



WITTENBERG UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

THE CLASS OF TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FOUR

One Hundred Seventy-Fourth Commencement

*Saturday, the Eleventh of May,
Two Thousand Twenty-Four*

wittenberg
UNIVERSITY

“This is a lovely spot for the location of a literary institution. It requires some faith to believe that in after years it will be an academic grove, to which hundreds will drink at the pure fountains of knowledge, and go forth into the world to do good, to bless mankind.”

– Ezra Keller, Founder and First President of Wittenberg College (1845–1848)

WITTENBERG UNIVERSITY

One Hundred Seventy-Fourth Commencement

PROCESSIONAL

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

INVOCATION

The Rev. Tracy Paschke-Johannes, *The Rev. David P. and Carol Matevia Endowed University Pastor*

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

In the name of God the creator, who creates time and space, galaxies, stars, and planets; in the name of Jesus Christ, born on planet Earth; and in the name of the Holy Spirit, who fills Earth with abundant presence,* we gather to celebrate and joyfully sing to our God! Together, let us share our praises and thankfulness. Come, let us enter into this sacred space with praise. Bless these graduates from their diverse faith traditions and belief systems. May we feel the joy and celebration that is clearly with us on this day.**

People: Amen.

LessonPhilippians 4:8-9

Pastor: In his letter to the Philippians, the Apostle Paul writes:

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Responsive Graduation Litany

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Adapted from seasonofcreation.com

**© 2011 Joan Stott, "The Timeless Psalms" RCL Psalm Year A, used with permission. Posted on the Geelong City Parish UCA website.

WELCOME AND REMARKS

Dr. Michael L. Frandsen, *President of the University*
Ms. Gabriella L. Stern, *President of the Class of 2024*

REMARKS

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

CONFERRING OF HONORARY DEGREES

Ms. Megan Frost '94, *Doctorate of Humane Letters*
Presented by Dr. Staci L. Rhine, *Professor of Political Science*

ADDRESS

Ms. Megan Frost '94, *Director of Product Design at Apple, Inc.*

CONFERRING OF MASTER'S DEGREES

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

CONFERRING OF BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

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

TASSEL CEREMONY

Dr. Michael L. Frandsen, *President of the University*

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION WELCOME

Mr. Matthew M. Overturf '11, *President of the Wittenberg University Alumni Association*

SINGING OF THE ALMA MATER

Ms. Parker J. Hayes,
Alma Mater of the Class of 2024

Mr. Branden B. Nicholas,
Alma Lux of the Class of 2024

Alma Mater Lyrics

Wittenberg, dear Wittenberg,
Once again to thee
We, thy grateful children, pledge
Love and loyalty.
We shall always love thy groves
And thy classic halls;
Mem'ry, like the ivy twines
Round thy hallowed walls.

Wittenberg, dear Wittenberg,
Time flies fast away;
Soon our happy college days
Will be gone for aye;
But in all life's storm and stress,
Whate'er we may do,
To our Alma Mater dear
We will e'er be true.

— Robert H. Hiller, 1889

Alma Mater, the Spirit of Wittenberg, is a traditional honor that began in June 1920. It is the highest honor bestowed upon a junior student who exemplifies the qualities of leadership, scholarship, and service during four years at the University.

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

BENEDICTION

The Rev. Tracy Paschke-Johannes, *The Rev. David P. and Carol Matevia Endowed University Pastor*

Pastor: As you go from here, may you have grace, mercy, and peace. Remember what you have been taught and what you have experienced. Live in such a way that all who know you may see the light of God reflected in you. And may the grace of God, the love of Jesus Christ, and the presence of the Holy Spirit be with you and among you in the days ahead.

(Adapted from 2 Timothy 1)

People: Amen.

RECESSIONAL

Please remain seated until recessional ends.

This Commencement marks a milestone among the University's marshals. Katie Warber, professor of communication & digital media, will be completing her time as Grand Marshal, a position she began in 2013. We thank Dr. Warber for her leadership and service as Grand Marshal for the last 11 years.

COMMENCEMENT MARSHALS

Stefne Lenzmeier Broz,
*Associate Professor of
Communication & Digital
Media*

Kunal Chatterjee,
*Assistant Professor of Biological
& Environmental Sciences*

Kristin K. Cline,
*John W. Barker Professor of
Chemistry, Director of General
Education*

Gabe J. Courey,
*Assistant Professor of Business
& Economics*

Michael C. Daiga,
Associate Professor of Education

Billy E. Davis,
Associate Professor of Psychology

Ray C. Dudek,
*Chair and Professor of
Chemistry*

Alyssa M. Hoofnagle,
*Chair and Associate Professor
of Mathematics & Computer
Science*

Danny R. Marous,
*Associate Professor of Chemistry,
Director of Biochemistry/
Molecular Biology*

Amy R. McGuffey,
*Chair and Associate Professor
of Education*

Michelle L. McWhorter,
*Associate Professor of Biological
& Environmental Sciences,
Director of Neuroscience*

Lindsay M. Meermans,
*Associate Professor of Business
& Economics*

Jen C. Parsons,
*Chair and Associate Professor
of Health & Sport Studies*

Richard S. Phillips,
*Associate Professor of Biological
& Environmental Sciences,
Director of Environmental
Science*

John R. Thistlethwaite,
*Associate Professor of Health
& Sport Studies*

Katie M. Warber,
*Professor of Communication
& Digital Media, Director
of Academic Programming &
Events, Grand Marshal*

Rachel E. Wilson,
*Associate Professor of Business
& Economics, Director of
Partnership Outreach*

Molly M. Wood,
Professor of History

TORCH, BANNER, AND FLAG BEARERS

The Wittenberg Torch is carried by Ms. Gabriella L. Stern, *President of the Class of 2024.*

The United States flag is carried by Ms. Victoria G. Pipinich, *President of the Class of 2025.*

The Wittenberg banner is carried by Mr. Zekhi A. Carroll, *Student Senate President of the*

Class of 2025. The City of Wittenberg banner and the banner of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are carried by faculty marshals.

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER



Megan Frost

Megan Frost, Wittenberg class of 1994, and director of product design for Apple, Inc., is a product design leader with more than 25 years of experience creating innovative and user-centric solutions that enhance the lives of millions of people around the world. She began her career as a senior designer at Silicon Graphics after graduating from Wittenberg with a degree in graphic design. She then moved on to a senior art director position at SBI-Razorfish before joining the Apple team in 2004 as a design lead for the iTunes Music Store, a year after the revolutionary service was introduced to the world.

Now as director of product design at Apple, Frost oversees iCloud, Apple Maps, Education, Business, Wallet, and Pay. Leading a talented and diverse team of designers, researchers, and engineers, she oversees the end-to-end design process of product lines, from prototyping to testing and launch. Some of her recent projects include the creation of the 3D cartograph and Look Around features for Apple Maps and the creation of Family Sharing. At Apple, Frost has also leveraged her skills in creative direction, graphic design, branding, and more.

As a side project, Frost also founded Cute Overload in 2005, a three-time Webby award-winning blog that chronicled the finest in cute imagery and commentary for over a decade. Its existence was purely accidental as Frost created cuteoverload.com to test web software. However, the site quickly gained in popularity and has been covered by mainstream media such as *The New York Times* and *The Martha Stewart Show*. She is also a current advisor at WHILL, Inc., a company whose mission has been to improve people's short-distance travel experience by providing innovative mobility products and services.

At Wittenberg, Frost was an art major with a French minor and was a member of Delta Gamma sorority and the Wittenberg Choir. She and her husband reside in Menlo Park, California, and have 10-year-old twins.

CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

This program contains the names of candidates for Commencement. Degree certification is subject to the completion of all degree requirements and is validated by the Office of the Registrar. All academic honors noted below are based on cumulative grade-point averages calculated at the end of the 2023 fall semester, which do not take spring semester grades into account. Honors awarded at Commencement will be determined by each student's final cumulative grade-point average, calculated at the end of the 2024 spring semester. The degrees are awarded within the fields of major concentration. The second major concentration, if any, is shown under the candidate's name.

Degrees are awarded upon successful completion of all degree requirements. Participation at Commencement or listing of student's name in the program does not guarantee degree conferral.

Master Of Arts In Education

Assistant Professor

Kristin Farley

*Director of Graduate Studies
in Education*

Caitlin Beth Broerman
Versailles, OH

Courtney Marie Burchett
Indianapolis, IN

Master Of Arts In Sport Administration

Associate Professor

Alan Ledford

*Director of the Sport
Administration Program*

Nicholas Aaron Angeli
Helena, MT

Andrew Coleman Diaz De
Padilla
Nipomo, CA

Morgan Elizabeth Ely
Sidney, OH

Hannah Cathleen Schartz
Springfield, OH

Thomas J. Supan
Medina, OH

Master Of Science In Analytics

Professor of Practice

Kevin Steidel

James Cleveland Bricker
Brookpark, OH

Nickolas Wayne Cunningham
Fredericktown, OH

Amari K. Davidson
Avon, OH

Samantha J. Goyings
Springfield, OH

Joseph Nicholas Horoszko
Seven Hills, OH

Matthew Ryan Moore
Wadsworth, OH

Mary Catherine Oerther
LaGrange, KY

Cassidy Mae Webber
Hilliard, OH

Biochemistry/ Molecular Biology

Associate Professor

Danny Marous

*Director of the Biochemistry/
Molecular Biology Program*

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Camelia Skye Duncan
Columbus, OH

Olivia M. Norbut
Grove City, OH
Summa Cum Laude

Sarah E. Ruhe
Urbana, OH

Connor Andrew Runyan
New Carlisle, OH
Cum Laude

Laura Elizabeth Stauffer
Upper Sandusky, OH

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Parker June Hayes
Cincinnati, OH
Summa Cum Laude
University Honors
Departmental Honors

Emma Kate Lindsey
Powell, OH
Summa Cum Laude

Branden Bilroy Nicholas
Oak Park, MI
(Bachelor of Arts - Psychology)
Cum Laude

Biological & Environmental Sciences

BIOLOGY

Professor Margaret Goodman

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Emily Nicole Albright
New Cumberland, PA

Samantha Irene Casteel
Loveland, OH

Alexis Marie Christy
Tucson, AZ

Ashlyn Elizabeth Hillenbrand
Vincennes, IN
Magna Cum Laude

Hannah Leigh Marcin
Dorset, OH
Magna Cum Laude
University Honors
Departmental Honors

Zachary David Senig Parkman
Lancaster, OH

Alexis Mackenzie Stroud
Lewistown, OH
(Management)
Cum Laude

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Lily Iona Bonar
Urbana, OH
Summa Cum Laude

Nicholas Xavier Brown
Beavercreek, OH
Summa Cum Laude

Robert Anthony Calovini
Pataskala, OH
Summa Cum Laude

Zoe Elizabeth Chirumbolo
McKee
Cincinnati, OH
Magna Cum Laude

Badin Elizabeth Clark
Lebanon, OH
Cum Laude

Ellen Yvonne Frame
Mason, OH
Cum Laude

Melissa Marie Goebel
Mason, OH
Cum Laude

Victoria Viola Hinkle
Miamisburg, OH

Chance Dalton Keller
Heath, OH

Tanner Elijah Leach
Norwood, OH
Summa Cum Laude

Maria Fernanda Rodriguez
New Carlisle, OH
(Psychology)

Benjamin Andrew Smyser
Mentor, OH

Michael Keishi Vrbanac
Milford, OH
Cum Laude

Katherine Grace Wisniewski
Sylvania, OH
Magna Cum Laude

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Professor John Ritter

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Sadia Joan Allalen
Columbus, OH
Cum Laude

Sarah Jane Mouton Daulton
Urbana, OH

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Rylee Danielle Armstrong
Canal Winchester, OH

Alexander Matthew Dye
Xenia, OH

Deza Marie Frega
Brunswick, OH
(Biology)

Audrey Lynn Heiser
Arcanum, OH
Summa Cum Laude

Sydney Elizabeth Henderson
Cincinnati, OH
Cum Laude

Chloe Nicole Jordan
Cincinnati, OH

Carl Frederick Leitert
Ashburn, VA

Adam James Woxman
Eaton, OH

Business & Economics

ACCOUNTING

Associate Professor Rachel Wilson

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Julia Mei Burch
Dublin, OH
Summa Cum Laude

Katarina C. Davenport
Dayton, OH
Summa Cum Laude

Elizabeth M. Davis
Urbana, OH
Cum Laude

Kaitlyn Pauline Gardner
New Richmond, OH
(Finance)

Riley Kettelson
New Lenox, IL

Caroline Marie Miernik Sedor
Newark, OH
Summa Cum Laude

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Associate Professor
Tim Bode
Department Chair

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Ian Andrew Ash
Bath, OH
Magna Cum Laude

FINANCE

Associate Professor
Rachel Wilson

BACHELOR OF ARTS

John Ferree Aber
Pittsburgh, PA

Tanner Micheal Cooley
Bluffton, IN

Henry Thomas Coyle
Grosse Pointe, MI
(Sport Management)

Reed Hall
New Albany, OH

Nicholas Ray Harding
Fort Wayne, IN
(Economics)
Cum Laude

Conor Patrick O'Malley
Avon, OH
Cum Laude

Jeffrey Alan Queen
Cincinnati, OH

Elijah Dietrich Schneider
Hilliard, OH

ECONOMICS

Associate Professor
Rachel Wilson

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Robert Benjamin Martin
Chagrin Falls, OH
(Finance)

Lluvia Martinez
Washington, IN

Shane Whitehead
Granville, OH
(Finance)

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

Associate Professor
Tim Bode
Department Chair

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Brayden T. Ring
New Castle, IN
Summa Cum Laude

MANAGEMENT

Associate Professor
Tim Bode
Department Chair

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Andrew Jacob Barnes
North Canton, OH

Colin Bennett Bilbrey
Fishers, IN

Milik Lamar Bowe
Miami, FL

Collin Michael Brown
Mason, OH
Cum Laude

Samuel Thomas Callinan
Kettering, OH
(Economics)

Justin Eric Chambers
Indianapolis, IN

Joshua Douglas Collins
Springboro, OH

Ethan Pahl Gay
Louisville, KY

Robert Lee Goodman III
Beavercreek, OH

Brandon Alan Goodwin
Englewood, OH

Garrett Matthew Gross
Bellefontaine, OH
Cum Laude

Kaelynn Grace Ireland
Pullman, WV
*(Communication & Digital
Media)*

Emily Anne Jackson
Troy, OH

Miles Avery Johnson
Dayton, OH

Jayvin Kole Landers
Antwerp, OH

Broden Lorenz Ley
Granville, OH

Austin Wilford Luther V
Hughesville, MD

Mitchell James Macy
Brecksville, OH

Owen McGuffey
St. Paris, OH
Cum Laude

Salih Ahmadin Mohammad
Senafe, Eritrea

Jacob Christopher Noble
Hilliard, OH

Nicklaus Gene Pidgeon
Homeworth, OH

Karla Rodriguez
New Carlisle, OH

Cassandra Ariel Ayanna
Rogan
Springfield, OH

Katelyn Mae Troyer
Orrville, OH
Summa Cum Laude
University Honors
Departmental Honors

Conner Douglas Walls
Centerville, OH

MARKETING

Associate Professor
Tim Bode
Department Chair

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Robert Charles Bratchett III
Portsmouth, OH

Briana Adriana Basic
Rittman, OH

Tristan Rylie Dietsch
Heyworth, IL

Hayden Ezra Durant
Ortonville, OH
Cum Laude

Noah Michael Gfell
Sylvania, OH

Parker John Gryskevich
Brownsburg, IN
(Sport Management)

Dylan Jackson
Twinsburg, OH

Grant Lewis Klepitsch
Crystal Lake, IL
Summa Cum Laude

John Charles Pine
New Albany, OH

Troy W. Teepe II
Cincinnati, OH
Summa Cum Laude

Chemistry

Professor Ray Dudek
Department Chair

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Paige Elise Kaiser
New Philadelphia, OH
Summa Cum Laude

Communication & Digital Media

**Professor Sheryl
Cunningham**
Department Chair

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Anthony Steven Bland Jr.
Lawnside, NJ

Jordan Brough
North Palm Beach, FL

Isabel Driscoll Cherry
Columbus, OH

Matthew Melvin Drovdlac
Hilliard, OH

Jonathan Hunter Golden
Weirton, WV
(Marketing)
Cum Laude

Gracie Mae Hubbs
Marysville, OH

East Asian Studies

Associate Professor
Nona Moskowitz
Chair of Sociology and
Director of the East Asian
Studies Program

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Sloane Ashby Thor
Nashville, TN
Cum Laude

Education

Associate Professor
Amy McGuffey
Department Chair

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Ezekiel William Bennett
Hilliard, OH

Sydney Marie Bushong
Plain City, OH

Brittany A. Carlson
Pinellas Park, FL

Alexis Grace Carroll
Greenup, KY

Hanna Michele Ecker
Heath, OH

Logan Christian Evans
Columbus, OH

Jessica R. Flick
Lebanon, OH
Cum Laude

Kylie Anne Christian Foss
Oakwood, OH
Cum Laude

Shelby Renee Grim
Springfield, OH
Summa Cum Laude

Abbey Ann Holbrook
Springfield, OH

Sydney Madeline Khosla
Dayton, OH
Summa Cum Laude
University Honors
Departmental Honors

Tyler Steven May
Oak Harbor, OH

Rickera Lybri McCluskey
Dayton, OH

Seth Blake Mullins
Marion, OH

Riley Angela Owens
Springfield, OH

Logan Lynn Perry
Springfield, OH
Cum Laude

Hayley Marie Prater
Kenton, OH
Cum Laude

Sophia Ann Thompson
Marion, OH
Summa Cum Laude
University Honors
Departmental Honors

EDUCATIONAL STUDIES
Assistant Professor
Hillary Libnoch

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Grace Ann Carter
Columbus, OH

Bailee Elizabeth Lyons
Springfield, OH

English
Professor Cynthia
Richards
Department Chair

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Ava Rose Agoranos
Palatine, IL

Kaleigh E. Dulin
London, OH
Summa Cum Laude
Departmental Honors

Zoe E. Hale
Enon, OH
Summa Cum Laude

Hope Christina Messer
Indianapolis, IN
Cum Laude

Miya Mackenzie-Sue Miller
Grove City, OH

Wayne Jacob Moore
Zanesville, OH
Cum Laude

Joanna Lea Tucker-Perkins
Springfield, OH
Magna Cum Laude

Myia Kuhiamoana Marie
Smith
Springfield, OH
Magna Cum Laude

**Health &
Sport Studies**

EXERCISE SCIENCE
Associate Professor
John Thistlethwaite

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Nathalia Gabriella Alicea
Orlando, FL

Izabela Summer Diaz
Delaware, OH

Sophia Gabrielle Garcia
Canal Winchester, OH
Cum Laude

Christopher W. Goertz
Pflugerville, TX
Cum Laude

Dakota H. Key
Milford Center, OH

Emily Barbara Keyes
Columbus, OH
Magna Cum Laude

Justin Michael Kreller
Strongsville, OH

Ian McCandlish
Lancaster, OH

Michelle Leeann Murray
New Carlisle, OH

Matthew Render
Miami Gardens, FL

Mackenzie Jo Ricketts
Morrow, OH

Cameron Joseph Snurr
Springboro, OH
Magna Cum Laude

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Alannah Christine Browning
Beavercreek, OH
(Bachelor of Arts - Biology)
Summa Cum Laude

Mackenzie Marie Bushong
Plain City, OH

Preston McLaren Dorsey
Liberty Township, OH
(Bachelor of Arts - Biology)
Magna Cum Laude
University Honors
Departmental Honors

Brenna Layne Haggy
South Vienna, OH

Jade V. Simpson
Edgewood, KY
Cum Laude

Brianna Marie West
Lancaster, OH
Cum Laude

SPORT MANAGEMENT

Associate Professor
Jennifer Parsons
*Department Chair of Health
& Sport Studies*

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Nicole Anne Belanger
Cincinnati, OH
(Marketing)
Magna Cum Laude

Holton Ross Boehmer
Brighton, MI

Mckenna Nicole Bruce
Athens, OH

Andrew J. Cates
Covington, OH
Cum Laude

Nicholas Paul Downs
Plymouth, MI
Cum Laude

Andrew Jacob Garofoli
Springboro, OH

Brennen Mitchell Grubbs
Newark, OH

Nathan Kyle Hillborg
Huber Heights, OH

Aloysious Kamara
Columbus, OH

Maximillian Keef
Bow, NH
(Communication & Digital Media)

Tyler MacKenzy Linkhart
Yellow Springs, OH
Summa Cum Laude

Joesiah Michael McCann
Akron, OH

Kara Marie Owens
Hilliard, OH

Maximus James Patrick
Eastlake, OH

Earl Woodie Pope III
Miami, FL

Luke William Thomas
Tallmadge, OH

Joshua A. Weisenberger Jr.
Collins, OH

Evie May Wolshire
Lancaster, OH
Magna Cum Laude

History
Professor Molly Wood

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Kaitlyn Nicole Roop
Troy, OH

Hailey M. Sawatzky
Lemont, IL

Racheal A. Vargo
Tiffin, OH
(Political Science)
Summa Cum Laude

Emma Marie Wilson
Mechanicsburg, OH
Summa Cum Laude

International Studies
Assistant Professor
Manuel Soque

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Trinity Tamar Dicks
Washington, DC
(Self-Designed)

Mathematics & Computer Science

MATHEMATICS
Associate Professor
Alyssa Hoofnagle
Department Chair

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Cole Arthur Lewis
Lewis Center, OH
Cum Laude

Andrea Leigh Meeks
Springfield, OH
Summa Cum Laude

Anthony Joseph Pedro
Massillon, OH

Elizabeth Grace Pettay
Pataskala, OH
Magna Cum Laude

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Elizabeth Cherie Schexnaider
Friendswood, TX

COMPUTER SCIENCE
Associate Professor
Alyssa Hoofnagle
Department Chair

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Garrett Anthony Baker
Grove City, OH

Peter Affolter Caine
Ypsilanti, MI
Magna Cum Laude

Dominic James Cork
Cambridge, OH
(Data Science)
Summa Cum Laude

Genavieve Alexandria Diller
New Carlisle, OH

Daniel Austin Lyons
London, OH
(Communication & Digital Media)
Magna Cum Laude

Evan Connor Massey
Columbus, OH

Joel Emosilu Abraham
Kadiri Mohammed-Paige
Lewisville, TX

William Cale Morrison
Portland, OR
(Music)
Summa Cum Laude

Lily A. Pederson
Springfield, OH
(Information Systems)
Summa Cum Laude
University Honors
Departmental Honors

Thomas More Weis
Granville, OH
(Music)
Summa Cum Laude

Kayla Dayle Worthington
Groveport, OH
(Communication & Digital
Media)

DATA SCIENCE
Associate Professor
Alyssa Hoofnagle
Department Chair

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Matthew Dominic Rogers
Leander, TX

**INFORMATION
SYSTEMS**
Associate Professor
Alyssa Hoofnagle
Department Chair

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Josiah Scott
Lapel, IN

Music
Professor David
Schubert
Department Chair

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Ana Ximena Ortega-Carreón
Cincinnati, OH

Mason Briley Ritchason
Mechanicsburg, OH
(Computer Science)
Cum Laude

**BACHELOR OF MUSIC
EDUCATION**

Megan Gabrielle Baker
Maineville, OH
Magna Cum Laude

Olivia M. Clayton
Howard, OH
Summa Cum Laude

Nursing
Professor Marie Bashaw
Director of Nursing

**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE
IN NURSING**

Josie Rebecca Baker
Waynesville, OH
Cum Laude

Lacey Hope Church
Huron, OH

Mary Kathleen Estes
Fleming, OH
Magna Cum Laude
University Honors
Departmental Honors

Stephanie Marie Hinshaw
Springfield, OH

Audrey Ishimwe Simbi
Austin, TX
Summa Cum Laude
University Honors
Departmental Honors

Bridget Marie Kennedy
Chicago, IL

Trisha Jane P. McConnell
Springfield, OH

Morgan Shepard Pagel
New Milford, CT

Kacey Kimbo Prospere
North Miami, FL

Mackenzie Smith Schuld
Rocky River, OH
Summa Cum Laude
University Honors
Departmental Honors

Emma F. Secrest
Westerville, OH
Cum Laude

Kylee Mae Slone
Monroe, OH
Cum Laude

Bailey Catherine Smith
Frederick, MD
Summa Cum Laude
University Honors
Departmental Honors

Gabriella Lynn Stern
Hilliard, OH

Sydney Alexis Taylor
Casstown, OH

Emily Kay Terry
Springfield, OH

Mullaney Michele Yoder
Bellefontaine, OH

**Philosophy &
Religion**

PHILOSOPHY
Assistant Professor
Kelley Annesley

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Danny Timothy Bean
Fort Wayne, IN
(Political Science)
Summa Cum Laude
University Honors
Departmental Honors

Physics
Professor Paul Voytas
Department Chair

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Ty Mitchell Beatty
Pickerington, OH

Political Science

Professor Staci Rhine

Acting Department Chair

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Christopher Pierce Compton
Granville, OH

Atticus George Dewey
Ann Arbor, MI
(Sociology)

Lucas A. Hummel
Lewisville, IN
(Philosophy)

Sydney M. Johnston
Wilmington, OH

Kevin Kasczak
Springfield, OH

Joseph Kulwa Kuzilwa
Dar-Es-Salaam, Tanzania

Psychology

Associate Professor

Michael Anes

Department Chair

BACHELOR OF ARTS

McKenna Grace Boling
Port Clinton, OH
Summa Cum Laude
University Honors
Departmental Honors

Taylor Michelle Crawford
Dublin, OH
Cum Laude

Guillermo Del Rio Gonzalez
Lleida, Spain
Cum Laude
Departmental Honors
(Philosophy)

Kamryn Paige Erdman
Dublin, OH
Cum Laude

Margaret Grace Harbaugh
Terre Haute, IN

Chelsea Elizabeth Harrison
Springfield, OH
(Sociology)
Summa Cum Laude

Diyona Le'Nay Hudson-Perry
Columbus, OH

Emery Andrew Hunt
Perry, OH

Jaiden Lynn Newsome
Yellow Springs, OH

Alyson T. Parks
Granville, OH
(Sociology)
Cum Laude

McKayla Ann Pickering
Louisville, Ohio
(Sociology)

Kaulana Moana Kalei Smith
Springfield, OH
Summa Cum Laude

Malik Lebron Taylor
Cleveland, OH

Kira Grace van Ravensberg
Highlands Ranch, CO
(Exercise Science)
Magna Cum Laude
University Honors
Departmental Honors

Angela Marie Wehrum
Powell, OH
Cum Laude

Annie Sunshine Wethington
London, OH

Kirstin Lynee Winters
Williams
Hilliard, OH

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Jessica Renee Wells
Hancock County, KY
(Bachelor of Arts -
Biochemistry/Molecular
Biology)

Self-Designed

Professor Brian Yontz

Provost

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Lexi Ellars Daily
London, OH

Madeleine Elizabeth
Lepley Grant
Grosse Pointe, MI

Anna Patricia Obergefell
Columbus, OH

Sociology

Associate Professor

Nona Moskowitz

Department Chair

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Alivia Jane Algren
Springfield, OH
Cum Laude

Roy Brett Bibb
Springfield, OH

McKenzie Erin Crosbie
Springfield, OH

Brynn Cecile Cunningham
Grove City, OH
Summa Cum Laude

Jasmin J. González-Morgan
Springfield, OH
Magna Cum Laude

Kody Christopher Gould
Fairport, NY

Noah A. Grooms
Springfield, OH

Mallory Anderson Janicki
Hebron, OH

Sydnee Lee Johnson
Centerville, OH
Cum Laude

Mariah La'Jae' Kelley
Springfield, OH

Kiersten Anne Kuntz
Springfield, OH

Jarad Allan Moore
Pickerington, OH

Davie-onna Dashelle Moss
Columbus, OH

Lillie Grace Pieske
Ann Arbor, MI
Cum Laude

Corin Elyse Turkovich
East Liverpool, OH
Cum Laude

Logan Brooks Vachon
Oxford, MI

Madison Lee Williams
Springfield, OH
Cum Laude

Theatre & Dance

Associate Professor

Darin Keesing

Interim Department Chair

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Erica Lindsay Flory
Brookville, OH
Summa Cum Laude

Lily Sage Kerr-Jung
Cleveland, OH
(Entrepreneurship)

Emily Grayson Randall
Delaware, OH
Summa Cum Laude

Kaylee Jo Reeves
Maui, HI
(Psychology)

Racheal E. Tingley
Tipp City, OH
(Bachelor of Music Education)

World Languages & Cultures

SPANISH

Associate Professor

Sheree Henlon

Acting Department Co-chair

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Amanda J. Kot
Mogadore, OH
Summa Cum Laude

HONORARY ORGANIZATIONS

Class of 2024

Presidential Scholar

Named for each of Wittenberg's 14 former presidents, the Presidential Scholars are the members of the junior class who have maintained the highest academic standing in their class through the preceding five semesters at Wittenberg.

Daniel T. Bean
Lily I. Bonar
Nicholas X. Brown
Alannah C. Browning
Nicholas N. Jenks
Paige E. Kaiser
Amanda J. Kot
Emma K. Lindsey
Olivia M. Norbut
Andrea L. Meeks
Caroline M. Sedor
Kaulana M. Smith
Troy W. Teepe
Racheal A. Vargo
Emma M. Wilson

University Honors

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

Daniel T. Bean
McKenna G. Boling
Preston M. Dorsey
Mary K. Estes

Parker J. Hayes
Sydney M. Khosla
Hannah L. Marcin
Lily A. Pederson
Mackenzie S. Schuld
Audrey Ishimwe Simbi
Bailey C. Smith
Sophia A. Thompson
Katelyn M. Troyer
Kira G. van Ravensberg

Phi Beta Kappa

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

Amanda J. Kot
Olivia M. Norbut
Lily A. Pederson

Alpha Alpha Alpha

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

Daniel T. Bean
Mackenzie M. Bushong
Morgan E. Ely
Victoria V. Hinkle
Branden B. Nicholas
Maria F. Rodriguez
Hannah C. Schartz

Alpha Kappa Delta

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

Brynn C. Cunningham
Erica L. Flory
Jasmin J. Gonzalez-Morgan
Chelsea E. Harrison
Alyson T. Parks
McKayla A. Pickering
Kaylee J. Reeves
Corin E. Turkovich
Madison L. Williams

Alpha Lambda Delta

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

Megan G. Baker
Alannah C. Browning
Julia M. Burch
Camelia S. Duncan
Jasmin J. Gonzalez-Morgan
Madeleine E. Grant
Brenna L. Haggy
Margaret G. Harbaugh
Parker J. Hayes
Audrey L. Heiser
Lily S. Kerr-Jung
Sydney M. Khosla
Emma K. Lindsey
Olivia M. Norbut
Lily A. Pederson
Emily G. Randall
Maria F. Rodriguez
Sarah E. Ruhe
Emma F. Secrest
Caroline M. Sedor
Kaulana M. Smith
Alexis M. Stroud
Racheal A. Vargo
Brianna M. West
Emma M. Wilson
Katherine G. Wisniewski

Alpha Phi Omega

Alpha Phi Omega is a co-ed service fraternity founded at Lafayette College in 1925. Members of Alpha Phi Omega embody the principles of leadership, friendship, and service and are campus and community leaders.

Sydney B. Lamb
Ethan Marsh
Tia McConnaughey

Beta Beta Beta

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

Nicholas X. Brown
Alannah C. Browning
Robert A. Calovini
Deza M. Frega
Melissa M. Goebel
Parker J. Hayes
Victoria V. Hinkle
Hannah L. Marcin
Branden B. Nicholas
Olivia M. Norbut
Maria F. Rodriguez
Michael K. Vrbanac
Katherine G. Wisniewski

Chi Alpha Sigma

Chi Alpha Sigma is a national college athletic honor society founded in 1996. Members must be of junior or senior class standing, have a 3.4 or higher cumulative GPA, be of good moral character, and have earned a letter in a varsity intercollegiate sport.

Ian A. Ash
Collin M. Brown
Alannah C. Browning
Julia M. Burch
Robert A. Calovini
Peter A. Caine
Andrew J. Cates
Badin E. Clark
Dominic J. Cork
Nickolas W. Cunningham
Hayden E. Durant
Morgan E. Ely
Jessica R. Flick
Ellen Y. Frame
Christopher W. Goertz
Garrett M. Gross
Nicholas R. Harding
Sydney E. Henderson
Paige E. Kaiser
Grant L. Klepitsch
Sydney M. Khosla
Jayvin K. Landers
Cole A. Lewis
Emma K. Lindsey
Tyler M. Linkhart
Zoe E. Chirumbolo McKee
Andrea L. Meeks
Connor K. O'Malley
Alyson T. Parks
Kira G. van Ravensberg
Mackenzie J. Ricketts
Brayden T. Ring
Hannah C. Schartz
Mackenzie S. Schuld
Emma F. Secrest
Kylee M. Slone

Jade V. Simpson
Cameron J. Snurr
Thomas J. Supan
Troy W. Teepe
Corin E. Turkovich
Cassidy M. Webber
Katherine G. Wisniewski
Evie M. Wolshire
Mullaney M. Yoder

Epsilon Alpha Sigma

Epsilon Alpha Sigma, the first East Asian Studies honor society in the United States, was founded at Wittenberg in 1981. Membership is open to academically superior students of East Asian Studies.

Wayne J. Moore

Ivy Ring

Ivy Ring is a junior women's service honorary. Members are chosen on the basis of their contributions to the Wittenberg campus and to the community through the quality of their academic work and their participation in extracurricular activities.

Megan G. Baker
McKenna G. Boling
Olivia M. Clayton
Brynn C. Cunningham
Kaleigh E. Dulin
Erica L. Flory
Chelsea E. Harrison
Emily B. Keyes
Sydney M. Khosla
Amanda J. Kot
Elizabeth G. Pettay
Emily G. Randall
Kaitlyn N. Roop
Mackenzie S. Schuld
Kylee M. Slone

Bailey C. Smith
Kaulana M. Smith
Sophia A. Thompson
Katelyn M. Troyer
Emma M. Wilson
Katherine G. Wisniewski

Kappa Delta Pi

Kappa Delta Pi is an honored community of diverse educators who have achieved and continue to promote and advance excellence in scholarship, leadership, and service.

Alexis G. Carroll
Badin E. Clark
Kylie A. Foos
Shelby R. Grim
Cole A. Lewis
Elizabeth G. Pettay
Sophia A. Thompson
Emma M. Wilson

Lambda Pi Eta

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

Monet M. Allen
Jonathan H. Golden
Gracie M. Hubbs
Daniel A. Lyons
Hannah G. Weymouth

Omicron Delta Kappa

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

Dominic J. Cork
Chelsea E. Harrison
Olivia M. Norbut

Phi Alpha Theta

Phi Alpha Theta is a national History Honor Society. Undergraduate students must complete a minimum of 4 courses in History, earned in the classroom, online or through AP or transfer credits (or a combination thereof). A minimum GPA of 3.1 in History and 3.0 GPA overall are required. A student need not be a history major to apply.

Hailey M. Sawatzky

Phi Eta Sigma

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

Daniel T. Bean
Nicholas X. Brown
Nicholas N. Jenks
Cole A. Lewis
Evan C. Massey
William C. Morrison
Branden B. Nicholas

Pi Mu Epsilon

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

Arena Garland
Cole A. Lewis
Andrea L. Meeks
Elizabeth G. Pettay
Rachel E. Shively
Carmen P. Sullivan

Pi Sigma Alpha

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

Daniel T. Bean
Lucas A. Hummel
Nicholas N. Jenks
Racheal A. Vargo

Pick & Pen

Pick and Pen is a junior honorary emphasizing leadership, service, and scholarship.

Megan G. Baker
McKenna G. Boling
Nicholas X. Brown
Robert A. Calovini
Peter A. Caine

Olivia M. Clayton
Brynn C. Cunningham
Kaleigh E. Dulin
Erica L. Flory
Chelsea E. Harrison
Emily B. Keyes
Grant L. Klepitsch
Sydney M. Khosla
Amanda J. Kot
Tanner E. Leach
Tyler M. Linkhart
Elizabeth G. Pettay
Emily G. Randall
Brayden T. Ring
Kaitlyn N. Roop
Mackenzie S. Schuld
Kylee M. Slone
Bailey C. Smith
Kaulana M. Smith
Sophia A. Thompson
Katelyn M. Troyer
Racheal A. Vargo
Emma M. Wilson

Psi Chi

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

McKenna G. Boling
Taylor M. Crawford
Chelsea E. Harrison
Alyson T. Parks
Kaulana M. Smith
Kira G. van Ravensberg
Angela M. Wehrum

Sigma Tau Delta

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

Zoe E. Hale
Hope C. Messer
Joanna L. Perkins
Anna C. Shoumlin

Sigma Theta Tau

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

Mary K. Estes
Mackenzie S. Schuld
Emma F. Secrest
Audrey Ishimwe Simbi
Kylee M. Slone
Bailey C. Smith

Tau Pi Phi

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

Ian A. Ash
Nicole A. Belanger
Julia M. Burch
Robert B. Martin
Katelyn M. Troyer

The Wittenberg Luther Cap

The red cap worn by Martin Luther while teaching at Germany's Wittenberg University during the Reformation is still being worn by designated persons at what is now the only Wittenberg University in the world – the one in Springfield, Ohio.

The original Wittenberg University, founded in 1502 in a little town in Saxony, provided the sixteenth-century setting for Martin Luther, the man whose reforming activities ultimately led to Protestantism. Wittenberg, writes the German magazine *Der Spiegel*, was where Luther lived without a break for 35 years prior to his death: "Here he wrote most of his books, here he delivered most of his sermons, here he burned the bull of Pope Leo X that threatened excommunication, here he raised his family."

Luther's Wittenberg University, for many years one of the strongest universities in the world, thrived until 1817, when Saxony became part of Prussia, and the old university was absorbed by the University of Halle. Fewer than 30 years later, a dedicated group of German Lutherans created another Wittenberg on the frontier of a new nation. In 1842, the English Lutheran Synod of Ohio unanimously resolved: "We, now in Synod assembled, do ordain and establish a Literary-Theological Institution." In 1845, the new Wittenberg in Springfield, Ohio, received a charter from the State of Ohio empowering it to "do such acts as may be necessary to [promote] theological and scientific knowledge"

In September 1959, in honor of the original Wittenberg and the man whose ideas transformed the world, President Clarence C. Stoughton revived the wearing of the red cap worn by Martin Luther. During the sixteenth century, red caps were worn by teachers as a badge of office and as protection from the cold drafts blowing through the halls. Today, complete with ear tabs and made of red velvet, the cap is worn by the President of the University and is given as a presidential award to those receiving honorary degrees and the Medal of Honor from Wittenberg. In a memorable Commencement ceremony, June 15, 1975, the late President Emeritus Clarence Stoughton, in his last public appearance, removed his cap and presented it to President William A. Kinnison, who, in turn, gave it to his successor at Dr. Baird Tipson's inauguration on November 4, 1995.

The cap may also be worn by Wittenberg officials of vice-presidential level and above, department chairs, tenured faculty, University pastor, and delegates appointed by the president to represent him/her at academic functions such as inaugurations and dedications. Also eligible to wear the cap are Wittenberg Alumni who have earned a baccalaureate degree from Wittenberg University and are either of vice presidential rank or above, department chairs, or tenured faculty at two, three, or four year, fully accredited institutions of higher education.

Symbols of Learning

The academic procession as seen today is a pageant made colorful by the dress and ceremony inherited from the medieval universities of the eleventh and twelfth centuries.

The principal features of academic dress are three: the gown, the cap, and the hood. To preserve the dignity and the meaning of these features, American universities agreed on a definite system in 1895 and set up a code of academic dress for the colleges and universities of the United States. In 1932, the American Council on Education presented a revised code, which largely governs the style of academic dress used in our country today.

The Gown. The flowing gown comes from the twelfth century. Some think it was worn in olden times as protection against the cold of unheated buildings. It has become symbolic of the democracy of scholarship, for it completely covers any dress of rank or social standing underneath. Black gowns are acceptable for all institutions, but some universities have adopted optional colors for gowns; for example, Yale, Yale blue; Harvard, crimson; Columbia, light blue; Princeton, black with orange trim. The gown has pointed sleeves for the bachelor's degree; long, closed sleeves for the master's degree with a slit for the arm; and round, open sleeves for the doctor's degree. For the bachelor's or master's

degree, the gown has no trimmings. For the doctor's degree, it is faced down the front with velvet and has three bars of velvet across the sleeves in the color distinctive of the faculty or discipline to which the degree pertains. Some of the colors most frequently seen and the fields they represent are: blue – philosophy; purple – law; green – medicine; yellow – science; light blue – education; red – theology; white – literature and humane letters. The official colors of the college may appear in the gown and its decorations.

The Cap. When Roman law freed the slave, the privilege of wearing a cap was won. And so the academic cap is a sign of the freedom of scholarship and the responsibility and dignity with which scholarship endows the wearer. Old poetry records the cap of scholarship

as square to symbolize the book, although some authorities claim that the mortarboard is a symbol of the Masons, a privileged guild. The color of the tassel on the cap denotes the discipline.

The Hood. Heraldically the hood is an inverted shield with one or more chevrons of a secondary color on the ground of the primary color of the college. The color of the facing of the hood denotes the discipline represented by the degree; the color of the lining of the hood designates the college by which the degree was granted.

The Cord. The colored cord worn by today's graduates represents membership in their academic discipline's honor society.

The Wittenberg Torch

During today's ceremony, the Class of 2024 will carry on the tradition of celebrating the University's motto, "Having Light We Pass It On To Others." In keeping with the image depicted on the University's official seal as shown on the Commencement program cover, Commencement marks a symbolic passing of the torch from the Class of 2024 to the Class of 2025. The event serves to symbolize the passing of light from one generation to the next, which has defined

the Wittenberg experience for 174 years and united alumni across all classes.

Designed and handcrafted by Kenny Lake, retired carpenter foreman from Wittenberg's Physical Plant, at the request of the Class of 2006, the Torch used in today's ceremony is made entirely of walnut with 28 coats of tung oil applied. The flame itself consists of an intricate arrangement of brass, bronze, and copper petals, which Ed Charney, professor emeritus of art, helped to create.

The Wittenberg Municipal Coat of Arms

The municipal coat of arms of Wittenberg, City of Luther, reflects the city's historical origins and significance. The fortress rising above the blue water symbolizes the medieval walled city on the banks of the river Elbe. (The city's fortifications were removed in 1873.) The silver fish refers to the abundant fishing that was once part of the region's riches. The two shields displayed against the background of the city walls form the crest of the Elector of Saxony, whose court resided at Wittenberg. The yellow and green crest to the right, divided by a garland of heraldic lozenges, symbolic of crowns, represents the ducal house. The crest to the left with the crossed

sword represents the office of Imperial Grand Marshal of the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation, an office held by the Duke of Saxony in his capacity as Elector. (An Elector was one of the princes of the Holy Roman Empire granted the privilege of participating in the election of the Emperor.)

The city's coat of arms is carried in today's procession to symbolize the establishment of formal ties between the city and Wittenberg University in 1995 and as a symbol of the heritage that the city and university share.

A Brief History of Commencement Exercises at Wittenberg

The event of Commencement is an old academic ritual but one that has undergone continuous change at Wittenberg.

Although two students completed the requirements for graduation in 1850, one headed for the California gold fields, and the other, J. F. Mitchell, elected to graduate in 1851. Mitchell's grades enabled him to be the valedictorian of his new class.

Wittenberg's first Commencement in 1851 was held not in May but in September. On Wednesday, September 10, President Samuel Sprecher delivered the baccalaureate sermon in First Lutheran Church. His subject was "The Duties of Educated Men and the Manner in Which They Should Be Performed." On Thursday, the literary societies met together in the city hall to hear the first of their annual speakers, The Rev. Edwin H. Nevin, D.D., who spoke on "Faith in God – the Foundation of Individual and National Greatness." On Friday, the Commencement exercises were held in the city hall, and each of the eight members of the class delivered an oration and received the A. B. degree. Music was provided by the Independent Sax-Horn Band of Dayton, Ohio, an aggregation that featured the newly invented and, to older listeners, strange-sounding sax-horn.

Respect was paid to students of high academic achievement by enlisting them to deliver the various orations of the Commencement. One could tell the achievements of the top scholars of the class by the assignment given each student in the exercises: the valedictorian, salutatorian, Latin orator, Greek orator, English orator, German orator, etc.

As years passed and the graduating classes grew larger, the student orations grew shorter. Eventually only a select few students spoke. Finally no student spoke at all, and an annual visiting speaker became a formal part of the Commencement exercises. The change was a pleasing one to students. The student literary societies had begun the practice of jointly sponsoring an outside speaker several years earlier in order to bring outside personalities of the students' own choosing to the campus event. The advent of a Commencement

speaker thus meant the institutionalizing of the students' desire for a speaker outside the school's normal circle and at the same time freed students from the chore of preparing Commencement addresses. With these changes, however, students became increasingly passive observers at an event in which they once performed the major tasks.

The faculty, graduating class, and student body used to meet in the First Lutheran Church, from which they were led by a band from High Street, up Main, then to Market (now Fountain), and then to the old market house, where public Commencement exercises took place. In 1869, this procession was abandoned. Exercises were held in the city hall and later in Black's Opera House and in 1879 were moved to the college grounds. The Class of 1896 sought to add dignity and fame to itself by inaugurating the custom of appearing in caps and gowns. In 1904, at the first Commencement under Dr. Charles G. Heckert, the procession was revived, and faculty, graduates, and other participants processed to the campus hillside for Commencement.

Commencement exercises were held in the Springfield city hall from 1851 to 1868; in Black's Opera House from 1869 to 1878; and in the campus grove, south of Myers Hall and east of Recitation Hall, from 1879 to 1926. Only since 1927 have Commencements been held in Commencement Hollow. In bad weather, the event is staged in the Health, Wellness & Athletics Complex.

Today the event is in many ways a collection of private family celebrations. It is yet a collective event of the academic community but one in an era when academic communities are more diverse and fragmented than in an earlier day. The validity of the exercises as a demonstration of student competence, moreover, has long since been superseded by less public measurements and criteria, and the dimensions of institutional accountability are decidedly different and more complex.

The format and significance with which Commencement will be presented in the

years ahead remain to be seen, yet one central factor remains constant. Under the charter of the institution, only the Board of Directors may grant the student the degree which he or she has earned. This is accomplished by issuing a certificate that “authenticates and perpetuates” the student’s achievements. The faculty recommends, the Board of Directors confirms, and the President publicly awards the degree, representing the institution’s common action. That is the fundamental meaning of Commencement. As an event that

focuses attention upon the primary mission of the institution, it will survive in the ritual of academia so long as it emphasizes that essential meaning.

Senior Class Giving Tradition

Wittenberg alumni have a long history of giving back and helping fellow alumni achieve their own dreams of continuing their education. The Senior Class of 2024 has chosen to support our beloved Wittenberg by making our Senior Class gifts to support **The People**. Our class gifts will impact current and future Wittenberg students as soon as Fall 2024.

Leave your legacy and make your Class Gift to support future generations of Tigers here:
www.wittenberg.edu/senior-gift-2024

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

THE CLASS OF 2024

Officers

Ms. Gabriella L. Stern, President
Ms. Morgan S. Pagel, Vice President
Ms. Megan G. Baker, Secretary
Ms. Alexis G. Carroll, Treasurer

Honorary Class Members

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

Dr. Billy Davis,
Associate Professor of Psychology

Dr. Jen Parsons,
Associate Professor of Health & Sport Studies and Chair of the Department

Dr. Cynthia Richards,
Professor of English and Chair of the Department

Dr. John Ritter,
Professor of Geology

Dr. Catherine Short,
Assistant Professor of Nursing

John Thistlethwaite,
Associate Professor of Health & Sport Studies

Class Flower

Tulip

Class Song

Rattlin' Bog

Class Color

Red

MISSION STATEMENT

Wittenberg University provides a liberal arts education dedicated to intellectual inquiry and wholeness of person within a diverse residential community. Reflecting its Lutheran heritage, Wittenberg challenges students to become responsible global citizens, to discover their callings, and to lead personal, professional, and civic lives of creativity, service, compassion, and integrity.

