Commencement
SPRING SEMESTER 2020

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
May 9, 2020
National Anthem
by Francis Scott Key

O say, can you see, by the dawn’s early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight’s last gleaming;
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, thro’ the perilous fight,
O’er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets’ red glare, the bombs bursting in air
Gave proof thro’ the night that our flag was still there.
O say, does that Star-Spangled Banner yet wave
O’er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

Alma Mater
by Fred Lewis Pattee

For the glory of old State,
For her founders, strong and great,
For the future that we wait,
Raise the song, raise the song,

Sing our love and loyalty,
Sing our hopes that, bright and free,
Rest, O Mother dear, with thee.
All with thee, all with thee.

When we stood at childhood’s gate,
Shapeless in the hands of fate,
Thou didst mold us, dear old State,
Dear old State, dear old State.

May no act of ours bring shame
To one heart that loves thy name,
May our lives but swell thy fame,
Dear old State, dear old State!
DEAN’S MESSAGE

On behalf of the College of Education family at Penn State, I extend a sincere congratulations and best of luck to the College’s Class of 2020.

I understand that this academic year took an unexpected turn to remote instruction, depriving graduating students of many of the opportunities and end-of-year rituals. You didn’t get to say an in-person good-bye to your friends and faculty members. The usual on-campus activities did not happen, and even commencement has to be virtual – for now.

Yes, there has been a lot of loss this spring due to the impacts of COVID-19. At the same time, there is a lot to celebrate. When we switched to remote learning mid-semester, your collective response was exemplary. While the situation has been far from normal, you all worked hard to normalize the current operations. You have been flexible and worked hard to adapt your learning to this new environment. You all made great sacrifices and adjustments, and demonstrated the perseverance and the drive to make it to the finish line and graduate, and I could not possibly be more proud of you. Your resilience and ability to come together as a community and help each other demonstrates what #WeAre means, and that truly is inspiring.

While all graduations are special, this graduation is especially personal for me, as it is my first as the dean of the College of Education. Over the course of the past year, I have had the privilege to learn about the power and impact of the College and its constituent members. This process has made it clear that each of us – the graduating students, faculty, staff, parents and friends – will be inextricably bound together by the mutual bond of Penn State.

As lifetime members of the College of Education, regardless of our specific connection to Penn State, we all have the opportunity to enrich the lives of those around us. Graduating students, as you embark upon and progress through your careers, I urge you to always remember this connection and why you chose your respective professions and the sacrifices that you endured in order to make it happen: to serve our communities and improve the quality of life of their members with compassion, honesty and integrity through education. You have been exceptional representatives of the College and University. I have no doubt that you will continue to serve as incredible ambassadors for the College by building upon our reputation for excellence.

I would also like to give special thanks to the parents, spouses, children and friends of our graduates for their patience, understanding, sacrifices and support – both moral and financial – during these challenging, but rewarding, years at the College. I hope you relish in the shared feeling of pride in what your graduate has accomplished and the abundant opportunities ahead.

In the coming years, I would ask that you not forget Penn State, the College of Education, former professors, and fellow and future Nittany Lions. I encourage you to not only give back to the College by supporting College activities, programs and scholarships, but also by keeping us updated on the many achievements you will experience in your careers and personal lives. We will always take great pride in your achievements.

And I encourage you all to return to campus when the University is able to recognize your achievements in person.

Congratulations again to the graduates of our programs. The entire Penn State College of Education family is very proud of you! #WeAre

Take care and stay in touch,

Penn State is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer, and is committed to providing employment opportunities to all qualified applicants without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability or protected veteran status.

U.Ed. EDU 20-92
Motivational speaker **K.B. Strawder Jr.** has become a passionate and dedicated public speaker, radio/TV personality, business consultant and author. Raised with a strong work ethic, Strawder entered the workforce at age 15, and worked more than 15 jobs before the age of 20.

He then enlisted in the United States Air Force, where he quickly excelled in ranks as a Military Police Officer.

During the next several years, Strawder experienced a great deal of hardship with family, friends, love, health and his faith in God. As a result, he transitioned out of the military and prayed for his purpose so that he could live better.

In the midst of facing difficult circumstances, Strawder started Live Better Inc., a company he formed from his desire to find his own purpose in life and to show others how to live purposeful lives. His company provides materials, workshops and personal/professional development programs geared toward individuals, companies and organizations helping people find their passion to live better for their purpose in life.

Being a full-time entrepreneur has enabled Strawder to travel across the nation speaking, teaching and preaching to generations of people from within the school systems, churches, colleges and the corporate world.

His entrepreneurship has thrived from offering services including life coaching, public speaking, business consulting, community partnerships and Real Talk seminar sessions that help promote ways to deal with and overcome the tumultuous, troubling issues of life.

Strawder is best known for his ability to deliver messages of true meaning while utilizing powerful delivery and providing new insights to teach on multiple topics of discussion in the everyday purposes of life.

His message is simple: “Find your purpose to serve, not just a lifestyle to live.” His message is about purpose being a priority, serving with inspiring passion, maintaining perseverance in every circumstance, and helping to change lives for the better.

Strawder also launched The Live Better Foundation, KB Strawder Enterprises, KB Strawder Ministries and Yes Sir, a young men’s mentorship program. His first of four published book series will be released this year. Strawder currently resides in Houston, Texas.

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**College Student Marshal | Shannon Walker**

**Shannon Walker** has been selected as the College of Education’s student marshal for Penn State’s spring 2020 Commencement ceremony, which will be held virtually at 2 p.m. May 9.

Walker selected Efraín Marimon, assistant professor of education, to escort her as the College’s faculty marshal. Stephanie Hopkins has served as her academic adviser.

From Furlong, Pennsylvania, Walker has been on the dean’s list since fall 2016. She is graduating with a 4.0 GPA, with a bachelor of science in elementary and early childhood education and minors in special education, education policy studies and theatre. She also is in the Schreyer Honors College.

Walker was a first-grade student teacher from August to November 2019 at Strodes Mills Elementary in the Mifflin County School District. Her experiences there included teaching research-based curriculum; developing a writing unit and lesson plans for all subject areas; and participating in schoolwide and professional development training opportunities. She finished her student teaching abroad in Thessaloniki, Greece, where she assisted English teachers for grades one to 11.

She also has been a Community Education Extended Learning support staff and a substitute teacher in the State College Area School District; a summer instructor at a community school musical theatre camp in the Central Bucks School District; and a classroom support teacher at the Bennett Family Center on the Penn State University Park campus.

Walker has held leadership roles in the Student Pennsylvania State Education Association and the Penn State Thespian Society. She was a fellow for the D.C. Social Justice Fellowship in 2018. She also danced in THON this year.

After graduation, Walker plans to work in a public school as an elementary teacher. She also hopes to work with children’s theatre programs, either in a school or community setting.
Commencement Program

NATIONAL ANTHEM
Amina Faye ‘20, Musical Theatre,
College of Arts and Architecture

PRESIDING
Eric J. Barron, B.S., M.S., Ph.D.
President of The Pennsylvania State
University

SPECIAL REMARKS
President Barron

REMARKS AND INTRODUCTIONS
Nicholas P. Jones, B.E., M.S., Ph.D.
Executive Vice President and Provost of
the University

AUTHORIZATION TO CONFER
DEGREES
Mark H. Dambly, B.S.
Chair, Board of Trustees

RECOGNITION OF MERITORIOUS
ACHIEVEMENT
Penn State Students

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES
Presiding: Provost Jones
Conferring: President Barron

INDUCTION INTO ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION
Randolph B. Houston Jr., B.A., J.D.
President, Penn State Alumni Association

SPECIAL THANKS
Penn State Students

PENN STATE ALMA MATER
Penn State Students
Penn State Blue Band

College and Program Marshals

College Marshal
SHANNON WALKER
ESCORT: Efrain Marimon, B.A., B.S., M.S. Ed., J.D., LL.M.

Program Marshals
Education and Public Policy
EMMA ROHAN
ESCORT: Kai Schafft, B.A., M.A., M.S., Ph.D.
Elementary and Early Childhood Education
KATHERINE KOSEK
ESCORT: Kathleen Sillman, B.S., M.S., Ph.D.
ERIKA FELKER
ESCORT: Paula Marden, B.S., M.Ed.
Middle Level Education
OLIVIA SIMONCIC
ESCORT: Fran Arbaugh, B.S., M.Ed., Ph.D.
Rehabilitation and Human Services
BRYNN PARKIN
ESCORT: Jessica Henry, CRC, LPC, Ph.D.
Secondary Education
MADISYN AMAN
Special Education
STEPHANIE MAGNOLTA
ESCORT: Jeremy Moeller, Ph.D.
World Languages Education
COLIN MURPHY

College Leadership

Kimberly A. Lawless, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.
Dean,
College of Education

Gregory J. Kelly, B.S., Ph.D.
Senior Associate Dean for Research, Outreach, and
Technology,
College of Education

Rayne A. Sperling, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.
Associate Dean, Undergraduate and Graduate Studies,
College of Education

Maria J. Schmidt, B.S., M.Ed.
Assistant Dean, Education and Social Equity,
College of Education
Undergraduate Degree Recipients

Subject to completion of all degree requirements, degrees will be conferred as indicated upon the individuals listed herein and upon such others as may meet the requirements. This list was produced April 10, as an unofficial list of graduating students and those earning honors.

Distinction may be conferred as indicated upon the individuals listed herein and upon such others as may meet the requirements. This group is made up of those students who have completed the required number of credits at the University and who are in the top 12 percent of their graduating class in their college. The 12 percent is divided into 2 percent SUMMA CUM LAUDE, 4 percent MAGNA CUM LAUDE and 6 percent CUM LAUDE. If you have question about your name, degree or distinction listed in this program, please reach out to Samantha Roan at smk5364@psu.edu. Congratulations on your achievements!

Education and Public Policy (B.S.)
This degree prepares students to enter professional careers in educational organizations, government, community development, public service, nonprofits, consulting, philanthropy, and interest groups for the betterment of a diverse and democratic society.

Christopher Jason Carver
Dasol Choi
Qianzi Cong
Matthew Corcoran
Rachel Cvitanovich
Dylan Andrew Hamilton
Rayna Isabel Landa
Joie Nicole Nearn
Danieltta Pantoe
Rafael Prado Martinez
Emma Lee Rohan
Anna M Schoen
Claire Marie Talley
Sarah K Witherow

Emily Blank
Katelyn Nicole Boardman
Leslie Julia Boyer
Emma Elizabeth Bressler
Peter James Bridgewater
Hannah Jean Brodish
Sydney J Brouse
Emily Elizabeth Buitekant
Kai Ayanna Butler
Allison M Caruso
Cassandra Marie Caruso
Carley Candacero
Taylor Elise Clark
Kathleen McGinley Crosse
Samantha Christine Dallier
Emma Kathleen Davin
Caroline Audrey Dawson
Lauren Direnzo
Sarah Kirkland Dizler
Julia E Eneboe
Cassandra Marlene Essis
Kennedy Eyer
Erika P Felker
Isabelle S Ferber
Kaitlyn Jordan Ferensic
Erin Donohue Fiorillo
Jaclyn H Handelman
Natalie Lynn Handley
Morgan Campbell Healey
Erin E Helbig
Ian Thomas Herr
Morgan Hesse
Julia Claire Horwitz
Julia Aileen Howard
Alyssa Athanasia Ioannou
Taylor Jackson
Kelly M Jonovich
Emily Wynn Kalish
Lia Khatchadourian
Brooke Kieserman
Sarah E Klukaszewski
Eva Kathryn Klukiewicz
Katherine Diane Kosick
Kristin Clare Krause
Ashley Kuhn
MaryKate Elizabeth Leinhos
Alison Lightfoot
Sarah Elizabeth Long
Rebecca Lucas
Madison Mary Lydon
Molly Lynch
Melanie Marcano
Gabriela Elaine Marsh
Julia Anne Marullo
Erin Mathis
Lea Grace McCartney
Megan Elizabeth McCluskey
Taylor M McDevitt
Lauren Nicole McGregor
Abigail Joan McGurrin
Emily Mairead McKeown
Melynda Rose McKinney
Kristen Rose McNamara
Marisa B Meyers
Hayley Victoria Miller
Tori Drew Millman
Rebecca Emily Mugrage
Braden H Neal
Kavenie Mae Newhart
Hallie Madison Newman

Elementary and Early Childhood Education (B.S.)
This degree prepares candidates to teach children in preschool through fourth grade.

Courtney Ann Antonelli
Julia Elizabeth Baird
Stephanie Paige Bernstein
Taylor Leilani Berry

Emily Blank
Katelyn Nicole Boardman
Leslie Julia Boyer
Emma Elizabeth Bressler
Peter James Bridgewater
Hannah Jean Brodish
Sydney J Brouse
Emily Elizabeth Buitekant
Kai Ayanna Butler
Allison M Caruso
Cassandra Marie Caruso
Carley Candacero
Taylor Elise Clark
Kathleen McGinley Crosse
Samantha Christine Dallier
Emma Kathleen Davin
Caroline Audrey Dawson
Lauren Direnzo
Sarah Kirkland Dizler
Julia E Eneboe
Cassandra Marlene Essis
Kennedy Eyer
Erika P Felker
Isabelle S Ferber
Kaitlyn Jordan Ferensic
Erin Donohue Fiorillo
Jaclyn H Handelman
Natalie Lynn Handley
Morgan Campbell Healey
Erin E Helbig
Ian Thomas Herr
Morgan Hesse
Julia Claire Horwitz
Julia Aileen Howard
Alyssa Athanasia Ioannou
Taylor Jackson
Kelly M Jonovich
Emily Wynn Kalish
Lia Khatchadourian
Brooke Kieserman
Sarah E Klukaszewski
Eva Kathryn Klukiewicz
Katherine Diane Kosick
Kristin Clare Krause
Ashley Kuhn
MaryKate Elizabeth Leinhos
Alison Lightfoot
Sarah Elizabeth Long
Rebecca Lucas
Madison Mary Lydon
Molly Lynch
Melanie Marcano
Gabriela Elaine Marsh
Julia Anne Marullo
Erin Mathis
Lea Grace McCartney
Megan Elizabeth McCluskey
Taylor M McDevitt
Lauren Nicole McGregor
Abigail Joan McGurrin
Emily Mairead McKeown
Melynda Rose McKinney
Kristen Rose McNamara
Marisa B Meyers
Hayley Victoria Miller
Tori Drew Millman
Rebecca Emily Mugrage
Braden H Neal
Kavenie Mae Newhart
Hallie Madison Newman
Middle Level Education (B.S.)

This degree prepares candidates to teach all subjects in grades four to six and mathematics, English or social studies in grades seven and eight.

Hannah M Bodnar
Matthew James Boyle
Cahil James Carey
Seth Ryan Cocolin
Clarisse Carolyn Cofrancesco
Casey Ann Cook
Kevin Joseph Cummings
Caroline Anne Daly
Levi Thomas Davis
Bethany A Dudeck
Rachael Pearl Ewing
Olivia Gettle
Juliana Gabrielle Gidaro
Spencer James Hay
Connor Thomas Hemdal
Alison Hickey
Carly Anne King
Lauren Nicole Kirkman
Michael William Komorowski
Alyssa Kruman
Abigail Marissa McMenamin
Bryan Christopher Murphy
Taylor Constance Randolph
Sarah Elizabeth Read
Matthew James Renninger
Brady William Sahm
Breanna Francesca Saulsbury
Olivia Claire Simoncic
Isabella Speer
Jillian Testa
Katie Marie Wasilko
Claire Marie Watsik
Gianna Marie Ziccardi

Rehabilitation and Human Services (B.S.)

These degrees prepare candidates for a variety of positions in rehabilitation, mental health, welfare, and employment services or for graduate work in the helping professions.

Bayleigh Noelle Adams
Brianna Moriah Bicky
Kaleigh Erin Bieling
Emma Rose Brown
Ford Koyama Carlson
Faith T Cole
Marissa N Coleman
Nikki Renee Coleman
Hunter M Datres
Sarah Elizabeth Dickey
Lindsay Frances DiGiorgio
Kayla Nicole Evans
Rachel Lynn Fisher
Madison Rose Glew
Emily G Guido
Melissa Catherine Guina
Abigail Hanlon
Emma Mathias Islinger
Cassidy Kauffman
Kathleen Keys
Kyla Kierstein
Juan Villagomez Lemus
Emily Ann Leniart
Emma Taylor Lutzke
Raquel Angelina Mabry
Heather P Macdougall
Julia Macgregor
Matthew A Maclay
Nicolette Macri
Emily Elizabeth Madeira
Taylor S McClelland
Leah Isabella McCloy
Rachel Millan
Olivia Michelle Mitchell
Shannon Victoria Moore
Kelsey Joan Mullen
Gabrielle Ivy Mund
Angela Marie Myers

Carly Jean Opär
Kailey Erin Ormsby
Gabriella Theresa Orsini
Emma Mary Pacifico
Jennifer Elizabeth Panny
Alyssa Marie Perschino
Carly Anne Pfaff
Lexi Principe
Shannon Irene Quigley
Mary Elizabeth Raabe
Marielle Christina Ramp
Gabrielle Rapone
Brandon Lee Reed-Porter
Caroline Richards
Alison Kendall Root
Rachel Sari Rubinstein
A’Nasia Evette Rudolph
Faith Ann Scanlan
Kyra Schaeffer
Hayley Grace Schlosser
Emily Lauren Schwarz
Nicole Cari Seraita
Alyssa-Brian Sibiga
Allison Silano
Adam Michael Simonson
Elizabeth Nicole Smart
Lonni Blair Sopinsky
Rachel E Sporer
Caitlin Ashley Stigall
Carolyn Elizabeth Stoughton
Carolyn Stout
Brianna Nicole Torrisi
Colleen Mary Tracy
Alea Troup
Devon Marie Viola
Shannon L Walker
Grace Michele Wanamaker
Brittany LeeAnne Wangel
Carolyn Whitlock
Kaitlyn Elizabeth Wiesner
Brooke A Wolf
Sydney S Wolff
Bailey Renee Yeagley
Gabrielle L Yom
Abigail Hayes Zarro

S1

S2

S3
Secondary Education (B.S.)

This degree prepares candidates for teaching positions related to their content areas in grades 7-12. Candidates pursue one or more of the following teaching options: Biological Science, Chemistry, Citizenship Education, Earth and Space Science, English/Communication, Environmental Education, General Science, Mathematics, Physics, and Social Studies.

Madisyn E Aman²
Taylor Aisha Balliet⁵
Anais Bailey Biesecker
Cullen J Browell
Ian Byron Brumbaugh
Hannah Chisler
Anna Elizabeth Ciambotti
David Carl Columbus
Audrey Willow Cromell
Luke Joseph Darrup³
Catherine Delsandro
Talia Grace Diclaudio
Cassandra Lyn Diehl²
Tiffany Domingues
Lucinda Valerie Ellis
Jill Lynn Farina
Nicholas Joseph Franz
Matthew Herman
Thomas Adam Holodick
Nathan Daniel Kerlin
Dillon Thomas Madigan
Bailey Noelle Matush
Barrett Perry McMurtry
Trinity Middlebrooks
Maxine Eiley Montany
Molly Elizabeth Mowatt
Abbilyn Irene Moyer
Samantha Niedzieko
Claire Gertrude O’Dea
Andrew Robert Page
Cara Pakes
Carina Papa
Hailey Brooke Penuel²
Sarah Michele Petri⁵
Madison Paige Peyton
Grant Troxell Pusey
Madeline Putterman
Jeffrey Qiu
Meaghan Reed
Anthony Robert Romeo
Joshua I Rosenbaum³
Abigail Rummel³
Sivonn Simonpur
Jennifer Elizabeth Snyder²
Justin Patrick Staub
Brady Scott Thomas
Alysse Weidlich
Emilee West
Colleen Patrice Weston

Special Education (B.S.)

This degree prepares candidates for teaching individuals with special learning needs, at any age or ability level.

Megan Ann French
Tyler Kemp
Brady Robbins Kimble Emily
M Klingler
Stephanie Ann Magnotta
Michelle Elizabeth Patlakh

Madison Lane Schulte
David Allan Shorten Jr.
Sydney Reann Trimmer
Amanda Jane Wieler

Workforce Education and Development (AS, B.S.)

This degree prepares candidates to teach a specific trade or skill in a vocational-technical school, trade school, or community college, or to coordinate or supervise in a vocational education setting. Candidates choose from three options: Health Occupations Education, Industrial Education, or Occupational Home Economics Education, all of which lead to a teacher certificate; or a non-certificate Industrial Training option. Each degree candidate has also shown competency in their respective trade or skill.

Justin David Bierly

World Languages Education (B.S.)

This degree prepares candidates for K-12 teaching positions or other employment fields related to their content language area, which may be French, German, Latin, Russian, or Spanish.

Colin Morrissey Murphy
Gabriella Alejandra Rivera Corchado

1 = Summa Cum Laude
2 = Magna Cum Laude
3 = Cum Laude
S = Schreyer Honors College
Bold = College Marshal
Italic = Program Marshal
Penn State’s College of Education was established in 1923 by then-president John Thomas and was directed by its first dean, Will G. Chambers. Its mission is to deepen and extend knowledge about the formation and utilization of human capabilities. Kimberly A. Lawless began her tenure as dean in fall 2019.

Its academic programs are approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) and accredited nationally by organizations such as the American Psychological Association (APA), the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP), the National Council on Rehabilitation Education (NCRE), and the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP).

The College has been consistently ranked among the top colleges and universities among more than 1,400 education institutions in the country.

This year, the College enrolled more than 1,900 undergraduate students at all campuses. It provides teacher preparation in 20 specialty areas, with additional programs in Rehabilitation and Human Services and Education and Public Policy. More than 320 student-teachers were placed in schools this academic year in Pennsylvania and abroad.

This year, more than 600 graduate students took courses in 12 fields of study. U.S. News & World Report ranks 10 of the College’s graduate programs in the top 15 of their respective program rankings, with four programs in the top 10. The College has approximately 56,000 living alumni.

The College’s endowment exceeds $58.3 million, and last year, Education students received about $1.6 million in scholarships. The College is the recipient of several large, multi-year grants, including Quality Talk, an innovative, teacher-facilitated discourse model that promotes high-level comprehension of text; Supporting Early Adolescents’ Learning and Social Success (SEALS), which helps teachers in urban schools support their students who are at-risk for school adjustment difficulties; and a grant that identifies risk factors for ADHD diagnosis in U.S. schoolchildren and the predicted effects of treatments they receive for the disorder.

The College’s faculty members serve as members of panels, governing boards for state and national organizations, and editorial boards for major journals. The faculty has received five Fulbright awards in the last seven years. College faculty have editorial responsibilities for more than 33 major journals in education and counseling, including the American Journal of Education.

Penn State has student teaching sites at international locations, partnership agreements with 17 institutions in 36 countries, and 208 international students currently enrolled.
WELCOME TO THE PRIDE!

Congratulations on your graduation, and welcome to the Penn State Alumni Association—the largest and most powerful alumni network in the world.

New graduates receive a complimentary one-year membership in the Penn State Alumni Association. As you enter the pride, you’ll join the ranks of alumni who keep their connection to Penn State strong through membership. We encourage you to stay connected and learn more about the 30+ benefits that are included with your membership.

Membership materials, including your membership card, will be mailed to you after graduation. Benefits are available to you immediately upon receiving your membership card.

Exclusive Member Benefits

CAREER AND EDUCATION

• Alumni Career Services: Attend premium Alumni Career Service events for free or at a substantial discount.
• Discounts on Kaplan Test Preparation Services
• Alumni Library Online: Exclusive access to Penn State Libraries Digitized Collections and University library databases.

ALUMNI EMAIL

Members of the Alumni Association can sign up for a personal Penn State email account (@alumni.psu.edu). Accounts are hosted by Google for Education and also include unlimited online storage and a collection of digital tools.

DISCOUNTS

Members receive access to discounts including travel and merchandise at Penn State Bookstore campus locations. They also receive access to discounted health, auto, renters, home, life, long-term care, and pet insurance.

Additional benefits include early invitations to Alumni Association events, access to the Alumni Directory, publications including the Penn Stater magazine, and much more!

To access a full list of membership benefits and to find your local Penn State Alumni Association chapter, visit: alumni.psu.edu/newalumni