that making a "living" is not the same thing as making a "life."

I've learned that you shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands. You need to be able to throw something back.

Speaking about throwing something back---

YOU as a graduate have the opportunity to give back to ACM... I encourage you to stay connected to the College and perhaps volunteer your time as a guest speaker or as a mentor to current students. Maybe you can host an ACM student intern or contribute funds for student scholarships. Give this some thought and stay in touch.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Commencement Address of Ms. Carol Lusk, with introduction by Dr. Ron Jenkins

[Dr. Jenkins:] I'm proud to introduce Carol Lusk. Now, I don't know what Carol is planning to say to you, so I'll keep it brief, in an attempt to not step on her message.

My few words are about flourishing. We don't think of it enough, and sometimes we don't think of it at all, but flourishing is one of the great ideas of civilization going back to the ancient philosophers. Basically, it involves freedom. If we are to flourish, we must be free. Flourishing means confronting any factors that inhibit the flowing out of our ideas, our values, our words, and our efforts. It means development and self-definition; we can be what we want to be.

Now that Carol is leaving us, it is time to reflect upon her success. She has indeed flourished, developing herself as an artist, a writer, a thinker, a student, and something tells me, a mathematician. If you want to check up on what I say, look at Carol's art works, and writing in Expressions Magazine.

The real reward of being a teacher, like me, is getting to know so many people, and I'm talking about students now, with great insight and experience. They are the ones who help us to see things more clearly in the course of our own development and flourishing.

Carol is one of these people, it is no small matter that she stands before you now as a graduation speaker.

Watch-out, her words have power.

[Carol Lusk:] Thank you, Dr. Jenkins, for that gracious introduction and thank you Dr. Bambara, faculty, staff, and fellow classmates for the opportunity to speak at our 2020 commencement service.

Five years ago, I fell flat on my face, my world came crashing to a halt when I was a widow and found myself without a future or a career.

Someone wisely told me to go back to school, so I chose ACM, mainly for its affordability, its beautiful campus, and the small class sizes. It wasn't easy juggling work, and the school work and pressures at home, but I looked around and saw other students carrying a full school work load and also working full-time at other jobs; that gave me encouragement to work hard and before I knew it we were done. But, as I was in school, when I reached the

end of the first semester, I realized that I was following my heart. But now that we are done our paths are going separate ways. Some of us will follow future education and some of us will start our careers.

Yet, right now, our world is uncertain with this COVID-19 virus. We don't know how it will affect our plans, how will it affect our careers, when will our world return to normal? None of us knows what the future holds for our life. I do know that no life plan and no career plan will be perfect. We must expect things to happen. Things in our life will change unexpectedly. Usually a friend of mine says, "expect the worst and hope for the best." I know that hope is great but there's a few more things we need to do before we can plan to succeed in anything.

My life experience has taught me a few things and I want to pass these on to you. First of all, it's important to work hard and always do your best and secondly listen to those around you. Listen to your boss and your co-workers, your family, and your friends. And if you're a nurse or a teacher or someone who works with the public, be the one that listens to that voice that's crying for help. You may be the one to make a difference in a life. And another thing, if you fall, don't be discouraged, pick yourself right back up, dust yourself off and go forward, because when we fail it teaches us lessons to avoid in the future.

A really important thing is to respect one another. Respect someone who's old and somebody who's young.

Respect those that might be a different race, respect those who practice a different culture, respect those that are of a different religion, because no matter who they are, they deserve respect.

And last of all, and most importantly, follow your heart. Class of 2020, we are on the path to success.

Congratulations!

Commencement Address of Ms. Khushmani Singh, with introduction by Ms. Jennifer Thompson

[Ms. Thompson:] Good evening, my name is Jennifer Thompson, I'm an Associate Professor here at Allegany College of Maryland's Dental Hygiene department.

First, I would like to say congratulations to the Allegany College of Maryland's graduating class of 2020. All of your hard work paid off and I wish you luck, success, and happiness in your future journey. Today I have the pleasure of introducing one of the class of 2020's commencement speakers.

Compassionate, considerate, courageous, dedicated, and humble are just a few words to describe today's speaker. She graduated from the Virginia Commonwealth University in 2016 with a bachelor's degree in psychology and a minor in chemistry. She was then accepted into the competitive ACM Dental Hygiene program and began her journey here in 2018. She served as the Historian for the Student American Dental Hygienist Association, she was a member of the Interprofessional Education Student Cohort and participated in the It's Hygienic Board Review Competition. Throughout her time at ACM she was on the Honor's and Dean's list, and was also a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. She finished at ACM with a 3.8 GPA. Her smile will light up any room and her dedication to her education into the profession of Dental Hygiene is exceptional.

I am honored to introduce to you the class of 2020's second commencement speaker Khushmani Singh.

[Khushmani Singh:] Thank you Ms. Thompson for that introduction.

Good evening family, friends, faculty and 2020 graduates. I am honored to be speaking to you all today and I'm so proud to be part of the 2020 graduating class.

I would like to start with a quote by Theodore Roosevelt, "When you're at the end of your rope, tie a knot and hold on."

Two years ago I got my acceptance letter from Allegany College of Maryland. I was so excited to start my journey here. My rope, it seemed as though, it was never ending. Before moving to Maryland and starting classes, I had already started dreaming of what the next two years had in store for me, and I thought a lot about graduation day. I could see it all. On graduation day my name would be called at the ceremony, I would walk across the stage, greet the faculty, receive my diploma and search the crowd for the cheers of my family and friends. After the ceremony we would take tons of pictures on campus. I would take pictures of my family, my friends and most importantly my classmates, who I had grown so close to these past few years.

Unfortunately, graduation does look different for us this year. In these past five months there have been times where I felt like I was at the end of my rope, as I am sure many of you did as well. There were times of great sadness, uncertainty, frustration, however we tied a knot and held on. We put in time, effort, energy and most importantly we stayed motivated. When our daily lives were flipped upside down, we adapted, we changed our learning styles, our learning environments, we stayed resilient. We showed that with great strength and determination we could overcome any obstacle. And with the help of faculty and administration we made it here today, to our 2020 graduation ceremony.

Graduating class of 2020, we should all be incredibly proud of ourselves! During our time here at ACM, we have acquired so many qualities, trades, skills and experiences that make us role-models and leaders in our communities. I hope that each and every one of you know, you have within you the tools to go out there and make this world a better place.

So as we experience our graduation ceremony today I hope that everyone celebrates this huge achievement. Whether you're at home surrounded by family, or you're with a friend, or you're sitting in front of your laptop in your pajamas like me, never forget all that you achieved here at Allegany College of Maryland.

The future will always hold uncertainty, but never stop dreaming. As we step into the real world, get excited about your next journey, because it's officially time to let go of this old rope and grab onto a new one; and if you ever feel that you're at the end of your rope again, remember our graduating class, remember this moment, tie a knot and hold on.

Congratulations graduating class 2020!

Presentation of Candidates: Dr. Kurt Hoffman, Mr. Kim Leonard, and Ms. Stacey Rohrbaugh

[Dr. Hoffman:] Madame Grand Marshal, do the faculty of ACM approve of the following students, acknowledging that they have been extensively examined and are thoroughly recommended for graduation?

[Ms. Rohrbaugh:] Dr. Hoffman, as a representative of the faculty and staff of Allegany College of MD, I affirm that the students present this evening, as well as those unable to join us but who are listed in the official program for commencement, have been duly enrolled and thoroughly tested, and eligible to receive their degree or certificate.

[Dr. Hoffman:] Mr. Leonard, all faculty and staff are in agreement with the proclamation of the grand marshal. The candidates who are being presented to you at this commencement have been duly enrolled, extensively examined, and are thoroughly recommended by the faculty as having completed the requirements for the Associate Degree, the Certificate, or the Letter of Recognition, as appropriate, from Allegany College of Maryland. The President and I, the Senior Vice President of Instructional and Student Affairs, therefore, certify that the candidates are entitled to receive the same and take immense pride in presenting them to you.

[Mr. Leonard:] By the authority vested in the Board of Trustees, by the State of Maryland, the following students, having been duly examined and recommended by the faculty and certified by the President as having met the requirements for graduation, are hereby granted the associate degree or certificate, as appropriate, and are entitled to all the rights and privileges thereto appertaining.

[Dr. Hoffman:] Before formally presenting the graduates, in recognition of their academic achievements, we would like to acknowledge students graduating with the following honors.

As students are announced, those graduating from Allegany College of Maryland Honors Programs will be noted;

Phi Theta Kappa = honor society for Community Colleges

Psi Beta = honor society for Psychology

Phi Beta Lambda = honor society for Future Business Leaders of America

Alpha Delta Nu = honor society for 2 year Associates degree in Nursing

Those graduating who are receiving special awards:

the Focus on Women Award Recipients, the Focus on Men Award Recipients, TRIO Pathways for Success graduates, Those who have served in the Military, Aspiring Young MENtors, male mentors or color, Students wearing a blue & green tassel signifying the fulfillment of their *commit to complete* pledge to Phi Theta Kappa, and those graduating as Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude, and Summa Cum Laude. Cum Laude is Latin for “with honors,” and is based upon a student’s grade point average. Magna Cum Laude is “with high honors” and Summa Cum Laude is “with the highest honors.”

Congratulations that your hard work and diligence has earned you these academic achievements at Allegany College of Maryland!

Graduates tonight will be receiving an Associate’s Degree or Certificate.

Names of Graduates, read by Professor Rick Cooper and Professor Sandy Clark

[Video of the reading of graduates contains captioning. A full list of graduates’ names and degrees is available in a separate document.]

Conclusion.

[Dr. Hoffman:] Graduates, as a long celebrated academic tradition, a student who has not yet received their degree wears the tassel on the right side of their mortarboard. To signify your academic accomplishments and to symbolize your successful transition from **candidate** to Allegany College of Maryland **graduate**, you may now move your tassel from right to left.

Those watching virtually, please join with me in proudly congratulating and formally recognizing *your graduate* from the spring and summer 2020 class from Allegany College of Maryland! {*Applause*}
Let today serve as a beginning, not an ending. From this day forward, no matter where your path takes you, you will forever be an Allegany College of Maryland Trojan.

This concludes Allegany College of Maryland’s spring and summer 2020 commencement ceremony.

Gratitude again to Mr. John Bone and Mrs. Marsha Clausen for their direction of today’s virtual ceremony.

This has definitely been an unprecedented year. Please continue to be safe. Please be kind. And please take care of one another.

Thank you and good night.

Recessional: Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1, Trio; Ms. Melody Gaschler.

[Music plays.]