

MOUNT MARTY UNIVERSITY



COMMENCEMENT

APRIL 27, 2024

2:00 P.M.

WATERTOWN, SOUTH DAKOTA

2024 COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

PROCESSIONAL

Brian Ries, Organist

Led by Dr. Nicholas Shudak

Dean of Undergraduate Studies

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Heidi Schooley '07

Associate Director of Admission

NATIONAL ANTHEM

"The Star Spangled Banner"

by Francis Scott Key

INVOCATION

The Reverend Shawn Haggerty

WELCOME AND STUDENT AWARDS

Kim Bellum

Director of Mount Marty

University-Watertown

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Don Roby

STUDENT SPEAKER

Hailey Rau '24

SPECIAL MUSIC

Mercy Tree Music Group

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

Dr. Nicholas Shudak

CONFERRING OF DEGREES

Dr. Marcus Long

President

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION WELCOME

Dr. April Moen '98

Adjunct Faculty

BENEDICTION

The Reverend Shawn Haggerty

RECESSIONAL

Brian Ries

Led by Dr. Nicholas Shudak

It is customary for the audience to stand during the Processional, National Anthem, Invocation, Benediction and Recessional.

MOUNT MARTY PRAYER

O God,

Creator of all things and source of wisdom and knowledge, send your Holy Spirit to guide our thoughts, words, and actions so that everything we do will begin with your inspiration and continue with your guidance and blessing. Help us to speak and act with integrity so that we may uphold the values of Mount Marty University. May we use our talents and abilities in the best ways possible so that You may be glorified and our neighbor served.

We pray these things through Jesus, your Son, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

AMEN.

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

by Don Roby

Don Roby grew up in Watertown, SD and graduated from high school in 1980. He received his Bachelor of Science from the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology in 1984. Immediately after graduating from college, Don began his professional career with IBM where he held various sales, marketing, staff and management positions in several different cities across the Midwest. In January of 1995, Don joined Winthrop Resources Corporation, a Minneapolis-based technology financing company. He worked across multiple states as a regional sales manager before focusing on the Mid-Atlantic region including Virginia, Maryland and Washington, DC. He retired from Winthrop in 2018. Don is currently a partner in R&R Investments, LLC which invests in small companies including startups.

In 2003, Don and his family relocated to his hometown of Watertown, SD where he is very active in the community and state. He is currently a member of the Board of Trustees for Mount Marty University, serves on the boards of the South Dakota Community Foundation and Prairie Lakes Healthcare System, is a Commissioner on the South Dakota Transportation Commission, and a member of Rotary International. Don has served on the boards and leadership committees of several not-for-profit organizations. He served two terms on the Watertown City Council from 2013 to 2021. He has also coached youth soccer and little league baseball.

BACHELOR OF ARTS

ALYSSA ANN BECKIUS*

Elementary Education
Canby, MN
Summa Cum Laude

DEVOLA BIRD*

Interdisciplinary Studies
Sisseton, SD

JUSTYNE BOETTCHER

Elementary Education
Watertown, SD

JORDAN EDWARD BRIST

Accounting
Watertown, SD

JAKE DENZER*

Elementary Education
Watertown, SD
Magna Cum Laude

KRISTA EVELYN DOBRAVA*

Elementary Education
Hayti, SD
Summa Cum Laude

SHAWN HORNING^

Accounting
Watertown, SD

BRANDY NICHOLE MORA^

Human Service
Clark, SD

TARYN LEE OPDAHL

Elementary Education
Special Education
Hazel, SD
Summa Cum Laude

RAELA PRIES

Human Service
Watertown, SD
Summa Cum Laude

HAILEY LYNN RAU

Human Service
Watertown, SD
Summa Cum Laude

ANGELINA SCHAEFER

Business Administration
Watertown, SD

DYLAN SWANSON

Criminal Justice
Marshall, MN
Summa Cum Laude

SHAINA VISSER*

Elementary Education
Clear Lake, SD
Magna Cum Laude

ASSOCIATE OF ARTS

LAKEASHA A. BARTZ*

Business Administration
Benson, MN

ALYSSA ANN HALLING

Business Administration
Watertown, SD

GRADUATION HONORS AND NOTES

Graduation honors are awarded to students earning bachelor degrees in recognition of superior scholarship.

Summa Cum Laude is the honorary title used to signify those with a cumulative grade point average of 3.9 and is recognized by navy/gold honor cords.

Magna Cum Laude is the honorary title used to signify those with a cumulative grade point average of 3.7 and is recognized by gold/white honor cords.

Cum Laude is the honorary title used to signify those with a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 and is recognized by navy/white honor cords.

*** INDICATES DECEMBER 2023 GRADUATE**

^ INDICATES AUGUST 2024 CANDIDATE

Names listed in this publication and participation in the commencement exercises may not be construed as documentation of completion of degree requirements. Certification of the conferral of a degree is by official transcript noting degree completion.

ACADEMIC REGALIA

The tradition of academic costume has a history of nearly eight centuries. In medieval Europe, all townsmen wore long flowing robes or gowns. The materials and colors varied greatly, according to wealth and rank of the individual and were governed by royal decree. Gradually, distinctive gowns developed for the various professions, trades and guilds. This tradition survives today in gowns of religious orders, the judiciary and the academic regalia.

The gowns worn by the recipients of the various degrees vary somewhat in design. The sleeves of the gown worn by recipients of the baccalaureate degree are long and pointed, while the sleeves of the gown worn by the master's degree recipients are square at one end with a slit at the elbow. The doctor's gown has flowing sleeves with three bars of velvet and a facing of velvet down the front of the gown.

Most distinctive of the academic regalia is the hood, which identifies the graduate degree and the institution where the degree was awarded. The hood is lined with silk in the official colors of the institution. The velvet edging indicates the degree as follows:

Arts, Letters, Humanities: White
Commerce, Accountancy, Business: Drab
Education: Light Blue
Fine Arts: Brown
Music: Pink
Nursing: Apricot
Philosophy: Dark Blue
Physical Education: Sage Green
Science: Golden Yellow
Theology: Scarlet

MOUNT MARTY UNIVERSITY MISSION STATEMENT

Mount Marty University, an academic community in the Catholic Benedictine liberal arts tradition, prepares students for a contemporary world of work, service to the human community and personal growth.

MOUNT MARTY UNIVERSITY

Mount Marty University is a Catholic, Benedictine institution of higher learning founded in 1936 by the Sisters of Saint Benedict of Yankton, South Dakota. The institution is named in memory of Martin Marty, a Swiss monk, who came to the Dakota Territory in 1876 as a missionary to the Native Americans and became the territory's first Catholic bishop. As bishop, he invited the Benedictine Sisters to establish a religious community in Yankton.

The university functioned as a junior college for women for 15 years; in 1951 it awarded its first Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees. In 1969, the college became coeducational. Associate of Arts degree programs were introduced in 1975 in areas compatible with already existing programs. Graduate study came to the institution with the first Master of Science degree being awarded in 1983, followed closely by the first Master of Art degree in 1999. The first doctorate in Nurse Anesthesia Practice was approved in 2016. Mount Marty University is the first private university in South Dakota to offer doctoral degrees.

Mount Marty University's main campus is located in Yankton, SD. There are two additional locations in Watertown, SD, and Sioux Falls, SD.

Mount Marty University-Watertown has been serving northeast South Dakota since 1972 and offers numerous undergraduate degrees in non-traditional formats. This non-residential learning environment offers flexible options that cater to all students and working professionals looking to enhance their lives and further their careers through higher education.

Sioux Falls is home to the Mount Marty Doctorate of Nurse Anesthesia Practice graduate program, a program that has been producing successful nurse anesthetists for over 75 years. This 36-month program prepares the next generation of advanced practice nursing professionals for commitment to excellence in clinical care, advancing the profession and service to the human community. The Sioux Falls location is also home to Mount Marty University's new Master of Science in Biotechnology degree, the first such degree in the state.

In keeping with the Benedictine tradition, the university exists as a community of learners. Primary emphasis is placed on the development of each person as a complete human being with intellectual competence; professional and personal skills; and a composite of moral, spiritual and social values.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2023 - 2024

**CHAIR, DR. JIM FITZGERALD
VICE CHAIR, MR. ROB STEPHENSON
SECRETARY, SR. MARY JO POLAK
TREASURER, MR. DENIS FOKKEN '73, HD'23**

**Sr. Penny Bingham '73
Sr. Mildred Busch '67
Mr. Michael Donohoe
Mr. Shawn Gallagher '76
Dr. J. Lee Johnson
Fr. James Keiter
Sr. Barbara McTague '71**

**Mr. John Porter
Mr. Donald Roby
Mr. Daryl Thuringer
Sr. Patricia Ann Toscano '71
Sr. Carol Jean VanDenHemel
Dr. Rachel Vannatta '87
Dr. Marcus Long, President**