

2017

Bluffton University

May Day &

Commencement

Bluffton  ICON

It is one of the Bluffton community's long-standing events - Bluffton University May Day and commencement. This year is number 117.

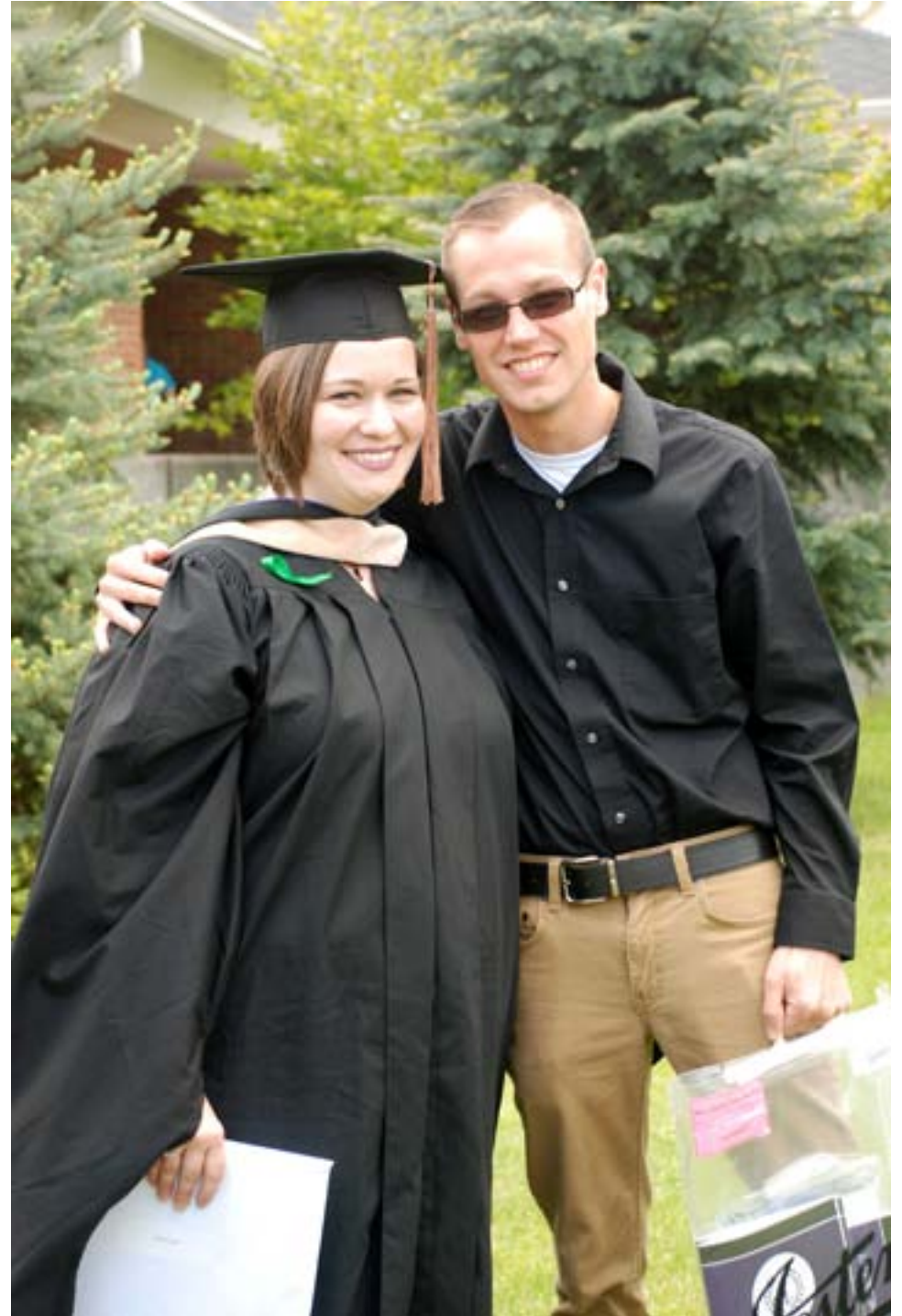
The tradition includes a musical, class reunions, May pole dance, king and queen coronation, art exhibits, a May Day run and walk, campus tours, a recital, baccalaureate service and graduation ceremony.

The university provided the Icon with this set of photographs showing the many weekend aspects.

Anna Hairston, an art and social work double major from Mansfield, Ohio.



Britnie Loch, an MBA graduate from Findlay, Ohio, celebrates with her husband Brian following the conclusion of Bluffton's 117th Commencement ceremony. Loch is a two-time Bluffton graduate. She previously graduated in 2011 from Bluffton's degree-completion program.



Cameron Walker, a marketing major from Palmetto, Ga., points to his name on a banner in Sommer Center for the class of 2017. First-year students sign the banner during convocation.





Jessica Boggan, a social work major and basketball player from Cincinnati, Ohio, celebrates with Chad Shutler, head women's basketball coach, following graduation at Bluffton University.



Katie Roushia, a business administration major from Bryan, Ohio; Emily Bolen, a social work major from Trenton, Ohio; Terrill Webb, an exercise science major Kenton, Ohio; and Abby Karikas a food and nutrition major from Curtice, Ohio.



Brothers Kevin and Austin Every, information technology majors from Zanesville, Ohio, wear a green ribbon which signifies they have taken the graduation pledge of social and environmental responsibility. Members of the 2017 baseball team, they also chose to wear a purple ribbon handed out during the 10-year memorial of the Bluffton University bus crash.



More than 230 students graduated during Bluffton University's 117th Commencement ceremony. An estimated 3,000 people filled Sommer Center to cheer their accomplishments.



Mackenzie Butler, a food and nutrition major from Norwich, Ohio, poses for a picture with Stephen “Tig” Intagliata, campus pastor, and Julia Thomas ’15.



Dr. Mark Suderman stands in the middle of a group of current and former students as they sing “The Lord Bless You and Keep You” during the Alumni Choir Sing on May Day. Suderman is retiring this year.



Master of Arts in Education graduates



May pole dancers



Mortar boards

President James Harder and Sally Weaver Sommer, vice president and dean of academic affairs, lead the processional into Sommer Center for Bluffton University's 117th Commencement ceremony. Weaver Sommer, who is retiring, was granted emeritus status.





Dr. Susan Schultz Huxman, president of Eastern Mennonite University, provides the commencement address, “What’s in Your Wallet,” during Bluffton University’s 117th Commencement.



May Day Royalty Chad Gundy and Rachel Beining stand with Alicia Rodriguez and Samuel Stucky, last year's May Day King and Queen during the 2017 ceremony. Natalie Richards daughter of Jeff '08 and Melissa (Garmatter '09) Richards served as Crown Bearer and Tatum Herendeen, son of Corey and Courtney (Karnes '10) Herendeen.



Carolyn (Schnell '57) Yost holds a yearbook featuring a photograph from her time as May Day Queen at Bluffton 60 years ago.



Yvonne Cusac of Ottawa, Ohio, celebrates her graduation from the evening social work program with her sons Alec Cusac and Jayden Cusac.