

Opening Convocation of the 198th Academic Year of Kenyon College



August 22, 2021
10:30 a.m.
Samuel Mather Lawn

Program Participants

Diane C. Anci, Kenyon's vice president for enrollment management and dean of admissions and financial aid, is an alumna of Wheaton College (Massachusetts). She joined the Kenyon administration in 2015, having previously served as the head of the admissions operation at Mount Holyoke College. Anci began her career in admissions at Barnard College.

Susan B. Berger, a 1985 graduate of Kenyon with a double major in economics and English, is a trustee of the College. She currently serves on the board's inclusion and equity committee, as well as the academic affairs committee, and is a past president of Kenyon's Alumni Council. A resident of Cleveland, Ohio, she works as chief external relations officer for Positive Education Program, a large non-profit that helps young people to overcome and thrive.

Jeffrey A. Bowman, a member of the College's history faculty since 1997, was appointed Kenyon's provost in 2020 after serving in many progressive positions of leadership at Kenyon. He holds a bachelor's degree in English from Carleton College and a master of arts, master of philosophy and doctorate in medieval studies from Yale University.

Marc W. Bragin, co-director of spiritual and religious life at the College, is now in his 15th year at Kenyon as director of Hillel, the Jewish cultural organization for students and others in the community. He also serves as Jewish chaplain. Bragin holds undergraduate degrees from Franklin Pierce College, an M.A. from Hebrew College and a law degree from Samford University.

Sean M. Decatur is Kenyon's 19th president and the first native Ohioan to hold the office in more than a century. A graduate of Swarthmore College, he earned his Ph.D. in biophysical chemistry from Stanford University. Decatur taught at Mount Holyoke College for 13 years before moving to Oberlin College, where he was dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and a professor of chemistry and biochemistry. Kenyon's chief executive since July 1, 2013, he was officially inaugurated on October 26, 2013.

Robin D. Hart Ruthenbeck joined Kenyon as dean of students in 2017 after serving as an assistant dean of students at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota. She holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Miami University and a doctorate of education from the University of Minnesota. Her previous roles in residential life, academic advising, orientation and transition programs, campus programs, leadership, and accessibility services provide a solid foundation as a generalist in student affairs.

Rachel C. Kessler is a College chaplain and the rector of Gambier's Harcourt Parish. A 2004 alumna of Kenyon, she graduated summa cum laude, with highest honors in English and a second major in philosophy. Kessler went on to receive a master's degree and doctorate in medieval studies at the University of Toronto, where she also earned a master's degree in divinity. Ordained to the Episcopal priesthood in 2012, Kessler returned to Gambier in 2015.

Micah Smith (they/them and he/him) is a rising senior at the College from Chicago, Illinois, majoring in anthropology and minoring in Japanese. Smith has been active in many facets of campus life through a number of roles: a Gund Gallery associate, serving as a leader of the education and visitor experience team; co-manager of Unity House; and more. This academic year, they will be a senior admissions fellow and president of the College's Student Council.

Opening Convocation Program

Academic Procession*

The Scioto Brass Ensemble

Invocation*

Rev. Rachel C. Kessler
*College Chaplain;
Co-Director, Spiritual and Religious Life;
Rector, Harcourt Parish*

Welcome

Sean M. Decatur
President of Kenyon College

Presentation of the Class Of 2025

Diane C. Anci
*Vice President for Enrollment Management;
Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid*

Greetings

Susan B. Berger
Trustee, Kenyon College

Jeffrey A. Bowman
Provost

Robin D. Hart Ruthenbeck
Dean of Students

Micah Smith, Class of 2022
President, Student Council

Remarks

President Decatur

Benediction*

Marc W. Bragin
*College Chaplain;
Co-Director, Spiritual and Religious Life;
Director, Kenyon Hillel*

Recessional*

*Audience standing (if able)

Kenyon