



# WITTENBERG UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

THE CLASS OF TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-ONE

*One Hundred Seventy-First Commencement*

*Saturday, the Fifteenth of May,  
Two Thousand Twenty-One*



“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 Seventy-First Commencement*

### PROCESSIONAL

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

### INVOCATION

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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 . . . . . Philippians 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

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

Ms. Charlotte E. Hurst, *President of the Class of 2021*

## REMARKS

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

## CONFERRING OF MASTER'S DEGREES

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**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

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**Bachelor of Arts**

**Bachelor of Fine Arts**

**Bachelor of Music Education**

**Bachelor of Science**

**Bachelor of Science in Nursing**

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

## TASSEL CEREMONY

---

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

## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION WELCOME

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

## SINGING OF THE ALMA MATER

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Ms. Elaina F. Adams

*Alma Mater of the Class of 2021*

Mr. Deion K. Woodson

*Alma Lux of the Class of 2021*

### **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.

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## **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.**

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## **RECESSIONAL**

*Please remain seated until recessional ends.*

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## **COMMENCEMENT MARSHALS**

Julius D. Bailey,  
*Associate Professor of Philosophy*

Michelle L. McWhorter,  
*Associate Professor of Biology*

Kristin K. Cline,  
*Professor of Chemistry*

Lindsay M. Meermans,  
*Assistant Professor of Business & Economics*

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 of Communication & Digital Media*

Alyssa M. Hoofnagle,  
*Assistant Professor of Mathematics*

Rachel E. Wilson,  
*Associate Professor of Business & Economics*

Rick A. Incorvati,  
*Professor of English*

Nancy S. Woehrlé,  
*Associate Professor of Psychology*

Daniel R. Marous,  
*Assistant Professor of Chemistry*

Brian D. Yontz,  
*Associate Professor of Education*

Amy R. McGuffey,  
*Associate Professor of Education*

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## **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 2020 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 2021 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 Arts in Athletic Coaching*

Haakon Borstad  
Columbus, OH

Douglas Quinn  
Solon, OH

Eric Fox  
Springfield, OH

Ian P. Jump  
Columbus, OH

Brigid Caroline Kortyna  
Gibsonia, PA

Colin T. Laszlo  
Waipahu, HI

Mackenzie P. Moran  
Springfield, OH

Charles Rodeheffer  
Delaware, OH

Hadley Christine Sterett  
Springfield, OH

## **Master of Arts In Education**

### **Professor Amy McGuffey**

*Director of Graduate Studies in Education*

Haley Alysse Cochran  
Mansfield, OH

Amanda Gaffga  
Mechanicsburg, OH

Carlie Jean Weir  
Tipp City, OH

## **Master of Science In Analytics**

### **Professor Ross Jackson** *Director of the Master of Science in Analytics Program*

John David Bechtel  
Dublin, OH

Mitchell C. Beckner  
Troy, OH

Chase Derrick Carpenter  
Cincinnati, OH

Michael W. Essig  
Springfield, OH

Lindsay Nicole Fetherolf  
Marysville, OH

Alexis Shaye Gray  
Washington Court House,  
OH

Andrew K. Herron  
Vermilion, OH

Michael Patrick Kenny  
Parker, CO

Angela D. Kettler  
Springfield, OH

Isaiah J. LaJoie  
Northfield, OH

Cody Paul Null  
Dublin, OH

Ryan M. Probst  
Mason, OH

Donna J. Radcliff  
West Jefferson, OH

Rachel Ritter  
Beavercreek, OH

Dustin Chase Thornton  
Springfield, OH

Emily Wadds  
Cincinnati, OH

Logan Bryan Walton  
Cincinnati, OH

George Ryan Williams  
Cincinnati, OH

Jack Thomas Wolfe  
Troy, MI

## **Art**

### **Professor Alejandra Gimenez-Berger** *Department Chair*

## **Bachelor of Arts**

Ashley Lauren Belkofer  
Powell, OH

Joseph De Lorenzo Jenkins  
Cincinnati, OH

Paul William Kirk, III  
Newark, OH

Anna Katherine Lebold  
*Cum Laude*  
Baton Rouge, LA

Casey Dean Luther  
Springfield, OH

Jacob Palmer Rhoads  
Mortensen  
Cincinnati, OH

Hannah Elizabeth Petty  
Cincinnati, OH

Devin Katherine Pieples  
*Summa Cum Laude*  
Cincinnati, OH

## **Bachelor of Fine Arts**

Kimberly Sue Mugford  
Cum Laude  
Toledo, OH

## **Biochemistry/ Molecular Biology**

### **Professor Margaret A. Goodman**

*Director of the Biochemistry/  
Molecular Biology Program*

## **Bachelor of Arts**

Ethan Mace Belknap  
Cum Laude  
Departmental Honors  
University Honors  
Dover, OH

## **Bachelor of Science**

Amor Niksic  
Summa Cum Laude  
Spring, TX

Sydney L. Perry  
Cum Laude  
Westerville, OH

Jillian Marie Poska  
Summa Cum Laude  
Frederick, MD

Meseker Gedlu Tefera  
Washington, DC

## **Biology**

### **Professor Margaret A. Goodman**

## **Bachelor of Arts**

Austyn J. Albanese  
Marengo, OH

Caleb Timothy Austin  
Cum Laude  
Harrod, OH

Lydia Rose Berg  
Maineville, OH

Jasmine S. Davis  
Hamden, CT

Meredith Lynne  
Funderburg  
Amherst, OH

## **Bachelor of Science**

Elaina F. Adams  
Summa Cum Laude  
Livonia, MI

Taylor Lee Adams  
New Albany, OH

Emma Gail Amurgis  
Cum Laude  
Columbus, OH

Caylin Rose Ashcraft  
Conover, OH

Taylor M. Barnhisel  
Magna Cum Laude  
University Honors  
Departmental Honors  
Cygnet, OH

Edwin R. Blanco Chancay  
Toronto, ON

Erika Elizabeth Bournival  
Summa Cum Laude  
Ypsilanti, MI

Tiffany Briscoe  
Coupeville, WA

Ashley Elizabeth Cave  
(Bachelor of Arts-  
Mathematics)  
Summa Cum Laude  
University Honors  
Departmental Honors  
Woodstock, OH

Jacob Roger Deady  
Springfield, OH

Jasmine L. Evans  
Cincinnati, OH

Kaylee Hunter Flaws  
Toledo, OH

Alexandra Marie Gibson  
Lebanon, OH

Slawomir Glowacki, Jr.  
Springfield, OH

Hanna Wondwosen Habtu  
Washington, DC

V. Paxton Kreger  
Summa Cum Laude  
Shohola, PA

Megan N. Lemmings  
Springfield, OH

Cora Elizabeth Lutz  
Celina, OH

Rachel Diana Massey  
Cum Laude  
Columbus, OH

Destiny Louise Paulen  
(Spanish)  
Summa Cum Laude  
Departmental Honors-  
Spanish and Biology  
North Canton, OH

Harunya Ravindran  
Columbus, OH

Neal Parker Riddle  
Louisville, KY

Kaiya Rider  
Chillicothe, OH

Benjamin J. Roshon  
Marysville, OH

Katrina Marie Rosing  
Summa Cum Laude  
University Honors  
Departmental Honors  
Ft. Mitchell, KY

Grant N. Sparks  
Portsmouth, OH

Genevieve Ana  
Spiridigliozzi  
Cum Laude  
East Tawas, MI

Kristin Lee Stein  
Magna Cum Laude  
Dayton, OH

Victoria Patricia Stewart  
Detroit, MI

Morrighan Elizabeth Storey  
Painesville, OH

Darby Ann Szmania  
Summa Cum Laude  
Departmental Honors  
Toledo, OH

Sarah Nicole Theisen  
Summa Cum Laude  
Departmental Honors  
Bluffton, OH

Jennavieve Ivana Thomas  
Cincinnati, OH

## **Business**

**Professor Rachel Wilson**  
*Department Chair*

## **Accounting**

### **Bachelor of Arts**

Stephanie L. Angle  
(Finance)  
Summa Cum Laude  
Springfield, OH

Blake Ellis Atwell  
Cum Laude  
Lewis Center, OH

Daniel James Castleberry  
(History)  
Magna Cum Laude  
Landrum, SC

Abigail Ruth Deem  
(Financial Economics)  
Lebanon, OH

Connor Scott Flanagan  
(Finance)  
Columbus, OH

Alyssa Marie Holtkamp  
(Finance)  
Summa Cum Laude  
Dublin, OH

Jordan Alexandria Jarrett  
(Marketing)  
Summa Cum Laude  
St. Marys, OH

Kennedy Rose Malcolm  
(Marketing)  
Louisville, KY

Jeremy McAleese  
Uniontown, OH

Bryce Alan Miller  
(Finance)  
Ontario, OH

Benjamin K. Nenonene  
Dayton, OH

Zori Lechelle Parker  
(Finance)  
Summa Cum Laude  
Pickerington, OH

Aaron Tristin Rutherford  
(Finance)  
Bellefontaine, OH

Parker Kenneth Thompson  
(Finance)  
Bay Village, OH

Jordan Travis Welch  
(Finance)  
Waterford, OH

## **Entrepreneurship**

### **Bachelor of Arts**

William Bradly Austin  
Caylor  
Salem, OH

Maceo Jamal Davis  
Chicago, IL

Alijah Isaac Fisher  
Newark, OH

Robert J. Froehlich  
Cincinnati, OH

Alexandra Kristine Joseph  
Columbus, OH

Olivia G. Martin  
(Spanish)  
Summa Cum Laude  
Maineville, OH

John Robert Siefert  
(Sport Management)  
Summa Cum Laude  
Highland Heights, OH

Nicholas Michael Togliatti  
Beavercreek, OH

## **Finance**

### **Bachelor of Arts**

Erin E. Adams  
(Economics)  
Magna Cum Laude  
Shaker Heights, OH

Tyler David Bartlett  
New London, OH

John M. Erbaugh  
Springfield, OH

Daniel J. Grubb  
(Economics)  
Maineville, OH

Trevor E. Guity  
New York, NY

Kai Joseph Kremer  
Cum Laude  
Departmental Honors  
University Honors  
Cincinnati, OH

Rachel Catherine Remias  
(Political Science)  
Summa Cum Laude  
Departmental Honors  
University Honors  
Dublin, OH

Conner Steven Rice  
Castle Rock, CO

Jacob Allen Snowden  
(Accounting)  
Summa Cum Laude  
Amherst, OH

David Timothy Span, IV  
Orlando, FL

Kyle Austin Wallace  
Cincinnati, OH

Kyle E. Wheat  
Brookville, OH

## **Management**

### **Bachelor of Arts**

Melanie Beth Barrett  
Dayton, OH

Rachael N. Broyles  
Cum Laude  
Westerville, OH

Kameron J. Caudle  
Danville, IN

Evan Allen Cheese  
East Point, GA

Jeffrey John Chonko  
Magna Cum Laude  
Westlake, OH

Jason Z. Collins  
Barberton, OH

Bo Thomas Davis  
South Vienna, OH

Christopher M. Dunne  
(Communication)  
Cincinnati, OH

Michael T. Fiessinger  
Springboro, OH



Jordan Riley Greene  
Enon, OH

David Glenn Haake  
Marysville, OH

Michael P. Martin  
Doylestown, OH

Tatsuya Murakami  
Magnum Cum Laude  
Osaka, Japan

John James Regan  
Grove City, OH

Ridge Patrick Young  
Laurelville, OH

## **Marketing**

### **Bachelor of Arts**

Samuel Henry Bechtel  
Lewis Center, OH

Lewis Michael Bowser  
Cum Laude  
Eaton, OH

Josee Mckenna Clayton  
Perrysburg, OH

Alexandria Lauren Fairrow  
Pickerington, OH

Grant Greenfelder  
Massillon, OH

Jesse D. Grubb  
Mainesville, OH

Cameron James Kennedy  
Lewis Center, OH

Kaitlyn Michelle Krieg  
Cum Laude  
Denver, CO

Lindsey Kroeger  
Cum Laude  
Cincinnati, OH

Nathan McKnight  
Chagrin Falls, OH

Ryan Keith Peaks, II  
Columbus, OH

Adam Joseph Porter  
Columbus, OH

Emily Jordan Porter  
Chagrin Falls, OH

Anthony Michael Rodgers  
Summa Cum Laude  
Delaware, OH

Abigail C. Roy  
Columbus, OH

Gabriel Kent Stacy  
Maineville, OH

Carly Nicole Stang  
(English)  
Cum Laude  
Departmental Honors  
University Honors  
Hilliard, OH

Darien Strozier-Willis  
Columbus, OH

Jo Ann Thomas  
Fair Oaks Ranch, TX

Alexander David Tucker  
Westerville, OH

Harrison Van Tilburg  
Cum Laude  
Grove City, OH

Deion K. Woodson  
Westerville, OH

Kaitlyn Elizabeth Zebell  
Waynesville, OH

## **Chemistry**

### **Professor Raymond Dudek**

### **Bachelor of Arts**

Nicholas Weissman  
(Music)  
Summa Cum Laude  
Departmental Honors -  
Music  
University Honors  
Kettering, OH

### **Bachelor of Science**

Caroline Elizabeth Barth  
Hicksville, OH

Christina Michelle  
Thompson  
(Music)  
Cum Laude  
Springfield, OH

Abigayle Nicole Vina  
New Albany, OH

## **Communication & Digital Media**

### **Professor Kelly Dillon**

### **Bachelor of Arts**

River S. Banks  
Hilliard, OH

Samuel S. Bepler  
Cincinnati, OH

Veronica Renee Carrow  
Edwardsville, IL

Ryelee Christine Clary  
Bellefontaine, OH

Evan Elliott Dinopoulos  
Lusby, MD

Emily A. Griggs  
Indianapolis, IN

Elly I. Grimm  
Springfield, OH

Kaylynn Lorene Hill  
(Psychology)  
Dayton, OH

Amrit jot Kaur  
Myerstown, PA

Eleanor Christina Long  
Cincinnati, OH

Christopher Ryan Nunez  
Sunrise, FL

Ally Stone  
New Albany, OH

John Charles Uznis  
Grosse Pointe Farms, MI

Micah Devon-Howard  
Vann  
Cincinnati, OH

Eric T. Woxman  
Eaton, OH

## **Computer Science**

**Professor Alyssa Hoofnagle**

### **Bachelor of Arts**

Braeden Lee Bowen  
(Political Science and Self-Designed)  
Summa Cum Laude  
Departmental Honors  
University Honors  
Lexington, KY

Jeremy Phillip Eraybar  
Dublin, OH

Andrew Michael Gregory  
Summa Cum Laude  
Hilliard, OH

Jacob Malachi Hall  
Lewis Center, OH

Amber N. Modlin  
Massillon, OH

## **East Asian Studies**

**Professor Terumi Imai**

### **Bachelor of Arts**

Stephen Leron Elliott  
(Self-Designed)  
Springfield, OH

Shae Li Gorin  
(Self-Designed)  
Cum Laude  
Massillon, OH

Holly Katherine Hilty  
Summa Cum Laude  
Departmental Honors  
University Honors  
Columbia Station, OH

Steven Christopher Johnson  
(Self-Designed)  
Bedford, OH

Daejah Michelle Sally  
Chicago, IL

Courtney Jean Swihart  
(Religion)  
Columbus, OH

Skylar K. Vozary  
Chesterland, OH

Alexis Williams  
Springfield, OH

## **Economics**

**Professor Rachel Wilson**  
*Department Chair*

### **Bachelor of Arts**

Benjamin Zachary Helmus  
(Finance)  
Summa Cum Laude  
Hudsonville, MI

## **Education**

**Professor Brian Yontz**  
*Department Chair*

### **Bachelor of Arts**

Skylar Rose Apthorpe  
Bellefontaine, OH

Dana Elizabeth Bausch  
Cincinnati, OH

Claire LeeAnna Bergefurd  
Hilliard, OH

Madison N. Burnworth  
London, OH

Charlotte J. Cameron  
Hamilton, OH

Paige Anne Decker  
Dublin, OH

Delaney K. Detrick  
Springfield, OH

Madelyn Rae Dyer  
Piqua, OH

Angela M. Gialanella  
Summa Cum Laude  
Adamsburg, PA

Nora Elizabeth Hopkins  
Avon, OH

Alexis C. Johnson  
Southfield, MI

Madeline Jean Kreitzer  
Cum Laude  
Louisville, OH

Michaela Ann Malone  
Cum Laude  
Findlay, OH

Kathleen Therese McGuff  
Columbus, OH

Audra Paige Metzger  
Summa Cum Laude  
Ft. Recovery, OH

Samantha Shayne Peck  
Cum Laude  
Bucyrus, OH

Leah Noelle Meizhen Ruby  
Magna Cum Laude  
South Charleston, OH

Jordan Cierra Smith  
Hamilton, OH

Ashley M. Staccia  
Springfield, OH

Emma Kathryn Vidal  
Oak Harbor, OH

Brittany Nicole Watson  
Magna Cum Laude  
Athens, OH

Miranda Margaret Zielinski  
Summa Cum Laude  
Toledo, OH

## **Educational Studies**

**Professor Erin Hill**

### **Bachelor of Arts**

Jordan Nicole Harvey  
Cincinnati, OH

Russell William Hayhurst  
Cambridge, OH

Jackson Thomas Keister  
Dublin, OH

Wayne Edwin Myers  
Cum Laude  
Springfield, OH

## **English**

### **Professor Lori Askeland**

*Department Chair*

### **Bachelor of Arts**

Olivia Grace Boland  
Naperville, IL

Hannah Bowman  
Yorktown, IN

Emily Ann Brosier  
Oxford, OH

Dillon Shey Driskill  
Cum Laude  
Saint Paris, OH

John Joseph Fobean  
(International Studies)  
Stow, OH

Collin Douglas Goins  
Nashville, TN

Maia Claire Grandy  
Summa Cum Laude  
Holly Springs, NC

Sarah Marie Hartman  
Magna Cum Laude  
Departmental Honors  
University Honors  
Reynoldsburg, OH

Nikki Mae Howard  
Williamsport, Ohio

Aliza Lorraine Johnson  
Magna Cum Laude  
Departmental Honors  
West Bath, ME

Nicholas Maier Lancaster  
Springfield, OH

Bailey Elizabeth McPhail  
Summa Cum Laude  
Departmental Honors  
University Honors  
Wilmington, OH

Emily Danielle Nolan  
Summa Cum Laude  
Departmental Honors  
University Honors  
Hilliard, OH

Lexie Hope Parker  
Bellaire, OH

Jessica L. Pinkerton  
Pickerington, OH

Alejandro Miguel Ramirez  
Sylvania, OH

Dorothy Anne Rees  
Cum Laude  
Milford Center, OH

Emma Grace Seibert  
(Music)  
Summa Cum Laude  
Departmental Honors  
University Honors  
Ypsilanti, MI

Jamie C. Spallino  
Summa Cum Laude  
Departmental Honors  
University Honors  
Rocky River, OH

Dylan Kane Spicer  
Oxford, OH

Jamin Nichole Waite  
(Spanish)  
Summa Cum Laude  
Lexington, KY

Breann Cecilia Webb  
Magna Cum Laude  
Cincinnati, OH

Kathryn Grace  
Wetterstroem  
Summa Cum Laude  
Departmental Honors  
University Honors  
Galena, OH

Hailey Nicole  
Zimmerman  
Heath, OH

## **Environmental Science**

### **Professor John Ritter**

*Director of the Environmental Science Program*

### **Bachelor of Arts**

Pryce Michael Drew  
Durnye  
Greenville, OH

Dana Jean Messer  
Cum Laude  
Columbus, OH

Joshua Kenneth Thompson  
Brownsburg, IN

Nik Joseph Wonder  
Springfield, OH

### **Bachelor of Science**

Cameron Cory Kettler  
Springfield, OH

Rebecka Marie Schlake  
Cum Laude  
Cincinnati, OH

Marquea Norway Dyrstad-  
Schwing  
Independence, KY

Alyssa J. Ulrich  
Magna Cum Laude  
Departmental Honors  
University Honors  
Curtice, OH

## **Health & Sport Studies**

### **Exercise Science**

### **Professor Hung-Sheng Hsu**

### **Bachelor of Arts**

Cameron Dale Artis  
Galloway, OH

Jordan Paul Burkey  
Columbus, OH

Miles Affolter Caine  
Cum Laude  
Ypsilanti, MI

Mckenzie Kathleen Cook  
Springfield, OH

Tavian A. Crowe  
Springfield, OH

Daniel Foster  
Canal Winchester, OH

Paul Franklin Gregory, III  
Eaton, OH

Tanner Thomas Griggs  
Canal Winchester, OH

Zachary Thomas Guyer  
Cum Laude  
Madison, OH

Johnathon R. Harris  
Cum Laude  
Bellevue, KY

Schneider Herard  
Naples, FL

Kristen Lynn Hopkins  
Summa Cum Laude  
Springfield, OH

Bailey Erin Hurley  
Cum Laude  
Lewis Center, OH

Andrew Davis Juelg  
West Chester, OH

Paige Elaine Lewis  
Magna Cum Laude  
Lewis Center, OH

Richard Nicholas Medley  
Louisville, KY

Tony Orlando Mitchell  
Cincinnati, OH

Katelyn May Niswonger  
Dexter, MI

Kyrstyn Jayde Ratliff  
New Lexington, OH

Elizabeth Rodriguez  
New Carlisle, OH

Preslee Rolf  
Summa Cum Laude  
Clarksville, OH

## ***Sport Management***

**Professor Jennifer Parsons**

### **Bachelor of Arts**

Erik Thomas Anderson  
Ft. Thomas, KY

Gage D. Carpenter  
Cum Laude  
Cincinnati, OH

Joshua Shea Grigsby  
Athens, OH

Jack Andrew Hollinshead  
Magna Cum Laude  
Departmental Honors  
University Honors  
Highland Heights, OH

Bryce Robert Kilfoyle  
(Economics)  
Hudson, OH

Colten Nathanael Liszkai  
Fredericktown, OH

Megan Marie Niswonger  
Dexter, MI

Kristiaan Alexander  
Thompson  
Gahanna, OH

Myles Malik Weldon  
Miramar, FL

## **History**

**Professor Scott Rosenberg**  
*Acting Department Chair*

### **Bachelor of Arts**

Joshua R. Abbey  
Cum Laude  
Springfield, OH

Jerrick L. Allen  
Cum Laude  
Delaware, OH

Kylee Shae Bernhardt  
Springfield, OH

Anna-Claire Louise  
Crichton  
(English)  
Magna Cum Laude  
Departmental Honors  
University Honors  
Xenia, OH

Kathryn Grace Eifert  
Cincinnati, OH

Drake Edward Kobler  
Ithaca, NY

Matthew Joseph Koch  
Oakwood, OH

Gwenyth Elise Landes  
(Sociology)  
Englewood, OH

Allyson Jean Masterson  
Cum Laude  
Arcanum, OH

Carter L. Pierce  
Stow, OH

Spencer D. Pritchett  
Hilliard, OH

Michael Peter Sherman  
Rockville, MD

Taryn James Smith  
Cum Laude  
North Royalton, OH

Caleb Issac Taulbee  
(Management)  
Logan, OH

Derek Andrew  
Worthington  
Springfield, OH

## **International Studies**

**Professor Lila M. Zaharkov**  
*Director of the International Studies Program*

### **Bachelor of Arts**

Daniela Cristina  
Anchundia Mendoza  
(Spanish)  
Miamisburg, OH

Emily R. Gerstenzang  
Summa Cum Laude  
Buffalo, NY

Charlotte E. Hurst  
(Spanish)  
Summa Cum Laude  
Athens, OH

Sydney Louise Melton  
Silver Spring, MD

**Languages**  
**Professor Ruth Hoff**  
*Department Chair*

### **French** **Bachelor of Arts**

Sarah E. Kent  
Media, PA

Gabriel Garrett Lamar  
(Self-Designed)  
West Chester, OH

### **German**

#### **Bachelor of Arts**

Samantha H. Childress  
(Music)  
Cum Laude  
Summerville, SC

### **Spanish**

#### **Bachelor of Arts**

Mary Louise Britton  
Springfield, OH

Logan P. Jobe  
Franklin, OH

Shelby Danielle McKay  
(Finance)  
Cum Laude  
Wooster, OH

### **Mathematics**

**Professor Alyssa  
Hoofnagle**

#### **Bachelor of Arts**

Taylor Michelle Brown  
Newark, OH

Garrett Edward Hunter  
Departmental Honors  
Magna Cum Laude  
South Charleston, OH

David Patrick Michael  
(Financial Economics)  
Columbus, OH

Ryan Michael West  
Lebanon, OH

#### **Bachelor of Science**

Amy Lynne Brennan  
(Physics)  
Indianapolis, IN

Colin M. Gohmann  
Dayton, OH

Taylor Marie Lasits-Brooks  
Perrysburg, OH

### **Music**

**Professor Brandon  
Jones**

*Department Chair*

#### **Bachelor of Arts**

Lauren Luisa Kreamer  
Cum Laude  
Milford Center, OH

Isaac Lewis  
(Dance)  
Casselberry, FL

Isabelle Kate McClure  
(Communication)  
Cum Laude  
Powell, OH

Bryce Yamin  
Hendersonville, TN

#### **Bachelor of Music Education**

Nathan Olexio Baulch  
Summa Cum Laude  
Nashville, TN

Annemarie Lee Brier  
Summa Cum Laude  
Chillicothe, OH

Zechariah Matthew  
Simmons  
Springfield, OH

### **Nursing**

**Professor Marie Bashaw**

*Director of Nursing*

#### **Bachelor of Science in Nursing**

Jacob Matthew Andorfer  
Summa Cum Laude  
Springfield, OH

Chloe Rae Beaver  
Cum Laude  
Xenia, OH

Stephanie E. Bidwell  
Pompano Beach, FL

Natalie Renee Boyle  
Summa Cum Laude  
Springfield, OH

Alyssa Erin Gillespie  
Hallauer  
(International Studies)  
Magna Cum Laude  
Tipp City, OH

Paige Elizabeth Kopp  
Cum Laude  
Bethel Park, PA

Dalton Jay Perkins  
Cum Laude  
Kenton, OH

Cameron Rose Rice  
Cum Laude  
Departmental Honors  
University Honors  
Lima, OH

Alexandra Diana  
Weithman  
Cum Laude  
Lewis Center, OH

### **Philosophy**

**Professor Julius Bailey**

#### **Bachelor of Arts**

Kirti Bhattarai  
(Computer Science)  
Irvine, CA

William E Burgess  
Applegate  
Cum Laude  
Departmental Honors  
University Honors  
Coraopolis, PA

Jhiara Nicole Monet  
Henderson  
Bowie, MD

Aaron Michael Moore  
(International Studies)  
Summa Cum Laude  
Broadview Heights, OH

Phillip Lee Van Dyke  
Cum Laude  
Ashville, OH

## **Physics**

### **Professor Jeremiah Williams**

*Department Chair*

## **Bachelor of Science**

Elijah G. Hogsett  
Cum Laude  
South Vienna, OH

Jessamine Milia  
Corning, NY

## **Political Science**

### **Professor James Allan**

*Department Chair*

## **Bachelor of Arts**

Maxwell Zachary Cavellier  
Troy, MI

Noelle Marianne Collins  
(Religion)  
Magna Cum Laude  
New Baltimore, MI

Saylor M. Frye  
(History)  
Summa Cum Laude  
Departmental Honors  
University Honors  
Bluffton, SC

Kelsey M. Gauder  
Fairborn, OH

Sarah Ann Judy  
Mechanicsburg, OH

Emma Rose Klemmensen  
Springfield, OH

Samuel A. Scharff  
Delaware, OH

Robert Vanover-Hunt  
Summa Cum Laude  
London, OH

## **Psychology**

### **Professor Mary Jo Zembar**

## **Bachelor of Arts**

Brandon Manuel Dlabik  
Killeen, TX

Alyssa Vale Fesenmyer  
Westerville, OH

Elyse Jacqueline Goins  
Cincinnati, OH

Hannah Noel Jackson  
Magna Cum Laude  
Departmental Honors  
University Honors  
Hilliard, OH

Troy McKay Jones  
Plant City, FL

Natalie Marie Lowen  
Summa Cum Laude  
Louisville, KY

Chloe Jess McCloud  
(Sociology)  
Springfield, OH

Ashley C. Miller  
Maineville, OH

Katherine Elise Minesinger  
Troy, OH

Katherine Ramcke  
Allen Park, MI

Alex Keeley Reed  
Cincinnati, OH

Ashley June Save  
(Educational Studies)  
Cum Laude  
Toledo, OH

Cameron Thomas Stout  
Cum Laude  
London, OH

Kidron Brooke Taylor  
(Theatre)  
Summa Cum Laude  
Dayton, OH

Eleanor V. Wenner  
Cum Laude  
Departmental Honors  
University Honors  
Saint Clair Shores, MI

## **Bachelor of Science**

Lucas Allen Klever  
Summa Cum Laude  
Lebanon, OH

## **Religion**

### **Professor Jennifer Oldstone-Moore**

*Department Chair*

## **Bachelor of Arts**

Abby Elizabeth Glass  
(Environmental Science)  
Cum Laude  
Signal Mountain, TN

Olivia Rose Riddle  
Cincinnati, OH

## **Organizational Leadership**

### **Professor Michelle Mattson**

*Provost*

## **Bachelor of Arts**

Dustin Bodenmiller  
Magna Cum Laude  
Springfield, OH

## **Self-Designed**

### **Professor Michelle Mattson**

*Provost*

## **Bachelor of Arts**

Samantha M. Dennis  
Lafayette, IN

Maurice H. Graham  
Brooklyn, NY

Colton Elihu Smith  
Enon, OH

## **Sociology**

### **Professor Brooke Wagner**

*Acting Department Chair*

## **Bachelor of Arts**

Ashley Elizabeth Ard  
Toledo, OH

Raeven Nicolette DeSantis  
Magna Cum Laude  
Columbus, OH

Lauren Renee Faircloth  
Cincinnati, OH

Eliot Charles Gleeson  
Lexington, KY

Lucas Alan César Jones  
Indianapolis, IN

Kylie J. Maine  
Springfield, OH

Shayree Lanet A'shante  
McCoy  
Columbus, OH

Kinsey J. Obinger  
West Chester, OH

Danya Alexander O'Nan  
Oxford, OH

Olivia Taylor Parkinson  
Springfield, OH

Hallie Renee Roberts  
Springfield, OH

Savannah Lee Roberts  
Cincinnati, OH

Jordan Ann Shirley  
Springfield, OH

Shelby Renee Smith  
(Spanish)  
Summa Cum Laude  
Departmental Honors  
Springfield, OH

Aislynn Ward  
Summa Cum Laude  
Toledo, OH

Ghye Wilson  
Eaton, OH

## **Theatre and Dance**

**Professor Patrick  
Reynolds**  
*Department Chair*

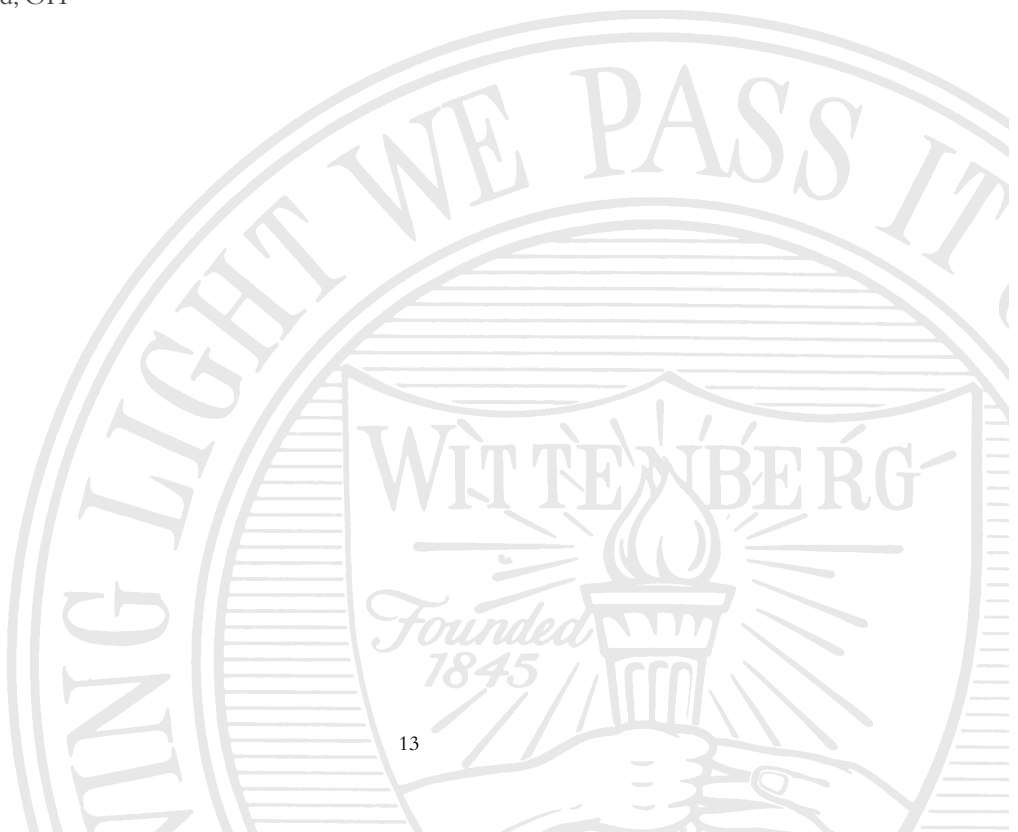
## **Bachelor of Arts**

Kaitlin Sierra Musick  
(Dance)  
Springfield, OH

Sierra Tommie Dann  
(Communication)  
Summa Cum Laude  
Departmental Honors  
University Honors  
Hiram, ME

Joylyn Susanna Heino  
Richwood, OH

Lena Kathryn Pirt  
Summa Cum Laude  
Columbus, OH



# HONORARY ORGANIZATIONS

*Class of 2021*

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Erika E. Bournival  
Emily R. Gerstenzang  
Lucas A. Klever  
Bailey E. McPhail  
Audra P. Metzger  
Amor Niksic  
Lena K. Pirt  
Jillian M. Poska  
Rachel C. Remias  
Shelby R. Smith  
Aislynn Ward  
Kathryn G. Wetterstroem  
Miranda M. Zielinski

## **University Honors**

Taylor M. Barnhisel  
Ethan M. Belknap  
Braeden L. Bowen  
William E. Burgess Applegate  
Ashley E. Cave  
Anna-Claire L. Crichton  
Sierra T. Dann  
Saylor M. Frye  
Sarah M. Hartman  
Holly K. Hilty  
Jack A. Hollinshead  
Hannah N. Jackson  
Kai J. Kremer  
Bailey E. McPhail  
Emily D. Nolan  
Rachel C. Remias  
Cameron R. Rice  
Katrina M. Rosing  
Emma G. Seibert  
Jamie C. Spallino  
Carly N. Stang  
Alyssa J. Ulrich  
Nicholas F. Weissman  
Eleanor V. Wenner  
Kathryn G. Wetterstroem

## **Phi Beta Kappa**

Braeden L. Bowen  
Lucas A. Klever  
Bailey E. McPhail  
Amor Niksic  
Destiny L. Paulen  
Rachel C. Remias  
Shelby R. Smith  
Kristin L. Stein  
Darby A. Szmania

## **Alpha Alpha Alpha**

Chloe R. Beaver  
Erika E. Bournival  
Charlotte J. Cameron  
Stephen L. Elliott  
Holly K. Hilty  
Kristen L. Hopkins  
Allyson J. Masterson  
Dana J. Messer  
Wayne E. Myers  
Destiny L. Paulen  
Samantha S. Peck  
Olivia R. Riddle  
Rebecka M. Schlake  
Phillip L. Van Dyke

## **Alpha Kappa Delta**

Braeden L. Bowen  
Lucas A. Klever  
Bailey E. McPhail  
Destiny L. Paulen  
Rachel C. Remias  
Shelby R. Smith  
Kristin L. Stein  
Darby A. Szmania

## **Alpha Lambda Delta**

Elaina F. Adams  
Erin E. Adams  
Emma G. Amurgis  
Taylor M. Barnhisel  
Caroline E. Barth  
Dana E. Bausch  
Stephanie E. Bidwill  
Erika E. Bournival  
Samantha H. Childress  
Haley A. Cochran  
Noelle M. Collins  
Raeven N. DeSantis  
Kathryn G. Eifert  
Saylor M. Frye  
Angela M. Gialanella  
Sarah M. Hartman  
Jhiara N. Henderson  
Alyssa M. Holtkamp  
Charlotte E. Hurst  
Hannah N. Jackson  
Jordan A. Jarrett  
Paige E. Kopp  
Brigid C. Kortyna  
Madeline J. Kreitzer  
Anna K. Lebold  
Paige E. Lewis  
Natalie M. Lowen  
Cora E. Lutz  
Rachel D. Massey  
Allyson J. Masterson  
Bailey E. McPhail  
Dana J. Messer  
Audra P. Metzger  
Emily D. Nolan  
Destiny L. Paulen  
Devin K. Pieples  
Jessica L. Pinkerton  
Lena K. Pirt  
Jillian M. Poska  
Rachel C. Remias  
Cameron R. Rice  
Kellen M. Roach



Katrina M. Rosing  
Leah N. Ruby  
Ashley J. Save  
Emma G. Seibert  
Jordan C. Smith  
Shelby R. Smith  
Jamie C. Spallino  
Genevieve A. Spiridigliozzi  
Darby A. Szmania  
Kidron B. Taylor  
Alyssa J. Ulrich  
Jamin N. Waite  
Brittany N. Watson  
Breann C. Webb  
Alexandra D. Weithman  
Eleanor V. Wenner  
Kathryn G. Wetterstroem  
Miranda M. Zielinski

### **Alpha Phi Omega**

Charlotte E. Hurst  
Taylor M. Lasits-Brooks

### **Alpha Sigma Lambda**

Chloe R. Beaver  
Phillip L. Van Dyke  
Kiri Youngblood

### **Beta Beta Beta**

Elaina F. Adams  
Emma G. Amurgis  
Taylor M. Barnhisel  
Ashley E. Cave  
Meredith L. Funderburg  
Cora E. Lutz  
Kristin L. Stein  
Darby A. Szmania

### **Chi Alpha Sigma**

Elaina F. Adams  
Erin E. Adams  
Caleb T. Austin  
Taylor M. Barnhisel  
Nathan O. Baulch  
Erika E. Bournival  
Jordan P. Burkey  
Gage D. Carpenter  
Daniel J. Castleberry  
Jeffrey J. Chonko  
Christopher M. Dunne  
Shae L. Gorin  
Daniel J. Grubb  
Zachary T. Guyer  
Johnathon R. Harris  
Jack A. Hollinshead  
Jordan A. Jarrett  
Nicholas J. Kendall  
Lucas A. Klever  
Brigid C. Kortyna  
Verne P. Kreger  
Kai J. Kremer  
Kaitlyn M. Krieg  
Cora E. Lutz  
Richard N. Medley  
Conner S. Rice  
Charles E. Rodeheffer  
John R. Siefert  
Jacob A. Snowden  
Carly N. Stang  
Kristin L. Stein  
Parker K. Thompson  
Harrison J. VanTilburg  
Alexandra D. Weithman  
Jordan T. Welch

### **Epsilon Alpha Sigma**

Emily R. Gerstenzang  
Shae L. Gorin  
Holly K. Hilty

### **Ivy Ring**

Erika E. Bournival  
Alyssa M. Holtkamp  
Charlotte E. Hurst  
Paige E. Lewis  
Rachel D. Massey  
Bailey E. McPhail  
Audra P. Metzger  
Rachel C. Remias  
Carly N. Stang  
Jamin N. Waite  
Breann C. Webb  
Kathryn G. Wetterstroem

### **Kappa Delta Pi**

Caleb T. Austin  
Haley A. Cochran  
Paige A. Decker  
Angela M. Gialanella  
Madeline J. Kreitzer  
Michaela A. Malone  
Audra P. Metzger  
Samantha S. Peck  
Leah N. Ruby  
Brittany N. Watson  
Breann C. Webb

### **Lambda Pi Eta**

Isabelle K. McClure

### **Mortar Board**

Anna-Claire L. Crichton  
Lauren L. Kreamer  
Carly N. Stang  
Breann C. Webb

### **Omicron Delta Epsilon**

Erin E. Adams

## **Omicron Delta Kappa**

Stephanie L. Angle  
Taylor M. Barnhisel  
Braeden L. Bowen  
Samantha H. Childress  
Haley A. Cochran  
Anna-Claire L. Crichton  
Kristen L. Hopkins  
Paige E. Lewis  
Cora E. Lutz  
Audra P. Metzger  
Jessica L. Pinkerton  
Lena K. Pirt  
Taryn J. Smith  
Carly N. Stang  
Jamin N. Waite  
Breann C. Webb

## **Phi Eta Sigma**

Ethan M. Belknap  
Braeden L. Bowen  
William E. Burgess Applegate  
Daniel J. Castleberry  
Connor Flanagan  
Zachary T. Guyer  
David G. Haake  
Jacob M. Hall  
Johnathon R. Harris  
Benjamin Z. Helmus  
Elijah G. Hogsett  
Garrett E. Hunter  
Bryce R. Kilfoyle  
Lucas A. Klever  
David P. Michael  
Amor Niksic  
Dalton J. Perkins  
John R. Siefert  
Taryn J. Smith  
Jacob A. Snowden  
Meseker G. Tefera  
Parker K. Thompson  
Nicholas F. Weissman  
Ryan M. West

## **Pi Mu Epsilon**

Ashley E. Cave  
Garrett E. Hunter  
Taylor M. Lasits-Brooks

## **Pi Sigma Alpha**

Braeden L. Bowen  
Noelle M. Collins  
Saylor M. Frye

## **Pick-n-Pen**

Erin E. Adams  
Taylor M. Barnhisel  
Erika E. Bournival  
Braeden L. Bowen  
William E. Burgess Applegate  
Samantha H. Childress  
Haley A. Cochran  
Saylor M. Frye  
Angela M. Gialanella  
Sarah M. Hartman  
Alyssa M. Holtkamp  
Kristen L. Hopkins  
Charlotte E. Hurst  
Jordan A. Jarrett  
Lucas A. Klever  
Gabriel G. Lamar  
Paige E. Lewis  
Cora E. Lutz  
Rachel D. Massey  
Audra P. Metzger  
Destiny L. Paulen  
Dalton J. Perkins  
Jessica L. Pinkerton  
Katrina M. Rosing  
Leah N. Ruby  
Taryn J. Smith  
Jamin N. Waite  
Breann C. Webb  
Nicholas F. Weissman  
Kathryn G. Wetterstroem

## **Psi Chi**

Chloe R. Beaver  
Ethan M. Belknap  
Hannah N. Jackson  
Lucas A. Klever  
Natalie M. Lowen  
Ashley J. Save  
Taryn J. Smith  
Kidron B. Taylor  
Eleanor V. Wenner

## **Sigma Delta Pi**

Daniela C. Anchundia  
Mary L. Britton  
Destiny L. Paulen  
Shelby R. Smith

## **Sigma Tau Delta**

Bailey E. McPhail  
Jessica L. Pinkerton  
Jamin N. Waite  
Breann C. Webb  
Kathryn G. Wetterstroem

## **Tau Pi Phi**

Erin E. Adams  
Stephanie L. Angle  
Blake E. Atwell  
Alyssa M. Holtkamp  
Rachel C. Remias



# 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 2021 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 2021 to the Class of 2022. The event serves to symbolize the passing of light from one generation to the next, which has defined the Wittenberg experience for 171 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 2021 who supported Wittenberg with a gift in honor of their graduation. The Class of 2021 chose to make their Senior Class gifts to install a permanent flagpole in front of the William A. McClain Center for Diversity to support underrepresented groups.

Leave your legacy and make your Class Gift to support current and future Tigers here: [www.wittenberg.edu/administration/giving/senior-class-giving](http://www.wittenberg.edu/administration/giving/senior-class-giving)

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# THE CLASS OF 2021

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## MISSION STATEMENT

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.

