

*Celebration of
Academic Excellence
2020-2021*



Manchester
University

Congratulations students,

This achievement reflects your hard work, perseverance and resilience. You represent the best of Manchester; a commitment to learning, to scholarship and to building of new knowledge.

No one understands your personal journey at Manchester better than your faculty. In the pages that follow, please read the meaningful words these mentors have shared about you and your classmates. You have earned this moment, revel in it.

We wish you all the best on the next stage of your journey. Come back and visit often.

Celia Cook-Huffman
Vice President for Academic Affairs

Graduation with Distinction

To graduate with distinction and earn Latin honors, a candidate for the baccalaureate degree must have completed a minimum of 96 semester hours in residence at Manchester University and accumulated a grade point average (GPA) at or above 3.650. There are three levels of graduation with honors:

summa cum laude (with highest honors)	3.950 to 4.000
magna cum laude (with high honors)	3.850 to 3.949
cum laude (with honors)	3.65 to 3.849

Casey Arseneau, *magna cum laude*
Bachelor of Science
Physical Education

Casey L. Arseneau (Donovan, III.) received her Bachelor of Science in physical education with a minor in health promotion. She prepared for a career teaching K-12 students. Casey has demonstrated academic excellence and service in the Department of Exercise Science and Athletic Training receiving several recognitions during her tenure at Manchester University.

Ms. Arseneau is an influential leader who pursued every opportunity to learn, earning an impressive 3.9 grade point average during her undergraduate years. In addition to her success in the classroom, she has also been recognized by the Society for Health and Physical Educators (SHAPE) as the Midwest District Outstanding Student; by the Indiana SHAPE as their Outstanding Student of the Year; and Major of the Year by the MU Department of Exercise Science and Athletic Training.

Casey takes pride in her accomplishments. She is a leader on campus, as well as in the community. Ms. Arseneau served as President of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, was a student orientation leader, and a member of the Student Education Association. In addition, she willingly shared her talents coaching athletes with intellectual disabilities in the Wabash County Special Olympics program and served as a team leader for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life of Wabash County. Casey also taught homeschool students physical activities in a weekly physical education program and served as a student teacher in the Whitko Community Schools.

Moreover, Ms. Arseneau was the recipient of the Indiana SHAPE Jean Lee/Jeff Marvin Collegiate Scholarship and Catherine Wolf Major of the Year Scholarship, as well as the MU Honors Program Scholarship. "It was a blessing to be considered for these scholarships," she said. "Receiving them was a great opportunity and it truly was a privilege to be able to be recognized with these distinguished scholarships and represent Manchester University."

According to Dr. Kim Duchane, professor emeritus of exercise science and athletic training, "Casey displayed academic excellence, her energy was infectious, and her service to others impressive. She was committed to becoming a teacher of ability and conviction to make a difference in the lives of her students."

Dr. Kim A. Duchane

Ava Barefoot, *magna cum laude*
Bachelor of Arts
History, Spanish

Ava is an intelligent and engaged learner, a good speaker, and an excellent writer. Her engagement in, and contributions to, class discussions are thoughtful based as they are on her incisive and insightful analysis of learning material. Her high-quality History SCE thesis is an exemplar of outstanding scholarship in the undergraduate setting. In addition to all this, Ava brings an admirable work ethic that helps her to always do her best.

Ava's love for learning has been nurtured by the passion displayed by MU faculty, especially her History and Spanish professors, through their inspirational teaching. Under their guidance, Ava believes that her research, writing, and related professional skills have blossomed. Ava landed two phenomenal internships, the first with the Wabash County Historical Museum in the summer before her junior year, and the second with Grow Wabash County during the following summer. She was also offered the position of administrative assistant with Grow Wabash County, where she will continue to work after graduation. Ava believes that these great opportunities have helped her understand the workings of non-

profits and small businesses, expand her professional network, and more importantly, find her life's calling. Ava credits MU not only for a stellar undergraduate education but also for connecting her with opportunities for her future beyond graduation.

After graduation, Ava plans to spend another year in Wabash County, after which she plans to travel to find the best place for pursuing a career as an archivist for a museum or library, or perhaps even a historical nature preserve. As she embarks on this phase of exploration after graduation, I wish Ava the very best, and am grateful for the opportunity to have had her as a student in my classes.

Dr. Uma Ganesan

Kate Barrow, *magna cum laude*
Bachelor of Arts
Health Communication, Spanish

I first got to know Kate when she (along with her father, Doug) traveled with me to Ireland in January 2020 to study beer culture. As we toured Ireland and had many discussions in pubs, hotels, and museums, I learned that Kate is truly a remarkable person. Her first remarkable trait is the ease with which she manages a leviathan schedule of classes and activities. Kate is busy. She has a double major in Health Communication and Spanish and minor in Business. And yet, she audits several courses not because she needed the credit, but because she wanted to learn more. She is also an officer on Campus Interfaith Board, spent a semester abroad in Barcelona, and worked part time through the pandemic. A second remarkable trait is her enthusiasm for learning. I have frequently wished that I could clone Kate and have her in all my courses; she is curious, thoughtful, friendly, eager to participate, and truly wants to take advantage of every opportunity to learn. I could count on Kate to always be present (physically and mentally), prepared, and engaged. She easily brings others into a conversation and makes space for discussion. She raises the bar in every class she is in. Third, Kate has a maturity far beyond her years, and a deep passion for serving others. Kate is committed to helping underserved populations, and she has demonstrated this through her work with the Matthew 25 Health and Dental Clinic and as a certified Indiana Community Health Worker. A summer internship working with skills coaches and clients at the Bowen Center inspired her to pursue graduate school for a master's degree in Social Work and clinical licensure as a therapist. She will start at Indiana University Fort Wayne in the fall, while working in case management at a mental health community center. Kate personifies the Manchester mission as a person of ability and conviction who will use her education and faith to improve the human condition. I have no doubt that she will make a positive difference in the lives of her clients, and I look forward to sharing a pint down the road and hearing about how she is changing the world, one person at a time. Cheers, Kate!

Dr. Michelle Calka

Bryan Bathke, *cum laude*
Bachelor of Arts
Accounting, Business Management

I have had the pleasure of working with Bryan since the beginning of his academic journey at Manchester. From the beginning, Bryan was passionate about accounting and quickly took a leadership role in his first major course, Principles of Accounting I. Bryan's inherent understanding of accounting and his easy going, friendly personality took over, allowing him to help his peers by explaining concepts to them and answering their questions. Bryan's natural ability and positive attitude assisted him in landing an internship in accounting his second semester. In 20 years of teaching, he is the only accounting major (that I am aware of) to receive an internship in the field after taking only one accounting course.

Bryan's love for learning extends beyond accounting. Bryan, from day one, was committed to studying in Germany. Fall of 2019, Bryan's dedication to learning paid off, he traveled to Philipps Universitat in

Marburg to study. Bryan has also been a member of the A Capella Choir since his first semester on campus. In short, Bryan is a well-rounded individual with diverse interests and pursuits.

Bryan's work ethic is outstanding: he works countless hours at The Kroger Co.; managing twelve associates, assists as an accounting intern at Kate's Notary & Tax, and maintains excellency in his classes. I know from our discussions, he does not have time to sleep much.

Bryan not only is earning a double major in accounting and business management, he is also graduating with a minor in German. Bryan will be working for Lambert & Lanoue LLC in June providing bookkeeping, financial reporting, tax return preparation services for clients and in his words "the whole nine yards".

Bryan will also be preparing for the rigorous four-part CPA exam this summer. Someday, Bryan plans to obtain a master's degree and engage more in international affairs and business. He hopes to teach someday. Even though I will miss Bryan's infectious laugh and his jovial personality, I wish him all the best as he moves to the next stage of his life. And hopefully, if we are lucky, he will one day return to Manchester as faculty.

Heather Twomey

Kayla Carver, *cum laude*
Bachelor of Arts
Music

I have known Kayla for all her four years at Manchester University. She has always exceeded my expectations both as a musician and in her academics. As a trombonist, she helped raise the standard in the trombone studio through her artful playing. She also led the way in the trombone section in both symphonic band and jazz ensemble. Her performance skills added tremendously to those groups.

Kayla was also unique in that she was the very first drum major of the new Spartan Pride Marching Band. She excelled at this leadership role. As drum major, she was called on to lead the whole group in morning calisthenics, routinely conduct music, and even help teach drill and drill basics to the entire band. This was no easy task, yet she took on the mantle as leader easily. She had the admiration of all her peers and garnered my utmost respect and appreciation for all her efforts. She is truly one-of-a-kind, and I will miss her greatly. Best of luck to what comes next for you!

Dr. Scott Humphries

Paige Collins, *summa cum laude*
Master of Accountancy
Bachelor of Science
Accounting

Congratulations Paige on well-deserved honors from Manchester University. I have noticed your compassion for others as you have worked with and tutored your classmates. I have noticed how you relish your relationships with your peers and the broader Manchester community, which you think of as home. I congratulate you on your 4.0 GPA, but I am not surprised because you always do excellent work. Always. Your desire to succeed will ensure your success as you move forward in life.

I commend you for the way you lift others and encourage them to achieve more than they thought was within their grasp. I commend you for the service that you provided in raising funds for the university. And I commend you for the education that you have pursued.

I see in your future that of an outstanding professional who inspires confidence and reliability among your colleagues. I also see a multi-dimensional person who knows not only numbers and taxes and tax codes, but one who knows about life and is revered by all.

Brad Pyrah

Bailey Conder, *magna cum laude*
Master of Accountancy
Bachelor of Science
Accounting, Finance

Bailey Conder has been my advisee and a student in many of my classes during her four years at Manchester. She was able to complete a bachelor's degree in both accounting and finance plus a master's in accountancy in four years. This is quite a feat! Our advising sessions were always easy because she was prepared. Bailey approaches her responsibilities like a true professional. I could always count on her to put her best effort into all her coursework and to be a valuable team member on group projects. Bailey has accepted a position at Ernst & Young in Indianapolis, IN. She is also getting married on May 30th! She met her future husband on her first day at Manchester. The next couple of months are going to be very hectic and exciting times for her! Besides her full academic schedule, she also participated in many other activities on campus. She was a member of the Manchester University swimming/diving team for a year and a half where she broke two swimming records, one that still stands. She was the president of the swim club for two years and actively participated in the College of Business club where she served as Treasurer during her junior year. In 2019, she was the recipient of the Jennifer L. Lutz Community Service Award for her participation in community outreach. Bailey received a variety of scholarships while a student due to her academic achievements. I am used to seeing and talking to Bailey frequently. I will miss her presence on campus! I wish her all the best in her future pursuits. I am certain she will make a positive impact on the accounting profession.

Jenny Simmers

Sage Correll, *summa cum laude*
Bachelor of Science
Psychology

I have watched Sage evolve during her undergraduate career. When I first met her in my course, Introduction to Psychology, she was a strong performer and a quiet resource for her peers. Her preparation for these courses was evident, and she was able to make thoughtful contributions in small group discussions. Watching her in upper-level courses, Sage has refined her skills in large group discussions and group projects. She doesn't insert her opinion often, but when she does, her peers listen—her comments are insightful and thought provoking. She has continually pushed herself to take challenging courses and gain new experiences such as traveling to Chicago to present her research. Sage has completed a very successful four years at Manchester University—we are so proud of her! After graduation, she plans to work for a year and then pursue a doctoral degree in neuropsychology.

Dr. KJ Kessie

Taryn Curie, *summa cum laude*
Bachelor of Science
Criminal Justice, Philosophy, Psychology

Taryn is smart, compassionate, and driven. She is a triple major and honors student, who maintains a full-time course load and a full-time position working with the Bowen Center. Whether she is engaged in her own research program on attitudes toward addiction or working as a mentor for at-risk youth, she approaches her world with a quiet intensity that is admirable and all too rare. Her dedication and diligence have allowed her to build a rich set of theoretical and applied skills that earned her a spot in the nation's

#1 doctoral program in criminology. I am proud to have worked with her as a student, and I look forward to her very bright future as a colleague.

Dr. Pete Martini

Anna Davis, *magna cum laude*

Bachelor of Arts

Elementary Education

Wisdom, patience, and skill. Anna is an ideal candidate for elementary schools! The wisdom she gained came through vast experiences with content and children. The journey she traversed was long and filled with challenges. Anna's patience produced positive results. Academically, she soared to this elite group of honor students. It took dedication and creativity as she completed the general and honor's curricula while training in elementary education. Professionally, her curiosity opened many opportunities beyond a basic experience. In the field or in the classroom, Anna demonstrates advanced professional skills. The world needs more teachers – the world deserves a Manchester teacher like Anna Davis!

Dr. Stacy Stetzel

Ashly Deleon, *cum laude*

Bachelor of Science

Exercise Science

Ashly Deleon will graduate with a degree in Exercise Science and my upmost respect as a human being and student. It has been a pleasure to teach and mentor her over these past years. She is a smart, dedicated and respectful student who goes out of her way to help others. She has and will always put others' needs in front of her own. Her focus on others shows everyone the true meaning of being selfless. She has put in the work not only as a student but for our country as well. Ashly has been part of the National Guard since I have known her at MU. She continues to have high marks in the classroom and her drive for excellence in her military career shines bright. She is a true inspiration to me with her ability to juggle work, school and military responsibilities. She can be seen as a model student that enjoys friendships, hard work and treats others with the utmost respect. Ashly has been a great person since stepping onto this campus and will leave an even better person through her experiences. What I can honestly say is that I am a better person for having someone like Ashly around our campus, life and in my classroom. Ashly for her next journey will continue her academic career with MU in our Master of Athletic Training program in Fort Wayne, Indiana. I am extremely happy I will be allowed to continue her academic career of excellence in a program where we will, in the near future, become colleagues. I want to thank Ashly for being in my classroom and life to this point and wish her the best of luck. You will do excellent at the next level, and I cannot wait to get started on your journey with you as your graduate professor.

Dr. Jeffrey Beer

Karly Eichenauer, *summa cum laude*

Bachelor of Science

Biology-Chemistry

Karly Eichenauer is an excellent student who will graduate with a major in Biology-Chemistry and minors in Psychology and Peace Studies. I have known Karly since 2004, initially as a family friend, and now at MU as a student in six classes, a general chemistry lab assistant, and academic advisee. Throughout all these contexts, I have seen her work hard and step forward to lead. Combining with her persistence and intelligence, her actions consistently yield high quality results. On the January Session 2019 Medical Practicum short-term experience in global health to rural, Maya villages in the central highlands of Guatemala, her steady, realistic optimism persisted throughout as she adapted to challenging living and working conditions. Throughout the trip, as well as afterwards, I could count on Karly to pitch in to do the

extra task or to articulate to others what she had learned, drawing upon her already significant teaching abilities. That Guatemala experience cemented her desire to become a physician. Her subsequent application to osteopathic medical school was well-rooted in her healthy diversity of life experiences, general understanding of health care, and strong education. She has prepared for her chosen vocational path with clear focus. Karly is a dedicated, compassionate student who will use her abilities and convictions to improve the human condition as a physician, beginning osteopathic medical school at Marian University this coming fall semester.

Dr. Jeff Osborne

Emilee Fetters, *cum laude*
Bachelor of Arts
Social Work

Emilee has been a standout student in our department from her very first semester at Manchester. She quickly distinguished herself as a most conscientious student who was deeply dedicated to learning as much as she could. With this open mindset and intellectual curiosity, Emilee seemed to relish each and every course and the learning opportunities it presented to her. It has been an absolute pleasure to have her in classes and see her make the most of every learning experience. Emilee has also excelled outside the classroom, in two different field placements--one with a police department and another with a domestic violence shelter. Her unique combination of critical thinking skills and commitment to advocacy and social change shined through in these internship settings. As a profession, social work is dedicated to valuing each individual person, advancing human rights, and ending social injustices, and Emilee personifies these professional commitments. She is a fierce and effective advocate for vulnerable and disenfranchised people. She is a sharp thinker when it comes to identifying injustices and systemic inequalities. And perhaps most importantly, she can envision alternatives and solutions. Emilee has already been accepted into the master's of social work program at Ball State University, and I won't be surprised when she eventually pursues a doctorate or law degree, too. So many doors are open to her now because of what a superb undergraduate student she has been. I can't wait to see all the ways she will make a difference in the world from this point forward!

Dr. Barb J. Burdge

Lucas Fontanez, *summa cum laude*
Bachelor of Science
Biology

Lucas is a hard-working, inquisitive, and humble student who is graduating with a degree in biology and pursuing his doctorate degree in physical therapy at Indiana State University next year. I first had the pleasure of getting to know Lucas during his first year as a biology major when he approached his work with unusual curiosity and dedication. Since then, Lucas has become well known among his professors as a great student who consistently gives his best to all of his work. After classes during cross country season, he can often be seen running on campus, and he brings to his athletic pursuits the same talent and hard work that make him so successful in his academics. In 2020 he became the third Manchester student ever to earn CoSIDA Academic All-America status, honoring him for his dual achievements in both academics and athletics. Because he is such a model student in so many ways, he has also served as a peer mentor for several years as part of the Science Pathways Academy, guiding younger students toward success by sharing his knowledge and wisdom. As Lucas now embarks upon his graduate studies to achieve his dream of becoming a physical therapist, I have no doubt that he'll tackle that challenge with the same curiosity, humility, and work ethic that have made him so successful at Manchester. We wish you the best, Lucas, and can't wait to hear all about your future successes!

Dr. Kristen Short

Kaleigh Gabriel, *magna cum laude*
Bachelor of Science
English

“After graduation, I will continue working with the publication for which I am interning, ENSPIRE Magazine. I will also be pursuing other opportunities in journalism and editing.”

Compelled by ceaseless curiosity, guided by an indomitable depth in probing, and by an incessant desire to challenge herself, Ms. Gabriel knew early on—from around age five—that she would pursue a career teaching English at the university level. As no surprise then, Kaleigh joined Manchester University with a rich set of interdisciplinary college preparatory courses. Her wide reading background (yes, also inclusive of reading the Bible in its entirety at least four times) spans across fiction, poetry, non-fiction, memoir, graphic novels, and international news media. Any student who begins their day listening to a podcast on murder investigations ending it by reviewing papers in the Writing Center charts a notable gift for any literary or life charge: paying respectful attention, either through deep listening or writing demonstrates readiness to place oneself into the position of another, with respect and reverence.

As a meticulous note taker, profound questioner, and superb analyst, I have been blessed to enjoy Kaleigh’s remarkable contributions along my writing and literature courses. Her savvy as a fine writer and sought-after peer reviewer (while maintaining a full schedule of classes) reaches beyond her work as a Writing Center consultant. As a full-time manager during the summer, e.g., she conducted business reviews, effected organizational changes and implemented innovative strategies at a resort in Michigan; in likewise fashion, she has helped our theater society with her knack at dramaturgy and her expertise as a certified makeup artist.

Currently, Kaleigh serves as The Oak Leaves coeditor, as an intern with the online magazine ENSPIRE, and as the owner’s assistant who quickly realized this young woman’s zealous commitment to produce excellent digital and diverse content. Kaleigh’s senior thesis, “The Condition of Being a Woman: Subject to the Observation, Interpretation, and Use for Gain of Man,” engages a story dialogue between Shakespeare’s *The Taming of the Shrew* (written in the 1590s) and V.V. Ganeshananthan’s 2008 novel *Love Marriage*. This ambitious inquiry examines how singular male-favored perspectives bridge four centuries of limited understanding (and silencing) of women’s complexities while demonstrating how these writings also serve as current commentary on women (re)claiming their voice as future change agents.

After only three years Kaleigh has catapulted herself into a league of her own, modeling a student of unflappable Spirit, guided by uncompromising focus, deep humility and dignity.

Kaleigh, I will miss you and our exchanges that I so enjoyed, as a professor, advisor and as a fellow learner.

Keep your Awe Resonant
your Questions Alive and
Never Doubt Your Sparkle

Dr. Beate Gilliar

Lauren Gandhi, *summa cum laude*
Bachelor of Science
Exercise Science and Fitness

Lauren Gandhi is an energetic exercise science major and student-athlete with a true passion for, and commitment to, learning. She is a person of ability and conviction that lights up a room when she enters. Her drive and commitment to her work and activities rises above the rest. Lauren has been a great

student during her time at MU. Her commitment to excellence in the classroom and on the volleyball court as an NCAA athlete is remarkable. In both, she demonstrated the ability to truly synthesize information and produce great work. Lauren has been a bright part of the classroom since she began her career at Manchester University. She has great leadership skills and leads by example when working with others. I am very excited for her future and those she will impact on the way as she furthers her education. Lauren has decided to obtain her doctorate degree in Occupational Therapy school and a masters in Gerontology. Lauren takes every second of the day and makes them productive for her friends, family and peers. She takes care of herself and others in a way that is truly genuine and meaningful. I am extremely happy for Lauren and what the future holds for such a talented young person. MU is a better place having someone like Lauren on its campus. I can say we are all better off from knowing a person like Lauren Gandhi. I would like to say congratulations and you will be missed.

Dr. Jeffrey Beer

Caylie Ganser, *cum laude*
Bachelor of Science
Elementary Education

A classroom just isn't a classroom without the spirit of Caylie inspiring all who enter! Dedication to learning is marked by genuine curiosity. Caylie's enthusiasm for engagement in class sessions, at field experiences, and with assignments is unmatched. Her attitude toward life-long learning, fueled by a positive disposition, will motivate future elementary students who are lucky to be placed in Caylie's care. A hard worker who is driven by her goals, Caylie will use college work and athletic experiences as foundational pieces on her journey. The education profession is grateful that she chose to join! Manchester University is proud to call her a Spartan! Welcome to teaching, Caylie Ganser!

Dr. Stacy Stetzel

Connor Glenn, *summa cum laude*
Bachelor of Science
Biology-Chemistry

Connor was one of the first students that I connected with since being back at Manchester. We did research together last summer and I was able to learn a lot about him, his motivation, and his career goals. Connor came to Manchester with the intention of graduating in three years. Connor is graduating a year early this spring. Connor plans to attend medical school in the future. He is currently working as an emergency department technician to gain more experience to bolster his future applications. He has also worked as a lab assistant in the Chemistry department and plays on the tennis team. I am really not sure how he is able to do it all. On a more personal note, Connor is a great person to be around. It has been a real pleasure to see how much he has grown in the two years I've known him. Connor is a gifted student and I have no doubt that he has a really bright future in front of him.

Dr. Kyle Watson

Hunter Hall-Bowen, *cum laude*
Master of Accountancy
Bachelor of Science
Accounting

It has been my pleasure to have Hunter Hall-Bowen as a student in my courses throughout his four years at Manchester! He will be graduating in May with a bachelor's degree in both accounting and finance. He has achieved high academic honors while taking very challenging courses. Hunter plans to begin his career as a staff accountant or financial advisor. He will graduate with at least 150 hours of college credit, which makes him eligible to sit for the CPA (Certified Public Accountant) exam. He is currently planning to pursue this designation. Just recently, I was having a conversation with a group of students about taste in

music and Hunter and I realized that we share an interest in rock and roll! We compared notes regarding concerts we have attended. I learned, during this conversation, that Hunter plays the drums. In the classroom, Hunter is a contemplative student. The entire class benefits from his perspectives when he contributes to discussion. He is a very efficient and effective communicator and always contributes his full talent when working with a team. He is very dependable as he rarely misses class. While at Manchester, he received a number of scholarships due to his strong academic performance. In his spare time, he enjoys playing video games and watching movies/television. He has been a member of the College of Business club for four years. When asked about his most memorable college experience, he said the lifelong friendships that he has made. I look forward to keeping in touch with him beyond graduation and hearing about his many accomplishments!

Jenny Simmers

Brooklyn Howard, *cum laude*
Bachelor of Science
Elementary Education

Maya Angelou wrote "My mission in life is not nearly to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor and some style." As a young woman, Brooklyn Howard is thriving, and she is doing so with passion, compassion, humor, and style. Early, Brooklyn realized she had a gift with children, and as an elementary education major with a concentration in special education, she has flourished. Brooklyn Howard has stepped fully into who she was meant to be, and, in doing so, she makes a difference in the lives of those with whom she interacts. Children fortunate enough to call her teacher will find themselves in the presence of a woman who will work tirelessly for them, who will create an engaging learning environment, and who will love them like her own.

Over the past four years, Brooklyn has established herself as a serious student with a charming smile, delightful personality, and great sense of humor. In class, she would often observe and listen, adding an important observation to the class discussion at a pivotal moment, taking the conversation to a deeper, more meaningful level. These characteristics, along with her patience and sense of purpose, have earned her recognition in the Henney Department of Education as an important agent of change.

Besides working with children at the Manchester Early Learning Center for three and a half years, Brooklyn took advantage of a January session travel course to Austin, Texas. During this experience, she stretched herself personally and professionally, exploring culturally responsive teaching and mindfulness in education. Brooklyn returned a different educator, but those fortunate to travel with her returned better people because of the time spent with this compassionate and engaging young woman.

After graduation, Brooklyn will teach in the North Manchester area, and without a doubt, she will continue to thrive as an educator, community member, wife, and mother. With ability and conviction, Brooklyn Howard's life will improve the human condition.

Dr. Heather Schilling

Brenna Inderlied, *summa cum laude*
Master of Accountancy
Bachelor of Science
Accounting

Brenna Inderlied was not sure when she arrived at Manchester whether she wanted to study accounting or education. Eventually, she settled on accounting, and it turned out to be an excellent fit with her skill set. She will make outstanding contributions to the profession. Brenna has been an active member of the College of Business Club's community outreach committee, she has volunteered to assist with Walk Into My Future multiple times, and she has also participated in the Student Research Symposium. Selected by

the Gilbert College of Business faculty to receive the Outstanding Senior Award, this quiet young lady from Huntington, Indiana also surprised some people with the powerful voice she brought to case discussions in the senior capstone course where she presented thoughtful, well-supported arguments addressing complex and sometimes controversial issues. Brenna completed two internships while at MU and will graduate with both a bachelor's degree and a Master of Accountancy. She received multiple job offers and will join the public accounting firm Baden Gage & Schroeder (Fort Wayne) in June. She has already begun studying for the CPA exam, and her goal is to pass all four sections this year.

Timothy Ogden

Sebastian Kalmbach, *magna cum laude*
Bachelor of Science
Religious Studies, Sociology

There are few minds capable of contending with post-structuralist Continental philosophy. Sebastian does more than this — he actually delights in reading these dense thinkers! I distinctly recall in my Religion & Ideological Power course the moment I noticed a student who was thoroughly engaged in social critique. Sebastian is uniquely committed to thinking beyond the conventional. Their fidelity to liberation isn't just academic, it is demonstrated by his service on the United Sexualities and Genders chapter at Manchester University. Sebastian endeavors to give voice to the voiceless and extend empathy to those who are rarely addressed with unconditional positive regard. This is why Sebastian is an ambassador for Manchester's mission.

The next semester, there was Sebastian sitting in the back row of the classroom. I was thrilled to have this bright intellect in class again. This time they were studying the New Testament and a course exploring the global diversity of monotheisms. There was scarcely a moment when he didn't have something provocative and compelling to add to the discussion. But Sebastian did this with such grace. He has the fortitude to express what he considers important while remaining welcoming to his peers. I'm so thankful that this will continue in graduate studies in gender and religious studies.

Sebastian had no idea they would become a Religious Studies major at Manchester University. But this founding member of Pagans at Manchester was absolutely intrigued by the development of Israelite monotheism from its pagan, polytheistic predecessors in the Levant. Sebastian was able to find a place amidst the biblical world that he once thought excluded him. And this is one of Sebastian's chief ethical practices: critical readings that revise and redeem the past. For Sebastian, ethics is not limited to the domain of the future. They seek to remember the voices that were once silenced, for they were once among them. Now Sebastian speaks for those he wrote of in his first paper, "The Other(s) In Me." As the Gospel of Thomas puts it: If you bring forth the other within you, that other will save you." Now he challenges others to listen to this sublime otherness within and beyond. Thank you, Sebastian, for showing us that the margins are inhabited by the coolest people and for speaking truth to power. Redeem on!

Dr. Justin Lasser

Hunter Kirgis, *cum laude*
Bachelor of Science
Accounting, Finance

It has been a pleasure having Hunter Kirgis in my courses throughout his four years at Manchester! He was planning to be an accountant during his sophomore year. About halfway through my course, Intermediate Accounting II, he began to have reservations. I met with him and we discovered that maybe he had lost his passion for accounting, so we discussed other options. He decided that finance might be a better fit and I think that was a wise decision. I immediately noted his ability to contribute richly to assignments and discussion in his upper-level finance courses. Hunter will graduate in May with a

bachelor's degree in both finance and accounting. He plans to begin his career as a credit analyst while he advances towards an investment research position. Over the summer, he will take the first of three parts of the Chartered Financial Analyst exam. He also has plans to complete an MBA (master's in business administration) degree once he has graduated and has some work experience, which is typically a requirement of such a program. Hunter is the type of person who researches to understand all the implications prior to making a decision. He worked a job all four years of college to help pay for any expenses that his scholarships did not cover. When asked what his most memorable college experience was, he said the connections with his professors in the College of Business. Hunter also contributed to the College of Business Club as he served as a member of the programming committee. In his spare time, he enjoys reading and playing tennis. I wish him the best as he begins his career. I cannot wait to hear about his accomplishments!

Jenny Simmers

Brett Kron, *cum laude*
Bachelor of Science
Finance

Brett Kron came to Manchester from Cincinnati with a strong work ethic and a drive to succeed. A member of the honors program, he balanced a rigorous academic program as a Finance major with participation in NCAA Division III baseball where he earned Second Team All-Conference and Academic All-Conference honors from the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference. He has exhibited outstanding leadership skills in his capacity as captain of the baseball team and also as president of the College of Business Club. In the latter position, he successfully managed the challenges presented by the pandemic and moved club activities to a virtual setting. He has served as a peer tutor and a Spartan Ambassador, and he was also selected by the Gilbert College of Business faculty to receive the Centennial Award for his outstanding service to the College. Brett completed an internship with Merchants Bank of Indiana in Indianapolis and will join the same organization as a credit analyst in its Investment Real Estate Department following graduation.

Timothy Ogden

Connor Ladd, *cum laude*
Bachelor of Arts
Religious Studies

Four and a half years ago, Connor met with me in my office as a prospective student. He was eager to learn more about his Church of the Brethren heritage and prepare for future ministry. I told Connor that Religious Studies at Manchester University will both challenge and cultivate a sophisticated and informed faith. He was up for the challenge.

After his first two weeks of the Introduction to the Hebrew Bible course, Connor pulled me aside and admitted that his mind was "blown away" by the critical study of the composition and social history of the Bible. He was hooked and never looked back. Connor demonstrates the truth of a faith that seeks its own understanding. He labored through the challenges that Religious Studies inevitably brings but stands firm not in "belief" but in an intuitive knowing. For him, belief is no longer a matter of the mind, but of compassionate knowing. This happened most distinctly at the tomb of Christ at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem. The brightness of his face said more than his words. It was there that Connor brushed up against the ineffable. It was an honor to make the pilgrimage with him.

In our other courses together, Connor never abandoned his interminable desire to know more. But in his third year, he is also learned how to be at peace with a truth that is not provable or demonstrable but known only through unknowing. And this is where his ethical commitments surpass his quest for knowledge. Connor cares for people. This former soft-spoken student now attends to those whom society

does not listen to — he speaks for and to them. Connor does not fall prey to “cultural issues” in the Church, for he applies the truth of love and inclusion at each turn. He is truly a Manchester graduate. He will continue his pilgrimage to the pulpit at Bethany Seminary. The world and the Church need Connor. He knows that understanding only comes through offering. The Gospel according to Connor is a compassionate one. It refrains from judgment and seeks to include those who are not included. Thank you, Connor.

Dr. Justin Lasser

Hannah Leap, *summa cum laude*
Bachelor of Arts
Environmental Studies, Biology-Chemistry

Hannah Leap is one of the most focused and persistent students that I have had the pleasure to work with during my time at Manchester University. In addition to having her in many of my classes, I also mentored Hannah throughout her independent research experience studying spatial patterns of mesomammal distribution using hair follicle analysis and camera traps. It does not matter if it's a class, a research project, or simply an impromptu conversation, you can count on Hannah to participate with tremendous energy and a deep desire to learn. She loves to learn. Hannah, I have no doubt that your tenacity will propel you toward success in whatever you set your mind to accomplish!

Hannah Leap will graduate with a dual major in Biology-Chemistry and Environmental Studies. After graduation, she plans to pursue a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree.

Dr. Suzanne Beyeler

Jonah Lechlitner, *cum laude*
Bachelor of Science
Music

Jonah Lechlitner is a wonderful young man musically, intellectually, and personally. He is well respected by both peers and professors here at Manchester University. Without question, Jonah demonstrates an intellectual and social maturity that is beyond the great majority of his peer group. He is a valued part of our music program. As a musician, he strives for excellence on a daily basis, including both his solo and his ensemble efforts and responsibilities.

He is a pleasure to interrelate with on both professional and personal levels. Additionally, he is more than willing to do any extra work for my program above the normal workload. On a daily basis, casual communication reveals a personality that is at once kind, clever, and witty. I have thoroughly enjoyed interacting with him and watching his growth throughout his four years at Manchester University.

Mr. Lechlitner has strengths in many areas. Leadership, drive, commitment, personality, and acceptance are his most prevalent strengths. In essence, Jonah is the true embodiment of everything a young man should be. I will miss him!

Dr. Scott Humphries

Mitchell Marks, *summa cum laude*
Bachelor of Science
Accounting, Finance

I had the pleasure of meeting Mitch before he began his academic journey at Manchester. Mitch was a prospective student with an impressive love for learning. I was delighted to learn that he had decided to pursue his interests at Manchester and looked forward to the opportunity to work with him. From the beginning, Mitch's vast interests and intellect were obvious. He has a love for numbers but his love for

learning extended beyond accounting and finance as Mitch is also an avid reader and writer. It has been a pleasure reading his papers over the last few years and gleaning insight on various topics, as he is an excellent writer. I certainly have learned much from Mitch and so have his peers. Mitch has a quiet confidence that encourages others to listen to what he has to say. He has affected many of his peers in a positive way, pushing them to explore ideas from a different angle.

Mitch is earning a double major in accounting and finance; he also serves as treasurer of the Manchester Spartan Swim & Water Polo Club and is a member of the Manchester Honors Program. Mitch is in the process of writing his honors thesis: "Accounting for a Pandemic: Internal Controls Over COVID Funding," and will defend it later this spring. He has already taken over 250 pages of notes on the topic while working over 65 hours a week – Mitch has superhero powers.

Mitch began working full time for Comerford & Company, CPAs in March. His job duties include accountant, consultant and preparer, he also performs accounting compilation services. Although Mitch was recruited by larger accounting firms, he chose Comerford & Company. He wanted to work for a local firm that serves companies in his community. Mitch will also be preparing for the rigorous four-part CPA exam this summer. Once he passes the exam, Mitch plans to spend more time pursuing his passion: writing. He has already begun working on a novel and hopes to have it completed before the start of the next busy season (spring 2022). I hope to secure a signed copy of his first edition. We may even find his books on The New York Times best sellers list someday.

Heather Twomey

Ava McVey, *summa cum laude*
Bachelor of Science
Psychology

Ava is self-directed, curious, highly skilled, and it has been my privilege to mentor her during her time at Manchester. As a first-year student, Ava stood out in my Introduction to Psychology course immediately. She was always prepared, contributed to discussions, wrote compelling short-answer essays, and was a reliable group work facilitator. In advanced research courses, Ava's curiosity and intellect made her a default group leader. It's clear to me that her fellow students both enjoy her company and her help, and she is regularly nominated by instructors to be a Peer Tutor.

Based on her strong performance and interpersonal skills, we hired Ava as a Psychology Department Student Assistant. She has exceeded our expectations. She proactively sought out work and was attentive to details and ethical concerns. In this role, she has developed an impressive expertise in course management and design, working with multiple software systems. Beyond strong knowledge of psychology and excellent self-management, I am floored by the extensiveness and diversity of research experiences Ava has sought out. She is accomplished in designing and conducting studies, from qualitative focus groups using NVIVO, to quantitative projects using SPSS and Jamovi. Ava actually taught herself to use Jamovi in order to serve as a teaching assistant for my Statistics and Research course. Ava has developed the knack for regularly seeking feedback on her work and embraces constructive criticism which are hallmarks of successful researchers.

Ava's curiosity and joy in learning have been constants. She is one of the few undergraduates I've observed reading non-fiction outside of course requirements. And in the process of completing her honors thesis, she excitedly added books to interlibrary loan to expand her knowledge on the topic even beyond the bounds of the project. Ava will continue in a research role as a PhD student in Human Factors Psychology at Clemson University in South Carolina following graduation.

Dr. KJ Kessie

Brittany Miller, *cum laude*
Bachelor of Arts
Psychology

Brittany Miller has been a leader since before she came to MU. In Psychology, she was selected for a variety of leadership roles, has been on multiple research teams, and was an officer in both our Psychology Club, and Psi Chi Honor Society. Her academic discipline is outstanding and in all the tasks she undertakes she is hardworking and industrious.. I have observed her manage a myriad of time demands and she has truly excelled.

Brittany will make a great teacher, researcher, clinician, and community leader. She is multitalented and weighing a variety of options for her immediate future. She has been accepted to the master's programs in Community Psychology at both Vanderbilt University and the University of Cincinnati. She has also been selected to teach in an Academy through the American Teaching Assistant Program in France. I have watched her in front of a classroom, and she is a thoughtful discussion leader and articulate at explaining complex problems in ways other students can understand.

She has excellent insights into people, is an effective researcher and able to present complex phenomenon in an understandable way. She has made research presentations at multiple research conferences and has strong interests in community development, using psychological science to empower others and using research to answer complex and important questions.

Although quiet and unassuming, Brittany has amassed an impressive set of credentials as a college student. I look forward to seeing the contributions she makes in the years to come!

Dr. Rusty Coulter-Kern

Isaac Miller, *summa cum laude*
Master of Accountancy
Bachelor of Science
Accounting

Isaac Miller came to Manchester University from Millersburg, Indiana to major in accounting. When the new Master of Accountancy program started a few years ago, Isaac was eager to shift his plans to take advantage of this new opportunity. Isaac also participated in the Honors program at Manchester and will graduate with the Honors designation. In addition to finishing 150 credit hours, taking honors classes, and earning both a bachelor's and master's degree in four short years, Isaac is an active leader on campus and the tennis court. He was an RA in Garver and was active in the College of Business Club Outreach Committee as both a member and later as the director of the Committee. The Committee was a good fit for Isaac's desire to volunteer in the local community. Isaac participated in numerous volunteer activities including Daniel's Place, helping international students with taxes, and Blessings in a Backpack to name a few. Isaac has been a four-year member of the men's tennis team, including one year as co-captain and two years as captain. All of Isaac's hard work academically and as a leader, athlete, and volunteer ultimately led to his recognition as the most outstanding graduating senior in the Gilbert College of Business when he recently received the L.D. Ickenberry Award. While exploring his career options, Isaac was fortunate to complete an audit and a tax internship. His tax internship lead to a full-time job offer. After graduation, Isaac will focus on studying for and passing the CPA exam this summer and fall and then begin work as a staff tax accountant with Crowe LLP in Fort Wayne beginning in January 2022. Isaac looks forward to moving to Fort Wayne. In his own words, he is "excited to explore a new city and become involved there through volunteer opportunities and other activities." I am confident Isaac will

continue to build on the hard work and dedication honed at Manchester as he pursues his career goals and invests in his local community.

Jen Lutz

Brooke Mosbaugh, *cum laude*
Bachelor of Science
Philosophy, Psychology

Brooke is a true renaissance woman! She has strong interests in the Social Sciences and Humanities. Her broad interest in the liberal arts extends to psychology, philosophy, and music. She is going to graduate school to become a therapist. Her warmth toward others, her listening ear, and broad understanding have uniquely positioned her to be a guide to clients who struggle with mental health concerns as well as with clients who struggle with the complexities of the human condition. She will bring a unique perspective and broad understanding to her client's stories and concerns. Brooke is curious and willing to roll up her sleeves to help others with any challenge.

Brooke has demonstrated an amazing personal discipline and initiative that enabled her to be successful in and out of the classroom. I look forward to seeing her bring her warmth, compassion, and broad understanding of the human condition to her work with the people around her. She will be an excellent ambassador for Manchester University!

Dr Rusty Coulter-Kern

Angel Munson, *cum laude*
Bachelor of Science
Educational Studies

When I first called on Angel in class, she was extremely reserved. She was quiet and reluctant to share her ideas in front of her peers. But with time, Angel began to reveal more of herself as an individual scholar and has since emerged as a leader. I have had the joy of facilitating some of Angel's academic journey through several courses. In doing so, I have witnessed her transformation into a trusted resource for other students. Angel has always been friendly, but now she is even more willing to initiate conversations and goes out of her way to make others feel welcome. Angel, as her name implies, is an individual with wisdom, virtue, and outstanding personal conduct. Her kind and welcoming spirit will serve her well as she steps into her role as a media specialist, head librarian, or early childhood educator. Her gentle demeanor will no doubt put students and adult learners at ease. During her four years at Manchester University, Angel has taken several opportunities to grow in her confidence and professional career path. Recently she completed research on the benefits of wordless picture books for adult literacy. She has also participated in clubs and activities where she is a joyful addition to any group! It has been a pleasure watching Angel flourish and accomplish her goals. In May, Angel will graduate with Latin honors and a degree in Educational Studies. Upon graduation, she plans to return to her hometown of Fort Wayne, IN to pursue a career in either library services or early childhood education. On behalf of my department colleagues, I congratulate Angel on this recognition of her growth and resilience.

Mistie L. Potts

Bethany Pegg, *cum laude*
Bachelor of Science
Psychology

When Bethany landed in my classroom after transferring to Manchester, I knew her only as a quiet and assuming student who excelled in my Intro to Psychology course. As she graduates from Manchester with a degree in Psychology, I know her now as an exceptionally talented and persevering student, who is kind and compassionate, devoted to her family, and is a lover of animals and YA Fantasy series.

What strikes me most about Bethany is the strength she has displayed during her time here. She has pushed far beyond her comfort zone to embrace each educational experience as it came along. She has worked through medical challenges and circumstances that would leave most of us to "phone-it-in". Instead, Bethany succeeded in completing each assignment and class exercise with diligence and precision. In a particularly difficult course, she kindly took on a leadership role in her group to offer additional explanations of longhand statistics and theory—something both her peers and I appreciated.

It has been my honor to serve as Bethany's advisor and instructor these last four years, and I will miss our chats and book discussions as well as her mature presence in my classes. As she moves to a new place to start her Educational Specialist degree in School Psychology, I have a message for her..."You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think..." - A.A. Milne.

Dr. KJ Kessie

Alexis Pendleton, *cum laude*
Bachelor of Science
Exercise Science

Alexis is an example of what we hope for from all our students at Manchester University. She took full advantage of her four years here and thrived as a student, an athlete, and an active member of our campus community. She was as happy to learn in classes for her major in Exercise Science and prepare for a future career in Physical Therapy as she was to sit in a Core literature class and read books she never would choose on her own.

She cares deeply -- about her family and friends, about causes that are important to her, about the worth of everyone around her. She thrives on connections with others and with the world at large, and she makes sure to spread her enthusiasm and joy wherever she is. The natural next step for her is to influence the world beyond Manchester and to show others what a student of ability and conviction truly is. The world needs more Manchester graduates, and we should all be glad that Alexis is one of them.

Dr. Stacy Erickson-Pesetski

Rebecca Porterfield-Winstead, *magna cum laude*
Bachelor of Science
Biology-Chemistry

Rebecca Porterfield-Winstead simply gets things done. An excellent student who will graduate with a Biology-Chemistry major, she has also kept a 40-hour per week work schedule throughout her time at Manchester, most recently as a patient care assistant at Lutheran Hospital. A key to her success is her strong ability to focus on that which is important and needed in the moment and to ask questions. On the January Session 2020 Medical Practicum short-term experience in global health to rural, Q'eqchi' and Poqomchi' (Maya) communities in the central highlands of Guatemala, she showed her durability, strength of character, and alertness. Throughout this trip, she took advantage of the continuous opportunities for learning about health care and health care careers, as well as about the culture and social realities of the less-developed country in which we worked. She contributed significantly and positively to the group, explored the society in which we worked, and showed her strong, curious, situational awareness. For example, when setting up our Guatemalan clinics and duffel bags or boxes of medicines were in the wrong location, Rebecca was typically the first in the group to recognize the need and then also the first to start the lifting and carrying. She is the sort of person one wants to have on one's team, working together towards a goal. For her next step along the path to becoming a physician, Rebecca will take a gap year for work and initial applications to medical school.

Dr. Jeff Osborne

Mackenzie Rooks, *cum laude*
Bachelor of Science
Marketing, Spanish

Mackenzie Rooks has been so active in college that it wears one out to review her résumé. She balanced a rigorous academic schedule as a double major in Marketing and Spanish with four years of competition in NCAA Division III volleyball. She spent a semester abroad in Barcelona and served in numerous leadership positions across campus. In addition to being part of the honors program, she served for a period as director of the College of Business Club's marketing committee. She also served as director of the Gilbert College of Business's ambassador program, a critical link between the College and prospective students considering enrolling at Manchester. The College of Business faculty selected her to receive the Outstanding Senior Award, and she also earned the position of president of the senior capstone course's business project, Chet Tech. Kenzie completed three internships while at Manchester and currently serves as the marketing coordinator for the Boys and Girls Club of Huntington County. After commencement, she will join Annie's Publishing in Fort Wayne as an e-mail marketing associate.

Timothy Ogden

Elizabeth Russell, *cum laude*
Bachelor of Science
Psychology

Elizabeth brings energy and creativity to each encounter she has with others. She is an amazingly hard worker who has excelled in academics while working and running in track. She is a joy to work with and an excellent team player who works hard for the good of all involved in each group task or assignment. Elizabeth has been a part of a number of my classes. Through these experiences I have been able to see the degree to which she completes what she begins and the level of motivation and enthusiasm she brings to tasks. She is a diligent worker and brings excellent insight to team meetings. She is both resilient and persistent and although she does not call attention to herself in groups, she emerges as a competent and kind team member and leader. Elizabeth has displayed excellent leadership skills and has done an outstanding job negotiating and motivating student colleagues who have not proven to be as hard-working and industrious as she is. She has a unique ability to successfully navigate team building activities while managing tasks and team goals. She has excellent insight into others, a warmth towards all, and is capable of rising to any occasion to reach her goals. She has been accepted to the Doctoral Program in School Psychology at Ball State and will be an excellent School Psychologist and positive influence in the schools. I look forward to watching her emerge as a leader and positive force for good as a fellow Psychologist!

Dr. Rusty Coulter-Kern

Emma Saunders, *cum laude*
Bachelor of Science
Biology-Chemistry

Emma Saunders is a hard-working, focused, young scientist who will graduate with a Biology-Chemistry major. An excellent student, she also has many achievements outside the classroom. In Biochemistry II, she started a project compiling from literature the biodegradation pathway for 2-hydroxypyridine. The following semester, she continued the project as an extracurricular researcher with me, working with collaborators around the world to beta test a web environment and then publish her pathway on enviPath - The Environmental Contaminant Biotransformation Pathway Resource (enviPath.org). Other experiential learning took place during the January Session 2020 Medical Practicum with Q'eqchi' and Poqomchi' (Maya) rural communities in the central highlands of Guatemala. While the problems we met there sometimes had simple answers, the complex situations typically were highly nuanced, without clear solutions. Regardless, I saw Emma consistently seek ways on this trip to use her scientific and cultural

understanding to improve the human condition. Finally, in her work for the chemistry department as lab assistant and grader, she has been one of our best teaching assistants. Students respond well to her guidance and working with her is easy. Her involvement with many opportunities during her time at Manchester have helped all those involved. For next year, Emma plans to continue her education by entering a master's program in Chemistry with an emphasis on biochemistry.

Dr. Jeff Osborne

Morgan Shumaker, *cum laude*
Bachelor of Arts
Biology-Chemistry, Spanish

I have had the immense pleasure of teaching her in multiple courses and serving as her advisor for her honors thesis. Morgan is obviously bright, that is why she is graduating with Latin honors! But there is so much more to Morgan than her grades. Morgan brings a joy with her to every occasion. Even when stressed herself, she has a smile and a kind word to share with those around her.

Morgan was in cellular biology the first time I had ever taught it during my first year at MU. I designed the course to be hands-on and student led. Morgan threw herself into the activities without hesitation. Even when activities did not go exactly as I had imagined, Morgan would tell me how excited she was that we tried it. When I think back on the classes Morgan and I have shared, it strikes me how much joy she brought into the course. It was infectious to everyone!

In addition to her Latin honors, Morgan will be graduating this year with Honors and Achievement due to her completion of coursework and an independent research thesis. When Morgan approached me last year about being her honors advisor I immediately agreed. This past year I have watched her overcome the struggles and setbacks inherent to research. I'm sure there were moments she considered giving up, but she never did.

After graduation, Morgan will attend Marian University's College of Osteopathic Medicine. I hope Marian University realizes what a gem they have enrolled. I truly believe Morgan will make an excellent physician! She is incredibly smart, quick on her feet, but most importantly, she believes in the infinite worth of her patients. I hope when she does become a doctor she opens up her practice here so I can go from her instructor to her patient!

Over the past 3 years I have watched Morgan truly become her best self.

Dr. Jennifer Robison

Carli Skinner, *magna cum laude*
Bachelor of Arts
Elementary Education

"In a gentle way, you can shake the world" (Ghandi), and since she arrived at Manchester University, Carli Skinner has become a nurturing leader intent on leaving this world a better place than she found it. As an educator, she understands the power of words and action, and she has found ways to develop her natural skills.

Early in her collegiate journey, Carli Skinner established herself as a young woman ready to accept the challenges of college as well as to be actively engaged in her community. With a servant's heart, an intense passion for learning, and a genuine love of children, Carli has remained unwavering in her desire to become a classroom teacher. Finishing up her semester-long student teaching, Carli will graduate with a degree in elementary education with a concentration in English language. And in Carli Skinner fashion, she also took the courses and licensure exam to add mild intervention to her teaching license. She will

remain in the North Manchester area to establish herself as an agent of change supporting the development of children and young adults.

As a leader, Carli served as the president of the Manchester University Student Education Association, participating in Red for Ed rallies, organizing events that brought pre-service teachers together with veteran teachers, and advocating for the teaching profession.

Carli has consistently taken strides to find her voice, and she took advantage of opportunities Manchester offered. She traveled to Minneapolis, MN, where she and her MU peers were only a handful of preservice teachers who attended a national progressive education conference, challenging themselves to think differently about the pedagogy educators use to engage learners. Carli also spent two weeks in Austin, Texas, with faculty and students in the class Building Communities in Schools. In Texas, Carli explored culturally responsive teaching and mindfulness in the classroom, and she had the opportunity to teach in Spanish.

Carli Skinner lives the Manchester mission, and she will use her education and passion to continue to shake the world.

Dr. Heather Schilling

Elijah Smith, *cum laude*
Bachelor of Arts
History

Elijah Smith is an engaged and dedicated learner. He is always prepared for class and participates enthusiastically in class discussions. He strives to continually expand his skills and learning in class and beyond. Elijah combines this enthusiasm and passion with hard work, a potent combination that will surely serve him well in all his undertakings.

Coming into MU thinking that he might become a doctor or an engineer, Elijah sat in one of the classes offered by Prof. Mark Angelos and realized that he wanted to pursue a major in History. This was a defining moment for Eli. He had enjoyed history in the past but had always thought of it as a hobby. He credits his History professors for helping him discover himself, his passion, and the possibilities for an enriching career. He is keeping an open mind as he explores the many potential opportunities that are available to him.

A defining practical experience for Elijah was his engagement with the ethnographic scanning project under the supervision of MU archivist Jeanine Wine. Here, he teamed up with a group from IPFW who specialized in 3D scanning. As an archive student assistant, Elijah was engaged in cleaning and setting up models for 3D scanning and working on those 3D models using specialized software. Elijah credits this experience for further opening his mind about new types of opportunities that exist for him as a student of History.

After graduation, Elijah plans to avail of a gap year to gain experience in life, so he can decide whether to pursue a job or a graduate education. I wish Eli the very best during this phase of exploration and beyond and am grateful for the opportunity to work with him during his time at Manchester.

Dr. Uma Ganesan

Hallie Sorg, *cum laude*
Bachelor of Arts
Biology-Chemistry

I am honored to have the chance to brag about graduating senior, Hallie Sorg. I first met Hallie about two years ago when she was a student in my Introduction to Molecular Biology Laboratory section. At the time, I was impressed by her leadership skills in the classroom, as well as her overall motivation to succeed. I found Hallie to be curious and inquisitive. She often took time outside of the scheduled class to inquire about concepts at a deeper, more complex level, demonstrating her desire to master concepts which will be of benefit to her future career. Hallie was also very well spoken, and confident and capable of explaining concepts to her classmates, who were struggling with the material. Overall, I found Hallie to be a pleasure to work with and a very beneficial addition to my classroom.

I am happy to say that my interactions with Hallie did not end after only one class. Instead, Hallie and I worked on a summer research project together, and my admiration for her only grew. As I got to know her better, it became clear to me that Hallie embodies the Manchester spirit. Not only was Hallie a brilliant researcher, she is also empathetic and down to earth. Simply put, Hallie is just a person you want to be around.

As Hallie's time at Manchester draws to a close, I cannot help but feel like we are losing a good one. However, I know she is off to bigger and better things, and that our loss is the world's gain. Hallie has a very bright future ahead of her no matter what path she chooses. Currently, she is looking at acceptances at multiple veterinary medicine programs, some of the most competitive programs in the country. While this is not an easy accomplishment, it honestly does not surprise me that Hallie is in such high demand. She truly is a good one, and I wish her all the best in the future! Hallie, I am so proud of you and am lucky to call you not only my student, but also my friend!

Dr. Cassie Gohn

Ann Stahl, *cum laude*
Bachelor of Science
Chemistry

Ann is graduating with a Chemistry major and a minor in Biology. Ann was one of the first students I met at Manchester when I came for my own interview. Once arriving at MU, I was able to get to know Ann more and know her to be a bright student with a great medical career in front of her. As a Chemistry major, I have been able to have many interactions with Ann over the last two years. She is always fun to talk to and is very dedicated to achieving her goals. Ann plans on going to medical school after Manchester and I have no doubt that she will be a wonderful physician. Ann has a servant's heart and demonstrates this in the many things she does. She has worked in the emergency department at her local hospital, has served as a chemistry department lab assistant, and tutors chemistry through the success center. Ann also demonstrates her leadership through being a mentor to other students in the STEM program and serving as the president of the local student section of the American Chemical Society. In addition to her many roles on and off campus, Ann has also done independent research with me over the summer. She is motivated and always asked intelligent questions about her research project. It was fun to see her take more ownership of her project and be really independent towards the end of the summer. She has definitely made a big impact at Manchester and I am so excited to see what the future has in store for her.

Dr. Kyle Watson

Heather Steele, *cum laude*
Bachelor of Science
Elementary Education

I have had the distinct pleasure of knowing Heather Steele for the extent of her academic career at Manchester University. During my six years at MU, there may be no other student I have worked with more consistently than Heather. I have served as her academic advisor, as her instructor for many on-campus courses, as her instructor/director for a life-changing travel course, and now as her University supervisor for student teaching. I could not be prouder of the young woman and educator Heather has developed in to. I asked Heather to share a few highlights from her tenure at MU and she said: "A definite highlight would be the trip to Texas. I will forever be grateful for that experience and everything I learned. I am also grateful for all the people I have met including the excellent staff and my friends. I have built more relationships here than I had ever expected. As far as something I am proud of, I would say I am most proud of the grades that I have maintained over these four years." Beyond her academic excellence, I will most remember Heather's perseverance and positive outlook through challenging times, as well as, her genuine smile and infectious laugh. Heather is bringing a stellar set of skills and dispositions to the elementary education world and all who will encounter her will be blessed. On behalf of all my department colleagues, I congratulate Heather on this well-earned recognition of her academic excellence and wish her great success in this beautiful profession.

Kurt Kurtzhals

Joshua Troup, *cum laude*
Bachelor of Science
Peace Studies, Criminal Justice

I met Joshua Troup during first year orientation in Fall 2017. Joshua was a new criminal justice major who was enrolled in my First Year Seminar, an introduction to questions of peace, violence, and protest. I learned something quickly about Joshua: he is a detail person. If anything in an assignment was ambiguous, if a point I had made wasn't clear, if a reading could be interpreted in different ways – Joshua was sure to raise the question in class or appear in my office door soon after. He conveyed immediately a dedication to his academic work that has resulted in this honors award.

Like other peace studies majors who consider or pursue careers in the military or law enforcement, Joshua was drawn to the pragmatic aspects of our field: what are the dynamics of nonviolent power, and what nonviolent techniques can serve to deescalate a conflict? How do points of privilege and oppression influence interpersonal interactions and inform policies that may perpetuate injustice? Joshua's questions pushed discussions in class to address different perspectives and assumptions, always with generosity. He models the ability to engage in dialogue and develop friendships with people who hold very different views – a testament to the value Joshua places in treating people with consideration and respect.

Joshua has completed the requirements for two majors, is graduating with honors, has juggled caring for family members and a demanding job. He was awarded a summer internship with a police department through the Shepherd Higher Education Consortium on Poverty in which he worked alongside law students, conducting interviews and shadowing attorneys and investigators. At the work site of our January 2020 travel course, to study the intersections of poverty, race, and climate change in New Orleans, no one was a more prepared traveler than Josh, and he would gladly offer whatever he had to help out any one of us in the group.

In all his efforts, Joshua brings an unfailing sense of responsibility and deep desire to take full advantage of the opportunities presented to him. Our community has been enriched by Joshua's contributions and care for the other members of the program. While we will miss his regular company in the peace studies

lounge, we trust that Joshua will take what he has learned at Manchester to model the kind of peacebuilders we need for our communities and for the world.

Congratulations, Josh, on all you have accomplished! I'm so grateful that you have been part of our program.

Dr. Katy Gray Brown

Pryce Whisenhunt, *magna cum laude*
Bachelor of Science
Instrumental Music Education

I am honored to have the opportunity to share my experiences working with Pryce Whisenhunt over the past few years. While a student here, Pryce has been an active member of the Music Department, involved in the Manchester Symphony Orchestra, our Music Education program and the Theory/Composition major. Pryce is a talented and dedicated musician/educator and a genuine, caring person.

Pryce is one of the most dedicated musicians I have worked with during my time at Manchester and his countless hours of practice and preparation have really paid off. He has grown into a very fine violinist and a sophisticated composer. He takes his work seriously and always brings a positive attitude to whatever task is at hand. In all of my time working with Pryce, he has never come unprepared to a class session, rehearsal or lesson and his devotion to developing his craft as a musician and an educator are always evident.

But, more important than what I have said above, Pryce is a person of integrity and character and will make a positive impact in the lives of his future students. As President McFadden often states, "The world needs more Manchester graduates," and it is students like Pryce who really make those words ring true. While I will miss having Pryce on campus as a student, I am excited to see what the future holds for him.

Pryce is graduating with a double major in Music Education and Music Theory/Composition. After graduation, Pryce plans to begin a career as a music educator.

Dr. Tim Reed