

**SPRING**



THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

*May 6th / 10 AM / Joe Paul Student Theater*

**KENTE**

**GRADUATION**

**2023**



## ORDER OF CEREMONY

PROCESSIONAL

*Spiritual Voices*

INVOCATION

*Amanda Lawrence*

LIFT EVERY VOICE

*Jai Bolton*

OPENING REMARKS

*Trey Meadows*

WELCOME ADDRESS

*Jaborius Ball*

MESSAGE

*Dr. Cheryl Jenkins*

STOLE MEANING

*Analisa Cheairs*

DISTRIBUTION OF  
STOLES

*IME Staff*

RECESSIONAL

*Spiritual Voices*

RECEPTION

# Invocation by Amanda Lawrence



# Lift Every Voice



Lift every voice and sing, till earth and Heaven ring,  
Ring with the harmonies of liberty;  
Let our rejoicing rise, high as the listening skies,  
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.  
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,  
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;  
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,  
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,  
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;  
Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet,  
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?  
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,  
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered;  
Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last  
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,  
Thou Who hast brought us thus far on the way;  
Thou Who hast by Thy might, led us into the light,  
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.  
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee.  
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee.  
Shadowed beneath Thy hand, may we forever stand,  
True to our God, true to our native land.

# Opening Remarks by Trey Meadows



# Welcome Address by Jaborius Ball





# Message From Dr. Cheryl Jenkins



Dr. Cheryl D. Jenkins is an Associate Professor in the School of Communication and Associate Director of the Center for Black Studies at the University of Southern Mississippi. She holds a doctorate in mass communication from Howard University and a master's in mass communication and a bachelor's in journalism from the University of Southern Mississippi. Before entering academia, she worked as a newspaper reporter for the Hattiesburg American and as a media buyer for a political consulting firm on Capitol Hill. She was a 2004 Mellon Fellow for the Salzburg (Austria) Seminar session on Ethics in News Reporting and Editing and received the National Association of Black Journalists Region VII Cheryl Smith Leadership Award in 2004. She has served as advisor to an award-winning collegiate newspaper and to student chapters of the National Association of Black Journalists. She is co-author and co-editor of the text *Race and Media: Critical Perspectives*, which focuses on journalistic representations of race and on the coverage of diverse communities (or lack thereof) in mainstream media. She has also presented research on popular culture issues, minority representation in the media and cultural diversity at national and regional conferences that focus on mass and human communication. Cheryl is a native of Laurel, MS and a Spring 1992 initiate of the Iota Kappa Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

# Stole Meaning



**The Kente stole honors your achievement and helps tell your story.**

**The stole bears three symbols:**

- **The Chief's throne represents power, prestige, and authority. This throne is placed on your stole to symbolize your role as a leader. It also symbolizes your future success as you pursue new endeavors and greatness.**
- **The Key to Success symbolizes education and knowledge, which opens doors. This key is placed on the stole to signify your future success as you pursue new endeavors and greatness.**
- **The third symbol is the Diamond of Wealth, which represents riches. It is a symbol of what we hope the future holds for you.**
- **The colors black and gold were chosen to represent our beloved university.**





# College of Arts & Sciences



*Osaretin Agho*  
*Justin Arnold*  
*Julian Banks*  
*Janiya Burse*  
*Emmanuel Carney*  
*Katelyn Cartwright*  
*Lauryn Clayborn*  
*Myrtis Cook*  
*Hayley Craddieth*  
*Kenny Ellzey*  
*Sheilisa Evans*  
*Khytavia Fleming*  
*Brea Ford*  
*Garret Grove*  
*Madisone Hatten*  
*Panelopie Hawkins*  
*DeAsia Holmes*  
*Keldric Homes*  
*Tawanna Jefferson*

*Madison Johnson*  
*Taylor Jordan*  
*Hanif Lawrence*  
*Austin Lindsey*  
*Erin Logan*  
*Altari McBride*  
*Trey Meadows*  
*Janninah Miller*  
*Chasity Moore*  
*Jada Palmer*  
*Elexis Ollie*  
*Delesia Smith*  
*Taia Taylor*  
*Cynphoni Thompson*  
*Angel Walker*  
*Sydney-Simone Wynn*

# **College of Business & Economic Development**



***Karen Brown***

***Indya Caldwell***

***Candace Jackson***

***Amanda Lawrence***

***Mia Trapp***

# College of Education & Human Sciences



***Madison Baskin***

***Gavan Beckum***

***Katelynn Booker***

***Carrington Brown***

***MonYonna Braxton***

***Jovonne Carr***

***Zada Davis***

***Janea Dominguez***

***Shalinda Fields***

***Lauren Gates***

***Makayla Hay***

***Jaree Holmes***

***Klaria Holmes***

***Micaela Johnson***

***Michayla Johnson***

***Cory Lewis***

***Danyell Lockhart***

***Shaniah Long***

***Aaliyah McClendon***

***Denisha McNair***

***Lauren Milam***

***Vickie Reed***

***Danielle Shaw***

***Taneisha Stevens***

***Karrial Trotter***

***Asia Wilson***

***Jasmine Wallace***

# College of Nursing & Health Professions



*Anyah Barnes*

*Zharia Jackson*

*Diamond Bradley*

*Destiny Johnson*

*Aris Buckhalter*

*Daprecia Johnson-Moore*

*Brittney Clayborn*

*Destiny Martin*

*Danette Dixon*

*Jonicias McIntyre*

*Anna Francis*

*Kourtney Tate*

*Morgan Goins*

*Aji Touray*

*Zyaria Richardson*



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**It takes a village. The students were asked to tell us about one person either faculty, staff, fellow student, or loved one, who they think contributed the most to their success at Southern Miss. Here is what they had to say.**

# Graduate Remarks

## ANGEL WALKER

*Thank you to my family, the Luckyday Scholars Program, and all others who have supported me at USM.*

## BRITTNEY CLAYBORN

*Above all I thank God! I also thank my family who have always been my strongest support. Also, my friends who have been my home away from home and kept me sane. I hope to always be the support they were for me.*

## AALIYAH MCGLENDON

*Dear Mommy and Daddy,*

*I wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt thanks for your support throughout my academic journey. Your encouragement, guidance, and belief in me have been invaluable, and I am so grateful for everything you have done.*

*As I stand here today, on the cusp of a new chapter in my life, I feel a sense of appreciation for the people who have helped me get here. Your kindness and wisdom have made a difference, and I am truly blessed to have had you in my corner.*

*Thank you for your unwavering faith in me, and for constantly pushing me to be my best. I couldn't have done it without you, and I will always be grateful for your presence.*

*Your First Born,  
Aaliyah*

## AJI TOURAY

*I want to thank God and my parents for being through my whole journey. Thank you, Southern Miss, for the memories.*

## ANYAH BARNES

*To my parents who have supported me throughout my undergraduate time here at Southern Miss. these past four years have flown by, and I could not have done it without your constant support and prayers. Thank you for always believing in me, teaching me to strive high, and to always keep God at the center of everything I do even the small things. I can't wait to make you all even more proud, love you all dearly!*

## ARIS BUCKHALTER

*I would like to thank my mom and dad the most for supporting me and believing in me. They have been my biggest cheerleaders during my entire life! I would also like to thank my sister, grandma, and aunt for supporting me as well. Thank you all so much for all that you have done!*

## ASIA WILSON

*THANK YOU MOM & DAD*



# Graduate Remarks

## AUSTIN LINDSEY

*I'm thankful to have made it this far with the assistance of many friends, family, and advisors, who allowed me to dream big and never deterred my vision. In addition, I promise not to let those people down who poured their love and kindness into me when they didn't have to. Last but not least, I credit God for allowing me to make it this far because none of this would have been possible without him. Once again, I am thankful and blessed to travel the road less traveled.*

## CARMEN BRAXTON

*Thanks to my family for always being my biggest supporters!*

## CARRINGTON BROWN

*Thank you, mama, daddy, and Karsyn, for everything over the years. Without y'all & extended family, I would not be where I am today. Your continued love & support does not go unnoticed. ♥  
Love you forever & after that!*

## CHASITY MOORE

*I would like to say thank you to God, my mom and dad who are my biggest support system and anyone else I encountered during my college career*

## CORY LEWIS

*Thank you to my Family and Friends for the support throughout this journey. Love you all.*

## DANETTE DIXON

*Shoutout to my Mom for being my biggest supporter and guiding me through. It has been the toughest years of my life.*

*Shoutout to Paulina for staying true and making it through the program with me. Congratulations to you too!*

*Shout out to My Dad, my guardian angel, who helped me choose the right paths. May you rest assured that I will change lives for the better.*

*Shoutout to Ron, Bri, The Terrell & Manuel Family*

*Shoutout to All nursing students!*

*Thank you, God! Without the Bible, I would have been lost.*

## DAPRECIA JOHNSON-MOORE

*Shout out to God for guiding me through this stop along my journey, when I've felt alone, he has always made his presence known. Shout out to myself for pushing through & not giving up .XO*

# Graduate Remarks

## DESTINY JOHNSON

*I would like to say thank you to my mama for believing in me when I didn't believe in myself. I would also like to say Thank you to God for allowing me to make it this far, without him, I am nothing. Lastly, I would like to say thank you to everyone, friends and family who have been on this journey with me.*

## DESTINY MARTIN

*I would like to say thank you to my mom for being there for and supporting me through these last 4 years. I would also like to say thank you to my friends, who are also graduating beside me. We did it!*

## DIAMOND BRADLEY

*Thank you to the three most important women in my life. Nanny, Keke, & Barbra, you have always supported me and created a resilient young woman. Thank you to my dear friend Latarres for being more than an exceptional friend.*

## ELEXIS OLLIE

*I am very grateful for my mom and dad, who have been my biggest support system throughout my collegiate career. Thank you to my sister for always being a call away and a listening ear.*

## ERIN LOGAN

*Thank you to IME for this event, and to all of the family and friends that have gotten me to this point! I love you, and I'm so grateful!*

## GAVEN BECKUM

*God, Parents, Family, and Friends*

## HAYLEY CRADDIETH

**Thank you to my family and friends for your continuous support.**

# Graduate Remarks

## **INDYA CALDWELL**

**I would like to thank my family and friends for supporting me and pushing me no matter what. I've come to understand over the years how important it is to have a support system and I'm beyond grateful to have y'all.**

## **JADA PALMER**

***I want to give a special shoutout to God for always being faithful.***

## **JANEA DOMINGUEZ**

***To my family,  
Thank you all for your love and support throughout this entire journey!  
To my baby girl Skylar,  
Thank you for being my motivation to keep going! The only way is UP from here!***

***I love y'all!***

## **JANIYA BURSE**

***I would love to thank my family and everyone who has been with me on this journey. I want to thank USM for these amazing 4 years.***

## **JANNINAH MILLER**

***I want to thank my mom and grandparents for not missing a beat. I wouldn't be here without y'all, I love y'all so much.***

## **JAREE HOLMES**

***I would like to thank God, my family, and my friends.***

## **JASMINE WALLACE**

***First and foremost, I would like to thank my Parents for supporting me throughout this whole journey. Secondly, I would like to Thank and Congratulate my Co-hart. We have waited for this moment and now the time has finally arrived.***

## **JOVONNE CARR**

***I would like to thank my mother, father, grandmother, family, and friends for their continued support during my academic endeavors. It would not have been possible without you all cheering me on and believing in me. Thank you so much and I love you all. All things are possible with God!***

# Graduate Remarks

## **JULIAN BANKS**

*Shoutout to my family, God, NPHC, my LBS, MOX, and The Nu Eta Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.*

## **JUSTIN ARNOLD**

*I want to thank everyone who has ever poured into me and pushed me to do better. Especially my mom who did it all by herself...love you!*

## **KAREN BROWN**

*This road has not been easy, but I thank God, my husband, Steve, daughters, Keana and Kearani, my mother Catherine, my siblings and cousins for keeping me on the straight and narrow! I could not have done it without your support. I love you.*

## **KATELYN CARTWRIGHT**

*I would like thank mom and dad for always encouraging me and instilling within me, values that I strive to uphold each and every day.*

## **KATELYNN BOOKER**

*Without my higher power and my support system, these past 2 years would've gotten the best of me. Special thanks to Auntie Candace, Nanna, LD, and GiGi!! #BLACKGIRLMAGIC*

## **KENNY ELIZEY**

*Thank you to my parents, Karen & Terry Bates, and little brother Devin. I couldn't have done it without yall!*

## **KLARIA HOLMES**

*Thank you to my parents, family & everyone in my village who has helped me succeed thus far.*

# Graduate Remarks

## LAUREN MILAM

*I want to say thank you to God first for even allowing me to be able to be in the position I am in today. I also want to thank my mom, she's been with me every step of the way, in any decision I make, and I wouldn't be here without her. I love you ma!!!*

## MADISON BASKIN

*Thank you, family, for your unwavering support and growing me into the woman I am today! Love you bunches!!!*

## KAREN BROWN

*This road has not been easy, but I thank God, my husband, Steve, daughters, Keana and Kearani, my mother Catherine, my siblings and cousins for keeping me on the straight and narrow! I could not have done it without your support. I love you.*

## KATELYN CARTWRIGHT

*I would like thank mom and dad for always encouraging me and instilling within me, values that I strive to uphold each and every day.*

## MADISONE HATTEN

*I would like to thank God for allowing this opportunity to be apart of his will. I would like to thank my mother and siblings for being my why. Last but not least my family and friends for being so supportive.*

## MIA TRAPP

*First, I'd like to thank my parents for creating a safe place I could always come back to. Secondly, I'd like to thank my girlfriend for always reminding me that I'm capable of anything I set my mind to. Lastly, I'd like to thank Zeta for providing some of the best relationships I've ever had.*

## MICAELA JOHNSON

*I would like to thank my aunt & uncle, Lisa & Ricky Jones. They have been my support through majority of my life. I would like to thank my social work cohort and my professors. Major shoutout to Rachal Lahasky and Melody Davisson for always pushing me to be greater.*

# Graduate Remarks

## **MICHAYLA JOHNSON**

*I would like to first thank God for allowing me to get this far. I also will like to thank my family and friends for always pushing me and being that support system when I feel like I can't. Special shout out to my mother, without you I wouldn't be the woman I am today.*

## **MADISON BASKIN**

*Thank you, family, for your unwavering support and growing me into the woman I am today! Love you bunches!!!*

## **MORGAN GOINS**

*I would like thank my line sisters for having my back and keeping my laughing. I would also like to thank my mother and father for supporting this entire time. Thank you for all that you have done.*

## **MYRTIS COOK**

*I would first give honor to God who is the head of my life. I would like thank my family and friends for their support especially my children. I always said it is my desire for each of you to cross the graduation stage at least two times. But today, I stand before as an example of what I requested of you all. With God, all things are possible. This is for you, guys! I love you!*

## **SHALINDA FIELDS**

*Thank you so much family for the love and support you have given me over the years since being in college without you I don't think I wouldn't have made it this far with my family supporting me on this journey. Love y'all for everything y'all did for me, and I hope that I made y'all proud while being a golden eagle.*

## **SHEILISA EVANS**

*Thank you to the teachers and students who have pushed me along this journey. A special thanks to family and friends who have been amazingly supportive throughout the four years here. You guys are inspiring, and I am forever grateful to have you all on my team!*

## **SYDNEY-SIMONE WYNN**

*I would like to thank my parents for continuously supporting me throughout my collegiate career - emotionally, physically and financially and my friends who have become family. SMTTT!*



# Graduate Remarks

## TAIA TAYLOR

*I wanted to thank my family and friends for being with me through my educational journey. You helped me to push through and prosper to graduation! "Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and He will establish your plans." Proverbs 16:3*

## TANEISHA STEVENS

*I would like to thank my mom for always believing in me and making sure that I never gave up and my fiancé for always being there to provide encouraging words when I needed it*

## TAWANNA JEFFERSON

I give all the glory and honor to God for allowing me to make it this far in my collegiate journey. I want to thank myself for pushing through, and to give honor to my mother, grandfather, family, friends, and thee Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. for helping make Southern Miss my home. Before I leave my USM family, I leave you all with the question,  
"If you knew you could not fail, how big would you dream?"

## TAYLOR CARTER

*Thank you for my family for always showing up and being supportive!! I love y'all*

## TAYLOR JORDAN

*I want to first thank God, without him nothing is possible. I want to thank my family and loved ones for their constant motivation and support on this journey. And I want to thank myself for not giving up whenever I feel like I couldn't achieve this moment.*

## TREY MEADOWS

*Mom (Toni Martin)  
Dad (James Martin)  
Brother (Tahj Meadows)*

## VICKIE REED

*Thank you to my wonderful family for the love, support, time, and space to earn a doctoral degree.  
Michael, Mason, Maddie, & Macey Phil 1:3*

## ZADA DAVIS

*Thank you to my mother for being my biggest supporter!*