

MOUNT MARTY UNIVERSITY



COMMENCEMENT

APRIL 29, 2023

10:00 A.M.

WATERTOWN, SOUTH DAKOTA

2023 COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

PROCESSIONAL

Brian Ries

Led by Dr. Kathy Magorian '97
*Dean of Faculty and Dean of Nursing
and Health Sciences*

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Heidi Schooley '07

Associate Director of Admission

NATIONAL ANTHEM

“The Star Spangled Banner”

by Francis Scott Key

INVOCATION

The Reverend Richard Fox

Pastor, Immaculate Conception
Parish

WELCOME AND STUDENT AWARDS

Kim Bellum

Director

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Joy Nelson

STUDENT SPEAKER

Cassie Swedeen '23

SPECIAL MUSIC

Arnold Williams '23

HOODING AND PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

Dr. Kathy Magorian '97

Dr. Deborah McCuin

Director, Graduate Teacher
Education

CONFERRING OF DEGREES

Dr. William Miller

Executive Vice President &
Provost

WELCOME FROM MMU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Dr. April Moen '98

Adjunct Faculty

BENEDICTION

The Reverend John Fischer

Pastor, Holy Name of Jesus Parish

RECESSIONAL

Brian Ries

Led by Dr. Kathy Magorian '97

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

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

by Joy Nelson

A lifelong Watertown resident, Joy Nelson became a visionary at a young age. She learned that ideas can spring from the South Dakota prairie and become reality. After graduating from Watertown High School, Joy entered the business world as a banker, then what would become a 34-year plus real estate career. Joy never forgot her primary passion of raising horses and, while building her career, she built a ranch with a riding arena, corrals, and a horse barn.

Having spent a lifetime with horses, Joy knew what they could do for people and began volunteer programs for individuals with special needs at her ranch. As the vision grew and recognizing the need for the facility to become much larger, Joy donated the ranch to Lutheran Outdoors and led the capital campaign. In January of 2022, Joy Ranch transferred from Lutheran Outdoors to Joy Ranch of South Dakota and continues to grow the core mission of its initial vision.

Joy has served on the boards of Lake Area Technical Institute Foundation, Habitat for Humanity, Prairie Lakes Healthcare Foundation, Jenkins Living Center Foundation and governing board, the Codington County Historical Society, the Grace Lutheran Church Foundation and church council and on the LATC Building Trades Advisory Board. Joy currently serves on the boards of Harmony Hill, Sanford Health Care System in Sioux Falls, American Bank & Trust, Grace Lutheran Church Foundation and the LATC Strategic Advisory Council. She has been appointed to both the Governor's Office of Economic Development RediFund Board and the State Board of Technical Education. She is the President of the Joy Ranch of South Dakota Board of Directors.

In 2016, Joy was honored by U.S. Congresswoman Kristi Noem with the Congressional Challenge Coin for Spirit of Giving. The Watertown Chamber of Commerce gave her its Spirit of Watertown award. She was the Northeast South Dakota Board of Realtors Realtor of the Year. The Office of the Secretary of Defense gave her its Support of Guard and Reserve Award. The Association of Lutheran Development Executives' gave her its National Award for Philanthropy. The Elks Lodge Foundation named her its Citizen of the Year. Beta Sigma Phi honored her as its Woman of the Year. Joy is the current president of the Watertown Art/Sculpture Walk and a member of the Northeast South Dakota Board of Realtors and the Watertown Area Home Builders Association.

Joy's primary passion now is helping Joy Ranch grow and expand and to continue on her philanthropic path.

MASTER OF EDUCATION

TAMMI LYNN HALBERT
Curriculum and Instruction
Browns Valley, MN

TRAVIS SCHULTZ
Curriculum and Instruction
Watertown, SD

TAWNY HEISER
Curriculum and Instruction
Watertown, SD

BACHELOR OF ARTS

DEANNA ANSPACH

Human Service

Madison, MN

Magna Cum Laude

MARI ATHEY^

Elementary Education

Ortonville, MN

Summa Cum Laude

MOLLY ENGELS

Human Service

Castlewood, SD

Magna Cum Laude

SYDNIE ELAYNE FJELLAND

Human Service

Clark, SD

Magna Cum Laude

KAREN HAKEMAN

Elementary Education,

Special Education

Lake Nordeen, SD

Magna Cum Laude

TONI HEMINGER^

Business Administration

Sisseton, SD

LINDSAY HOGE^

Psychology

Watertown, SD

HUNTER MOORE

Business Administration

Watertown, SD

RYAN MICHAEL NELSON

Applied Technology Management

Castlewood, SD

Summa Cum Laude

ANTHONY PARKER ACEVEDO

Psychology

Watertown, SD

CALLEY JO PETERSEN*

Human Service

Goodwin, SD

RANDI LYNN RIES

Business Administration

Watertown, SD

LANDON ROHLFS^

Applied Technnology Management

Redfield, SD

Magna Cum Laude

NATHAN RUSSELL^

Business Administration

Watertown, SD

Summa Cum Laude

SABRINA SCHRAM

Business Administration

Watertown, SD

Summa Cum Laude

CASSIE A. SWEDEEN^

Criminal Justice

Henry, SD

Summa Cum Laude

ABBY ROSE WEISS

Psychology

Watertown, SD

Summa Cum Laude

ARNOLD E. WILLIAMS

Business Administration

Sisseton, SD

Cum Laude

ASSOCIATE OF ARTS

BEAU SCHOOLEY
Business Administration
Castlewood, SD

KAYLEE ROSE WIPF*
Business Administration
Watertown, SD

GRADUATION HONORS AND NOTES

Graduation honors are awarded to students earning bachelor degrees in recognition of superior scholarship. Awards are determined on the following grade-point basis: 3.9 Summa Cum Laude, 3.7 Magna Cum Laude, 3.5 Cum Laude.

^ INDICATES DECEMBER 2022 GRADUATE

*** INDICATES AUGUST 2023 CANDIDATE**

Names listed in this publication 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

Mount Marty University is a Catholic, Benedictine, coeducational 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, 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, Nurse Anesthesia Practice, was approved in 2016.

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

MMU-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 further their careers through higher education.

Sioux Falls is home to the MMU 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.

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.

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.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2022 - 2023

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Fr. Paul Rutten
Mr. Daryl Thuringer
Sr. Patricia Ann Toscano
Sr. Carol Jean VanDenHemel
Sr. Maribeth Wentzlaff
Dr. Marcus Long, President

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.