

WINTER COMMENCEMENT

DECEMBER 19, 2021



MISERICORDIA
UNIVERSITY.



MASKING REQUIRED INDOORS

Please remain masked at all times while inside the Anderson Center for the safety and protection of all guests.

DECEMBER 2021 WINTER COMMENCEMENT EVENT PROGRAM

ACADEMIC PROCESSIONAL

Ceol Mor, *Pipe and Drum Band*

INVOCATION

Kas Williams, M.A., *Associate Vice President for Mission and Institutional Diversity*

NATIONAL ANTHEM

John Maurer, Jr., *Guest Performer*

WELCOME

Daniel J. Myers, Ph.D., *President*

STUDENT REMARKS

Alexa Danielle Monro

CONFERRING OF HONORARY DEGREE

Deborah Smith-Mileski, '75, Ed.D., *Chair, Board of Trustees*

DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS

Dr. Helen Marie Burns, RSM

ADDRESS TO CANDIDATES

Dr. Helen Marie Burns

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

David B. Rehm, Ph.D., *Vice President of Academic Affairs*

INDUCTION OF GRADUATES INTO THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Adam Grzech '13, '17, *Alumni Board President*

ALMA MATER

John Maurer, Jr.

BENEDICTION

Monsignor John J. Bendik, *Board of Trustees*

ACADEMIC RECESSIONAL

Ceol Mor, *Pipe and Drum Band*

American Sign Language (ASL)

by Cherish Francik, *Certified Interpreter for the Deaf*



Honorary Degree Recipient

DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS

Sister Helen Marie Burns, R.S.M., Ph.D., will be the keynote speaker for Misericordia University's tenth winter commencement.

Sister Helen Marie is an experienced speaker for national and international gatherings of religious men and women, institutions of higher education, and not-for-profit organizations. Presentations primarily have addressed religious life and leadership, women's concerns within Church, and society, and other justice matters.

Sister Helen Marie has served in a variety of leadership roles with the Sisters of Mercy and their institutions of higher education throughout the U.S. Most recently, Sister Helen Marie served as Vice President of Mission Integration at Mount Aloysius College. Previously, she served as Regional Councilor and Provincial Administrator for the Sisters of Mercy Province of Detroit and as Vice President of the Sisters of Mercy of the Union, the five-member leadership team responsible for the administration of an 8,300+ member religious congregation of women ministering in seven countries in the western hemisphere.

Sister Helen Marie also has contributed her expertise on numerous boards and committees in higher education, healthcare institutions, and charitable organizations, including presently sitting on the board of trustees at Carlow University in Pittsburgh, the Mercy Hospital of Iowa City board of directors, Mercy Investment Services Board of Trustees, and Saint Joseph Hospital and Health Center board of trustees. Sister Helen Marie served as a trustee at Misericordia University from 1987–1996.

She is the co-author of two books, *Praying with Catherine McAuley*, and *Sisters of Mercy*, as well as the author of more than a dozen articles including several published by the University of Notre Dame Press.

Sister Helen Marie's areas of teaching include American religious history, history of American Catholicism, History of Active Congregations of Women Religious, and history of Catholicism.



SISTER HELEN MARIE
BURNS, R.S.M., PH.D.

BACHELOR OF ARTS

BIOLOGY

Lauren E. Blazaskie, Hanover Township, PA

Sean Patrick Burg, New Castle, DE *Cum Laude*

Andrea Estelle Carlson, Newton, NJ *Cum Laude*

Benjamin Michael Hofmanner, Birdsboro, PA

Zackary K. Jayne, Towanda, PA *Magna Cum Laude*

Tara L. Sweeney, Jessup, PA *Magna Cum Laude*

Thomas Grant Vaccaro, Montrose, PA *Cum Laude*

ENGLISH

Lauren Butera, Harveys Lake, PA

Jessica Lynn DeRemer, Harveys Lake, PA

GOVERNMENT, LAW AND NATIONAL SECURITY

Eric Wojtek Barczyk, Lords Valley, PA *Cum Laude*

Bree Beyer, Kingston, PA *Cum Laude*

Bernadine Fox, Trucksville, PA

Samuel Marcel, Willingboro, NJ *Cum Laude*
with a second major in Philosophy

Kyle A. Purvis, Pooler, GA

Tavion Charles Rogers, Pennsauken, NJ *Magna Cum Laude*
with a second major in Philosophy

Brian Gerard Ross, Lincroft, NJ

HISTORY

Christian Ryan Guerra, Scranton, PA *Magna Cum Laude*

Andrew Christopher Oidman, Monroe Township, PA *Summa Cum Laude*

MASS COMMUNICATIONS AND DESIGN

Ayanna Andrea Dexter, Dallas, PA

Sean Gorman, Ridgewood, NJ

MEDICAL AND HEALTH HUMANITIES

Elizabeth Buonanno, Macungie, PA *Magna Cum Laude*

Caitlyn E. Coyle, Wall, NJ *Cum Laude*



John Patrick Kelley, Levittown, PA *Magna Cum Laude*

Alyssa Quiteles, Coplay, PA

Katrina Nicole Redline, Walnutport, PA *Magna Cum Laude*

Alexa Rose Wagner, Elmira, NY *Magna Cum Laude*

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

ACCOUNTING

Brandie N. Boyum, Harding, PA

Alec J. Divers, Glen Lyon, PA *Magna Cum Laude*

Amanda Nicole Hedges, Dalton, PA

Alexa Danielle Monroe, Kinnelon, NJ *Summa Cum Laude*

APPLIED BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Corinne Chace, Kingston, PA *Summa Cum Laude*

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Tanya Amigon, Plains, PA

Jason Benjamin Anderson, Shavertown, PA

Brooke Logan Bishop, Hamilton, NJ *Cum Laude*

Katelyn Jean Butczynski, Nanticoke, PA *Magna Cum Laude*

Aliece C. Cary, Tobyhanna, PA *Cum Laude*

Jarod Cipriano, Dallas, PA *Cum Laude*

Matthew Richard Cushing, Goshen, NY

Devin Nicholas Dougherty, Shavertown, PA *Summa Cum Laude*

Dane Gregory Frantz, Lehigh, PA *Cum Laude*

Jacob L. Gallo, Shenandoah, PA

Brian V. Grippi, Scott Township, PA

Jared C. Kay, Lewes, DE *Cum Laude*

Matthew Charles McCaffery, Simpson, PA *Magna Cum Laude*

Kristen Taylor McCloskey, Lumberton, NJ *Cum Laude*

Colin McGrath, Brick, NJ

Justin Michael McKoy, Linthicum, MD

Ashleigh Miroslaw, Tunkhannock, PA

Matthew Jordan Myers, Hughesville, PA *Magna Cum Laude*

Johnathan Romero, Alpharetta, GA

Nicole Marie Russo, Tunkhannock, PA *Cum Laude*

Dylan F. Scott, Andreas, PA

Jared Jacob Skidds, Wayne, PA *Cum Laude*

Bryson Anthony Smith, Fayetteville, GA

Spencer John Sundeberg, Lynbrook, NY

Eduard Bemjamin Turner, Harveys Lake, PA *Magna Cum Laude*

Wayne Owen VanNewkirk, Honeoye Falls, NY

Jason Thomas Winters, Palmer, PA *Magna Cum Laude*

Kristi Lee Witner, Freeland, PA *Magna Cum Laude*

Emily Zavada, Kingston, PA

COMPUTER SCIENCE

James Austin Cunningham, Laflin, PA

EARLY CHILDHOOD AND SPECIAL EDUCATION

Lauren Devens, Plymouth, PA *Cum Laude*

Erin N. McCawley, Horseheads, NY

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Leah Malarkey, Mountain Top, PA *Summa Cum Laude*

HEALTH CARE MANAGEMENT

Jessica Balcacer, Scranton, PA *Cum Laude*

Shelby Ann Brittain, Milford, PA *Magna Cum Laude*

Brett Edmund Caladie, Mountain Top, PA

Alana J. DeMinico, Pittston, PA *Magna Cum Laude*

Zoe Anne Farr, Vestal, NY *Magna Cum Laude*

Michaela Marie Fasolino, Poughkeepsie, NY *Magna Cum Laude*

Trent Martin Force, Bloomsburg, PA *Cum Laude*

Eric Thomas Jeffries, West Nanticoke, PA *Magna Cum Laude*

Zachary Johnson, Wysox, PA

Samantha Christine Lubin, Doylestown, PA *Cum Laude*



Kaden Lee Martell, Canton, PA
 Brianna Marie McPeak, Warrington, PA *Magna Cum Laude*
 Melissa Joy Piccillo, Kingston, PA *Cum Laude*
 Michael S. Schwartz, Valley Stream, NY
 Tabitha Smith, West Wyoming, PA *Magna Cum Laude*
 Jacqueline Siobhan Stack, Mahopac, NY *Magna Cum Laude*
 Alexandria Steele, Towanda, PA *Cum Laude*
 Kaylee A. Sturans, Poughkeepsie, NY *Magna Cum Laude*
 Nicholas Toronzi, White Haven, PA *Summa Cum Laude*
 Shannon Williams, Hellertown, PA *Summa Cum Laude*
 Rebbecca Nichole Young, Nescopeck, PA *Cum Laude*

HEALTH SCIENCE

Zachary James Babst, Philadelphia, PA
 Gabrielle Nicole Baiamonte, Ashley, PA
 Shaiann Denise Butts, Wilkes-Barre, PA
 Catelynn Erickson, Northampton, PA
 George Patrick Evans, Plains, PA
 Lisa Ann Giuffre, Fairfield, NJ *Summa Cum Laude*
 Brandon Matthew Istvan, Dover, NJ *Magna Cum Laude*
 Cassandra C. Loria, Milford, PA *Magna Cum Laude*
 Danielle Marosek, Phoenixville, PA
 Kimberly Renee Pretko, Dallas, PA
 Erica Van Etten, Dallas, PA
 Jessie Lee Wall, Mehoopany, PA

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Jose Manuel Ramirez Gutierrez, Hazleton, PA *Magna Cum Laude*
 Dylan Joseph Molyneaux, Harleysville, PA

MEDICAL IMAGING

Shauna Marie Aiena, Toms River, NJ
 Ashlee Nicole Blannett, Wyoming, PA

Makalie Blazick, Shavertown, PA
 Makayla Marie Franko, Falls, PA *Cum Laude*
 Kaitlyn Marie Gurnari, Plains, PA *Summa Cum Laude*
 Brandon Kessler, Nanticoke, PA *Cum Laude*
 Sarah Catherine Mihalka, Pittston Township, PA
 Jessica Grace Ravert, Hunlock Creek, PA *Cum Laude*
 Andrew William Taylor, Bloomsburg, PA
 Carlos De Jesus Torres-Teran, Mountain Top, PA *Magna Cum Laude*
 Rebecca Nicole Witmer, Valley View, PA

OCCUPATIONAL SCIENCE

Rachel Mae Bartholomew, Bethlehem, PA
 Mitchell Bradford, Pottstown, PA
 Alexandra Cosenzo, East Hanover, NJ
 Aaron Russell Gehrt, Frankford, DE
 Gaydenie Nauth, South Richmond Hill, NY
 Julianne Sicker, Rockville Centre, NY
 Karen Smyth, Eldred, NY
 Jannatul Tushi, Philadelphia, PA
 Megan Nicole Whitt, West Allenhurst, NJ

PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

Brendan Adam Cunningham, Swoyersville, PA
 Alice M. Page Hughes, Kingston, PA
 Chase Daniel Shustack, Barnesville, PA

PSYCHOLOGY

Alexis Lee Benedetto, Hauppauge, NY
 Ashlynn Maraid Fitzgerald, Dallas, PA *Magna Cum Laude*
 Brianna Elizabeth Fox, Laurel, NY *Magna Cum Laude*
 Brooke Mertz, Berwick, PA *Magna Cum Laude*
 Loren Eve Richards, Exeter, PA *Cum Laude*
 Jillian Mary Rogers, Denville, NJ *Summa Cum Laude*



SPORT MANAGEMENT

Donald Conway, Wantagh, NY
 David Cromwell, Jr., Edgewood, MD
 Meaghan E. Kelly, Bethpage, NY *Cum Laude*
 Corinne Mulhearn, Media, PA
 Nicholas Bernard Ruggiero, Middletown, NJ
 Neil Crinigan Uricoli, Boonton, NJ

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

Caitlin Margaret Abrino, Evans City, PA
 Hannah Grace Ackers, White Haven, PA
 Makala Bailey, Parker, PA
 Alexis Barsh, Larksville, PA
 Drew Bednarski, Wyoming, PA
 Devan Beachler Besong, Pittsburgh, PA
 Kimberly J. Conner, Mifflinville, PA
 LeeAnn Conto, Chicora, PA
 Sylvan Kechuisi Dahle, Murrysville, PA
 Erin Dalia, Scranton, PA *Magna Cum Laude*
 Julia Elizabeth Devereaux, Clarks Summit, PA
 Alexandria Dougherty, West Pittston, PA
 Ashlie Marie Dubil, Plains, PA
 Kerryn Dutko, Swoyersville, PA *Magna Cum Laude*
 Kelsey Dyer, Mifflinville, PA
 Roseann Edwards, Wilkes-Barre, PA *Magna Cum Laude*
 Virginia Marita Fath, Pittston, PA
 Tori Jacinda Fedele, Wilmington, DE
 German Israel Cuevas Garcia, Uniontown, PA
 Adam James Garing, Karns City, PA
 Colby Gibbons, Clarks Green, PA
 Kylee Rose Hazur, Shickshinny, PA



Alicia Lurene Hunter, South Abington Township, PA
 Jamison Husted, Wilmington, DE
 Jessica Judkins, Swoyersville, PA
 Katherine Mary Kelly, Archbald, PA
 Melinda Keonela, Taylor, PA
 Lynn Kitchnefsky, Stillwater, PA
 Sandra Lee Marchakitus, Shavertown, PA
 Alexandra Marie Mardaga, Yardley, PA
 Cheryl Milefsky, West Pittston, PA
 Marlee Nelson, Wyoming, PA
 Leslie Nsiah-Amoako, Verona, PA
 Smiles C. Nwachukwu, Wilkes-Barre, PA
 Sarah Anne Pecora, Sugarloaf, PA
 Hope Ramsey, Morgantown, WV
 Devin Robinson, Monticello, NY
 Kalib Scott, Brooklyn, NY
 Brea Lynn Seabrook, Wilkes-Barre, PA
 Christine Beth Shadle, Mill Hall, PA
 Shaina Shadle, Phillipsburg, PA
 Mikala Shaffer, Arlington, VA
 Amanda Marie Silvey, Bridgeville, PA
 Leah Marie Slodysko, Kulpmont, PA
 Tara Ann Sterling, Hanover Township, PA
 Christina Marie Torzilli, East Northport, NY
 Michelle Nicole Vallerie, Greenock, PA
 Paul Dominick Vetrano, New Hope, PA
 Alisha Simran Virk, Monroeville, PA
 Abigail Jo Wetzal, Freeport, PA
 Valerie A. Yeck, Old Forge, PA
 Brent Wayne Zabrosky, Greensburg, PA
 Abigayle Zee, Mullica Hill, NJ





MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Susan Diane Brdaric, Wyoming, PA

Kevin Brown, Staten Island, NY

Sara Ann Calvaruso, East Stroudsburg, PA

Douglas Michael Campbell, Benton, PA

Michael DiMare, Shavertown, PA

Jeffrey Dodge, Scott Township, PA

Kristin Renee Erb, Willow Street, PA

Catrina J. Festa, Scranton, PA

Candace Ruth Hage, Harveys Lake, PA

Michael Dominick Howe, Plains, PA

Saffron Hughes-McTurk, Merrick, NY

Nikolai J. Kepple, Jonestown, PA

Kyle David Lennon, Harleysville, PA

Joann Stroh Mavus, Nanticoke, PA

Dante Salerno, Lehigh, PA

Joseph F. Steber Jr., Nesquehoning, PA

Nicholas Gerald Szczerba, Dubois, PA

Joshua Lee Wilder, Pittston, PA

MASTER OF SCIENCE

EDUCATION

Giovana Augustine, Wilkes-Barre, PA

Ashley Elizabeth Evans, Hanover Township, PA

Leah Kowalski, Nanticoke, PA

Brittany Mazza, Kingston, PA

Pauline Mary Mickavicz, Luzerne, PA

Monica Teresa Morgan, Mountain Top, PA

Jeanette Siegel, Falls, PA

Kristin Jill Stuffick, Harveys Lake, PA



ORGANIZATIONAL MANAGEMENT

Victoria Elizabeth Cadwalader, Hunlock Creek, PA

April Klose, Dallas, PA

Brian Thomas Wilson, Forty Fort, PA

Robin Marie Winters, Dalton, PA

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES

Sawsan Almasri, Louisville, KY

Stephanie Nicole Bartlett, Washington, PA

Jenifer Beers, Lehighon, PA

Elizabeth Burd, Howard, PA

Sarah Burns, East Islip, NY

Julia Emile Callavini, McAdoo, PA

Julia Canty, Phillipsburg, NJ

Sydney Dakos, Fort Myers, FL

Lauren Nicole Eppley, Middletown, PA

Caylee Irvin, Shavertown, PA

Lindsay Jie Moore, Malvern, PA

Joli Patel, Mineola, NY

Sajan Thomas Philip, Bolingbrook, IL

Christopher Angelo Picarello, Macungie, PA

Katelyn Picker, Superior, CO

Rachel Pilch, Shavertown, PA

Sanah A. Rahman, Brooklyn, NY

Kyle Joseph Schaller, Towson, MD

Kendra Shaw, Copley, OH

SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY

Emilee Mae Zawatski, Dallas, PA

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

Beth Ann Hilaman, Morgantown, PA

**MASTER OF SCIENCE IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY**

Michelle Ahlberg, Audubon, PA

Melissa B. Butler, West Caldwell, NJ

Cassandra Cragle, Trucksville, PA

Sara Catherine Dallago, Mar Lin, PA

Danielle Elizabeth Egan, Leesport, PA

Diana Kudeh, North Bergen, NJ

Krystan Joy Kytte, Berwick, PA

Martha Laytos, Scranton, PA

Hannah Mary Lee, Royersford, PA

Karen Fabiane Lopes, Mountainside, NJ

Heather Megan Purcell, Harrisburg, PA

Christin Riesterer, Bainbridge, PA

Andrea Beth Scott, Green Lane, PA

Marisa Elaine Sedon, Bear Creek Township, PA

Lindsay Gayle Sock, Lansdale, PA

Joshua Pravin Victor, Nanticoke, PA

Sarah Elizabeth Watson, Troy, PA

Mary Witmer, Ephrata, PA

DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE

Victoria Hope Avidano, Bloomingburg, NY

Ijeoma Nnenna Bethel, Sugar Land, TX

Kelly Blosser, Jarrettsville, MD

Michelle Marie Burke, Kingston, PA

Sarah Jayne Daywood, Mountain Top, PA

Emma Federinko, Spring Mills, PA

Katelyn Nicole Hann, Dallas, PA

Lane Kocovsky, Towaco, NJ

Jeanette E. Meriesky, West Pittston, PA

Jessica Gabrielle Neare, Tunkhannock, PA

Rebecca Lauren Olsen, Hanover, PA



Magdalena Orchard, Lake Ariel, PA
 Katherine Nanette Orehek, Waymart, PA
 Patricia Haller Sarcona, Floral Park, NY
 Elise M. Stavish, West Wyoming, PA
 Celestina Udemgba, Houston, TX
 Nick Bryant G. Villegas, Pearland, TX

DOCTOR OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Lyndsey Ann Balzer, Camden, SC
 Taylor Lynn Daton, Jackson, NJ
 Jessica Patricia Grab, Sellersville, PA
 Jomayra M. Mendez, Collingswood, NJ
 Julianna Claire Norris, Asheville, NC
 Brittney Pride, Middletown, DE
 Heather Lynn Theysohn, West Caldwell, NJ

DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

Abigail Lynn Applegate, Palmerton, PA
 Jonathan Tyler Boruta, Gouldsboro, PA
 Evan James Brown, Easton, PA
 Bailey William Brugler, Nazareth, PA
 Jonathan P. Buck, Sussex, NJ
 Emma Nicole Caldwell, Warren, CT
 Rachel Ann Carmody, Waymart, PA
 Matthew Allen Cuomo, Springville, PA
 Patrick T. DeMichele, Bridgewater, NJ
 Sabrina Marie Di Tucci, Covington Township, PA
 Alexander T. Fitch, Bethlehem, PA
 Leanne Forsyth, Staten Island, NY
 Jennifer Marie Freeman, Hatboro, PA
 Paisha Marie Glisson, Columbia Cross Roads, PA
 Joseph Patrick Grasso, Goshen, NY

Haley Dawn Gruber, Reading, PA
 Emily Elizabeth Hammond, Binghamton, NY
 Taylor Elizabeth Harnish, Lancaster, PA
 Meredith Frances Hartz, Fleetwood, PA
 Derek Joseph Hendershot, Hamburg, NJ
 Steven Orlando Hernandez, Port Jefferson Station, NY
 Jenna Marie Hiryak, Gilbertsville, PA
 Jordan Hazel Hoffman, Schnecksville, PA
 Hannah Larkin, Sinking Spring, PA
 Nathan Alan MacDonald, New Ringgold, PA
 Julie Ann Maroni, Pittston, PA
 Zachary Michael Mason, Barnegat, NJ
 Olivia Jo Meyer, Beach Lake, PA
 Samantha Alexis Miller, Coplay, PA
 Samantha J. Missal, Dallas, PA
 Jessica Marie Monday, Shavertown, PA
 Kiley Dayne Morrison, Newport, PA
 Courtney Rose Portaro, Massapequa, NY
 Atasha Lynn Rehrig, Lehighton, PA
 Anamarie Rogers, Duryea, PA
 Christian Lawrence San Pedro, Maywood, NJ
 Kristen Marie Southard, Scranton, PA
 Katherine Anne Tota, Clinton, NJ
 Gerald John Vitale, Jr., Mountain Top, PA
 Kailey Anne Vogl, Wexford, PA
 Johnathan Edward Warg, Hughesville, PA
 Hayley Nicole Witmer, Reinholds, PA
 Tristan Lamonte Wright, Millville, PA
 Zackery Tyler Wroniuk-Evans, Bridgeton, NJ
 Kaitlyn Elizabeth Yurenda, Binghamton, NY



Undergraduate students are awarded baccalaureate degrees with distinction for exceptional academic achievement. A student must have completed at least 60 credits at Misericordia University to qualify for academic honors. Honors listed are accurate as of the print date of the program. Actual honors for August graduates will be announced at the ceremony. Estimation of honors appears in the program for students who are completing their course work in December.

Distinction	Grade Point Average at Graduation
Summa Cum Laude	3.90 and above
Magna Cum Laude	3.70 – 3.89
Cum Laude	3.50 – 3.69

The class valedictorian is the full-time matriculated student with the highest cumulative undergraduate average who has completed all course work at Misericordia University with the exception of the 12 credits allowed through off-campus requests or advanced placement credits. The Winter 2021 Valedictorian will be announced after final grades are submitted.

The student speaker for the 2021 Winter Commencement is the student with the highest grade point average based on grades earned as of the start of the fall 2021 semester.

2021 Winter Commencement Student Speaker

Alexa Danielle Monro

Students who have completed the University Honors curriculum while achieving a grade point average of 3.25 or better are awarded University Honors. Students awarded include:

John Patrick Kelley	Alexa Danielle Monro
Cassandra C. Loria	Shannon Williams

HONORS AND AWARDS

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

The *Outstanding Biology Student Award*, presented to a graduating senior student who has demonstrated outstanding academic achievement in Biology by earning the highest cumulative GPA in the major, is awarded to:

Tara L. Sweeney

The *Award for Excellence in Government, Law, and National Security* is presented to:

Tavion Charles Rogers

The *Psychology Student Achievement Award* for academic excellence is presented to:

Ashlynn Maraid Fitzgerald

COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES AND EDUCATION

The *Academic Excellence Award in Nursing*, Dallas, conferred annually to a nursing student who has attained the highest academic standing overall, is presented to:

Brea Lynn Seabrook

The *Academic Excellence Award in Nursing*, Pittsburgh, conferred annually to a nursing student who has attained the highest academic standing overall, is presented to:

Michelle Nicole Vallerie

The *Clinical Excellence Award*, Dallas, presented to a student whose GPA is greater than 3.0 and who is judged by the faculty to administer superior nursing skills in clinical practice, is awarded to:

Drew Bednarski

The *Clinical Excellence Award*, Pittsburgh, presented to a student whose GPA is greater than 3.0 and who is judged by the faculty to administer superior nursing skills in clinical practice, is awarded to:

Abigayle Zee

The *Kaplan Secure Predictor*, Dallas, presented to the student who has attained the highest score on the comprehensive NCLEX review examination, is awarded to:

Roseann Edwards

The *Kaplan Secure Predictor*, Pittsburgh, presented to a student who has attained the highest score on the comprehensive NCLEX review examination, is awarded to:

Devin Robinson

The *Daisy in Training Award*, Dallas, presented to the student who meets the criteria of the Daisy Foundation for providing compassionate care to patients, is awarded to:

Julia Elizabeth Devereaux

The *Excellence in Policy, Activism, and Advocacy DNP Award*, conferred annually to a graduating DNP student in good academic standing who best exemplifies a commitment to health policy change, patient advocacy, and community activism, is presented to:

Jessica Gabrielle Neare



The *DNP Award for Excellence in Evidence Based Practice Change*, given annually to a graduating DNP student in good academic standing who demonstrates excellence in evidence-based practice change, is awarded to:

Patricia Haller Sarcona

The *Occupational Therapy Curricular Award*, presented to a graduating Occupational Therapy student who has demonstrated exemplary academic performance and leadership potential in the profession, is awarded to:

Krystan Joy Kytte

The *Excellence in Fieldwork Award*, presented to an Occupational Therapy student who consistently has above average performance in fieldwork, displays outstanding interpersonal skills, and contributes to fieldwork sites by applying and integrating classroom learning, is awarded to:

Michelle Ahlberg Karen Fabiane Lopes

The *Dr. Stephen L. Heater Leadership Award*, given to a graduating Occupational Therapy student who exemplifies the qualities of leadership modeled by Dr. Stephen Heater, including creativity, dynamic vision, and exceptional conceptual skills, is awarded to:

Joshua Pravin Victor

The *Catherine Perry Wilkinson Leadership Award*, given to a graduating student who demonstrates exemplary potential for leadership in the profession of physical therapy, is presented to:

Kailey Anne Vogl

The *Outstanding Physical Therapy Student Award*, given to a graduating student who has demonstrated excellence in academic achievement, clinical performance, leadership skills, and service to the University, community, and profession, is presented to:

Jennifer Marie Freeman

The *Physical Therapy Student Achievement Award*, given to a graduating student who has demonstrated outstanding abilities to successfully complete the physical therapy curriculum in the face of unique life experiences, is presented to:

Gerald John Vitale, Jr.

HONOR SOCIETIES

Students admitted to the Beta Beta Beta Biological Honor Society, an honor and professional society for students of the biological sciences:

Sean Patrick Burg Tara L. Sweeney
Andrea Estelle Carlson

Students admitted to the Delta Phi Tau, National Physical Therapy Student Honor Society:

Jonathan Tyler Boruta Nathan Alan MacDonald
Evan James Brown Katherine Anne Tota
Rachel Ann Carmody Gerald John Vitale, Jr.
Leanne Forsyth Kailey Anne Vogl
Hannah Larkin Kaitlyn Elizabeth Yurenda

Students admitted to the Kappa Delta Pi, International Honor Society in Education:

Lauren Devens Erin N. McCawley
Leah Malarkey

Students admitted to the Lambda Nu Radiologic and Imaging Sciences Honor Society, Pennsylvania Alpha Chapter:

Shauna Marie Aiena Kaitlyn Marie Gurnari
Makayla Marie Franko Carlos De Jesus Torres-Teran

Students admitted to Sigma Beta Delta, International Business Honor Society:

Jessica Balcacer Joann Stroh Mavus
Shelby Ann Brittain Kristen Taylor McCloskey
Katelyn Jean Butczynski Brianna Marie McPeak
Sheena Marie Chollak Matthew Jordan Myers
Alana J. DeMinico Jacqueline Siobhan Stack
Devin Nicholas Dougherty Kaylee A. Sturans
Dane Gregory Frantz Nicholas Toronzi
Jared C. Kay Joshua Lee Wilder
Nikolai J. Kepple Shannon Williams
April Klose Jason Thomas Winters

Students admitted to Kappa Chapter of Phi Sigma Tau, International Philosophy Honor Society:

Caitlyn E. Coyle Tavion Charles Rogers
John Patrick Kelley Tara L. Sweeney
Samuel Marcel Alexa Rose Wagner
Alyssa Quiteles



Students admitted to Phi Alpha Theta, National Historical Honor Society:

Christian Guerra

Andrew Christopher Oidtman

Students admitted to the Psi Chi Honor Society for the recognition of scholarship and achievement in Psychology:

Brianna Elizabeth Fox

Jillian Mary Rogers

Students admitted to the National Pro Bono Honor Society for recognition of outstanding service in the Physical Therapy Student-Run Pro Bono Clinic:

Abigail Lynn Applegate

Julie Ann Maroni

Jonathan Tyler Boruta

Samantha Alexis Miller

Emma Nicole Caldwell

Samantha J. Missal

Rachel Ann Carmody

Jessica Marie Monday

Sabrina Marie Di Tucci

Courtney Rose Portaro

Paisha Marie Glisson

Atasha Lynn Rehrig

Emily Elizabeth Hammond

Anamarie Rogers

Taylor Elizabeth Harnish

Christian Lawrence San Pedro

Meredith Frances Hartz

Kristen Marie Southard

Hannah Larkin

Katherine Anne Tota

Evelyn Sharon Logie

Kailey Anne Vogl

Nathan Alan MacDonald

Hayley Nicole Witmer

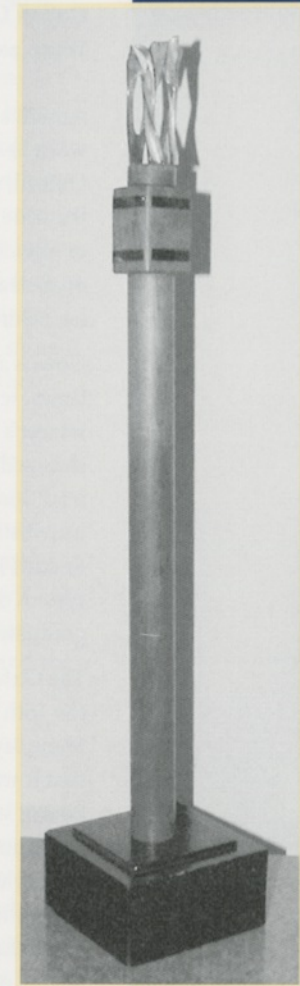
The mace is made of black walnut and bronze. The dark, rich wood symbolizes the woodlands surrounding the University campus referred to in the Alma Mater.

The unusual shaft works its way from rough cast, signifying difficult beginnings, into the textured, polished finish of a double base—angled, yet harmoniously fitted. The form represents the structured ideals of the Sisters of Mercy liberal arts education and the individual struggles for acquisition of knowledge.

Open, free forms of brass represent the open, free spirit, which is the basis of Compassionate Service, while the rich beauty and strength of walnut depict the fullness, value, and strength of Judeo-Christian education.

Highlighting the head of the mace is gleaming, textured bronze in the shape of an open flame. The fire represents two events in the history of the University: the burning of St. Mary's Convent in Wilkes-Barre, which necessitated the Sisters' move to Dallas, and the first night on campus when fires almost prevented the University from ever opening its doors. A flame open to searching for truth and open to new ideas is symbolic of the light of learning: always striving for, never reaching, the fullness of finish.

The University Mace was designed and executed by Regina Kiel, RSM, goldsmith and silversmith. It is a gift of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, Dallas Regional Community.



ACCOUNTING
Drab

APPLIED BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE
Gold

BIOCHEMISTRY
Golden Yellow

BIOLOGY
Golden Yellow

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
Drab

CHEMISTRY
Golden Yellow

CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE
Golden Yellow

COMMUNICATIONS
Crimson

COMPUTER SCIENCE
Golden Yellow

DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY
Golden Yellow

EDUCATION
Light Blue

ENGLISH
White

GOVERNMENT, LAW AND NATIONAL SECURITY
White

HEALTH CARE INFORMATICS
Gold

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Golden Yellow

ACADEMIC COSTUME IN AMERICA

Colors Indicating Fields of Learning Worn as a Border on the Hood

American academic dress has its origins in the garments worn at medieval British universities, particularly at Oxford, which was founded in the 12th century. At the time, academic institutions were similar to guilds or associations, called universitates. The academic organization was a guild of Masters of Arts, with the bachelor an apprentice.

Gowns and hoods were common clothing in medieval times, with quality and design decreed according to the wearer's social status and wealth. While general fashions changed, academic attire remained the same, both as a tradition and as a means of identifying members of the university. Hoods evolved from a simple head covering or cowl into a symbolic garment with a strictly assigned system of colors and patterns which identified each graduate's institution, rank, and discipline.

The Oxford or "mortar board" cap came into use during the 16th century, but authorities differ on its origin. Some say the cap is square like a scholar's books; others that it was derived from the master workman's mortar board; still others suggest it was patterned after the quadrangular shape of the Oxford campus. A more plausible explanation is that the scholars wore skull caps while they worked indoors and square caps called birettas when they went outdoors; if they simply donned the biretta over their skull cap, the look would be very much like the mortarboard.

Although caps and gowns had been worn in many American schools since Colonial times, in 1885 there was a widespread student movement for their use at commencement ceremonies. The faculties adopted the use of gowns for themselves to wear at academic ceremonies. Each college developed its own design and standards, as the British universities had, until the Intercollegiate Commission met to develop a code for academic costume in 1895. The new code regulated design of gowns, hoods, and colors in a way that would signify each scholar's

achievements and institution. It was approved by 95 percent of American universities and colleges, and is still in use today.

The official code provides for three types of gowns. Those worn by the bachelors are black and have long, pointed sleeves. Masters may wear either black silk or woolen gowns, made with a long closed sleeve with an arc appearing near the bottom and a slit for the arm. The doctors' gowns are usually of black silk with full, round, open sleeves. The color of the velvet trim may be black or the same color as the velvet which edges the hood. Although the color is normally black, some institutions have authorized doctoral gowns in their school colors.

The hood is worn at the back, suspended near the shoulders. The length of the hood and the width of its velvet border indicate the level of the degree held. Bachelors wear a hood which is three feet long, with a two-inch velvet border. The hood for the master's degree is three and one-half feet long, with a three-inch border. The doctor's hood is four feet long and the border is five inches wide.

The inner lining of the hood is in the official color or colors of the institution conferring the degree; therefore, Misericordia University's hood is lined with blue and golden yellow. The color of the velvet border indicates the field of learning in which the degree was earned. Tassels are traditionally black for the bachelor's and master's degrees, and gold for doctor's degrees and the governing officers of educational institutions.

Additional ornaments have been added in some institutions to indicate honors or memberships in honor societies. At Misericordia, a gold stole is worn by graduates receiving University honors; colored cords draped over the robe indicate membership in an honor society; distinctive pins worn on the gown also indicate particular honors.



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MISERICORDIA ALMA MATER

Woodland home on Dallas heights,

Majestic, grand in view

Your loyal students far and near,

Proclaim their love for you.

Your banner bright of truth and light

Shall proudly o'er us wave

Its shining gold and azure blue

Denote your spirit brave.

Refrain

Misericordia! We're proud of you.

We love your murm'ring pine trees,

Your groves and grotto, too.

You are our Alma Mater,

And to you we will e'er be true

Misericordia we hail! Dear Misericordia!

When from you we must depart

Our spirit shall remain

We'll ne'er forget your rolling hills

Whose beauty all acclaim.

Your classic halls are our delight, Your campus is our pride;

Your shield of honor, strength and might

Shall ever be our guide.

Refrain

Misericordia! We're proud of you.

We love your murm'ring pine trees,

Your groves and grotto, too.

You are our Alma Mater,

And to you we will e'er be true

Misericordia we hail! Dear Misericordia!

~ Sister Teresa Mary Moyles, RSM





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