

The background of the poster is a dark blue-tinted photograph of a brick wall with a stone pillar. In the upper left, a white building with a cupola and a weather vane is visible behind some trees. The text is overlaid in white.

FRANKLIN & MARSHALL
COLLEGE

2025 CONVOCATION

A WELCOME TO THE CLASS OF 2029
& TRANSFER STUDENTS

THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 2025

FRANKLIN & MARSHALL
COLLEGE

FOUNDED 1787



CONVOCATION

CLASS OF 2029 AND TRANSFER STUDENTS

Thursday, Aug. 21, 2025

ORDER of Events

PROCESSIONAL	<p>"The Class of 2029 Enters" <i>(Premiere, written for this event)</i> BRIAN NORCROSS <i>Senior Director of Instrumental Music and Conducting Studies, Teaching Professor</i></p>
COLLEGE HOUSE ROLL CALL & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	<p>BARBARA NIMERSHEIM <i>College Marshal and Professor of Mathematics</i></p>
INVOCATION	<p>REV. JOSEPH E. PRITCHETT <i>Director of Faith and Meaning</i></p>
PRESENTATION <i>OF THE CLASS OF 2029</i>	<p>M. LESLIE DAVIDSON <i>Vice President for Enrollment Management</i></p>
ACADEMIC CHARGE <i>FOR THE CLASS OF 2029</i>	<p>SUNITA KRAMER '92 <i>Provost and Dean of the Faculty</i></p>
CONVOCATION ADDRESS	<p>SCOTT LERNER <i>Arthur and Katherine Shadek Professor of Humanities and French and Italian, Department Chair of Italian Studies & Hebrew</i> <i>2023 Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching recipient</i></p>
RECOGNITION OF THE F&M COLLEGE HOUSES	<p>DREW STELLJES <i>Vice President of Student Affairs</i></p> <p>ALEXIS Q. CASTOR <i>Brooks College House Don</i></p> <p>CHRISTINE P. PIRO <i>Bonchek College House Don</i></p> <p>ASHLEY RONDINI <i>Ware College House Don</i></p>
STUDENT WELCOME	<p>CAROLINE RIEGEL '26 <i>Student Body and Diplomatic Congress President</i></p>
PRESIDENT'S REMARKS	<p>ANDREW RICH <i>President, Franklin & Marshall College</i></p>
THE ALMA MATER	<p>FRANKLIE HALVEY '28 tenor KIRAN BEDI '26 conductor</p>
RECESSIONAL	<p>"Dream for the Stars" <i>(Premiere, written for this event)</i> BRIAN NORCROSS</p>

[Click to view the closed captioning of today's ceremony on your mobile device](#)

Convocation **MARSHALS** & *Flag Bearers*

College Marshal

Barbara Nimersheim,
Professor of Mathematics

Faculty Marshals

Daniel R. Ardia, *Associate
Dean of the Faculty and
Charles A. Dana Professor of
Biology*

Jon Stone, *Associate Dean of
the Faculty, Professor of
Russian*

Student Marshals

Robert Mikus, *Dean of
Students*

Jacyln Klinger, *Executive
Director of Residence Life*

Ceremony Marshals

Jessica Haile, *Assistant Dean
for International Student
Services*

Stephanie McConnell,
*Executive Director of the
Center for Career and
Professional Development*

Jennifer Nell, *Director of
Student Success*

Matthew Thomas, *Director of
Leadership Education*

F&M Flag Bearers

Caroline Riegel '26, *Student
Body and Diplomatic
Congress President*, and
Catherine Welch '26, *Senior
Class President*



Convocation

Convocation, from the Latin convocare—"to call or come together"—is a longstanding tradition at U.S. colleges and universities, marking the start of the academic year. At Franklin & Marshall College, our all-College Convocation honors this tradition by bringing the F&M community together to welcome the incoming class as they embark on their academic journey.

The F&M College Mace

The F&M College Mace was designed by Professor Edmund Whiting, chair of the Department of Art at Franklin & Marshall College, in 1967–68 and created by J.E. Brubaker Pattern Works, formerly of Landisville, PA. The mace is a replica of the four-spired tower of Old Main, one of the oldest buildings on campus. Inside the mace is a piece of an oak beam taken from the North Queen Street building where Franklin College established its quarters in 1788, less than a year after its founding. Since it was presented to the College by the Alumni Association at Franklin & Marshall's 189th Commencement on Sunday, June 11, 1967, the mace has become an official emblem of the College at ceremonial events.

Academic Dress Regalia

The caps, gowns, and hoods worn in the academic procession represent a tradition that dates to the early days of the oldest universities. The apparel worn today by faculty, trustees, and administrators resembles the attire of the day when the major European universities were founded. Indeed, gowns and hoods probably were necessary for warmth in the unheated buildings frequented by medieval scholars.

The mortarboard cap was first used in sixteenth-century England and may have been patterned after the quadrangular shape of the Oxford campus. At Franklin & Marshall, graduates wear black mortarboard tassels, except holders of the doctoral degree, who may wear gold tassels. The hood usually provides the best clue to a scholar's discipline. The color of the velvet bands on each hood and robe represents a scholar's field of learning. The official colors of the school awarding the degree always are shown in the lining of the hood and sometimes by the distinctive color of the gown.

The colors for academic fields, established by the American Council on Education, include: white for Arts, Letters, and Humanities; scarlet for Theology or Divinity; drab for Business Administration, Commerce, and Accountancy; copper for Economics; light blue for Education; brown for Fine Arts; purple for Law; lemon for Library Science; green for Medicine; silver Gray for Oratory; dark blue for Philosophy; sage green for Physical Education; gold-yellow for Science; citron for Social Science; and pink for Music.

Alumni Association Convocation Window

The stained glass window was commissioned by the Alumni Association in 1998 and illustrates Franklin & Marshall's commitment to enlightened intellectual inquiry. The window depicts our namesakes, Benjamin Franklin and John Marshall, and our motto, Lux et Lex. Lux is the Latin word for light and symbolizes the search for knowledge and truth. Lex means law and represents the establishment of a permanent, rational order of society. The Convocation Window is a symbol of each student's responsibility to seek knowledge from other members of our community and to use that knowledge to create a better world.

COLLEGE HOUSES

In 2005, Franklin & Marshall College's faculty and trustees endorsed the establishment of the faculty-led College House residential system to enrich the academic and social opportunities for our students. With the creation of the College Houses, Franklin & Marshall College began the most significant and exciting change in student residential life in 40 years. College Houses are intended to provide a comfortable crossroads for faculty, students, distinguished visitors and alumni/ae under the leadership of faculty dons. The Houses and their Commons constitute a "third space" on campus, neither classroom nor residential hall, that reflects the interconnected elements essential for a liberal arts education.

The College Houses provide facilities and support for faculty to create programs and events that enrich their students' intellectual experiences and bring students and faculty together outside of formal classroom activities. House governments provide training in leadership and management rarely available to undergraduates. Students manage their own social programming budgets and are fully responsible for planning, organizing and funding a wide range of social activities within the Houses. Today, at Convocation, students will sit with members of their College Houses to emphasize the important role these residential communities will play in their educational experiences.



BROOKS COLLEGE HOUSE

Alexis Q. Castor | *Shirley Watkins Steinman Professor of Classics, Department Chair of Classics, Brooks College House Don*

Jake Murray | *Brooks College House Director*



WARE COLLEGE HOUSE

Ashley Rondini | *Assistant Professor of Sociology, Ware College House Don*

McKenzie DuBois | *Ware College House Director*



BONCHEK COLLEGE HOUSE

Christine P. Piro | *Professor of Chemistry, Bonchek College House Don*

Tommy Nevin | *Bonchek College House Director*

Convocation ENSEMBLE

CONDUCTOR | Brian Norcross

*Senior Director of Instrumental
Music and Conducting Studies, Teaching Professor*

THE ALMA MATER

Frankie Halvey '28 | tenor

Kiran Bedi '26 | conductor

Violin

Amaya DiBiasi '28
Tulia Huettnier-Boring '27
Briar Knight '28
Charlotte Thieke '26 +
Travis Thompson '26
Tyler Wheeler '28

Viola

Ava Dolphin '28

Cello

Jocelyn Chow '26 *
Piper Lidstad '27
Seongjae Park '28

String Bass

Roz Presby '79

Flute

Izzy Diaz '28
Sayf Mullick '28
Faith Rose Walton '26 *

Oboe

Alex Olener '26

Clarinet

Rob Schaubach

Bass Clarinet

Ethan Grabowski '26

Bassoon

Cece D'Amore
Katie Pippenger '26

Tenor Saxophone

Maya Brigandi '26

Baritone Saxophone

Josh Freedman '28
Jamie Taylor '28 *

Trumpet

Adam Chen '26
Greg Kapteina '28
Andrew Wise '27 *

Horn

Anne Nye

Euphonium

Rebekah Disney '27

Tuba

Yannick Brock '28

Percussion

Ryan Bond '26
Steven Fenton '28

Glockenspiel

Annabelle Smith '27

Timpani

Jonah Fisher '26

Piano

Eleanor Metz '27

The performers are listed in alphabetical order. This emphasizes the important contributions of each musician. In this way they are all principal players.

+ denotes concertmaster
* denotes section leader

THE ALMA MATER

*We hail thee, Alma Mater,
Our gallant White and Blue
With one accord,
In deed and word,
As sons and daughters true;
We honor thy traditions
And those who've gone before
In weal and woe, to thee shall flow
Our hearts forever more.
We love each hall and building
Thy campus stretching long,
Thy tower and bell,
With solemn knell
That call to work and song;
We'll give the world our service,
But ever like a gem,
Our hearts shall hold a love untold
For dear old F and M.*

FRANKLIN & MARSHALL
COLLEGE

CLASS OF 2029

LUX

ET

LEX

Ball

AUG. 24 @ 4:30 P.M.