



WITTENBERG UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

THE CLASS OF TWO THOUSAND TWENTY

One Hundred Seventieth Commencement

*Sunday, the Sixteenth of May,
Two Thousand Twenty-One*

wittenberg
UNIVERSITY

“This is a lovely spot for the location of a literary institution. It requires some faith to believe that in after years it will be an academic grove, to which hundreds will drink at the pure fountains of knowledge, and go forth into the world to do good, to bless mankind.”

– Ezra Keller, Founder and First President of Wittenberg College (1845–1848)

WITTENBERG UNIVERSITY

One Hundred Seventieth Commencement

PROCESSIONAL

Pomp and Circumstance, Military March No. 1 by Edward Elgar

INVOCATION

The Rev. Dr. Anders S. Tune, *The David and Carol Matevia Endowed University Pastor*

Pastor: We begin this Commencement in the name of our life-giving and gracious God, the source of all goodness and truth, known in Christian confession as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Responsive Reading Psalm 145

Pastor: Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; there is no end to his greatness.

People: One generation shall praise your works to another, and shall declare your power.

Pastor: I will ponder the glorious splendor of your majesty, and all your marvelous works.

People: They shall speak of the might of your wondrous acts, and I will tell of your greatness.

Pastor: They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; they shall sing of your righteous deeds.

People: The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and of great kindness.

Pastor: The Lord is loving to everyone, and his compassion is over all his works.

People: All your works praise you, O Lord, and your faithful servants bless you.

Pastor: The Lord upholds all those who fall; he lifts up those who are bowed down.

People: The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord, and you give them their food in due season.

Pastor: You open wide your hand, and satisfy the needs of every living creature.

People: The Lord is righteous in all his ways, and loving in all his works.

Pastor: The Lord is near to those who call upon him, to all who call upon him faithfully.

People: My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord; let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.

Lesson Philipians 4:8-9

Pastor: In his letter to the Philippians, the Apostle Paul writes:

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

The Prayer

WELCOME AND REMARKS

Dr. Michael L. Frandsen, *President of the University*

Vanessa Orduna Zarazua, *Class of 2020*

REMARKS

Ms. Janet E. Jackson '75, *Wittenberg Board of Directors*

CONFERRING OF MASTER'S DEGREES

Master of Arts in Athletic Coaching

Master of Arts in Education

Master of Science in Analytics

Presented by Dr. Michelle M. Mattson, *Provost*

CONFERRING OF BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

Bachelor of Arts

Bachelor of Fine Arts

Bachelor of Music Education

Bachelor of Science

Presented by Dr. Michelle M. Mattson, *Provost*

TASSEL CEREMONY

Dr. Michael L. Frandsen, *President of the University*

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION WELCOME

Ms. Jenn Ramage '00, *President of the Wittenberg University Alumni Association*

SINGING OF THE ALMA MATER

Ms. Allison F. Peebles

Alma Mater of the Class of 2020

Mr. Alexander J. O'Connor

Alma Lux of the Class of 2020

Alma Mater Lyrics

Wittenberg, dear Wittenberg,
Once again to thee
We, thy grateful children, pledge
Love and loyalty.
We shall always love thy groves
And thy classic halls;
Mem'ry, like the ivy twines
Round thy hallowed walls.

Wittenberg, dear Wittenberg,
Time flies fast away;
Soon our happy college days
Will be gone for aye;
But in all life's storm and stress,
Whate'er we may do,
To our Alma Mater dear
We will e'er be true.

– Robert H. Hiller, 1889

Alma Mater, the Spirit of Wittenberg, is a traditional honor that began in June 1920. It is the highest honor bestowed upon a junior female student who exemplifies the qualities of leadership, scholarship and service during her four years at the university.

Alma Lux, is a traditional honor that was established in 2003. It is the highest honor bestowed upon a junior male student who exemplifies the qualities of leadership, scholarship and service during his four years at the university.

BENEDICTION

The Rev. Anders S. Tune, *The David and Carol Matevia Endowed University Pastor*

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor, and give you peace.

People: Amen.

RECESSIONAL

Please remain seated until recessional ends.

COMMENCEMENT MARSHALS

Julius D. Bailey,
Associate Professor of Philosophy

Amy R. McGuffey,
Associate Professor of Education

Kristin K. Cline,
Professor of Chemistry

Michelle L. McWhorter,
Associate Professor of Biology

Michael C. Daiga,
Assistant Professor of Education

Richard S. Phillips,
Associate Professor of Biology

Raymond C. Dudek,
Professor of Chemistry

John Thistlethwaite,
Associate Professor of Health & Sport Studies

D. Scot Hinson,
Associate Professor of English

Katie M. Warber, Grand Marshal
Professor & Chair of Communication

Rick A. Incorvati,
Professor of English

Brian D. Yontz,
Associate Professor of Education

TORCH, BANNERS AND FLAG BEARERS

The Wittenberg Torch is carried by Ms. Charlotte E. Hurst, *President of the Class of 2021*.

The United States flag is carried by Ms. Avery B. Adams, *President of the Class of 2022*.

The Wittenberg banner is carried by Mr. Emmanuel L. Thombs '22, *Student Senate President*.

CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

This program contains the names of candidates for Commencement. Degree certification is subject to the completion of all degree requirements and is validated by the Office of the Registrar. All academic honors noted below are based on cumulative grade-point averages calculated at the end of the 2019 fall semester, which do not take spring semester grades into account. Honors awarded at Commencement will be determined by each student's final cumulative grade-point average, calculated at the end of the 2020 spring semester. The degrees are awarded within the fields of major concentration. The second major concentration, if any, is shown under the candidate's name.

Degrees are awarded upon successful completion of all degree requirements. Participation at Commencement or listing of student's name in the program does not guarantee degree conferral.

Master of Arts In Athletic Coaching

Professor Jennifer Parsons

Director of the Master of Science in Athletic Coaching

Sarah Culp
Springfield, OH

Evelyn Marie Carus
Troy, OH

Tyler N. Poe
Centerville, OH

Casey Clement Ryan
Libertyville, IL

Daniel Robert Shields
Springfield, OH

Chelsea Renee Zang
Cincinnati, OH

Master of Arts In Education

Professor Amy McGuffey

Director of Graduate Studies in Education

Jessica Nicole Carpenter
Springfield, OH

Audrey Michelle Phibbs-Kleather
Tipp City, OH

Brett Anthony Rudy
Springfield, OH

Rachel M. Yontz
Springfield, OH

Master of Science In Analytics

Professor Ross Jackson

Director of the Master of Science in Analytics Program

Kalyan Arika
Dublin, OH

Sarah K. Auble
Springfield, OH

Nicholas Breneman
Grandview Heights, OH

John T. Dahl
Worthington, OH

Noah R. Hobson
Farmington Hills, MI

Dorian A. Hunter
Springfield, OH

Timothy M. McNulty
Indianapolis, IN

Ashley Nicole Price
Dayton, OH

Adam M. Riedy
Kettering, OH

Cortez James Suggs
Cincinnati, OH

Jay Milton Weygandt
Springfield, OH

Art

Professor Elena Dahl

Bachelor of Arts

Allie C. Garnai
Summa Cum Laude
Wilmington, OH

Rachel E. Littleton
Cum Laude
Departmental Honors
University Honors
Springfield, OH

Dominic James Lee
McLendon
Hamilton, OH

Andrew Michael O'Malley
Magna Cum Laude
Ashville, OH

Claudia Rose Rieth
(Marketing)
Cum Laude
Mason, OH

Kellen MacKenzie Roach
Dublin, OH

Katlyn L. Roberts
Cum Laude
Departmental Honors
Springfield, OH

Hawk David Allen Smith
Cum Laude
Fremont, OH

Grace Avereal Worley
Magna Cum Laude
Departmental Honors
University Honors
Hudson, OH

Bachelor of Fine Arts

Amanda Victoria Hanson
Cum Laude
Rocky River, OH

Biochemistry/ Molecular Biology

Professor Margaret A. Goodman

*Director of the Biochemistry/
Molecular Biology Program*

Bachelor of Arts

Erin Schwarz Armitage
Dayton, OH

Lindsey Nicole King
Summa Cum Laude
Lancaster, OH

Biology

Professor Margaret A. Goodman

Bachelor of Arts

Dylan J. Ammon
Lima, OH

Veronica Heather Easom
Springfield, OH

Tyler Mark Gittins
Westerville, OH

Hollie M. Gray
North Lewisburg, OH

Javon Daquan McCoy
Elizabeth, PA

Christopher Charles
Muhammad
Cleveland, OH

Adrianna Sheets
Westerville, OH

Bachelor of Science

Luis Armando Alvarado
Cervantes
Medway, OH

Garrin J. Bachinski
Cum Laude
Columbus, OH

Ciara Davona Boykins
Reynoldsburg, OH

Chad Alan Brewer
New Richmond, OH

Kelly Renee Corbin
Fallbrook, CA

Rachel Marie Corsello
Magna Cum Laude
Departmental Honors
University Honors
Parma, OH

Cameron James Dobrotka
Magna Cum Laude
Departmental Honors
University Honors
Burr Ridge, IL

Kelli Ann Fisher
Cum Laude
St. Charles, MO

Joshua Charles Goble
(Music)
Hillsboro, OH

Trevor Alexander Grubb
Medway, OH

Ilse Joné Hassler
Cum Laude
Departmental Honors
University Honors
Jim Thorpe, PA

Erin Mary Grace Helge
Columbus, OH

Lauren Nicole Hoendorf
Summa Cum Laude
Springfield, OH

Payton E. Hurl
Summa Cum Laude
Pataskala, OH

Asharee B. Jones
Hamilton, OH

Theodore D. Jones
Loveland, OH

Emily Kay Kight
Mount Vernon, OH

Breann Elizabeth
Losiewicz
Lorain, OH

Ryan Andrew Mallette
Cum Laude
North Canton, OH

Bethlehem Kindie Melaku
Washington, DC

Casey Marie Meyers
Summa Cum Laude
Departmental Honors
University Honors
Pittsburgh, PA

Brooke Marie Moore
Summa Cum Laude
Bellaire, OH

Madison Taylor Nadler
Summa Cum Laude
Departmental Honors
University Honors
Jackson, OH

Allison Faith Peebles
Summa Cum Laude
Mason, OH

Ivonne Viridiana Perez
Cardona
Urbana, OH

Cassidy L. Rowe
Summa Cum Laude
Hilliard, OH

Jacob C. Rubin
(Exercise Science)
West Bloomfield, MI

Thomas Phillip Scholl
Hilliard, OH

Emory Schweitzer
(Environmental Science)
Fairborn, OH

Zandrea Ashia Simpson
Cum Laude
Cincinnati, OH

Courtney Rae Stewart
Fayetteville, OH

Drew Thomas Suffoletta
Summa Cum Laude
Departmental Honors
University Honors
Cincinnati, OH

Savannah Nicole Taylor
Summa Cum Laude
Harrison, OH

Nicholas Parke Wanamaker
(Music)
New Carlisle, OH

Brittany Marie Yanders
Springfield, OH

Business

Professor Tim Bode

Accounting

Bachelor of Arts

Marcus Lloyd Adams
New Albany, OH

Tyler J. Branton
(Finance)
Marysville, OH

Christopher D. Fritts
Summa Cum Laude
Springfield, OH

Colton Curtis Frost
Frazeysburg, OH

Alexis Nicole Hill
(Management)
Rockbridge, OH

Katharine M. Hollern
(Finance)
Magna Cum Laude
Dublin, OH

Whitney Paige Hoover
(Finance)
Summa Cum Laude
McCordsville, IN

Nicholas Joseph Kendall
(Management)
Cum Laude
Fort Thomas, KY

Michael Patrick Kenny, II
(Finance)
Summa Cum Laude
Parker, CO

Alexis Marie Price
Springfield, OH

Christopher V. Reisinger
(Finance)
Summa Cum Laude
Ft. Wright, KY

Aaron Tristin Rutherford
(Finance)
Bellefontaine, OH

Noah Michael Wissel
(Finance)
Summa Cum Laude
South Lebanon, OH

Entrepreneurship

Bachelor of Arts

Joseph Laurence Barnes
(Political Science)
Albany, OH

William Bradley Austin
Caylor
Salem, OH

Carter D. Grzegorzewski
Avon, IN

Kellon A. Norfleet
(Communication)
University Park, IL

Finance

Bachelor of Arts

Jace A. Barga
Versailles, OH

Michael R. Boyd
Urbana, OH

Mitchell T. Cain
Fort Thomas, KY

John Hale Condon
(Self-Design)
Waltham, MA

Austin K. Doliboa
Middletown, OH

Staci Virginia Mary
Harmon
(Accounting)
New Carlisle, OH

Anthony Paul LeBarge, III
Grand Island, NY

Kenneth S. Mayes
Dublin, OH

James Alex McCarty
Lebanon, OH

Noah Aaron Moderswell
(Accounting)
Magna Cum Laude
Libertyville, IL

Katherine Claire Phillips
Medina, OH

Rahul Krishnan
Ramanathan
Ann Arbor, MI

Patrick J. Riley
North Reading, MA

Jack G. Smith
(Sport Management)
Cincinnati, OH

Jackson L. Tyler
Noblesville, IN

Logan Bryan Walton
Loveland, OH

Cameron R. Willis
(Accounting)
Cum Laude
Eaton, OH

Madison Lee Wolters
Cum Laude
Springboro, OH

Management

Bachelor of Arts

Ryan Bates
Yellow Springs, OH

Veronica Ann Bidwill
Pompano Beach, FL

Shota Ganno
Magna Cum Laude
Nabari City, Mie, Japan

Jacob Shawn Gilmore
Westerville, OH

Abigail Paige Hanson
Cum Laude
Lebanon, OH

Cameron Rashaad Harden
Bartow, FL

Andrew K Herron
Vermilion, OH

Trenton Michael Hopson
(Accounting)
Columbus, OH

Jake D. Kennedy
Bellefontaine, OH

Matthew Eugene
McFarland
Springfield, OH

Tyler Pearson
New Albany, OH

Jaycee Allen Perry
Jeffersonville, OH

Connor Joseph Seipel
Groveport, OH

Daniil D. Shcherbinin
Lutz, FL

Nicholas A. Treboni-
Hogan
Dublin, OH

Seth A. Wilke
Springfield, OH

Marketing **Bachelor of Arts**

Alexis K. Banaszak
Springfield, OH

John David Bechtel
Dublin, OH

Korynne Jean Berner
Summa Cum Laude
Urbana, OH

Jenna Elizabeth Bluemlein
Edgewood, KY

Andrew G. Boeres
Mason, OH

Chase Derrick Carpenter
(Sport Management)
Cincinnati, OH

Michael Liam Coyle
Grosse Pointe, MI

Jana C. Davila
Magna Cum Laude
Dayton, OH

Scott Q. Durham
Bay Village, OH

Kristen Anne Eikenberry
Cum Laude
Departmental Honors
University Honors
Springboro, OH

Michael Essig
Springfield, OH

Aaron M. Fasano
Mason, OH

Sawyer August Francis
Russia, OH

Alexis S. Gray
Washington Court House,
OH

Yorihiro Kosaka
Magna Cum Laude
Springfield, OH

Sydney M Landrum
Cum Laude
New Vienna, OH

Louis Aubrey Major
Middletown, OH

MacKenzie Lydia Mason
(Sociology)
Granger, IN

Adam Thomas Mays
(Sport Management)
Tucson, AZ

Jacob W Muhleman
Dublin, OH

Olivia Nortz
Cum Laude
Westerville, OH

Jordan Austin Neal
Pumroy
Springfield, OH

Megan Lynn Selby
(Communication)
Magna Cum Laude
Cincinnati, OH

McKenzi P. Sinclair
(Educational Studies)
Pittsburgh, PA

Connor J. Skidmore
Plain City, OH

Kieren Langston Thomas
Cincinnati, OH

Charles W. Tillett
Wayland, MA

Matthew S. Welch
Zionsville, IN

Jack Thomas Wolfe
Summa Cum Laude
Troy, MI

Chemistry

**Professor Raymond
Dudek**

Bachelor of Arts

Taylor Nicole Bushman
(Biology)
Batavia, OH

Caitlyn Marie Hum
Cum Laude
Hamilton, OH

Bachelor of Science

Reyna Jaqueline Ayala
Montes
Waukegan, IL

Katherine Rose Robinson
(Bachelor of Arts-Physics)
Summa Cum Laude
Beavercreek, OH

Communication

Professor Katie Warber
Department Chair

Bachelor of Arts

Nicholas Aaron Angeli
Helena, MT

Aaron Lee Banion
Springfield, OH

Jonathan Alan Butler
Vandalia, OH

Aubrey Lynn Cox
Magna Cum Laude
Tipp City, OH

Riley Lynn Culver
Wapakoneta, OH

Tristan Charles Davis
Huber Heights, OH

Lindsay Nicole Fetherolf
(Sociology)
Magna Cum Laude
Departmental Honors
University Honors
Marysville, OH

Jason Lamont Gregory
Springfield, OH

Tyler J. Humble
Dayton, OH

Robin Dale Kaigle
Shelbyville, KY

Emily Helena Kaufman
Magna Cum Laude
Maryville, TN

Margaret Ann Keverline
Summa Cum Laude
Departmental Honors
University Honors
Mentor, OH

Mallory Winifred Moss
Atwater, OH

Bryson R. Owens
Lake Wales, FL

Abbey Perkins
Cum Laude
Enon, OH

Curtis Robert Salmans
Columbus, OH

Cooper T. Swenson
Chappaqua, NY

Computer Science

Professor Adam Parker
Department Chair

Bachelor of Arts

Leul M. Bulcha
Washington, DC

Steven Carl Frebis
Zachary, LA

John Austin Hughes
(Data Science)
Summa Cum Laude
Morrow, OH

Hai Trung Vo
(Data Science)
Summa Cum Laude
Pleiku

Data Science

Professor Adam Parker
Department Chair

Bachelor of Arts

Kayla Cull
Hazle Township, PA

Emma Kathryn Thacker
Cum Laude
Mason, OH

Kimberly Marie Wiggins
Lima, OH

East Asian Studies

Professor Terumi Imai

Bachelor of Arts

Samantha Lyn Bailey
(Theatre and Dance)
Marengo, OH

Hannah Pauline Brattain
Greencastle, IN

Kaitlin N. McMurtrie
East Asian Studies
Cum Laude
Allen Park, MI

Economics

Professor Tim Bode

Bachelor of Arts

Elliot McKnight Newbold
Cum Laude
Trumbull, CT

Grant David Steele
(German)
Cum Laude
Departmental Honors
University Honors
Downers Grove, IL

Olesya Tehan
(Self-Design)
Summa Cum Laude
Departmental Honors
University Honors
Worthington, OH

Financial Economics

Bachelor of Arts

Luke William Ballard
Chagrin Falls, OH

Jonathan E. Specht
Summa Cum Laude
Departmental Honors
University Honors
Mason, OH

Victor Elliott Verdier
(Marketing)
Columbus, OH

Education

Professor Sally Brannan

Bachelor of Arts

Emily Lauren Bunsold
Bellbrook, OH

Luke Thomas Campbell
Trenton, OH

Tanner Glenn Cowgill
Cum Laude
Worthington, OH

Chelby Camden Dye
Summa Cum Laude
Springfield, OH

Kendra Guillermina
Ebanks
(Music)
West Bay, Cayman Islands

Hannah Marie Eley
Arcanum, OH

Andrew Ryan Hammond
Newark, OH

Olivia Clare Hopkins
Summa Cum Laude
Mason, OH

Taylor C. Horton
Springfield, OH

Erin Lynn Jones
New Carlisle, OH

Magdelana Marie Kesig
Cum Laude
Canal Winchester, OH

Kathlein Lebo
Urbana, OH

Erin Nicole Long
Magna Cum Laude
Findlay, OH

Elissa Katherine
Manchester
Summa Cum Laude
Columbus, OH

Joan Addison Mathews
Summa Cum Laude
Louisville, KY

Marlee T. McGorray
Summa Cum Laude
Rocky River, OH

Faith V. Meads
Magna Cum Laude
Columbus, OH

Thomas G. Mele, Jr.
Summa Cum Laude
Saint Marys, OH

Allissa M. Miller
Summa Cum Laude
Springfield, OH

Madelyn Kay Myers
Perrysburg, OH

Lydia Dawn Newton
Magna Cum Laude
Enon, OH

Abbigail Kristina Opdycke
Cum Laude
Rocky River, OH

Zoe M. Parris
Cleveland, OH

Taylor Renee Pawlowski
Pittsburgh, PA

Alexis Nicole Polisenio
Cum Laude
Reynoldsburg, OH

Jamey R. Rettig
Cum Laude
Findlay, OH

Molly Janet Rounds
Sylvania, OH

Skylar Alexis Senters
Van Wert, OH

Samantha Michael Skelly
Reynoldsburg, OH

Samarra Mercedes L.
Sucharda
Summa Cum Laude
Arcanum, OH

Gabrielle K Szydlowski
Magna Cum Laude
Twinsburg, OH

Emma Kathryn Vidal
Oak Harbor, OH

Educational Studies

Professor Brian Yontz
Department Chair

Bachelor of Arts

Zachary Adam Hobson
Cum Laude
Ferndale, MI

Eleanor Marie Teague
Reynoldsburg, OH

Kari Brennan Truax
Magna Cum Laude
Carmel, IN

Claudia J. White
Chagrin Falls, OH

English

Professor Lori Askeland
Department Chair

Bachelor of Arts

Erykah Lee Andrews
Reynoldsburg, OH

Molly Nicole Burnett
(Psychology)
Columbus, OH

Andrew David Choiniere
Columbus, OH

James Alexander
Hagerman
(Communication)
Summa Cum Laude
Departmental Honors
Westerville, OH

Theresa Kathleen Harper
Summa Cum Laude
Departmental Honors
University Honors
Columbia, SC

Katrin Christine Hodson
Summa Cum Laude
Departmental Honors
University Honors
Wabash, IN

Kimberly Rae Ishmael
Louisville, KY

Emma E. Kilpatrick
Miamisburg, OH

Ariel B. Moss
Victor, ID

Alexis Morgan Perry
Cum Laude
South Charleston, OH

Sophia Elise Reutter
(Biology)
Cum Laude
Departmental Honors
University Honors
Dublin, OH

Samantha Laramie
Reynolds
Summa Cum Laude
Departmental Honors
University Honors
Holland, OH

Carly E. Schneider
(Sociology)
Cum Laude
Departmental Honors
University Honors
Dayton, OH

Nathan Lynn Schwartz
West Lafayette, OH

Anna Christine Shoumlin
Springfield, OH

Mackenzie Marie Swank
Sunbury, OH

Alexandria Chell
Wadsworth
Napoleon, OH

Clay A. Waidelich
Summa Cum Laude
Wauseon, OH

Megan Nicole Winters
Summa Cum Laude
Departmental Honors
University Honors
North Benton, OH

Environmental Science

Professor John Ritter
Director of the Environmental Science Program

Bachelor of Science

Samuel Rembrandt Beckett
Galena, OH

Emily Elizabeth Buckley
Amherst, OH

Jordan Lee Dawson
Magna Cum Laude
Akron, OH

Kaitlyn E. Seitz
Cum Laude
Canal Winchester, OH

Andrew Carl Shanor
(Biology)
Roswell, NM

Brittany Ann Shelton-Dooley
White Creek, TN

Tod Greyden Yoder
Fredericksburg, OH

Health, Fitness & Sport

Professor Jennifer Parsons

Exercise Science

Bachelor of Arts

Kyle Russell Arnold
Huber Heights, OH

Marita Banta-Long
Chesterton, IN

Macee Lee Bartok
Howard, OH

Rachel Catherine Bernard
Magna Cum Laude
Departmental Honors
University Honors
Loveland, OH

Mackenzie Anne Calvert
Summa Cum Laude
Columbus, OH

Troy M. Clay
Springfield, OH

Annelise Marie Gibson
Springfield, OH

Cydnee Deshell Goines
Dayton, OH

Dane A. Jensen
West Des Moines, IA

Brandon Ellis Johnson
Columbus, OH

Prince-Robert C. Logan
Ypsilanti, MI

Joshua Michael McErlean
Gahanna, OH

Justin Paul Rolfes
Hamilton, OH

Zachary Siliac, Jr.
Orange Park, FL

Ravjot Kaur Singh
Springfield, OH

Caroline S. Warner
Cum Laude
Columbus, OH

Joseph Daniel Zallanta
Powell, OH

Sport Management

Bachelor of Arts

Ross A. Angelo
(Management)
Cum Laude
Bellefontaine, OH

Justin Michael Bargar
Chagrin Falls, OH

Cody Matthew Dinan
Fort Wayne, IN

Nicholas Blake Eiland
Lake Wales, FL

Mark Anthony Fair
Reynoldsburg, OH

Ryan M. Hale
Centerville, OH

Nicholas Ray Hall
Lewis Center, OH

Aaron Taylor House
Springfield, OH

Sara C. Kohls
West Chester, OH

Jack Chandler Minnery
Columbus, OH

Savanah Raylene Phillips
(Management)
Cum Laude
Ramona, CA

Mary Margaret Speyer
Medina, OH

History

Professor Scott Rosenberg
Acting Department Chair

Bachelor of Arts

Andrew Jacob Appel
Westerville, OH

Mitchell Paul Balsler
Dayton, OH

Bradley Louis Barren
Summa Cum Laude
Cleveland, OH

Grace Eileen Fischer
Summa Cum Laude
Ostrander, OH

Trevor Austin Hoberty
(Biology)
Magna Cum Laude
Departmental Honors
University Honors
Springfield, OH

Casey Nicole Juday
New Carlisle, OH

Quinn Thomas McConkey
Evanston, IL

Ethan Hayes Peck
Lexington, KY

Lindsey Marie Shannon
Cum Laude
Milford, OH

International Studies

Professor Lila M. Zaharkov

Director of the International Studies Program

Bachelor of Arts

Katharine Borden
Mt. Sterling, OH

Benjamin Thomas Strommen
Salina, KS

Languages

Professor Ruth Hoff

Department Chair

German

Bachelor of Arts

Marielle L. Beach
(International Studies)
Magna Cum Laude
Westerville, OH

Zoë Kristen Andersen
Schwartz
(History)
Summa Cum Laude
Departmental Honors
University Honors
Traverse City, MI

Mathematics

Professor Adam Parker

Department Chair

Bachelor of Arts

Ryan M. Probst
Summa Cum Laude
Mason, OH

Taylor M. Yontz
Summa Cum Laude
Springfield, OH

Bachelor of Science

Ngoc Minh Quang
Nguyen
(Data Science)
Summa Cum Laude
Departmental Honors
Nha Trang, Khanh Hoa,
Vietnam

Katherine Leigh Vorpe
Summa Cum Laude
Departmental Honors
University Honors
Cincinnati, OH

Music

Professor David Schubert

Bachelor of Arts

Molly Rose Carner
(Communication)
Magna Cum Laude
Tipp City, OH

Elena Grace Dumm
(Communication)
Summa Cum Laude
Departmental Honors
University Honors
Shaker Heights, OH

Haley Lynan Hyde
New Castle, KY

Sarah Jane Knobloch
Cum Laude
Pittsburgh, PA

Haley R. Rawlings
Amherst, OH

Brian David Schindehette
Westerville, OH

Jaheem LeJay Washington
Naples, FL

Bachelor of Music Education

Alexander James O'Connor
Summa Cum Laude
Departmental Honors
University Honors
Miamisburg, OH

Ryan Allan Tilley
Springfield, OH

Nursing

Professor Marie Bashaw

Director of Nursing

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Sarah Marie Albaugh
Springfield, OH

Nathan Andorfer
Summa Cum Laude
Springfield, OH

Gabrielle N. Bond
Batavia, OH

Elizabeth Rose
Cadwallader
Ashville, OH

Karli P. Daniels
Summa Cum Laude
West Liberty, OH

Taylor L. Dean
Summa Cum Laude
Fairborn, OH

Kayla L. Garrett
New Carlisle, OH

Lauren Michelle Hamppe
Powell, OH

Rachel Elaine Leach
Magna Cum Laude
West Liberty, OH

Rachel E. Mackov
Magna Cum Laude
Worthington, OH

Philosophy

Professor Julius Bailey

Bachelor of Arts

Greta Wallin Andersen
(Political Science)
Cum Laude
Greenwood, IN

Andrew P. Richardson
Ithaca, NY

Physics

Professor Jeremiah Williams

Department Chair

Bachelor of Arts

David Andrew Campbell
(Computer Science)
Eaton, OH

Mary Claire E. Lynch
Northville, MI

Frank X. O'Toole
Hamilton, OH

Bachelor of Science

Caleb Beck
Wilmington, OH

Anna Marie Beggs
(Mathematics)
Cum Laude
Departmental Honors
Lincolnton, GA

Jacob Bailey Bertemes
Magna Cum Laude
Departmental Honors
South Charleston, OH

Joshua Val Darang
Tucson, AZ

Michael Anthony Flynn,
IV
Columbus, OH

Quintin Edward
Muhlenkamp
(Bachelor of Arts–Geology)
Summa Cum Laude
Departmental Honors
University Honors
Greenville, OH

William Jacob Taylor
Summa Cum Laude
Springfield, OH

Victoria Ruth Toetz
Magna Cum Laude
Departmental Honors
Indianapolis, IN

Political Science

Professor James Allan
Department Chair

Bachelor of Arts

Joshua David Butler
Summa Cum Laude
Ironton, OH

Kamryn J. Campbell
Summa Cum Laude
Proctorville, OH

Kasandra Helen Cogswell
Summa Cum Laude
Oakwood, OH

Clara Crawford DeHart
Summa Cum Laude
Departmental Honors
University Honors
Pegram, TN

Lauren Elizabeth Geraci
Cum Laude
Hamilton, OH

Mackenzie Elaine Hill
(Communication)
Summa Cum Laude
Departmental Honors
University Honors
Zanesville, OH

Max C. Joseph
Columbus, OH

Zachary M. Lee
Springfield, OH

Jack Daren Maloney
Columbus, OH

James Willis D.
McConnaughey
Cum Laude
Lynchburg, OH

Allison Sue Miller
Cum Laude
Fairborn, OH

Rachael Danielle Monroe
Milan, MI

Jayson Thomas Christopher
Nowak
(Psychology)
Cum Laude
Grover Hill, OH

Vanessa Orduna Zarazua
Columbus, OH

Benjamin J. Phalen
Chicago, IL

Melanie A. Schaeffer
Fletcher, OH

Alexandra Schmidt
Odessa, FL

Ty Evan Smith
Columbus, OH

Kenneth George Vincent
Cum Laude
Springfield, OH

George Ryan Williams
(Educational Studies)
Cincinnati, OH

Psychology

Professor Stephanie Little

Department Chair

Bachelor of Arts

Tara Elizabeth Buchy
Summa Cum Laude
Departmental Honors
University Honors
Columbus, OH

Madeleine Grace Fisher
Glen Mills, PA

Briana Michelle Gibson
Urbana, OH

Alexandria E. Haase
Ashtabula, OH

Brooke Lynn Miller
(Sociology)
Huntsville, OH

Seneca M. Neal
Columbus, OH

Lilliona E. Rogers
Piqua, OH

Grace A. Runyon
Fayette, OH

Jonathan Anthony Seay
Miramar, FL

Alexander Sheppard
Magna Cum Laude
Fort Wayne, IN

Camiron Lee Corona
Shimrak
Westlake, OH

Justin Z. Smith
South Charleston, OH

Elexis Ann Spence
(Spanish)
Cum Laude
Elyria, OH

Alyssa N. Stout
Delaware, OH

Sara Elizabeth Sullivan
Cum Laude
Powell, OH

Erica Renee Tura
South Lebanon, OH

Antonia V. Turner
(Sociology)
Cum Laude
Springfield, OH

Madison Marie VanHook
Muncie, IN

Savannah Lee Moore
VanPutte
Staunton, IL

Sahaj Vohra
Bluffton, OH

Gabrielle Zysik
Cum Laude
Perrysburg, OH

Bachelor of Science

Jubileen L. Kombe
Westerville, OH

Cassidy Taylor
Summa Cum Laude
Departmental Honors
University Honors
Columbus, OH

Religion

**Professor Jennifer
Oldstone-Moore**
Department Chair

Bachelor of Arts

Christian Forrest Meyer
Columbus, OH

Russian and Central Eurasian Studies

Professor Lila Zaharkov
*Director of the Russian & Central
Eurasian Studies Program*

Bachelor of Arts

Daniel L. Barren
(Religion, Self-Design)
Summa Cum Laude
Departmental Honors
University Honors
Gahanna, OH

Rachael Marie Fink
(International Studies, French)
Summa Cum Laude
Departmental Honors
University Honors
Wickliffe, OH

School of Graduate & Professional Studies

**Professor Michelle
Mattson**
Provost

Criminology and Criminal Justice

Bachelor of Arts

Joshua R. Bujan
London, OH

Liberal Studies

Bachelor of Arts

Andrew B. Phillips
Dayton, OH

Organizational Leadership

Bachelor of Arts

Deborah L. Hall-Vietz
Magna Cum Laude
Troy, OH

Violet Elizabeth Johnston
Summa Cum Laude
Dayton, OH

Kiri Youngblood
New Carlisle, OH

Self-Designed

**Professor Michelle
Mattson**
Provost

Bachelor of Arts

Victor Hall
Arlington, VA

Brian Kelly
Springfield, OH

Jenny A. Larrick
Summa Cum Laude
Departmental Honors
University Honors
Kimbolton, OH

Douglas A. Slagle
Canfield, OH

Luke Daniel Yuhas
Springfield, OH

Sociology

**Professor Brooke
Wagner**
Acting Department Chair

Bachelor of Arts

Jeannette Anderson
Springfield, OH

Trevor Daniel Good
Lewisburg, OH

Aacha Kiera Gregg
Washington, DC

Ashley Kaitlin Hobbs
Piqua, OH

Dania Jaser
Summa Cum Laude
Departmental Honors
Centerville, OH

Jeffrey L. Leonhard
Springfield, OH

Noah W. Perry
(Theater and Dance)
Cum Laude
Columbus, OH

Caroline M. Ray
Fort Wayne, IN

Thaddeus M. Snodgrass
Springfield, OH

Elysia K. St. George
Shelton, CT

Theatre and Dance

**Professor Patrick
Reynolds**
Department Chair

Bachelor of Arts

Taylor Anne Oberschlake
(Dance)
Magna Cum Laude
Columbus, OH

HONORARY ORGANIZATIONS

Class of 2020

Presidential Scholar

Bradley L. Barren
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Rachael M. Fink
Sage R. Gerstenzang
Theresa K. Harper
John A. Hughes
Lindsey N. King
Brooke M. Moore
Quintin E. Muhlenkamp
Alexander J. O'Connor
Allison F. Peebles
Samantha L. Reynolds
Katherine R. Robinson
Katherine L. Vorpe
Megan N. Winters

University Honors

Rachel C. Bernard
Tara E. Buchy
Rachel M. Corsello
Daniel L. Barren
Clara C. DeHart
Cameron J. Dobrotka
Elena G. Dumm
Kristen A. Eikenberry
Rachael M. Fink
Grace A. Worley
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Ilse J. Hassler
Mackenzie E. Hill
Trevor A. Hoberty
Katrin C. Hodson
Jonathan E. Specht
Katherine L. Vorpe
Kenneth G. Vincent
Margaret A. Keverline
Jenny A. Larrick
Lindsay N. Fetherolf
Rachel E. Littleton
Madison M. Vanhook
Casey M. Meyers
Quintin E. Muhlenkamp
Alexander J. O'Connor
Olesya Tehan
Allison F. Peebles

Samantha L. Reynolds
Carly E. Schneider
Zoe K. Schwartz
Sophia E. Reutter
Grant D. Steele
Drew T. Suffoletta
Cassidy S. Taylor
Megan N. Winters

Phi Beta Kappa

Daniel L. Barren
Theresa K. Harper
John A. Hughes
Brooke M. Moore
Olesya Tehan
Hai T. Vo
Taylor M. Yontz

Alpha Alpha Alpha

Leul M. Bulcha
Joshua D. Butler
Kayla M. Cull
Stephen L. Elliott
Lauren E. Geraci
Trevor A. Hoberty
Olivia C. Hopkins
Anthony P. LeBarge
Rachel E. Littleton
Bethlehem K. Melaku
Ariel B. Moss
Lydia D. Newton
Jayson T. Nowak
Ivonne V. Perez
Alexis N. Polisenno
Camiron L. Shimrak
Madison M. Vanhook
Logan B. Walton

Alpha Kappa Delta

Lindsay N. Fetherolf
Noah W. Perry
Lilliona E. Rogers
Carly E. Schneider
Skylar A. Senters
Antonia V. Turner
Madison M. Vanhook

Alpha Lambda Delta

Greta W. Andersen
Erin S. Armitage
Anna M. Beggs
Rachel C. Bernard
Korynne J. Berner
Hannah P. Brattain
Tara E. Buchy
Molly N. Burnett
Taylor N. Bushman
Kamryn J. Campbell
Kassandra H. Cogswell
Rachel M. Corsello
Kayla M. Cull
Jana C. Davila
Elena G. Dumm
Chelby C. Dye
Kristen A. Eikenberry
Rachael M. Fink
Grace E. Fischer
Kelli A. Fisher
Lauren E. Geraci
Theresa K. Harper
Ilse J. Hassler
Mackenzie E. Hill
Katrin C. Hodson
Whitney P. Hoover
Olivia C. Hopkins
Payton E. Hurl
Emily H. Kaufman
Magdalena M. Kesig
Lindsey N. King
Sara C. Kohls
Jenny A. Larrick
Rachel E. Littleton
Erin N. Long
Rachel E. Mackov
Elissa K. Manchester
Joan A. Mathews
Marlee T. McGorray
Casey M. Meyers
Allison S. Miller
Brooke M. Moore
Madison T. Nadler

Lydia D. Newton
Taylor A. Oberschlake
Abbigail K. Opdycke
Allison F. Peebles
Ivonne V. Perez
Alexis M. Perry
Katherine C. Phillips
Haley R. Rawlings
Jamey R. Rettig
Sophia E. Reutter
Samantha L. Reynolds
Kellen M. Roach
Lilliona E. Rogers
Cassidy L. Rowe
Carly E. Schneider
Zoe K. Schwartz
Kaitlyn E. Seitz
Megan L. Selby
Lindsey M. Shannon
Mackenzie M. Swank
Gabrielle K. Szydlowski
Cassidy S. Taylor
Savannah N. Taylor
Olesya Tehan
Emma K. Thacker
Victoria R. Toetz
Kari B. Truax
Erica R. Tura
Madison M. Vanhook
Katherine L. Vorpe
Caroline S. Warner
Claudia J. White
Megan N. Winters
Grace A. Worley
Taylor M. Yontz
Gabrielle K. Zysik

Alpha Phi Omega

Kristen A. Eikenberry
Theresa K. Harper
Ilse J. Hassler
Katrin C. Hodson
John A. Hughes
Margaret A. Keverline
Marlee T. McGorray
Allison F. Peebles
Carly E. Schneider
Alexander T. Sheppard
Olesya Tehan
Hai T. Vo

Beta Beta Beta

Garrin J. Bachinski
Rachel M. Corsello
Cameron J. Dobrotka
Lauren N. Hoendorf
Payton E. Hurl
Casey M. Meyers
Brooke M. Moore
Ivonne V. Perez
Cassidy L. Rowe
Emory F. Schweitzer
Savannah N. Taylor

Chi Alpha Sigma

Greta W. Andersen
Nathan E. Andorfer
Ross A. Angelo
Garrin J. Bachinski
Bradley L. Barren
Daniel L. Barren
Rachel C. Bernard
Korynne J. Berner
Jacob B. Bertemes
Tanner G. Cowgill
Aubrey L. Cox
Scott Q. Durham
Kelli A. Fisher
Johnathon R. Harris
Katrin C. Hodson
Olivia C. Hopkins
Nicholas J. Kendall
Michael P. Kenny
Anthony P. LeBarge
Ryan A. Mallette
Joan A. Mathews
Faith V. Meads
Noah A. Moderwell
Madison T. Nadler
Savanah R. Phillips
Ryan M. Probst
Christopher V. Reisiger
Thomas P. Scholl
Megan L. Selby
Alexander T. Sheppard
Samantha M. Skelly
Jack G. Smith
Drew T. Suffoletta
Emma K. Thacker
Victoria R. Toetz
Cameron R. Willis
Jack T. Wolfe

Taylor M. Yontz
Gabrielle K. Zysik

Epsilon Alpha Sigma

Sage R. Gerstenzang

Gamma Sigma Alpha

Tara E. Buchy
Theresa K. Harper
Mackenzie E. Hill
Elissa K. Manchester
Mallory W. Moss
Gabrielle K. Szydlowski
Olesya Tehan
Emma K. Thacker
Victoria R. Toetz
Grace A. Worley

Ivy Ring

Tara E. Buchy
Kamryn J. Campbell
Elena G. Dumm
Kristen A. Eikenberry
Lindsay N. Fetherolf
Rachael M. Fink
Katrin C. Hodson
Whitney P. Hoover
Elissa K. Manchester
Faith V. Meads
Allison F. Peebles
Megan L. Selby
Cassidy S. Taylor
Savannah N. Taylor
Olesya Tehan
Katherine L. Vorpe
Megan N. Winters
Taylor M. Yontz

Kappa Delta Pi

Emily L. Bunsold
Chelby C. Dye
Tyler M. Gittins
Olivia C. Hopkins
Taylor C. Horton
Erin N. Long
Elissa K. Manchester
Joan A. Mathews
Faith V. Meads

Lydia D. Newton
Abigail K. Opdycke
Taylor R. Pawlowski
Alexis N. Polisen
Katlyn L. Roberts
Anna C. Shouplin
Samantha M. Skelly
Hawk D. Smith
Gabrielle K. Szydowski
Kari B. Truax
Clay A. Waidelich
Claudia J. White

Lambda Pi Eta

Aaron L. Banion
Molly R. Carner
Aubrey L. Cox
Riley L. Culver
Elena G. Dumm
Lindsay N. Fetherolf
Lauren E. Geraci
Mackenzie E. Hill
Emily H. Kaufman
Margaret A. Keverline
Mallory W. Moss
Olivia G. Nortz
Abigail R. Perkins
Megan L. Selby

Mortar Board

Garrin J. Bachinski
Daniel L. Barren
Cameron J. Dobrotka
Kristen A. Eikenberry
Evan D. Fetter
James A. Hagerman
Theresa K. Harper
Ilse J. Hassler
Mackenzie E. Hill
Trevor A. Hoberty
Jenny A. Larrick
Elissa K. Manchester
Allison S. Miller
Lydia D. Newton
Taylor A. Oberschlake
Alexander J. O'Connor
Katlyn L. Roberts
Cassidy L. Rowe
Carly E. Schneider
Alexander T. Sheppard
Gabrielle K. Szydowski
Savannah N. Taylor

Emma K. Thacker
Victoria R. Toetz
Madison M. Vanhook
Katherine L. Vorpe
Grace A. Worley

Omicron Delta Epsilon

Olesya Tehan

Omicron Delta Kappa

Kamryn J. Campbell
Rachel M. Corsello
Tanner G. Cowgill
Jordan L. Dawson
Kristen A. Eikenberry
Lindsay N. Fetherolf
Evan D. Fetter
Mackenzie E. Hill
Katrin C. Hodson
Whitney P. Hoover
Jenny A. Larrick
Elissa K. Manchester
Thomas G. Mele
Katherine R. Robinson
Cassidy L. Rowe
Zoe K. Schwartz
Alexander T. Sheppard
Gabrielle K. Szydowski
Grace A. Worley

Phi Alpha Theta

Grace E. Fischer

Phi Eta Sigma

Nathan E. Andorfer
Ross A. Angelo
Garrin J. Bachinski
Bradley L. Barren
Daniel L. Barren
Caleb A. Beck
Tanner G. Cowgill
Joshua V. Darang
Cameron J. Dobrotka
Scott Q. Durham
Evan D. Fetter
Michael A. Flynn
James A. Hagerman
Johnathon R. Harris
Trevor A. Hoberty
John A. Hughes

Theodore D. Jones
Michael P. Kenny
James Willis D. McConaughy
Thomas G. Mele
Quintin E. Muhlenkamp
Ngoc Minh Quang Nguyen
Jayson T. Nowak
Alexander J. O'Connor
Andrew M. O'Malley
Dalton J. Perkins
Ryan M. Probst
Christopher V. Reisiger
Alexander T. Sheppard
Jack G. Smith
Jonathan E. Specht
Grant D. Steele
Drew T. Suffoletta
Hai T. Vo
Clay A. Waidelich
Seth A. Wilke
Cameron R. Willis
Jack T. Wolfe
Tod G. Yoder

Pi Mu Epsilon

Anna M. Beggs
Jacob B. Bertemes
Kayla M. Cull
John A. Hughes
Ngoc Minh Quang Nguyen
Alexander J. O'Connor
Katherine R. Robinson
Emma K. Thacker
Victoria R. Toetz
Katherine L. Vorpe
Jack T. Wolfe
Taylor M. Yontz

Pi Sigma Alpha

Kamryn J. Campbell
Evan D. Fetter
Lauren E. Geraci
Mackenzie E. Hill
James Willis D. McConaughy
Vanessa Orduna Zarazua

Pick-n-Pen

Ross A. Angelo
Tara E. Buchy
Kamryn J. Campbell
Karli P. Daniels
Jordan L. Dawson
Evan D. Fetter
Rachael M. Fink
Lauren E. Geraci
Mackenzie E. Hill
Katrin C. Hodson
Faith V. Meads
Thomas G. Mele
Lydia D. Newton
Ngoc Minh Quang Nguyen
Dalton J. Perkins
Cassidy L. Rowe
Olesya Tehan
Megan N. Winters
Grace A. Worley
Taylor M. Yontz

Psi Chi

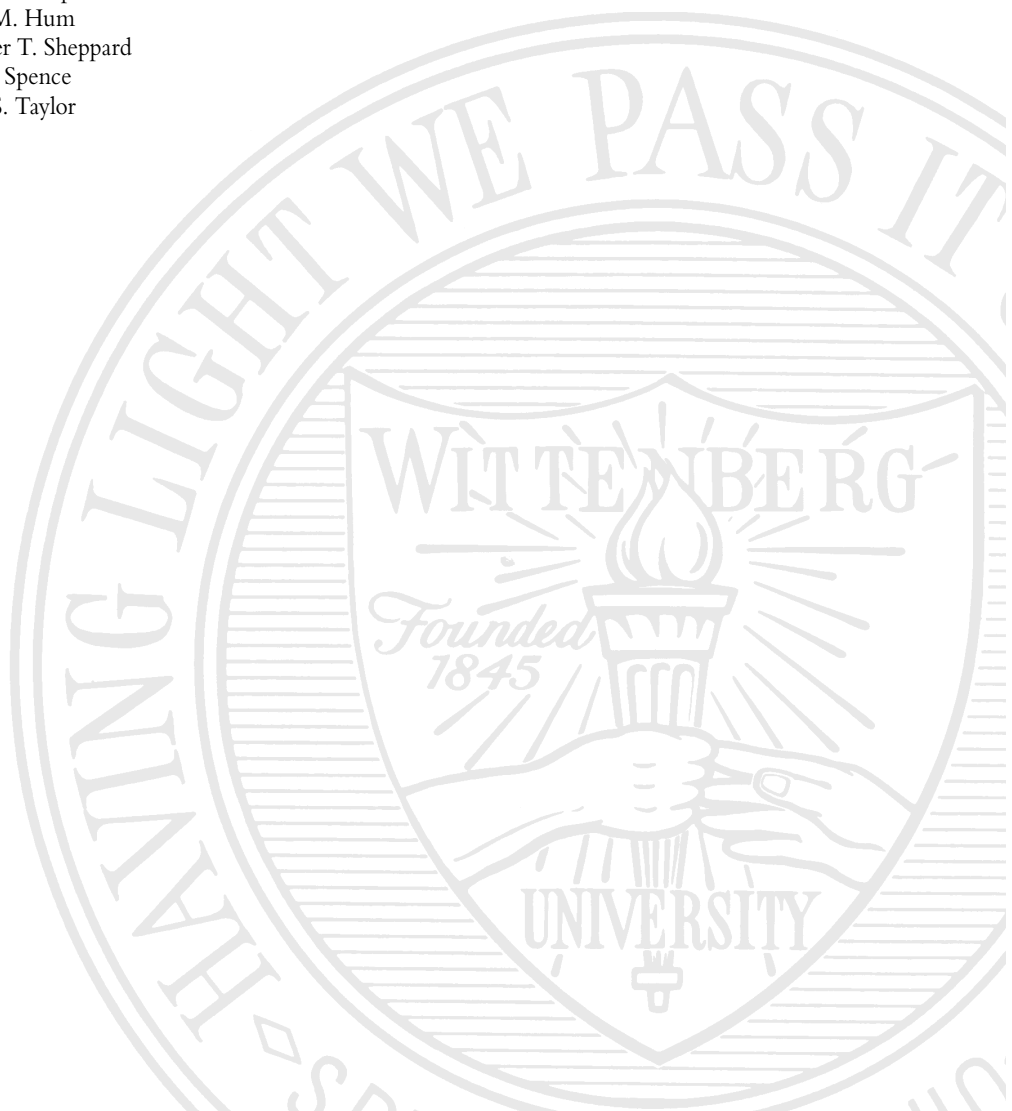
Tara E. Buchy
Theresa K. Harper
Caitlyn M. Hum
Alexander T. Sheppard
Elexis A. Spence
Cassidy S. Taylor

Sigma Tau Delta

James A. Hagerman
Theresa K. Harper
Katrin C. Hodson
Emma E. Kilpatrick
Ariel B. Moss
Carly E. Schneider
Anna C. Shouvin
Clay A. Waidelich
Megan N. Winters

Tau Pi Phi

Korynne J. Berner
Jana C. Davila
Kristen A. Eikenberry
Whitney P. Hoover
Olivia G. Nortz
Vanessa Orduna Zarazua
Christopher V. Reisiger
Olesya Tehan



The Wittenberg Luther Cap

The red cap worn by Martin Luther while teaching at Germany's Wittenberg University during the Reformation is still being worn by designated persons at what is now the only Wittenberg University in the world – the one in Springfield, Ohio.

The original Wittenberg University, founded in 1502 in a little town in Saxony, provided the sixteenth-century setting for Martin Luther, the man whose reforming activities ultimately led to Protestantism. Wittenberg, writes the German magazine *Der Spiegel*, was where Luther lived without a break for 35 years prior to his death: "Here he wrote most of his books, here he delivered most of his sermons, here he burned the bull of Pope Leo X that threatened excommunication, here he raised his family."

Luther's Wittenberg University, for many years one of the strongest universities in the world, thrived until 1817, when Saxony became part of Prussia, and the old university was absorbed by the University of Halle. Fewer than 30 years later, a dedicated group of German Lutherans created another Wittenberg on the frontier of a new nation. In 1842 the English Lutheran Synod of Ohio unanimously resolved: "We, now in Synod assembled, do ordain and establish a Literary-Theological Institution." In 1845, the new Wittenberg in Springfield, Ohio, received a charter from the State of Ohio empowering it to "do such acts as may be necessary to [promote] theological and scientific knowledge . . ."

In September 1959, in honor of the original Wittenberg and the man whose ideas transformed the world, President Clarence C. Stoughton revived the wearing of the red cap worn by Martin Luther. During the sixteenth century, red caps were worn by teachers as a badge of office and as protection from the cold drafts blowing through the halls. Today, complete with ear tabs and made of red velvet, the cap is worn by the President of the University and is given as a presidential award to those receiving honorary degrees and the Medal of Honor from Wittenberg. In a memorable Commencement ceremony, June 15, 1975, the late President Emeritus Clarence Stoughton, in his last public appearance, removed his cap and presented it to President William A. Kinnison, who, in turn, gave it to his successor at Dr. Baird Tipson's inauguration on November 4, 1995.

The cap may also be worn by Wittenberg officials of vice presidential level and above, department chairs, tenured faculty, and delegates appointed by the president to represent him at academic functions such as inaugurations and dedications. Also eligible to wear the cap are Wittenberg alumni who have earned a baccalaureate degree from Wittenberg University and are either of vice presidential rank or above, department chairs, or tenured faculty at a two-, three-, or four-year fully accredited institution of higher education.

Symbols of Learning

The academic procession as seen today is a pageant made colorful by the dress and ceremony inherited from the medieval universities of the eleventh and twelfth centuries.

The principal features of academic dress are three: the gown, the cap and the hood. To preserve the dignity and the meaning of these features, American universities agreed on a definite system in 1895 and set up a code of academic dress for the colleges and universities of the United States. In 1932 the American Council on Education presented a revised code, which largely governs the style of

academic dress used in our country today.

The Gown. The flowing gown comes from the twelfth century. Some think it was worn in olden times as protection against the cold of unheated buildings. It has become symbolic of the democracy of scholarship, for it completely covers any dress of rank or social standing underneath. Black gowns are acceptable for all institutions, but some universities have adopted optional colors for gowns; for example, Yale, Yale blue; Harvard, crimson; Columbia, light blue; Princeton, black with orange trim. The gown has pointed sleeves for the bachelor's degree; long, closed sleeves for the master's degree with

a slit for the arm; and round, open sleeves for the doctor's degree. For the bachelor's or master's degree the gown has no trimmings. For the doctor's degree it is faced down the front with velvet and has three bars of velvet across the sleeves in the color distinctive of the faculty or discipline to which the degree pertains. Some of the colors most frequently seen and the fields they represent are: blue – philosophy; purple – law; green – medicine; yellow – science; light blue – education; red – theology; white – literature and humane letters. The official colors of the college may appear in the gown and its decorations.

The Cap. When Roman law freed the slave, the privilege of wearing a cap was won. And so the academic cap is a sign of the freedom of scholarship and the responsibility and dignity with which scholarship endows the wearer.

Old poetry records the cap of scholarship as square to symbolize the book, although some authorities claim that the mortarboard is a symbol of the Masons, a privileged guild. The color of the tassel on the cap denotes the discipline.

The Hood. Heraldically the hood is an inverted shield with one or more chevrons of a secondary color on the ground of the primary color of the college. The color of the facing of the hood denotes the discipline represented by the degree; the color of the lining of the hood designates the college by which the degree was granted.

The Cord. The colored cord worn by today's graduates represents membership in their academic discipline's honor society.

The Wittenberg Torch

During today's ceremony, the Class of 2020 will carry on the tradition of celebrating the university's motto, "Having Light We Pass It On To Others." In keeping with the image depicted on the university's official seal as shown on the Commencement program cover, Commencement marks a symbolic passing of the torch from the Class of 2020 to the Class of 2021. The event serves to symbolize the passing of light from one generation to the next, which has defined the Wittenberg experience for 170 years and

united alumni across all classes.

Designed and handcrafted by Kenny Lake, retired carpenter foreman from Wittenberg's Physical Plant, at the request of the Class of 2006, the Torch used in today's ceremony is made entirely of walnut with 28 coats of tung oil applied. The flame itself consists of an intricate arrangement of brass, bronze and copper petals, which Ed Charney, professor of art, helped to create.

The Wittenberg Municipal Coat of Arms

The municipal coat of arms of Wittenberg, City of Luther, reflects the city's historical origins and significance. The fortress rising above the blue water symbolizes the medieval walled city on the banks of the river Elbe. (The city's fortifications were removed in 1873.) The silver fish refers to the abundant fishing that was once part of the region's riches. The two shields displayed against the background of the city walls form the crest of the Elector of Saxony, whose court resided at Wittenberg. The yellow and green crest to the right, divided by a garland of heraldic lozenges, symbolic of crowns, represents the ducal

house. The crest to the left with the crossed sword represents the office of Imperial Grand Marshal of the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation, an office held by the Duke of Saxony in his capacity as Elector. (An Elector was one of the princes of the Holy Roman Empire granted the privilege of participating in the election of the Emperor.)

The city's coat of arms is carried in today's procession to symbolize the establishment of formal ties between the city and Wittenberg University in 1993 and as a symbol of the heritage that the city and university share.

A Brief History of Commencement Exercises at Wittenberg

The event of Commencement is an old academic ritual but one that has undergone continuous change at Wittenberg.

Although two students completed the requirements for graduation in 1850, one headed for the California gold fields, and the other, J. F. Mitchell, elected to graduate in 1851. Mitchell's grades enabled him to be the valedictorian of his new class.

Wittenberg's first Commencement in 1851 was held not in May but in September. On Wednesday, September 10, President Samuel Sprecher delivered the baccalaureate sermon in First Lutheran Church. His subject was "The Duties of Educated Men and the Manner in Which They Should Be Performed." On Thursday the literary societies met together in the city hall to hear the first of their annual speakers, The Rev. Edwin H. Nevin, D.D., who spoke on "Faith in God – the Foundation of Individual and National Greatness." On Friday the Commencement exercises were held in the city hall, and each of the eight members of the class delivered an oration and received the A. B. degree. Music was provided by the Independent Sax-Horn Band of Dayton, Ohio, an aggregation that featured the newly invented and, to older listeners, strange-sounding sax-horn.

Respect was paid to students of high academic achievement by enlisting them to deliver the various orations of the Commencement. One could tell the achievements of the top scholars of the class by the assignment given each student in the exercises: the valedictorian, salutatorian, Latin orator, Greek orator, English orator, German orator, etc.

As years passed and the graduating classes grew larger, the student orations grew shorter. Eventually only a select few students spoke. Finally no student spoke at all, and an annual visiting speaker became a formal part of the Commencement exercises. The change was a pleasing one to students. The student literary societies had begun the practice of jointly sponsoring an outside speaker several years

earlier in order to bring outside personalities of the students' own choosing to the campus event. The advent of a Commencement speaker thus meant the institutionalizing of the students' desire for a speaker outside the school's normal circle and at the same time freed students from the chore of preparing Commencement addresses. With these changes, however, students became increasingly passive observers at an event in which they once performed the major tasks.

The faculty, graduating class and student body used to meet in the First Lutheran Church, from which they were led by a band from High Street, up Main, then to Market (now Fountain), and then to the old market house, where public Commencement exercises took place. In 1869 this procession was abandoned. Exercises were held in the city hall and later in Black's Opera House and in 1879 were moved to the college grounds. The Class of 1896 sought to add dignity and fame to itself by inaugurating the custom of appearing in caps and gowns. In 1904, at the first Commencement under Dr. Charles G. Heckert, the procession was revived, and faculty, graduates, and other participants processed to the campus hillside for Commencement.

Commencement exercises were held in the Springfield city hall from 1851 to 1868; in Black's Opera House from 1869 to 1878; and in the campus grove, south of Myers Hall and east of Recitation Hall, from 1879 to 1926. Only since 1927 have Commencements been held in Commencement Hollow. In bad weather the event is staged in the Health, Physical Education and Recreation Center.

Today the event is in many ways a collection of private family celebrations. It is yet a collective event of the academic community but one in an era when academic communities are more diverse and fragmented than in an earlier day. The validity of the exercises as a demonstration of student competence, moreover, has long since been superseded by less public measurements and

criteria, and the dimensions of institutional accountability are decidedly different and more complex.

The format and significance with which Commencement will be presented in the years ahead remain to be seen, yet one central factor remains constant. Under the charter of the institution, only the Board of Directors may grant the student the degree which he or she has earned. This is accomplished by

issuing a certificate that “authenticates and perpetuates” the student’s achievements. The faculty recommends, the Board of Directors confirms, and the President publicly awards the degree, representing the institution’s common action. That is the fundamental meaning of Commencement. As an event that focuses attention upon the primary mission of the institution, it will survive in the ritual of academia so long as it emphasizes that essential meaning.



We thank the members of the Class of 2020 who supported Wittenberg with a gift in honor of their graduation. The Class of 2020 chose to make their Senior Class gifts to The Wittenberg Opportunity Fund to create opportunities for Tiger’s who need scholarships the most.

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Wittenberg University provides a liberal arts education dedicated to intellectual inquiry and wholeness of person within a diverse residential community. Reflecting its Lutheran heritage, Wittenberg challenges students to become responsible global citizens, to discover their callings, and to lead personal, professional, and civic lives of creativity, service, compassion, and integrity.