



BACCALAUREATE

THURSDAY, MAY 20, 2021

4:30 P.M. EDT

ZOOM WEBINAR

GOUCHER | college

COMMUNITY PRINCIPLES

Respect

We will treat everyone within our community with respect and learn from our differences. When conflicts arise, we will work together to come up with mutually beneficial resolutions. We also commit to respect and protect the environment on our campus and in the world.

Inclusion

We will acknowledge and embrace the unique gifts and differences of our community members. Furthermore, we seek to include those who may feel excluded.

Communication

We will communicate with the intent to listen and learn from others while placing a premium on maintaining a safe space for those involved. We will create opportunities for dialogue so that a variety of voices can be heard.

Service and Social Justice

We value active participation in bettering the Goucher community as well as those communities beyond the college where we live, work, and serve. In addition, we seek to understand the issues of privilege and oppression that exist in these communities.

Responsibility

We understand that we are accountable for our own actions, opinions, and beliefs, and for ensuring that our actions are conducive to the safety and well-being of others.

BACCALAUREATE 2021

GATHERING

Procession

Lamba/Yaro Yaro

Khaleyi Inc. Drummers

(traditional Senegalese drum rhythm)

Welcome

The Rev. Cynthia A. Terry

Call and Response of Remembrance

“In the Rising of the Sun”

Adapted by Roland Gittelsohn, from
Gates of Prayer (Reform Jewish Prayer Book)

As we gather today and tomorrow to celebrate Commencement, we acknowledge that there are many within our community grieving the loss of parents, siblings, grandparents, spouses, and friends. As we celebrate, let us remember and call to mind all these beloved family and friends, including Maia Offitzer '21.

Leader: In the rising of the sun and in its going down,

Response: We remember them.

Leader: In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter,

Response: We remember them.

Leader: In the opening buds and in the rebirth of spring,

Response: We remember them.

Leader: In the blueness of the sky and in the warmth of summer,

Response: We remember them.

Leader: In the rustling of leaves and in the beauty of autumn,

Response: We remember them.

Leader: In the beginning of the year and when it ends,

Response: We remember them.

Leader: When we are weary and in need of strength,

Response: We remember them.

Leader: When we are lost and sick at heart,

Response: We remember them.

Leader: When we have joys we yearn to share,

Response: We remember them.

Leader: So long as we live, they, too, shall live, for they are now
a part of us,

Response: As we remember them.

Student Address

Brandon Rodriguez Torrento '21

REFLECTING

Collective Prayer

This prayer is a collection of prayers and sacred texts from many religious traditions, read in many languages.

Mindfulness Bell

May all beings who are subject to birth, aging, disease, and death, be happy.

May they be without enmity.

May they be without malevolence.

May they be without physical or mental suffering.

May they be happy in both body and mind.

May they be able to protect themselves from danger.

(Buddhist prayer)

There are three virtues of Confucianism: Wisdom, Kindness, and Bravery. The wise are free from perplexities, the kindhearted are free from worries, and the brave are free from fear.

(Confucian; Proverb; read in Mandarin)

We pray [for] strength, determination, and willpower, to do instead of merely to pray, to become instead of merely to wish; that our world may be safe, and that our lives may be blessed.

(Jewish; from Siddur Kol HaNishamah, the Reconstructionist Prayerbook; read in Hebrew)

Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

(Jewish and Christian; Joshua 1:9; read in Amharic)

In the name of God, the infinitely Compassionate and Merciful. Praise be to God, Lord of all the worlds. The Compassionate, the Merciful. Ruler on the Day of Reckoning. You alone do we worship, and You alone do we ask for help. Guide us on the straight path, the path of those who have received your grace; not the path of those who have brought down wrath, nor of those who wander astray.

(Muslim; The Holy Qur'an, Surah 1; read in Arabic)

Supply us, then, with Thy wondrous gifts that are hid from the eyes of men. Thou art, verily, the Fashioner of all creation. No God is there but Thee, the Almighty, the All-Glorious, the Most High.

(Bahá'í prayer of gratitude; Baha'u'llah; read in Portuguese)

I entreat Thee, O my Lord, by Thy Most Great Name whereby Thou didst separate light from fire, and truth from denial, to send down upon me and upon such of my loved ones as are in my company the good of this world and of the next.

(Bahá'í prayer of gratitude; Baha'u'llah; read in French)

Lord, now you let your servant go in peace. Your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the salvation which You have prepared in the sight of every people. A light to reveal You to the nations and the glory of Your people Israel. Amen.
(Greek Orthodox; Prayer of St. Simeon; read in Greek)

Be patterns, be examples, in all countries, places, islands, nations, wherever you come; that your carriage and life may preach among all sorts of people, and to them; then you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in everyone.
(Quaker; from "Exhortation to Friends in the Ministry," from Launceston Prison, 1656; read in Spanish)

Prove all things, hold fast to that which is good.
(The Goucher College motto; 1 Thessalonians 5:21; read in Xhosa)

Mindfulness Bell

Student Address

Chyres Snyder '21

Choral Piece

"Homeward Bound"

Music and Lyrics by Marta Keen,
arrangement by Jay Althouse
Performed by Goucher College Graduation Choir

Faculty Address

Brandon Arvesen '05

Graduate Voices

- Graduate: As we prepare to go from this place, we remember this portion of our life's journey. We remember roommates and friends, teachers and mentors, coaches and administrators and staff, and families near and far. We remember with gratitude those who have accompanied us in these years.
- Graduate: We remember friendships made, celebrations enjoyed, and promises kept; intellectual and academic accomplishments; care and nurture given and received; and play, work, study, and rest. We remember and celebrate the blessings we have known here.
- Graduate: We remember personal sorrows and traumas; conflict with family and friends; experiences of failure and fatigue; majors eliminated; a global pandemic that changed everything; and times of struggle and confusion. We remember and honor the challenges and difficulties of our college years.
- Graduate: We remember experiences abroad (some abruptly cut short), in Baltimore, and on Zoom; late night conversations about things that matter and things that don't; internships and classroom time; reflection and engagement. We remember and hold fast to all that has been transformative about Goucher College.
- Graduate: Our journeys will continue in new places with new friends, opportunities, and challenges. May we continue to gain wisdom and experience. May we offer competence and compassion to all the endeavors of our future. May we give back to the world as we have received.

GOING FORTH

Blessing of the Graduates

- Leader: As you all prepare to graduate tomorrow, may you remember that it is as much a commencing, a beginning, as it is an ending.
- Family: May you carry with you our love and support for all that lies ahead.
- Faculty: May you carry with you our belief in your accomplishments and potential as you head into professional work, further study, community service, or time off.
- Family: May you carry with you our belief in your goodness and humor as you begin building new lives while holding on to the old.
- Staff: May you carry with you our belief in your abilities and character as future leaders in our communities, our schools, even our nation and our world.
- Leader: And may you carry with you a strong belief in yourselves, as you continue to grow and learn, to give and receive. May you go in peace.

Toast

Antonia Pettit '20

Final Words

The Rev. Cynthia A. Terry

PARTICIPANTS

Drummers

Keur Khaleyi Inc. Drummers
Diarra Von Hendricks
Ayende Von Hendricks
Felicia Flournoy
Tajh Flowers

Leaders of Liturgy

Cynthia A. Terry, college chaplain and
director of religious and spiritual life
Antonia Pettit '20, recent graduate
trustee

Litany of Remembrance

Santa Marie Wallace, accessibility
assistant
Maddie Dymond '22
Elizabeth Ahearn, professor of dance
Ann Marie Longo, associate professor of
education
Fatimah Williams '21
Cheyenne Smith '21
Edgar Kunz '10, assistant professor of
creative writing

Graduate Voices

Rylee McDonnell '21
Zoe Gilmore '21
Chris Noakes '21
Neve Levinson '21
John Eng-Wong '21

Language Readers of the Prayer

Gong & Buddhist Prayer: Ailish Hopper,
associate professor of peace studies
Mandarin Chinese: Evan Yue '21
Hebrew: Justin Pellis '21
Amharic: Semi Girma '21
Arabic: Dina Diani '21
Portuguese: Daniel McDavitt, associate
professor of music, director of
Goucher College choirs and orchestra
French: Zoe Fernando-Santana
Greek: Viki Zaveles Eggert, assistant
professor of Spanish
Spanish: Barbara Eucebio '21
Xhosa: Janet Shope, professor of
sociology

Blessing of the Graduates

Stacy Cooper Patterson, associate dean
of students for campus and student
engagement
Siromi Fernando-Santana '83, mother of
Zoe Fernando-Santana
Phong Le, associate professor of
mathematics
Brianna Livelsberger '20, sister of Fiona
Livelsberger
Lindsay Johnson '05

Musicians

Daniel McDavitt
Andrew Stewart, pianist

SONGS

Lamba/Yaro Yaro

Lamba/Yaro Yaro is the traditional Senegalese rhythm played for celebrations—weddings, baby showers, birthdays, and graduation today.

Homeward Bound

On the surface this is a song about exploration—the phase of life where one feels the urge to be set free to find their calling, a theme our graduating students can understand very well. And yet the song is really about home—the return after the adventures, when one tends to discover how much growth and learning has come from the challenges of exploration.

Text:

In the quiet misty morning,
When the moon has gone to bed;
When the sparrows stop their singing,
And the sky is clear and red

When the summer's ceased its gleaming,
When the corn is past its prime;
When adventure's lost its meaning,
I'll be homeward bound in time.

Bind me not to the pasture,
Chain me not to the plow;
Set me free to find my calling,
And I'll return to you somehow.

If you find it's me you're missing,
If you're hoping I'll return;
To your thoughts I'll soon be list'ning,
And in the road I'll stop and turn.

Then the wind will set me racing,
As my journey nears its end;
And the path I'll be retracing,
When I'm homeward bound again.

Bind me not to the pasture,
Chain me not to the plow;
Set me free to find my calling,
And I'll return to you somehow.

In the quiet misty morning,
When the moon has gone to bed;
When the sparrows stop their singing,
I'll be homeward bound again.

S P E A K E R S

Brandon Rodriguez Torrento

Brandon Rodriguez Torrento is a business major from Montgomery Village, MD. During his time at Goucher, he has been a class senator, an admissions ambassador, a resident assistant, a middle school mentor, a Futuro Latino Learning Center instructor, a member of the Student Engagement Team, and the club council administrator. He is a first-generation graduate, and he owes his success to his mom Kenia, a hardworking single mom who emigrated from El Salvador to give him and his sister greater opportunities.

Chyres Snyder

Chyres Snyder was born and raised in Maryland and has lived in Baltimore the majority of her life. Her major is history with a concentration in secondary education; she has a passion for the study of history and education. Chyres also enjoys partaking in historical research with her fellow history majors and is an active member in the community. She is a huge advocate for prison reform, which is why she currently works with the Goucher Prison Education Partnership. Finally, Chyres is a training potter and work at a pottery studio in Baltimore City. Chyres will continue her studies at Goucher in the At-risk and Diverse Leaders 4+1 M.Ed. Program. Once she obtains her teaching certification, Chyres will teach as a social studies instructor at a local Baltimore City school. To quote Chyres, “Teaching is a craft and a learned skill, but it is also a gift that I hope to give no matter my position in the world.”

Brandon Arvesen '05

Brandon Arvesen '05 is an assistant professor of writing in the Center for Contemporary and Creative Writing. He holds an M.A. in fiction from Johns Hopkins University and an M.F.A. in creative nonfiction from Goucher College. The latter makes Brandon a two-time Goucher alumnus. He is a proud member of the undergraduate class of 2005. On campus, Brandon teaches composition, creative writing, creative nonfiction, professional writing, and independent studies in memoir. Brandon has also taught composition inside the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women with the Goucher Prison Education Partnership. Prior to joining Goucher's faculty, Brandon was a Baltimore City high school teacher for 12 years.

For Brandon, teaching writing is an exploration and deconstruction of students' identities and writing habits. His goal is to help students see themselves as writers regardless of their intended majors and future careers. His students know him to be loud, enthusiastic at even the earliest of class times, and prone to tangents about his dogs.

Brandon is currently writing a reported memoir titled “The Last Horserace” about his father—a semi-retired professional gambler. He has a case study on *The New Yorker* magazine in a forthcoming *Routledge Companion to the Literary Magazine* and is the founding editor of the online literary journal *3cents Magazine*.

Named one of the top 10 most innovative colleges in the country by *U.S. News & World Report*, Goucher College prepares students for the jobs of the future.

Located just outside Baltimore, MD, Goucher enjoys a national reputation for its top-tier academics and a rich legacy of innovation, social justice, and access.

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