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HOLLINS UNIVERSITY



ALEXIA PARTOUCHE PHOTOS, THE ROANOKE TIMES

Hollins University graduates applaud as Phuong-Anh Ha, who died in April 2025 after being struck by a vehicle, is awarded a posthumous bachelor's degree, accepted by her brother.

MIDDLE EAST

Trump delivers threat to Iran

President warned that Iran must act 'fast' to break stalemate

TALA RAMADAN
Reuters

DUBAI — A drone strike caused a fire at a nuclear power plant in the United Arab Emirates, officials there said Sunday, while Saudi Arabia reported intercepting three drones, and President Donald Trump warned that Iran must act "fast" after efforts to end the U.S.-Israeli war with Iran appeared to have stalled.

Emirati officials said they were investigating the source of the strike and that the UAE had the full right to respond to such "terrorist attacks." A diplomatic adviser to the UAE president said it represented a dangerous escalation, whether carried out by "the principal perpetrator" or one of its proxies.

The UAE defense ministry said two other drones were "successfully" dealt with, and that the drones were launched from the "western border." It did not elaborate.

Saudi Arabia said the three drones it intercepted entered from Iraqi airspace and warned that it would take the necessary operational measures to respond to any attempt to violate its sovereignty and security.

While hostilities during the Iran conflict have largely been scaled down since a cease-fire came into effect in April, drones have been launched from Iraq toward Gulf countries, including Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

The drone that got through the UAE's defenses hit an electrical generator outside the inner perimeter of the Barakah Nuclear Power Plant, the Abu Dhabi Media Office said. Radiological safety levels were unaffected and there were no injuries, it said. UAE's Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation later confirmed that the plant remained safe, with no radioactive material released from the strike.

Graduates lauded for their resilience

Grads, university community gathered to celebrate class of 2026

ALEXIA PARTOUCHE
The Roanoke Times

As Hollins University celebrated its class of 2026 graduates at the Berglund Center Sunday morning, their joy, confidence and competence in the face of uncertainty and difficulty was at the forefront.

"While you were here, you witnessed a world too often consumed by war and hate and isolation, but in the face of that darkness, each of you chose a different way," President Mary Dana Hinton told graduates



A student receives her degree during the Hollins University commencement ceremony on Sunday at the Berglund Center in Roanoke.

during the ceremony. "You welcomed one another with open arms, intentionally choosing to embrace and welcome what is good and fair and just." Speakers throughout the

ceremony reminded the graduates that they already had the skills and attributes needed to succeed. Among them was commencement speaker Sabrina Rose-Smith, a Hollins alumna and trustee who is an equity partner in Goodwin's Financial Services Litigation and Consumer Financial Services Litigation practices.

Rose-Smith spoke to graduates about the "four gifts" they were leaving Hollins with: friendship, resilience and adaptability, community and discernment.

Those four attributes, combined with the slow accumulation of experience and wisdom, would allow graduates to create a life they could be proud of even in the face of challenges, she said.

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States eye aid to prop up distressed hospitals

Comes amid cuts to federal Medicaid

BERNARD J. WOLFSON
KFF Health News

LOS ANGELES — At Martin Luther King Jr. Community Hospital, patients on gurneys line the hallways of the emergency department waiting for care, and overflow mental health patients are consigned to outdoor tents.

The 152-bed hospital, which

sits on a sprawling medical campus close to the predominantly Latino and Black neighborhood of Watts, is struggling for financial stability. Its patients are poorer and sicker than average, many of them are uninsured, and three-fourths of MLK's patient care revenue comes from Medi-Cal, the state's version of the Medicaid program, which pays low rates. For hospitals statewide, by comparison, less than one-third of patient revenue

comes from Medi-Cal. And MLK Community Healthcare, which comprises the hospital and two nearby clinics, is independent, so it cannot fall back on a larger chain to absorb some of the financial pressure.

Similar problems plague hundreds of financially vulnerable hospitals around the country, and their financial woes are about to get worse.

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BERNARD WOLFSON, KFF HEALTH NEWS

Elaine Batchlor, CEO of MLK Community Healthcare in Los Angeles, and Atul Nakhasi, MLK's vice president of government affairs and community relations, stand outside the entrance to Martin Luther King Jr. Community Hospital's new emergency psychiatric assessment, treatment and healing or EmPATH.

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