



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
MORRIS

2009 Commencement

The University of Minnesota, Morris's
Forty-sixth Commencement
Saturday, May 16, 2009
1:30 p.m., campus mall



University of Minnesota Board of Regents

Patricia Simmons, chair, Rochester
Clyde Allen, Jr., vice chair, Moorhead
Anthony Baraga, Side Lake
Richard Beeson, St. Paul
Dallas Bohnsack, New Prague
Linda Cohen, Minnetonka
John Frobenius, St. Cloud
Venora Hung, Golden Valley
Steven Hunter, St. Paul
Dean Johnson, Willmar
David Larson, Wayzata
Maureen Ramirez, West St. Paul
President Robert Bruininks, St. Paul

Morris Campus Administration

Jacqueline R. Johnson, chancellor
Cheryl K. Contant, vice chancellor for academic affairs and dean
Sandra K. Olson-Loy, vice chancellor for student affairs
Lowell C. Rasmussen, vice chancellor for finance and facilities
Madeline E. Maxeiner, associate vice chancellor for external relations
James D. Morales, associate vice chancellor for enrollment
Judith Kuechle, chair, Division of Education
Janet Shrunk Ericksen, chair, Division of the Humanities
Michael Korth, chair, Division of Science and Mathematics
Pareena Lawrence, chair, Division of the Social Sciences

The Board of Regents adopted the Regents Seal, shown above, in 1939 as the corporate seal of the University of Minnesota. The Latin motto, "Commune Vinculum Omnibus Artibus," means "a common bond for all the arts." The lamp represents the metaphysical sciences. The telescope represents the physical sciences. The plow represents the industrial arts, and the palette and brushes represent the fine arts.

Dear Families and Friends of the Class of 2009:

It is my pleasure to welcome you, on behalf of the entire University of Minnesota, Morris community, to our 2009 graduation ceremony. We share your pride in this extraordinary group of graduates, and we are delighted that you are able to be with us on this day of celebration. As one of the top public liberal arts colleges in the country, it is our mission to provide talented students access to a distinctive, challenging, and high quality undergraduate educational experience.

Graduation is a poignant moment, a bittersweet time. The achievements of the graduates and the contributions of their families and friends to college success are a cause of joy; at the same time, leaving good friends, cherished teachers, and a campus home is sad. This is an emotionally rich day. Graduation from college is one of life's true milestones and an achievement that will be a source of pride and satisfaction for life.

Morris students believe in the importance of actively shaping the communities in which they live. The graduates you see here today have studied abroad; led student organizations; taken part in intercollegiate and intramural athletic competitions; contributed many hours of service to the local community; and have participated in creative and scholarly activities mentored by dedicated faculty and staff members. They fulfill the University's mission by leaving here prepared to live their lives as accomplished, knowledgeable, engaged global citizens. Today's graduates leave with the breadth and depth of knowledge that are the hallmarks of a liberal arts education and with the skills they need to fully participate in their careers and professions.

We congratulate not just the graduates, but also each and every one of you gathered here today—that powerful network of family and friends that made it possible for these men and women to be successful at this college. I hope your day will be a memorable, exciting, and gratifying one, as we celebrate this landmark in the lifelong process of growth and learning of these outstanding students.

Jacqueline R. Johnson, chancellor

2009 Commencement Program

Chancellor Jacqueline R. Johnson presiding

Pre-Commencement Concert

Olympic Fanfare and Theme.....John Williams

Daniel Connolly '09, St. Paul, student conductor

Elsa's Procession to the Cathedral.....Richard Wagner

Sarah Tolbert '09, Fridley, student conductor

Symphonic Winds under the direction of Martin H. Seggelke, assistant professor of music

Selections by the Concert Choir under the direction of Ken Hodgson, associate professor of music

Processional (please remain seated).....*Pomp and Circumstance March No.1*.....Edward Elgar

Symphonic Winds under the direction of Martin H. Seggelke, assistant professor of music

Student Color Guards: Kristin Youngblom '12, Lafayette, and Courtney Driessen '12, Blooming Prairie

Mace Bearer: Wilbert Ahern, professor of history

Student Marshals: Kathleen Kerber '12, Corcoran, and Katie Barron '11, St. Paul

Faculty Marshal: Elena Machkasova, assistant professor of computer science

The Star Spangled Banner (please rise).....Francis Scott Key/John Stafford Smith

Sung by Laura Marie Woltjer '09, Little Falls

Welcome and Guest Recognition.....Chancellor Jacqueline R. Johnson

Remarks.....University of Minnesota Regent Richard Beeson

Remarks.....University of Minnesota Senior Vice President for System Academic Administration Robert Jones

Introduction of the Curtis H. Larson Award Recipient.....Chancellor Jacqueline R. Johnson

Student Speaker, Curtis H. Larson Award Recipient.....Nathan Lael Giles, St. Paul

Music.....*The Hounds of Spring*.....Alfred Reed

Symphonic Winds under the direction of Martin H. Seggelke, assistant professor of music

Graduation Address.....Will Weaver, author

Honor Song.....Northern Wind Singers
In recognition of the campus's origins as an American Indian boarding school, a Native American Honor Song is performed to recognize and pay tribute to the achievements of our scholars. Please show respect by standing, men with bared heads. No photographs may be taken at this time. This Honor Song is dedicated to the Class of 2009.

Presentation of Candidates.....Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Dean Cheryl K. Contant
As a courtesy, please withhold applause and individual response until all graduates have been announced. A professional photographer photographs each graduate receiving his/her diploma. We request that guests remain seated. Photographs may be taken in the mall area following the ceremony.

Conferring of Degrees.....University of Minnesota Regent Richard Beeson

Music.....*Ain't Got Time To Die*.....arranged by Hall Johnson
Solo by Rodney Patrick Fair '09, Minneapolis
Concert Choir under the direction of Ken Hodgson, associate professor of music

Welcome from the University of Minnesota, Morris Alumni Association.....Brian Ulrich '98, president

Closing Remarks.....Chancellor Jacqueline R. Johnson

Recessional.....*Throne Room Finale*.....John Williams
Symphonic Winds under the direction of Martin H. Seggelke, assistant professor of music

The audience is asked to remain seated until all graduates and faculty have departed from the mall.

Reception

A reception in Oyate Hall in the Student Center follows the commencement ceremony. Graduates, families, and friends are cordially invited to stay and enjoy the fellowship of this special occasion.

Gallery Exhibition

The Humanities Fine Arts Gallery features the 2009 Senior Student Exhibition and is open to visitors before and after the commencement ceremony.

Special Thank Yous

With appreciation, we acknowledge the contribution of American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters Jan Wuertz, NAD III, and Carrie Gutzwiller, AC/CI, to the commencement ceremony. A special thank you is extended to all the volunteer greeters and ushers, representing students, staff, and members of the University of Minnesota, Morris Retirees Association, who assisted with commencement. The Morris campus received the vases on the commencement stage as a special gift in honor of Sam Schuman who retired as chancellor in 2006. Kevin Flicker '74, ceramics teaching specialist, created the vases that were fired in the Morris campus wood-fired kiln.

Candidates for Bachelor of Arts Degrees

A

Arthur A. Aaberg, Glenwood, computer science, physics,
with distinction
Matthew Sevald Abbott, St. Paul, chemistry: biochemistry
Rebekah Ackerman, Andover, art history
Philip James Allen, Clarissa, management: organizations and
human resources
Tiffany Rose Allison, Maple Plain, biology, Spanish
Julianne Leigh Altman, Parkers Prairie, English
Allison Marie Ameluxen, Monticello, geology
Ashley Juel Anderson, Brainerd, communication, media, and
rhetoric, psychology
Nikki Joy Anderson, Brainerd, psychology, Spanish
Nicole Lillian Andrews, St. Michael, English
John August Ansell, Waconia, anthropology, history
Daniel J. Antony, Coon Rapids, social science
Britney M. Appier, Kansas City, Missouri, philosophy,
political science: international relations and comparative politics
Eric James Aufderhar, North Branch, history, social science

B

Christopher David Bahr, Shoreview, biology
Erik H. Baker, Minneapolis, geology
Amy Jo Balcome, Carlos, elementary education, with distinction
Andrew Charles Barnes, Duluth, psychology, with distinction
Megan Nicole Batroot, Stillwater, political science:
international relations and comparative politics,
with high distinction
Julie Lynn Baumeister, North St. Paul, geology
Marc Damon Beaudreau, Sisseton, South Dakota,
American Indian studies, sociology
Jennifer Rae Benson, Webster, history, social science,
secondary education licensure
Taryn Lee Berg, Glenwood, management: organizations
and human resources
Allison Kay Betsch, Estelline, South Dakota, psychology,
with high distinction
Gerrit John Beyer, Dresser, Wisconsin, psychology,
liberal arts for the human services
Michelle Lynne Bielat, Sartell, biology
Cassie Marie Bielke, Burnsville, English,
secondary education licensure
Kateri Waste' Win Bird, Sisseton, South Dakota,
anthropology, psychology
Calla Shelaine Bjorklund, Arlington, South Dakota,
art history, English
Brady Alexander Blackorby, White Bear Lake,
chemistry: biochemistry
Jeremy Lynn Bleichner, Eagan, computer science
Nicholas Lloyd Bly, Le Roy, political science: American politics
Joseph Randal Boedigheimer, Moose Lake, elementary education

Alexandra L. Bolduan, Maplewood, English, psychology
Victoria Faye Bolton, Brooklyn Center, chemistry
Alyssa H. Bonner, Hopkins, political science: political theory,
women's studies
Chelsey Rae Borman, Grand Marais, area of concentration:
sports management, management: financial management
Brandon M. Brady, Bloomington, social science
Derek William Brandt, Stillwater, biology
Jonathan Conor Bringewatt, St. Paul, area of concentration:
multicultural studies, economics, history
Whitney Kristinne Brown, Corcoran, English,
secondary education licensure
Alyssa Carol Bryan, Philip, South Dakota, sociology
Kimberly A. Buffington, Mound, management: global business,
political science: American politics
Brenna Ashleigh Burns, Austin, Texas, biology

C

Kathryn Anne Carlson, New Hope, theatre arts,
secondary education licensure
Joseph Michael Cavanagh, Woodbury, computer science
Karla Kivi Certano, Duluth, Latin American area studies, Spanish
Nicholas Champeau, Plymouth, music
Ricky Alan Charles, Hancock, management: financial management
Patrick James Chester, Cass Lake, political science:
international relations and comparative politics
Alexander James Clark, Woodbury, history, political science:
international relations and comparative politics,
social science, theatre arts
Emma R. Cole, Morris, psychology, Spanish
Stephanie Jane Cole, Apple Valley, biology
David Edward Confeld, Winsted, biology
Daniel Patrick Connolly, St. Paul, music,
secondary education licensure
Bryce Roderic Connor, Madison, Wisconsin, English
Benjamin Ray Cook, Hawley, music
Ashley Marie Corbett, Forest Lake, area of concentration:
digital media, management: global business
Brittany Lynn Crocker, Albertville, environmental studies,
political science: international relations and comparative politics
Briana Marie Czer, New Ulm, area of concentration:
sports management

D

Nathan Carl Dahlberg, Valley City, North Dakota,
computer science, with distinction
Alex S. Dalton, Winona, physics, with distinction
James Mancil Davison, Burnsville, chemistry: biochemistry
Ashley Marie-Arlene Deering, Cottage Grove, French, history
Kimberly Ann DeMorett, Glenwood, Latin American area studies,
with high distinction

Erin Alexandra Denman, Minneapolis, English, theatre arts
Michael Rex Deragon, Hutchinson, computer science
Nicolas J. Deragon, Hutchinson, history
Faith C. Derynck, Monticello, psychology, with distinction
Alyssa Ashley Dettman, Rochester, biology
Andrea Lauren Dexter, Woodbridge, Connecticut, psychology
Breanna Joy Diedrich, Duluth, management:
organizations and human resources
Rui Ding, Beijing, China, computer science, statistics
Nicole Ann Dobmeier, Willmar, statistics, with high distinction
Lorissa Lyn Dohr, Chilton, Wisconsin, psychology,
liberal arts for the human services
Nicole Marie Dunlap, Chaska, psychology
Tyler Charles Durocher, Plymouth, philosophy

E

John T. Eisenrich, Plymouth, social science
Sarah C. Estep, George, Iowa, liberal arts for the human services,
sociology

F

Rodney Patrick Fair, Minneapolis, area of concentration:
digital media studies
Ann Elizabeth Fern, Plymouth, English, French
Suzanna M. Fitzgerald, Morris, area of concentration:
digital media studies
Julie A. Flis, Lake Elmo, French
Jason Lee Floren, Brooklyn Park, English
Daniel Alan Folie, Fridley, economics, management:
financial management
Rachel Renee Fredrich, New Ulm, mathematics,
secondary education licensure, with high distinction

G

Alicia Joy Gaarder, Buffalo, biology
Matthew John Gandrud, Villard, communication, media,
and rhetoric
Amber Grace Gieseke, Barron, Wisconsin, English
Nathan Lael Giles, St. Paul, liberal arts for the human services
Christopher Michael Goebel, Mankato, history, theatre arts
Ashley Breyeanne Goodwin, Granite Falls, political science:
international relations and comparative politics
Adam James Gorecki, Becker, history
Kathryn Mae Elizabeth Grabosky, New Prague, management:
global business
Evan Mackenzie Gragg, Excelsior, studio art
Jenna Stahl Greenwell, Olivia, mathematics
Benjamin Clifford Greiling, Minneapolis, psychology,
with distinction
Steven J. Gremmels, Glenwood, theatre arts
Marcus Alyn Grubbs, Blaine, environmental studies

H

Jennifer Scallen Hagen, Edina, French
Kelsey Nicole Hagen, Minnetonka, area of concentration:
international studies, Spanish, with high distinction,
with honors

Christopher Aaron Haglin, Superior, Wisconsin, management:
organizations and human resources
Madelyn Elizabeth Haisley, Albuquerque, New Mexico, psychology
Ruth E. Hamberg, Oakdale, Spanish, with honors
Kati Marie Hamlin, Springfield, music, with distinction
Scott Ryan Harder, Mountain Lake, biology
Kaley Rose Hawkins, Maplewood, liberal arts for the human services,
psychology
Katrina Rebecca Heimark, Aitkin, English, political science:
international relations and comparative politics, Spanish,
with high distinction
Emily A. Helgerson, Plymouth, elementary education, Spanish,
secondary education licensure, with distinction
Adam C. Hendrickson, Clearbrook, computer science
Rebecca Ann Hendrickson, Hewitt, psychology,
liberal arts for the human services
Jessica Lane Henry, Roseville, biology
Meng Her, East Bethel, mathematics, statistics
Nicholas D. Hervin, Cold Spring, area of concentration:
sports management
Gordon Leonard Hicks III, St. Louis Park, geology
Elizabeth Louise Higham, International Falls, management:
organizations and human resources, psychology
Adam Kraig Hill, Maple Lake, economics, management:
financial management
Hannah Louise Hilton, Woodbury, management:
organizations and human resources
Sarah Elizabeth Hilton, Woodbury, social science,
secondary education licensure
Brandon Lee Huberty, Blaine, English,
secondary education licensure
Brett Erin Hucka, Northfield, social science

J

Erica Lynn Jacobson, Waverly, studio art
Amber Joelle Janey, Little Falls, art history, studio art
Rochelle Mary Jansen, Sauk Centre, biology
James Allen Jarvie, Cokato, music
James F. Jech, Blaine, computer science
Bailey DiAnn Jelle, Lakeville, art history
Samantha Mae Jipson, Chokio, history
Matthew David Johantgen, Ramsey, physics
Kathleen Anne Johnson, St. Louis Park, psychology,
with distinction
Kayla A. Johnson, Rogers, elementary education
Kevin Bruce Johnson, Madison Lake, music,
secondary education licensure
Sarah Elizabeth Johnson, Cook, social science,
secondary education licensure
Teri Leigh Johnson, Brooklyn Park, mathematics, statistics
Shannon Claire Juhnke, Willmar, economics

K

Emilie Elizabeth Kalvig, Blackduck, mathematics
Justin R. Kemppainen, Spicer, theatre arts,
communication, media, and rhetoric, with distinction

Melinda Leigh Kernik, White Bear Lake, history,
with high distinction, with honors
Aaron M. King, Black River Falls, Wisconsin, English
Owen Robert Kinsky, Woodbury, chemistry: biochemistry
Heidi R. Knutson, Garfield, elementary education,
with high distinction
Stuart G. Kohl, Denver, Iowa, chemistry: biochemistry,
with distinction
Rebecca A. Korth, Morris, chemistry: biochemistry, Spanish
Jennifer S. Koski, Cyrus, psychology,
liberal arts for the human services
Brian G. Kotila, Cokato, music, secondary education licensure
Joshua John Krois, Elk River, geology
Elizabeth Ann Krueger, Maple Plain, management:
financial management

L

Benjamin Judd Murphie Lacy, Stillwater, political science:
international relations and comparative politics
Daniel James Lang, Willmar, psychology, with distinction
Andrew Gilbert Larsen, Morgan, management:
financial management
Danielle Lee Larson, Little Falls, music
Matthew William Larson, Alexandria, management:
financial management
Justin Steve Latt, Hazelhurst, Wisconsin, theatre arts
Rachel M. LaVoi, Becker, history, psychology
Jacob William Leader, St. Paul, geology
Moon-Yong Lee, Arden Hills, communication, media,
and rhetoric
Coresa J. Leighty, New Ulm, chemistry, Spanish
Douglas A. Lennick, Edina, management: financial management
Lisa Ann Lenzmeier, Paynesville, economics, management:
financial management
Zachary Todd Leuthardt, Morris, political science:
American politics
Pamela Jane Lindenberg, Grand Forks, North Dakota, English,
history, with high distinction
Jessica Anne Linman, Barrett, elementary education
Tara A. Loomis, Hutchinson, communication, media,
and rhetoric
Sylvia Alejandra Lozada, Hector, psychology
Barrett Ray Lunemann, Clarissa, economics, management:
financial management

M

Nicholas Frank Maciej, Swanville, communication, media,
and rhetoric
Rene F. Maes III, Mankato, political science: American politics
Jena Rae Magee, Maplewood, communication, media, and rhetoric
Amber Noelle Maloney, Morris, elementary education
Daniel Steven Martinson, St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin,
political science: American politics
Tyson Frank Mastin, Blue Earth, chemistry
Karsten Tait Maurer, Champlin, history, statistics, with distinction
Elijah J. Mayfield, Fergus Falls, computer science, with honors
Sarah Lynn McDermott, Hancock, studio art

Carlie Danielle McLean, Foley, management: organizations
and human resources
Linsey Marie McMurrin, Walker, anthropology
Victor N. Melnichuk, Morris, chemistry: biochemistry
Stephanie Jo Messer, Lino Lakes, management: organizations
and human resources, social science
Robert Jon Michalscheck, New Brighton, music,
secondary education licensure
Corey Clyde Milkert, Maple Plain, psychology
Daniel James Millard, New London, music
DeeAnn Dawn Miller, Herman, liberal arts for the human services,
with distinction
Anthony James Morse, Morton, elementary education
Alexander Charles Murphy, Plymouth, political science:
international relations and comparative politics
Aimee K. Murry, Rochester, psychology, Spanish
Lisa Marie Musielewicz, Little Falls, elementary education

N

Christina Marie Newman, Duluth, area of concentration:
peace and social justice studies
Sheila June Nezhad, Woodbury, economics, management:
global business
Bradley Thomas Nix, Melrose, biology, with high distinction
Audrey L. Nomeland, Osakis, English,
secondary education licensure, with distinction
Candi Kay Novotny, Herman, liberal arts for the human services
Bethany Anne Nyland, Rochester, chemistry: biochemistry,
with high distinction

O

Whitney Ann Olason, Mankato, art history
Rachel Mackenzie Olm, Minneapolis, area of concentration:
environmental studies, biology
Ivan C. Olmedo, Minneapolis, psychology
Kjell Anders Olsen, Minneapolis, French
Amanda Lynn Olson, Windom, political science:
American politics
Andrew Joseph Olson, International Falls, biology, chemistry:
biochemistry
Veronica Sarah Olson, Fertile, English
Christina Joy Osthus, Eagan, English,
secondary education licensure, with distinction
Kelsey Anne Ott, Cambridge, liberal arts for the human services

P

Whitney Leigh Pankonin, Lakeville, Spanish
Katherine Ruth Pansch, Graceville, music
James Dominic Parker, Louisville, Kentucky, English, theatre arts
Jessica M. Pederson, Granite Falls, English
Brittne Irene Perfetti, Staples, political science: international
relations and comparative politics
Jodi Lyn Petersen, Morris, liberal arts for the human services
Anthony Patrick Pfeifer, St. Michael, English
Tou Ger Pha, St. Paul, area of concentration:
environmental studies

Alison Jude Pippo, Maple Lake, management:
financial management
Joseph Thomas Pirillo, Manteca, California, statistics
Nana Yaw Poku, Accra, Ghana, management: global business
Samuel Friedman Potter, Long Prairie, mathematics,
with high distinction
Haakon Gusse Poulsen, Corcoran, computer science
Andrew Jacob Preus, Mankato, political science: political theory
Saja Cherian Puthiyottil, West St. Paul, biology

R

Joseph Eugene Rader, Kerkhoven, computer science
Mariah Keller Ralston, Bismarck, North Dakota, English
Peter Joseph Ray, Barrett, area of concentration:
creative writing, theatre arts
Michelle Beth Redberg, Anoka, communication, media,
and rhetoric, with distinction
Cindy Regan, De Graff, area of concentration:
public administration
Ashley Catherine Reiner, Great Falls, Montana, communication,
media, and rhetoric, management: organizations
and human resources
Rochelle Lillian Reiss, Maple Grove, psychology,
liberal arts for the human services
Sarah Jeannette Rhodes, Richfield,
liberal arts for the human services
Brady Todd Rose, Morgan, economics, management:
financial management
Shauna Katherine Rosen, Plymouth, management: organizations
and human resources, Spanish, with high distinction
J. Kyle Roth, Hancock, computer science
Charles Parker Rudeen, Bird Island, mathematics,
with high distinction
Sara Jean-Marie Russell, Duluth, biology
Sarah Jane Ryan, Maple Grove, elementary education
Jennifer Marie Rygg, Hanover, elementary education

S

Peter William Sarlette, Morris, area of concentration:
digital media studies
Ashley Renee Satre, Herman, communication, media,
and rhetoric, theatre arts
Michael David Scegura, Avon, management: financial management
Kevin A. Scharber, Maple Plain, mathematics,
secondary education licensure
Michele A. Scheffler, Benson, management: organizations
and human resources
Amy Marie Scherbring, Shakopee,
liberal arts for the human services
Emmaline Grace Schlosser, Nelson, geology
Erik David Schmitt, Apple Valley, computer science
Jill Marie Schoeppner, Hastings, psychology
Alexandra Marie Schulze, Ely, liberal arts for the human services
Savannah Marie Schulze, Ely, anthropology
Alyssa Grace Sepnieski, Minneapolis, theatre arts
Jennifer Ann Shaw, Shoreview, English, Spanish
Andrew D. Shay, Minneapolis, biology

Ryan Oliver Shea, Glenwood, political science: American politics
Jennifer Ann Slavik, Garfield, English
Lisa Marie Snyder, Elk River, anthropology
Theodore B. Snyder, Elk River, management: organizations
and human resources
Erika Rachel Spofford, Little Falls, Spanish,
Latin American area studies
Aaron S. St. Aubin, Watertown, philosophy, psychology
Nichole Lyn Stevens, Buffalo, psychology,
liberal arts for the human services
Leiah Marie Stevermer, Marshall, studio art
Ashley Rose Stott, Onamia, elementary education, with distinction
Claire Lewke Stover, Columbus, Wisconsin, area of concentration:
international studies, French, with distinction, with honors
Breanne Jill Suter, St. Michael, liberal arts for the human services
Abigail Brook Swafford, Bemidji, theatre arts
Andrew Lee Swan, Louisville, Kentucky, English

T

Nichole Beverly Tabatt, Little Falls, psychology
Sara Lynn Tardy, Morris, history
Michael Donal Terrell, Jr., Tracy, California,
area of concentration: sports management
Bao Thao, Minneapolis, management: global business
Whitney Lynn Thesing, Cedar, area of concentration:
environmental studies, economics
Todd Robert Thielen, Paynesville, communication, media,
and rhetoric
Christine Marie Thoemke, St. Peter, English
Laura Marjorie Thoma, Eden Prairie, chemistry, Spanish
Adam Bruce Thurber, St. Paul, English, history
Sarah Jean Tolbert, Fridley, music, secondary education licensure,
with distinction
Jillian M. Treder, Rochester, biology
Joshua Odell Tripp, Hastings, history
Ashli Marie Tucker, Stillwater, chemistry: biochemistry
Kelli Ann Tucker, Stillwater, English, theatre arts

V

Thomas Ward Vail, Hancock, history, psychology,
with high distinction
Karen Van Horn, Donnelly, liberal arts for the human services,
sociology, with high distinction
Victoria Renee Vandecreek, Watertown,
communication, media, and rhetoric
KauChee Vang, St. Paul, biology
Pa Houa Vang, St. Paul, management:
organizations and human resources

W

Nikolas Robert Wachlarowicz, Silver Lake, history
Samantha Marie Wahl, Morris, studio art
Jared L. Walhowe, Buffalo, social science, sociology,
with distinction
Elizabeth Marie Waller, Lemmon, South Dakota, English,
secondary education licensure, with distinction
Alexander Anthony Wanna, St. Paul, English

Hallie L. Warneke, Elk River, chemistry: biochemistry
 Benjamin JonDaniel Waterworth, Newfolden, philosophy
 Zoe Danielle Weis, Sitka, Alaska, geology
 Sara Marie Welk, Stacy, biology
 Rebecca Lynn Welsch, Indianola, Iowa,
 liberal arts for the human services, psychology
 Jeffrey Anton Wencl, Ham Lake, history, political science:
 American politics
 Aaron Lawrence Wendolek, Hutchinson, social science,
 secondary education licensure
 Andrew Robert Wey, Brookings, South Dakota, statistics,
 with distinction
 Benjamin Reed Wheeler, Racine, English, with high distinction
 Douglas Ray Williams, Circle Pines, political science:
 American politics

Alice Jennifer Wilson, Long Prairie, sociology
 Dean Lamont Wilson, Brainerd, theatre arts
 Jocelyn Marie Wolney, Robbinsdale, English
 Laura Marie Woltjer, Little Falls, management:
 organizations and human resources

X

Boua Xiong, Brooklyn Park, elementary education

Y

Lao Pao Yang, St. Paul, elementary education
 Adam John Love Yust, St. Paul, political science:
 American politics

Curriculum, Distinction, and Honors Requirements

Degrees will be conferred as indicated on the students listed in this program subject to completion of all curriculum requirements. Candidates graduating “with high distinction” have a University of Minnesota grade point average (GPA) of 3.90 or higher; those graduating “with distinction” have a GPA from 3.75 to 3.89. They wear gold cords, gifts from the University of Minnesota, Morris.

Seniors graduating “with honors” successfully completed the Honors Program that includes honors courses, honors co- and extracurricular activities, and a senior honors project. Participants must earn A’s for half of their Morris credits. They wear Honor medallions, gifts from the University of Minnesota, Morris.

Academic Regalia

American academic regalia—robes, caps, insignia, and emblems used by colleges and universities to identify themselves—indicate the academic rank of its wearer. The custom began in Great Britain where robes and hoods designed for warmth were common clothing at the earliest universities. In 1895, the Academic Costume Code standardized American academic regalia, specifying style and usage of caps, gowns, hoods, and colors to represent degrees.

The fields of learning colors are as follows: white for arts, letters, humanities; khaki for business, accounting, commerce; copper for economics; light blue for education; brown for fine arts and architecture; silver for oratory and speech; crimson for journalism; purple for law; lemon for library science; pink for music; dark blue for philosophy; sage green for physical education; gold for psychology; peacock blue for public administration; salmon pink for public health; golden yellow for science; citron for social work; scarlet for theology; orange for engineering.

Masters, specialists, and doctors wear hoods lined with the official colors of the university from which the degree is granted. Tassel colors indicate the academic program area. Gown sleeves distinguish educational levels: bachelor, long pointed; master, oblong; and doctor and specialist, bell-shaped.

Mace

Once a medieval symbol of war, the mace has emerged from its history to become a symbol of peaceful leadership. As an emblem of order and authority, the ceremonial staff is carried by a senior faculty at the head of official processions, inciting the pomp and pageantry of university ceremonial occasions.



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA MORRIS

The University of Minnesota, Morris story told through the campus symbol.

- The symbol's formal wordmark element reflects the Morris campus's relationship to the world-renowned University of Minnesota, the University's 150-year history, its land-grant mission, and its commitment to academic excellence.
- The symbol's monogram M stands for Morris and for Minnesota. The M is constructed of graceful lines that arc outward, conveying the openness and expressiveness of the Morris campus.
- Uncontained and unconstrained, the M is centered within three overlapping circles. The two lower circles form the infinity sign, illustrating a sense of limitlessness and perpetual motion, and reflecting the "renewable and sustainable" liberal arts education that students receive at the University of Minnesota, Morris.

The Morris campus attracts students from throughout Minnesota, the United States, and around the world. The 2008-09 student body represents 81 Minnesota counties, 29 states, and 15 countries. The "Morris experience" emphasizes faculty/student collaborative research, study abroad opportunities, and service learning projects. The University of Minnesota, Morris offers bachelor of arts degrees in 34 majors and is consistently rated as one of the nation's top public liberal arts colleges.

The University of Minnesota, Morris has received national recognition for its academically gifted student body, its commitment to diversity, its emphasis on student leadership, and the exceptional student-centered learning environment created by its dedicated faculty and staff. The North Central Association of Colleges and Schools declares Morris "a model liberal arts college."

- The three shapes that form the M remember the three institutions that have made their home on the 120-year-old Morris campus:

The first buildings on the Morris campus housed an American Indian boarding school that opened in 1887. The school was first administered by the Sisters of Mercy order of the Catholic Church and later by the United States Government. It closed in 1909, and the campus was transferred to the State of Minnesota with the stipulation that American Indian students "shall at all times be admitted to such school free of charge for tuition," a policy still proudly honored. The current Multi-Ethnic Resource Center is the only remaining building on campus from the American Indian boarding school period.

In 1910, the University of Minnesota established the West Central School of Agriculture (WCSA) on the Morris campus, which educated area high school students in a boarding school environment until 1963. It is this time period that garnered the campus its placement on the National Register of Historic Places as the West Central School of Agriculture and Experiment Station Historic District. Handsome Prairie School campus buildings, constructed during the WCSA years and designed by well-known state architect Clarence H. Johnston, Sr., continue to serve the campus well.

In the late 1950s, when the University of Minnesota announced that agricultural schools would be phased out, a grassroots citizens movement convinced the Minnesota Legislature that creating a distinct public liberal arts college within the University of Minnesota system on the Morris campus would be a good investment for the state. In September 1960, the University of Minnesota, Morris opened its doors and began fulfilling its institutional vision to be an affordable, undergraduate, small, residential, public liberal arts college.

- The maroon and gold colors, as shown on the commencement booklet cover, represent Morris's relationship to the University of Minnesota. The green color represents Morris's rural setting and its commitment to sustainable energy and green living.

The Morris campus has been identified as a national leader for its "green" initiatives—wind energy, biomass energy, Pride of the Prairie local, sustainable food projects, and its goal to be carbon neutral and energy self-sufficient by the year 2010.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
MORRIS

Office of External Relations
312 Behmler Hall
600 East Fourth Street
Morris, Minnesota 56267

320-589-6386
ummexternal@morris.umn.edu
morris.umn.edu

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