



HONORS CONVOCATION

FRIDAY, MAY 9, 2025

Main Theatre, Redfern Arts Center

PROGRAM

MUSICAL PRELUDE

Keene State College Brass Ensemble

Under the direction of Dr. John T. Hart Jr., Assistant Professor, Music

Instrumentalists: Killian Bailey '27, trombone; Joseph Conti '18, tuba; Colin Deres '27, tuba; William Horne '28, trumpet; Peter Labonte '25, french horn; James Lee '28, french horn; Hailey Taylor '27, euphonium; Sebastian Swartout '25, tuba

WELCOME AND CONGRATULATIONS

Melinda D. Treadwell, *President*

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Academic Awards

Karen Jennings, *Dean of Faculty Development, the Liberal Arts,
and Curricular Innovation*

Tanya Sturtz, *Dean of Accredited Programs, Graduate Studies,
and Professional Preparation*

Scholar-Athlete Awards

Martin Testo, *Director of Athletics*

CLOSING REMARKS

Dr. Nicholas Germana, *2025 Recipient of the Keene State College
Distinguished Service Award and Professor of History*

ALMA MATER

Elizabeth Borelli '25

*Alma Mater words by Katherine Day Bourne '60, Patricia Piper Bushey '59,
and Judith Palmer Marshall '59. Music by Ann Weeks Pearson '59. Arranged by
Dr. John T. Hart Jr. (2021)*

RECESSIONAL



Many of the awards being presented here today were made available through the generosity of our alumni, friends, and other donors. We thank them for their support of our high-achieving students and our academic programs.

ACADEMIC AWARDS

ROBERT S. NEUMAN ART AWARD

EYTHAN J. PERRY

Established in memory of Robert S. Neuman and in honor of his long service to Keene State College by alumni, friends, and members of the College community. Professor Neuman was an accomplished artist, educator, and founder of the College's art program.

AUBREY THOMAS '62 BIOLOGY PROFICIENCY AWARD

AJ HASKINS

This award was established in 1990 to recognize a senior who has demonstrated scholastic proficiency in biology courses, including ecology and environmental science. It was created by Dr. Aubrey S. Thomas, Jr. '62, in recognition of the excellent education provided to him by Keene Teachers College while he was a student in the secondary education math and science teaching major. Dr. Thomas served as a biology professor at Merrimack College for many years.

CHARLES E. HORNBECK EXCELLENCE IN LOGIC AWARD

PAIGE E. SMITH

This award was created to recognize excellence in logic while honoring the dedication, talents, and contributions of Professor Emeritus Charles "Chuck" Hornbeck.

EMILY N. GRIER EXCELLENCE IN PHILOSOPHY

FRIDA LABBE

This award is provided by the Philosophy Department faculty in recognition of exemplary scholarship.

ETHOS AWARD

LUCAS A. BAKER

BENJAMIN R. HARLEY

MADISON J. MOSCA

This award is provided by the Philosophy Department faculty in recognition of exemplary scholarship in ethics.

EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNICATION

ADESSA R. NOYES

The Excellence in Communication Award is given to a communication major who has demonstrated outstanding academic, research, service, or other significant achievement.

EXCELLENCE IN LITERARY STUDIES

MOSES J. P. FISHER

MEGAN E. ROBINSON

This award is provided by the English Department faculty and is awarded to the graduating senior who has achieved excellence in literary studies.

EXCELLENCE IN WRITING: FICTION AWARD

RYAN A. HUEBER

This award is provided by the English Department faculty and is awarded to the graduating senior who has achieved excellence in writing fiction.

JAN YOUNG AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN SECONDARY EDUCATION

CASSIDY N. O'CONNOR

This award is provided by the English Department faculty to honor the commitment and excellence of Professor Emerita Janet Young and is awarded to the graduating senior who has demonstrated excellence in English secondary education.

OUTSTANDING STUDENT IN MEDIEVAL & EARLY MODERN STUDIES

BRANDON VONFELDT

The Medieval & Early Modern Studies Award recognizes the accomplishment of students who have engaged in significant independent work on the subject of medieval and/or early-modern history and literature over the course of their tenure at Keene State College.

OUTSTANDING STUDENT IN WRITING AWARD

MADDISON WILLIGAR

This award is provided by the English Department faculty and is awarded to the graduating senior who has achieved excellence in writing.

OLIVE FRENETTE JENNISON AWARD

SAMUEL W. ELKINS

This endowed award was established in 2005 by Edward Jennison in memory of his mother, Olive Frenette Jennison. The award recognizes exemplary environmental studies or biology majors who display a concern for the environment.

DR. BENAQUIST FILM STUDIES AWARDS: CRITICAL STUDIES

MORGAN L. P. MASSARO

This award was established to honor Dr. Lawrence Benaquist, founder of the Keene State College Film Department, who taught at Keene State College from 1969 to 2010. This award, based on merit and achievement, recognizes a student with a major or minor in film studies, with a focus on critical film studies.

DR. BENAQUIST FILM STUDIES AWARDS: PRODUCTION

RYAN J. SEVERN

This award was established to honor Dr. Lawrence Benaquist, founder of the Keene State College Film Department, who taught at Keene State College from 1969 to 2010. This award, based on merit and achievement, recognizes a student with a major or minor in film studies, with a focus on film production.

DAVID HATCH BATTENFELD AND BARBARA BAGBY BATTENFELD MEMORIAL AWARD

KARA L. MONTAGANO

Established in 1984, this memorial award is named in honor of a distinguished humanist and teacher at Keene State College, to provide recognition to outstanding students who shows serious interest and aptitude in the humanities. Specifically, Professor Battenfeld's family expressed a preference for the award to be given to non-traditional students, or students who have returned to the college after an interruption of their studies. It was created by family and friends to honor Dr. Battenfeld, a highly respected member of the faculty, who taught English from 1965 to 1984.

PETER H. BATCHELDER SCHOLARSHIP FOR THE HUMANITIES

MAX FRISBEE

SAMANTHA B. GOLDBLATT

EVAN M. PARKER

CAMERON ROCKWELL

ELIAS A. STOWELL ALEMAN

ELLIS WHITE

This award was created by Peter Batchelder to provide recognition to Keene State College students enrolled in an arts and humanities major, with preference given to students enrolled in French, German, or philosophy majors.

DR. ROSE KUNDANIS SCHOLARSHIP IN JOURNALISM

NATHAN M. HOPE

The Dr. Rose M. Kundanis Scholarship in Journalism was established by Rose M. Kundanis, PhD upon her retirement from the Journalism Department at Keene State College in 2018. Dr. Kundanis began her career at Keene State in 1986 by establishing the College's broadcast journalism program and served as the first chair of the Journalism Department. Never relenting in her pursuit of the truth, she taught and mentored many generations of journalists, instilling in them a high technical and ethical standard of accurate, unbiased and concise reporting across the ever-changing world of technology, media and communications.

LIBERTY MUTUAL INSURANCE EXCELLENCE IN MATHEMATICS AWARD

JILLIAN A. MCDONNELL

This award was established in 2000 to recognize the graduating mathematics major with the highest grade point average in the mathematics curriculum. Liberty Mutual acknowledges the importance of mathematics to its business and to all of society, and is committed to promoting young mathematicians who have demonstrated outstanding mathematical achievement.

FRANK H. BLACKINGTON, JR. LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY AWARD

MEREDITH R. RICKARD

DANIEL W. SCANLON

This memorial award was established in 1978 to recognize an outstanding senior who has demonstrated proficiency in foreign language study. Dr. Blackington, professor of French, who also served as the Director of the Placement Bureau, was known for his exemplary teaching and leadership during his forty years of service to Keene Teachers College (1922-62). This endowed scholarship was made possible through a generous gift from his sister, Myra B. Griswald.

HOMER STAVELY EXCELLENCE IN PSYCHOLOGY AWARD

KAITLYN G. FERDINAND

The Psychology Department established this award to recognize a graduating senior who demonstrates excellence and leadership in psychology. The award is named in honor of Professor Emeritus Homer Stavely, who served on the psychology faculty from 1972 until his retirement in 2005.

ALTA LU TOWNES MEMORIAL DANCE AWARD

ALLYSON G. CRISA

This memorial award was established in 1996 to recognize an outstanding student in dance. It was created by Professor Townes' family, friends, colleagues, and students to honor Professor Townes for her remarkable career as a choreographer, scholar, and dance educator. Alta Lu was the founder of the College's dance program and taught from 1975 to 1996.

KEENE STATE COLLEGE CHEMISTRY FACULTY AWARD

SADIRA L. DUKETTE

The Keene State College Chemistry Faculty Award is given to the outstanding senior majoring in chemistry or chemistry-related dual major program who actively contributes to the continuing development of the chemistry program at Keene State College.

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CHEMISTS (AIC) AWARD

HUNTER J. HUDZIK

The AIC Student Award Program honors outstanding seniors majoring in chemistry, chemical engineering, or biochemistry. The awards are given in recognition of a demonstrated ability, leadership, and professional promise.

KEENE STATE COLLEGE CHEMISTRY SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

AURORA J. COUTO

The Chemistry Special Achievement Award is given to an outstanding senior majoring in chemistry who has demonstrated outstanding academic, research, or other significant achievement in chemistry or in a chemistry-related area.

THOMAS CROWLEY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

KAYLA A. TURNER

This memorial award was established in 1992 by family and friends of Thomas Crowley to recognize education majors who have consistently demonstrated an ability to establish a positive teaching and learning relationship in the classroom. Dr. Crowley, professor of education, taught at Keene State College from 1974 until 1992. During that time he was the Chair of the Education/Special Education Departments and the first Dean of Professional Studies.

YAROSEWICK FAMILY EDUCATION AWARD

OLIVIA R. CARTER

This award was created by Mary-Lou S. Yarosewick to recognize outstanding students who are pursuing a teaching career in elementary education. Mary-Lou served as a fourth grade classroom teacher in Downingtown, Pennsylvania for 25 years. She developed a deep respect for the Department of Education at Keene State during her husband's tenure as President (1994-2005). This award celebrates students majoring in elementary or early childhood education with high academic achievement who have displayed devotion to community service/service learning and have represented the education program with distinction and pride.

COMMUNITY SERVICE NUTRITION SCHOLARSHIP

BENJAMIN D. HARPER

Established in 2007, this scholarship is presented to an outstanding student majoring in health science, nutrition option, who has displayed a strong commitment to community service and represents the nutrition program with distinction and pride.

KALICH FAMILY OUTSTANDING NUTRITION STUDENT AWARD

AVERION M. GLYNN

This award was created by Richard and Judy Kalich out of respect for the College's nutrition program and to provide campus-wide awareness of excellence in the health sciences. The purpose of the award is to provide recognition to exceptional nutrition majors.

F. BURTON NELSON HOLOCAUST & GENOCIDE STUDIES MEMORIAL AWARD

KATE M. MCCLELLAN

This award was established in 2005 to honor an outstanding student who demonstrates a commitment to Holocaust studies. It was created by Dr. C. Paul Vincent, then Director of the Cohen Center for Holocaust Studies, and his wife Nancy as a tribute to the late F. Burton Nelson, Professor of Theology at North Park Theological Seminary in Chicago.

NONA FIENBERG LITERARY AWARD FUND

AMARRAH T. GATES

EVAN M. PARKER

LIBERTY I. WOOD

This award was established in 2005 to honor an outstanding student who demonstrates a commitment to Holocaust studies. It was created by Dr. C. Paul Vincent, then Director of the Cohen Center for Holocaust Studies, and his wife Nancy as a tribute to the late F. Burton Nelson, Professor of Theology at North Park Theological Seminary in Chicago.

THE SUSAN W. WADE HISTORY AWARD

AMANDA M. ROTIGLIANO

This award was established to honor the legacy of excellence in scholarship exemplified by Professor Emerita Susan Wade.

CAROLL LEHMAN AWARD

JULIA M. DUCHARME

The Carroll Lehman Award for Excellence in Vocal Music was created in honor of Dr. Lehman's retirement after 35 years of dedication to his students and the program.

DANNY PAUL HUNTER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

JAMIE L. MAILLOUX

This scholarship was created as a gift from Aubrey S. Thomas, Jr. '62 and his wife, Satoko N. Thomas, in memory of Danny Paul Hunter, who exhibited great potential in music, and whose life was tragically cut short at age fifteen. Consideration for this scholarship is given to full-time students who have demonstrated academic excellence and the promise of future success in the area of music.

DON BALDINI MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP

KYLE W. MARTIN

The Don Baldini Music Scholarship was created in honor of the retirement of Professor Don Baldini, artist in residence for 25 years at Keene State College. An accomplished string bass player, Mr. Baldini joined the Keene State College faculty after a prestigious career as a performer, playing with jazz greats including Frank Sinatra and spending many years on the music set of *The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson*. He founded the Keene State College orchestra, involving students and community members and enriching the campus culture. The award is to provide recognition and financial assistance to music students at Keene State College who play violin, viola, cello or bass.

JESSE F. DAVIS '37 SCHOLARSHIP

KORBEN J. ROBINSON

This scholarship was established in 1993 by Mr. and Mrs. Jesse F. Davis in gratitude for the excellent instruction they received at Keene State College. This scholarship recognizes a full-time student who has chosen music as their major course of study and has demonstrated academic excellence.

JIM AND MARY LEONARD SCHOLARSHIP IN MUSIC

FLYNN ORTIZ

As life-long music enthusiasts, Jim and Mary Leonard created this scholarship to encourage students to pursue rewarding careers in music. A voice and piano teacher for many years, Mary touched the lives of hundreds of children over many years of dedicated instruction.

MARY E. YELDA '47 SCHOLARSHIP IN MUSIC

BENJAMIN I. CARTER

As a lifelong music enthusiast and a classical pianist, this award honors and memorializes Mary E. Yelda '47 and provides recognition to a music student at Keene State College. Consideration for this scholarship is given to a full-time undergraduate student enrolled as a declared music major.

MICHAEL D. KELLER MEMORIAL AWARD

EMMA G. HUNTER

This fund was established by faculty, students, and friends of Michael D. Keller, who was Dean of Arts & Humanities and a beloved teacher. The purpose of this fund is to support undergraduate students in the visual and performing arts such as dance, drama, and music.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIP

KILLIAN A. BAILEY

This scholarship was created in 2002 with a gift from the Keene State College Youth Chorus, which was founded and directed by Dr. Gladys Johnsen, professor of music at Keene State. The award recognizes students who demonstrate exceptional abilities and promise in the area of music.

PRESSER AWARD

VICTORIA R. YOUNG

Theodore Presser (1848–1925) rose from humble beginnings to become a respected music teacher and publisher. Familiar with the many challenges facing musicians, he established The Presser Foundation which supports music performance and education through undergraduate and graduate scholar awards, operating and program support for music organizations, capital grants for music building projects, and assistance to retired music teachers. This undergraduate scholar award recognizes a student for merit and achievement in music.

JULIA MCHALE REDFERN MEMORIAL PRIZE IN PERFORMING ARTS

MAY CASSIDY

This prize was established in 1988 by former Keene State President Leo F. Redfern and his wife, Edmonde, in memory of Dr. Redfern's mother, to recognize a student majoring in the performing arts for achieving excellence. Dr. Redfern served as the College's president from 1969 to 1980.

DONNA LYNN COTY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

ADELAIDE W. SALTSMAN

This is the first time the Donna Lynn Coty Memorial Nursing Scholarship is being awarded. The fund was established in memory of Donna Coty, a respected and beloved nurse educator who devoted her professional life to improving the health and well-being of others and established the standard for nursing lab simulations, challenging students with detailed and elaborate scenarios which prepared them to respond to real-life situations and encouraging their compassion for others. She was an educator who made an indelible mark on her students and the Keene State community.

NEVER TOO LATE SCHOLARSHIP

AMANDA R. REEDY

This scholarship was established in 2016 by Travis '94 and Gretchen Hodgdon, who are both physicians. Travis attended Keene State College after a tour of duty with the U.S. Navy and time as an EMT. This award recognizes biology or nursing majors who have exhibited leadership qualities among their classmates through demonstrated action in class and labs.

SCHOLAR-ATHLETE AWARDS

SENIOR SCHOLAR-ATHLETE (MALE)

BRANDON L. COMIRE

Honoring the senior male student athlete with the highest overall GPA.

SENIOR SCHOLAR-ATHLETE (FEMALE)

CARISSA J. MILLER

Honoring the senior female student athlete with the highest overall GPA.



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