

WINTER COMMENCEMENT

DECEMBER 17, 2023



MISERICORDIA
UNIVERSITY



DECEMBER 2023 WINTER COMMENCEMENT EVENT PROGRAM

ACADEMIC PROCESSIONAL

Ceol Mor, *Pipe and Drum Band*

INVOCATION

Rev. Michael Bryant, *Board of Trustees*

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Jacob Thomas '24

WELCOME

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

STUDENT REMARKS

Jonah L. Heiser

CONFERRING OF HONORARY DEGREE

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

DOCTOR OF FINE ARTS

Erika Funke

ADDRESS TO CANDIDATES

Erika Funke

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

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

INDUCTION OF GRADUATES INTO THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Christelle Hoffman '13, *Alumni Board President*

ALMA MATER

Stephen Broskoske '85, Ed.D., *Associate Professor, Teacher Education*

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 FINE ARTS



ERIKA FUNKE

Misericordia University is pleased to honor Erika Funke, acclaimed senior producer and classical music host at WVIA, with an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts Degree at today's Commencement ceremony. With a career spanning over four decades, Funke is a beacon of the arts and culture in Northeastern Pennsylvania and beyond.

A Phi Beta Kappa alumna of the University of Chicago who also holds a master's degree in Humanities from Pennsylvania State University, Erika Funke is renowned for her deep commitment to the arts. Her tenure at WVIA is distinguished by her roles in hosting and producing beloved shows like Classical Music Scene, Art Scene, and Keystone Edition Arts.

An ardent advocate for the humanities, Funke's journey began in a musically enriched home and was profoundly influenced by a transformative experience with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. That pivotal moment fueled her passion to share the power of music with a broader audience, leading her to a fulfilling career in broadcast radio.

Her work in radio extends beyond music. Funke is celebrated for her insightful coverage of northeastern Pennsylvania's history and her creative endeavors in radio plays and television documentaries. Her award-winning program, Art Scene, has hosted over 6,000 conversations, delving into the creative processes of artists from various backgrounds.

BACHELOR OF ARTS

BIOCHEMISTRY

Jonah L. Heiser, Drums, PA *Summa Cum Laude*

BIOLOGY

Amelia Joan Gansz, Quakertown, PA *Magna Cum Laude*

Haley Elizabeth McMenimen, Easton, PA *Magna Cum Laude*

Samuel George Quick IV, Mahanoy City, PA *Cum Laude*

Margaret F. Regan, East Windsor, NJ

Angela Marie Shander, Archbald, PA *Magna Cum Laude*

Ryan Zuch, Mount Joy, PA *Cum Laude*

ENGLISH

Lauren Marie DeRemer, Harveys Lake, PA *Cum Laude*

John Joseph Marianacci, Wyoming, PA *Magna Cum Laude*

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Patrick Daniel O'Brien, Harveys Lake, PA

GOVERNMENT, LAW AND NATIONAL SECURITY

Raymond Hardy Burrows, White Hall, MD

Ryan Krisiak, Long Pond, PA

Andrew James-Joseph Lee, Allentown, PA

Justin James Moreno, Randolph, NJ

Theluji Allen Prather Jr., Lusby, MD

Holly Katherine Rembold, Dover, DE *Cum Laude*

Levi Seigfried, Shickshinny, PA

MASS COMMUNICATIONS AND DESIGN

John Matthew Huber, Hilton Head Island, SC

Dajon Rush, Wilkes-Barre, PA



MATHEMATICS

Carter Dwayne Johns, Lusby, MD
with a second major in Statistics

MEDICAL AND HEALTH HUMANITIES

Karol Rafal Bialek, Stroudsburg, PA

Kylee Irene Cush, Danville, PA *Cum Laude*

Nicholas Andrew Dworetsky, Callicoon Center, NY

Annika Sophia Massa, Califon, NJ *Cum Laude*

Arden Elise McCoy, Douglassville, PA *Summa Cum Laude*

Miranda N. Morgan, Sweet Valley, PA

Anthony James Sisco, Mocanaqua, PA *Cum Laude*

Sarah Catherine Sullivan, South Williamsport, PA *Magna Cum Laude*

Morgan Taylor Walsh, West Deptford, NJ *Magna Cum Laude*

PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

Aiden Chance McCarthy, Oakville, CT

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE**ACCOUNTING**

Ann M. Adams, Sweet Valley, PA

Paula Michelle Costabile, Mountain Top, PA *Magna Cum Laude*

Dawn Marie Houser, Hazleton, PA *Magna Cum Laude*

BIOLOGY

Amber Rose Kalinowski, Nanticoke, PA *Summa Cum Laude*

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Alyssa N. Black, York Springs, PA *Magna Cum Laude*

Luis Enrique Delgado, Pittston, PA *Cum Laude*

Anthony DePalma, Wayne, NJ

Ashley Drouse, Pittston, PA *Cum Laude*

Rebecca L. Franklin, Carlisle, PA *Magna Cum Laude*

Raquel Mary Harduby, East Brunswick, NJ *Cum Laude*

Mason Hayward, Allentown, PA *Summa Cum Laude*

Emma Marie Hein, Royersford, PA

Alyssa Mae Hesthag, Hillsborough, NJ *Summa Cum Laude*

Sean H. Lee, Chalfont, PA

Jillian Renee Mallon, Freeland, MD *Magna Cum Laude*

Heather M. Martin, Northumberland, PA

Christopher John Moyer, Iselin, NJ

Brady Stephen Smith, Athens, PA *Cum Laude*

Alexander D. Stashik, Wilkes-Barre, PA

Ashley Mari Torres, New Milford, PA

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Mikayla Angelique Calitis, Avenel, NJ *Summa Cum Laude*

Amy Santayana, Wyoming, PA

EARLY CHILDHOOD AND SPECIAL EDUCATION

Holly McBroom, Shavertown, PA

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Sophie Anne Adams, Sayre, PA *Summa Cum Laude*

Lindsey Marie Rowles, Hanover Township, PA
with a second major in Special Education

HEALTH CARE MANAGEMENT

Olivia Grigas, Mountain Top, PA

Kara Maureen Kelly, Honesdale, PA *Summa Cum Laude*

Michael Lombargo, Nescopeck, PA *Magna Cum Laude*

Meghan Radnoff, Mount Airy, MD *Magna Cum Laude*

Kyla Elizabeth Renschen, Emmaus, PA *Magna Cum Laude*

Kylie Lyn Vasbinder, Mifflinburg, PA *Magna Cum Laude*

HEALTH SCIENCE

Matthew Thomas DiGangi, Mountain Top, PA

Stephen Leland Kober, Hawley, PA

Jacqueline Margret Phillips, Plymouth, PA

Ian Rogers, Colonia, NJ



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

John Pearson IV, Union Bridge, MD

MEDICAL IMAGING

Emily Payton Baro, Boyertown, PA

Cassandra Teresa Benderavich, Laflin, PA *Cum Laude*

Jocelyn Bergener, Swoyersville, PA *Cum Laude*

Cheyenne Judith Dippre, Scott Township, PA *Magna Cum Laude*

Colin Timothy Hart, Pittston, PA *Magna Cum Laude*

Gina Marie Hemsley, Shavertown, PA

Kelsey Lynn Jackson, South Abington Township, PA

Morgan Kraack, Cochection, NY *Cum Laude*

Marissa Michelle O'Brien, Warrior Run, PA *Cum Laude*

Katelyn Mary Sausser, Harleysville, PA *Summa Cum Laude*

MIDDLE LEVEL EDUCATION

Ryan Bernardini, Hicksville, NY

OCCUPATIONAL SCIENCE

Jasmin Rose Allen, Philadelphia, PA

Christa Hai Ying Baldino, Hampton, NJ

Catherine Margaret Balestrini, Mount Pleasant, SC *Summa Cum Laude*

Gabrielle Alexis Bellomo, Jersey Shore, PA *Summa Cum Laude*

Emily Rose Brecker, Sykesville, MD *Magna Cum Laude*

Bria Kailin Brombacher, Avoca, PA

Nia Canales, Hawthorne, NJ

Abigail Ann Cashley, Harleysville, PA *Magna Cum Laude*

Molly Isabelle Celesky, Carlisle, PA *Cum Laude*
with a second major in Psychology

Raelyn Dailey, Marietta, OH

Sierra Marie Daily, Williamsport, PA

Carlina Jane Davis, Douglassville, PA *Magna Cum Laude*

Kaitlyn Elizabeth Dixon, Staten Island, NY *Magna Cum Laude*

Jessica Mary Ebner, Monroe, NY *Cum Laude*

Katana Marie Evans, Spring Brook Township, PA *Magna Cum Laude*

Marissa Ann Fattorusso, Stanhope, NJ *Cum Laude*

J. Bennett Fletcher, Monroeville, PA *Magna Cum Laude*

Jessica Maliah Furman, Livingston, NJ *Cum Laude*

Morgan Marie Gayton, Plains Township, PA

Nicole L. Giusti, Philadelphia, PA

Alexes Brionna Harvey, Clarks Summit, PA *Magna Cum Laude*

Jessica Eden Hudnall, Pen Argyl, PA

Natalie Marie Ivans, Clarksboro, NJ

Mary Campbell Johnstone, Cranford, NJ *Cum Laude*

Emma Layne Katzman, Harriman, NY *Cum Laude*

Emily G. Kleintop, Lehigh, PA

Lauren Nicole Kramer, Bethlehem, PA

Morgan Lynn Lapshanski, Belvidere, NJ *Summa Cum Laude*

Taylor Matthews, Hamburg, PA

JoAnne McNamara, Blossburg, PA
with a second major in Psychology

Haleigh Jane Merriman, Wall Township, NJ *Magna Cum Laude*

Madison Christine Michak, Kingston, PA

Allison Monya Miller, East Berlin, PA

Alexander Gabriel Obarow, Gilbertsville, PA *Magna Cum Laude*

Shannon Nicole O'Donnell, Wyoming, PA *Cum Laude*

Brianna Marie Padovano, South Plainfield, NJ *Cum Laude*

Brandon James Percey, Slatington, PA

Jordan Marie Postiglione, Springfield, PA *Cum Laude*

Tia Marie Rittenbaugh, Jonestown, PA

Kayla Rose Schwallie, Milford, NJ *Summa Cum Laude*

Jennifer Grace Scott, Owego, NY *Cum Laude*

Kaitlyn Rose Stollenwerk, Mays Landing, NJ *Cum Laude*

Mary Frances Stretch, Laceyville, PA *Cum Laude*

Hannah Elizabeth Ann Strong, Newark, DE



Nicole Victoria Struble, Sussex, NJ

Morgan Elizabeth Sullivan, Forty Fort, PA

Corey Tokash, Clarks Summit, PA *Magna Cum Laude*

Yacine Taylor Tom Wing, East Stroudsburg, PA

Chukwudi Dubem Uwalor, Abingdon, MD

Emily Eileen Van Horn, Lincoln Park, NJ *Cum Laude*

Gabrielle E. Velazquez, Coram, NY

Sophia Rose Walter, Staten Island, NY

Hannah Warner, Cuyler, NY *Magna Cum Laude*

Madalyn Rae Wright, Harveys Lake, PA

Morgan Nicole Young, Brick, NJ *Cum Laude*

PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

Liam Francis Bradigan, Harrisburg, PA

Darryl Givens, Wilkes-Barre, PA *Cum Laude*

PSYCHOLOGY

Alison Barvitskie, Paxinos, PA *Magna Cum Laude*

Grayson J. Bruno, Shavertown, PA *Cum Laude*

Caydi R. Cooper, Hawley, PA

Skylar Marie Dowling, Berkeley Heights, NJ

Abigail Elizabeth James, Port Deposit, MD *Summa Cum Laude*

Sara Elizabeth Karley, Philadelphia, PA

Breena Kravchick, Mountain Top, PA *Cum Laude*

Conor Raymond Kryeski, Clarks Summit, PA

Gavin Blaise Lahart, Exeter, PA

Stephanie Lynn Layland, Nanticoke, PA *Magna Cum Laude*

Andrew Layne, Bethlehem, PA *Cum Laude*

Genevieve Montanye, Reisterstown, MD *Cum Laude*

Benjamin J. Sorrentino, Rockaway, NJ *Cum Laude*

Meghan Maria Wissman, Bowie, MD

STATISTICS

Joshua Brock Spangenberg, Millville, PA

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

Kaitlyn A. Adams, Nazareth, PA

Savannah Nichole Baldwin, Mildred, PA

Emily Ann Barrick, Lloyd Harbor, NY

Erin Lee Carta Beavers, Scranton, PA *Cum Laude*

Abigayle Sara Brown, McDonald, PA

Hailie Madison Cass, Tidioute, PA

Markie Lynn Collum, Wilkes-Barre Township, PA *Cum Laude*

Andrew Conley, Forty Fort, PA

Alexandra Crinella, Jessup, PA *Magna Cum Laude*

Meghan Leigh Dunlevy, North Huntingdon, PA

Denise Angela Eglesia, Dickson City, PA

Amanda Ellis, East Stroudsburg, PA *Cum Laude*

Kayla Nicole Evans, Reading, PA

Sarah Lynn Gilmore, Wakefield, RI

Jennifer Gruenloh, Pittston, PA

Robin Nora Jackson, Dallas, PA

Rosalyn Kinyua, Wilkes-Barre, PA

Julia Kopetchny, West Pittston, PA

Nikita Lynn Kraynak, Pittston, PA

Lauren Faith Kroner, Evans City, PA

Angelina Marie LaMonica, Glenshaw, PA

Mollie Lewis, Monaca, PA

Bryanna Lonick, Burgettstown, PA

Elina Johanna Lure, State College, PA

Jaylin Capri Marcus, Hatfield, PA

Olivia Marsh, Imperial, PA

Elizabeth Wecker Martins, Gibsonia, PA

Kaitlyn McDonnell, Selden, NY



Elizabeth McGuire, Peckville, PA

Ashleigh McKinney, Sunbury, PA

Emily Porter, Valencia, PA

Samantha Preston, Inkerman, PA

Jaida Ramsdell, Pittsburgh, PA

April Lea Rennie, Brookhaven, PA

Kristi K. Robinson, New Albany, PA

Alexis Rokosz, Nanticoke, PA

Isabella Rossa, Pittsburgh, PA

Trey Sallazzo, Wellsville, NY

Jamie Lynn Santiago, Wilkes-Barre, PA

Kelly Anne Smith, Harveys Lake, PA

Stephanie Jean Smith, Pittsburgh, PA

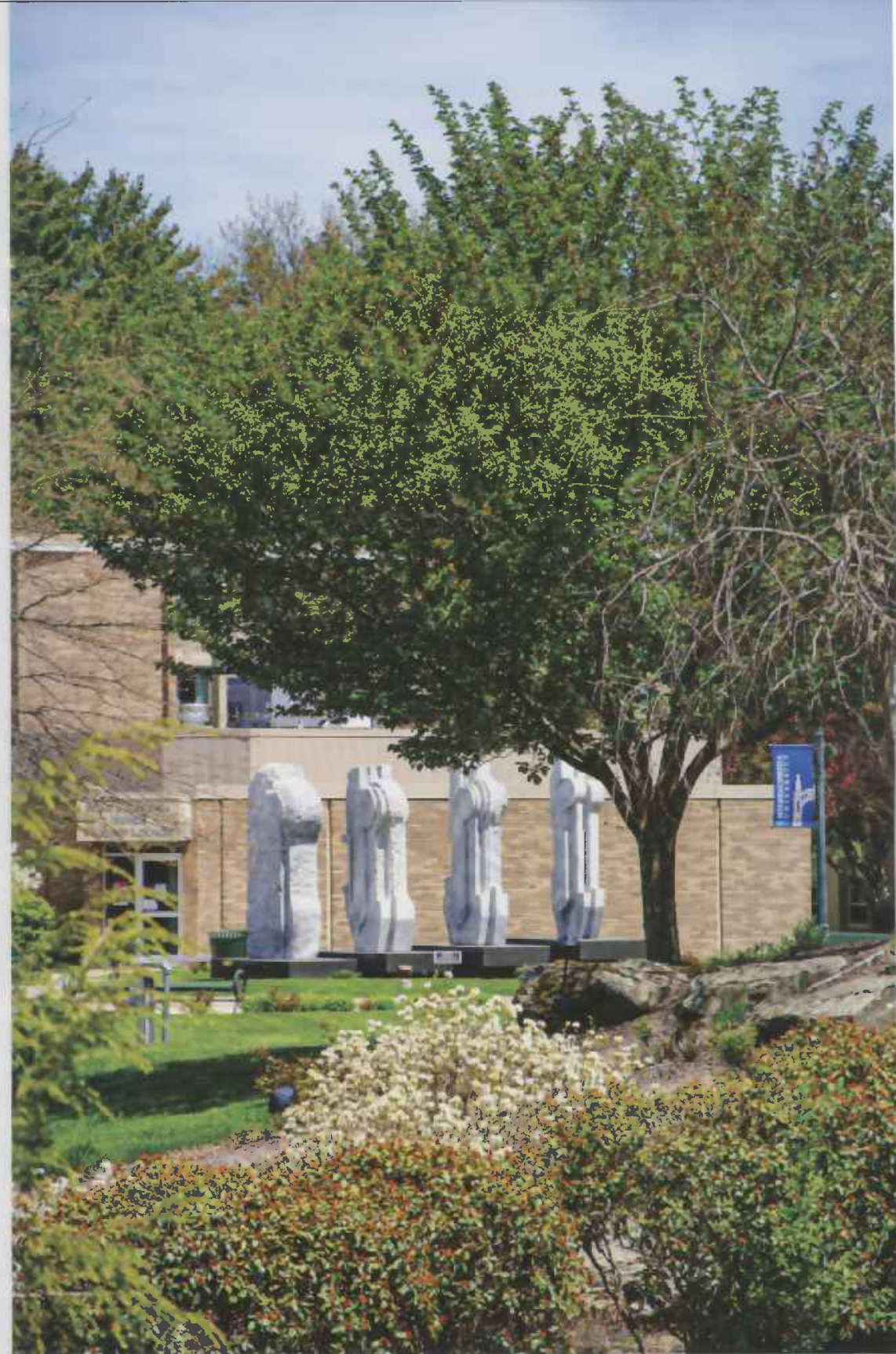
Kathleen Stapleton, Dallas, PA

David Eric Whispell, West Pittston, PA

Adam Christian Zwolinski, Nanticoke, PA

BACHELOR OF SOCIAL WORK

Courtney Marie Capie, Nanticoke, PA



MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Lailani Marie Augustine, Shavertown, PA
 Anna E. Dabrowski, Pocono Summit, PA
 David Frost, Dallas, PA
 Kelvin Gallard, East Stroudsburg, PA
 Maxamiliano Gariano, Mountain Top, PA
 Misty Lee Keck, Sugarloaf, PA
 Michelle Munster, Bear Creek Township, PA
 Michael Kevin Murphy, Brick, NJ
 Rachel Nelligan, Moore, SC
 Helen Schmid, Swoyersville, PA
 Thomas Joseph Simmons, Downingtown, PA
 Tara Nicole Welliver, Sayre, PA

MASTER OF SCIENCE

EDUCATION

Lauren Marion Balogh, Kingston, PA
 Matthew Gregory Churchill, Maitland, FL
 Natalie L. Deutsch, Point Pleasant, NJ

ORGANIZATIONAL MANAGEMENT

Christina Regina Ocasio, Myrtle Beach, SC

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES

Kelsey Brennan, Brookfield, CT
 Alyssa Nicole Caracola, Greenlawn, NY
 Zachary Dottor, Dallas, PA
 Melissa R. Evans, Scranton, PA
 Danielle Frutiger, Scranton, PA
 Amber Gross, Zionsville, PA
 Jeremiah Jayne, Hunlock Creek, PA
 Katherine Marie Lynch, Allentown, PA

Breanna McDonald, Bethlehem, PA
 Samantha Soltis, Osceola Mills, PA
 Andrew Thomas Vaccariello, Farmingdale, NY
 Emilee Marie Wasilewski, Kulpmont, PA

SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY

Pamela Jones Rogers, Kingston, PA

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

Kayla Jo Woods, Northumberland, PA

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

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

DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE

Olivia Eleanor Julian, Clarks Summit, PA
 Mikhayla Elizabeth Michigan, Mullica Hill, NJ
 Christina Maria Miller, Greeley, PA
 Angela Marie Murphy, Dalton, PA

DOCTOR OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Alexis Marie Gallagher, Williamsport, PA
 Christin Joy Riesterer, Bainbridge, PA
 Angela Freeman Rutty, South Abington Township, PA
 Chelsea Anne Smith, Mount Gretna, PA



DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

Nina Mercedes Acosta, Perth Amboy, NJ
 Alyssa Buonavolonta, Brick, NJ
 Morgan Rain Carline, Lake Hopatcong, NJ
 Devin Conlon, Lambertville, NJ
 Lauren Alicia Cunfer, Bloomsburg, PA
 Derek Everett, Chenango Forks, NY
 Lauren Janelle Fritzsich, Slate Hill, NY
 Matthew Todd Gillingham, Wind Gap, PA
 Emma Taylor Hayes, Chicago, IL
 Maryssa R. Hodder, Southampton, NJ
 Brianna Rose Holder, Manchester, NJ
 Kelcie Hromisin, Swoyersville, PA
 Nicole Joers, Holly Ridge, NC
 Brenna J. Karnish, Lansford, PA
 Kevin J. Kozerski, Bear Creek Township, PA
 Matthew Clinton Lavin, Clifford Township, PA
 Alyssa Marie Madison, Danville, PA
 Bryce Wayne Mansfield, North Bend, PA
 Justin Marshall, Dallas, PA
 Johanna Lu Matsko, Lehigh, PA
 Saige Miller, Wapwallopen, PA
 Cydney Rose Moore, Severna Park, MD
 Henry Joseph Morris, Pennsauken, NJ
 Callie Ariane Mousley, Waymart, PA
 Laura Nicole Murphy, Harleysville, PA
 Taylor O'Keefe, Levittown, PA
 Zachary Orzell, Chenango Forks, NY
 Samantha Lynn Pavolko, Coplay, PA
 Rowan Anne Pepe, Coopersburg, PA
 James Eric Prentice, Endwell, NY
 Princess Janine Diana Roblete, Clark, NJ

Morgan G. Russo, Lincroft, NJ
 Tyler Christian Sekelsky, Plains, PA
 Ronald David Sepkoski, Wilkes-Barre, PA
 Rachael Elizabeth Solano, Harding, PA
 Evan Vincent Stravinski, West Pittston, PA
 Jacob Walter Stritzinger, Dallas, PA
 Madison Swartout, Jefferson Township, PA
 Esther Elizabeth Thomas, Westminster, MD
 Anthony Tirro, Staten Island, NY
 Olivia Patricia Visaggio, Wantagh, NY
 Robert Andrew Wagner, Mullica Hill, NJ



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 2023 Valedictorian will be announced after final grades are submitted.

The student speaker for the 2023 Winter Commencement is the student with the highest grade point average based on grades earned at the start of the fall 2023 semester.

2023 Winter Commencement Student Speaker

Jonah L. Heiser

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:

Catherine Margaret Balestrini	Mason Hayward
Karol Rafal Bialek	Alyssa Mae Hesthag
Mikayla Angelique Calitis	Arden Elise McCoy
Kaitlyn Elizabeth Dixon	Hannah Elizabeth Ann Strong
Morgan Marie Gayton	

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:

Amber Rose Kalinowski

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

Abigail Elizabeth James

COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES AND EDUCATION

The *Medical Imaging Department Award* for Academic Excellence, given to a graduating senior with the highest cumulative grade point average in the major, is presented to:

Katelyn Mary Sausser

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

Alexandra Crinella

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

Lauren Faith Kroner

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:

Kelly Anne Smith

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:

April Lea Rennie

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

Alexandra Crinella

The *ati Comprehensive Predictor*, Pittsburgh, presented to the student who has attained the highest score on the comprehensive ati review examination, is awarded to:

Lauren Faith Kroner

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

Robin Nora Jackson

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:

Alexandra Cosenzo

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:

Rachel Mae Bartholomew

The *Occupational Science Curricular Award*, presented to a graduating occupational science student who demonstrates commitment to the advancement of occupational science through actions and academic achievement with a focus on occupational justice and occupational life balance, is awarded to:

Catherine Margaret Balestrini Brandon James Percey

The *Jeremy M. Kuba, MSOT Kindness Award*, presented to a student, chosen by their peers, who fosters an inclusive environment when engaging with diverse communities, is supportive in communication with peers and others, and is an empathetic listener when engaged socially with others, is awarded to:

Kaitlyn Elizabeth Dixon J. Bennett Fletcher

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:

Maryssa R. Hodder

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:

Derek Everett

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:

Lauren Janelle Fritsch

HONOR SOCIETIES

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

Amelia Joan Gansz	Samuel George Quick IV
Amber Rose Kalinowski	Angela Marie Shander
Haley Elizabeth McMenimen	Ryan Zuch

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

Nina Mercedes Acosta	Samantha Lynn Pavolko
Morgan Rain Carline	Ronald David Sepkoski
Derek Everett	Madison Swartout
Brianna Rose Holder	Olivia Patricia Visaggio
Nicole Joers	
Justin Marshall	

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

John Joseph Marianacci	Lindsey Marie Rowles
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Students admitted to the Lambda Nu Radiologic and Imaging Sciences Honor Society, Pennsylvania Alpha Chapter:

Cassandra Teresa Benderavich	Morgan Kraack
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Students admitted to the Psi Chapter of Pi Theta Epsilon, National Occupational Therapy Honor Society:

McKenzie Lynne Alter	Katana Marie Evans
Catherine Margaret Balestrini	Alexes Brionna Harvey
Gabrielle Alexis Bellomo	Morgan Lynn Lapshanski
Emily Rose Brecker	Haleigh Jane Merriman
Carlina Jane Davis	Kayla Rose Schwallie
Kaitlyn Elizabeth Dixon	

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

Lailani Marie Augustine	Rebecca L. Franklin
Paula Michelle Costabile	Mason Hayward



Students admitted to the Alpha Sigma Epsilon Chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, International English Honor Society:

Lauren Marie DeRemer

John Joseph Marianacci

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

Morgan Marie Gayton

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

Molly Isabelle Celesky

Breana Kravchick

Abigail Elizabeth James

Stephanie Lynn Layland

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

Lauren Janelle Fritzsich

Justin Marshall

Maryssa R. Hodder

Johanna Lu Matsko

Brianna Rose Holder

Rowan Anne Pepe

Nicole Joers

James Eric Prentice

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

HEALTH CARE MANAGEMENT
Golden Yellow

HEALTH SCIENCE
Golden Yellow

HISTORY
White

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
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.



INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES
Golden Yellow

MANAGEMENT
Drab

MARKETING
Drab

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
Drab

MATHEMATICS
White

MEDICAL IMAGING
Golden Yellow

MEDICAL SCIENCE
Golden Yellow

MEDICAL AND HEALTH HUMANITIES
White

NURSING
Apricot

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
Golden Yellow

ORGANIZATIONAL MANAGEMENT
Golden Yellow

PHILOSOPHY
White

PHYSICAL THERAPY (DPT)
Teal

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT
Kelly Green

PROFESSIONAL STUDIES
Golden Yellow

PSYCHOLOGY
Golden Yellow

SOCIAL WORK
Citron

SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY
Silver

SPORT MANAGEMENT
Sage Green

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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.

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*

PERFORMED BY

Stephen Broskoski '85, Ed.D.





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MISERICORDIA
UNIVERSITY

Founded by the Sisters of Mercy