

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

KENTE GRADUATION CEREMONY

FALL CLASS OF 2022

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3RD, 2022

TCC BALLROOM 2/3

10 AM



SOUTHERN MISS.

INCLUSION AND
MULTICULTURAL
ENGAGEMENT



Welcome - Jaborius Ball

Black National Anthem- Cymone Davis

Introduction of Guest Speaker- Aysia Wade

Keynote Speaker- Dr. Jason K.Wallace, Ph.D

Symbolic Meanings- Jenna Dittman

Presentation of Graduates - IME Staff

Closing Remarks - Jaborius Ball

LIFT EVERY VOICE

Cymon Davis



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.

GRADUATE ADDRESS

Aysia Wade



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. Jason K. Wallace, Ph.D



Dr. Jason K. Wallace (he/him) serves as the Nina Bell Suggs Endowed professor of higher education in the School of Education at The University of Southern Mississippi. Originally from Fort Worth, Texas, Dr. Wallace is a proud first-generation college graduate, an accomplishment he owes primarily to his mother. Dr. Wallace's scholarship uses critical theories to examine the ways power and oppression shape the experiences of minoritized stakeholders in higher education, with emphasis on the experiences of Black and first-generation students, staff, and faculty. Dr. Wallace holds a Ph.D. in Education with an emphasis in College Student Affairs Administration and a graduate certificate in Interdisciplinary Qualitative Studies from the University of Georgia. He received an M.Ed. in Educational Administration and a B.S. in Advertising and Public Relations from Texas Christian University.

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 and Sciences

Brankeciara Ard

Jailyn Bolton

Shamaria Brooks

Adrienne Cockerham

Kayla Gardner

Mardarius Harper

Panelopie Hawkins

Demariyun Haymon

Randrika Henderson

Kianta Jackson

James Jefferson III

Shakirah Jones

SaCara Martin

Altari McBride

Samantha Mcdonald

Almond Mckinley

Mauricio McNeil

Tanya McPherson

Jennifer Melson

Amber Scott

Tyler Strong

April Wheeler





College of Business and Economic Development

**Ashleigh Bell
Karen Brown
Mikala Burns
Cecily Dingle
Gizzatta Johnson
Dejarius Macklin
Katrina May
Darrion Miller
Nyasha Mitchell
Lekeisha Smith
Aysia Wade
Amanda Washam
Brandon Williams
Kymari Young**






College of Education and Human Sciences

**Shaniah Black
DeMari Blakely
Robia Bobbett
Lamiaya Bolden
Kionna Boose
Tyra Briggs
Di'Mon Brown
Ja'Nice Carter
Brittany Clayton
Nakaiya Daniels
Jessica Darby
Tierney Dumas
Destiny Fells
Alanna Gaines
Icicess Green
Na'Tosha Harris
Shannon Howze**

**Summer Jackson
Catherine Jermay
Mary Jones
Kenessra Jones
Bernicia Jordan
Whitney Lang
Marie Lee
Jennifer Lesure
Caliyah Moore
Jasmine Plummer
Chrissell Rhone
Aysha Robertson
Eboni Smith
Jasmyne Steele
Lorilynn Thigpen
Elonna Washington
Ruby Williams
Angela Johnson**





College of Nursing and Health Professions

**Raivyn Alford
Jayda Bridges
Miracle Clemons
StarKeira Coley
Jamesia Crossley
Erin Davis
Michaela Dorsey
Akiah Fagan
Erica Hearn
Keisha Jenkins
Symyra Johnson
Niyah Jones**

**NyKyria Keys
Jada Lenard
Amran Lockett
Vershundra McWilliams
Brittney Patrick
Lakia Phillips
Briana Pulliam
Jermyron Rice
Debora Roberson
Christin Smith
Kaylin Tate
Brianna Taylor
Keanna Terry
Mya Tribune
April White
Khaliah Yelder-Anderson
Keleisha Young**





College Undeclared

Brandi Adams
Demecia Edmond
Taylor Forrest
Stefan Gwyn
Randrika Hines
Symyra Johnson
Amran Luckett
Alijah Peggen
Lakia Phillips



Acknowledgments



Brandi Adams	Brandi Adams
Raivyn Alford	Mom
Ashleigh Bell	My parents, Lisa and Don Jackson
Shaniah Black	My nieces and nephew
DeMari Blakely	DeVona Blakely
Robia Bobbett	Dr. Chelsea Holden
Kionna Boose	Keisha Boose
Jayda Bridges	My Village
Dimon Brown	Valerie Brown, Marie Brown, and Tara Brown
Karen Brown	My spouse Steven, my mom Catherine, and daughters Kearani, Keana
Adrienne Cockerham	My mother Bonnie Courtney
Jamesia Crossley	My mother
Erin Davis	My parents
Cecily Dingle	Richelle Dingle (Mother)
Demecia Edmond	My group of friends from my social work cohort.
Akiah Fagan	Classmates
Destiny Fells	Destiny Fells
Alanna Gaines	My family
Kayla Gardner	Remonia Christmas-Gardner

Acknowledgments



Icicess Green

Stefan Gwyn

NaTosha Harris

Demariyun Haymon

Erica Hearn

Randrika Henderson

Shannon Howze

James Jefferson

Keisha Jenkins

Catherine Jermamy

Shakira Jones

Kenessra Jones

Bernicia Jordan

Nykyria Keys

Marie Lee

Amran Lockett

SaCara Martin

Katrina May

Samantha McDonald

Almond Mckinley

Zachory Labrot

Leslie Smith

My mother, Debra

My Parents Demetric and Mareo
Haymon

My family, friends, and
classmates.

Mark Henderson

My Son, Gavin

Valencia Walls

Dr. LittleJohn

Vanae R. Jermamy

My family

Brenda Jones

Connie Keys (my grandmother)

Traniocy Robertson and
Catherine Jones

Kerry Hudson (family)

Sam white

Charlene Hilliard

Curtis Matherne

Camilla Rose

Arthur Mckinley

Acknowledgments



Tanya McPherson

Ashley McPherson

Vershundra McWilliams

Vienolor and Louis McWilliams

Caliyah Moore

My mom Danielle Wilson

Brittney Patrick

Sammie Kennedy

Lakia Phillips

Lakisha & Travis

Chrissell Rhone

Dimitria Lynch-Rhone

Debora Roberson

Lois Roberson (My Mom)

Lakeisha Smith

My Kids(Blake, Chloe, Kameron)

Eboni Smith

Family/Brother

Jasmyne Stell

Shanda and Jason Steele

Kaylin Tate

Jerry Purvis

Lorilynn Thigpen

My parents . Alanitra and Joe Thigpen

Mya Tribune

My mother

Elonna Washington

My mother

April Wheeler

Michael Wheeler - Spouse

April White

Willena Booth (Mother)

Brandon Williams

Beniria White

Ruby Williams

Wayne Williams- Spouse

Monnae Willis

Mom-Latoya Sykes

Kymari Young

Termetrius Hollins

Keleisha Young

Wanda D. Oliver



SOUTHERN MISS.

**INCLUSION AND
MULTICULTURAL
ENGAGEMENT**

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.

Words From Graduates



Brandi Adams

To: Brandi Adams

My support system was very low, and this past year I've learned to trust myself and depend on myself more than anyone else with the help of God.

Raivyn Alford

To: Mom

She pushed me every step of the way. When I felt like I could not do it, she helped me to see that I could. She got me to the point where I would not even doubt on my abilities which only bettered my outcomes in achieving what I have.

Ashleigh Bell

To: My parents, Lisa and Don Jackson

There are not enough words to express how grateful I am to them for everything they have done for me. They guided me through many phone calls and texts throughout my college years. I can not thank them enough for granting me the opportunity to study at college.

Shaniah Black

To: My nieces and nephew

My nephew and niece's love and support make me feel like I can accomplish anything. I know they are watching everything I do, which pushes me to be the best I can be.

DeMari Blakely

To: DeVona Blakely

I contribute my success to my older sister because she is a perfect example of never giving up and encourages me to keep going. She has been through emotionally hard times, but she doesn't let that stop her. Instead she keeps going, with her head held high and that crazy laugh that could go on for hours. I love you sissy pooh!

Robia Bobbett

To: Dr. Chelsea Holden

I contribute my success to Dr. Holden because she is the director of our program who has been interactive with us and giving us all the tools that we need to have to be a great counselor. I am now employed as a school counselor at Perkinston Elementary School in Wiggins, Mississippi thanks to my wonderful director of my program.

Kionna Boose

To: Keisha Boose

My mother has been with me every step of the way. I wouldn't be here right now if not for the emotional support and push she gave me to strive to better myself.

Words From Graduates



Jayda Bridges

To: My Village

First and foremost, I would like to thank the God for guiding me, keeping me in his arms throughout my collegiate career, and opening different doors when others have been shut. Secondly, I would like to thank my family and friends for supporting me, encouraging me, and being there when I needed them the most. Lastly, I want to thank myself for not giving up when I've been rejected, having faith when I was discouraged, and staying true to myself and my dreams. Special shoutout to my parents, Bernadine Jones and Rogers Bridges, as well as all of my involvement on campus that has pieced together the beautiful young woman I am today. To God be the glory!

Karen Brown

To: My spouse Steven, my mom Catherine, and daughters Kearani, Keana
The unwavering support that they provided allowed me to continue my education .

Dimon Brown

To: Valerie Brown, Marie Brown, and Tara Brown

Without these three women I wouldn't be where I am today. They pushed me to become the woman that I am today and I'm forever thankful for them for never giving up on me!

Adrienne Cockerham

To: My mother Bonnie Courtney

My mother has been very supportive financially, spiritually and emotionally. Also, my mother has been supportive of me in my academic journey.

Jamesia Crossley

To: My mother

Words will never express how much I appreciate my mother, the long calls of my crying and her being a listening ear. She helped me overcome many obstacles that I faced during my time at USM. The hardest obstacle I faced was losing my father. My mother was there every step of the way, and I will forever love her for that. My mother made sure I finished my 5 years at USM, she made sure I was well taken care of. Without her I do not think I would have finished these years of college to receive my hard-earned degree. My mother deserves the world and one day I will be giving that to her.

Erin Davis

To: My parents

I know that my parents are not here at Southern Miss, but they contributed the most success. They were the people I called on when I was sad, crying, ready to quit, or just needed someone to talk to after a long day. I could not have finished without them.

Cecily Dingle

To: Richelle Dingle (Mother)

My mother has been there for each phone call with tears. She has also been there with love and support for each failed and passed test. I love you.

Demecia Edmond

To: My group of friends from my social work cohort.

I contribute my success to them because ever since I started the program they have been by my side. Regardless of the time I needed them, they were there.

Words From Graduates



Akiah Fagan

To: Classmates We worked as a team!

Destiny Fells

To: Destiny Fells I'd like to thank me for believing in me. Even when I gave up on me, I willed myself back onto the right track. Thank me for all that I've been through, and I'm proud of where I'm going.

Alanna Gaines

To: My family I contribute my success to my family because through my journey at USM they have always encouraged me to become a better version of myself and without that support I would not know where I would be.

Kayla Gardner

To: Remonia Christmas-Gardner I am beyond grateful for the time, energy, love, and money my mother contributed to ensure I was successful during my time at Southern Miss. It is merely impossible to expound on how grateful I am, but she knows I love her more than one can understand.

Iceless Green

To: Zachory Labrot Helping me find my passion with psychology. I have acquired the knowledge and networking skills to land my first job in my career as a registered behavioral technician. If I wasn't for me being in his applied behavioral analysis class, I might have still been lost with figuring out how to use my degree in the real world.

Stefan Gwyn

To: Leslie Smith The person who made me who I am and wanted nothing more than to see me succeed.

NaTosha Harris

To: My mother, Debra Thank you for your motivation, love, and support. I also thank you for letting me spread my wings and go to college out of state. I know that wasn't easy for you, but you did it for me and I love you even more for that.

NaTosha Harris

To: My mother, Debra Thank you for your motivation, love, and support. I also thank you for letting me spread my wings and go to college out of state. I know that wasn't easy for you, but you did it for me and I love you even more for that.

Demariyun Haymon

To: My Parents Demetric and Mareo Haymon I have received so much from my parents, and without their help and God, I'm positive I never would have come this far. I can never repay them for what they have given me. I appreciate all of your understanding, encouragement, and support along this journey. I'll keep doing my best to honor you.

Words From Graduates



Erica Hearn

To: My family, friends, and
classmates.
Thanking
to you for caring and understanding when even I failed to do so! I am so
lucky to have a village surrounding me that cares for me as deeply as you all
do! Thank you <3

Shannon Howze

To: My Son, Gavin
My son is truly my motivation, my
strength, and my world. I strive to inspire him yet he inspires me to be the
best version of myself. Through all of my accomplishments, I want Gavin to
see that no matter the obstacles in life everything you want to achieve is
possible.

James Jefferson

To: Valencia Walls
Ms. V has been a constant factor in
my development as student, leader and overall person during my time here at
USM. Ever since my freshman year when I first met her, she was kind and full
of knowledge that she was willing to pour into others. I'm grateful for her
guidance and advice over the years.

Keisha Jenkins

To: Dr. Cynthia LittleJohn
Dr. LittleJohn patiently listened
to my challenges, understood them and motivated me to push harder in life. It
is because of those times that I have become responsible, professional,
committed and hopefully, successful, in my career. All the times spent in her
class and all the things she taught me helped set a clear direction for me to
follow.

**Catherine
Jermany**

To: Vanae R. Jermany
I would like to extend my deepest
gratitude to my mother, Vanae R. Jermany. I cannot begin to express my thanks
for all the sacrifices she has made as a single parent to support my
educational endeavors and academic success. I love you beyond words.

Kenessra Jones

To: Brenda Jones
I contribute my success to my
mother because she has been the example of hard working all of my life. As a single mother,
she does all she can
for her children and grandchildren and she prays for the well-being of our
family. She has loved and supported me
through continuing my education and I am not only completing this journey but
sharing this moment with her.

Shakirah Jones

To: My family
Throughout my time at Southern, you
guys made sure I had the best college experience. You was always there to
motivate me when I didn't believe in myself sometimes.

Words From Graduates



Bernicia Jordan

To: Connie Keys (my grandmother)
My grandma is the strongest person
I know! She has made sure that I stayed ahead of the curve with everything in
school. I will forever be grateful for her !!!

NyKyria Keys

To: Traniocy Robertson and
Catherine Jones
My mother and grandmother has
always pushed me to be my best. Throughout my college experience I could
always call on them if I needed help. They have motivated me to push forward
no matter what obstacle I may encounter. The most important thing they taught
me was to put GOD first in everything I do.

Marie Lee

To: Kerry Hudson (family)
This person motivates me to be
better and pushes me to thrive in life. He encourages me that I have the ability
to meet every goal I set.

Amran Luckett

To: Sam White
I contributed my success to Uncle
Sam because of the ability to help me solve issues within work and on my
online class. He is very patient and help me give people second chances.

SaCara Martin

To: Charlene Hilliard
She always kept me going. She never
let me settle for less. She was there to listen to me cry. She stuck through
everything for all years.

Katrina May

To: Curtis Matherne
Mr.Matherne has been my professor
for 3 consecutive semesters. At the beginning on my classes with him, I was
timid, reserved, and uncomfortable speaking up in class even if I knew the
answer. He has provided the steps, mentorship, and the push that I needed to
express myself in class, take leadership in group settings and succeed in
professional settings.

Words From Graduates



Samantha McDonald

To: Camilla Rose
Has been solid and my rock. Got me
all the way together when I was slacking. Motivated me when I needed it the
most.

Almond Mckinley

To: Arthur Mckinley
Arthur Mckinley is my father. When
things got rough, he was there. When I got frustrated, he was there. When I
felt like my world was crumbling down, he was there. He kept me steady and
made sure I knew he had my back.

Tanya McPherson

To: Ashley McPherson
I attribute my success to the
constant support of my children especially my daughter Ashley. From studying
together, proof reading my papers, and shopping for school supplies, Ashley
was my constant cheerleader.

**Vershundra
McWilliams**

To: Vienolor and Louis McWilliams
I want to thank you both for always
supporting me and never giving up on me. I appreciate all your sacrifices
throughout the years.

Caliyah Moore

To: My mom Danielle Wilson
Your always encouraged me to
continue going when the road got hard. You always told me to trust in God. It
is your encouraging words the reason I am here now.

Brittney Patrick

To: Sammie Kennedy
She has been there through
everything.

Lakia Phillips

To: Lakisha & Travis
My parents always reminded me "To accomplish great things, we must
not only act, but also dream, not only plan, but also believe." I thank
them for their support and I thank them for pushing me to be a better person
each and everyday.

Words From Graduates



Chrissell Rhone

To: Dimitria Lynch-Rhone
My wife encouraged and uplifted me
on my hardest days. She pushed and motivated me when I was discouraged and
wanted to give up.

Debora Roberson

To: Lois Roberson (My Mom)
She has been with me every step of
the way through college. She motivates me and lets me know that I can do
anything I put my mind to.

Lakeisha Smith

To: My Kids(Blake, Chloe, Kameron)
My children are the reason I get up
with a smile and motivation every single morning to continue to move forward
because I want them to live a better life than I ever had imagined. Even with
life's adversities, I want to show them that as long as you never give up or
quit, you will reach your goals. Although, they may see me as supermom, I
look at them as my heroes that rescued me and pushed me to become the better
version of myself.

Eboni Smith

To: Family/Brother
My brother contributed to my
success here at Southern Miss by attending here and graduating twice. I
transferred here in 2018 and my parents contributed to my success by being a
great support system.

Jasmyne Steele

To: Shanda and Jason Steele
I contribute some of my success to
my parents because they pushed and motivated me to push forward, not just in
college but with life in general.

Kaylin Tate

To: Jerry Purvis
Mr. Purvis believed in me from day
one. He has the kindest heart and goes above and beyond for his students. He
has always pushed me to be the best I can be and even throughout my
internship, he was there.

Lorilynn Thigpen

To: My parents
Alanitra and Joe Thigpen
I show my gratitude to my parents
because without them, I wouldn't be here. As well they've supported me
throughout my entire college experience.

Words From Graduates



Mya Tribune

To: My mother
My mom not only supported my education financially but was also there any time I was stressed or unsure if I could finish. When school made me cry, she was the one that encouraged me to keep pushing forward.

Elonna Washington

To: My mother
She has always pushed me to be a hard worker in life. She has taught me to always finish what I started even when times get hard. My mother has entrusted me to do good in school and she always knew that she never had to worry about my grades because I would worry enough for the both of us.

April Wheeler

To: Michael Wheeler - Spouse
I contribute my success to my husband, Michael Wheeler. Michael is the reason that I returned to college to finish what I started years ago. His prayers, encouragement, and support has made this journey very smooth. Not only did he believe that I could do it, but he also wanted better for me, and his belief is what pushed me to achieve my success.

Ruby Williams

To: Wayne Williams- Spouse
The endless support and encouragement that has been shown from beginning too now is priceless. I wholeheartedly appreciate you, my love.

Brandon Williams

To: Beniria White
I contribute my success to Beniria, my fiancée because she has been my biggest encourager since I submitted my application.

Kymari Young

To: Termetrius Hollins
My mother has always pushed me to soar to new heights and to focus on the future. She's my greatest mentor, and I will forever be grateful for everything she did to get me to this point in life.

Keleisha Young

To: Wanda D. Oliver
I attribute this success to my God-mother Wanda D. Oliver. So many moments when I wish you were here, and although you won't ever be physically by my side you've always been in my heart through every challenge and obstacle I've faced this far. Rest up, my dear