



WITTENBERG UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

THE CLASS OF TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-SIX

One Hundred Seventy-Sixth Commencement

*Saturday, the Sixteenth of May,
Two Thousand Twenty-Six*



“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-Sixth Commencement

PROCESSIONAL

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

INVOCATION

Vicar Don Humphreys, *Minister, Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church, Springfield Ohio*

Pastor: We gather this morning, speaking the faith of Wittenberg’s historic Christian Lutheran tradition:

God of heaven and earth, before the foundation of the universe and the beginning of time you are the triune God: Author of creation, eternal Word of Salvation, life-giving Spirit of Wisdom. Guide us to all truth by your Spirit, that we may proclaim all that Christ has revealed and rejoice in the glory he shares with us. ★

Today, we gather to celebrate and joyfully sing to our God! Together, let us share our praises and thankfulness. Come, let us enter into this sacred space with praise. Bless these graduates from their diverse faith traditions and belief systems. May we feel the joy and celebration that is clearly with us on this day. ★★

Glory and praise to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Lesson Proverbs 8:1-6, 10-11

Pastor: Proverbs 8 tells us to heed Wisdom’s call, to listen for her cry, and to learn from her. She demands that we “take her instruction instead of silver and knowledge rather than choice gold, for wisdom is better than jewels, and all that you may desire cannot compare with her.”

Responsive Graduation Litany

Pastor: We are gathered to celebrate the accomplishments of our community members.

People: We give you blessings for all that you have achieved and many more achievements yet to come.

Pastor: As you prepare for your next journey, remember those who have loved and supported you throughout the years.

People: We give you blessings of good will and love as you journey forth into the world.

Pastor: We thank you for the laughter, friendship, and memories that you have shared with us. We pray you remember them always.

People: May these memories be a beacon to guide you on your path.

Pastor: Go forth to bless others, as you have blessed us in this community.

People: You are blessed and beloved by God. Amen.

*From Evangelical Lutheran Worship
**© 2011 Joan Stott, “The Timeless Psalms” RCL Psalm Year A, used with permission. Posted on the Geelong City Parish UCA website.

WELCOME AND REMARKS

Dr. Christian M. M. Brady, *President of the University*
Ms. Alyssa J. Burnside, *Senior Class Representative, Class of 2026*
Mr. Taylor “Moose” J. Harper, *Senior Class Representative, Class of 2026*

REMARKS

Mr. William D. Edwards ’89, *Chair of the Wittenberg Board of Directors*

CONFERRING OF HONORARY DEGREE

Mr. Rakesh Tondon ’01, *Doctorate of Humane Letters*
Presented by Dr. Ross Jackson, *Associate Professor of Business & Economics, Director of M.S. in Analytics Program*

ADDRESS

Mr. Rakesh Tondon ’01, *Business Leader, Author, and Motivational Speaker*

CONFERRING OF MASTER’S DEGREES

Master of Arts in Education
Master of Arts in Sport Administration
Master of Science in Analytics
Presented by Dr. Brian D. Yontz, *Provost*

CONFERRING OF BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

Bachelor of Arts
Bachelor of Fine Arts
Bachelor of Science
Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Presented by Dr. Brian D. Yontz, *Provost*

TASSEL CEREMONY

Dr. Christian M. M. Brady, *President of the University*

WELCOME FROM ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Ms. Stephanie L. Morgan-White ’92, *President of the Wittenberg University Alumni Association*

CLOSING REMARKS

Dr. Christian M. M. Brady, *President of the University*

SINGING OF THE ALMA MATER

Mr. Neil H. Boyles,
Alma Lux of the Class of 2026

Mr. Taylor “Moose” J. Harper,
Alma Lux of the Class of 2026

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

BENEDICTION

Vicar Don Humphreys, *Minister, Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church, Springfield Ohio*

Pastor: Now to him who is able to keep you from falling and to make you stand without blemish in the presence of his glory with rejoicing, to the only God our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord be glory, majesty, power, and authority before all time and now and forever. Through the power of the Spirit, seek wisdom, be salt and light, be merciful peacemakers. (Adapted from Jude 24-25)

People: Amen.

RECESSIONAL

Please remain seated until recessional ends.

COMMENCEMENT MARSHALS

Dr. Sally Brannan, <i>Chair & Professor of Education</i>	Dr. Alyssa M. Hoofnagle, <i>Chair and Associate Professor of Mathematics & Computer Science</i>	Dr. Cathy L. Pederson, <i>Elizabeth E. Powelson Professor of Biological & Environmental Sciences</i>
Dr. Kunal Chatterjee, <i>Assistant Professor of Biological & Environmental Sciences</i>	Dr. Danny R. Marous, <i>Associate Professor of Chemistry, Director of Biochemistry/ Molecular Biology</i>	Dr. Richard S. Phillips, <i>Associate Professor of Biological & Environmental Sciences</i>
Dr. Ray C. Dudek, <i>Grand Marshal, Chair and Professor of Chemistry</i>	Dr. Jen C. Parsons, <i>Chair and Associate Professor of Health & Sport Studies</i>	Dr. John Thistlethwaite, <i>Professor of Health & Sport Studies</i>

TORCH, BANNER, AND FLAG BEARERS

The Wittenberg Torch is carried by Ms. Alyssa J. Burnside, *Senior Class Representative, Class of 2026*.
The United States flag is carried by Mr. Taylor “Moose” J. Harper, *Senior Class Representative, Class of 2026*.
The Wittenberg banner is carried by Ms. Sydney M. Werner, *Student Senate President, Class of 2027*.
The City of Wittenberg banner is carried by Ms. Rebekah A. Lebold, *Alma Lux, Class of 2027*.
The banner of the Evangelical Lutheran Church is carried by Ms. Hailey I. Mulvihill, *Alma Lux, Class of 2027*.

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, *Class of 1889*
and Professor of Greek

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER



Rakesh Tondon

Rakesh Tondon, Wittenberg class of 2001, is a highly successful entrepreneur with 20-plus years of experience navigating hypergrowth and global expansion of startups, along with managing strategic acquisitions.

Currently working as an advisor with Entrepreneurs First, “a category-defining global investor in entrepreneurial talent” whose “portfolio companies are backed by world-leading investors,” Tondon brings decades of experience in e-commerce, retail, SaaS, AI, and healthcare.

Throughout his career, he has steered

through the challenges of sophisticated supply chains, intricate logistics, and high-growth business operations and startups. An active angel investor, board member, and advisor, Tondon also provides strategic guidance on fundraising, GTM strategies, and operational scaling.

The former co-founder and CEO of Dr. Treat, a full-stack startup pioneering tech-enabled veterinary care through its AI-driven veterinary platform, Tondon helped to streamline clinical workflows, enhance pet healthcare, and optimize revenue for clinics. He also recently helped engineer the sale of the business to a large strategic acquirer. Additionally, Tondon previously co-founded and led Le Tote, a pioneering rental subscription platform in the United States and China. As a consumer-driven leader in the fashion space, Tondon helped Le Tote amass over 2.5 million members and more than 200,000 paying subscribers, leveraging proprietary AI-driven recommendation engines and sophisticated supply chain infrastructure to deliver hyper-personalized customer experiences.

With his M&A expertise, Tondon was also able to make the landmark acquisition of Lord & Taylor, the oldest department store chain in the United States, and led two other strategic acquisitions, thanks to his deep background in negotiating complex deals, fundraising, and capital structuring, honed during his tenure in investment banking at J.P. Morgan and Ridgcrest.

Tondon, who resides in San Francisco, California, earned his B.A. in economics and was a founding father of Wittenberg’s Delta Tau Delta fraternity. He also spent time as a resident advisor and was a member of the campus’ Cricket Club.

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 2025 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 2026 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 Education

Instructor
Todd Rappold
*Director of Graduate Studies
in Education*

Meghan Guban
Mentor, OH

Master Of Arts In Sport Administration

Associate Professor
Jen Parsons
*Health & Sport Studies
Department Chair*

Payton Madison Cronen
Louisville, KY

Joesiah Michael McCann
Akron, OH

Meghan Carrie McCans
Arcanum, OH

Daren Delano Neff
Grove City, OH

Kara Marie Owens
Hilliard, OH

Alexia J. Page-Boyd
Youngstown, OH

Earl Woodie Pope III
Miami, FL

Master Of Science In Analytics

Associate Professor
Ross Jackson
*Director of the Analytics
Program*

Travis J. Demsher
Santa Clarita, CA

Alexander James Loree
Kettering, OH

McKayla Ann Pickering
Louisville, OH

Bruce Edward Thompson
London, OH

Jalen E. Williams
Catonsville, MD

Art
Professor Scott Dooley
Department Chair

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Gabrielle M. Conaway
Circleville, OH
Magna Cum Laude

Madison B. Green
Springfield, OH
Cum Laude

Molly Elizabeth Kirkpatrick
Enon, OH
(Computer Science)
Summa Cum Laude
University Honors
Departmental Honors

Lanie Louise Mersch
Cincinnati, OH
(Psychology)
Magna Cum Laude
University Honors
Departmental Honors

Samantha Grace Monnin
Cincinnati, OH

Kristen Kendra Such
Hermitage, PA

BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS

Francesca Kay Heidinger
Pittsburgh, PA
Cum Laude

Abby Renee Rohrer
Springfield, OH
Magna Cum Laude

Biochemistry/ Molecular Biology

**Associate Professor
Danny Marous**

*Director of the Biochemistry/
Molecular Biology Program*

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Andy Daniel Dozal
West Carrollton, OH
*Summa Cum Laude
University Honors
Departmental Honors*

Alexander John Nemunaitis
Perrysburg, OH
Summa Cum Laude

Joshua Brian Putka
Avon, OH
*(Mathematics)
Summa Cum Laude
University Honors
Departmental Honors*

Mahlon P. Spangler
Sunbury, OH

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Olivia Ann Kuhner
Winston-Salem, NC
Magna Cum Laude

Shannon E. Morrissey
Springfield, OH
*Summa Cum Laude
University Honors
Departmental Honors*

Aubrey Lynne Tama
Medina, OH

Biological & Environmental Sciences

BIOLOGY

**Professor Margaret
Goodman**

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Christopher Micheal Meyer
Toledo, OH

Haley Lynn Pitman
Liberty Township, OH
*(Spanish)
Magna Cum Laude
University Honors
Departmental Honors*

Faith L. Wiley
Tipp City, OH

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Neil Howard Boyles
Ostrander, OH
Summa Cum Laude

Alexis Noel Cruea
West Union, OH
Cum Laude

Abigail Renee Danne
Johnstown, OH
*(Bachelor of Arts - Spanish)
Summa Cum Laude
University Honors
Departmental Honors*

Olivia M. Follick
Vandalia, OH

Izabel Ana Giglio
West Chester, OH
*Summa Cum Laude
University Honors
Departmental Honors*

Taylor J. Hughston Harper
Columbus, OH

Katherine Ann Lowry
Maumee, OH
*Cum Laude
University Honors
Departmental Honors*

Emily A. Owens
Stow, OH

Grace Panchika Pantalone
Wadsworth, OH

Lauren A. Parrett
Springboro, OH
Summa Cum Laude

Anna Kathleen Roller
New Albany, OH
*Cum Laude
University Honors
Departmental Honors*

E. F. Shope
Yellow Springs, OH
Magna Cum Laude

Mason D. Steen
Leroy, OH
*(Bachelor of Arts -
Environmental Science)
Summa Cum Laude*

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

**Associate Professor
Richard Phillips**

*Director of the Environmental
Science Program*

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Raymond A. Bennett
Euclid, OH

Douglas Michael Lee McClure
Springfield, OH
Summa Cum Laude

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Cameron Christopher Casto
Washington Court House, OH
Magna Cum Laude

Lucas A. Eisele
West Carrolllton, OH

Karlee N. Henderson
Michigantown, IN

Jane Emily Javorek
Chesterland, OH
Summa Cum Laude
University Honors
Departmental Honors

Kilen Reed Limes
New Albany, OH

Alexander James McGinnis
Fostoria, OH
Summa Cum Laude
University Honors
Departmental Honors

Wyatt William Poling
Batavia, OH

Averi Lillian Wells
Indianapolis, IN

Benjamin Colin Woxman
Eaton, OH
Magna Cum Laude

Business & Economics

ACCOUNTING

Associate Professor
Tim Bode
Department Chair

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Logan William Brown
Sylvania, OH
Cum Laude

Haylee Dawn Davis
Otway, OH
(Information Systems)
Cum Laude

Gregory Scott Efaw
Hilliard, OH

Logan Maureen Fitzsimmons
Springfield, OH
Summa Cum Laude

Leah Michelle Green
Grandville, MI
(Finance)
Summa Cum Laude
University Honors
Departmental Honors

Jordon Allen Huff
Strongsville, OH

Matthew John Kehlbeck
Marysville, OH

Sophia Lynn Meek
Lewis Center, OH

Christian M. Reyna
Eaton, OH
(Marketing)

Dawson Christopher Smith
Grove City, OH
Summa Cum Laude

Andrew William Stamp
Powell, OH
(Marketing)
Cum Laude

Lani Tyler Jane Wilhelm
Mechanicsburg, OH
(Finance)
Magna Cum Laude

ECONOMICS

Associate Professor
Tim Bode
Department Chair

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Jacob Michael D’Isidoro
Twinsburg, OH
(Political Science)
Magna Cum Laude

Jacob K. Downs
Cincinnati, OH
(Finance)
Cum Laude

Riley Thomas Duncan
Eugene, OR

Matthew D. Gerardi
New Carlisle, OH
(Marketing)
Cum Laude

Nielsen Benedict Grau
Indianapolis, IN

Paige Elizabeth Jackson
Tipp City, OH
(Finance)
Cum Laude

Dillon Francis Sanderson
McKeigue
Olmsted Falls, OH
(Accounting)
Cum Laude

Benjamin Kobel Norton
Avon, OH
(Finance)
Magna Cum Laude

Maren Macey Raymond
Louisville, KY
(Finance)
Summa Cum Laude

Collin Franklin Stover
Oakton, VA

Emily Elizabeth Valentine
West Chester, OH
Cum Laude

FINANCE

Associate Professor
Tim Bode
Department Chair

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Cal Michael Bavineau
Dexter, MI
(Management)
Magna Cum Laude

Michael Lloyd Eickhoff
Akron, OH
(Management)
Summa Cum Laude

Daniel J. Gladden
Galena, OH

Keita Kiggundu Mukasa
Kampala, Uganda

Samuel Michael Richardson
Akron, OH
Cum Laude

Andrew Joseph Rust
Dublin, OH
(Data Science)
Summa Cum Laude

Parker Stephen Salowich III
Plymouth, MI
Cum Laude

David Alexander Short IV
West Bloomfield, MI

Mark Anthony Sulek
Delaware, OH

William A. Westermeyer
Loveland, OH
(Biochemistry & Molecular
Biology)

Elizabeth Jane Wile
Hilliard, OH
Summa Cum Laude

**INTERNATIONAL
BUSINESS**

**Associate Professor
Sunny Jeong**

*Director of the International
Business Program*

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Andrew Christopher Inks
Akron, OH
(Sport Management)
Summa Cum Laude

**MANAGEMENT
Associate Professor
Tim Bode**

Department Chair

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Peyton John Archer
Hilliard, OH

Leroy James Dannemiller
Columbus, OH

Nathan Tyler DePuy
Massillon, OH

Taylor James Insyxiengmay
Maineville, OH

James Anthony MacAuley
Grosse Pointe Woods, MI
(Communication & Digital
Media)

Joel Keshawn Martin
Trotwood, OH
(Religion)
Magna Cum Laude

James M. McCreery IV
Westerville, OH

Aaron Daniel Mercier
New Philadelphia, OH

Morgan Elizabeth Myers
York, PA

Dawson James Scott
New Castle, IN
Summa Cum Laude

Ryan C. Shindeldecker
Findlay, OH
Cum Laude

Colten L. Simkins
Liberty Township, OH

Delaney R. Tackett
Waverly, OH
(Finance)

Jacob Lowell Turney
Waynesville, OH

David A. Walterhouse
Roswell, GA

Brandon Jamal Weller
Sarasota, FL
(History)

Devan Reece Wiford
Sidney, OH

Kirsten Marie Wright
Springfield, OH
Summa Cum Laude

Michael D. Yurk
Indianapolis, IN
(Sport Management)

MARKETING

**Associate Professor
Tim Bode**

Department Chair

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Braeden P. Carey
Springfield, OH

Joseph L. Cotto-Rodriguez
Orlando, FL

Francesca Caroline DiVincenzo
Hilliard, OH
Cum Laude

Julia Marie Hall
Powell, OH
Summa Cum Laude
University Honors
Departmental Honors

Jarya D. Hassell
Bellbrook, OH

Reese Richard Monnin
Xenia, OH

Michael Joshua Mullinger
Dayton, OH
Cum Laude

Ethan Gregory Pac
Greenwood, IN
Cum Laude

Bryce Valdes Ray
Tampa, FL
Magna Cum Laude

Piper Lauren Ricketts
Morrow, OH
(Communication & Digital Media)
Cum Laude

Quentin Michael Rudolph
Grand Rapids, MI
(Communication & Digital Media)

Elizabeth Nicole Selby
Cincinnati, OH
(Finance)
Summa Cum Laude
University Honors
Departmental Honors

Timothy Barrett Smith Jr.
Columbus, OH
(Sport Management)

Chloe K. Steiner
Troy, OH
Summa Cum Laude

Lucas Alexander Swierk
Cincinnati, OH
Cum Laude

Nathan Ellis Walters
Troy, MI

Allyssa Jordyn White
Harrison, OH
(Communication & Digital Media)
Summa Cum Laude
University Honors
Departmental Honors

Chemistry
Professor Ray Dudek
Department Chair

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Tasia Allen Nall
Indianapolis, IN

Caitlyn M. Shelton
Powell, OH
Summa Cum Laude
University Honors
Departmental Honors

Communication & Digital Media
Professor Catherine Waggoner

BACHELOR OF ARTS

George Kenneth Janzen
West Chester, OH

Chase Brandon Singleton
Springboro, OH

East Asian Studies

Associate Professor
Sunny Jeong
Director of the International Business Program

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Joshua Edward Kelsey Jr.
Springfield, OH
Summa Cum Laude

Education

Professor Sally Brannan
Department Chair

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Dylan Thomas Bledsoe
New Carlisle, OH

Annabel Rebecca Blum
Cincinnati, OH
Cum Laude

Lauren Elizabeth Chaney
Tipp City, OH

Kylee Y. Cowman
Washington Court House, OH

Emmalee Elizabeth Do
Lancaster, OH
Summa Cum Laude

Ziciah Linnea Gibson
Cambridge, OH
Summa Cum Laude

Evan Connor Haemmerle
Avon, OH

Emma F. Hawk
Marion, OH
Cum Laude

Piper Jones
DuPont, WA

Courtney S. Kettler
Springfield, OH
Summa Cum Laude

Lexie Mae Minard
Dayton, OH
Summa Cum Laude

Ashton Christopher Newton
Medina, OH
Magna Cum Laude

Claire Kendall Patton
Mason, OH
Summa Cum Laude
University Honors
Departmental Honors

Lauren Christine Rose
Springfield, OH
Summa Cum Laude

Kyra Rhian Welch
Van Wert, OH
Summa Cum Laude

EDUCATIONAL STUDIES

Professor of Practice
Erin Hill

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Antwan D. Terrell
Springfield, OH
(Theatre & Dance)
Magna Cum Laude

English

Associate Professor
Andy Graff
Department Chair

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Levi Mykel Finney
South Charleston, OH
Cum Laude

Ann Elizabeth Hirshberg
Plain City, OH
Magna Cum Laude
Departmental Honors

Evelyn Rebecca Huspen
Middletown, OH
Cum Laude

Anna Louise Merkel
Springfield, OH

Hanna C. Stefanik
Port Charlotte, FL
Summa Cum Laude
University Honors
Departmental Honors

Sarah Leora White
Pickerington, OH
Magna Cum Laude

Kristina M. Withem
Tipp City, OH
Summa Cum Laude
University Honors
Departmental Honors

Health & Sport Studies

EXERCISE SCIENCE
Associate Professor
John Thistlethwaite

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Quatrell D. Black
Memphis, TN
Cum Laude

Gage Evan Dyke
Chillicothe, OH

Courtney E. Lindgren
Maineville, OH
Summa Cum Laude

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Mara Drew Briscoe
Loveland, OH
Magna Cum Laude

Edward M. Brown III
Lewis Center, OH

Kennedy Aja Rhiannon Clark
Cape Coral, FL

Kayla Marie Drake
Wilmington, OH
Magna Cum Laude
University Honors
Departmental Honors

Mason Scott Duncan
Marengo, OH

Ashley Elizabeth Green
Lewis Center, OH

Maximilian Matthew Green
Centerville, OH
(Religion)

Tiffany Michelle Hix
Marion, OH
Summa Cum Laude

Alyssa Michelle Kolonchuk
Canal Winchester, OH
Summa Cum Laude

Jordyn MacKenzie Murphy
Redford, MI
Cum Laude

Taylor Shea Rausch
Mechanicsburg, OH
Summa Cum Laude

Leah L. Rocchetta
Fairfield, OH
(Marketing)
Magna Cum Laude

Zayden Cole Taylor
Springfield, OH
Summa Cum Laude

Liberty F. Weisenberger
Collins, OH
Cum Laude
Departmental Honors

Kaili Hannah Worcester
Powell, OH

SPORT MANAGEMENT

Associate Professor
Jennifer Parsons
Department Chair
of Health & Sport Studies

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Alana Isabel Bartulovic
Chesterland, OH
Magna Cum Laude

Joseph Edward Bidwill
Pompano Beach, FL
(Economics)
Cum Laude
University Honors
Departmental Honors

Gada Ann Marie Bryant
Westville, IL

Olivia Lucille Campbell
Vanceburg, KY
Magna Cum Laude

Madison Skye Clark
Mentor, OH

Tymeerah Renee De'Armond
Springfield, OH

Devyn Paige Groves
Oldham County, KY

Kyler John Hagstrom
Liberty Township, OH

Andraya Nicole Hall
Dublin, OH

Elijah Lawrence Halverson
Hamilton, OH
Summa Cum Laude

Alexa May Hill
Powell, OH
(Management)
Summa Cum Laude

Karsen Karlblom
Crystal Lake, IL
Summa Cum Laude

Thomas Charles Kipfer
Powell, OH

Kendall Lynn Knisely
Springboro, OH

Trajan Clifford Kress
Cincinnati, OH

Hayden Nicholas Olcott
Delaware, OH
Summa Cum Laude

Adam Martin Polacko
Cincinnati, OH

Audrey Rebecca-Anne
Robinson
Delaware, OH

Verselé Juanita Shaw
St. Louis, MO

History
Provost Brian Yontz

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Benjamin N. Bretzin
Cuyahoga Falls, OH

Trevor Lee Chambers
Indianapolis, IN

Aidan M. Cook
Cincinnati, OH

Ty Mitchell Harris
Cincinnati, OH
Magna Cum Laude

Jackson Kyle Delmer
Higgason
Fort Thomas, KY
(Religion)
Cum Laude

Jack Curtis Miller
Rocky River, OH

Saalihah Mohave Muhammad
Springfield, OH

Jack Johannes David Pascoal
Liberty Township, OH

**Mathematics
& Computer
Science**

MATHEMATICS
Associate Professor
Alyssa Hoofnagle
Department Chair

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Lacey Marie Boyd
Springfield, OH

Luke Andrew Jackson
DeGraff, OH
Summa Cum Laude

Savannah Pearl LaMar
Springfield, OH

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

McKenna Marie Clark
Springboro, OH
Cum Laude

COMPUTER SCIENCE
Associate Professor
Alyssa Hoofnagle
Department Chair

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Quintin C. Applegate
Delaware, OH
(Data Science)
Magna Cum Laude

Trenton Michael Carter
Carmichaels, PA

Matthew T. Cox
Springfield, OH

LaVaughn Darnell Davis
Douglasville, GA

Jaxin A. Johnson
South Vienna, OH
(Religion)
Summa Cum Laude

Jackson Mitchell Miller
Westerville, OH
(Finance)
Summa Cum Laude

Keyshon Lazon Upchurch
Columbus, OH

DATA SCIENCE
Associate Professor
Alyssa Hoofnagle
Department Chair

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Zachary Charles Rust
Dublin, OH
(Management)
Summa Cum Laude
Departmental Honors

Neuroscience

Professor Cathy Pederson

Director of the Neuroscience Program

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Alexandra Marie Smith
Findlay, OH

Ellen D. Tabiri
Hilliard, OH

Nursing

Assistant Professor Catherine Short

Director of Nursing

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

Oluwanifemi John Babalola
Springfield, OH

Cadence Janae Boyd
Cincinnati, OH
Cum Laude

Trey Allen Brining
Delaware, OH
Cum Laude

Elvis L. Casanova
Labelle, FL

Thomas Michael Chilicki Jr.
Lewis Center, OH
Cum Laude

Emily E. Doerman
West Chester, OH
Cum Laude

Rachel M. Hartman
Columbus, OH

Haleigh A. Heising
Lima, OH
Cum Laude
University Honors
Departmental Honors

Payton Lee Hildebrand
Findlay, OH

Lillyan H. James
Troy, OH
Cum Laude

Mackenzie Rose Kelley
Altoona, PA
Cum Laude

Andrew George McFeeters
Pickerington, OH

Katherine Ann Mizer
Pickerington, OH
Cum Laude

Andrew Zane Nemunaitis
Toledo, OH
Magna Cum Laude

Macie Noel Robinson
Bellefontaine, OH

Molly Lynn Scott
Centerville, OH

Brealyne Renee Steward
Washington, VA
Magna Cum Laude

Jorja Grace Williams
Centerville, OH

Ronald M. Williams Jr.
Cincinnati, OH

Physics

Professor Paul Voytas
Department Chair

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Dalton C. Allen
Delaware, OH
(Mathematics)
Summa Cum Laude

Charles David Boucuvalas
Oakwood, OH

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Leonardo Juarez
Springfield, OH
Summa Cum Laude
Departmental Honors

Political Science

Professor James Allan
Department Chair

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Edward Reeves Denny
Columbus, OH
(History)

Fiona Jude Isbell
Columbus, OH

Emma Claire Leckey
Springfield, OH
Summa Cum Laude

Senaabil A. Muhammad
Pickerington, OH

Oyinkansola Mary Osiwoga
Indianapolis, IN
Summa Cum Laude

Andon Bradley Peacock
New Richmond, OH

Psychology

Professor Mary Jo Zembar

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Kayleigh Marie Arnold
Marysville, OH

Carter Wesley An Bonar
Springfield, OH
Magna Cum Laude

Alyssa Jean Burnside
Hilliard, OH

Myrah Shyanne Burton
Springfield, OH

Taylor Wade Collins
Carlisle, OH

Madison Paige Horton
Cincinnati, OH

Gabriella Hilda Lillico
Grove City, OH

Lucia Grace Ripepi
Lakewood, OH

Rebecca Leanne Schafer
Albuquerque, NM
(Art Studio)

Shania Regine Stone
Springdale, OH
Summa Cum Laude
University Honors
Departmental Honors

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Jessica Nicole Neuerer
Lorain, OH
(Bachelor of Arts - Sociology)
Summa Cum Laude
University Honors
Departmental Honors

Sociology
Assistant Professor
Chad Sloss

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Paige Renae Beschoter
Orient, OH
(Philosophy)

Beckham Owen Corbett
Lewis Center, OH

Emma Carol Gearhart
Ashland, OH
Summa Cum Laude
University Honors
Departmental Honors

Reagan Elise Landrum
Waynesville, OH

Kaela Jo May
Tipp City, OH
Cum Laude

Samuel Evan Nitzberg
Cincinnati, OH

Heavahn Gabriel Thaxton-Isham
Cincinnati, OH

Theatre & Dance
Assistant Professor
Adrienne Oehlers
Department Chair

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Dawson G. Hudson
Springfield, OH
Cum Laude

Abigail K. Lanhart
Jackson, OH
(Psychology)

Carmen Gabriella Martinez
Nashville, TN

Margo Noelle Spaller
Mayfield Heights, OH

Maria Danielle Wilson
Huber Heights, OH

World Languages & Cultures

SPANISH
Provost Brian Yontz

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Abigail Noel Anderson
Hamburg, NY
Summa Cum Laude

HONORARY ORGANIZATIONS

Class of 2026

Presidential Scholars

Named for each of Wittenberg's 15 former presidents, the Presidential Scholars are the members of the junior class who have maintained the highest academic standing in their class through the preceding five semesters at Wittenberg.

Abigail N. Anderson
Neil H. Boyles
Andrew C. Inks
Jackson M. Miller
Jessica N. Neurer
Joshua B. Putka
Caitlyn M. Shelton
Andrew J. Rust
Zachary C. Rust
Izabel A. Giglio
Claire K. Patton
Alexander J. Nemunaitis

University Honors

University Honors is awarded to graduating students that maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.5, complete at least two honors courses, and complete and successfully defend an honors thesis in their major area of study.

Joseph E. Bidwill
Abigail R. Danne
Emily E. Doerman
Andy D. Dozal
Kayla M. Drake
Emma C. Gearhart
Izabel A. Giglio
Leah M. Green

Julia M. Hall
Haleigh A. Heising
Jane E. Javorek
Molly E. Kirkpatrick
Katherine A. Lowry
Alexander J. McGinnis
Lanie L. Mersch
Shannon E. Morrissey
Jessica N. Neuerer
Claire K. Patton
Haley L. Pitman
Joshua B. Putka
Anna K. Roller
Elizabeth N. Selby
Caitlyn M. Shelton
Hanna C. Stefanik
Shania R. Stone
Allyssa J. White
Kristina M. Withem

Phi Beta Kappa

Phi Beta Kappa is an international honor society for the liberal arts and sciences founded at the College of William and Mary in 1776. Seniors – and in special cases, juniors – who are majoring in one of the liberal arts or sciences, have a high GPA, excel in courses across the liberal arts, and have demonstrated a knowledge of mathematics and foreign language are eligible.

Abigail R. Danne
Andy D. Dozal
Leonardo Juarez
Jackson M. Miller
Shannon E. Morrissey
Maren M. Raymond

Alpha Alpha Alpha

Alpha Alpha Alpha is a national honor society that recognizes scholarship and achievement of first-generation college students. The society recognizes students who have earned at least 36 credit hours, achieved an overall GPA of 3.2 or higher, and neither parents nor guardians have completed a bachelor's degree.

Dalton C. Allen
Matthew T. Cox
Alexis N. Cruea
Haylee D. Davis
Andy D. Dozal
Haleigh A. Heising
Andrew C. Inks
Lillyan H. James
Leonardo Juarez
Olivia A. Kuhner
Savannah P. LaMar
Emma C. Lecky
Senaabil A. Muhammad
Michael J. Mullinger
Ray V. Bryce
Brealy R. Steward
Shania R. Stone

Alpha Kappa Delta

Alpha Kappa Delta seeks to acknowledge and promote excellence in scholarship in the study of sociology, the research of social problems, and other social and intellectual activities that will lead to improvement in the human condition. Academically accomplished sociology majors and minors are eligible.

Emma C. Gearhart
Senaabil A. Muhammad
McKayla Pickering
Kirsten M. Wright

Alpha Lambda Delta

Alpha Lambda Delta is a national honor society that seeks to recognize and to encourage scholarship among first-year college students. Selection is based entirely on achieving a 3.5 cumulative grade point average for fall semester of the first year.

Izabel A. Giglio
Leah M. Green
Mackenzie R. Kelley
Oyinkansola Mary Osiwoga
Antwan (AhMani) D. Terrell
Kristina M. Withem

Beta Beta Beta

Beta Beta Beta (Tri-Beta) is a society for students dedicated to improving the understanding and appreciation of biological study and extending boundaries of human knowledge through scientific research. A student must have completed a minimum of three courses in biology, have an overall GPA in biology of 3.3 or higher, an overall GPA of 3.0 or better, and be involved with biologically oriented activities.

Alexis N. Cruea
Katherine A. Lowry
Emily A. Owens
Haley L. Pitman
Joshua B. Putka
Anna K. Roller
E. F. Shope
William A. Westermeyer

Chi Alpha Sigma

Chi Alpha Sigma is a national college athletics honor society founded in 1996. Members must have a 3.5 or higher cumulative grade point average, be a member of at least one of Wittenberg's intercollegiate teams and in good standing with Wittenberg's Department of Athletics. Students must also be an undergraduate with junior or senior status and at least four full-time semesters of college completed; two semesters completed at Wittenberg for transfer students.

Dalton C. Allen
Quintin C. Applegate
Alana I. Bartulovic

Cal M. Bavineau
Annabel R. Blum
Carter W. Bonar
Cadence J. Boyd
Cameron C. Casto
Thomas M. Chilicki
McKenna M. Clark
Abigail R. Danne
Jacob K. Downs
Kayla M. Drake
Michael F. Eickoff
Matthew D. Gerardi
Ziciah L. Gibson
Julia M. Hall
Elijah L. Halverson
Ty M. Harris
Emma F. Hawk
Alexa M. Hill
Tiffany M. Hix
Luke A. Jackson
Lillyan H. James
Karsen Karlblom
Mackenzie R. Kelley
Alyssa M. Kolonchuck
Olivia A. Kuhner
Courtney E. Lindgren
Kaela J. May
Dillon F. S. McKeigue
Jackson M. Miller
Katherine A. Mizer
Michael J. Mullinger
Alexander J. Nemunaitis
Ashton C. Newton
Hayden N. Olcott
Ethan G. Pac
Haley L. Pitman
Taylor S. Rausch
Bryce V. Ray
Maren M. Raymond
Piper L. Ricketts
Leah L. Rocchetta
Anna K. Roller
Zachary C. Rust
Andrew J. Rust
Parker S. Salowich
Dawson J. Scott
Elizabeth N. Selby

Ryan C. Shindeldecker
Mason D. Steen
Shania R. Stone
Lucas A. Swierk
Zayden C. Taylor
David A. Walterhouse
Liberty F. Weisenberger
Allyssa J. White
Elizabeth J. Wile
Jalen E. Williams
Kirsten M. Wright

Lambda Pi Eta

Lambda Pi Eta is the national communication honor society. Majors who maintain outstanding grade point averages while making significant progress toward their degree are invited to join.

Leah M. Green

Omicron Delta Kappa

Omicron Delta Kappa is a national senior leadership honor society recognizing leadership in scholarship, athletics, University publications, cultural life, and student affairs.

Abigail R. Danne
Emma C. Gearhart
Leah M. Green
Jackson M. Miller
Alexander J. Nemunaitis
Oyinkansola Mary Osiwoga
Claire K. Patton
Joshua B. Putka
Maren M. Raymond
Andrew J. Rust
Zachary C. Rust
Shania R. Stone

Phi Eta Sigma

Phi Eta Sigma is a national honor society that seeks to recognize and encourage scholarship among first-year college students. Selection is based entirely on achieving a 3.5 cumulative GPA for fall semester of the first year.

Olivia L. Campbell
Haleigh A. Heising
Mackenzie R. Kelley
E. F. Shope
Kristina M. Withem

Pi Mu Epsilon

Pi Mu Epsilon, founded in 1914, is the nation's most prestigious mathematics honor society. Majors who have taken a sufficient number of classes toward the fulfillment of their degree, achieved a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 in mathematics courses, and a 3.0 GPA overall are invited to join.

McKenna M. Clark
Luke A. Jackson
Leonardo Juarez
Joshua B. Putka
Zachary C. Rust

Pi Sigma Alpha

Pi Sigma Alpha is the only honor society for college and university students of government in the United States. Juniors and seniors who have completed requisite political science courses with excellence and whose overall grade point average is above 3.3 are eligible for membership.

Emma C. Leckey
Oyinkansola (Mary) M. Osiwoga

Psi Chi

Psi Chi is the international honor society in psychology. Wittenberg's Psi Chi members have a psychology grade point average of 3.5 or higher.

Mara D. Briscoe
Shania R. Stone

Sigma Tau Delta

Sigma Tau Delta is an international English honor society founded in 1924. Membership is available to any declared English major who meets the society's academic standards of a cumulative GPA of 3.2 or higher.

Sarah L. White
Kristina M. Withem

Sigma Theta Tau

Membership to this international nursing honor society is by invitation to the top 35% of the baccalaureate nursing students, who demonstrate excellence in scholarship.

Cadence J. Boyd
Thomas M. Chilicki
Emily E. Doerman
Haleigh A. Heising
Lillyan H. James
Mackenzie R. Kelley
Andrew Z. Nemunaitis

Tau Pi Phi

Founded in 1931 on
Wittenberg's campus, Tau
Pi Phi is a business and
economics honor society for
students of high academic
achievement. Students who
meet certain academic criteria
are initiated into the honor
society.

Francesca C. DiVincenzo

Leah M. Green

Julia M. Hall

Alexa M. Hill

Paige E. Jackson

Benjamin K. Norton

Leah L Rocchetta

Andrew J. Rust

Elizabeth N. Selby

Chloe K. Steiner

Allyssa J. White

Kirsten M. Wright

The Wittenberg Luther Cap

The 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 16th-century setting for Martin Luther, the man whose reforming activities ultimately led to Protestantism.

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. In September 1959, in honor of the original Wittenberg and the man whose ideas transformed the world, Wittenberg President Clarence C. Stoughton revived the wearing of the cap worn by Martin Luther.

During the 16th century, such 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 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 during Dr. Baird Tipson's inauguration on November 4, 1995. President Tipson then presented it to Dr. Mark H. Erickson at his inauguration on September 24, 2005. 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 the office 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 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 12th 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

The Wittenberg Torch is representative of 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 2026 to the Class of 2027. The passing of light from one generation to the next has defined the Wittenberg experience for more than 180 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 emeritus 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 1995 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, Wellness & Athletics Complex.

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.

Senior Class Giving Tradition

Wittenberg alumni have long demonstrated a commitment to giving back, helping fellow Tigers pursue their dreams and continue their education. In the spirit of this tradition, we proudly announce the Philanthropy Cord. The Wittenberg University green and gold Philanthropy Cord recognizes the generosity of giving back to your community as you and your classmates join together to support future generations of Tigers. The cord is known as a symbol of tradition and excellence to wear proudly during the Commencement ceremony.

The Senior Class of 2026 has chosen to pass our light and support our beloved Wittenberg by making our Senior Class gifts to support scholarships.

Leave your legacy and make your Class Gift to Class of 2026: Senior Class Giving GiveCampus: <https://wittenberguniversity.givecampus.com/class-of-2026-senior-class-giving>

Learn more about how you can connect with fellow alumni at: www.wittenberg.edu/alumni

THE CLASS OF 2026

Officers

Ms. Alyssa J. Burnside, Senior Class Representative
Mr. Taylor “Moose” J. Harper, Senior Class Representative

Honorary Class Members

Dr. Michael L. Anes,
Associate Professor of Psychology and Chair of the Department

Dr. Sally Brannan,
Professor of Education and Chair of the Department

Dr. Matthew Collier,
Professor of Biology and Chair of the Department

Dr. Kelly Dillon,
Associate Professor of Communication & Digital Media and Chair of the Department

Dave Ferguson,
Mixologist at Founders

Professor Erin Hill,
Senior Professor of Practice in Education

Coach Chris Marco,
Associate Head Cross Country / Assistant Track & Field Coach

Dr. Richard Phillips,
Associate Professor of Biology and Program Director, Environmental Sciences

Dr. Scott Rosenberg,
Professor of History, Honorary Consul for the Kingdom of Lesotho

Dr. Catherine Waggoner,
Professor of Communication & Digital Media

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.





