

# Program

Sean M. Decatur, President, *presiding*  
H. Abbie Erler, *Faculty Marshal*  
Orchid Tierney, *Secretary of the Faculty*

## Processional

*Serenade in G Major, K. 525,*  
*Eine kleine Nachtmusik*  
*by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart*

Performed by the Knox County Symphony  
Conducted by Benjamin R. Locke,  
*Professor of Music*

## Invocation

Marc W. Bragin  
*Director, Spiritual and Religious Life;*  
*Jewish Chaplain; Director, Kenyon Hillel*

Rev. Rachel C. Kessler  
*Priest-in-Charge, Harcourt*  
*Episcopal Parish; College Chaplain*

## Welcome

Harvey F. Lodish  
*Emeritus Trustee, Kenyon College*

Sean M. Decatur  
*President of Kenyon College*

## Conferring of Honorary Degrees

Jeffrey A. Bowman  
*Provost*

## Remarks

Hannah D. Petrich  
*President of the Class of 2021*

## Baccalaureate Address

Edward M. Schortman  
*J. Kenneth Smail Professor of Anthropology*

## Announcement

Members of the Class of 2021 elected  
to membership in Beta Chapter of Ohio  
of Phi Beta Kappa

Robert S. Milnikel  
*Professor of Mathematics*

## Presentation of the Class of 2021

Robin D. Hart Ruthenbeck  
*Dean of Students*

## Conferring of the Degree of Bachelor of Arts

## Awarding of the Diplomas of the College

President Decatur

Simon P. Garcia  
*Associate Professor of Chemistry*

Orchid Tierney  
*Assistant Professor of English*

A. Chris Kennerly  
*Associate Dean of Students;*  
*Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion*

## Closing Words to the Class of 2021

President Decatur

## Benediction

Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth Jr.  
*Episcopal Bishop of Ohio*

## *Kokosing Farewell*

Please see lyrics on the following page.  
*Led by Professor Locke*

## Recessional

*Serenade in G Major, K. 525, Eine kleine Nachtmusik*

## Senior Class Committee

Hannah Danielle Petrich, *President*

Afomia Negussie Ayele

Elizabeth Ellen Barrowman

Natalie Katherine Cady

Emily Nicole Criss

Phu Cong Duong

Molly Danielle Keen

Julia Ann Mahoney

Rugin Mu

Cooper Gehrig Murray

Daniel J. Napsha

Savannah Noel Overly

Shawn Pablo Ruiz

Samuel Constantine Turecki

## Other Participants

### Marshals

H. Abbie Erler, Senior Marshal

*Associate Professor of Political Science*

John T. Giblin

*Chair of the Faculty;*

*Associate Professor of Physics*

Andrew Kerkhoff

*Associate Provost;*

*Professor of Biology*

Michelle S. Mood

*Assistant Professor of Political Science*

*and Asian Studies*

Sarah Murnen

*Samuel B. Cummings Professor of Psychology*

Dudley Thomas

*Director of Chemical Labs;*

*Environmental Health and Safety Specialist*

### Flagbearers

Erika R. Conant, *Class of 2023*

Anna Victoria Harnsberger, *Class of 2023*

## *Kokosing Farewell*

Old Kenyon, we are like Kokosing,  
Obedient to some strange spell,  
Which urges us from all reposing;  
Farewell, Old Kenyon,  
Fare thee well.

And yet we are not like Kokosing,  
Which beareth naught upon its swell  
But foam of motion's own composing;  
Farewell, Old Kenyon,  
Fare thee well.

But when we are far from Kokosing,  
We still shall hear a calling bell,  
When round us evening shades are closing;  
Farewell, Old Kenyon,  
Fare thee well.

And see a river like Kokosing,  
In meadows sweet with asphodel,  
Where mem'ry dwells dear past supposing;  
Farewell, Old Kenyon,  
Fare thee well.

## Bachelor of Arts

Kenyon's COVID-19 health and safety protocols necessitated changes to the academic calendar that rendered it impossible to have the complete list of Class of 2021 graduates finalized in time for inclusion in this program. Commemorative programs, listing all graduates along with collegiate and departmental honors, inductions into honor societies, and awards won at Honors Day 2021, will be mailed to all graduates in June.

# Honorary Degree Recipients

## Doctor of Science

Haruhiko “Harry” Itagaki

*Professor of Biology and Neuroscience*

Written by Wade Powell

*Professor of Biology*

Revered teacher, neurophysiologist, campus leader, loyal friend to students, alumni, and colleagues: Harry Itagaki, you arrived in Gambier as a new faculty member in 1990. While you and your young family made your long-term home in Columbus, you thrived here on campus, designing classes, attracting federal research grants, and helping to launch your students’ careers in science, medicine, business, and government service. In subsequent years, you grew as a generous servant leader: chair of biology, chair of the Natural Sciences Division, first chair of the newly conceived neuroscience department. Your social and professional networks are large and diverse, combining generations, intellectual interests, temperaments, and nationalities. You marshaled a collaboration of Kenyon biologists and mathematicians, transcending your core expertise in neuroscience to win National Science Foundation support to investigate metabolic scaling, one of the fundamental mysteries of anatomy and physiology. Sabbatical residencies in French laboratories led to Gambier visits by your collaborators and a years-long effort to hike the Camino de Santiago. Never hesitant to intercalate seemingly distinct groups of colleagues and friends, you organized excursions to ball games, orchards, museums, concerts, restaurants, even Danville’s annual racoon dinner, and you formed groups to train for marathons, prepare gourmet meals, brew beer, drink whiskey, and roast pigs. You now conclude your career with unflinching loyalty and generosity, leading the biology department as chair during the COVID-19 pandemic. As we celebrate your remarkable career at Kenyon, farewells are not part of the equation. We instead welcome your return to the fold of Gambier residents, who eagerly anticipate many adventures with you in the future.

## Doctor of Letters

Janet E. McAdams

*Robert P. Hubbard Professor in Poetry*

Written by Wendy Singer

*Roy T. Wortman Distinguished Professor of History*

Janet McAdams, when you arrived here in 2001, could you have imagined INK, the student organization “Indigenous Nations at Kenyon,” or the College’s land-acknowledgement statement, recognizing this place as once the homeland of Lenape, Miami, Shawnee, and Wyandotte people, or our current courses on indigenous literature and history and a farm growing three sisters crops? You planted the seeds and cultivated the interest that led to these transformations. Indeed, in your first year at Kenyon you organized a conference of “Indigenous Feminisms.” And year after year, as the Robert P. Hubbard Professor, you brought us poets whose work resonated in different voices and languages. Recently, you returned to the study of Spanish, the language you once taught in Central America, thereby reshaping some of your new writing and translations projects. Always the scholar-teacher, you built a legacy of students from your classrooms and workshops who have gone on to accomplishments in every field. These are your many incarnations — professor, editor, scholar of literature, activist, mentor, and funny, brilliant reader of poems. But your greatest gift to Kenyon — to the world — is your *poetry*. As you write in “Pulse,”

It isn’t over in the after you could be  
anything a horse a red pepper heating up  
in the sun of the garden or be

a professor emerita, and a poet in the sunshine.

## Doctor of Science

Robert A. Mauck  
*Professor of Biology*

Written by Siobhan Fennessy  
*Philip and Sheila Jordan Professor of  
Environmental Studies and Biology*

Robert — Bob — Mauck, you came to Kenyon eighteen years ago, having embraced adventure through a variety of experiences, including work as a smokejumper, parachuting in to extinguish wildland fires, founding a startup software company, and serving a year-long stint coaching American football in Italy. All of this enriched your work as teacher, scientist, mentor, colleague, and friend, and inspired scores of students to pursue their own dreams and ambitions. Your work here has been similarly varied, involving students in long-term research on a population of Leach's storm petrels on Kent Island in the Bay of Fundy, the behavior of house wrens in Ohio, and modeling the impacts of climate change on avian reproduction. You were awarded the Trustee Teaching Excellence Award in 2009, a testament to the rigor and creativity you bring to the classroom, instilling the understanding that science is not so much about knowing the answers as it is about asking insightful questions. You brought your characteristic wit and rationality to conducting the work of the College, leading search committees, chairing departments, and developing plans for Kenyon's growing computational studies program. Most of all you have been a friend, and we will miss your good humor and generosity of spirit. For this and much more, we honor you today.

## Doctor of Humane Letters

Clara Román-Odio  
*Professor of Spanish*

Written by Gregory P. Spaid  
*Professor Emeritus of Art*

Clara Román-Odio, award-winning teacher, scholar, translator, community builder, dear friend: today we celebrate your abundant accomplishments, and we take special joy in acknowledging the ways you have enriched the lives of so many in the community, here at Kenyon and beyond. In 1981, you left your beloved home, Puerto Rico, and the culture that sustains you, to continue your education in comparative literature at Purdue University and the University of North Carolina, where you earned your doctorate. Then, to our great benefit, you accepted an appointment at this college in 1992 to teach courses in Spanish language and culture. You brought to your courses an infectious energy and passion for learning that ignited your students. Your luminous presence was the embodiment of the language and cultures you taught, and you became a model for a wholly engaged life of purpose and service. You worked to initiate our Latino/a Studies Concentration and to expand the Program in Women's and Gender Studies to include transnational feminisms. You were the animating force behind Kenyon's embrace of community-engaged learning and the first faculty director of the Office for Community Partnerships, where you fostered collaborations on an inspiring array of projects to strengthen the College's ties to its neighbors. A prolific scholar, you published three books and numerous articles and presented conference addresses throughout the world. Recently, you were invited by Oxford University Press to write an annotated bibliography of the work of Octavio Paz, the subject of your first book and the poet perhaps closest to your heart. Since you arrived in this unfamiliar place as a young Latina, you have used your gifts to bring people together across difference, language, and culture to build a more welcoming and just community. For this and so much more, we honor you.

## Doctor of Humane Letters

Peter M. Rutkoff

*Professor of American Studies*

Written by David H. Lynn

*Professor of English; Editor Emeritus,*

*Kenyon Review*

Teacher, mentor, friend — that’s how generations of Kenyon students have come to know you, Peter Rutkoff. And the strong, guiding relationships you have forged with them now span decades. Over and over again, you have gone beyond thrilling classroom discussions — for you have inspired your students to make a difference in the world and to be their own best selves. But the legacy you have crafted here extends beyond your role as teacher. It has been born out of your own deepest self — a commitment to moral leadership and social justice. Again and again you have challenged the College to rise to a higher standard and be an institution guided by fairness, inclusiveness, and a moral heart. So many of the programs we hold dear, such as the Kenyon Academic Partnership, we owe to your creativity and steadfast leadership. Through this program, College faculty members have strengthened high schools throughout Ohio while attracting talented and diverse students to a small college they might otherwise never have considered. As a scholar, too, you have produced much distinguished work, including, in collaboration with your colleague Will Scott, *Fly Away: The Great African-American Migrations* and *New York Modern*. We are grateful, Peter, and we are proud to honor you today.

## Doctor of Humane Letters

Edward M. Schortman

*J. Kenneth Smail Professor of Anthropology*

Written by Marne Ausec

*Director, Center for Global Engagement*

Ed Schortman, for the last forty years you have given Kenyon students the generosity of your knowledge, patience, and wit. As a co-director of the *Proyecto Santa Barbara*, *Proyecto Valle de Naco*, and *Proyecto Valle de Caucalapa* projects, you combined your loves of theory, data, teaching, scholarship, and Honduras. These projects, many funded by national agencies, have given undergraduate students the opportunity to do graduate-level research through the Kenyon-Honduras Program. You specifically sought out those who were underrepresented in archaeology and created, with Professor Emerita Pat Urban, a ground-breaking field school held over the course of an entire semester. While not all of your students continued in archaeology, they all gained an appreciation for and understanding of the complexities of life in a small Honduran village. Central America became not a mass of faceless people but the home of very real individuals with whom students lived and learned. You taught that the past is not an abstract place but a link to the present, providing the background for current realities. You gave voice to those on the periphery and made them central, whether they were undergraduate students, Honduran *campesinos*, or the denizens of pre-Columbian settlements. Whether on a paper, at an excavation, or in an email message, your “keep up the good work” meant a great deal for those who were not always seen. *Mil gracias* for modeling what it means to be an archaeologist, a mentor, a teacher, a parent, and a friend.

## Doctor of Fine Arts

Ellen E. Sheffield

*Instructor of Art*

Written by Claudia Esslinger

*Professor of Art*

Ellen Sheffield, artist of the book, mentor of many, storyteller and wise friend, today we celebrate you and your many contributions to Kenyon College. In this place that loves literature, you have embraced the physical form that words sit upon, extending their meaning by marking and folding, rubbing and tearing, stitching and drawing. From your hands, the fonts fall onto rag papers and fishbone pleats. Images whisper and shout, onto kozo and clamshell. You embrace human stories through collaborations and solo projects widely admired in exhibitions and collections from New York to California. Prestigious artist residencies and fellowships have underscored the quality of your endeavors. You carry this work to the classroom, where your students appreciate your interdisciplinary approach, “always visual, but based in research, creative expression, and careful skill.” They admire your “delightfully kooky personality, your humor, and your refined artistic and poetic talent.” You inspire confidence, with a keen interest in them as individuals, seeing them as “fellow artists, friends, confidants, creators, and kindred souls.” Your organizational skills are legendary, from the classroom to former positions as a program director with the Olin Gallery and the *Kenyon Review* and as an arts attorney. By combining attention to detail, deep care for individuals, and a lovely sense of humor, you have captured the devotion of colleagues and students alike.

## Doctor of Humane Letters

Timothy Baker Shutt

*Professor of Humanities*

Written by Katherine Elkins

*National Endowment for the Humanities*

*Distinguished Teaching Associate Professor*

*of Comparative Literature and Humanities*

with Lisa Dowd Schott and Amy Heasley Williams

Known for your wide breadth of knowledge, your skilled teaching abilities, and your commitment to the College, you enthralled students in the classroom as well as legions of alumni and parents. Immersed fully in the fabric of the Kenyon community, you provided unwavering support of the College’s student-athletes. You coached swimming; you coached diving; you mentored students; and you wrote countless letters of recommendation, helping Kenyon become a leader in NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship Awards. A long-time swimming announcer, you earned the affectionate title of “the voice of Division III swimming and diving,” engaging the audience with your animated narrative just as you did in the classroom. As director of the College’s Integrated Program in Humane Studies, you taught alongside your colleagues as both friend and mentor in the joint pursuit of wisdom. In truth, we were all your students. We will long remember how you engaged us with Dante’s *Inferno*, with the mysteries and legends of the firmament, and with ghostly tales of the Kenyon campus. As Dante Alighieri wrote, “Do not be afraid, our fate cannot be taken from us; it is a gift.” Your brilliance as an orator and teacher was a gift to us all.

# Commencement 2021

## Doctor of Fine Arts

Gregory P. Spaid

*Professor Emeritus of Art*

Written by Ric Sheffield

*Professor of Legal Studies and Sociology*

Gregory Spaid, teacher, artist, and for the fortunate few of us, good friend: At Kenyon, you have contributed to the well-being of this place in your many roles. Arriving first on this hill as a student, your tenure would ultimately include appointments as professor, department chair, associate provost, and provost. Interdisciplinary and widely read, you have earned national recognition for your photographs, which are in collections ranging from New York City's prestigious Museum of Modern Art to the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles. You have accomplished so much for which to be proud, but to merely list these things does you a disservice. As a photographer, you brought your unique lens to extraordinary vistas wherever you ventured. As chief academic officer, you were the first to bring the sensibilities of an artist to the rigors of the bureaucratic tasks of administration. Just as you did for countless students that you mentored and inspired, you taught your colleagues to see others as well as ourselves with greater focus. You guided us to be more compassionate, empathetic community members. With that same sharp eye and attention to detail that you exhibited in a dark room, you brought a special light into the lives of many you encountered. You dared to care deeply about this college, your alma mater, and you were never hesitant to show it. That devotion made this place and all of us better. Most of us can only aspire to make a difference in the lives of others. Rest assured, you have made a difference. For these achievements and so much more, we are indebted and inspired. Thank you.

Kenyon's 2021 graduation ceremony and other senior activities will be unlike any others in the College's nearly two-hundred-year history. In order to accommodate as many traditions as possible while maintaining the cautious atmosphere mandated by the COVID-19 pandemic, Kenyon has opted to incorporate elements of the Baccalaureate Service and the Senior Sing usually held the day before graduation. This year, the Baccalaureate Address, which will replace the usual Commencement Address, will be delivered by a retiring professor at the College, Edward M. Schortman, who was chosen for the honor by the graduating seniors.

Schortman is among this year's honorary degree recipients, all of whom are retiring Kenyon faculty members who have together given more than two hundred sixty years of service to the College. All have been recognized before today — by their colleagues, their students, their disciplines, and funding agencies — for the high quality of their work. Among them are multiple recipients of Kenyon's Trustee Teaching Excellence Award, of student prizes, and of fellowships from national agencies and foundations. Several are known for their publications, of both scholarly and popular works, while others are represented in leading art collections here in the United States and abroad.

The retiree with the longest history at the College is Peter M. Rutkoff, a professor of American studies who joined Kenyon's history faculty in 1971. A graduate of St. Lawrence University with a doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania, he began his career as a scholar of European history before turning his attention to American studies as one of the founders of the College's program in that field. His interest in African-American history and issues led to his creation, with faculty colleague William B. Scott, of "North by South," a course on the Great Migration that was a cornerstone of the program and an impetus for their book on the topic. In addition to several other histories, Rutkoff has also published a number of volumes of fiction and memoir.

Rutkoff is well known for his role in the creation and growth of the Kenyon Academic Partnership, which links the College and its faculty members with thirty Ohio secondary schools, some of them with majority enrollments of underserved students. He is a fifty-year resident of Gambier and the father of two children.



The second longest record of service belongs to Professor of Art Gregory P. Spaid, who joined the art faculty forty-two years ago. A 1969 graduate of Kenyon, he went on to earn an M.F.A. from Indiana University and teach at Kentucky's Berea College before returning to his alma mater after a decade. He is a specialist in photography with additional expertise in drawing, mixed media, and art education. His own work, which has been featured in numerous group and solo exhibitions, is represented in the collections of the J. Paul Getty Museum, the Museum of Modern Art, and the Smithsonian Institution's Museum of American Art. He has also published books of his photography, including *Grace: Photographs of Rural America* and *On Nantucket*.

Spaid served for nine years in Kenyon's academic administration, six of them as the College's provost. He is married to Susan Spaid, who retired after many years as Kenyon's coordinator of Common Hour and Faculty Lectureship events. He and his wife, who have lived in Gambier throughout his time on the College's faculty, are the parents of two children.

Ed Schortman, the J. Kenneth Smail Professor of Anthropology, came to Kenyon in 1981. A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Delaware, he earned his Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. His areas of expertise range from the archaeology of Mesoamerica to politics, trade, and the history of theory. He has taken pride in the full-fledged participation by his students in the archaeological research he has conducted in the Naco Valley of Honduras. Since 2006, he has been the incumbent of the Smail Chair, named for a former colleague in the anthropology department. He shared the chair with his wife, Professor Emerita Patricia A. Urban, with whom he founded and ran the Kenyon-Honduras Program beginning in 1985, until her retirement from the College in 2016.

Longtime residents of Gambier, Schortman and Urban are the parents of a Kenyon alumnus, Hayden N. Schortman '08.

Timothy Baker Shutt, who earned his bachelor's degree at Yale University and his doctorate from the University of Virginia, joined the College's English faculty in 1986 and later became affiliated with the Integrated Program in Humane Studies. He is a specialist in medieval and Renaissance literature who has won fame both on and off campus for his lectures on Dante. A winner of the 1993 Trustee

Award for Distinguished Teaching and the 1991 William A. Long Memorial Award for his support of the athletic program, he is a five-time winner of the Senior Cup, awarded by vote of the graduating class to the faculty member who has contributed most to the College and the community.

Shutt also served several terms as chair and secretary of the faculty. Born in nearby Newark, Ohio, and raised in Bay City, Michigan, he has long lived in the countryside just north of Gambier with his wife, Leslie Shutt.

Professor of Biology and Neuroscience Haruhiko "Harry" Itagaki came to Kenyon in 1990 with a B.S. from Yale University and a Ph.D. from Duke University after completing postdoctoral fellowships at the University of South Alabama and the University of Arizona. The current chair of the Department of Biology, he has broad interests in neurobiology, the biological bases of behavior, and in the physiology and anatomy underlying the scaling of organisms. He has received research funding from the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health, among others, and recognition from the College including the Trustee Award for Distinguished Teaching, the Robert J. Tomsich Science Award, and the Faculty Distinguished Service Award.

Itagaki and his wife, pediatrician Lisa A. Gichner, recently relocated to Gambier from Worthington, Ohio — the town where Kenyon was founded in 1824. Itagaki and Gichner are the parents of two daughters.

Clara Román-Odio, a native of Puerto Rico who joined the College's faculty in 1992, now serves as professor of Spanish, Latin American literature, and Latino/a studies. A graduate of the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez with an M.A. from Purdue University and a Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, she has areas of expertise that include Latin America, Latino/a cultural productions, border studies, and transnational feminisms. Her scholarship in transnational feminisms and oral history examines how women of color helped to shape and transform the spaces where society produces its laws and social norms. A recipient of the Trustee Teaching Excellence Award, she is the author of several books and numerous scholarly publications as well as a digital exhibition, "Latinos in Rural America," recently included in the Smithsonian Institution's Traveling Exhibition Series.

Román-Odio and her husband, retired scientist Mauricio Odio, are the parents of two Kenyon alumnae, Camila Odio '11 and Catalina Odio '18.

Robert A. Mauck, professor of biology, first taught at the College as a visiting faculty member before joining the biology department on a permanent basis in 2002. A graduate of Ohio Wesleyan University with a doctorate from Ohio State University and a background that features employment as a coach, reporter, and smokejumper, he has developed areas of expertise that include animal behavior, physiological ecology, and science writing. His research has been funded by the Andrew Mellon Foundation, the National Science Foundation, and Kenyon's own Labalme, Newton Chun, and Faculty Development grants. He is also a recipient of the College's Trustee Teaching Excellence Award.

Mauck and his wife, Susan A. Mauck, a research scientist at Ohio State University, are residents of Gambier and parents of a Kenyon alumnus, C. Ross Mauck '15. They are also the parents of Katie Mauck, an assistant professor of chemistry at the College.

Janet McAdams came to Kenyon's English department in 2003 as the inaugural Robert P. Hubbard Professor of Poetry. A B.A. and M.F.A. graduate of the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa with a Ph.D. from Emory University, she teaches courses in creative writing and Indigenous American literature. Her books include *The Island of Lost Luggage*, a winner of the American Book Award, *Feral*, *Red Weather*, and a chapbook of prose poems, *Seven Boxes for the*

*Country After*. With Geary Hobson and Kathryn Walkiewicz, she edited the anthology *The People Who Stayed: Southeastern Indian Writing after Removal*.

Also a contributor to the *Kenyon Review* and a former resident director of the Kenyon-Exeter Program, McAdams is a longtime resident of Gambier.

While Ellen Sheffield, instructor of art, may not have the longest teaching record at Kenyon, she does lay claim to the longest tenure as a citizen of Knox County. Raised in Mount Vernon, Ohio, she graduated from its high school before earning bachelor's degrees from Case Western Reserve University and the Cleveland Institute of Art and a law degree from Ohio State University. Her specialty as a visual artist is the exploration of the relationships between language, materiality, and time through the creation of artist's books. Widely exhibited, and collected by institutions ranging from Yale University's Beinecke Library to the College of Wooster and Denison University, her works, along with her teaching, demonstrate a mastery of drawing and alternative printmaking processes.

Sheffield's positions at Kenyon before joining the studio-art faculty included coordinator and director of the Olin Art Gallery in the College's former library and programs director for the *Kenyon Review*. A mother of two, she and her husband, Professor of Legal Studies and Sociology Ric Sheffield, also a Mount Vernon native, are longtime residents of Gambier.

# A History of Kenyon Commencements

Kenyon's founder, Bishop Philander Chase, conducted the first Commencement exercises of the College on September 9, 1829, in a large, bare, basement room in the just-completed center section of Old Kenyon, the first permanent building. There were six graduates: G. Dennison, J.B. Chase, A. Blake, S. Chase, P.C. Freeman, and B.B. Sayre.

As soon as Rosse Chapel (later known as Rosse Hall) was completed (about 1840), the ceremonies were moved there; Rosse was the location for all graduation exercises for more than a century. It was in Rosse Chapel on August 3, 1842, that the class valedictorian, Rutherford B. Hayes, a future president of the United States, delivered a Commencement address entitled "College Life."

Until the 1890s, it was customary for each graduating senior to deliver an oration, sometimes in English but often in Latin, Greek, or Hebrew. Since the number of graduates fluctuated from four in 1879 to eighteen in more prosperous years, the programs could sometimes be completed in an afternoon but often took all day, with an hour-and-a-half break for lunch. By 1894, activities connected with Commencement had assumed such large proportions that events started on Sunday and culminated with the graduation exercises on Thursday.

During World War II, the civilian enrollment at Kenyon shrank to about forty students, but President Gordon Keith Chalmers was determined that every Kenyon graduate should still have his moment of glory. So, in December 1943, formal Commencement ceremonies, with the faculty in full academic regalia, were held for two graduates.

The tremendous influx of students coming to Kenyon after World War II under the provisions of the G.I. Bill made graduating classes so large that Rosse Hall could no longer accommodate Commencement audiences. The first outdoor ceremony was held in 1950, on the lawn between two of the College's oldest academic buildings, Ascension Hall and Samuel Mather Science Hall. The rainsite, at first Wertheimer Fieldhouse, became the Ernst Center in 1982. The fieldhouse was demolished in 2003 to make way for the Kenyon Athletic Center; the Ernst Center was razed in 2009. Since 2006, the Kenyon Athletic Center (now the Lowry Center) has normally served as the rainsite.

Every seventeen years, the move outdoors results in exposure to countless millions of uninvited and unwanted visitors — the cicadas that appear on Gambier Hill in late May and early June. The 1965 Commencement was especially plagued by the harmless insects, which dropped from the trees and piled up in great heaps around the tree trunks. The cicadas returned in 1999, but the onslaught, with its eerie shrilling, didn't peak until after Commencement. They were back in 2016, in large numbers, but their impact on the indoor event was minimal.

Kenyon adheres to its classical tradition of conducting the formal part of the Commencement exercises in Latin and printing diplomas in Latin. But it no longer translates the names of the graduates; up until the late 1960s, William became Guliemus and Thomas was transcribed as Thomam.

Thomas B. Greenslade '31 H'76 (1910-90)  
*College Archivist, 1967-90*

Updated by Thomas P. Stamp '73  
*College Historian, 2008-*

# Academic Costume and Procession

Academic gowns represent a tradition handed down from the universities of the Middle Ages. These institutions were founded by the Church; the students, being clerics, were obliged to wear the prescribed gowns at all times. Round caps later became square mortarboards. The hood, originally a cowl attached to the gown, seems to have had three uses: it could be slipped over the head for warmth, worn as a shoulder cape, or, when hanging from the shoulder, used as a bag in which alms could be collected. It is believed that when large wigs were worn the cape part of the hood was cut open in front and a narrow neckband inserted. The entire garment, cape and hood proper, was allowed to fall back, producing approximately the effect we see today.

In America, the hood is the most outstanding feature. Much of the American academic costume is derived from regalia worn at British universities. The usual color for academic gowns in the United States is black. The bachelor's gown is worn closed, while the master's and doctor's may be worn open or closed. The shape of the sleeve is the distinguishing mark of the gowns: bachelor, long pointed sleeve; master, oblong, square cut in back with an arc cut away in front; doctor, bell shaped.

Caps are black, as are the tassels for the bachelor of arts (B.A. or A.B.), bachelor of science (B.S. or Sc.B.), and bachelor of engineering (B.E.) degrees. Tassels for the doctor of philosophy (Ph.D.) degree are gold, while those for other graduate

and professional degrees may be of the color corresponding to the trimming on the hoods. Special caps — befeater caps — are worn at Kenyon by the trustees. This type of cap is also used by some European universities.

Many European universities have distinctive caps and gowns that are different from those commonly used in this country. Some of the gowns are of bright colors, some are embellished with fur. A few of these may be noted in the academic procession today.

The shape and size of the hood marks the college degree of the wearer. The hoods are lined with the color of the institution from which the wearer received his or her degree. The trimming of the collar of the hood is the color that designates the degree: liberal arts, white; fine arts and architecture, brown; science, golden yellow; music, pink; divinity, scarlet; law, purple; engineering, orange; philosophy, blue; medicine, green; public health, salmon; forestry, russet; nursing, apricot. With more than fifteen hundred colleges and universities in the United States, various arrangements of the primary colors are used.

Honorary-degree hoods are distinguished as follows: master of arts (M.A.), white; doctor of humane letters (L.H.D.) and doctor of letters (Litt.D.), white; doctor of science (Sc.D.), golden yellow; doctor of divinity (D.D.), scarlet; doctor of laws (LL.D.), purple; doctor of fine arts (D.F.A.), brown.