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# *Commencement*



2024 Winter Commencement  
9:00 a.m. • December 14, 2024  
Quincy University - Pepsi Arena  
Quincy, Illinois



Quincy  
University



Founded in 1860 by Franciscan friars, Quincy University is a small Catholic university emphasizing the sciences, liberal arts and the professions. QU prides itself on its personal approach to learning through small classes, a dedicated faculty, close faculty-student relationships, and a comfortable atmosphere. The University offers courses on both its 52-acre Main Campus and the 23-acre North Campus, located ten blocks away from Main Campus.

Quincy University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and confers undergraduate degrees in over fifty majors and graduate degrees in Business and Education.

The academic curriculum at Quincy University is designed to provide students with the fundamentals of a liberal arts education and prepare them for rewarding professional and personal lives. The flexible curriculum design allows for double majors or major-minor combinations and for interdisciplinary majors. The President's Honors College, independent studies, special-topics courses, study-away courses, independent research, and internships are also available to integrate practical experience and Franciscan values.

Quincy University is a diversified, coeducational university, serving approximately 1,100 undergraduate and graduate degree-seeking students from diverse social and economic backgrounds. Although the majority are from the Midwest, 38 states and U.S. territories and 30 foreign countries are represented in the student body.

# *Ceremony Participants*

## ***University Marshal***

Robert Mejer, M.F.A.  
Distinguished Professor of Art

## ***Student Flag Bearers***

Jensen Ross                      Adam Liesen

## ***Quincy University Coat of Arms***

Brother Terence Santiapillai, O.F.M., '85, M.L.I.S.  
Reference and Archives Librarian

## ***Assistant Marshals***

David Kirchhofer, Ph.D.                      Scott Luaders, Ph.D.  
Professor of Physics                      Professor of Chemistry

## ***2024 Winter Graduates***

## ***Members of the Faculty and Staff***

### ***Vice President for Mission and Ministry***

Reverend John Doctor, O.F.M., '72, M.Div.

### ***Reader***

Kenneth Oliver, Ph.D.  
Dean, School of Education & Human Services  
Professor of School & Community Counseling  
Director of the Master of Science in Education in Counseling Program

## ***Members of the Board of Trustees***

### ***Commencement Speaker***

Brian R. McGee, Ph.D.  
President, Quincy University

### ***Academic Affairs Representative***

Sarah Vordtriede-Patton, Ph.D.  
Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Dean of Graduate Programs

### ***President of Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing & Health Sciences***

Brenda Beshears, Ph.D., R.N.

### ***President of Quincy University***

Brian R. McGee, Ph.D.

## ***Acknowledgements***

Jim Lawrence, Digital Media Production Coordinator

# Commencement Program

Academic Procession .....	The 2024 Winter Graduates
Convening of the Ceremony .....	Sarah Vordtriede-Patton, Ph.D. Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs Dean of Graduate Programs
Invocation .....	Reverend John Doctor, O.F.M., '72, M.Div. Vice President for Mission and Ministry
National Anthem .....	Jonathan Stewart, DMA Associate Professor of Vocal Music Director of Choral Activities Adam Liesen, Crystal Middendorf, Sophia Zanger*
Student Welcome.....	Cheyenne DeWeese, '24
Commencement Address .....	Brian R. McGee, Ph.D. President
Bonaventure Awards .....	Sarah Vordtriede-Patton, Ph.D. Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs Dean of Graduate Programs
Conferring of Degrees.....	Brian R. McGee, Ph.D. President
Concluding Remarks.....	Brian R. McGee, Ph.D. President
University Alma Mater .....	Jonathan Stewart, DMA Associate Professor of Vocal Music Director of Choral Activities Adam Liesen, Crystal Middendorf, Sophia Zanger*
Benediction .....	Reverend John Doctor, O.F.M., '72, M.Div. Vice President for Mission and Ministry

\* QU Students

*Commencement Speaker*

# Quincy University

QUINCY, ILLINOIS

*Brian R. McGee, Ph. D.*

**D**r. Brian McGee is the 24th president of Quincy University and has been at the university since 2019. He is a Midwest native with over three decades of experience in higher education. McGee's time at QU has included the university's largest freshman class in 50 years; four of the five best fundraising years in the history of the university, including its largest fundraising year; the addition of many academic and athletic programs; and renovations for several of the university's largest buildings, including the current multimillion dollar renovation of the Quincy University North Campus.

Prior to coming to Quincy University, McGee was provost and executive vice president for academic affairs at the College of Charleston (South Carolina), where he worked for nearly fifteen years. He also served as chief of staff and senior vice president of executive administration, and as a tenured professor and chair of Charleston's Department of Communication. Before joining the College of Charleston, McGee was the chair of the School of Communication at Spalding University (Kentucky) and held faculty positions at Texas Tech University and Northeast Louisiana University.

With the support of a debate scholarship, McGee earned his bachelor's degree in speech communication from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. The debate team won three national championships while he was at the university. McGee also earned his master's degree in speech communication from Southern Illinois. He received his doctorate in communication from Ohio State University.

# Candidates for Master's Degrees

## OAKLEY SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

### Master of Business Administration

Michele Antonio Barletta .....Johannesburg, South Africa	Hunter James Douglas Haantz ..... Quincy, Illinois
Melvin D. Brock..... Belleville, Illinois	Marcel Kaspar.....Mannheim, Germany
Stephanie M. Fimmen ..... Quincy, Illinois	Linsey Faye Laughlin ..... Hannibal, Missouri
Makayla A. Franklin..... Quincy, Illinois	Brianna Rose Merkel .....Franklin, Wisconsin
	David Christopher Snider.....Tremont, Illinois

## SCHOOL OF EDUCATION & HUMAN SERVICES

### Master of Science in Education

Andrea Nicole Heiden..... Quincy, Illinois	Jeffrey Patterson ..... Quincy, Illinois
Kristen Ashli Houston..... Quincy, Illinois	Maisha Chancellor Wade ..... Quincy, Illinois

### Master of Science in Education in Counseling

Aideen Elizabeth Floretta..... St. Louis, Missouri	Janice Taylor Diane Mast..... Golden, Illinois
Peter Glenn Howell, Jr. .... Quincy, Illinois	

# Candidates for Baccalaureate Degrees

## OAKLEY SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

### Bachelor of Science

#### *Accounting*

Nathaniel J. Deters ..... Quincy, Illinois
Ethan Morgan.....Quincy, Illinois

#### *Business Administration*

Alicia Kaye Weir ..... Palmyra, Missouri
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#### *Business Analytics*

Faith Cummings.....Columbia, Missouri
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#### *Finance*

Devon Lee Parrott ..... Lincoln, Missouri
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#### *Management*

Kami Rose Conry ..... Mendon, Illinois
Gavin Higgins ..... Quincy, Illinois
Aniik Mckenzie.....Belle Glade, Florida
Austin Dale Vetter.....Omaha, Nebraska
Seth West.....Orion, Illinois
Isaac Michael Wiley.....Hannibal, Missouri



# *Candidates for Baccalaureate Degrees*

## **SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES** **Bachelor of Arts**

### ***English***

Sophia Corson .....Golden, Illinois

### ***Political Science***

Jack Joseph Urbanciz .....Manhattan, Illinois

## **SCHOOL OF EDUCATION & HUMAN SERVICES** **Bachelor of Science**

### ***Criminal Justice***

James David Beatty .....Loraine, Illinois

Caleb Michael Boucher.....Hollowayville, Illinois

### ***Early Childhood Education***

Abigail Marie Hultz..... Quincy, Illinois

Abigail Langin..... Mena, Arkansas

Dieunika Diana Leyendeckers..... Quincy, Illinois

### ***Elementary Education***

Jaelyn C. Ehrhardt..... Quincy, Illinois

Mary Renee Ruxlow ..... Quincy, Illinois

### ***Exercise Science***

Jayme Micheal Brain..... Monroe, Washington

Jordan Ernst..... Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Taylor Marie Frink ..... Quincy, Illinois

Chance Allen Newton..... Ewing, Missouri

Joseph Ortiz-Acosta .....Kerman, California

### ***Human Services***

Molly Marie Ringenberg ..... Quincy, Illinois

### ***Psychology***

Stan Makinson Cargill ..... London, England

### ***Special Education***

Kaelyn Belle Conger ..... Princeton, Kentucky

### ***Sport Management***

Kade Beaton ..... Prince Albert, Saskatchewan

Kenshay Brown ..... Chicago, Illinois

John Jennings ..... Wildwood, Missouri

## **SCHOOL OF FINE ARTS & COMMUNICATION**

### **Bachelor of Arts**

### ***Communication***

Kai A. Grover ..... Chicago, Illinois

# *Candidates for Baccalaureate Degrees*

## **SCHOOL OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY** **Bachelor of Arts**

### ***Biology***

Keegan Anthony Klingele ..... Mendon, Illinois  
Emma E. Klitzing ..... Altamont, Illinois  
Jessica Marie Ladd ..... Metairie, Louisiana

## **Bachelor of Science**

### ***Biological Sciences***

Darren Worth Whiting ..... Mesa, Arizona

## **INTERDISCIPLINARY DEGREES** **Bachelor of Arts**

### ***General Studies***

Aries Brown ..... Kansas City, Missouri  
Cheyenne DeWeese ..... Liberty, Illinois  
Stefan L. Robertson ..... Millen, Georgia

## **Bachelor of Science**

### ***Forensic Psychology***

Weston Robert Lindsey ..... Bushnell, Illinois

### ***Health Services***

Daelin Seay ..... Ursa, Illinois  
Abigail Moore Stratman ..... Quincy, Illinois

## **BLESSING-RIEMAN COLLEGE OF NURSING & HEALTH SCIENCES** **Bachelor of Science in Nursing**

Lindsey Katherine Baugh ..... Grove, Oklahoma	Stephanie Marie Seidelman ..... Barry, Illinois
Maya J. Fuhrman ..... Mendon, Illinois	Kylie Louise Stupavsky ..... Quincy, Illinois
Morgan Sue Kasparie ..... Ursa, Illinois	Elizabeth Ann Talley ..... Carthage, Illinois



# About Commencement

The word “commencement” comes to us through the French word *comencer* from the Vulgar Latin *cominitiare*, meaning to begin or to initiate. It was the word given to the initiation ceremony reserved for university teachers in medieval Europe. Quincy University holds two formal Commencement programs each year in May and December.

## Degrees

A degree is awarded for the completion of a specific program of study. The first known academic degree, the doctorate (from Latin *docere*, to teach), was granted by the University of Bologna in the mid-twelfth century. The first bachelor’s degree awarded in America was in 1642. Today, Quincy University grants bachelor’s and master’s degrees.

## Participants

**The Marshal** – The marshal, usually a senior member of the faculty, is responsible for leading the candidates for degrees to and from the ceremony.

**The Mace and Mace Bearer** – While today the mace bearer fills a purely ceremonial role, in medieval times this person functioned as a bodyguard to a dignitary taking public office or opening court. The mace and mace bearer are traditionally part of university commencement ceremonies. Quincy University’s mace was designed by the late Fr. Thomas Brown, OFM, former Chair of the Department of Art.

**The Platform Party** – The platform party is last to enter the ceremony grounds and is first to leave. It consists of the University president, trustees, honorary degree recipients and commencement speaker.

**The Faculty and Administration** – Members of the University faculty, administration and staff dress in academic regalia appropriate to their own degrees. The Quincy University president typically wears academic regalia featuring the symbols and colors of the University, including a gold medallion displaying the great seal of the University. The University’s trustees also wear academic regalia.

**The Graduates** – Students are grouped according to the disciplines in which they are to receive their degrees. Bachelor’s students wear stoles. Master’s students wear hoods bearing the colors of Quincy University and trimmed with the colors associated with the degree. Master’s hoods for business graduates are customarily trimmed in drab, while education hoods are trimmed in blue.

## Honors

Prior to the Academic Year 2020-21, students who maintained a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.4 on all Quincy University courses completed for a baccalaureate degree are eligible for graduation with honors as follows:

Summa Cum Laude .....	cumulative average 3.75-4.00
Magna Cum Laude.....	cumulative average 3.55-3.74
Cum Laude.....	cumulative average 3.40-3.54

Beginning in the Academic Year 2020-21, students who maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.60 on all Quincy University courses completed for a baccalaureate degree are eligible for graduation with honors as follows:

Summa Cum Laude .....	cumulative average 3.90-4.00
Magna Cum Laude.....	cumulative average 3.75-3.89
Cum Laude.....	cumulative average 3.60-3.74

These honor distinctions will be noted on the student’s transcript and diploma. Students receiving Summa Cum Laude honors wear the Bonaventure Medal. Students receiving Magna Cum Laude and Cum Laude honors wear gold and silver honor cords, respectively. Other honor cords are worn by graduates who are members of academic honor societies and/or the President’s Honors College.

## *Academic Procession*

Faculty members enter the ceremony space by academic rank, from lowest to highest, and by seniority within rank from least to most senior. Emeriti or retired faculty are given places of honor. The faculty is led by its marshal – a senior faculty member. At Quincy University, the marshal carries a mace as a symbol of authority.

Stylized academic costume is a notable feature of formal functions at colleges and universities throughout the world. The custom of wearing distinctive regalia for academic ceremonies goes back to the European Middle Ages. As there was an intimate relationship between early European universities and the Roman Catholic Church, and as originally all university professors were clerics, the garb adopted for scholars was similar to that of the clergy. In addition, the costume also served a practical purpose; heavy gowns, hoods and caps were essential for scholars who lived, studied and taught in unheated buildings.



Presidential Regalia

The bachelor's gown is without ornament and has long pointed sleeves and is designed to be worn closed. The master's gown has a longer but oblong sleeve that conveys the appearance of a short sleeve. The rear part of its oblong shape is square-cut while the front part has an arc cut away. The doctor's gown has bell-shaped sleeves. Like the master's gown, it may be worn open or closed. Bachelor's and master's gowns are untrimmed, while the doctor's gown usually is faced down the front with lapels of velvet and has three velvet bars on the sleeves. A fourth velvet bar is added to the sleeves for the gown of a university president.

The Oxford cap or mortarboard made of serge, broadcloth or durable paper, is worn for most degrees. A tassel hangs down on the side, and the colors of those tassels vary from one university to another.

Bachelor graduates wear a white stole bearing the Quincy University seal; Master's graduates are hooded during the ceremony. Faculty, administrators, and staff wear hoods. The greatest degree of symbolism is shown by the hood. The bachelor's hood is three feet long, and the master's hood is three-and-a-half feet long. The doctor's hood is four feet long and has wide side panels. The lining of the hood is silk in the colors of the institution conferring the degree. The hood's velvet border indicates the major field of study. Sample hood colors include arts and humanities (white), business (drab), communication (crimson), education (light blue), fine arts (brown), law (purple), medicine (green), music (pink), public administration (peacock blue), science (golden yellow), and theology (scarlet).

# Quincy University Alma Mater

Kenneth M. Capalbo, OFM

Dennis Schafer, OFM

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "To our peer - less Al - ma Ma - ter, lift your voi - ces proud and true. Let our hearts u - nite to ex - tol her in all we say and do. Hail to thee, Al - ma Ma - ter! May we your her - alds be, li - ving faith, Fran - cis - can Spi - rit, in peace and u - ni - ty." The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final double bar line at the end of the fourth staff.

To our peer - less Al - ma Ma - ter, lift your voi - ces proud and true. Let our  
hearts u - nite to ex - tol her in all we say and do.  
Hail to thee, Al - ma Ma - ter! May we your her - alds be, li - ving  
faith, Fran - cis - can Spi - rit, in peace and u - ni - ty.