

Messenger

SPEAKER: Alumna

Janis Bowdler '00

The 2021 Commencement speaker was **Janis Bowdler '00**, president of the JP Morgan Chase & Co. Foundation.



Her organization is a global leader dedicated to driving inclusive economic growth in communities worldwide, committing in 2018 to invest \$1.75B over the next five years to strengthen workforce systems, revitalize neighborhoods, grow small businesses, and improve the financial health of individuals.

Read about Bowdler's professional achievements and her involvement at Malone as a student at www.malone.edu/news.

BACK TOGETHER

COMMENCEMENT HELD IN-PERSON AT TOM BENSON STADIUM

With gratitude for God's goodness, as we begin to see the possibility for normalcy in our future, it is with so much joy that we celebrated Commencement 2021. This year's milestone was made extra special by our ability to be together in person, and to recognize last year's graduates alongside this year's graduates.

"While we are grateful for the advantages provided to us by technology, it was difficult to be apart during this celebratory season last year," said **DAVID KING**, president. "We were thrilled to celebrate the accomplishments of our graduates in a manner that was safe and allowed them to see the joy in our eyes as we cheered them into their next season of life."

**We were thrilled to
celebrate the
accomplishments
of our graduates
in a manner
that was safe ...**

The 129th Commencement ceremony was held at the Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium on Saturday, May 8.

"Many faculty and staff members worked tirelessly to help make our in-person ceremony possible," said **GREG MILLER**, provost. "In our academic calendar, there is no day more special than the one where we send our graduates into the world. I am grateful for the hands and minds from our community that made this special day possible."



CHECK OUT OUR PHOTOS!

Visit our Instagram and Facebook pages to view photos of the celebration!



FROM THE PRESIDENT

A

s we celebrate our 129th Commencement and the beginning of a new phase of life for our recent graduates, we are thankful for the strong and faithful community that supports Malone. In these challenging times, and in spite of distancing protocols, our campus community has become even more cohesive, deepening our commitment to each other, our students, and the mission of the University.

While we have experienced alterations in how we live, work, worship, as well as how we spend time with those we love over the last year, we are refreshed as we begin to look over the horizon to life after the pandemic. Our attention now shifts to the promising future we have worked hard to shape.

Our academic program remains strong and relevant with the development of many new academic programs which connect Malone's strengths with the needs of our community, our global economy, and the church.

Malone alumni and friends continue to step forward to ensure that the Malone student experience remains transformational by supporting our fundraising efforts. Our Malone Fund attainment remains ahead of last year's record-breaking number and our Day of Giving exceeded goals for dollars and number of donors. This serves as wind in our sails and critical, tangible support of our Christ-centered mission.

The physical spaces students enjoy continue to be enhanced through renovation and construction. Work has begun on the competition field for Pioneer Park and will be completed by August to welcome new and returning students. The construction comes on the heels of the renovation of the Center for Student Success in the Cattell Library.

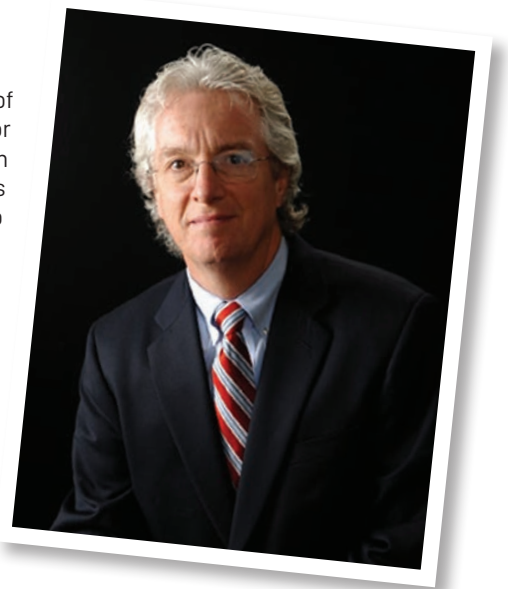
We continue to develop relationships with community partners to be a force of good within the region. The newly developed Zollikon Institute is one example (www.malone.edu/zollikoninstitute) and our new Stark County Futures program (www.malone.edu/starkfutures) is another. Malone personnel continue to make an impact in their communities and churches, and we welcome new and innovative partnership opportunities.

Our plan, which we are being successful implementing, is to adapt and emerge from this time of pandemic as an institution which provides the servant leaders necessary to meet today's challenges and serve as agents of reconciliation.

With your support, Malone is that institution.



David King, Ed.D., President



Taking the Reins

**MANAGEMENT STUDIES GRADUATE, CINDY WILSON '93,
NAMED CHAIR OF DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGIES**

CINDY WILSON'S entrepreneurial instincts and unwillingness to quit at anything she begins trace back to grandparents, parents, and professional mentors who saw the promise within her and modeled for her what it meant to make the most of every opportunity. Her grandparents on her mother's side were entrepreneurs who owned and operated restaurants and hotels, while her father's parents worked in manufacturing, blue collar work in factories, the kind of work that challenges the strongest of spirits.

"I've been blessed by extraordinary mentors," said Wilson, who recently was appointed to the position of Chair of the Department of Business and Technologies after 13 years as Director of Management Studies and 32 years at the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company. "God has been very good to me. My career has been a natural progression and I've been able to take something from every stop to shape who I am today."

A native of Akron, Wilson went to work at Goodyear just days after graduation. It was the beginning of a career that led her to serve in positions in finance, human resources, expatriate services, corporate information technology, and IT project management. Each position provided her with more learning, growth, and opportunity.

Wilson's introduction to Malone came as a student when she signed up for the Management Studies program after earning an associate's degree from the University of Akron. "It was my husband, Ed, who recommended the program," said Wilson. "He earned it while working in law enforcement and knew it was something I could do while working. I completed the program in 1993, a member of cohort number 52. I have a paperweight that is engraved 'Malone Class M-52, 1993.' It has a place on my desk."

Wilson did not know at that time that she would return to Malone as an adjunct faculty member in the program in 2002 and later be asked to serve as Director of Management Studies in 2007. She has been at Malone ever since.



Her own experience in the program allowed her to relate to the adult learners who were balancing work and family responsibilities while working toward their degree.

"I sat in their seats," said Wilson. "I lived their days. I can relate to them. I understood what it meant to balance competing demands on your time. I'm so proud of the degree completion program. It has helped so many people live out their lifelong dream of earning a college degree."

Wilson, who also earned an Executive MBA from Baldwin-Wallace University, was named chair in 2020. While still new to her position as chair, Wilson has already worked with faculty to launch three new specializations in the MBA program, restructure the way the degree completion program is offered, and launched new academic programs.

"I've stayed at Malone a long time because I feel called to serve. I'm excited about what we can achieve working together as a team."

"I've poured myself into this job like I have done throughout my career," she said. "I've stayed at Malone a long time because I feel called to serve. I'm excited about what we can achieve working together as a team."



ALAYNA WATSON '21 has enjoyed being involved in many organizations on campus. In her time at Malone, she served as Chorale president and participated on the Celebration worship team. She also was a member of the band for Community Worship and the travel worship band. Her love of music spurred her decision to study music production and business administration.

"Music is so much more complex than people think. It is like an equation," she said. "It's fun to dive into the mathematical parts of music and figure out how to put them all together."

As a work-study student employee for Event Services, Watson assisted with event planning and learned how to run a camera, take pictures, and make cables—all of which have improved her music production skills. These additional experiences have helped to enhance Watson's education, giving her the college experience that she was hoping to receive.

The Malone community made Watson feel welcomed and affirmed her belonging. She will bring the lessons she learned from faculty and staff with her as she heads to Belmont University in Nashville to pursue a Master of Music in Commercial Music Media Writing in the fall.

"I'm excited to expand my knowledge and experience in writing and arranging for various ensembles," she said. "Belmont is an amazing school with an excellent program and I'm super blessed to be accepted."

As a student, **DOMINIC MARIANO '21** was a Celebration leader, a student worker in the Office of Student Development, and a resident of both PGB and DeVol Halls. He also valued learning from incredible professors as he studied youth and educational ministries.

"The people I've interacted with at Malone and the experiences I've enjoyed have had a huge impact on my life," he said. "I know I am prepared for my career in ministry as a result of practical teaching methods within my major, having internships in different churches, and taking electives that helped me see the world with a broader perspective."

Mariano serves as the Children's and Family Pastor at Alliance Friends Church. He began working with the church after receiving support from two adjunct faculty members. **MARVA HOOPES '76** sent him the information for the position and **JONATHAN NAYLOR '11** encouraged him to accept.

Upon graduation, Mariano will serve in a full-time capacity, and, ultimately, he credits the Lord for this opportunity.

"God softened my heart and opened up this door for me," he said. "He made it known that this is where He was calling me to serve. The journey to Alliance is a funny one because at first, I said no. I didn't want to work in a church and didn't think I was ready to be a children's pastor. God used Marva and Jonathan to show me that this was more than a job. It was a calling to continue the mission of 'Christ's Kingdom First'."



ALUMNI Snapshots



CAREY TITUS '17

Avian field biologist
Ecology of Bird Loss Project in Guam

"Malone was a comfortable place for me to grow in my beliefs. My professors helped me to find my passions and career path. My experience prepared me for work in the field. One of the most valuable lessons I learned from Malone was to love, respect, and protect all of creation."



DISHON KAMWESA '10, '16

Family nurse practitioner
Cleveland Clinic Mercy Hospital

"My professors helped me see my chosen profession as a calling rather than just means to a paycheck. They showed me the needs of the Canton community, and I began to see that my own backyard deserves investment and the message of hope that the Gospel brings."



RACHEL JENKINS '16

Legislative director
Congressman Tim Ryan (OH-13)

"While a student I, traveled to Washington, DC where area alumni gave their time to offer advice and career tips. This showed me the passion the Malone community has for serving others and gave me the nudge of encouragement to come to DC myself."



DREW SHREVE '18

Historical literacy teacher, football coach, and track & field coach
Plain Local Schools

"I had a great experience in athletics at Malone and commend the faculty, staff, and students for investing in me. Malone's education program prepared me for success. I was able to land a job before I finished my student teaching."



ANDREW MCNULTY '11, '16

Vice President, senior credit officer
Wayne Savings Community Bank

"The education I received, networking, and mentors contributed to success in my profession. Always remember and thank those who have mentored you. It's also important to pay it forward."



PAIGE JENNINGS '17

Employment services assistant
OPEN M Ministry

"While at Malone, ideas of empowerment through service were often discussed. I continue to challenge myself to recognize the abilities of the people I serve and find ways to empower them through my work. I am grateful for my experience at Malone."

Be sure to check out [Malone.edu/alumni](https://malone.edu/alumni) for:
The Alumni Blog, which includes career updates, weddings, birth announcements, homegoings, and more!



Profile

MALONE EXPERIENCE AND CONNECTIONS
PREPARED **PAM BURCH** FOR LIFE OF SERVICE

For **PAM (HUFF) BURCH '77**, receiving an education degree led to much more than teaching. She married **DAVID BURCH '77** soon after graduation and the two moved to Port St. Lucie, Florida to help plant Morningside Friends Church. For eight years, Pam also taught sixth grade before being approached by a State Farm agency manager about the possibility of owning her own business.

Burch remembers **Eugene Collins '56**, professor of biblical studies emeritus, asking challenging questions in the classroom that helped her think critically and define her beliefs. His influence guided her to share her faith with boldness. It was also on a freshman trip to his home where she would meet her husband.

"I have great memories of Malone and have maintained many relationships from those days over the years," she said.

David Burch's family has many ties to Malone. His parents, Rev. Bruce and Cora Mae Burch, were influenced by Malone leadership including **Everett Cattell, Robert Hess, Eugene Collins, Lucy Anderson**, and **Ronald Johnson '64**. Rev. Burch was a Friends pastor who led the way for young adults to become Pioneers, believing many future leaders would come from Malone. Several Burch family members also attended Malone, including **Libby Burch-Brinkman '75, Rev. Douglas '82** and **Sandra '81 (Hanna) Burch, Megan (Burch) '10** and **Jereme '09 Proudman, Kaitlin (Burch) Schneider '18, Bridget Brinkman-Patesel '06**, and **Lydia (Burch) Luke '15**.

Pam and David continue to give to Malone financially, and she has also served as a member of the Board of Trustees. In doing so, they help students strengthen their faith and discover Christ's calling on their lives.

"David and I are blessed to have daughters and son-in-laws who love and serve Christ," she said. "My prayer is that Malone will continue to influence future generations to stand firm in their faith."

"The idea of opening my own business was the farthest thing from my imagination at that time," she said. "I had always wanted to be a teacher, but God had a different plan."

Burch opened her office in 1985 and has worked for State Farm Insurance since then.

"Malone had a tremendous impact on my career and family life," she said. "I often feel like I did not choose Malone, but Malone chose me." Admissions Counselor **Jerry Chaplin '73** encouraged her to come to Malone after

meeting her at a college fair, and continued to help her throughout her college career. "It was Jerry's attention and Christ-likeness, as well as others who represented the University, who helped me develop courage and confidence."

Malone had a tremendous impact on my career and family life. I often feel like I did not choose Malone, but Malone chose me.

Malone Weekend

OCTOBER 1–2, 2021

We cannot wait to welcome you to campus!

Homecoming at Malone is a way to bring our community, especially alumni, into closer fellowship with one another. This year, as we celebrate Homecoming and Family Weekend, we inaugurate a new celebration: **Malone Weekend**. With such a diversity of friends, supporters, loved ones, and alumni, we desire to celebrate how Malone has blessed our lives as we make memories together. We'll do this through events that honor the accomplishments of our alumni, and we look forward to celebrating Malone with all who can join us.

Highlights of the weekend will include:

- **ALUMNI SPEAKER** for Community Worship service
- **ANNUAL ALUMNI AWARDS:** Recognizing the 2020 and 2021 winners
- **GOLDEN PIONEERS:** Celebrating the 50th reunions of the Classes of 1970 and 1971
- **ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME:** Induction of the Class of 2021
- **PIONEER PARK:** The eagerly anticipated christening of the competition field with the first home soccer matches to be held at Malone's new athletics facility
- **FOOD TRUCKS:** Choices for all types of foodies
- **INFLATABLES:** Outdoor activities for families and children of all ages
- **OUTDOOR MOVIE:** All alumni and current students are welcome

For future updates ...
Check your inbox and visit www.malone.edu/maloneweekend



THE MALONE FUND

Provide the resources
current and future Pioneers
need to succeed and thrive.

**YOUR GIFT HELPS
MAKE IT HAPPEN.**

THE MALONE FUND // malone.edu/giving



Office of Advancement
2600 Cleveland Avenue NW
Canton, Ohio 44709-3308

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CANTON, OH
PERMIT NO. 1873

FOUR WAYS TO *Support* MALONE

1

MAKE A GIFT

Ensure we meet the
changing needs of our
students while they
pursue their education and
find their calling.

Make your gift at
malone.edu/giving

2

REFER A STUDENT

Connect Malone with
prospective students who
would flourish in our
Christ-centered learning
environment.

malone.edu/refer

3

SHARE YOUR #MaloneLove

Follow us on social media
and share our posts.
Don't forget to use our tags
#MaloneLove, #MaloneU,
#MalonePioneers

FB: Malone University
Instagram: @malone_u
Twitter: @MaloneU

4

ATTEND AN EVENT

Join us for a music concert,
athletic contest, or one of
many other campus events.

Check out our calendar at
[malone.edu/
community/calendar](http://malone.edu/community/calendar)