Dear friends, alumni and distinguished guests:

From our storied beginnings in 1909, when the La Crosse Normal School was founded, to our place of prominence today in 2021, the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse has grown into one of the best public universities in the country. Thus we can be proud of many things—in particular, today's graduating class.

For more than 20 years, U.S. News & World Report has ranked UWL the top school in the UW System and among the top five public universities in the Midwest that offer undergraduate and master's programs. Also, for more than a decade UWL has been one of only two UW campuses ranked in Kiplinger Magazine's list of the Top 100 Values in American Public Higher Education, further recognition of our strong national leadership in higher education.

A commitment to excellence exists throughout the UWL campus, and the accomplishments listed on page 5 showcase some of our most notable achievements. But the greatest testament to our tradition of academic excellence is the group of outstanding students who make up today's graduating class. Each one of them is a point of pride, and we're so very grateful for that.

So on behalf of the staff and faculty here at UWL, it's my pleasure to thank you for joining us today to celebrate the crowning achievement of the university experience. The future holds great promise for our graduates, and I hope you are as proud of them as we are!

Best wishes,

Joe Gow
Chancellor
ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH ANNUAL SPRING COMMENCEMENT
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-LA CROSSE
SATURDAY, THE FIFTEENTH OF MAY, TWO THOUSAND TWENTY ONE

9 a.m. ceremony
College of Business Administration

11:30 a.m. ceremony
School of Education | College of Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities

2:30 p.m. ceremony
School of Education | College of Science and Health

Ceremony
Welcome ..................................................................................................................Joe Gow, Chancellor
Graduating Class Student Introduction .................................................................Dina Zavala, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Diversity & Inclusion
Student Address
   9 a.m. Ceremony ..................................................................................................Mackenzie Goranson
   11:30 a.m. Ceremony .............................................................................................Jesimiel Banjiram
   2:30 p.m. Ceremony .............................................................................................Vanessa Mbuyi Kaja

Commissioning Officer Oath of Office .................................................................Lt. Col. Erik Archer, Army ROTC

Conferring of Degrees and Awarding of Diplomas ..................................................Joe Gow, Chancellor
Betsy Morgan, Provost & Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

School of Education ..............................................................................................Marcie Wycoff-Horn, Dean
College of Business Administration .........................................................................Taggert Brooks, Interim Dean
College of Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities .....................................................Karl Kunkel, Dean
College of Science and Health ..................................................................................Mark Sandheinrich, Dean
Graduate Studies .....................................................................................................Meredith Thomsen, Dean

Singing of Alma Mater
The Alma Mater
Morning sun greets many banners
On its westward way,
For us above all others
Waves maroon and gray
Colors dear, flag we love
Float for aye,
Old La Crosse to thee,
May we all be ever loyal
To thy memory.

Closing Remarks .......................................................................................................Joe Gow, Chancellor

Recessional
“Pomp and Circumstance” .......................................................................................Edward Elgar, UWL Brass Ensemble

Commencement Interpreter .......................................................................................Colleen Cudo
Name Reader .............................................................................................................Terry Wirkus, Academic Technology Services

Note: Sound-enhancement earphones are available for hearing-impaired guests. Ask an usher if you would like to use the earphones. Please return them to an usher after the ceremony.
Academic Dress

The academic apparel worn by faculty and staff in the processional has its origins in the universities of the Middle Ages. Because the universities grew out of church schools, both faculty and students were regarded as part of the clergy, and wore clerical clothing based on monastic dress. The head covering developed from the skull cap worn to protect tonsured heads in cold weather. In the universities, the skull cap acquired a point at the top which gradually evolved into a tassel. In Europe, the bonnet with a tassel is still worn, but has been replaced in America by the mortar board cap or tam with a tassel. The style of the gown may have been borrowed from the Benedictine monk’s habit. In the Middle Ages, those with bachelor’s and master’s degrees could be distinguished by the simplicity or elaborateness of their gowns. The master’s gowns were often furred, a decoration surviving as the three violet bars now used on the sleeves of the doctoral gown.

The hood was originally worn over the head in bad weather, and otherwise dropped onto the shoulders. First worn by faculty and students, the hood is now added to the apparel of those with master’s and doctoral degrees. The color of the velvet trim on the hood indicates the scholarly field, for example, dark blue (philosophy), golden yellow (science), light blue (education), pink (music), apricot (nursing), drab (business), and white (arts). The colors of the satin lining are those approved and authorized by the college or university from which the degree was earned.

Medallion Symbolizes Academic Excellence

Wearing a medallion or seal of office has been a symbol of academic excellence since the Middle Ages. The seal marked official documents then; heads of institutions wore the seal around the neck to keep it in their possession. The chancellor’s medallion features a design and materials that reflect UW-La Crosse. The mokume-gane or “wood grain metal” used is a specialty of the campus jewelry studio.

Mace Shows Quest for Truth

Once a weapon in medieval combat, the mace was adopted by universities as a symbol of the power of the quest for truth. The mace is carried in the commencement ceremony by a distinguished senior faculty member. William R. Fiorini, a UWL art professor, designed and made the medallion and mace, which were used for the first time at the inauguration of Chancellor Judith L. Kuipers in September 1992.

The mace and medallion were given to the University by Mary Hebbard and Ruth Nixon-Day, professors emeriti. Silver plaques on the medallion box and mace stand acknowledge these gifts.

Symbols of Academic Achievement

Many undergraduate students are wearing items that reflect high academic achievement. Commencement Honors are designated by silver cords, and are worn by students who have at least a 3.50 cumulative grade point average. Those wearing gold cords have earned Commencement Highest Honors with at least a 3.75 average. Members of the Golden Key International Honour Society are wearing a medallion on a blue and gold point average. Members of the Golden Key International Honour Society are wearing a medallion on a blue and gold point average. Those wearing gold cords have earned Commencement Highest Honors with at least a 3.75 average. Those wearing gold cords have earned Commencement Highest Honors with at least a 3.75 average. Silver plaques on the medallion box and mace stand acknowledge these gifts.

International Flags and Sashes

The international flags displayed on the commencement platform represent the home countries of international students attending the University. Sashes are worn by graduates who studied abroad. Each sash represents the country in which the student studied.

Even more reasons to be proud UW-La Crosse graduate...

• U.S. News & World Report named UWL the No. 1 regional university in the state and the 6th regional university in the Midwest among schools with undergraduate and master’s programs for 2021. It’s the 20th consecutive year UWL earned a top ranking. UWL also finished among “Top Performers on Social Mobility,” which assesses how schools assist students with Pell Grants.

• UWL is No. 1 in awarding physics bachelor’s degrees nationwide, according to the American Physical Society. UWL awarded an average of 35 degrees annually between 2016-17, making it No. 1 among bachelor’s degree-granting institutions on the latest American Physical Society list.

• Biology Senior Lecturer Renee Redman has received a 2021 UW Board of Regents Teaching Excellence Award. Regents name only two instructors from across the UW System to receive this award.

• UWL is one of around only 230 campuses in 37 states and the District of Columbia designated as a “Voter Friendly Campus.” Voter Friendly Campuses help students overcome barriers to participate in the political process.

• A national theatre blog says UWL has the best theatre program statewide in listing top programs in all 50 states, identifying those doing “amazing things and giving their students fantastic preparation for their various industries.”

• The UWL Radiation Therapy Program is No. 7 on the Best Value Schools list. Rankings highlight tuition and enrollment, while listing notables such as UWL’s 13-month internship program and national accreditation.

• Physics Professor Shelly Lesher has been named a 2020 American Physical Society Fellow. In the national citation, colleagues recognized her for “advocating on behalf of the essential role of physics in society, and for demonstrating the importance of physics education for all students.”

• Exercise and Sport Science Professor Carl Foster has been named to the U.S. Speed Skating Hall of Fame. He was inducted for contributing to the sport after three decades as an exercise physiologist for Team USA.

• UWL has received a $1.25 million U.S. Department of Education grant to improve educational services for children with disabilities nationwide. The grant aims to better prepare state and nationally licensed educational professionals and school psychologists so they can enhance assistance and results for children with disabilities, ages 3-21.

• Financial and business news website Business Insider says when it comes to giving students the most bang for their buck, UWL is among the best nationally. With a 69.7% ROI, UWL placed 20th out of 24 colleges that cracked the list — the only Wisconsin university ranked.

• The career export website Zippia has listed UWL one of the nation’s best “total package” schools. UWL not only earned the top ranking in Wisconsin — it was No. 6 nationally.

• UWL’s Jail Literacy Program has received the 2020 Eisenberg Award from the State Public Defender Board. It’s given annually to a person or organization that has made a substantial impact on criminal justice and the indigent defense community. Established by English Department faculty in 2015, the program offers sessions on poetry, fiction, nonfiction, memoir and more.

• The NCAA has awarded UWL bids to host the 2024 NCAA III Wrestling Championships and 2026 NCAA III Women’s and Men’s Outdoor Track & Field Championships. UWL has hosted numerous national championships throughout the years.

• December 2020 grad Lili Minow was named the 2020 National Student Employee of the Year by the National Student Employment Association. The peer health advocate loves her job because she can “make the world a more equitable and healthy place.”

• Political Science and Public Administration Department Assistant Professor Shilpa Viswanath has been named a 2020 Section for Women in Public Administration Rising Star, given to someone with less than five years of academic or professional public service.

• The largest single gift ever to UWL — $2.1 million — in fall 2019 is a “game-changer” for the College of Business Administration and the region. It establishes the Menard Family Midwest Initiative for Economic Engagement and Research, which provides students more opportunities to learn economics through hands-on experiences and community engagement.

• The Therapeutic Recreation Program received the Program of Merit for Health Professions designation from The Academy for Gerontology in Higher Education in 2019 — the first health professions program to receive the honor. And, the program received the 2019 American Therapeutic Recreation Association Excellence in Education, recognizing a clinical agency or college that has distinguished itself through outstanding contributions to the profession.

• UWL is ranked among the nation’s top Military Friendly Schools for 2021-22. UWL earned a silver rating for its commitment, effort and success in creating sustainable and meaningful benefit for the military community.

• 2017 graduate Timothy Fallon was one of 110 nationwide to receive the Elijah Watt Sells Award from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants in 2019. It cites outstanding performance on the CPA exam by obtaining a cumulative average score above 95.00 across all four sections and passing all four on the first attempt.

• UWL's physician assistant program earned a 100% pass rate on the Physician Assistant National Certifying Exam. That, small class sizes, and partnerships with the Gundersen Medical Foundation, Mayo Clinic School of Health Science and Marshfield Clinic helps attract students.
College of Business Administration continued

Desiree J. Stehling
Mackenzie R. Steinfadt
Olivia L. Steinbringer
Bryce H. Stelmacher
Jacob D. Steiber
Alexa M. Stensen
Daniel J. Stetler*
Jack T. Stetter
Jacob C. Streeter*
Allyse R. Sullivan*
Jared M. Sullivan
Sophia A. Sullivan
Dylan D. Summit*
Kayla A. Swanson
Mitchell R. Swanson
Brandon D. Swartz
Ryan J. Swetlik

College of Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities

Caroline A. Voet
Kyle Vaughan*
Oliver O. Vasanoja**
Brennan W. VanWychen
Drew A. Tschumper
Holly S. Truckenbrod
Nicholas R. Trawicki
Callie M. Thundercloud
Charles S. Terrill
Julia A. Tomczyk
Lauren N. Torgerson
Alyse R. Sullivan*
Alyse R. Sullivan*

Jordan E. Burns*
Trevor A. Beam
Caroline A. Voet
Samuel B. Brink**
Eleanor A. Brown
Kayli M. Brown**
Molly J. Brown
Karen A. Beckers
Logan D. Carstens
Kathsie A. Carpenter
Brianna L. Carpenter*
Kayla A. Casper*
Carly J. Chadwick*
Lillia S. Chiaro*
Kimberly A. Christianson
Hana N. Church**
Carley C. Chwalis*
Alexandra C. Cimoch
Paul J. Cimoch, III
Jalen Clark
Madison N. Clarke
Joseph D. Comeau
Sarah F. Conley
Courtney E. Conway*
Nikita A. Conway
Kari L. Corey**
Carly A. Cornell
Natalie M. Day**
Kaitlin M. Fochs**
Kaitlynn A. Foster
Grace E. Fox*
Paige J. Friday
Sydney M. Friedle**
Liese E. Fries
Samuel E. Fritz
Emma J. Furniss
Brittany K. Gaagan
Madison K. Garder**
Dylan J. Ganem
Elizabeth L. Georgetta
Kathleen A. Gerhartz*
Karlheir J. Gerlach
Katie M. Gilbert*
Emily M. Gilbertson
Bailee K. Golich**+
Claire C. Gorges*
Hannah Goathard
Kiera M. Grant**
Marah S. Greuel
Makie K. Grewe
Kelly A. Griffin*
Jane K. Hable**
Brice D. Hansen~
Kendra M. Hansen
Lauren E. Hanson**
Madison E. Haarmer**
Kristin M. Harung
Alex R. Harvey
Lauren T. Head
Emma K. Hedging
Cameron J. Heiman**
Kathryn K. Heisser+
Mary Heisland+
Jacob M. Heller*
Joseph M. Herbst+
Madelyn P. Hermes*
Gabrielle M. Hill-Sanow*
Aliza N. Hintz**
Emma E. Holby**
Elizabeth M. Holland*
Cecilia A. Hook**
Katheryn G. Homre
Jacob M. Hudecek
Mirian Hurula
Luke J. Hutterer
Jordan L. Ivey~
Wylee M. Jackson
Johnathon L. Jaeger~
Colin Jahn+
Kelly A. Jensen**
Alexandra O. Jeske
Cam J. Johnson~
Jamison E. Johnson
Miranda M. Johnson
Zoe A. Johnson
Croix N. Joicoeur
Marley D. Kaiser
Samantha R. Kanouse
Joshua R. Kasper
Adam C. Kaye**
Ryan E. Kelly*
Corinne T. Kessler
Junaid K. Khan
Amanda L. Kind~
Emily G. Kinney~
Lesse Kitten
Kjersten R. Kleveland
Jack T. Knuth+
Josh D. Konecke
Katelyn J. Kolesnichenko+
Austin M. Koen
Callie P. Kozoli**
Avva M. Kramer
Melissa Kroner**
Gabriela C. Krueger
David J. Kubicek+
Mitchel M. Kuhn
DeVon L. Kuykendall
Colin J. Lake+
Sarah E. Laman~
Abigail C. Lange~
Antonia M. Langowski~
Jackson L. Ivey
Abigail R. Leasman*
Gabrielle M. LeBouton~
Madeline P. LeCuyer
Amanda S. Lee
Madeline J. Lien
Meredith L. Lierman+
Kyra M. Liwinski~
Josiah L. Loefhelph~
Meghan L. Long+
Hailey R. Looker**
Emily M. Ludewig~
Riley J. Lui
Kylee L. Lundvall
Koehlein M. Lyons~
Casey C. Machajewski
Daniel J. Madison
Kaley J. Mael
Brandon T. Maglio
Madeline G. Malloy
Ann M. Maloney~
Helen M. Manke
Amber J. Matlock*
Elizabeth C. McCabe
Dani A. McCaffery
LaKiah R. McCallson~
Blake H. McCoy~
Easton M. McCready
Madeline R. McKay
Cally M. McPherson~
Jordan D. Mederwaldt
Kasyn M. Midilien+
Mavee A. Miller~
Trey J. Miller~
Chelsie Miskowski
Dakota R. Molderhausen
Patricia J. Moore
Samantha F. Mozy
Dillon M. Murman**
Ryan D. Murray~
College of Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities continued

Roger Mustache, Jr
Zackery T. Myers
Carrie R. Nelson
Jacob E. Nelson*
Malcolm J. Nelson
Mason X. Nelson
Kate M. Newborg
Aaron M. Nicholson
Sunflower G. Noonan
Madison Novitzki
Cayden E. Niemelaer**
McKenzie L. O’Connell
Alyssa M. Onley
Tadzio S. Opredelk
Isabel N. Ortiz
Elizabeth F. Osborne**
Samuel J. Ott*
Karly K. Pabich
Alex J. Pagel**
Mikayla J. Pagel
Christopher P. Pahoke*
Brooke E. Palme
Lydia K. Park*
Stephanie A. Pederson*
Emily B. Peoples
Elizabeth Petruzzello*
Grace J. Pfister*
Sophia R. Phrommet
Derek J. Pirung*
Jessica M. Plessis
Anka L. Plotz**
Samantha M. Powell
El D. Powell
Natalia C. Radtke**
Mikayla B. Redington
Alyssa M. Reyes
Daria A. Richardson
Taylor M. Robertson
Dylan T. Roeser*
Eleanor L. Rogalski*
Madeline J. Rogin*
John M. Rohey**
Laura K. Rommery
Corrina A. Romandine**
Emma M. Rowe
Elizabeth G. Rudolph*
Andre X. Russeau*
Emily J. Ru**
Evan C. Sand
Jade L. Sanpier
Amber L. Schickert**
Victoria L. Scheibach**
Zoe M. Sasman*
Abigail J. Salm
Amanda L. Sabourin
Elizabeth J. Thiel*
Jack X. Yang
August J. Wright
Quinn L. Wondolowski
Larissa A. Wnek
Brilli M. Wosten
Sophie P. Klein**
Matthew J. Kinderman
Rebecca A. Kaphingst**
Benjamin D. Holmquist
Nicole M. Gribble
Allison E. Leair*
Kathryn A. Laverack
Maria K. Landgraf**
Kaitlyn M. Kruger**
Katheryn A. Landgraf
Alexis L. Lokens
Samuel M. Wenzel

School of Education, Professional and Continuing Education

11:30 a.m. ceremony

Regan K. Dobbs*
Nicole M. Gribble
Benjamin D. Holmquist*
Kathryn B. Chotz**
Collin D. Cooper
Mason W. DeNoyer
Alyson M. Frey
Addison B. Gaber**
Katelyn M. Gonzalez
Erika M. Gooden
Gale P. Geary
Vanessa P. Gedeon
Samantha J. Giesebach**
Cassidy M. Herman
Alexandra N. Hetto**
Laine C. Hoeffel
Dillon J. Hogan**
Katelyn Keegan**
Jennifer M. Keller**
Breghan L. Kiloran
Trent D. Klemm
Caitlin A. Kolehouse**
Katheryn A. Koistira
Elena E. Larderston
Brittany O. Espa**
Kendall L. Ewing**
Celina A. Farin*
Alex Fieck
Whitney L. Folkes**
Mikayla R. Franso*
Kendyl S. Alsworth**
Morgan L. Alexander**
Madelynn A. Audette**
Mitchell T. Becket**
Meghan J. Becker**
Glenny F. Berry*
Sammy L. Blascho
Kaitlyn M. Brown
Bailey J. Burgard*
Kristen M. Clark**
Clayton C. Czerny
Jacob M. Daane*
Mikala S. Dalton*
Kaylee M. Day
Elizabeth DeGroot
Abigail E. DeWau**
Kate E. Dietzen**
Maxwell M. Drees*
Elena E. Larderston
Brittany O. Espa**
Kendall L. Ewing**
Celina A. Farin*
Alex Fieck
Whitney L. Folkes**
Mikayla R. Franso*
Kendyl S. Alsworth**
Morgan L. Alexander**
Madelynn A. Audette**
Mitchell T. Becket**
Meghan J. Becker**
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Kristen M. Clark**
Clayton C. Czerny
Jacob M. Daane*
Mikala S. Dalton*
Kaylee M. Day
Elizabeth DeGroot
Abigail E. DeWau**
Kate E. Dietzen**
Maxwell M. Drees*
Elena E. Larderston
Brittany O. Espa**
Kendall L. Ewing**
Celina A. Farin*
Alex Fieck
Whitney L. Folkes**
Mikayla R. Franso*
Kendyl S. Alsworth**
Morgan L. Alexander**
Madelynn A. Audette**
Mitchell T. Becket**
Meghan J. Becker**
Glenny F. Berry*
Sammy L. Blascho
Kaitlyn M. Brown
Bailey J. Burgard*
Kristen M. Clark**
Clayton C. Czerny
Jacob M. Daane*
Mikala S. Dalton*
Kaylee M. Day
Elizabeth DeGroot
Abigail E. DeWau**
Kate E. Dietzen**
Maxwell M. Drees*
Elena E. Larderston
Brittany O. Espa**
Kendall L. Ewing**
Celina A. Farin*
Alex Fieck
Whitney L. Folkes**
Mikayla R. Franso*
College of Science and Health
2:30 p.m. ceremony

Hannah L. Abbiehl
Joshua T. Acker
Jenna T. Ackerman
Maxwell T. Ahola
Adam T. Aker
Kelly R. Airdich**
Ariel A. Alman*
Layne S. Anderson
Ryan M. Anderson*+
Trevor T. Anderson*

Vincent A. Baxter
Heidi N. Baughman*+
Sidney M. Bauer
Jonah D. Bauer
Isabel G. Bauer*
Zachariah A. Baudry +
Briana C. Bartz*
Rachel L. Barthel*
David J. Barrett*
Tori L. Barnhart*
Emma L. Baran
Reece A. Banta
Jesse J. Bablitch
Aiden J. Austin
Emily K. Ausman
Alexa R. Aumann*+
Patrick R. Andrews*
Trevor T. Anderson*
Ryan M. Anderson*+
Layne S. Anderson
Ariel A. Allman*
Kelly R. Aldrich**
Adam T. Aker
Maxwell T. Ahola
Joshua T. Acker
Hannah L. Abbiehl

*Commencement Honors **Commencement Highest Honors ~ Fall 2020 + Summer 2021 ++ Fall 2021

College of Science and Health
2:30 p.m. ceremony

College of Science and Health
2:30 p.m. ceremony
HONORS PROGRAM CANDIDATES

Archaeology Department Honors
Danielie J. Beisecker*
Cody A. Dobson**
Emily G. Kinney**
Jade L. Wahlgren*

Cultural Anthropology Department Honors
Cecilia A. Hook**
Malcolm J. Nelson
Savannah K. Stanley*

Economics Department Honors
Deym V. Korish

Math Department Honors
Colin Jackson**

Microbiology Department Honors
Monica R. Bertucci**
Emma G. Freeman*
Kirstyn R. Loya**
Taylor C. Reptiz*

Physical Department Honors
Trevor R. Geerdts**
Kendra M. Kreienbrink**
Gunnar F. Schwertleger*
Laxanie E. Weghorn*

Political Science/Public Administration Department Honors
Aliza N. Hilt**
Gunnar G. Jensen**

Doctor of Education
Brad E. Baranowski+
Ashley D. Christman+
Mai Chao Dudddeck
Sophia A. Engelman+
Tina M. Pettler-Pagel
Tawny C. Townsend*

Doctor of Physical Therapy
Emily E. Anderson
Joshua K. Baugher
Laura L. Berry
Hailey M. Bock
Nicole M. Bogrenref
Jared P. Buntin
Ashley H. Butalla
Teegan J. Campbell
Alexander B. Carpenter
Jeremiah O. Christman
Michael R. Conway
Neil P. Corrigan
Reene L. Dade
Lauren E. Ehringer
Stephanie L. Evans
Morgan L. Glodowski
Kayla A. Goetz
Lauren R. Harding
Bryce D. Jensen
Kristyn T. Kemp
Hannah G. Knutsen
Mykaia Korrandy
Anna L. Lowery
Jordan N. Lundberg
Dianelle M. McIntosh
Waheed O. Momoh
Mary K. Parrott
Nicholas T. Peters
Kelly E. Reesgraf
Kimberly Ross
Alyssa A. Rotzenberg

Graduate Degree Candidates
Andrew Schmalz
Karissa M. Schwercke
Megan E. Siekert
Austin C. Swigart
Jessica L. Treuthardt
Brooke L. Timmer
Adrienne T. Tran
Nicholas J. Volmer
Carly L. Volp
Trace A. Von Bruenchenhein
Matthew S. Weinhold
Alexander R. Wiedbusch+

Education Specialist Degree
Anthony J. Bacchi
Melissa M. Brant
Joel C. Delwiche
Melissa M. Brant
Ashley V. Haut
Jordan R. Jozefacki
Ryan J. Kueser
Bobbi Jo A. Loomis
Theresa M. Maurer
Courtney A. O’Brien
Kayla J. Scheehel
Jenna A. Sether

Master of Science
Krystal M. Baremore+
Rachana Dixhit
Samuel F. Hurley
Dmitry Martyvenko
Brian L. Parkas
Maxwell G. Pearson
Jarrod S. Pelkofer
Johnson H. Roese
Shishir Shrivastava
Adam D. Silverstein+
Junyung Wang+
Brian K. Wells
Rebecca L. Wells

Applied Statistics
Jillian L. Hebert
Kohei A. Osterloo+
Laura L. Petersen
Bradley D. Rechtzigel
Madison J. Roy
Lucas Spellman

Athletic Training
Caillyn J. Atshion
Cydney L. Byrington

*Commencement Honors   **Commencement Highest Honors   ~ Fall 2020   + Summer 2021   ++ Fall 2021
GRADUATE DEGREE CANDIDATES

Exercise and Sport Science:
Human Performance
Brock J. Hertzer
Taylor J. Smith
Logan M. Sweeney

Exercise and Sport Science:
Physical Education Teaching
Curt R. Carson*
Samantha E. Emeste+
Rachel E. Getzinger+
Dillon R. Martinez+
William D. Painter, Jr+
Jacob D. Schaefer+
John Seskus, Jr+

Healthcare Administration
Chelsea Hamelund+
Sarah E. Miner*
Tierney K. Murphy

Microbiology
Michelle A. Malysa

Microbiology: Clinical Microbiology
Edward Bernas

Physician Assistant Studies
Matthew T. Asler
Nicholas L. Baer
Erica L. Beine
Katherine E. Bluhm
Bailey C. Bogatitus
Bridget A. Burke
Erin R. Dirigman
Drew A. Ebert
Christina K. Erdmann
Margaret M. Grimm
Nicolai D. Kessler
Maddisen P. Long-Pero
Nicolette K. Lynch
Meagan E. McRae
Casee R. Menzick
Emma L. Messerich
Caleb A. Mozansky
Katherine R. Pranica
Emily M. Pulvermacher
Austin Rebel
Austin Redepenning
Alison C. Seemann
Jenna R. Sells
Katie L. Tahtinen
Elizabeth A. Trocinski
Carissa L. Verkuilen
Matthew R. Zamzow
Recreation Management
Ashley L. Phillips+
Rachel A. Rogahn
Recreation Management: Professional Development
Cecilia R. Haas
Rachel H. Horstman
Carl L. Kibertanz
Chelsea LaRue
Kristine L. Patterson
David T. Roehrig
John W. Stutman
Gage A. Zettelmeier
Therapeutic Recreation
Alyssa G. Doughty
Rebecca P. Edel
Kate A. Klein
Emma G. Pedersen
Samantha T. Reed
Emily M. Simmerman

Master of Software Engineering
Elise M. Baumgartner
Ethan Z. Booker
Jian Chen
Nathan T. Diedrick
Xinghan Feng
Ziyu Guo
Zhuoer Huang
Austin J. Klum+
Jashu Li
Jiaxuan Li
Lu Liang
Rui Liu
Wentao Peng
Daniel A. Pierce+
Nick P. Salvo
Derek K. Stoner
Sahee M. Thao
Yaoxuan Wei
Jiayi Yao

Master of Science in Education
Reading Teacher
Georgene M. Darbro
Kathleen C. Marian~
Anne E. Pearson~
Heather L. Struve-Gonyo~
Samantha K. Yehle~
Reading Teacher/Specialist
Rachel N. Eckert
Jessica I. Fetting
Johanna E. Gimenez
Mary C. Meisner
Ricki L. Tierney

School Psychology
Samantha K. Beckett
Sierra L. Caine
Sarah L. Christenson
Nicholas A. Dekeyser
Abigail Geis
Lauren M. Hendrickson
Kalie E. Horton
Chaselyn C. Miller
Hannah Salzsieder
Emma C. Stivers
Hailey Wierzb

Student Affairs Administration in Higher Education
Alyssa M. Bovinette+
Jordan M. Brick
Deanna P. Cahoon-Draus
Magam E. Dykema
Samuel M. Elinson
Carissa Garleffs
Aislinn Hernandez
Jazmna Holland
Laura A. Jones
Sara M. Karpi
Amelia Kimmes Kresner
Lauren M. Krik
Trevor C. Kritter
Molly E. McAndrew

2021 GRADUATE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
Lauren Harding - Doctor of Physical Therapy
Noah Splinter - Master of Science in Biology: Cellular and Molecular Biology
Sarah Miller - Master of Science in Education: Reading Teacher/Specialist
Nic DeKeyser - Master of Science in Education: School Psychology

Master of Education – Professional Development
Online Learning Communities
Hannah L. Bieke
Grant D. Boettcher
David M. Burgard
Rayelle K. Diedrick
Karen L. Doll
Callie E. Hanzinger
Nathaniel D. Hataj
Andrew W. Johnson
Steven E. Jones
Alexandra R. Karnowski
James W. Kersten
Samantha Kuhns
Joshua M. Kurutz
Nicholas Lemin
Keegan Lynch
Dennis D. Mossholder
Sarah Sorensen
Emily R. Stangel
Sean Stubberdick
Emily K. Whalley
Lindi J. Winter
Junhao Zhou
Jacqueline M. Ziegler
Graduate Dissertation, Thesis, and Project Titles

**COLLEGE OF ARTS, SOCIAL SCIENCES, & HUMANITIES**

**Doctor of Education - Student Affairs Administration and Leadership**
Mai Chao Dudduck - Redefining Hmong American Woman Identity in Higher Education: A Scholarly Personal Narrative
Tina M. R. Rettler-Pagel - The Influences of Success for Community College Black Women Students in Online Learning Spaces

**Master of Science in Education – Student Affairs Administration in Higher Education**
Alyssa M. Bovinet - COVID-19 Response: The Need to Assess Student Satisfaction and Support
Jordan M. Brink - Increasing the Population of Men Students Studying Abroad at the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse
Deanna P. Cahoon-Draus - Developing Staff Understanding of LGBTQ+ Students’ Mental Health and Sense of Belonging
Magann E. Dykema - Virtual Engagement: Student Activities Initiatives in a Technologically Focused Era
Samuel M. Elison - International Students and Racism in Western Education
Carissa Garleets - Eliminating the Final Barrier: Removing Standardized Tests From the College Admissions Process
Alison Hernandez - Retaining BIPOC Students at 2-Year Institutions: Programs and Support Embedded
Jazmina Holland - Elite Essence: Creating a Mentorship Program for Women of Color at the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse
Laura A. Jones - A Call for Mentorship: Faculty and First-Generation Students of Color
Sara M. Karpik - From Countryside to Campus: Supporting Rural Students’ Transition to Higher Education
Amelia Kimmes Knesser - Repairing Harm: Navigating University Conduct Sanction Success and Equity
Lauren M. Klink - Funding Higher Education: How Implicit Bias Impacts Scholarships
Trevor C. Knitter - First Generation Students & Sense of Belonging
Molly E. McBride - Opting In: An Assessment Consortium to Combat Survey Fatigue in Higher Education
Joshua B. Nepia - Identifying the Invisible: An Early Identification Program for Students with ADHD
Sean P. Pettay - We Belong Here: Addressing Imposter Phenomenon in New Student Affairs Professionals
Rebecca L. Pearson - The Eagle Domestic and Global Education Initiative: Reimagining Global Educational Experiences
Seanna Petrie - Food for Thought: Meeting the Needs of Food Insecure Students at University
Molly E. Ponaski - Are We Doing Enough? Supporting First-Generation Students in Their Career Development Process
Christopher J. Porter - Thinks Outside the Box: Discrimination of Formerly Convicted Applicants in Higher Education

**Master of Science in Biology**
Dylan Bakalar - Endophytic Fungal Diversity in Whitebark Pine: Links Between Species Assemblage, Biogeography, and Blister Rust Occurrence
Shayla Michel - Effects of the Neonicotinoid Pesticide, Thiamethoxam, on Two Fish Species

**Master of Science in Biology – Environmental Sciences**
Noah Splinter - In Vivo Effects of Cold Storage on Human and 13-Lined Ground Squirrel Platelet Aggregation
Gaokhia Yang - Hypothalamic Control of Feeding Behavior in the 13-Lined Ground Squirrel

**Master of Science in Biology – Nurse Anesthesia**
Kristen Apkigum - Evaluation of Propofol Usage During the COVID-19-Associated Shortage
Nicoli Bettini - Evaluation of 2% Mepivacaine Versus 0.5% Isobaric Bupivacaine Spinal Anesthesia for Total Knee Arthroplasty
Jenna Brinkman - Comparison of Different Dosages of Pregabalin on Postoperative Opioid Requirements after Total Knee Replacement
Adam Carlson - Feasibility of an Anesthesia Waste Segregation (Recycling) Program
Kaitlyn Crawford - Evaluation of 2% Mepivacaine Versus 0.5% Isobaric Bupivacaine Spinal Anesthesia for Total Knee Arthroplasty
Richard Dziwiet - Anesthesia Utilization Index to Improve Staffing of Nurse Anesthetists
Laura Geiger - Evaluation of Propofol Usage During the COVID-19-Associated Shortage
Brooke Joppuru - Implementation of an Ultrasound-Guided Peripheral Intravenous Catheter Insertion Educational Program
Justin Lehre - Evaluation of Epidural Opioids on Neonatal Apgar Scores
Nathanial Stephens - Feasibility of an Anesthesia Waste Segregation (Recycling) Program
Justin Traumtitz - Anesthesia Utilization Index to Improve Application to Nurse Anesthetists
Sarah Wendland - Implementation of an Ultrasound-Guided Peripheral Intravenous Catheter Insertion Educational Program

**Master of Science in Data Science**
Rachana Dikshit - Document Formatter Using Machine Learning
Brian L. Pankau - Detecting Resident Space Object Maneuvers
Shishir S. Shrivastava - Supply Driven Demand Forecasting in Process Manufacturing Industry

**Master of Science in Microbiology**
Michelle A. Malyasz - Development of Antiviral Edible Films Against Tulane Virus, a Human Norovirus Surrogate, in Strawberries

**Master of Software Engineering**
Else Baumgartner - A Modern Implementation of SLEUTH Urban Growth Model
Ethan Booker - A Tool for Message Processing in a Healthcare Social Network
Jian Chen - Evaluating Quality of Life (QoL) of Hemodialysis Patients
Nathan Diedrick - Topic Modeling for Non-Technical Users
Xinghan Feng - Enhancing Scrum Tool using Machine Learning Techniques
Ziyu Guo - Multi-agent Simulator: A Front-End Simulator Based on Unity3d Engine
Zhuoer Huang - Multi-agent Simulator: A Front-End Simulator Based on Unity3d Engine
Jaishu Li - A Detection Tool for Traffic Objects
Jiaxuan Li - A Web Application for Managing Faculty Senate Committees
Lu Liang - Indoor Localization and Tracking based on Neural Networks
Rui Liu - Building a Robot Enthusiasm Generator
Wentai Peng - A Detection Tool for Traffic Objects
Derek Storer - Solving the Unit Circle Problem: A Web Application Powered by a Genetic Algorithm
Sahee Thao - An Evolutionary Algorithm Sandbox: Finding Solutions to the Iterated Prisoner’s Dilemma
Yaoxuan Wei - A High-performance Version SLEUTH based on Kubernetes
Cara Wex - Launch Document Generator from Spectrum to Generate Equipment Submittals
Jiayi Yao - A Gomoku Game with AI Players using Alpha-Beta Pruning

**MASTERS OF SCIENCE IN RECREATION MANAGEMENT - PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**
Master of Science in Therapeutic Recreation
Jadie Hurstman - Reintegrating Community During a Pandemic
Carl Kubit - Operation Recreation
Chelsee LaRue - The Need to Adapt to the Millennial Era: Attracting and Retaining Millennial Members in Country Clubs
David Roehrig - An All-Inclusive Senior Recreation Approach
John Schultzman - 2010’s Beneficial Impact on the Evolution of Parks and Recreation Programming
Gage Zettelmeier - Creating an Outdoor Adult Fitness Space
Master of Science in Education - Reading Teacher
Georgene Darbo - The Effects of Read-Alouds on Students’ Attitudes Toward Reading and Foundational Reading Skills
Kathleen Marien - A Comparative Study of Vocabulary Acquisition In Virtual and Traditional School Settings
Anne Pearson - The Effects of Student Set Goals on Their Reading Growth and Motivation
Heather Struer-Gonyo - The Effects of Reading with Conferencing on the Fluency and Comprehension of Fifth Grade Students
Samatha Yehie - The Effects of Poetry and Songs on Fluency of Second Grade Students

Master of Science in Education - Reading Teacher/Reading Specialist
Rachel Eckart - The Effects of Systematic Data Collection Paired with Tiered Interventions on Third Grade Students
Jessica Fetting - The Impacts of Close Reading Strategies on Students’ Comprehension of Complex Text
Johanna Gimez - The Effects of Movement Integration on Literacy Development
Mary Messer - The Effect Increased Technology Use has on the Reading Comprehension of Eighth Graders
Ricki Tarry - The Incorporation of Focused Note Taking Into AP Human Geography Curriculum and its Effects on Comprehension, Motivation, and Self-efficacy

The Murphy Awards for Academic Excellence recognizes the university’s top graduating scholar, as chosen by the Scholarship and Awards Committee. A Murphy Foundation grant created the award in 1980 to recognize outstanding and exceptional scholastic ability.

Kendra Kreienbrink graduates with a Bachelor of Science majoring in physics with a biomedical concentration. She has minors in mathematics and chemistry. Kreienbrink was on the Dean’s List every semester while maintaining a 3.98 GPA. She earned numerous awards and scholarships; among them: the Dean’s Distinguished Fellowship, the Eagle Apprenticeship Scholarship, the Charles and Lilian Gay Scholarship, the Scott Carnes Memorial Scholarship Fund, and the Physics and Astronomy Honors programs. Kreienbrink was named an outstanding presenter at the Gulf Coast Undergraduate Research Symposium in October 2020. Her studies have included microtubule mechanics (biophysics) research with a two-week BioBootcamp at Syracuse University, along with a week collecting data at Lawrence University while interning for UWL Physics Department Chair Taviare Hawkins. Kreienbrink has served as a math and physics tutor, and has been involved in numerous clubs. She took part in the Vda Medical Mission Trip to Guatemala in 2019. Kreienbrink plans to attend graduate school for a doctorate in biomaterials for drug delivery or tissue regeneration. She is from Hopkins, Minnesota.

The Rosandich Graduate Thesis and Dissertation Award recognizes the best graduate thesis, based on originality, impact and writing quality. The award is funded by Thomas P. Rosandich, ’54, founding president of the U.S. Sports Academy in Daphne, Alabama.

Heidi Lang earned a doctorate in Student Affairs Administration & Leadership in May 2020. Lang’s dissertation focused on the role of college unions as campus community builders. Her research concentrated on unions in which students oversee decisions and staff serve as consultants rather than directing students’ experiences. Lang also studied the impact student unions have on campus climate, distinguishing differences among students of color and those who are white. Faculty mentors called her dissertation research “outstanding.” Lang earned her master’s in higher education from North Carolina State University in 1997 and has since worked in the Wisconsin Union at UW-Madison. She is an assistant director of Program and Leadership Development.

Annie Schauster graduated in May 2020 with a Master of Science in biology. Schauster’s thesis was titled, “Genetic and Genomic Insights into the Successional Patterns and Reproduction Methods of Fire-Associated Morella.” Graduate faculty nominated her noting her thesis is conceptually and methodologically excellent, and her results provide interesting insights on a topic of considerable interest in her field of fungal biology. Schauster’s mentors credit her for displaying motivation, perseverance, organization, discipline and maturity in her work. Her personal qualities, as well as the experience she gained in her graduate research, were instrumental to her being admitted into the doctorate program in integrative biology at the University of Colorado, Denver. She is currently a first-year doctoral student.
The Jake and Janet Hoeschler Award for Excellence recognizes a College of Business Administration graduate for academic accomplishment and leadership on campus and in the community. Janet Hoeschler, a 1940 graduate, established the award in 1992 to signify a business-university partnership.

Troy De Bruin graduates with a Bachelor of Science in accounting and finance. He has made the Dean’s List each semester and holds a 4.0 GPA. De Bruin received five business-related scholarships, along with the Jo Laur Family CBA Top Scholar Award. He was on the Eagles Track & Field teams, finishing as a national qualifier in the 4 x 100-meter relay in spring 2019. De Bruin has volunteered with numerous organizations and events, including Veteran’s Day Breakfast, Children’s Museum, Down Syndrome Awareness Walk, Live Generously and athletic activities. Following graduation, De Bruin plans to take the CPA Exam and in September will begin working full-time at Baker Tilly in Appleton, Wisconsin, as a part of its Construction and Real Estate Audit Team. His goal is to become a fraud investigator or CFO. De Bruin is from Little Chute, Wisconsin.

The Strzelczyk Award in Science and Health recognizes an outstanding senior in the College of Science and Health for academic achievement, along with campus and community service. Robert, ’54, and Judy Strzelczyk, who funded many physical therapy projects and scholarships, endowed the award in 1996.

Colin Jackson graduates with a Bachelor of Science, majoring in mathematics and physics. He was on the Dean’s List each semester and earned at 4.0 GPA. Jackson received the Eagle Apprentice Scholarship, the Charles and Lillian Gay Scholarship, the Sentry Insurance Scholarship, and the JD and Marcia Wine Scholarship. He also earned a College of Science and Health grant and department endowment grant for research. Jackson participated in the Mathematics and Statistics Club, Chess Club, and Women and Minorities in Math. He also played on the Men’s Soccer Club team. Jackson plans to attend graduate school to pursue a doctorate in mathematics, eventually becoming a mathematics professor. He is from Madison, Wisconsin.

The John E. Magerus Award for the Outstanding Graduating Senior from the College of Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities recognizes an outstanding graduate for academic accomplishments, leadership, and campus and community involvement. The award is named for Magerus, who retired in 2004 after 28 years as a professor and administrator in the college.

Laura Zinnel graduates with a Bachelor of Science, majoring in psychology and mathematics. Zinnel has completed research on campus in psychology and mathematics, as well as with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. She earned a Dean’s Distinguished Fellowship Research Grant and the College of Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities Recognition of Excellence Award. Zinnel received 15 scholarships and worked in numerous off-campus positions along with serving as a mathematics and statistics tutor on campus. Zinnel was vice president of the Women and Minorities in Mathematics Club, treasurer of the Mathematics and Statistics Club, and outreach leader of InterVarsity. She was also a member of Screaming Eagles Marching Band, Intramural Soccer and Psychology Club. Zinnel plans to attend graduate school for either computational neuroscience or mathematics. She is from Rockland, Wisconsin.

The Maurice O. Graff Distinguished Alumnus Award Recognizes outstanding achievement of alumni who have brought honor and distinction to the university. Long-time administrator Maurice O. Graff instituted the honor in 1979.

Margaret Van Bree, ’82
• Revered health executive, educator; collaborator; mentor.
• Recipient of Exemplary Leadership Award, Ronald McDonald House of Providence; Career Achievement Award, Providence Business News; Houston’s 50 Most Influential Women, others.
• Retired president of Rhode Island Hospital and Hasbro Children’s Hospital.
• Bachelor’s in community health education; master’s in hospital administration, University of Minnesota; doctorate in public health, Tulane University.

Rada Distinguished Alumnus Award Recognizes alumni who have graduated within the last 20 years, achieved professional distinction and taken part in humanitarian activities. Professor emeritus Ron Rada and his wife, Jane, created the award in 2002.

Anna Hatch, ’09
• Renowned scientist in biomedical research, science diplomacy and science communication.
• Recipient of the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship; P.E.O. Scholar Award.
• Currently a Declaration on Research Assessment Program Director at the American Society for Cell Biology in Rockville, Maryland.
• Bachelor’s in biology and chemistry; doctorate in biochemistry, Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire.

2021 Alumni Awards

Alumni from the ’80s through 2009 have earned top awards bestowed by the UW-L Alumni Association for 2021. They’re being honored for distinguished service and successful careers.

Distinguished alumni awarded in 2020 and 2021 will be honored virtually in fall 2021 or during an in-person ceremony in 2022, if possible. When recognized, the alumni will speak with students and take part in a panel discussion.

A virtual ceremony for some of the recipients is set for 9 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 18, 2021.

The Maurice O. Graff Distinguished Alumnus Award Recognizes outstanding achievement of alumni who have contributed greatly to improve multicultural culture and understanding on campus and in their careers. History Professor Emeritus James Parker initiated the award in 1997.

Mai J. Lo Lee, ’07
• Student mentor; social justice advocate.
• Recipient of the 2020 Wisconsin’s 48 Most Influential Asian American Leaders; appointed to Governor’s Advisory Council on Equity and Inclusion in 2021.
• Currently Diversity Director of Multi-Ethnic Students Affairs, UW-Green Bay.
• Master’s in education; bachelor’s in mass communications and English, UW-Eau Claire.

Burt and Norma Altman Teacher Education Award Honors and recognizes outstanding educators and the significant contributions they make to children and communities. Professor Emeritus Burt Altman and his wife, Norma, long-time supporters of teacher education, created the award in 2015.

Scott Noet, ’90
• Dedicated and respected long-time educator.
• Recipient of the Goethe Institute American Fellow of the Year; Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History Minnesota Teacher of the Year; state and school Teacher of the Year; Transatlantic Outreach Program Fellow of the Year; others.
• Currently a 7th and 8th grade social studies teacher at Owatonna, Minnesota, Public Schools.
• Bachelor’s in history; master’s in education, Southwest State, Marshall, Minnesota.

Parker Distinguished Multicultural Alumni Award Recognizes outstanding alumni who have contributed greatly to improve multicultural culture and understanding on campus and in their careers. History Professor Emeritus James Parker initiated the award in 1997.

Mai J. Lo Lee, ’07
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• Recipient of the 2020 Wisconsin’s 48 Most Influential Asian American Leaders; appointed to Governor’s Advisory Council on Equity and Inclusion in 2021.
• Currently Diversity Director of Multi-Ethnic Students Affairs, UW-Green Bay.
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• Currently a 7th and 8th grade social studies teacher at Owatonna, Minnesota, Public Schools.
• Bachelor’s in history; master’s in education, Southwest State, Marshall, Minnesota.
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Graduates, please tell us about your post-graduate career plans.

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The survey will take less than five minutes
and is completely confidential.
We’re part of this great community. Through the good, bad and ugly, UW-La Crosse has stood as a critical Coulee Region partner for 112 years.

Together, we’ve faced the 1918 Spanish Flu pandemic, the shortages and challenges of World War II, the great Mississippi River flood of 1965, the impact of 9/11 and now COVID-19. Our students, staff and faculty are integral in helping our community endure every challenge.

We’re proud to be part of this great community. We’ll always be right here ready to assist, again and again.
The Alma Mater

Morning sun greets many banners
On its westward way,
Fair to us above all others
Waves maroon and gray.

Colors dear, flag we love
Float for aye;
Old La Crosse to thee,
May we all be ever loyal
To thy memory.