



CHARLESTON SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

COMMENCEMENT

MAY 7, 2026

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Prelude

Soohyun Yun, piano

***Processional**

“Pomp and Circumstance” by Edward Elgar
Soohyun Yun, piano

Opening Remarks

Michael S. Wilder
Provost

***Invocation**

Ben Phillips
Dean of College of Christian Studies

Welcome

Dean Murphy
Board of Trustees Chair

***Hymn**

“Lead On, O King Eternal”
Andrew Lucius, tenor
Soohyun Yun, piano

Special Music

“Only a Holy God,” CityAlight
Charis Eavenson, soprano
Andrew Lucius, guitar

Introduction of Speaker

B. Keith Faulkner
President

Commencement Address

Gregory R. Koepp II
Capt. USN; Commanding Officer, NSA Charleston

COMMENCEMENT

CONTINUED

Presentation of Candidates for Degrees

Michael S. Wilder
Provost

Conferring of Degrees

B. Keith Faulkner
President

Commissioning

Adam Glover
Lt. Col.,USAF: Commander, AFROTC Detachment 772

***Alma Mater**

Andrew Lucius, tenor
Soohyun Yun, piano

Hail to thee, O Charleston Southern:
Fount of God's great truth and knowledge.
We thy children all sing praises ever more to thee.
Source of inspiration, beacon of salvation;
Honor, Courage, Faith, and Justice
These thou hast taught us day by day.
Hail to thee, O Charleston Southern,
Alma Mater Hail!

***Prayer of Consecration and Benediction**

Michael S. Wilder
Provost

****Recessional**

"March," Franz Schubert
Soohyun Yun, piano

* The audience will please stand.

** The audience will remain in their places until the faculty and graduates have recessed.
Please join us for a light reception in The Caf following the ceremony.



CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

DOCTORAL DEGREES

Doctor of Education

Tiffany Coleman

Assessing Law Enforcement Officers' Perspective on Human Trafficking In The LowCountry of South Carolina.

Katherine Hubble

Differential Effects of Paternal Death and Abandonment on Child Well-being: A Descriptive Analysis of the Future of Families and Child

Stephen Kohn

The Experience of African American First-time Homebuyers: A Qualitative Study of Security and Equity

Stephanie Lesmeister

Navigating Inclusion: Caregiver Experiences with Barriers and Supports in Elementary Education for Students with Down Syndrome

Charles Littles

Perceptions of Aerospace Manufacturing Quality Standards: A Qualitative Study

Leonard Niebo

Operational AI Adoption in Higher Education: Insights from South Carolina Chief Information Officers (CIOs)

Naquita Page-Dawson

The Impact of Mentoring Relationships on the Career Advancement of Black Women Administrators in K-12 Secondary Schools

Jennifer Paulhamus

The Impact of AI-Generated Feedback on High School Students' Behavioral Engagement in Writing Tasks

Joshua Shawkey[^]

Beyond AI Tools: Professors Addressing Ethical AI Detection in Faith-Based Academia

Bayleah Cooper

Dual Enrollment Outcomes in Private and Public Schools in the Edisto River Region

MASTER'S DEGREES

College of Education

John Anderson
Shawn Bowman
Jamal Edmonson

Micah Gilpatric
Qon Murphy
Gracey Nolan

Terrance Smith
Emma Villaescusa

Hans A. Nielsen College of Business

Kathryn Bright
Nicholas Bartalo
Timothy Behling
Jonathan Bloom[^]
Phillip Blöse[^]
Ketty Cano Salvador
Michael Causey
Mylene Corrales Bastidas
Sedona Dancu
Jake Dopson

Rhonda Erichsen
Rachael Georgas
Carolina Gomez Lopera
Hayden Goode
Christopher Hampton
Alyssa Heinrich
Jacob Hopkins[^]
Ashley Jones
Eiby Baez
Amila Jusufbegovic

Trelle Loucks
Tamara Mcduffie
Elijah Melendez[^]
Harinath Mookaparambil^{^†}
Maeve O'Toole
Dominic Pagano
Jacob Shadders
Mae Taul
Maria Veronee-Cohen
Zoey Zeron

CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

College of Adult and Professional Studies

Antrelquie Alston
Sean Attridge
Marc Baron
Tamara Beard
Joseph Fox
Jesse Hafemeister

Kimberly Hernandez
Tylan Hollis
Jasmine King
Joshua Kristowski
Sa-Myra Lewis
Shaquanda Mack

Ja'Kobe North
Keegan Parask^
Tinorah Phillips
Cade Rowland

College of Science and Mathematics

Brandon Philiponeau
Kielyn Straw
Jeffrey Wedding

College of Health Sciences

Ainsley Brantner
Caitlin Roberts
Jana Butler
Maxine Cuva
Ashley Escobar
Hunter Hall
Terri Hopkins
Eboni Johnson

Bernabe Juarez
Caroline Malpass
Justin May
Chandler McCann
Sophie Moorman
Elizabeth Nutter
Andrea Pezick
Kaitlin Phillips

Alexandra Rabinowitch
Drue Schleif
Holden Smith
Shelby Tamashiro
Victoria Whaley
Chloe Wilds
Sara Wood

College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Freah Camila Cinense‡
Matthew Downing
Nyrobi Levaine

Tiffany Munn
Taylor Murray
Landon Nutt

John Shaver
Felicia Weaver

^ U.S. Military Veteran
‡ Commissioning

ACADEMIC REGALIA AND CEREMONY

The history of academic dress dates back to the 14th century. Their use was presumably for warmth in the unheated building during European winters. Now, they are reminders of the years of work required to earn academic degrees. The color and pageantry of the academic regalia prevalent in the United States today was fixed by convention in 1895 and revised in 1932, 1959, and 1986.

There are three basic academic gowns. The gown for bachelor degrees has pointed sleeves and is worn closed. The gown for master degrees has oblong sleeves with slit openings at the elbow and the base hanging down. It is worn with a hood, and the color indicates the discipline of the degree. The doctoral gown is tastefully ornamented with colored velvet down the front and three chevrons on the bell-shaped sleeves. Only presidential gowns have a fourth chevron on the sleeves. Both the master's and doctor's hoods have a velvet border, with the doctoral hood being the more elaborate. A gold tassel on the doctor's cap replaces the black* on the master's and bachelor's caps.

The colors lining the hoods worn by the faculty are those of the institution granting the degree and the velvet border indicates the branch of knowledge in which the degree was acquired. The colors for the subjects are:

Arts and Humanities *White*

Business *Drab*

Economics *Copper*

Education *Light Blue*

Fine Arts *Brown*

Law *Purple*

Library Science *Lemon*

Medicine *Green*

Music *Pink*

Nursing *Apricot*

Philosophy *Dark Blue*

Physical Education *Sage Green*

Physical Therapy *Teal*

Science *Golden Yellow*

Theology *Scarlet*

GRADUATION BIBLE

In addition to their diplomas, each graduate will be presented with a CSU Graduation Bible provided through the Frank J. and Brenda B. Johnson Bible Endowment and the Lockman Foundation.

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

Gregory R. Koepp II

Capt. USN; Commanding Officer, NSA Charleston

Captain Koepp, a native of Picayune, Mississippi, graduated from Louisiana State University with a Bachelor's degree in Physics and commissioned through the Nuclear Propulsion Officer Candidate program after completing Officer Candidate School in Pensacola Florida. He earned a Master's degree in Engineering Management from Old Dominion University and completed Joint Professional Military Education through Air Command and Staff College and National Defense University.

Captain Koepp's sea tours include Division Officer assignments aboard USS TENNESSEE (SSBN 734), Navigation and Operations Department Head aboard USS VIRGINIA (SSN 774), and Executive Officer aboard USS BUFFALO (SSN 715). He assumed command of USS COLORADO (SSN 788) in November 2017 where his team completed sea trials, commissioning, and Post Shakedown Availability to deliver the ship to the Fleet and prepare for the ship's maiden deployment.

Ashore, Captain Koepp served on staff assignments that include Nuclear Training and Accessories Officer at Commander Navy Recruiting Command, Submarine Squadron Four Operations Officer, site Executive Officer at Nuclear Power Training Unit Charleston South Carolina, and he served as Submarine Squadron Four Deputy Commander. Most recently, he was the Commanding Officer at Naval Nuclear Power Training Unit Charleston.

Captain Koepp is privileged to have been on teams completing strategic Deterrent Patrols, overseas deployments in the SIXTH and SEVENTH Fleet Areas of Responsibility, major drydock maintenance availabilities and new construction. The units he served on received multiple unit awards, commendations, and Battle Efficiency E awards. He is authorized to wear the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation, and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals.



Alma Mater

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