



Dear Blugold graduates,

Congratulations! Today we celebrate an achievement for which you've worked long and hard: You've earned your UW-Eau Claire degree!

Not a day goes by that I am not amazed by your many talents and successes both in and outside the classroom. I have had the pleasure of meeting many of you, and in our conversations I have been inspired by your goals for the future — goals for success in your chosen careers and aspirations to make a difference in the communities you will call home in the years to come.

You can look to the future knowing there is real value in your UW-Eau Claire degree. On its 2017 list of "Best Colleges for Your Money," MONEY ranks UW-Eau Claire as the top public regional university in Wisconsin and Minnesota for educational quality, affordability and alumni success. UW-Eau Claire also is one of just two UW System regional universities in Washington Monthly's 2017 "Best Bang for the Buck" rankings, as well as one of two UW System regional universities among Forbes' 2017 America's Top Colleges for return on investment.

Also know that as you leave this great university, you join the ranks of our more than 85,000 Blugold alumni making a difference the world over, carrying The Power of AND into their workplaces and communities. Just look at the shining examples provided by our alumni award recipients being honored here today. The world will be a better place because of your skills AND wisdom, entrepreneurship AND integrity of spirit, strong work ethic AND inspiring creativity — all hallmarks of your UW-Eau Claire degree.

As we say in our mission statement (proudly printed on this page), UW-Eau Claire provides a "transformative liberal education." I challenge you to audaciously pursue your goals, knowing that your UW-Eau Claire degree has prepared you for all you aspire to achieve. And most of all, I wish you joy on your journey.

With all best wishes for a bright Blugold future,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James C. Schmidt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

James C. Schmidt | Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

Mission Statement of the University

We foster in one another creativity, critical insight, empathy and intellectual courage, the hallmarks of a transformative liberal education and the foundation for active citizenship and lifelong inquiry.

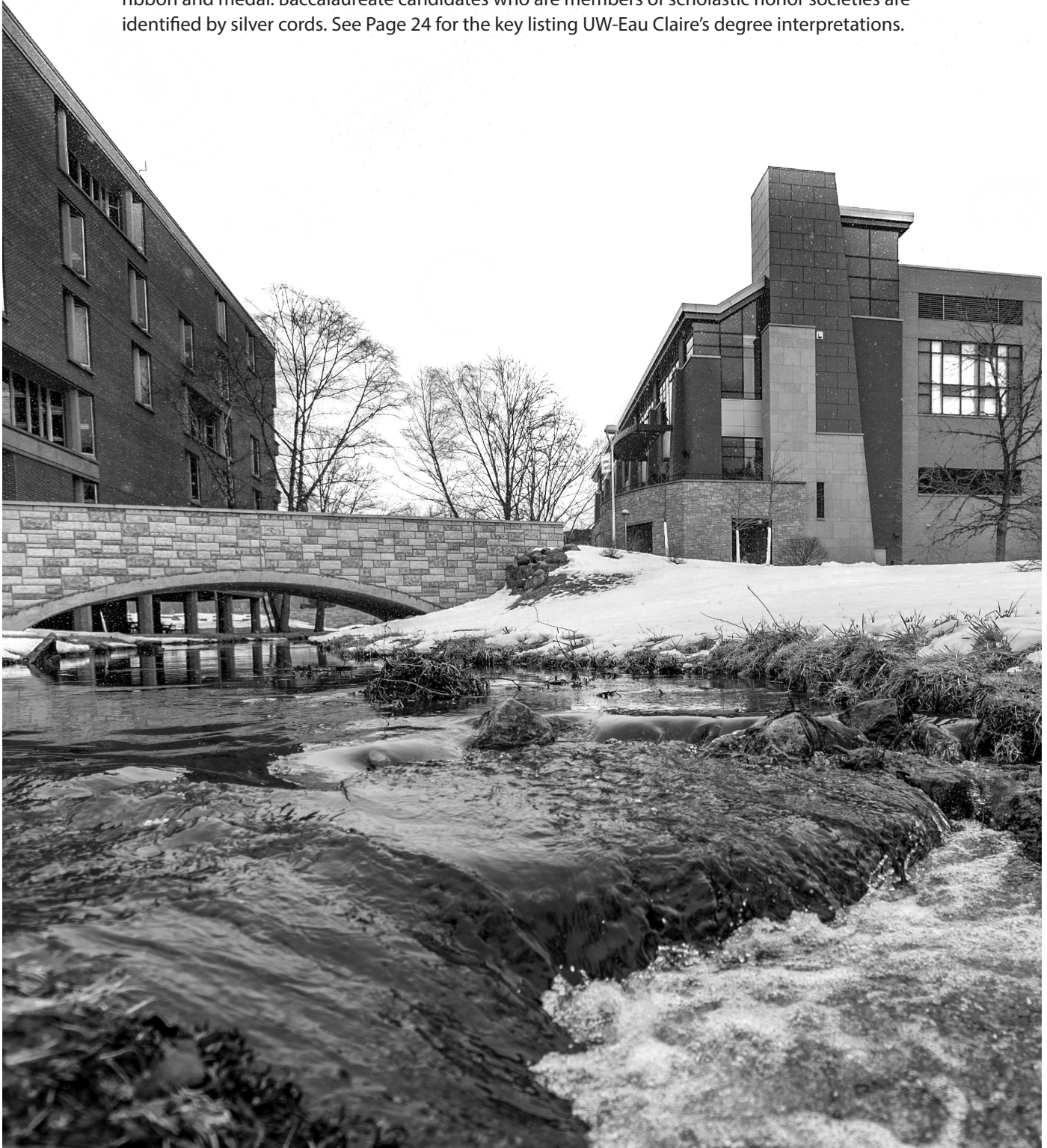
Commencement Program

December 16, 2017	James C. Schmidt, Chancellor, Presiding
9 a.m.	College of Arts and Sciences College of Nursing and Health Sciences
2 p.m.	College of Business College of Education and Human Sciences
Prelude by UW-Eau Claire Faculty Brass Quintet	Michael Alexander, horn Robert Baca, trumpet Jacob Grewe, tuba Matthew Mealey, trumpet Phil Ostrander, trombone
Greetings	Evan Weiher, Commencement Marshal, Chair, University Senate
Processional	Pomp and Circumstance, No. 1 (<i>Land of Hope and Glory</i>) by Sir Edward Elgar <i>Please rise and remain standing through the National Anthem.</i>
National Anthem	The Star-Spangled Banner by John Stafford Smith Led by Rachel Lavender, Bachelor of Arts, Public History (morning) Led by Matt Laudenbach, Bachelor of Music Education, Choral (afternoon)
Welcome and Introductions	Patricia A. Kleine, Provost and Vice Chancellor
Introducing Members of the Platform Party	James C. Schmidt, Chancellor Michael Carney, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Darrell Newton, Associate Vice Chancellor for Graduate Studies David Leaman, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences Carmen Manning, Dean, College of Education and Human Sciences Linda Young, Dean, College of Nursing and Health Sciences Tim Vaughan, Interim Dean, College of Business Margaret Cassidy, Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences (morning) Debra Jansen, Associate Dean, College of Nursing and Health Sciences (morning) Jill Prushiek, Associate Dean, College of Education and Human Sciences (afternoon) Bob Erffmeyer, Associate Dean, College of Business (afternoon) Beth Hellwig, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs (morning) Tamara Johnson, Assistant Chancellor for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Joseph J. Abhold, Dean of Students (morning) Evan Weiher, Commencement Marshal, Chair, University Senate Colton Ashley, Student Body Vice President 2016 - 2017 (morning)
Greetings from the UW System Board of Regents	Regent Janice Mueller

Congratulatory Remarks	James C. Schmidt, Chancellor
Introduction of Alumni Award Recipients	Patricia A. Kleine, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs <i>See pages 19-23 for background on the award recipients.</i>
Charge To The Class	RG Conlee, President and CEO, Tylark Corporation
Presentation Of Master's Candidates	Patricia A. Kleine, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Conferral Of Master's Degrees	James C. Schmidt, Chancellor
Presentation Of Baccalaureate Candidates	Patricia A. Kleine, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Conferral Of Baccalaureate Degrees	James C. Schmidt, Chancellor
Blugold Reflections	Adam Duffy, Bachelor of Arts, Political Science (morning) <i>"Stay Thirsty, My Friends"</i> Natalie Hegna, Bachelor of Business Administration, Accounting (afternoon) <i>"The Real World"</i>
University Alma Mater	Led by Logan Johnson, Bachelor of Science, Integrated Strategic Communication (morning) Led by Mariah Sands, Bachelor of Music Education, Choral (afternoon) <i>Please rise and join in singing. Words and music are printed at end of program.</i>
Recessional	Pomp and Circumstance, No. 1 (<i>Land of Hope and Glory</i>) by Sir Edward Elgar Triumphal March from "Aida" by Giuseppe Verdi <i>You are welcome to move from your seat as soon as the platform party, faculty and graduates have exited the arena.</i>
Photographs	A professional photograph will be taken of all graduates as they receive their diplomas. In order to reset the arena for the next event, there will be no photo opportunities in Zorn Arena following the ceremony.
Reception	The chancellor, faculty and members of the graduating class cordially invite all guests to a reception immediately following the ceremony in the Marketplace on the first floor of the W.R. Davies Student Center. There you will find refreshments as well as wonderful photo opportunities including the college banners that you see on stage and photo backdrops.

Candidates for Degrees

Graduation with distinction is being conferred on those graduates who have an outstanding scholastic record. They are identified by gold cords and recognized in the program as follows: *cum laude (grade-point average of at least 3.2), **magna cum laude (GPA of at least 3.5) and ***summa cum laude (GPA of at least 3.8). Graduates receiving departmental honors are identified by the symbol †. The recognition of graduates receiving University Honors is noted under the student's name. Graduates receiving University Honors are identified by a gold ribbon and medal. Baccalaureate candidates who are members of scholastic honor societies are identified by silver cords. See Page 24 for the key listing UW-Eau Claire's degree interpretations.



College of Nursing and Health Sciences

DOCTORAL DEGREES

Ginger Lei Zien Eau Claire

D.N.P., Nursing

M.S.N., 2014, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

B.S., 2001, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

B.S.N., 1991, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

Program Advisor: Dr. Jodi Arriola

DNP Project: Development of a Diabetes Management

Procedure and Educational Module for a Detention Center

BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

Steven Edward Ackerson ** Eau Claire

B.S.N., Nursing

Trisha Ann Beeler ** La Crosse

B.S.N., Nursing

Rachel K Bishop ** Chaseburg

B.S.N., Nursing

Arjen Cornelis Blanker *** Stevens Point

B.S.N., Nursing

Marissa Michelle Boucher ** Osceola

B.S.N., Nursing

Carly Rose Brovold ** Eau Claire

B.S.N., Nursing

David John Cifaldi ** Cumberland

B.S.N., Nursing

Jaclyn Melanie Davenport * St Louis Park, MN

B.S.N., Nursing

Morgan DeMars * Eau Claire

B.S.N., Nursing

Hope Jennifer Dexter Cameron, WI

B.S.N., Nursing

Ashley Ann Eberhardt * Stratford

B.S.N., Nursing

Alexandrea R. Fernstaedt *** Wausau

B.S.N., Nursing

Lauren Louise Fleming ** South Milwaukee

B.S.N., Nursing

April Sabrina Forseth * Clayton

B.S.N., Nursing

Larissa Lane Furger **† Lodi

B.S.N., Nursing

Emily Rebekah Gamm ** Waunakee

B.S.N., Nursing

Jacob Carl Griebenow ** Lake City, MN

B.S.N., Nursing

Tom Gugel **† Israel

B.S.N., Nursing

Jewels M Her ** Woodbury, MN

B.S.N., Nursing

Lindsay Ann Hintz * Stevens Point

B.S.N., Nursing

Jamie Anne Hoelter *** Baraboo

B.S.N., Nursing

Roxanne Elizabeth Holt * Eagan, MN

B.S.N., Nursing

Misty Lynne Howland **† Stevens Point

B.S.N., Nursing

Jill Leigh Hudacek Bloomer, WI

B.S.N., Nursing

Breanna Mae Jansky ** Eau Claire

B.S.N., Nursing

Olivia Grace Johnson * River Falls

B.S.N., Nursing

Lois Rae Kallstrom ** Abbotsford

B.S.N., Nursing

Ann Marie Keller *** Eau Claire

B.S.N., Nursing

Stefan Marifke Kerr ** Cumberland

B.S.N., Nursing

Samantha K Kewin Eau Claire

B.S.N., Nursing

Josafine Suzanne Knauber ** Onalaska

B.S.N., Nursing

Laura Kathleen Koehler ** Osceola

B.S.N., Nursing

Abigail Ryanne Krasselt ** Marshfield

B.S.N., Nursing

Ciara Ann Lazar ** Tony

B.S.N., Nursing

Dena Long Eau Claire

B.S.N., Nursing

Ashley Rae Longsdorf ** Plum City

B.S.N., Nursing

Samantha Jean Maglio ** Madison

B.S.N., Nursing

Stephanie Ann McNamara *** Spencer

B.S.N., Nursing

Halie Marie Milas *** Boyd

B.S.N., Nursing

Erica Marie Murray *** Kendall

B.S.N., Nursing

Seth Thomas Nemec * Ashland

B.S.N., Nursing

Travis Scott Oliphant * Marengo

B.S.N., Nursing

Erin Lindsay Olson ** Faribault, MN

B.S.N., Nursing

Leah Marie Papendorf ** Wausau

B.S.N., Nursing

Michael James Pegg ** Ladysmith

B.S.N., Nursing

Lia Pender Eau Claire

B.S.N., Nursing

Anna Jean Peterka ** Weston

B.S.N., Nursing

Ryanne Robson ** Beloit

B.S.N., Nursing

Shandel Mae Sather Eau Claire

B.S.N., Nursing

Madeline Marie Schaefer *** De Pere

B.S.N., Nursing

Angel L. Schmidt ***† White Lake

B.S.N., Nursing

Christine Nam Schoenberger *** Menomonie

B.S.N., Nursing

Erika Lee Schurtz Hudson

B.S.N., Nursing

April Marie Schwinn * Marshfield

B.S.N., Nursing

Madeline Claire Scott ** Cambridge

B.S.N., Nursing

Mackenzie Mae Shafer ** Hurley

B.S.N., Nursing

Grant Frederick Sklenar ** Prairie du Chien

B.S.N., Nursing

Samantha Sue Smith ** Maple Grove, MN

B.S.N., Nursing

Morgan Lynn Sommerfeld ** Marshfield

B.S.N., Nursing

Amanda Myra Sorenson ** La Crosse

B.S.N., Nursing

Jessica Ellen Steen *** Cottage Grove

B.S.N., Nursing

Kelsey Marie Stoinski **† Wittenberg

B.S.N., Nursing

Krista Marie Strandberg * Wausau

B.S.N., Nursing

Taylor Michele Sursely *** Rochester, MN

B.S.N., Nursing

Zoe Marie Te Ronde *** Beaver Dam

B.S.N., Nursing

Caroline Jane Petryk Tuttle ** White Bear Lake, MN

B.S.N., Nursing

Melissa Kathleen Urban ** Duluth, MN

B.S.N., Nursing

Marissa Lorena Walczak Chippewa Falls

B.S.N., Nursing

Ann Marie Weiss Baldwin

B.S.N., Nursing

Hillary Nicole Weiss *** Mauston

B.S.N., Nursing

Amanda Kay Yule * Eleva

B.S.N., Nursing

Megan Lynne Zyhowski ** Menomonee Falls

B.S.N., Nursing

College of Education and Human Sciences

MASTER'S DEGREES

Teresa Elizabeth Cypert Mauston
M.S.T., Reading

B.S., 2013, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
Program Advisor: Dr. Janine Fisk

Samantha Furman Oshkosh
M.S., Communication Sciences and Disorders
B.S., 2014, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
Program Advisor: Dr. Debbie Elledge

Kim Nicole Gould Amery
M.E.P.D., Professional Development (Library Science)
B.A., 2001, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
Program Advisor: Mr. Rob Reid

Lisa June Krueger Osseo
M.E.P.D., Professional Development (Library Science)
B.A., 2000, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
Program Advisor: Mr. Rob Reid

Kodai Noguchi Japan
M.S., Communication Sciences and Disorders
B.S., 2015, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
Program Advisor: Dr. Debbie Elledge
Thesis: Comparisons of Clinical Self-Efficacy and Stigma Variance in Speech-Language Pathologists Who Stutter and Do Not Stutter
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Abby Hemmerich

Lorene Emmaculada Pagcaliwagan Liverpool, NY
M.S., Communication Sciences and Disorders
Ph.D., 1997, The University of Alabama
M.A., 1994, Monterey Institute of International Studies
M.Ed., 1984, Harding University
B.A., 1983, Harding University
Program Advisor: Dr. Abby Hemmerich

Sara Joyce Perry Crandon
M.E.P.D., Professional Development (Library Science)
B.S., 2008, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
Program Advisor: Mr. Rob Reid

Dawn Marie Ternberg Eau Claire
M.S.T., Reading
B.S., 2006, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
Program Advisor: Dr. Janine Fisk

BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

Katherine Marie Abbott * Maple Grove, MN
B.S., Elementary Education

Dani Macae Allen *** Jordan, MN
B.S., Special Education

Nichole Marie Anders Greendale
B.S.W., Social Work

Rebekah Grayce Anderson ** Eau Claire
B.A., Art

Bailey Ann Babcock * Adams
B.S., Elementary Education

Kelsie Nichole Balon *** Eden Prairie, MN
B.A., English

Jessilyn Rose Balsiger * Pardeeville
B.S.W., Social Work

Caitlyn Rose Bauer *** Dodgeville
B.S., Special Education

Kylee Nicole Becker *** Stratford
B.S., Communication Sciences and Disorders

Katherine Ann Beebe Bruce
B.S., Elementary Education

Kassandra Behymer *** Watertown
B.S., Elementary Education

Amanda Michelle Bell * La Crosse
B.S., Elementary Education

Andrea Lee Benesh ** Chippewa Falls
B.A., Spanish

Ellen Margaret Bialka ** Cottage Grove, MN
B.S., Elementary Education

Kaylee LoRayne Biba * Waupaca
B.S., Kinesiology

Samantha Lee Blom ** Lino Lakes, MN
B.A., English

Erika Lynn Bohmke * New Richmond
B.S., Elementary Education

Nathan Joseph Bowe ** Nekoosa
B.S., Kinesiology

Melanie Marie Brandl *** Arpin
B.S., Special Education

Vicky Lee Bin Bray *** Elkhorn
B.S., Communication Sciences and Disorders

Delanie Brew ** Chanhassen, MN
B.S., Special Education

Madelyn Brown * Woodbury, MN
B.S., Special Education

Marlee Jean Brunow Twin Lakes
B.S., Kinesiology

Kayla Lea Buhmann ** Rice Lake
B.S.W., Social Work

Ashley Marie Caldecott * Sister Bay
B.S., Special Education

Morgan Sue Clark ** De Pere
B.S., Special Education

Christin Alyssa Coles *** Hustisford
B.S., Kinesiology

Megann Marie Coles ** Maple Grove, MN
B.S., Special Education

Adeline Lee Collins St Anthony, MN
B.S., Kinesiology

Haley Lynn Collum *** Chippewa Falls
University Honors
B.S., Kinesiology

Taylor Marie Copp * Brule
B.S., Elementary Education

Renee Lynn Culbertson *** Bristol
B.S., Kinesiology

Shea Joseph Danaher * Minneapolis, MN
B.A., Spanish

Devin Ray Dawson Antigo
B.S.W., Social Work

Kevin Joseph Dettlaff * Wauwatosa
B.S., Mathematics

Julia Ann-Vimala Devine Onalaska
B.S.W., Social Work

Dominic Lorange Domeyer * River Falls
B.M.E., Music

Madelyn Jean Downing *** Minneapolis, MN
B.S., Kinesiology

Joseph David Dreier * New London, MN
B.S., Elementary Education

Emily Jane Duhig ** Delafield
B.S., Special Education

Ashley Ann Eberle *** Stewartville, MN
B.S., Kinesiology

Claire Nicole Edgell ** Woodbury, MN
B.S., Elementary Education

Megan Ellingson * Savage, MN
B.S., Special Education

Mackenzie Hunn Erpenbach ** North Saint Paul, MN
B.S.W., Social Work

Clancy Elizabeth Ferris Eden Prairie, MN
B.S.W., Social Work

Megan Liane Finstad ** Howards Grove
B.M.E., Music

Taylor Marie Flandrick * Maple Grove, MN
B.S., Kinesiology

Stephanie Marika Forster ** Eau Claire
B.S., Elementary Education

Dawnell Leanne Franklin * Seattle, WA
B.S., Kinesiology

Kathryn Marie Rose Franks * Independence
B.S., Kinesiology

Nicole Marie Fraser ** Green Bay
B.S., Kinesiology

Carley Sue Fredrickson *** South Milwaukee
B.S., Elementary Education

Sierra Nichole Freid * Barron
B.S., Kinesiology

Aliex Nichole Friend ** Poplar
B.S., Elementary Education

Sarah Diane Gallardo ** Victoria, MN
B.S., Special Education

Jessica Elaine Gemmill *** Killeen, TX
B.S., Communication Sciences and Disorders

Samantha Lynn Genereaux * Sarona
B.S., Special Education

Kara Kristine Glendenning ** Woodbury, MN
B.S., Special Education

Emily Francine Gokey ** Owen
B.A., English

Thomas Gregory Graf ** Eagle
B.S., Kinesiology

Ashley Lynn Gronlund * Superior
B.S.W., Social Work

Aspyn Julia Gruber Colgate
B.S., Kinesiology

Eric Gerald Hahn ** Pittsville
B.S., Elementary Education

Rachel Ann Hall Sarona
B.S.W., Social Work

Savannah Heller ** Madison
B.S., Special Education

Caroline Elizabeth Henderson * Duluth, MN
B.S., Special Education

Zachary Wallace Hershey Stoughton
B.S., Kinesiology

Brianna Marie Hodgson ** Green Bay
B.S., Special Education

Stephanie Ann Holmes *** Mahtomedi, MN
B.S., Communication Sciences and Disorders

Hope Celeste Howard ** Strum
B.S., Special Education

Breanna Denise Huff * Tomah
B.S., Mathematics

Christopher Darin Hugo ** Columbia Heights, MN
B.S., Kinesiology

Hannah Evelyn Hulke ** Eau Claire
B.S., Elementary Education

Morgan Nicole Hyatt Ontario
B.S., Communication Sciences and Disorders

Hunter Sean Jeske Holmen
B.M.E., Music

Kayla Louise Johnson ** Victoria, MN
B.S., Special Education

Addy Jo Kafka De Pere
B.S.W., Social Work

Meaghan Christine Kelly Fitchburg
B.S., Kinesiology

Maggie Claire Dorothy Kettner ** Appleton
B.S., Special Education

Victoria RaeAnn King ** Eagan, MN
B.A., English

Allison Laura Klopp * Pewaukee
B.S., Special Education

Brandy Kolditz *** Peoria, IL
B.S., Communication Sciences and Disorders

Freesia Gavielle Krogstad ** Chippewa Falls
B.A., English

Taylor Adam Kroll * Casco
B.S., Kinesiology

Lena Michele Lambrigtsen ** Mondovi
B.M.E., Music

Emily Jane Larranaga * Chanhassen, MN
B.S., Elementary Education and Spanish

Marissa Christine Larson ** Woodbury, MN
B.S., Elementary Education

Matthew Curt Laudenbach Clear Lake, MN
B.M.E., Music

Mariah Lynn Lavold * Apple Valley, MN
B.S.W., Social Work

Colleen Sue Leary *** Stevens Point
B.S., Special Education

Natalie Jean Lemke ** Cottage Grove
B.S., Kinesiology

Jacob Palmer Lerum Pepin
B.S., Elementary Education

Carl Lightfoot Chicago, IL
B.S., Kinesiology

Alea Pappas Lipinski ** Irvington, NY
B.S., Elementary Education

Moriah Janice Locke Merrill
B.S., Special Education

David Matthew Lofy Merrill
B.M.E., Music

Yer Lor * Holmen
B.S., Communication Sciences and Disorders

Shannon Marie Lynch ** Blaine, MN
B.S., Special Education

Moriah Alexis Main ** Rib Lake
B.S., Biology

Kelsey Marie Maki ** Tomahawk
B.S., Elementary Education

Haley Elisabeth Mazurek * Grayslake, IL
B.S., Kinesiology

Emily Josephine Mcghee Antigo
B.S., Kinesiology

Andrew Robert Mcwilliams Pewaukee
B.S., Kinesiology

David Aaron Menk *** Manitowoc
B.A., Social Studies

Kelsey Fay Meredith * Golden Valley, MN
B.S.W., Social Work

Emily Jo Merryfield *** Wausau
B.S., Elementary Education

Jase Andrew Meyer * Wausau
B.S., Kinesiology

Amber Rose Miller ** Chetek
B.S., Elementary Education

Bailey Louise Moon ** Chetek
B.S., Special Education

Kaitlyn Mary Moran Chippewa Falls
B.S., Communication Sciences and Disorders

Clarissa Kay Moschkau ** New Auburn
B.A., Social Studies

Connor Scott Murray Saint Bonifacius, MN
B.S., Kinesiology

Jessica Nagel ** Savage, MN
B.S., Kinesiology

Laura Kelsey Neil ** Dodgeville
B.S.W., Social Work and Spanish

Emily Therese Newton ** Brookfield
B.S., Special Education

Blake Timothy Nikolai * Oregon
B.S., Kinesiology

Nicole Ann Nikolay *** Auburndale
B.S., Special Education

Lindsey Patricia Opelt *** Neillsville
B.S., Kinesiology

Sabrina Joy Orth ** Abbotsford
B.S., Special Education

Grace Elizabeth Park ** Madison
B.S., Special Education

Matthew Charles Passineau Wisconsin Rapids
B.S.W., Social Work

Mikhail Sergey Patros La Crosse
B.S., Kinesiology

Kayla J Patterson *** Merrillan
B.S., Elementary Education

Amanda Jean Pavlicek *** Rosemount, MN
B.S., Kinesiology

Megan Elizabeth Pawlak * Grafton
B.S., Elementary Education

Annabell Caroline Pedersen ** Waunakee
University Honors
B.S., Elementary Education

Angela Ocianna Perez Waukegan, IL
B.S.W., Social Work

Paige Emberg Peterson *** Maple Grove, MN
B.S., Elementary Education

Michael Jordan Priefer Jr Mound, MN
B.S., Kinesiology

Dhyana Rabe ** Madison
B.S., Elementary Education and Theatre Arts

Michelle Anna Radtke ** Eau Claire
B.S.W., Social Work

Tricia Lynn Reetz Eau Claire
B.S., Kinesiology

Reid Ellsworth Richards ** Wausau
B.S., Elementary Education

Hailey Marie Richardson ** Durand
B.S., Special Education

Logan Rosemeyer ** Gilman
B.S., Mathematics

Samuel Robert Rossmiller *** Wausau
B.A., Social Studies

Paige Nancey Ruhland *** Sauk City
B.S., Special Education

Zachary Hunter Ruhland Eau Claire
B.S., Kinesiology

Caitlyn Elizabeth Russell ** Inver Grove Heights, MN
B.S., Special Education

Kourtney Paige Ryan ** Delano, MN
B.M.E., Music

Mariah Florence Sands *** Eleva
University Honors
B.M.E., Music

Olivia Lynn Schneider ** Malone
B.S., Special Education

Kasey Katherine Schumacher Jim Falls
B.S., Kinesiology

Brooke Lee Seubert *** Marathon
B.S., Kinesiology

Haley L Shepardson *** Holmen
B.S., Elementary Education

Tara Jo Shilha ** Chippewa Falls
B.S.W., Social Work

Jerome Donald Sindberg ** Waterford
B.S., Kinesiology

Zackary M Sirny * Wild Rose
B.S., Kinesiology

Hannah Maria Sislo De Pere
B.A., English

Riley Dawn Smith Black River Falls
B.S., Kinesiology

Kathryn Dawn Sparks ** Land O Lakes
B.S., Elementary Education

Amanda Elizabeth Statz *** Neillsville
B.S.W., Social Work

Megan Lea Strobach ** Medford
B.S., Elementary Education

Kara Lynn Stuckmayer * Dayton, MN
B.S., Kinesiology

Morgan Marie Sturm ** Prior Lake, MN
B.S., Special Education

Manayal Suhail ** Eleva
B.S., Elementary Education

Morgan Marie Swartzendruber ** Menomonee Falls
University Honors
B.S.W., Social Work

Molly Bridget Sweeney ** Woodbury, MN
B.S., Special Education

Terri Lyn Swenson Kellogg, MN
B.S., Kinesiology

Jacob Steven Swiecichowski Pulaski
B.S., Elementary Education

Briana Theiste Eau Claire
B.A., English

Millaine Marie Thiel Appleton
B.S., Communication Sciences and Disorders

Rachael Christine Tiede * Green Bay
B.S., Special Education

Rachel Elizabeth Tierney *** Shawano
B.A., Social Studies

Jessica Thuy Tran * Roseville, MN
B.S., Elementary Education

Alyssa Ruth Ellin Tulman Bruner * New Richmond
B.S.W., Social Work

Janette Hadley Turner * Eau Claire
B.S., Communication Sciences and Disorders

Erin Shea Van Handel ** Appleton
B.S., Communication Sciences and Disorders

Keri Marie Vanden Heuvel Neenah
B.S., Kinesiology and Psychology

Justina Jewel Vanningan * Tomah
B.S., Special Education

Samantha Anita Vanwyk * Sheboygan
B.S., Special Education

Brianna Kim Velie ** Bruce
B.S.W., Social Work

Jessica Marie Wisocky * Gilman
B.S., Special Education

Diosa Marie Sicat Withington * Bruce
B.S.W., Social Work

Savannah Norma Wolter ** Barnes
University Honors
B.A., English

Bria Marie Wunderlich *** Owatonna, MN
B.S., Elementary Education

Kathy Xiong Rice Lake
B.S., Elementary Education

Rebekah Nou Yang ** Eau Claire
University Honors
B.S., Elementary Education

Jenna Lynn Zais * Lindstrom, MN
B.S., Elementary Education

Margaret Frances Zeidel *** Afton, MN
B.M.E., Music

Taylor Marie Ziegler Middleton
B.S., Kinesiology

College of Business

MASTER'S DEGREES

Jennifer Rose Blegen Bloomington, MN
University of Wisconsin Consortium Degree
M.B.A. Business Administration
B.A., 2011, University of Saint Thomas
Program Advisor: Dr. Robert C. Erffmeyer

Kelly Blindauer Duluth, MN
University of Wisconsin Consortium Degree
M.B.A. Business Administration
B.S., 2009, University of Wisconsin-Platteville
Program Advisor: Dr. Robert C. Erffmeyer

Monica Danielle Caraballo Springfield, MO
University of Wisconsin Consortium Degree
M.B.A. Business Administration
B.S., 2012, University of Wisconsin-Parkside
Program Advisor: Dr. Robert C. Erffmeyer

Brian Christopher Coniglio New Providence, NJ
University of Wisconsin Consortium Degree
M.B.A. Business Administration
B.S., 1998, University of Maryland-College Park
Program Advisor: Dr. Robert C. Erffmeyer

Timothy Michael DeWitt Beardstown, IL
University of Wisconsin Consortium Degree
M.B.A. Business Administration
B.A., 2001, Western Illinois University
Program Advisor: Dr. Robert C. Erffmeyer

Justin Lee Durtschi Cedarburg
University of Wisconsin Consortium Degree
M.B.A. Business Administration
B.S., 2008, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
Program Advisor: Dr. Robert C. Erffmeyer

Satyaki Dutta Fremont, CA
University of Wisconsin Consortium Degree
M.B.A. Business Administration
B.E., 1995, University of Poona
Program Advisor: Dr. Robert C. Erffmeyer

Monica M. Dvorak Wausau
University of Wisconsin Consortium Degree
M.B.A. Business Administration
B.A., 1995, Dominican University
Program Advisor: Dr. Robert C. Erffmeyer

Matthew John Eckert De Pere
University of Wisconsin Consortium Degree
M.B.A. Business Administration
B.S., 2004, Saint Cloud State University
Program Advisor: Dr. Robert C. Erffmeyer

Jared Ryan Freudenberg Plymouth, MN
University of Wisconsin Consortium Degree
M.B.A. Business Administration
B.A., 2011, University of Minnesota-Duluth
Program Advisor: Dr. Robert C. Erffmeyer

Robert G. Ginter Algonquin, IL
University of Wisconsin Consortium Degree
M.B.A. Business Administration
B.S., 2014, Saint John's University
Program Advisor: Dr. Robert C. Erffmeyer

Bryan Joseph Gross Eau Claire
University of Wisconsin Consortium Degree
M.B.A. Business Administration
B.S., 2003, University of Phoenix
Program Advisor: Dr. Robert C. Erffmeyer

Jeff Michael Hall Wrenshall, MN
University of Wisconsin Consortium Degree
M.B.A. Business Administration
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B.B.A., Marketing

Michaela Marie Anderson ** Cottage Grove, MN
B.B.A., Management

Chase Ethan Antolak Butternuts, NY
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Holly Jean Austin * Freedom
B.B.A., Management

Blake Kenneth Bertrand Chippewa Falls
B.B.A., Business Administration

Ivy Brooke Biederman Strum
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B.B.A., Accounting

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B.B.A., Accounting and Business Finance

Theodore Frederick Caya * La Crosse
B.B.A., Business Administration

Jeff Sun Chang Malaysia
B.B.A., Management

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B.B.A., Accounting and Business Finance

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College of Arts and Sciences

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M.S.E., 2015, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
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Program Advisor: Dr. Mary Beth Tusing
Thesis: A Needs Assessment of Teacher Beliefs and PBIS Practices in Early Childhood
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Mary Beth Tusing

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Ed.S., School Psychology
M.S.E., 2013, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
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Thesis: Destination Collaboration: Do Students Increase their Knowledge of Others Following an Interprofessional Learning Experience?
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Mary Beth Tusing

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M.A., History
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M.S.E., School Psychology
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M.S.E., School Psychology
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M.S.E., School Psychology
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M.S.E., School Psychology
B.S., 2016, University of Wisconsin-Madison
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M.S., Data Science
B.S., 2013, State University of New York College
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M.S., Data Science
B.S., 2000, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
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M.A., English-Writing
B.A., 2000, Columbia College
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Thesis: The Icescape: A Young Adult Novel
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Jack Bushnell

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M.S.E., School Psychology
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M.S., Data Science
B.S., 2005, University of Wisconsin-Madison
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B.A., Communication

Jennifer Sue Alderman ** Aurora, IL
B.S., Biology

Olivia Lynn Alloy Marinette
B.S., Geology

Hannah Renee Anderson *** Lakeville, MN
B.S., Biology

Theodore Jon Anderson Spring Valley
B.S., Physics

Abigail Christine Arens Delano, MN
B.S., Psychology

Colton John Ashley * Weyerhaeuser
B.A., Political Science

Jesse Lee BaDour *** Milwaukee
B.A., Latin American Studies and Spanish

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B.A., Philosophy

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B.A., Spanish

Mitchell Charles Banach * Salem
B.S., Geology

Brea Ann Nicholle Bandt Laona
B.A., Integrated Strategic Communication

Jenna Lynn Barlow * Lino Lakes, MN
B.S., Biology

Kiersten Deseree Bauer * Germantown
B.A., History and Geography

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B.S., Biology

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B.S., Biology

Sarah Elaine Hudson ** Cottage Grove
B.A., Psychology

Olivia Florence Hurst * Eden Prairie, MN
B.S., Chemistry

Maggie Sue Jackson Clear Lake, MN
B.A., Geography

Erica Rose Jansen Chanhassen, MN
B.S., Geography

Luke James Jarocki ** Withee
B.S., Physics

Andrew Patrick Jeffers Appleton
B.S., Geography

Kezia Annette Jenkins * Eagan, MN
B.S., Women's Studies

Olivia Anne Jensen Chetek
B.A., Psychology

Hui Su Jeong ** Korea, Republic of
B.S., Biology

Ashleigh Nicole Johnson ** Waunakee
B.A., Criminal Justice

Brady Lawrence Johnson * Freedom
B.S., Psychology

Gunner Kevin Johnson Waseca, MN
B.S., Sociology

Joshua Scott Johnson Afton, MN
B.A., Political Science

Logan Paul Johnson ** Owatonna, MN
B.S., Integrated Strategic Communication

John Andrew Jonas Watertown
B.A., Criminal Justice

Laura Ruth Jones Holm * Elk Mound
B.A., Women's Studies

Molly Anne Jones Mayville
B.A., Political Science

Brannon Robert Jordan New Brighton, MN
B.F.A., Art

Denise Elizabeth Kannegiesser Hayward
B.A., Psychology

Vanessa Shae Kelton *** Nelson
University Honors
B.S., English

Hannah Noel Kennedy ** Stillwater, MN
B.M., Music

Alexander William Kent Eau Claire
B.S., Sociology

Koua Kha Minneapolis, MN
B.A., Sociology

Jacob Matthew Knutson ** Kasson, MN
B.S., Mathematics

James Robert Koenig Forest Lake, MN
B.S., Computer Science

Nathalia Helene Louise Kohlhase Green Bay
B.S.E.P.H., Environmental Public Health

Joseph Paul Kollman * Eau Claire
B.S., Computer Science

Alyssa L Krantz * Waunakee
B.A., Geography

Lisa Sue Krawczyk * Milwaukee
B.A., English

Jeffrey Robert Krismer * Maple Grove, MN
B.S., Biology

Kelsey Lynne Kronholm *** Wisconsin Rapids
B.A., Psychology

Tia Lynne Krueger Oshkosh
B.S., Psychology and Women's Studies

Morgan Elizabeth Kubishak * Osseo
B.S., Geology

Makenzie Lee Kuivanen Kronenwetter
B.A., Integrated Strategic Communication

Jordon David Kunya Eau Claire
B.A., Psychology

Cera Kay Langton ** Buffalo, MN
B.S., Biology

Katelyn Rose Larson Rhinelander
B.S., Communication

Rachel Marie Lavender ** Galesville
B.A., History

Long Hoang Le ** Viet Nam
B.S., Computer Science

Brittney Shane Learning Ashland
B.A., Psychology

Steffen Jonathan Pheng-Tu Lee * Menasha
B.A., Communication

Allison Leigh Lenzmeier Saint Cloud, MN
B.S., Geography

Emma Rose Lincks Waterloo
B.A., Criminal Justice

Cassandra Rose Lirette New Berlin
B.S., Biology

Hannah Elisabet Lodes Cedarburg
B.S., Biology

Nadia Jaclyn Loebaka Eau Claire
B.A., Political Science

Mary Heather Lombardo Osseo
B.A., Art

Leydi Lopez Rosales * Owen
B.A., Psychology and Spanish

Nancy Lor * Eau Claire
B.F.A., Art

Nouchee Lor Wausau
B.A., Sociology

Max Anthony Luppino * Blaine, MN
B.A., Criminal Justice

Zoe Audrey Lyons * Appleton
B.S., Economics

Nicholas Edward Marquis Hudson
B.S., Computer Science

Maria Adelheit Martin * Chippewa Falls
B.A., Communication

John Vincent Martinek New Brighton, MN
B.A., Journalism

Munirah Liyana Binti Mazlan Malaysia
B.A., Economics

Travis Cecil McCann Fall Creek
B.A., Criminal Justice

Jaboidia Therese McIntyre Fall Creek
B.A., Sociology

Lynita A. Miller * Blair
B.L.S., Liberal Studies

Shelby Muriel Miller Madison
B.A., History

Steven Richard Miller * Madison
B.S., Spanish and Biology

Walker Joseph Miller Holmen
B.S., Geology

Madeline Mary Mitchell Rice Lake
B.A., Psychology

Brayden Edward Modjeska Mukwonago
B.L.S., Liberal Studies

Simon Matthew Moe *** Appleton
B.S., Psychology

Claudia Grace Moore Kiel
B.S., Geology

Meredith Ariana Mortimer * Eau Claire
B.F.A., Art

Nicolette Marie Nauman Norwalk
B.A., Political Science

Nicole Rasheda Neal Chicago, IL
B.A., Integrated Strategic Communication

Madison Jo Noble Apple Valley, MN
B.A., Criminal Justice

Hailey Marie Novak ** Wausau
B.A., English

Xenia S. Obias Eau Claire
B.A., Psychology

Danielle Lynn Olson Burnsville, MN
B.L.S., Liberal Studies

Trey William Olson * Highland
B.S., Biochemistry / Molecular Biology

Charles Ryan Ommen ** Lakeville, MN
B.A., History

Garrett Roger Opay Oconomowoc
B.S., Materials Science

Leland Henry Orfield * Mequon
B.A., Integrated Strategic Communication

Isaac Elias Pacheco Eau Claire
B.S., Biology

Christa Hannah Pachniak Mosinee
B.A., Communication

Katelyn Leone Perry Green Bay
B.A., Communication

Bailey Lizbeth Peter * Ringle
B.A., Sociology

Zoe Anne Peters ** La Farge
B.A., Spanish

Nicholas Ronald Peterson * Bloomer
B.S., Psychology

Trenton John Piltz ** Eau Claire
B.A., Criminal Justice

Luke Praschak Somerset
B.S., Geography

Megan Bernadine Prosek ** Eau Claire
B.S., Biology

Michelle G Purdun Antigo
B.S., Psychology

Casey James Raethke * Pepin
B.S., Computer Science

Jack Killian Ray ** Trevor
B.A., Psychology

Samantha Joan Redman Eau Claire
B.S., Chemistry with Business Emphasis

Lauren Rose Richardson *** Edgerton
University Honors
B.A., English

Caitlin Rose Richmond ** Braham, MN
B.A., Psychology

Trace Jordan Richolson Janesville
B.A., Art

Jeremy Paul Richter Osceola
B.A., Theatre Arts

Shelby Frances Riemenschneider * Eau Claire
B.A., Communication

Lindsay Nicole Rockwell Eau Claire
B.A., Art

Timothy Richard Roth ** Wausau
University Honors
B.A., Computer Science

Kendall Alise Ruchti Kenosha
B.A., Mass Communication

Katelyn Renee Sabelko *** Eau Claire
B.A., English

Christopher James Schade Durand
B.S., Criminal Justice

Michael Henry Schaefer Eden Prairie, MN
B.S., Computer Science

Tabitha McCall Schafer Stillwater, MN
B.S., Biology

Dylan Michael Schindler Eau Claire
B.A., Spanish and Latin American Studies

Kellan James Schraa Mellen
B.S., Physics

Bradley Scott Schroeder Marshfield
B.S., Computer Science

Terrance Raymond Shaurette * Chippewa Falls
B.S., Biology

Erica Lyn Shrader * Vadnais Heights, MN
B.A., History

Conrad Richard Simmering Rosemount, MN
B.S., Physics

Meghan Elizabeth Simoens ** Green Bay
B.A., Psychology

Catherine Siena Sinden-Stolte North Saint Paul, MN
B.P.S., Organizational Leadership and Communication

Benjamin David Smethurst * Prairie du Chien
B.A., Integrated Strategic Communication

Daniel James Snell Madison
B.S., Computer Science

Christopher Soczka Edgar
B.A., Political Science and Sociology

Nicole Beth Sornson ** Altoona
B.A., Psychology

Corey Matthew Steier De Pere
B.S., Biochemistry / Molecular Biology

Melaina Dawn Steig Pigeon Falls
B.A., Integrated Strategic Communication

Emily Faye Stephenson Chippewa Falls
B.S., Psychology

Bradley Stephen Storms Eden Prairie, MN
B.S., Biology

Austin Wayne Stutzman Eau Claire
B.F.A., Art

Mark Francis Sutton ** Fond du Lac
B.S., Biology

Joel Marcus James Sweeney Tomah
B.L.S., Liberal Studies

Shannon Lee Swodzinski Oak Creek
B.A., Integrated Strategic Communication

Christine Rachel Sydow *** Round Lake, MN
B.F.A., Art

Taylor Nicole Syers Ellison Bay
B.A., Religious Studies

Sarah Ann Hannorah Tervo *** Eagan, MN
B.S., Psychology

Aaron Ray Tessendorf Eau Claire
B.P.S., Organizational Leadership and Communication

Kathryn Ann Theisen *** Saint Paul, MN
University Honors
B.A., English

Weston Mack Tobias ** Altoona
University Honors
B.S., Chemistry

Kevin Louis Trushenski ** Lakeville, MN
B.A., Geography and Spanish

Matthew Joseph Turcotte Mounds View, MN
B.A., Psychology

Mackenzie Deanna Turner Stanley
B.S., Biology

Zachary Steven Valk Altoona
B.S., History

Caitlin Marie VanDrisse Maple Grove, MN
B.A., Psychology

Kabao Angel Vang Oakdale, MN
B.A., English

Mary Summer Vang Weston
B.A., English

Eileen Eighmy Vasey Elk Mound
B.S., Biochemistry / Molecular Biology

Ka Vue *** Eau Claire
B.A., Communication

Austin Wardean * Durand
B.S., Chemistry with Business Emphasis

Ashley Weant Bunker Hill, IL
B.A., Psychology

Spencer Abram Webb Hudson
B.S., Physics

Tyler Jacob Weilbrenner * Janesville
B.S., Biology

Adam Francis Werner Stillwater, MN
B.S., Chemistry with Business Emphasis

Troy Karl Wesley Marshall
B.S., Biology

Elly Rose West Turtle Lake
B.F.A., Art

Helen Marie White Rice Lake
B.A., English

Austin Gray Williams * Stillwater, MN
B.M., Music

Melanie Dale Williams River Falls
B.A., Criminal Justice

Patrick Ryan Williams Wild Rose
B.A., Art

Dylan Keith Wilson Fall Creek
B.S.E.P.H., Environmental Public Health

Bianca Danielle Winter Cornell
B.A., Psychology

Jeremy Dwayne Winterberg Eau Claire
B.S., Computer Science

Rachel Witthoft Clear Lake
B.A., Spanish and English

Yer Linda Xiong Bethel, MN
B.A., Integrated Strategic Communication

Luogen Xu *** China
B.S., Physics

Johnny Yang Saint Paul, MN
B.S.E.P.H., Environmental Public Health

Mai Lou Yang ** Schofield
B.A., Sociology and Art

Alexander Matthew Yde Weston
B.S., Biology

Kee Shen Yim ***† Malaysia
B.S., Mathematics

JaCey Lynn Yonke Antigo
B.A., Integrated Strategic Communication

Taylor Schmidt Zellmer ** Eagan, MN
B.A., Integrated Strategic Communication and Spanish

Naiyue Zhao China
B.A., Art



SPECIAL THANK YOU TO

Rachel Kohn, signing for the deaf and hard of hearing

Readers

Dana Strothenke, Senior Theatre Arts Major

Mckenzie Currie, Senior Theatre Arts and Integrated
Strategic Communications Double Major

COMMENCEMENT PRODUCTION AND COORDINATION STAFF

Evan Weiher, Commencement Marshal,
Chair, University Senate

Debra Lang, Events and Special Projects
Coordinator, Offices of the Chancellor
and UW-Eau Claire Foundation

Corry Mahnke, Commencement Assistant

Jane Larson, Coordinator of
Alumni Engagement and the Alumni
Association Board of Directors

Aaron J. Moen and members of the University
Centers Event Services student staff

Tessa Derickson, Registrar
and the Degree Review staff

UW-Eau Claire Integrated Marketing
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Mark Andrl, Tina Wolfram and staff
members of University Printing Services

Brooke Weiss and staff members
of the University Service Center

Learning and Technology Services staff

GradImages, Fairfield, Iowa
Blugold Dining by Sodexo

DEGREE INTERPRETATIONS

- B.A. Bachelor of Arts
- B.B.A. Bachelor of Business Administration
- B.F.A. Bachelor of Fine Arts
- B.L.S. Bachelor of Liberal Studies
- B.M. Bachelor of Music
- B.M.E. Bachelor of Music Education
- B.P.S. Bachelor of Professional Studies
- B.S. Bachelor of Science
- B.S.E.P.H. Bachelor of Science in Environmental Public Health
- B.S.H.C.A. Bachelor of Science in Health Care Administration
- B.S.N. Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- B.S.W. Bachelor of Social Work
- D.N.P. Doctor of Nursing Practice
- Ed.S. Specialist in Education
- M.A. Master of Arts
- M.B.A. Master of Business Administration
- M.E.P.D. Master of Education-Professional Development
- M.S. Master of Science
- M.S.E. Master of Science in Education
- M.S.N. Master of Science in Nursing
- M.S.T. Master of Science in Teaching

HONORS PROGRAM

The Honors Program provides an extra measure of challenge and enrichment for students who are academically distinguished by previous and current achievements and by high levels of motivation and curiosity. The program seeks to challenge exceptionally able students to perform at the highest level of which they are capable, to enhance their capacity for critical inquiry and independent learning, and to develop their potential for leadership in their future vocations. The Honors Program has two components: University Honors and Departmental Honors. Students may complete one or both components. Students graduating with University Honors have attained a grade-point average of at

least 3.5 and have completed at least 24 University Honors credits. Graduates receiving University Honors are identified by a gold ribbon and medal.

In addition, 32 scholastic honor societies are recognized at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. They exist primarily to recognize the attainment of scholarship of a superior quality and to confer distinction for high achievement in undergraduate, graduate and professional studies; in student leadership; and in various fields of research. Baccalaureate candidates who are members of scholastic honor societies are identified by silver cords.

ACADEMIC APPAREL

The academic apparel worn by the faculty and staff in the procession has its origins in the universities of the Middle Ages. Because the universities grew out of church schools, both faculty and students were regarded as part of the clergy and wore clerical clothing based on monastic dress.

The head covering developed from the skullcap worn to protect tonsured heads in cold weather. In the universities, the skullcap acquired a point on top, which gradually evolved into a tassel. In Europe the bonnet with tassel is still worn but has been replaced in America by the mortarboard cap or tam with tassel.

The style of the gown may have been borrowed from the Benedictine monk's habit. In the Middle Ages, those with

bachelor's and master's degrees could be distinguished by the simplicity or elaborateness of their gowns. The master's gowns were often furred, a decoration surviving as the three velvet bars now used on the sleeves of the doctoral gown.

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

UNIVERSITY MACE AND STAND

The University Mace represents the proud history and community connections of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. It was donated in 2016 in honor of the University's centennial by Dr. Susan Harrison, emerita professor of Mathematics, who served for 15 years as chair of the University Senate and commencement marshal. The mace includes wood from the original Council Oak tree and Kent

State Memorial trees that was saved when the trees were replaced. It was crafted by members of the Chippewa Valley Woodturners Guild. The University Medallion at the center of the Mace was Dr. Harrison's, given in recognition of her university service. The Mace reminds graduates of the University's history of excellence and its many contributions to the people of the region and of Wisconsin.

Senior Class Gift

Each year, graduating seniors have an opportunity to commemorate their graduation by making a gift to the UW-Eau Claire Foundation. This semester, more than 75 seniors joined our community of alumni who support UW-Eau Claire each year.

Graduating seniors were encouraged to donate to any area of the university including academic colleges and departments or the Excellence Fund to support UW-Eau Claire's overall mission. By making a senior class gift, students are able to support current and future Blugolds even after they graduate.

The UW-Eau Claire Foundation thanks the following seniors for their generosity and for participating in the Senior Class Gift campaign. Senior class gift donors can be recognized wearing Blue and Gold Spirit Cords during the commencement ceremony. The following seniors made a gift of at least \$20.17 to commemorate their graduation year and to support UW-Eau Claire:

Steven E. Ackerson
Olivia L. Alloy
Holly J. Austin
Jesse L. BaDour
Caitlyn R. Bauer
Arjen C. Blanker
Lisa R. Boland
Yi Xuan Cheng
Renee L. Culbertson
Kailee D. Culver
Grace E. Deck
Sarah F. Doroff
Adam F. Duffy
Madeline M. Earley
Kaleb M. Farragh
Dane H. Forster
Spencer L. Golden
Philip R. Goldman
Graham R. Goodwiler

Lauren A. Graves
Mary E. Hanson
Kendra J. Harding
Heather M. Harkins
Angela E. Hazen
Natalie L. Hegna
Jamie A. Hoelter
Stephanie A. Holmes
Roxanne E. Holt
Ashley I. Howard Goltz
Misty L. Howland
Samuel F. Jasperson
Andrew P. Jeffers
Joshua S. Johnson
Justin R. Johnson
Chase J. Kazmierkoski
Kelsey L. Kronholm
Katelyn R. Larson
Mariah L. Lavold

Nadia J. Loebaka
Ashley R. Longsdorf
Nancy Lor
Madeline M. Mitchell
Claudia G. Moore
Meredith A. Mortimer
Nicole R. Neal
Angela O. Perez
Zoe A. Peters
Chloe C. Peterson
Michael J. Priefer
Collin J. Printz
Samantha J. Redman
Lauren R. Richardson
Lindsay N. Rockwell
Danielle M. Rodriguez
Andrew J. Rom
Kendall A. Ruchti
Katelyn R. Sabelko

Mariah F. Sands
Michael D. Schadeberg
Dylan M. Schindler
Angel L. Schmidt
Christine N. Schoenberger
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Cierra E. Shaver
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Terri L. Swenson
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Briana Theiste
Jessica M. Traw
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Alexander M. Yde
Jacey L. Yonke
Taylor S. Zellmer
Taylor M. Ziegler

**Some donors are not listed per request*

Alumni Awards

Six alumni and friends of the university are receiving awards from the UW-Eau Claire Alumni Association today, recognizing their professional and personal successes as well as their contributions to their alma mater, their communities and their professions. In these pages we introduce you to these distinguished Blugolds as they share their best advice with today's graduates and welcome them into the Blugold alumni family.

OUTSTANDING RECENT ALUMNUS AWARD

The Outstanding Recent Alumnus Award acknowledges the special achievements and great promise of alumni who are within 15 years of their graduation from UW-Eau Claire.



Dang Yang '08
bachelor's degree in public communication

Dang Yang has emerged as an outstanding leader in advising, recruitment and retention of diverse and underrepresented students in higher education.

In 2016 he was named diversity manager at Chippewa Valley Technical College. Yang previously had served since 2008 as multicultural recruitment and retention coordinator in the School of Education at UW-Stout. In 2012, he earned a master's degree in multicultural college teaching and learning from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities.

In 2015 Yang received two prestigious awards: the Ann Lydecker Educational Diversity Award from the state Council on Affirmative Action and the Friend of Education Award from the state Department of Public Instruction. Both awards recognized Yang's commitment to recruiting and retaining students from diverse populations pursuing careers in the teaching profession.

Yang's parents came to the U.S. as refugees in 1979 as a result of the Vietnam War. His family's experience has had the greatest impact on his motivation and career path.

"From the ashes of this historical trauma, I am driven by a burning desire to help people," Yang says. "As such, I inadvertently — and most happily — found the starting point of my career."

Dr. Judy Sims, UW-Eau Claire professor emerita of communication and journalism, remembers Yang as a student who had a sincere respect for education, which he demonstrated both inside and outside of class.

"Dang is a young leader with vision and great promise — and a serious force for diverse, low-income and underrepresented students," Sims says. "He inspires and motivates; his actions, which challenge the status quo, serve to strengthen our community and enlighten academia."

Advice to new Blugold alumni:

Make a decision. There is something to be said about the value of options and choice, but too often, I find myself spending so much time examining what my choices are that I never get to the decision. I imagine that others have experienced this as well. As our choices and options have significantly increased because of our smartphones, we sometimes find ourselves in a state of choice paralysis. Whether it's trying to decide which restaurant to patronize or which job offer to accept, break out of that paralysis, make an educated and ethical decision, and be prepared to face the implications — whatever they may be.

ALUMNI DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Alumni Distinguished Achievement Award recognizes distinguished service to the community, state or nation in a manner that brings credit upon the recipient and the university.



Randall Larson '79

bachelor's degree in accounting

After graduating from UW-Eau Claire and earning his MBA at UW-Madison, Randall Larson began what would be a more than 20-year career with the audit, tax and advisory firm KPMG.

Larson spent his first nine years with KPMG in Denver, Colorado, and then moved to the firm's national office in New York City. He was nominated by KPMG for a professional accounting fellowship at the Securities and Exchange Commission in Washington, D.C., where he served for two years before returning to KPMG in New York as a national office partner. He then transferred to San Jose, California, where KPMG ultimately promoted him to the role of western area risk management partner and a member of the firm's Risk Management Committee.

In 2002, he left KPMG to become the chief financial officer at TransMontaigne Inc., a Fortune 500 company in Denver that is a leading distributor of unbranded refined petroleum products. In 2006 he was promoted to chief executive officer at TransMontaigne, a position he held until his retirement in 2009. Larson currently serves on the boards of directors of two public companies involved in the energy business.

Larson has been a donor to faculty advancement and scholarship funds in UW-Eau Claire's College of Business. This November, he returned to campus to share his expertise with College of Business students. He also volunteered as a judge in the college's Swim with the Sharks event.

Advice to new Blugold alumni:

To be successful, you have to be passionate about the subject or task at hand. You need to determine what "floats your boat," and go do it. Without passion, you likely will just go through the motions.

Confidence is another key requirement to be successful. Believe in yourself. Take control of your destiny. You have much more influence over your career path than you may currently believe to be the case. Lean in.

When evaluating a job opportunity or career path, do not forget to consider the nature and types of experiences and challenges that you would like to encounter. It is not always about money or promotions, but rather am I getting the experience and opportunities to take me to the next level. Take the initiative to schedule conversations with your supervisor about your performance and future assignments, especially if you are thinking about changing jobs or careers.



Shawn Pfaff '94

bachelor's degree in social studies education

Shawn Pfaff's love of government and politics has taken him on a path from middle school civics teacher to aide in Congress and the Wisconsin Governor's office, to mayor of his community, to

sought-after government relations professional with his own public affairs firm.

Pfaff credits his drive to participate in democracy to his two favorite UW-Eau Claire political science professors, Dr. Mort Sipress and the late Dr. Sylvia Sipress. Following college, he was a middle school civics and industrial arts teacher for three years in Holmen and Mt. Horeb, where he also coached high school football and softball. He then pursued an opportunity to work as a legislative aide in Congress for three years, focusing on agricultural and trade issues.

After earning his master's degree in public affairs from UW-Madison, Pfaff joined the administration of then Governor Jim Doyle as an agency affairs advisor, and he served as deputy manager for Doyle's successful 2006 re-election campaign. He then became a senior associate with Capitol Consultants Inc., a bipartisan lobbying firm. In 2013, he opened his own government and media relations firm, Pfaff Public Affairs, and works with several leading statewide organizations, primarily agriculture related, advising and advocating for his clients with state lawmakers and agency officials.

Pfaff also served as the mayor of Fitchburg from 2011 to 2015. As a former member of the UW-Eau Claire Alumni Association board and current member of the Chancellor's Council, he has provided strategic advice to university officials regarding legislative advocacy at the State Capitol.

Advice to new Blugold alumni:

One, do not be afraid to ask questions and take risks when pursuing your professional and life goals.

Two, be more than just someone who is cynical about their government and other community institutions and makes the active choice to not get involved. Instead, be someone who gets involved and shows an interest and works hard in not only determining what the world looks like but also what the community where you live and work and raise a family looks like.

Three, I wish I would have known back when I graduated how important the soft skills in life are. Be sure you are able to write and communicate (both verbally and non-verbally) in a professional manner, dress appropriately for the task at hand and always be respectful of your and others' time.

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

The President's Award recognizes outstanding professional and personal achievements and service to UW-Eau Claire.



Mitchell Bleske '97

bachelor's degree in finance and economics

Mitchell Bleske has had a successful career in banking and finance, including leadership positions for U.S. Bancorp, United Community Banks, Trustmark National Bank and Bremer Financial Corp.

Bleske, who earned an MBA from the University of St. Thomas following his graduating from UW-Eau Claire, is now executive vice president and chief financial officer with Bremer Financial Corp. Recognized by the Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal as the 2017 CFO of the Year in banking and financial services, he has been described by colleagues as "a leader who is guided by both head and heart together."

He also has been commended for his established track record of strategic leadership, and says he is most proud of his impact on employees.

"There is no better satisfaction than watching an individual or team learn, develop and succeed," Bleske said. "While competence is a necessity, a well-functioning team is truly what separates the great from average."

In addition to his professional successes, Bleske is proud of the progress he and his wife, Erin (a 1997 UW-Eau Claire accounting graduate), have made raising awareness and more than \$75,000 to help fight Rett Syndrome since their daughter was diagnosed with the rare neurological disorder in 2008.

Bleske appreciates the education he received at UW-Eau Claire, citing Dr. Duane Oyen, professor emeritus of economics, for challenging him with a number of research projects and Dr. Paul Vanderheiden, professor emeritus of accounting and finance, for helping him "become enamored" with finance fundamentals.

Advice to new Blugold alumni:

Most importantly, seek work that you enjoy, not just the largest paycheck. If you do so, you will do it well. From there, opportunities will follow for growth and success.

Remember the value of you activities beyond the classroom. While I did not know it then, not only was receiving an excellent education important to lay a foundation of knowledge, but involvement beyond the classroom as a member of the UWEC men's tennis team and a student manager for Davies Center, as well as a variety of internship opportunities, provided a well-rounded college experience. The perspective each of these enabled me to move quickly into the workforce and immediately make an impact.



RG Conlee '78

bachelor's degree in music education

RG Conlee says his life after graduating from UW-Eau Claire has been "a tale of two careers ... so far."

For the past 20 years, Conlee has worked in technology management and innovation, working as an IT contractor, application development manager and then in several operational roles until being named chief innovation officer for Xerox Business Services, a position he held from 2011 to 2017. He recently retired from his CIO role and has started a new consulting firm specializing in automation and analytics.

Before his success in the business and technology sector, Conlee spent two decades as a teacher and administrator in both public and private schools. He was a junior high and high school band director for 13 years before founding a nonprofit corporation and private school that grew to 215 students before he left and is still in operation today. While an educator, Conlee taught himself computer programming and started a computer music lab as well as a small computer business, which eventually led to the start of his second career.

Conlee, who met his wife, Wendy, when they were both music education students at UW-Eau Claire, has been an advocate and financial supporter of the arts at the university. He will deliver the "Charge to the Class" during commencement ceremonies Dec. 16.

Advice to new Blugold alumni:

The most important thing I can share is that you need to continue to learn. The job I was prepared to do in 1978 is nothing like I do today. However, the skills I learned at UWEC did prepare me to improve on skills — and to learn new skills — that provided the platform for career advancement. Each step along the way, you have to make sure that you learn something (speech, writing, presentation, analysis, etc.). Your success depends on using your life to learn — not just depending on your formal education for meeting all the requirements of life.

HONORARY ALUMNUS AWARD

The Honorary Alumnus Award is presented to non-alumni who have demonstrated great love of and service to UW-Eau Claire.



Nick Meyer

Since 2002, Nick Meyer has been the editor, publisher and owner of Volume One, a culture and entertainment publication, website and event production company in Eau Claire. Volume One produces large-scale community events including a riverside concert series, a chalk art festival,

a film-screening series, winter-themed events, and many more, attracting tens of thousands of attendees every year.

Meyer reimagined a historic downtown Eau Claire building into The Local Store and Volume One Gallery. Each year the store's gallery plays host to more than 100 events, including book readings, film screenings, concerts, community discussions and civic meetings. The upstairs of the building is Volume One's World Headquarters, where the magazines and websites are ideated and created. In 2016 Meyer and a handful of local partners created a 30-room boutique hotel in downtown Eau Claire called The Oxbow Hotel, with a farm-to-table restaurant, bar and jazz venue called The Lakely.

Meyer also serves on the boards of directors for Visit Eau Claire, the Eau Claire Area Chamber of Commerce and the North Barstow Business Improvement District.

"Nick was an early and vocal supporter of downtown redevelopment and was integral to the success of the referendum on the Confluence project, as well as securing the state funding for the Confluence Arts Center," said Kimera Way, UW-Eau Claire Foundation president. "Nick is fond of saying, 'The most important transformation has been this community's attitude toward itself.' Nick has been an integral figure in creating that positive attitude."

Advice to new Blugold alumni:

Take a long hard look at the Eau Claire community and consider making a life and career for yourself here. This community is in the midst of a generational rebirth and reawakening. It's a time when ambitious individuals can deeply engage and make a real difference in a way that is hard to duplicate in a big city. Eau Claire is growing and evolving at a rapid pace, and more 20-somethings are taking leadership in that every day. Now could be your time.



ALMA MATER

Melody by William Croft
Harmonized by George Frederick Handel

Words by Mark D'Amico
and William Oesterreich
Members of The Singing Statesmen, 1969

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line in the upper staff and a piano accompaniment in the lower staff. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 3/4. The piano accompaniment is primarily chordal, with some melodic lines in the bass. The vocal line is a simple melody with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "1. Oh School of Eau Claire, our voices we raise; Ac-cept thou this / 2. Give hon-or to thee, and sing out thy name. Oh col-lege of / an-them of un-dy-ing praise. We pledge to be faith-ful, stout- / ours, we dear-ly ac-claim. In-still thou with-in us a / heart-ed and strong. And cher-ish thy mem-ry as our lives are long. / feel-ing of pride. We pray Al-ma Ma-ter for-ev-er a-bide."

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