



Lavender Graduation Celebration

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

Center Dining Room, Benham-Pence Student Center



Hosted by the William A. McClain Center

PROGRAM

WELCOME & BLESSING

Dr. Christian M. M. Brady, President

DINNER*

CLASS OF 2026 REFLECTION

Antwan Terrell

PERFORMANCE

"Fame"

Lexie Rose & Jaiya Scales, Funk Lab Dance and Modern Elements

GRADUATE RECOGNITION

The McClain Center Organization Dedication Award is given to graduating students who have, over the years, contributed time, love, and talent to the causes of the organizations advised by the McClain Center.

The Tiger Up and Out Award recognizes a graduating senior who has worked to create equitable and inclusive spaces for people in the LGBTQIA+ community. This person actively participates in events and/or movements that contribute to the progression of the community as a whole, and they promote and educate others on the issues and triumphs of the LGBTQIA+ community.

The Outstanding Scholar Award is given to graduating students with a 3.0 GPA or better.

The Perseverance Award is given to a graduating student whose commitment to the completion of the degree, while overcoming obstacles along the journey, is awe-inspiring.

The Passing Light Award is given to a graduating student who demonstrates their love for Wittenberg through their campus involvement over the years and is most likely to serve Wittenberg and give back to the Wittenberg community as active alumni.

STUDENT SELECTION

Jeff Mefford, President of GSDA (Gender and Sexual Diversity Alliance)

PERFORMANCE

"Parris"

Mya Culter & Nolan Hiatt

PRESENTATION OF CORDS

Mentors/Advocates/Allies

Kenneth Goodrum, Director, McClain Center & Joi A. Garrett Scales, Vice President and Dean of Student Engagement

CLOSING REMARKS

Joi A. Garrett Scales

Vice President and Dean of Student Engagement

**Raffle winners will be announced during the dinner portion of the program.*

About Lavender Celebration

A tradition that began in the mid-1990s across the country, this cultural celebration recognizes LGBTQIA+ students of all ethnicities and acknowledges their persistence, leadership, and contributions to the University. Wittenberg joined the many colleges and universities in celebrating this occasion in 2019. Experiencing a brief recess in 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Lavender Graduation celebration resumed in 2021 and continues to be a Wittenberg tradition.

About the William A. McClain Center

The William A. McClain Center is a welcoming place grounded in helping each student find a sense of belonging and purpose by helping students foster connections, assisting students with transitions and adjustments, and providing intentional support for students who are most vulnerable or at-risk. The McClain Center is a place where students can come as they are and explore who they are meant to become. We encourage students to find their voices and to tell their stories so that others may relate and/or learn. We embolden students to open their minds to ideas and philosophies different from their own so that they are increasingly prepared to engage successfully in our global community.

The McClain Center was dedicated to William A. McClain in 2004 as the William A. McClain Culture House in recognition of his service to the community. The house was later renamed to the William A. McClain Center for Diversity in 2012 to reflect the student organization occupants of the space; Concerned Black Students, American International Alliance, and Gay/Straight Alliance. McClain called the dedication a “crowning moment” in his life. McClain, a Springfield native, was the first African American to win both the state and national Intercollegiate Oratorical Association contests held at Muskingum College in February 1934 and was an overall accomplished student. His professional career was even more accomplished, demonstrating his ambition and perseverance by becoming the first African American member of the Cincinnati Bar Association despite being denied twice and later serving as the first African American to hold the title of City Solicitor in Cincinnati, Ohio from 1963 to 1972. Upon William’s passing in 2014, Wittenberg University President Laurie M. Joyner had this to say about William Andrew McClain, “Throughout his life, he inspired generations of colleagues, students, peers, friends and acquaintances to use their own lives to make a difference. His willingness to go beyond the ordinary, to encourage, to break new ground, and to motivate touched countless individuals, as did his desire to serve humanity and to step up when called upon to do so.”

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