



Founders' Day Convocation

ROSSE HALL

11:10 a.m.

October 24, 2024

Program

Julie C. Kornfeld, President, *presiding*

Paula C. Turner, Professor of Physics, *Faculty Marshal*

Processional*

The Scioto Brass Ensemble

Welcome

Julie C. Kornfeld

President of Kenyon College

Rite of Matriculation

Celestino J. Limas

Vice President for Student Affairs

Founders' Day Address

Alexander S. Tyrell-Kenyon, Eighth Lord Kenyon

Anthem

“Nachtwache II”

Music composed by Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

Poem by Friedrich Rückert (1788-1866)

Kenyon College Chamber Singers, directed by

Professor of Music Benjamin R. Locke

Translation: “Do they rest?” calls the horn of the watchman from out of the west, and from out of the east the horn calls back: “They rest.” Do you hear, timid heart, the whispering voices of angels? Extinguish your lamp with confidence, and envelope yourself in peace.”

Presentation of the Kenyon Medals for Dedication to Teaching, Scholarship, and Service

President Kornfeld

Marcella Hackbardt

Professor of Art

Karen A. Hicks

Peter Rutkoff Distinguished Professor in Diversity and Inclusion;

Professor of Biology

Marla H. Kohlman

Professor of Sociology

Presentation of the Middle Path Medals for Distinguished Service

President Kornfeld

Joel L. Gunderson

Former Owner of the Village Inn; Owner of Bickerdyke Table and Tap

Margaret L. Lewis

Former Owner of the Village Inn; Owner of Bickerdyke Table and Tap

Elizabeth Keeney

Former Associate Director of Student Accessibility and

Support Services

Presentation of the Faculty Advising Award

Jeffrey A. Bowman

Provost

Glenn M. McNair

Professor of History

Presentation from the Colleges and Universities of the Anglican Communion

The Rev. Richard A. Burnett

General Secretary of CUAC

Founders' Memorial

Jonathan E. Tazewell

Thomas S. Turgeon Professor of Drama and Film

A Song of Kenyon (Kokosing Farewell)

Words: Canon Orville E. Watson

Tune: “Vesper Hymn”

Arrangement by Benjamin R. Locke

Kenyon College Chamber Singers, directed by Professor Locke

Patricia Pelfrey, organist

Closing

President Kornfeld

Recessional

The Scioto Brass Ensemble

Notes

Class of 2028 Gift. The planting ceremony for the class tree, a red sunset maple, will take place on the north side of Rosse Hall at the conclusion of the Founders' Day program.

The Matriculation Book. All matriculants are asked to enter their signatures in the Matriculation Book. It will be available immediately after the convocation until 4:30 p.m. in the Norton Room of Ransom Hall, and again for the following week in Kenyon College Special Collections and Archives.

**Audience standing (if able)*

The Founders' Memorial

Let us now invoke the memory of the famous and the humble who have made a College in this place, who have bequeathed to us its heritage and traditions, and who have left to us the examples of their lives. Let us now remember the nobles and the leaders, the understanding and the wise, the learned and the selfless in their diverse vocations: musicians, poets, scientists, artists, storytellers, philosophers, writers, critics, and teachers. Let us now celebrate the explorers of new fields of knowledge and the interpreters of the old; all those who framed the world's body and soul on Gambier Hill.

We remember Bishop Philander Chase, the founder and first president, and the many people who helped to begin this community of higher learning, especially Sir Thomas and Lady Acland, Lord Bexley, Lord Gambier, Dr. George Gaskin, Lord Kenyon, George Marriott, Hannah More, Lady Rosse, and Timothy Wiggin. We also owe our gratitude to the donors of money to buy land, to construct buildings, to endow professorships, to provide scholarships and to establish special funds.

Most importantly we recall that long unbroken line of professors and students, who continued the creation of this college while teaching, learning, and living at Kenyon. We take our place among them, confident of the influence we will have on those yet to come.

We remember today those who have died during the past year, including:

Linda L. Barrett, dining-service worker who started at the College in 1985

Carolyn Conn Batt, retired associate registrar, who served Kenyon from 1974 to 2003, and wife of Professor Emeritus of Chemistry Russell H. Batt H'00

Caleb Carr, Class of 1977, novelist and military historian

Ross H. Gelbspan, Class of 1960, investigative journalist and honorary-degree recipient

Julia J. Igoe, Class of 2025, sociology major who was drawn to activist-oriented work

Naomi Tosh Keller, retired longtime dining-service worker

Lloyd Nicholas Tyrell-Kenyon, Seventh Lord Kenyon, Baron of Gredington, descendant of the College's namesake who was one of its original benefactors

Thomas V. Lepley, retired director of facilities planning and honorary degree recipient, who joined Kenyon in 1970 and served the College for 43 years

Edmund L. Mackiewicz, former owner of the Village Inn restaurant in Gambier

Patricia Nilson McCulloh, artist and Gambier resident, who taught at the College from 1972 to 1980, and wife of Professor Emeritus of Classics William E. McCulloh H'99

James C. Niederman, Class of 1946, physician and medical educator, member of the College's Board of Trustees from 1974 to 1997 and the Kenyon Review's from 1998 to 2006, father of a Kenyon graduate, and honorary-degree recipient

Charles E. Rice, professor emeritus of psychology, who joined Kenyon in 1969 and retired in 1994, longtime editor of the Psychological Record, longtime member of the College Township volunteer fire department, and honorary-degree recipient

William Shapiro, visiting professor of political science from 1974 to 1978

Sherry Smith, custodian, who started working at the College in 2000.

Middle Path Medal Recipients

Joel L. Gunderson and Margaret L. Lewis

For 17 years, **Joel Gunderson** and **Margaret Lewis** served the Kenyon community through their dining establishments. In 2003, they took over the space that had been home to the Red Door Café and established Middle Ground, offering a whole new vision of food options and expanded hours in Gambier. Before opening, they remodeled the entire building to turn what had been the KC into the cafe's dining room. Middle Ground gave students a much-needed social space to meet and study late into the evening. It became the beating heart of the campus.

In 2007, while still actively running Middle Ground, they, along with their business partner Jerry Kelly '96, renovated and reopened the Village Inn. The "VI," as it is lovingly referred to, offered a cozy space for both the Kenyon and greater Knox County communities to meet and dine. Joel once described it as Gambier's version of an English pub. In 2012, they sold the coffee shop (now the home of Wiggin Street Coffee) to focus entirely on the restaurant, bringing a few favorite Middle Ground menu items — the MG salad, for example — to the VI. While they have since sold the Village Inn and opened a new restaurant in Mount Vernon, their years of hard work have made a lasting difference in Gambier.

Fred Linger, who retired as Kenyon's business manager, said it best: "They cooked, they cleaned, they greeted and seated. They must have fed us all over the years ... Meanwhile, they raised a family in Gambier and involved themselves in other local efforts. True community members, they were visible and invisible, making Gambier better."

Margaret and Joel, thank you for your dedication to our community.

Elizabeth Keeney

Over the course of 30 years, **Liz Keeney** has served this community with devotion and integrity. She first arrived in Gambier in 1991, serving as the dean for academic advising for six years. In 1997, she left to earn a master's of divinity from the Earlham School of Religion before returning to Kenyon in 2000 to join the Board of Campus Ministries, now known as the Kenyon Interfaith Partnership. She supported students through private tutoring before being invited to join the Office of Student Accessibility and Support Services. "Liz has provided support, counsel and guidance aiding countless students in overcoming barriers and achieving their academic goals," said Thomas Hawks, dean for academic advising and support.

For years, Liz has opened her home and her heart to both Kenyon and Knox County students alike. She regularly serves as a host to international students, helping them navigate life in rural Ohio. Over college breaks, she invites any number of students to join her and her neighbors for dinner. For the past 16 summers, she has collected donations and funds to buy school supplies for students in the area who could not otherwise afford them. Her front porch is known as a donation spot for items that are needed by places like the Kenyon Source. Liz also shepherds the spiritual life of Gambier by organizing bimonthly meetings of the Kenyon Quakers.

The Village of Gambier honored Liz's commitment to this community by naming her the 2023 Gambier Citizen of the Year. It is now time for Kenyon to do the same. Liz, thank you for a lifetime of love and compassion for this community.

Faculty Advising Award Recipient

Glenn McNair

This year's recipient of the Faculty Advising Award joined the Kenyon faculty in 2001. His advisees describe him as "personally inspiring ... a challenging educator, and a wise individual who ... embodies a spirit of curiosity and intellectual rigor." Through both his words and what one advisee calls his "stunning positive example," he inspires students to engage in wide-ranging inquiry and deep self-reflection. One of his advisees notes, "I often find myself signing up for a 15-minute office hour appointment but staying for 45 minutes because we got [caught] up in a thought-provoking conversation. He is the type of advisor that I will stop by just to catch up with and talk to." Another advisee even reports that, when she needs to offer advice to others, it is often this professor's voice she hears in her own mind, urging her to tell her peers, "You don't have to have your life figured out. You just have to make the best decision you can and try to learn something about yourself."

A beloved teacher of African American and southern history, the distinguished editor of a respected historical journal, and a former law enforcement officer, our award winner shares his expertise in race and criminal justice with Kenyon and with the wider community. He speaks on campus in Martin Luther King Jr. Days of Dialogue and community forums on race and policing, he presents his work off campus at local bookstores, libraries, universities and historical societies. His influence extends to high school students across Ohio and the nation through his work with Camp IV and the Kenyon Academic Partnership.

Ultimately, this professor's students and advisees make the strongest case for his recognition, with one writing, "In my office hours with [him], I leave feeling more confident [in my choice of] major and with many new ideas to think about. [He] challenges Kenyon students to think critically and to truly come up with their own arguments ... He deserves this award because he is [an] attentive, organized, thought-provoking, engaging, funny, determined, intelligent and caring professor and advisor."

The Flags

The flags on stage represent the nations, in addition to the United States, from which new students have come to study at Kenyon, including Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, China, Cyprus, France, Ghana, Greece, India, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Liberia, Lithuania, Mexico, Mongolia, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Romania, Serbia, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Ukraine, Vietnam, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Kenyon College Chamber Singers

Soprano 1

Alana Goldstein, Class of 2025
Cici Hijaz, Class of 2028
Amanda Kuo, Class of 2026
Megan Lydon, Class of 2025
Ginny Peterson, Class of 2028
Chiara Rothenberg, Class of 2025
Beija Waltmunson, Class of 2027

Soprano 2

Sophie Garman, Class of 2028
Lauren Kargh, Class of 2028
Bridget Lomax, Class of 2028
Marcella Ma, Class of 2027
Madeleine Oehlers, Class of 2027
Megan Richards, Class of 2025
Haley Sorkin, Class of 2025

Alto 1

Silvia Carias-Centeno, Class of 2025
Kira Chard-Cunion, Class of 2027
Beatrix Flynn, Class of 2028
Lottie Matthew, Class of 27
Elise Minion, Class of 2025
Audra Naille, Class of 2025
Sasha Ronning, Class of 2026

Alto 2

Riley Bhatia, Class of 2027
Martha Chestnut, Class of 2027
Julia Elliott, Class of 2026
Anusha Rao, Class of 2028
Madeleine Revzon, Class of 2027
Mina Ruffle, Class of 2028

2028 Class Tree

The red sunset maple being planted by the Class of 2028 is a hardwood tree that is native to North America. They are known for their color all year long — in the fall they have stunning orange and red leaves, in the winter and spring the buds, flowers, leaf stems, and twigs all appear red for a portion of time, and in the summer they produce a red fruit.

Tenor 1

Patrick Corcoran, Class of 2026
Benjamin Priestland, Class of 2027

Tenor 2

Drew Sutherland, Class of 2025
Conrad White, Class of 2027

Baritone

Mitchell Arend, Class of 2025
Benjamin Dollar, Class of 2028
Jimmy Finnerty, Class of 2026
Francis Hanf, Class of 2025
Juwana Jackson, Class of 2025
Soren Roeser, Class of 2026

Bass

Cooper Bertschi, Class of 2026
Aaron Davidson, Class of 2026
Tommy Hillmer, Class of 2025
Anthony Magera, Class of 2027
Levi Miller, Class of 2028
Reid Pfaltzgraff-Carlson, Class of 2026
Shifan Qian, Class of 2028

The Matriculation Oath

We, undergraduates of Kenyon College, being now admitted to the rite of matriculation, do undertake the following promise:

As members of the Kenyon College community, we will devote ourselves to the shared values of mutual respect, inclusive citizenship, spirited inquiry, and intellectual integrity.

In so doing, now and in our lives hereafter, we honor those who came before us on Gambier Hill.

A Song of Kenyon (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.

Kenyon