

Commencement Speaker Biography

Dr. Richard A. “Rich” Wahls is the senior technical and strategy advisor to the Director of NASA Aeronautics’ Advanced Air Vehicles Program. He leads, manages, and technically contributes to multidisciplinary fundamental research advancing the energy efficiency and environmental compatibility of advanced transport aircraft, and to applied research and development of tools, technologies, and concepts for all vehicle classes from subsonic through supersonic speeds.

Dr. Wahls is an internationally recognized leader and technical authority in aerodynamics, ground testing, and the development of advanced aircraft concepts and technologies. His personal research emphasized high Reynolds number aerodynamics and scale effects utilizing the unique capabilities of the US National Transonic Facility, and the study of innovative aerodynamic technologies and integrated aircraft configurations. He is the author/co-author of 75 technical publications and has given invited presentations around the world. During his 26+ years at NASA Langley Research Center, Dr. Wahls served in increasingly broad, influential leadership positions in national aeronautics programs, and has received two prestigious outstanding leadership medals and one outstanding service medal.

Dr. Wahls is a Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA), where he is currently a Deputy Director of the Aircraft & Atmospheric Systems Group, a member of the Applied Aerodynamics Technical Committee and Green Engineering Integration Committee, and a charter member of the AIAA Drag Prediction Workshop Organizing Committee. He was a 2017 recipient of the AIAA's International Cooperation and Sustained Service Awards. Dr. Wahls received his B.S. (1984), M.S. (1986), and Ph.D. (1989) degrees from NC State University in aerospace engineering. In 1984, he received the AIAA Outstanding Student Achievement Award from NCSU Chapter. And in 2017, he was inducted into the Mechanical and Aerospace Department’s Alumni Hall of Fame.

The Doctor of Philosophy Degree

The doctoral degree is the most advanced academic degree conferred by American institutions of higher education. The title Doctor, which is Latin for teacher, was used in the twelfth century to denote those of great learning.

The Master of Science Degree

The master degree represents the successful completion of one or two years of study beyond the bachelor degree. This academic honor dates back to the establishment of the oldest universities in Europe.

The Bachelor of Science Degree

The bachelor degree is the oldest academic degree used by institutions of higher education in America. This degree, which represents completion of a four year course of study at the college level, was first awarded in America in 1642 to the graduating class of Harvard College.

Honors Qualifications		
<i>Cum Laude</i> (with honor) GPA of 3.25 - 3.49 Distinguished by a white sash	<i>Magna Cum Laude</i> (with high honor) GPA of 3.50 - 3.74 Distinguished by a silver sash	<i>Summa Cum Laude</i> (with highest honor) GPA of 3.75 and above Distinguished by a gold sash

NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY



Fall Diploma Award Ceremony

Department of Mechanical and
Aerospace Engineering

Thursday, December 14, 2017
3:00 PM

North Carolina State University
Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering
Fall Diploma Award Ceremony Program
McKimmon Center
December 14, 2017 ~ 3:00 pm

Welcome to the diploma award ceremony for the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at North Carolina State University. The entire department extends cordial greetings to parents, grandparents, spouses, relatives, and friends gathered here today. Today’s ceremony recognizes the academic achievement of our graduating bachelor, master, and doctoral students and marks a major accomplishment in their lives. Today is the day they join an elite group and carry on the tradition of excellence. Today they become alumni of the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at North Carolina State University.

	Welcome	Dr. Srinath V. Ekkad <i>Professor and Department Head</i>
	Undergraduate Address	Mr. Seth Baker <i>Mechanical Engineering Graduating Senior</i>
	Commencement Address	Dr. Richard A. Wahls <i>BSAE '84, MSAE '86, Ph.D. AE '89</i>
Presentation of Doctoral and Master Diplomas	Dr. Paul Ro <i>Professor, Associate Department Head, and Director of Graduate Programs</i>	Ms. Aslyn Rau <i>Undergraduate Programs Assistant</i>
Presentation of Undergraduate Diplomas	Dr. Jack Edwards <i>Professor, Associate Department Head, and Director of Undergraduate Programs</i>	Ms. Aslyn Rau
Presentation of Graduating Class & Closing Remarks	Dr. Srinath V. Ekkad	

Doctor of Philosophy
Aerospace Engineering

Tyler Hudson
Patrick Leser
Aditya Saini
Minao Shen
Chuanjin Wang

Doctor of Philosophy
Mechanical Engineering

Scottx Blackwelder*
David Bond*
Che-Yuan Chang
Jianxun Cui
Shreyas Joglekar
Jinwook Kim*
Sibo Li*
Corey Misenheimer
Amanda Myers
Ni Sui
Tianlei Sun
Dingjie Suo
Zengyang Wu

Master of Science
Aerospace Engineering

Maria Aleman
Alex Gay
Utkarsh B Gupta
Bryan Hoffman
Navyatha Kakumanu
Charlotte Lawrence
Carol Moore*
Andrew Newswanger
Vikram Ramnath
Travis Rivord
Eric Stewart
Andrew Ward
Dominic Zelenak

Master of Science
Mechanical Engineering

Kevin Anilson
Jonathan Austin
Sai Kiran Bavgi
Gordon Beverly*
Michael Brewer
Brian Carcaterra*
Edward Chapman*
Sriram Chari*
Jacob Combs
Stephen Coppola
Haley Cowen

Mahlon Daniels*
Michael Darges
Gaurav Dave
Rachel Davidson
Patrick DeAngelis Jr.
Ashutosh Dharap*
Sathvik Divi
Justin Dubrosky
Blake Dunham
Krista Edwards*
Umar Faraz*
Landin Fisher*
Yingxi Geng
Reuven Gomes
Tyler Goode
Paul Goodwin
Nikhil JRK Gerard
Aditya Kaimal
Heramb Karnataki*
Timothy Ling
Himanshu Londhe*
Siddharth A Mahajan
Dustin Martin
Nicholas McMenamy*
Brian Miklancie
Nikhil Patil
Nicholas Pickering
Michael Poppo*
Jawan Qadir
William Sharp
Marissa Singley
Jesse Smith
Sonali Sonawane*
Sriraghav Sridharan
Hadley Stuart
Prashant Tambey
Shubham Tandon
Swathi Upadhayay
Joshua Warren*
Samantha White*
Matthew Williams
Zhaoxi Yao*
Sakib A Zargar*

Bachelor of Science
Aerospace Engineering

Jonathan Hill *summa cum laude*

Bachelor of Science
Mechanical Engineering

John Adams
Duncan Anderson *cum laude*
Seth Baker *summa cum laude*
Zachary Baker *cum laude*

Benjamin Bingham
Kevin Birkdale
Laura Burns
Matthew Butler
Christopher Cagle *magna cum laude*
Kyle Confer
Adam Cunningham *magna cum laude*
Kenneth Davis
Hamilton Disher *cum laude*
Tylor Dockery
Heath Evans
Dylan Fox
William Gilbert
Mark Gorton
Logan Greer
Viviane Guessi *cum laude*
Paul Guntner
James Hanson *cum laude*
Courtney Harper *magna cum laude*
Charles Horvath *magna cum laude*
David Jones
Taylor Jones
Richard Kanode *cum laude*
Kevin Kauffman *summa cum laude*
Charlotte Mader
Michael Magness
Andrew Malinich
Nathan Maltba *cum laude*
Dylan Matkowsky
Bobby McCarn *cum laude*
Noa McNutt
Stephanie Meyer
Robert Misroon
Gregory Montanez
Linus Ndumia *cum laude*
William O'Brien
Nina Ondona *cum laude*
Hayden Pernia
Dargan Powers *cum laude*
Soren Rademacher
Carson Ratcliff *cum laude*
Riley Shea *cum laude*
Hun Ki Sim *cum laude*
Nicholas Skahill *magna cum laude*
William Smith
Mark Stacy
Daniel Stafford
Grant Stokke *summa cum laude*
Christian Ternes
Taylor Waters *cum laude*
Thomas Welborn *summa cum laude*
Cecil Wilson *magna cum laude*
Cordon Witherington
Katherine Woodley *summa cum laude*

* summer 2017 graduate