

*Academic Excellence
Banquet*

April 24, 2019
Jo Young Switzer Center



she has also been recognized by the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference (HCAC) as an Academic All-Conference member competing with the MU varsity women's soccer and basketball teams, as well as an honoree on last year's All HCAC Sportsmanship team. Ms. Zoog takes pride in her accomplishments. She is a leader on campus, as well as in the community. Bella is the captain of the Spartan women's soccer team, vice president of the Exercise Science Club, and member of the Student Athletic Advisory Committee, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and Manchester Catholics. In addition, she willingly shares her talents as a team leader for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life of Wabash County, volunteers with the Peyton Manning Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) program, and provided leadership at five different Awakening church retreats. Moreover, Ms. Zoog coaches athletes with disabilities in the Wabash County Special Olympics program, as well as volunteered at the Special Olympics Indiana Summer Games in Terre Haute. Bella is the recipient of the MU Presidential Scholarship, as well as the Brownsburg Kiwanis Scholarship. "It was an honor 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 of Exercise Science and Athletic Training, "Bella displays academic excellence, her energy is infectious, and her service to others is impressive. She is committed to becoming an occupational therapist of ability and conviction who makes a difference in the lives of her patients." Ms. Zoog has been accepted into the graduate program at Milligan College (Tenn.).

Dr. Kim Duchane

the-grid intentional community in the Virginia hills or slogging through trash and recycling at the Academic Center, Amy recognizes what needs to be done and inspires the rest of us to join her. This emphasis on the transformative power of common effort is the hallmark of Amy's work. "If you see a need in the community, do something about it," Amy writes. "Don't be afraid to ask critical questions. Question the structure, the organization, the methods, and the philosophy because the needs of every group can evolve over time, and we must be resilient enough to adapt to change." Thank you, Amy, for choosing Manchester, and for moving us, patiently but persistently, toward a more just and sustainable world.

Dr. Katy Gray Brown

Logan Williams, magna cum laude

Bachelor of Science
Elementary Education

Finishing in just 3 1/2 years, Logan Williams will graduate in May with a degree in elementary education with high ability. Because of his love of literature, Logan also added a teaching license in 5-12 language arts. As an undergraduate, Logan was actively involved in the Student Education Association. Not only did he serve as the President of the campus chapter, but Logan served as the Region 2 representative. He also represented Indiana at the national student leadership institute sponsored by the National Education Association, and he had the privilege of serving Indiana teachers' union representatives at the NEA representative assemblies in both Washington, DC, and Boston, MA. While at Manchester, Logan was actively engaged in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and in his spare time loves to help his dad coach wrestling. Finished with student teaching last fall, Logan is currently teaching in the Columbus, Ohio, area. Logan is a graduate of ability and conviction, and he embodies "only a life lived in the service to others is worth living" (Einstein).

Dr. Heather Schilling

Isabella Zoog, cum laude

Bachelor of Science
Exercise Science and Fitness

Isabella Zoog (Brownsburg, Ind.) is a senior exercise science and fitness major preparing for a career in occupational therapy. She has demonstrated academic competence, leadership, and service in the Department of Exercise Science and Athletic Training receiving several recognitions during her tenure at Manchester University (MU). Bella is a "mover and a shaker" who pursues every opportunity to learn, earning an impressive 3.8 grade point average during her undergraduate years. In addition to her success in the classroom,

Program

Reception

6 p.m.

Beauchamp Balcony Lounge

Welcome

Raylene M. Rospond
Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dinner

6:30 p.m.

Lahman Room

Introduction of Students

Faculty and Staff Members

Honor Students

Roman Angone, magna cum laude

Bachelor of Arts

Psychology, Modern Languages

Roman displays thoughtful insights in each class discussion, actively engages other students in discussions over course topics, and draws out other students' perspectives. He brings fresh honesty to each conversation and shares himself freely with others. He is proficient in German, is an excellent writer, and is able to share deeply with others. He brings insights into conversations from other classes, life experiences, and his thoughtful reflection on course material. He has interests in travel, cross-cultural dialogue and communication, and language. In some ways he is a Renaissance man--a person with broad interests and skills who is adept at language, is curious about humanity, and is knowledgeable about psychology. It is telling to note that Roman scored above the 93rd percentile nationally among the thousands of students who took the national content knowledge exam in psychology. He is part of an elite group of students in his ability to use his knowledge of psychology to reason, solve problems, and understand and analyze complex problems. It is rewarding to have students like Roman who care for others, think deeply about complex issues, and can use their knowledge and understanding to make the world a better place for us all.

Dr. Rusty Coulter-Kern

Anthea Ayebaze, magna cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Biology-Chemistry

Anthea Ayebaze will graduate with a biology-chemistry major. The context in which Anthea grew up in Uganda provided her an understanding of poverty in general and global health in particular. On campus, she is president of the African Students Association, helping African students transition to university culture and expectations, and creating community. She contributes to our campus in other ways, as well, as a STEM Pathways Academic Peer Mentor, student health assistant, chemistry tutor, and lab assistant. Anthea has broad perspective and deep, solid motivation, dependably accompanied by a relaxed, focused, pleasant affect. Upon graduation, Anthea will build upon her life perspective, record of academic accomplishment, and awareness about global health issues as she enters a Master's in Public Health program at the University of North Texas. Long term, she intends to do medical research and/or health

current project organized by the IU-PU Indianapolis University Library Center for Digital Scholarship to use 3-D technology to scan objects from the Manchester University Archives and Peace Studies Church of the Brethren Collection of art objects from Africa and Asia. Zoe is a friendly and forward-looking person who brings positive energy to every conversation, each classroom, and any social interaction where she is engaged. She served the History program as a tutor and has spent considerable time with us over the past few years making Manchester a better place. Congratulations, Zoe, we will miss you!

Dr. Mark Angelos

Amy Weeks, cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Peace Studies, Environmental Studies

Amy Weeks is not afraid to change things up. She discovered Manchester on a school field trip and, hearing that students could make a difference here, decided this was the place for her. Midway through her second year, Amy recognized that her program of study would probably lead to an office position; preferring to spend as little time as possible within walls and under a roof, Amy switched majors. In a dramatic move that might have required an additional year from anyone else, she arranged her schedule like a Tetris master and worked summers to complete the requirements for majors in both peace studies and environmental studies. In these programs, Amy found the multidisciplinary perspective she wanted to understand the root causes of the most critical problems we face today: violence, injustice, and environmental degradation. Amy uses the tools of her studies well. Combining meticulous scientific methods with skills as an organizer and community builder, Amy's work seeks to repair the fractured connection between humans and the non-human world. She invests in tangible, local efforts, understanding that these provide the most promising steps toward larger systemic change. In an ambitious senior project, Amy researched institutional recycling systems, then, drawing upon her work in psychology, designed and implemented a more effective and efficient recycling program here at Manchester. This example reflects the very motivation that brought Amy to Manchester; her work demonstrates the ability for an individual to make meaningful and lasting change. Amy has finished her degree but will continue her studies and work; it is our great fortune that some of that will continue her connection to Manchester. This summer, she plans to support projects for the environmental studies program in addition to literal field work at Hawkins Family Farm, a Community Supported Agriculture farm just east of town. In these and future positions, I am certain that Amy will be quickly recognized as an invaluable resource. In addition to the knowledge Amy brings, her work ethic and enthusiasm are distinctive. Whether hiking a half mile to an off-

everyone else's as well, given her cumulative GPA of 3.9. This is all the more impressive, given Rebecca's consistent record of Honors conversions and their attendant projects. She is also responsible and motivated. She was ready for every meeting we ever had, never failing to ask perceptive and incisive questions that showed the depth of her preparation. Her goal was always to become a veterinarian, and anytime she encountered a next step that she didn't recognize, she did her research, asked advice about what she needed, and adjusted her plans accordingly. It is this organization and motivation that allowed her to spend a full year abroad and still complete a double major in four years, despite both programs being time consuming and often difficult to coordinate. If the above information about Rebecca's academics didn't convince you that she is a young woman of many talents, then the extent of her involvement at Manchester should. She played with the band; and she played ultimate Frisbee. She studied abroad for a year in Ecuador, mentored first-year students in North Manchester, worked as a lifeguard, and traveled to Chile to recruit international students to come to Manchester. In short, she is a woman who can be trusted to take care of herself and others. All of my best wishes go with her in her next chapter: veterinary school.

Dr. Kathy Davis

Zoe Vorndran, magna cum laude

Bachelor of Arts
History, English

Zoe Vorndran will graduate this spring as a double major in history and English, quite a different path for a student who began her college career as an aspiring scientist. Zoe's acute interest in studying people, both in the past and today, has shaped her choices at Manchester over the past few years and she is well-prepared for the future. For example, Zoe spent spring semester 2018 at the National University of Ireland, Maynooth studying Irish history and culture, traveling, and continuing another of her many intellectual interests: learning the German language. Her historical research covers a wide range of questions culminating in a senior thesis, *Feminizing and Coloring Filipinos: American Media and the Philippines, 1898-1902*, where she studies the various ways that the US media rationalized the American conquest of the Philippines through the use of gender and racial stereotypes. In my classes, Zoe researched and wrote about a variety of diverse and interesting topics, such as John Wyclif's impact on the English language in late medieval England; an analysis of Steven Ozment's book, *The Bürgermeister's Daughter: Scandal in a Sixteenth-Century German Town*; and a reflection upon the difficult position of middle-class Jewish women in pre-war Germany through a close reading of Martha Appel's *Memoir*. Zoe plans to pursue a career in Public History, an applied field concentrating on professional training for work in archives and museums. She is participating in a

care to serve the underserved. Anthea has strong potential to improve the global, human condition and contribute to society via human health work that is rigorous, creative, and needed.

Dr. Jeff Osborne

Shelby Bagby, magna cum laude

Bachelor of Science
Biology-Chemistry

Shelby inspires and lifts those up around her in all situations, from class and labs to peer teaching and off-campus employment. She has been a leader among her peers since her first year at Manchester. In her first year she helped host a Bee Awareness week and organized a guest speaker to come for a VIA. She has been the president of the Fashion Club for the last two years. Being president of an on-campus club allowed her to increase her communication skills to provide direction and foster teamwork between the club leadership. Additionally, she is also the vice-president of the Pre-Pharmacy Club. During her tenure as VP of the Pre-Pharmacy Club, she has arranged mock pharmacy school interviews and invited relevant speakers to engage the club with a variety of relevant topics. Her leadership goals have been to practice patience and understanding that people may have other commitments or issues that prevent them from being able to participate fully. Shelby has shown herself capable of drawing upon her education and applying it to many situations. After taking Immunology, which focused primarily on humans, she was able to apply her knowledge to studying the immune response of soybeans. This independent research project under the supervision of Dr. Jennifer Robison allowed her to gain confidence in both her laboratory skills and her ability to collect and analyze scientific data. She was recently invited to share her research on long-distance soybean immune responses at this year's Indiana Academy of Sciences Annual meeting. Where her personification of the MU mission truly shines is as a pharmacy technician where she serves her community. Particularly, she has deliberately taken the MU mission to heart as a pharmacy technician to "respect the infinite worth of every individual" to serve everyone in her community and provide the best information she can with compassion. While being the president of the Fashion Club, vice-president of the Pre-Pharmacy club, peer tutor for two very difficult classes, and working off campus as a pharmacy technician, she has also maintained a GPA that has made her a regular on the Dean's List. Her accomplishments have earned her a place in Butler University's Pharmacy program. Shelby's love of learning and genuine desire to serve show she truly exemplifies the Manchester University spirit.

Dr. Jennifer Robison

Chandler Bauer, cum laude

Bachelor of Science
Accounting

Chandler Bauer came to Manchester University from Huntington, Indiana to major in accounting. Chandler earned 150 hours of credit in just four years to become eligible to sit for the CPA exam this year. While that kept him busy, he was also a member of the College of Business Club. Chandler's most significant academic experiences at Manchester were taking accounting courses like Advanced Accounting, Introduction to Taxation, and Auditing. Chandler interned with the Indiana State Board of Accounts in the summer of 2018 and is currently an intern with Kline's CPA Group in Huntington. Chandler's future plan includes obtaining his CPA license and working as a tax accountant or as an accountant in private industry.

Ms. Jen Lutz

Kristofer Bettis, summa cum laude

Bachelor of Science
Biology

Kristofer Bettis is from Carlinville, Illinois, and currently lives near Pierceton. He is a biology major with a strong interest in almost anything to do with animals. He originally hoped to become a pilot for the US military, but was prevented from following that path by a quirk of genetics, namely colorblindness. Other than biology, he is interested in history, hunting, horseback riding, and hockey. He enjoys working out the details of intricate processes, and has interned in the regulatory affairs office at Zimmer Biomet since 2017. He will be employed at Zimmer after graduation.

Dr. Dave Hicks

Maranda Birmingham, cum laude

Bachelor of Science
Exercise Science and Fitness

Maranda is an extremely driven and motivated individual. She has been highly successful in all aspects of her academic and professional preparation as she will continue her education pursuing a Doctorate degree in Physical Therapy. Maranda has been involved in our Exercise Science Club and participated on the women's soccer team all four years. She is the women's soccer program's first 25-goals-plus scorer since 2015 and led her team in goals and total points scored. Maranda will make an excellent Physical Therapist!

Ms. Erin Foreman

more mundane ups and downs of the college life, you've experienced great loss and financial uncertainty. But through it all, I'm continually awed by how you meet every challenge with your head held high, determined to tackle it through boundless optimism, relentless work ethic, and confident trust in God's provision. I'm convinced that this inimitable mix is how you have gone beyond merely surviving college: you have flourished; and you have excelled. What a great testament that is to your own outstanding qualities, and also to the family and community who raised you. I hope that my own sons turn out even half as well as you have, and I'm so glad that they have a role model like you in their lives. May God bless you and keep you always, and especially now as you leave Manchester for the next steps in your life. Go also with my heartfelt thanks for the ways in which you've enriched this place. My life, and my family's life, is better because you are in it. I can't wait to see where you go in life!

Dr. Kathy Davis

Nathan Timmerman, cum laude

Bachelor of Science
Marketing, Professional Sales

Nathan Timmerman spent a significant amount of time during his college years walking backwards. He could regularly be seen leading campus guests or prospective students and their families through the Academic Center as they began their campus tours, and he always had a smile on his face. But the time that Nathan committed to serving others while at Manchester was not new to him, as he had selflessly helped care for a family member in need during his high school years. Nathan came to Manchester in part because of the opportunity to play football, but shoulder injuries and multiple surgeries cut his athletic career short. That fact, however, did not slow him down or affect his positive, can-do attitude. He intensified his focus on academics, adding minors in professional sales and entrepreneurship to his major in marketing, and he served on a four-person team representing the College of Business at the Conexus Logistics Case Competition in Indianapolis. Nathan has accepted a position as a property claims specialist with Liberty Mutual Insurance in Indianapolis where he will begin working in May.

Mr. Timothy Ogden

Rebecca Ullom-Minnich, magna cum laude

Bachelor of Science
Biology-Chemistry, Spanish

Rebecca is, quite simply, a delight. She is talented, motivated, and caring, with a warm and professional demeanor and an adventurous spirit. Her academic skills are unquestionable. She was a top performer in my courses, and in

care providers from the U.S. and 7 from Nicaragua. Taking motorized dugout canoes to villages, living without electricity and running water, and eating food prepared by local women, the group was together continuously and learned to know itself well. William's consistency, persistence, and strong work ethic stood out during those three weeks. Those obvious qualities fit well with his personal mission statement, which surfaced in an essay in a later semester: learn every day, live with an open mind, respect the infinite worth of every individual, and strive to improve the human condition whenever possible. Following graduation with a major in biology-chemistry, William will begin a Master's in Public Health program at the University of Michigan. He is working towards becoming an oncologist. I am certain that his earnestness, honesty, ability, and willingness to serve will find a way to improve the lives of those suffering from cancer.

Dr. Jeff Osborne

Joseph Swartz, cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Mathematics, Software Engineering

Joe is a multi-dimensional leader in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, where he double majors in mathematics and software engineering, and minors in data science. Joe has a deep curiosity for the subjects he studies and leads by example in his academic pursuits and classroom engagement. He is vice president of the Computer Coding Club and active in Students Pondering about Mathematics (a/k/a SPAM). He has been on the Dean's List each of his seven Manchester semesters. When not digging into challenging computational and coding problems, Joe can be found throwing most any object for the track and field team (i.e., hammer, javelin, discus, and shot) and is Top 15 HCAC in hammer and javelin. Joe also keeps his mind in top shape serving as a calculus tutor in the Math Center, an experience that has led to his senior project: Creating a Calculus Calculator using Natural Language Processing to Understand Voice Commands.

Dr. Jim Brumbaugh-Smith

Samuel Tetteh-Quarshie, cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Biology-Chemistry

Samuel, you were my student in exactly one class: General Chemistry I lab. Even then, I could tell you were special. How many other students handwrote lab report summaries to collect their thoughts and then consulted with the professor before typing it all up? I was impressed. But such pleasant class experiences are nothing to the years since, when I've had the privilege of being your mentor and host parent. This time hasn't been easy for you: alongside the

Hannah Brock, cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Early Childhood and Elementary Education

During her tenure at Manchester University, Hannah Brock has been an extremely active member of the Department of Education. Not only has she been heavily involved in the Student Education Association, but she participated in Partners for Learning and H.O.M.E., the department's mentoring program. Hannah also served as an officer for the Undergraduate Literacy Council, a cross-disciplinary organization which delves into topics important to all aspects of literacy. Hannah is currently student teaching in Chicago, an experience that has taught her new things about herself. In May, Hannah will earn licensure in both elementary education and high ability. Following graduation, Hannah will move to Syracuse, Indiana, with her fiancé Brady. She is actively seeking employment with the local public school systems in that area. Mahatma Gandhi said, "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others," and Hannah Brock has taken those words to heart. Not only is Hannah an excellent student, but she is also an excellent representative of leading a principled and productive life. Hannah's service is important in making Manchester University an excellent community.

Dr. Heather Schilling

Alexa Callaway, summa cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Biology-Chemistry

Alexa is from Caledonia, Michigan and is finishing a double major in Spanish and biology-chemistry. She is intentional and motivated, and leaves nothing to chance. From the moment I met her I knew that she would strive for the best in all that she does. She is starting dental school in the fall.

Dr. Susan Klein

Sara Carder, magna cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Biology-Chemistry

Sara is a biology-chemistry major from Ney, Ohio who is finishing a cognitive neuroscience minor as well. Sara is like a sponge in a lot of ways, as she soaks up everything presented to her. She simply absorbs information and watching her process it all is a delight. During her time at the college, she has been a grader in chemistry and she was on the women's basketball team. She is pursuing a career as a physician with a specialty in neurology.

Dr. Susan Klein

Emily Centofanti, cum laude

Bachelor of Science
Biology-Chemistry

When I think of Emily, I begin by remembering one of my best first-year lab students. She was prepared and efficient. Her technique was precise and accurate, and her reports revealed solid analytical skills. The first-year student I knew had a strong work ethic, academic skills, and a clear goal for her life. The upperclassman Emily I know later is different, though no less impressive. She is still academically skilled, hardworking, and dedicated to pursuing her future goals. What is different is that now, I know the fighter in Emily. I have seen her experience great personal hardships; yet she has persevered through them and excelled. This, more than good grades, is what I will remember about her, and what I know will take her far, in veterinary school and beyond. Good luck, Emily!

Dr. Kathy Davis

Kristin Chelius, summa cum laude

Bachelor of Science
Biology

As I reflect back at the end of each academic year, I am always filled with a mix of emotions. Like my students, I am excited by the thought of the freedom of summer. However, there is also another part of me that is sad to see the year come to a close because it is a time of goodbyes. You see, there are always a handful of students that you hate to see walk out of your office door for the last time. This year, Kristy Chelius is at the top of this list. Kristy is one of those students that you remember far beyond graduation day. She is one you remember for a lifetime. When I first met Kristy, I knew she had something special. Yes, her academic ability was remarkable, but there was something more. It soon struck me that she was perhaps one of the most caring, genuine individuals I had ever encountered. Kristy is the type of person you just want to be around. She has a positive attitude that is infectious, and her zest for life has the ability to brighten even the dreariest of days. Kristy has that special spark that is rare to find and quite truly, impossible to forget. I believe I am a better person for knowing Kristy. She has taught me far more than I could have ever hoped to teach her. While it is true that I would like to keep Kristy here on campus indefinitely, I know it is time for her to move on to bigger and better things. I have no doubt that she will succeed at whatever she sets out to do. Kristy has both the determination and the heart to accomplish her dreams, and I could not be more excited to see all of the wonderful things this new chapter has in store for her. Kristy, know that you have changed my life for the better, and I feel incredibly blessed to have played a small role in your story. I hope you never forget how truly amazing you are!

Dr. Cassie Gohn

to the Doctor of Physical Therapy program at the University of Indianapolis – it was right before we were to start a lab for which she was my assistant. Her excitement, joy, and relief enveloped the whole lab, and I think I had to do most of the work that day! Caroline, we wish you all the success as you continue your education. You will represent Manchester University in exemplary fashion! Thanks for being my student, Caroline.

Dr. Mark Huntington

Justice Smith, cum laude

Bachelor of Science
Finance

Justice Smith, a finance major and sales minor, has made an impression on his peers and others who have had the opportunity to get to know him since he arrived on campus from Edwardsburg, Michigan. While at Manchester, Justice has embraced many opportunities including spending a semester studying in New Zealand. While in New Zealand, he volunteered at Puketeraki Marae where he spent time removing invasive plants, planting native plants and assisted in cooking and cleaning the Marae. Justice's kind heart is recognizable by those who know him, as he may just present someone with cookies who is having a bad day. His thoughtfulness for others will serve him well in both his professional and personal life. He has a passion for sports, he greatly enjoys golf and tennis and has worked as an intern for Grand Rapids Drive for which he assisted in the execution of all game related, grassroots and community events and promotions. Justice has also taken advantage of varying opportunities on campus such as leading children in activities during Walk Into My Future as well as helping plan and coordinate student events with Manchester Activities Council. He also serves as a Student Involvement Assistant, assisting with planning and implementing programming during new student orientation. These experiences have speared Justice's desire to pursue a career in event planning. He currently hopes to land a position at the Honeywell Center as an event planner, doing what he is passionate about and what he believes highlights some of his greatest strengths.

Ms. Heather Twomey

William Southern, magna cum laude

Bachelor of Science
Biology-Chemistry

Over January Session 2018, William Southern participated in the Manchester University Medical Practicum to supplement primary care for impoverished indigenous villagers in remote, rural Nicaragua. During this trip, he and 19 other Manchester University undergraduate students worked and lived with 10 health

Storm Shortt, magna cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Sport Management, Marketing

Storm Shortt is not flashy or loud; he just quietly goes about his business, serving others and always doing outstanding work. A double major in marketing and sport management from Indianapolis, Storm acquired a variety of experiences during his college career. For example, he served as an intern for the Make-A-Wish Foundation where he planned and operated a charity walk that raised over \$100,000, and he interned for the Indy Saints FC, a semi-pro soccer team where he oversaw 200 percent growth in the club's social media presence. But Storm's real passion is one he shares with his entire family, and that is the Walt Disney Company. After graduating in December, Storm followed his sister Sky (MU '16) to the happiest place on earth, joining Disney's College Program where he currently works at the Grand Floridian Resort & Spa. He has already completed the company's Leadership 101 course and recently received a Community Watch Certificate of Appreciation for "protecting the magic." After he completes the College Program, he hopes to join the company on a full-time basis.

Mr. Timothy Ogden

Caroline Smith, magna cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Exercise Science and Fitness

Caroline Smith is an energetic exercise science and fitness major and a student-athlete with a true passion for and commitment to learning. I had Caroline in my Human Anatomy Laboratory and Exercise Physiology courses during her time here. In both, she demonstrated the ability to truly synthesize information. In exercise physiology, Caroline was one of the few in the class who was ready to answer questions posed to the entire group (and usually she answered correctly!). With a colleague, Caroline conducted an original research project, "Comparison of heart rate difference and rest length required between sedentary and physically active groups", a very well-thought-out and well-designed study. I might add that during the fall of 2017, Caroline sustained a significant injury to her knee requiring surgery which meant she would miss a week's worth of classes. In my class, she missed the week, but did not miss a beat with her work. She worked very hard at her rehabilitation too – both of these things a testament to her self-discipline and work ethic. Because of her enthusiasm and academic performance, I asked Caroline to be my lab assistant for exercise physiology this past fall. As expected, Caroline was punctual, prepared, and passionate about helping our students with laboratory exercises. I'll never forget when she received word that she had been accepted

Alexandria Cote, magna cum laude

Bachelor of Arts

Digital Media, Philosophy

Alexandria Cote is focused, creative, and intelligent. She is innovative, articulate, and persistent. Above all, though, she has precise expectations of herself. She is the exception to what Paulo Coelho wrote in *The Alchemist*: "Everyone seems to have a clear idea of how other people should lead their lives, but none about his or her own." In an era when expectations of others have multiplied, Alex maintains precise expectations of herself. Academically, Alex's expectations are evident in her constant presence on the Dean's List, her membership in Pi Gamma Mu, in her magnificently wrought projects, and in her careful, vivid media work that she obsesses over into the wee hours of the night. Alex puts her all into her projects, whether it's an annotated bibliography in our theories class, a transmedia story in new media, a Skype interview in professional communication, a film review in media literacy, or a story world she's designing just because she can. She agonizes, reframes, and rearranges until it achieves the coordinated simplicity of one of her favorite anime stories or K-pop videos. My favorite experience of Alex's expectations of herself occurred during a session of professional communication. She was rehearsing a "crucial conversation" with a partner, and was doing her best to establish "mutual goals" and "mutual respect" despite resistance. I was moving from partnership to partnership, listening and occasionally giving suggestions. When I came to Alex and her partner she broke character, looked me right in the eyes and declared that the assignment was "horrendously good" because it was difficult. Alex expects a bright future ahead of her, and I think she'll have it. She has strength in all she does, and a deep commitment to excellence. She takes Manchester, and its values, with her as she goes. She makes Manchester University, the Communication Studies Department, and me, proud.

Dr. Judd Case

Drake DeWitt, magna cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Exercise Science and Fitness

What can we say about Drake? Well, I can say when I first met him in class he was what I believed to be a quiet student. Drake over the years has shown me the growth we truly want to see out of students at Manchester University. He has shown a growth in knowledge, resourcefulness, determination and overall outgoing personality. I am proud of Drake and his accomplishments as a student and as an athlete. Drake has done nothing but work hard since coming to Manchester University. He has shown everyone great respect in the classroom, soccer field and socially with his friends. I believe him to be someone everyone

should aspire to become. He has grown into a great human being and will be a fantastic alum for our university. I want to say thanks for the times and the help with getting your mother and friend to be in the Donut Run! You are a helping hand to all and I cannot wait to see how successful you are as a physical therapist after you complete your next educational journey. Like I have said about others as well, I am the one who should thank you for being around our department and classroom. It is our pleasure to have taught you and please stay in touch with your MU family.

Mr. Jeff Beer

Taylor Duckworth, cum laude

Bachelor of Science
Biology-Chemistry

Whenever someone mentions the name Taylor Duckworth, I cannot help but smile. Taylor is one of those students that exemplifies the reason I chose my profession. I like to describe Taylor as the perfect mix of smarts and heart. She is an incredibly gifted student, who makes even the most challenging of classes look simple. Taylor is curious and inquisitive. During my first semester at Manchester, I was under the impression that Taylor lived in the anatomy lab. I cannot even begin to tabulate how many hours she spent studying in that room! Her dedication and passion for learning is something I wish I could instill in all of my students. Beyond the classroom, Taylor is a joy to be around. She has a kind spirit and friendly demeanor. Whenever I see her around campus, she is quick with a smile or wave, often jumping into conversations about the various ongoings of the day. The ease at which she relates to others is something I most admire about her, and it will undoubtedly be a skill that serves her well in the future. When I think about the end of the year that is quickly approaching, my heart aches at the thought of “losing” some of the most valuable assets to our campus, our seniors. Although I have only known her for a relatively short period of time, I consider Taylor’s graduation to be one of the biggest losses to our Manchester community. I will miss her smiles, her love of learning, and her overall positive attitude. Taylor really is what all Manchester students should strive to become one day - a brilliant mind with a caring soul. Taylor, you will be missed more than you will ever know!

Dr. Cassie Gohn

Connor Eichenauer, summa cum laude

Bachelor of Arts
Psychology

From his first day on campus as a student at Manchester University, Connor was determined to pursue a major in psychology with a concentration in

experience for me—one that I’m grateful to him for. I’ll regret not having him around to work with, but I’m excited to see what he does after graduation. The people around him are going to be better off thanks to his thoughtfulness, care, and intelligence.

Dr. Seth Mayer

John Paul Secrest, cum laude

Bachelor of Science
History

John Paul Secrest will graduate this spring as a History - Education major. Students who follow the difficult path of combining the mastery of our academic field with the technical training and skills required to make History interesting and relevant in a middle or high school classroom face a stiff challenge. John Paul’s love of teaching, his fascination with studying human society, and his self-effacing and positive personality makes me jealous of the many students who will be lucky enough to take his classes in the future. John Paul came to us as a transfer student. When I first met him, he was recovering from major surgery and wondering how to navigate the complicated waters of finishing both the History and Education programs in a relatively short time at a new school. As I soon learned, John Paul’s calm and friendly demeanor is attached to a strong work ethic gained from his upbringing working with his family on their farm. In fact, his senior thesis traces the roots of Indiana farm families who settled in this area back in the mid-19th century. It’s a fascinating study that combines detailed personal histories of three Hoosier farm families, migrating to present-day Indiana from Europe and the newly settled eastern United States, with a broader historical framework centered on the idea of putting down new roots and watching what grows as the result of hard work. John Paul helped many Manchester students over the past few years as the leader of study tables in the Success Center for both US and European history classes. This semester, he is finishing his Education training through student teaching and he looks forward to a career teaching social studies at an area school with an added concentration directed toward helping students with special needs. Although his successful operation restricts some of his activities on his family’s farm, John Paul is replacing his love of field work with time spent wood-working and now practices carpentry as a sideline. Congratulations, John Paul, we will miss you!

Dr. Mark Angelos

Elizabeth Schaefer, cum laude

Bachelor of Science
Athletic Training

Beth has been a pleasure to teach and mentor over these past years. She is a smart, dedicated and respectful human being. She will put others' needs in front of her own and show everyone the true meaning of being selfless. She has put in the work as a basketball player and student at MU. She can be seen as a model student that likes to have fun, work hard and treat others with the utmost respect. Beth was a great person when she stepped on this campus and will leave an even better person through her experiences. What I can truly say is that I am a better person and professor for having someone like Beth Schaefer around our campus and in my classroom. I am so very proud of her as a student and person and wish her the best of luck.

Mr. Jeff Beer

Casey Schultz, cum laude

Bachelor of Science
Religion, Philosophy

Casey majored in philosophy and in religious studies: politics & law at Manchester. We're going to miss his curiosity and reflectiveness around here. Beyond being a great student—displaying work-ethic and willingness to add helpful thoughts to classroom discussions—his genuine enthusiasm about important issues is refreshing and impressive. His open-mindedness is a particular virtue; it's wonderful to have a student who is willing to take intellectual inquiry seriously, but who can also look at both sides of arguments about controversial issues. He's constantly working to improve his already impressive abilities by thinking through questions about meaning, religion, and morality that every human being should consider. I've felt fortunate to have him as a student and I know my colleagues have, as well. In an independent study with me, he confronted the age-old puzzle of what the relationship between morality and law should be. He ended up focusing on trying to understand whether the law could permissibly be used to enforce morality or not. It's a deeply complex question and I made things especially tough by assigning readings that most people look at in graduate school, if they ever look at them. But, as I knew he would, Casey rose to occasion, fought through multiple drafts of his paper, and doggedly worked to make up his mind about these issues. He did a fantastic job and ended up getting his research accepted at MU's research symposium. No one was forcing him to do any of this, but Casey has a genuine love of inquiry and critical thinking that lead people to do crazy things like read and write complicated philosophical texts for fun. It was a hugely fun teaching

industrial-organizational (I-O) psychology. He never wavered from that goal. His undergraduate career has been marked by both classroom excellence (Psychology GPA of 4.0) and achievement test proficiency (ETS Psychology Major Field Test score at the 98th percentile). His remarkable record of academic success qualified him to be admitted into the doctoral program in I-O psychology at Michigan State University (MSU), the number one ranked I-O psychology graduate program in the world. He plans to enter MSU in the fall of 2019. During his undergraduate career, Connor has not shied away from hard work. He has conducted programs of research with four different members of the psychology department faculty and in successive years presented research findings at the Midwestern Psychological Association conference. Even more impressively, Connor recently presented research at the annual conference of the Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology, an achievement rarely accomplished by an undergraduate student. He will also soon defend his Honors Thesis research. Gaining practical experience has also been a goal of Connor's. He served as a Human Capital Intern for the United States Office of Personnel Management and as research analyst for an I-O psychology-based consulting firm. For three years he served as a student assistant in the psychology department. Other roles on campus included being a peer tutor, student orientation leader, and student representative to the Institutional Review Board. He was captain of the Manchester University tennis team and achieved Academic All-Conference honors. He also provided leadership within the psychology department, serving as president of two student organizations, Psi Chi and Psychological Society. Connor is an ambitious, task-oriented, polite, caring, and productive young professional. I am confident that there are few, if any, undergraduate students across the nation who are better prepared than he to enter an I-O psychology graduate program. Connor faces a bright future, one in which he will continue to be a credit to his family. Along the way he will also become a credit to his profession and a blessing to his community. Manchester University is fortunate to call him one of their own.

Dr. Jack Wiley

Caraline Fearheller, cum laude

Bachelor of Arts
Peace Studies, Political Science

I write, first, to acknowledge a great debt to Manchester's Ultimate Frisbee crew. An advertisement's brief mention that Ultimate is a common feature of campus life caught Caraline Fearheller's initial attention. Her curiosity was sparked enough to complete an application, then, in a last-minute decision, she decided to pursue political science at Manchester. She discovered her second major through, tellingly, the questions that peace studies students were raising in her classes. "They were offering challenges I had never considered

before, and I wanted to know more,” Caraline recalled. She joined the peace studies program, and has been asking the hardest questions ever since. Caraline describes the two programs as complementary: political science provides a framework for understanding the world, and peace studies provides the vision and methods for changing it. I write, secondly, to give notice. Caraline is about the work of revolution. Oligarchs and other oppressors, do not be deceived by the quiet demeanor. Introverts can be the most dangerous, and Caraline will take full advantage of your complacency. Her academic work combines meticulous research, intersectional analysis, and constructive directions for how really we could all be doing better. To seal the deal, Caraline delivers these directives in language that is unmistakably influenced by the poetry she loves: precise, evocative, and powerful. It should be noted, at an event lauding academic excellence, that Caraline put her coursework in its proper place. “Everything that has made my four years here great has happened outside the classroom,” she wrote. In student organizations, on trips, in trainings, and in the peace studies lounge, Caraline developed an understanding of community and the political change it makes possible. She is devoted to community building, whether it be organizing a midnight collective scream at the Oak Leaf to kick off finals week or co-founding a campus-community group to address social justice issues. Her commitment to nurturing these projects extends beyond graduation; Caraline plans to continue her work here next year as the peace studies coordinator. Caraline’s approach to the challenges and rewards of social justice work remind me so clearly of what Arundhati Roy describes in her poem as The Only Dream Worth Having: “To love. To be loved. To never forget your own insignificance. To never get used to the unspeakable violence and the vulgar disparity of life around you. To seek joy in the saddest places. To pursue beauty to its lair. To never simplify what is complicated or complicate what is simple. To respect strength, never power. Above all, to watch. To try and understand. To never look away. And never, never to forget.” Caraline’s commitments and character epitomize this call, and we are so much better for the fire she brings to our midst.

Dr. Katy Gray Brown

Haleigh Fernandez, cum laude

Bachelor of Science
Biology-Chemistry

A first-generation college student, Haleigh Fernandez will graduate with a biology-chemistry major and an environmental science minor. Along with the academic excellence she has demonstrated, she has helped peers through coursework challenges, tutoring for advanced biology and chemistry courses, lab assisting for chemistry and biology labs, and serving as a STEM Pathways Academic Peer Mentor for the last two academic years. Captain of the women’s

Emily Savage, cum laude

Bachelor of Science
Early Childhood and Elementary Education

It is impossible to fully reflect upon my four years at Manchester University – four years that coincide with just about everyone in this room – without thinking of Emily Savage. Over these four fantastic years, I have had the pleasure of building a strong student/professor relationship with Emily, one I will treasure for years and years to come. This strong relationship was no happy accident. Emily has always been intentional in her academic and social practices, but it helped that she chose to take seven courses with me, yes seven! With that much quality time spent together, one would think there would not be much more to learn. Surely Emily has had her fill of my stories and advice, I have thought, yet Emily has continued to find opportunities to connect with me during her very busy student-teaching semester. Our conversations are always rich with content and emotion. I asked Emily to share with me a little more about her journey at MU and she said: “Some of my proudest moments at Manchester have been participating in the Education Department and meeting so many amazing students through field placements. I am also proud to say I have worked as a peer tutor on campus for the past 3 years. Some of my favorite memories: I loved SOL week freshmen year because I met 3 of my best friends from my SOL group. I also love being so close with my fellow education majors and our professors, and getting to partake in parties and gatherings at your farm and Heather’s house, too. I really feel at home on the 3rd floor of the Academic Center, surrounded by my professors and my ‘cohort’ of teachers. It’s going to be really sad to have to leave. Everyone says college is the best and there is nothing else like the college experience, but I didn’t think I’d be gaining a second family.” Emily added: “I am also proud to say after 4 years, I think I finally understand APA formatting.” In preparation for tonight, I looked back at the many artifacts of Emily’s incredible development I have collected over the years. I was immediately drawn to the first assignment Emily completed in that introductory course during our first semester, a name story, something I still ask students to complete at the start of each semester. In reference to her first name, Emily shared: “My name is not significant. To my family it’s nothing special.” Well Emily, to your second family your name holds great significance and it is beyond special. You have left your genuine signature on all of our hearts, just as you will on all those lucky enough to pass through your classroom doors. On behalf of my department colleagues, and all members of your second family, I congratulate you on this well-earned recognition of your excellence. Each day with you has truly been a HAPPY DAY.

Mr. Kurt Kurtzhals

had many thoughtful comments but she was content to wait for her moment to share. As the semester progressed Emily became more comfortable in our class and her comments in class were thoughtful and creative. It was clear to me then, and continues to be the case, that she does not share her thoughts without having considered multiple positions first. I admire this quality in a person. While Emily is a valued contributor in classroom discussions, I value her writing more. Whether she is writing a response to an essay question on an exam or writing a paper, she communicates clearly and authentically. She does not claim to have it all figured out but she demonstrates the abilities inherent in a lifelong learner in that she understands concepts and theories and is able to apply them to real life examples. One of the special aspects of academic life at Manchester University is the opportunity we have as faculty members to get to know our students. It is an honor to get to know our students and Emily is a great example of someone who pushes me to rethink my expectations of others. In the course of a conversation with Emily I learned that she has worked in the infirmary of an Indiana state correctional facility. Prior to knowing her I did not think young people and particularly young women did this kind of work. Throughout several conversations with Emily I have learned more about how a correctional facility actually operates as well as just how much I have mythologized “life on the inside.” Emily’s work example and her approach to her academics are inspiring to me. I hope other students have been impacted by her approach to life and learning. I am proud that Manchester University has people like Emily as graduates and while I am sad to see her leave our university I am also glad I had the chance to work alongside her while she was here.

Dr. Jared Friesen

Rachel Roths, magna cum laude

Bachelor of Science
Athletic Training

Rachel is an exceptional student who is an extremely active learner. She has been involved in our Athletic Training Club and has provided a great deal of community service to Manchester and the community. I witnessed Rachel blossom into a competent clinician this past fall when she was assigned to me covering our football program. My favorite memory of Rachel is when she tried to give the Heimlich maneuver on a football player who was choking on his mouthpiece. Rachel will begin her professional career working as an outreach athletic trainer and serving in the concussion clinic at Community Healthcare Systems.

Ms. Erin Foreman

golf team since 2016, Haleigh has also shown excellence and leadership outside the academic sphere. Her hard work and positive, realistic attitude consistently make the best of a given situation. Working with Haleigh is easy. This summer, Haleigh will begin an industrial science position, ideally involving environmental chemistry. She is looking into starting either a dual Master’s of Science program in Environmental Science and Chemistry or a Ph.D. program in a similar area the following year. Her plan to use chemistry to tackle environmental challenges is a timely one that will have many venues to improve the world in which we live.

Dr. Jeff Osborne

Carson Fort, cum laude

Bachelor of Arts
Political Science, History

Carson Fort has his heart set on getting a job—not just any job, but a very particular and peculiar job. He has long wanted to advocate for agriculture as a lobbyist for the American Farm Bureau. What is peculiar about this aim is not the agriculture portion of it. Carson’s passion for agricultural matters easily developed through his family connections to the agricultural sector and through years of conservation projects, public speaking, and other work with organizations such as the FFA and 4-H. What is peculiar about Carson’s career aspiration is its focus on the L-word ... lobbyist. It is not the sort of goal that one usually admits to having, yet Carson is a secure enough individual to own it proudly. With majors in History and Political Science, and a minor in Economics, Carson is several steps closer to achieving his dream. Courses in areas such as public policy, political analysis, and econometrics have taught him that his interest in public affairs can indeed support a career. Courses in history have provided a long-term perspective on issues and an understanding of the importance of story and narrative. Moreover, his academic achievements have been recognized through election to Pi Gamma Mu (the International Social Science Honor Society), Pi Sigma Alpha (the Political Science Honor Society), and Rho Alpha Sigma (the honor society for resident assistants). Carson has supplemented his coursework with important experiences. He benefited greatly from January session travel—first to Iowa in 2016, where he gained first-hand acquaintance with presidential candidates and campaigns, and then in 2019, to London and Paris, where he learned about the development of modern life and thought. In between, he played a key role in a policy analysis project that linked students with a local economic development organization. Carson also took advantage of a summer program sponsored by The Fund for American Studies to intern with a government relations firm in Washington, DC—thereby gaining direct experience with issue advocacy and policymaking. Finally, his senior project research has focused on the history and development of the Electoral College. An enthusiastic and engaged student, Carson also has taken

on leadership roles on campus He has been involved in campus residential life by serving as Resident Assistant and Apartment Coordinator. He has been a long-time member of the Student Senate, spending the past year as its Vice President. Carson has been a talented ambassador for Manchester through his participation in Students Today Alumni Tomorrow. Finally, he has been the student representative on the Steering Committee of the Institutional Vitality and Sustainability Initiative. Carson Fort's academic experiences, personal characteristics, and keen interest in public affairs point toward a promising future. Already admitted to programs at George Washington University and George Mason University, Carson plans to pursue a master's degree in public policy. With that degree, he will be able to conduct policy research for non-governmental organizations or government agencies. Carson might even become a lobbyist for the American Farm Bureau!

Dr. Leonard Williams

LiaAmia Gregory, cum laude

Bachelor of Arts
Psychology

Lia Gregory will graduate from Manchester University having accomplished more than most. She is a Psi Chi, Member (Honor Society in Psychology), Pi Gamma Mu Member (Honor Society in the Social Sciences), on the Dean's List, and is a Dean's Scholarship recipient. She served as a leader in Pi Gamma Mu, Psychological Society, Residence Hall Association, and Commuter Student Association. She was heavily involved in research in the psychology department where she explored job satisfaction on the college experience. She also investigated the effect of rate of reinforcement on fear leaning and extinction. She presented at Midwestern Psychological Association Conference in Chicago, Midwestern Psychological Association Conference in Boston, Butler Undergraduate Research Conference in Indianapolis, and Manchester Research Symposium in North Manchester. When Lia began her studies in psychology she thought she wanted to be a psychiatrist, but after taking a counseling course and then a marriage and family course she changed her focus to counseling psychology. She said, "Growing up, I was the middle child in a large Hispanic family, where I often mediated family disputes. In middle school, I was involved in a peacekeepers program, where we worked with school counselors, advocated for nonviolent interventions, and valued inclusion." These experiences along with her course work set her on a new academic path. I am pleased to announce that Lia Gregory has accepted a position in the Clinical Mental Health Counseling Master's program at Ball State University. Her primary area of study will be assessment, family systems, and couples therapy. We wish you the best on this next leg of your academic journey!

Dr. Marcie Coulter-Kern

as well as how to apply what she has learned about the behavioral sciences. She has been an active researcher who has presented her research findings at various student conferences including a meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association. Delaney is a very caring person who is committed to the well-being of others. At multiple occasions while at Manchester University she has sacrificed her own interests and well-being to ensure others are receiving the needed attention. She will be remembered as a gifted student who looks out for and genuinely attends to the needs of others.

Dr. Jack Wiley

Megan Rhodes, cum laude

Bachelor of Arts
Sport Management

Megan, a sport management major, was attracted to Manchester University because of the small, close-knit campus. She shared time as a student with her older sister, which made for a positive experience coming in as a first year student. Megan is a student who focuses on doing her best and learning as much as she can. In fact, she offers great advice to other students, "You shouldn't apologize for asking questions because they are opportunities to learn, and wanting to learn isn't something you should feel guilty or sorry about." The constant sitcom aficionado, she has been able to weave her love of NBC's The Office and Parks and Recreation into sound life advice for dealing with balance while in college. "Don't get so overwhelmed with your workload that you turn into Michael Scott and say, "I don't want to do anything, I'm dying." Instead, when you start feeling really stressed, listen to the wise words of Donna Meagle and Tom Haverford and "treat yo self." After graduation, she plans to work in game day operations or event/facility management, preferably in Minor League Baseball. Megan is a tireless worker and dependable student. She has proven multiple times through class projects and events to be both a leader and team player. She pays attention to detail and getting the job done right the first time. These character traits will make her successful in any future endeavor!

Dr. Ryan Hedstrom

Emily Rogers, cum laude

Bachelor of Science
Criminal Justice

I first met Emily two years ago in one of my classes. Emily was a transfer student and fairly new to Manchester University. The class was small and there were other students who were more familiar with their classmates and me and they were the first to talk in classroom discussions. Soon I recognized that Emily

Training Club and has participated in a great deal of community service and professional development opportunities while at MU. She was awarded the IATA Dwayne Dixon Professional Education Scholarship at this year's annual IATA conference. Marv and I covered football together this past fall where I saw her develop into an exceptional leader. Marv will continue her education by attending graduate school after graduation and begin her professional career as a clinical athletic trainer.

Ms. Erin Foreman

Samina Qureshi, summa cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Early Childhood and Elementary Education

Spend two minutes with Samina Qureshi, and you will fully know she is a young woman leading a principled life focused on improving the condition of all human beings. As an elementary education with high ability major, Samina has dedicated her time at Manchester University to empowering children - to ensuring their safety - to fanning their hearts - to providing them with the best education she can. As a student-athlete, Samina has juggled cross country and track along with her deep engagement in the Student Education Association as an officer, even serving this year while she student teaches, takes an evening seminar class, and runs track. Samina is currently seeking a teaching position. When one reflects on Aesop's statement "No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted," one cannot help but think of Samina. Samina's goal in life is to lift others up, and through her gentle personality and radiating smile, she does just that.

Dr. Heather Schilling

Delaney Ray, magna cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Psychology, Sociology

Delaney is the epitome of a multi-talented and multi-interested undergraduate student. She has achieved an elite record of academic performance despite completing multiple majors and spending two semesters off campus. It is hard to identify a harder working, more peripatetic, and involved student than Delaney. In addition to the effort required to achieve her academic success, Delaney has contributed considerable time and energy satisfying other various university roles including departmental student assistant, student orientation leader, and student-athlete, library assistant, and Honors Committee student representative. Delaney's energetic style has brightened many classrooms and her easily-shared observations and opinions have provoked considerable discussion and learning. She looks for the right answers to difficult questions

Kira Hall, cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Marketing, Business Management

In May, Kira Hall will graduate with two majors and a minor. She will double major in both marketing and business management and minor in entrepreneurship. The largest influence on Kira growing up has been her mother. Kira's mother taught her never to give up even when you are dealt a tough hand. That is easy to say and harder to do. Kira and her Mom were together for only 20 years on this earth, but as Kira says, "She will always continue to influence me to be my best self. She taught me courage, she never said why me." Kira lost her mother during Kira's time at MU. I've seen Kira become more confident in herself over the last four years. Her success at MU has come from hard work, her determination to succeed, and from an understanding that life is a balance of many things. Kira states that having to grow up at a young age and face life situations early on have made her mature quickly. That maturity has given her a perspective on life and school that makes her the caring, compassionate, well-rounded young lady that she is. I first met Kira at 6 a.m. in the PERC several years ago when we were both working out. She was there working out alongside MU golfers. Kira was a manager for the golf team, and as a true 'member' of the team, she worked out with them. In addition to her work with MU golfers she was a member of the College of Business Event Planning Committee, vice president of Manchester Catholics and secretary of 4-Paw. With all of that going on, she said she still found time to make lifelong friends. Her most memorable experience at MU was her January session trip to Eastern Europe and Italy. She will never forget experiencing the Trevi fountain at night while in Rome. Kira has experienced a wide range of internships and professional jobs during the last few years. She surveyed over 25 businesses in her job with Economic Development, she ran the social media for Colorado Coaching Company the summer of 2017, and she promoted the Indy Style Show when she was a creative services intern with WISH TV in Indianapolis. Her positions at MU included being an HR resource assistant and career development marketing intern. After graduation Kira intends to move to California to be closer to her father. She has applied for several marketing positions. As a true entrepreneur, Kira hopes to open her own bakery within the next 10 years.

Mr. Joe Messer

Brianna Hill, magna cum laude

Bachelor of Arts

Business Management, Spanish

Brianna Hill exudes energy, enthusiasm, and excellence in all of her endeavors at Manchester University – as her adviser and professor for several courses, I state this with conviction. From her first days on campus, Brianna was focused on achievement and knew that being distinctive would require a level of distinctive performance and creativity. She accomplished this! GPA alone, a 3.91, with a double major in business management and Spanish and a minor in professional sales, attests to this. Elected by her peers to be the president of the College of Business Club, appointed director of the Writing Place, accepted in the Study Abroad program to spend a semester in Barcelona, and member of a variety of clubs and organizations on campus evidence Brianna's broad accomplishments. In preparing for her career, Brianna completed a challenging internship where she organized a sales and marketing initiative for Midwest Recycling Equipment in LaPorte, Indiana. Now, as graduation approaches, her academic record, extracurricular participation, and internship experience attracted Steel Dynamics Inc. / OmniSource Corporation who offered her a place in their highly respected management trainee program. She leaves Manchester as a magna cum laude, perhaps summa cum laude graduate. Her compassion and empathy will be missed by students and faculty alike. However, her future will certainly be filled with success as was so apparent at Manchester. At the end of Brianna's sophomore year, the College of Business faculty presented The Most Promising Young Leader award to Brianna. How intuitive was this award! Brianna has been a leader at Manchester University for four years and soon will continue her leadership role in her profession and community.

Dr. Wendy Hoffman

Cameron Holford, cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Economics, Accounting

Since our first class together in spring 2016, Cami has constantly impressed me in and out of the classroom with insightful questions, excellent academic performance, and a consistent ability to improve the learning atmosphere by helping her fellow classmates. She will graduate cum laude with a double major in accounting and economics, an impressive feat by any measure! Cami has grown and advanced as a student and a person since that first class, although her enthusiasm, inquisitiveness, and hardworking attitude is the same as the first day. She is among the rare group of students who can effectively balance

graduates. I say the teaching profession needs more Meagans! We learned a life lesson from Dr. Seuss' The Lorax "Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not." Meagan's awareness of our world and what it needs provides keen insight to her classroom learning environment and experiences. In a very simple way, she cares. Caring about children, their world, and the future drives her curriculum development and interactions with colleagues. Our world will become a better place with Meagan engaging learners in her classroom. Welcome to the profession, Meagan! We celebrate your arrival!

Dr. Stacy Stetzel

Antonia Papandrea, cum laude

Bachelor of Arts

Early Childhood and Elementary Education

I have had the pleasure of knowing Toni since she took her first course with me during her second semester at MU. From day one, Toni struck me as a quiet, yet confident young woman. Though I did not have the pleasure of teaching her again until her second to last semester, it was a real joy to watch Toni's growth from a distance over these many semesters. Toni has been an active member of the Student Education Association and she has held positions in the Literacy Council, including president. Toni is currently wrapping up her student-teaching experience in Chicago, so she cannot be with us tonight. I asked Toni to share about her experiences at MU and she said: "Manchester has helped me become more of myself. I found people and groups, which I have loved being part of and even leading. One of the things I will cherish most about my time at Manchester will be leading Women's Bible Study. I truly enjoyed being able to spend time with other women on campus and learning from each other's experiences. Manchester has also given me the opportunity to go places I could have only dreamed of going to, like spending a January term in London or living in Chicago for my student teaching." Toni has left her mark on the Education Department and the full MU community and we are all better due to her presence among us these four years. On behalf of my department colleagues, I congratulate Toni on this well-earned recognition of her excellence.

Mr. Kurt Kurtzhals

Mikayla Patterson, cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Athletic Training

Everyone across campus loves Mikayla "Marv" Patterson! Marv has the ability to walk into a room and everyone smiles. I can count on Marv to lighten my mood and lift my spirits whenever I see her. Marv has served in our Athletic

My nervousness comes mainly from a fear that students did not understand the reading and may have even given up on it prior to coming to class. If this is the case then it means the lecture or conversation we are about to have in class will not go well. More than once Kaitlin has bailed us out because she put in the work outside of class to prepare. I have deeply valued her thoughtful comments in class and willingness to ask good questions. These qualities will benefit her greatly if she continues her education in graduate school. Kaitlin is an excellent example to me of the balance that must be achieved as a student-athlete to accomplish her goals on the court and in the classroom. Not every student-athlete is able to navigate the time management and energy challenges presented by their busy schedules. However, Kaitlin regularly demonstrates the ability to balance athletics, academics, and even a healthy social life. In doing so, Kaitlin embodies the best of who Manchester University students are. I am humbled that I get a chance to work with students like Kaitlin Mindiola and while I am sad to see her graduate, I also know that is what we want for our students. I am buoyed by the possibility of having future Kaitlin Mindiolas in my classes going forward.

Dr. Jared Friesen

Benjamin Niederhelman, cum laude

Bachelor of Science
Engineering Science, Physics

Benjamin is one of our more ambitious majors in the Department of Physics, having opted to major in both physics and engineering science. Prior to leaving Manchester last May to transfer to the University of Akron and begin the two-year portion of the dual-degree program in engineering science, Ben completed the coursework for a physics major. For his senior research project (completed in his junior year), he worked diligently on the development and testing of an interferometer for radio astronomy. He has been an active leader in our local chapter of the Society of Physics Students and worked as an assistant in our department. He was an officer in the Manchester chapter of Sigma Pi Sigma, the national physics honor society. Benjamin is a hardworking and industrious student and we look forward to following his engineering pursuits in the future.

Dr. Greg Clark

Meagan O'Campo, cum laude

Bachelor of Arts
Early Childhood and Elementary Education

Meagan O'Campo passionately teaches children. She fully understands the implications of her actions and how her impact will ripple through several generations. We hear the importance of the world needing more Manchester

between academics and sports. Apart from being an extremely hard-working and intelligent student, Cami is also an excellent soccer player. After graduation she is going to join RSM US LLP and their Tax Services group. I am extremely proud to be a part of Cami's journey and I am sure that through her hard work, scholastic aptitude, brilliance, and amazing qualities as a person she will successfully conquer all future challenges.

Dr. Sreenath Majumder

Brianna Jondle, magna cum laude

Bachelor of Science
Elementary Education

Brianna (Annie) Jondle will graduate this spring with a degree in elementary education with high ability. When she finishes student teaching, she plans on teaching in the Elkhart/South Bend area. Because of her passion for running, Annie looks forward to also coaching a track team. During her time at Manchester University, Annie participated in track and field. She also found time to be a member of both Pi Gamma Mu and the Student Education Association. Giving to her community is important to Annie so she served as a Student Orientation Leader, helping students with their transition to college. She was also a phone-a-thon supervisor, a member of the Catholic club, and a Spartan Choices Peer Educator. Annie Jondle embodies the Chinese proverb "Be not afraid of growing slowly; be afraid only of standing still," and she will continue to sprint through life passionately advocating for children. She realizes the importance of the work she has been called to do.

Dr. Heather Schilling

Nathan Koch, cum laude

Bachelor of Arts
Business Management, Art

Nate has excelled at Manchester. He earned high marks in a variety of courses that made up his art and business majors. He holds places in the top 10 for many of the events on MU's Men's Swim Team records, including first place times with multiple relay teams. In pursuit of personal interests he has developed skill and connections in elements of automotive design. In art studios Nate is quiet and focused, he reliably produces well finished art that shows both experimentation and attention to detail. Works of metal, texture, and high-gloss finishes stand out as his most memorable pieces. Nate is an example of a strong team member, leading by example, pleasantly contributing to discussions, and demonstrating the benefits of being self-motivated with external interests. Beyond course work he set his own goals and took

opportunities to find his own path. In four years he has grown in breadth and depth of knowledge and ability. I will be proud to count Nathan Koch as a Manchester University graduate.

Mr. Jeff Diesburg

Kristen Krill, cum laude

Bachelor of Science
Social Work

Kristen Krill is a person of deep integrity, intelligence and compassion. She is a person we were lucky to have among us these last four years. As a social work major and gerontology minor, she was a curious and serious learner. The academic work she did was always insightful, comprehensive and beautifully written. She understands that ideas matter a great deal in how we see the world and even in how we treat one another. It was a delight to have Kristen in class. Professors appreciated her intentionality and openness to learning all she could possibly learn. She often raised the bar for others, but did so in a non-judgmental and genuine way that invited others into her curiosity and dedication to learning what matters. She understood that mastering key content is fundamental preparation for meaningful social work practice. She seemed nearly fearless at times in learning anything about herself that might be important – that self-awareness is not an easy quality to maintain, yet it is key in being a decent human being and a dedicated social worker. Classmates found her to be a dependable resource. All appreciate her sincerity, along with her wonderful capacity for humor and play. People around her can quickly see Kristen's strength of character – honest, reliable, caring and conscientious. Kristen showed great perseverance and resilience through a number of challenges – especially as her best friend experienced and recovered from a life-threatening accident. She was aware of how precarious life can be – and still sought the things in life that brought comfort and joy and meaning. Our department will truly miss her steady, genuine and caring presence. Yet we trust completely that she will make the world better with this presence. Manchester University has been fortunate to have this young woman's competence, warmth, humor and grace among us.

Ms. Cheri Krueckeberg

Michael Kuta, cum laude

Bachelor of Science
Business Management

What a pleasure for me to serve as Michael Kuta's adviser and professor for several courses in the College of Business! Michael presents a quiet, agreeable

to win over his firm and clients with his dedication, hard work, and infectious smile.

Ms. Heather Twomey

Adriana Millican, cum laude

Bachelor of Science
Exercise Science and Fitness

Adriana "Adri" Millican is an organizer and a planner – an academic advisor's dream. Besides her obvious ability as a student in exercise physiology, my most enduring impression of Adri is how prepared and proactive she was for our advising sessions – she had her three-year plan worked out very early, and began inquiring about internships well in advance of the need to do so. And I'm not the only one who noticed this – Dr. Schilling was her initial advisor, and Heather's initial notes in the advising log read, "Came prepared with schedule ☺". Those attributes will serve Adri well going forward. Of note is Adri's original exercise physiology research project conducted with a classmate, "Non-dominant hand grip strength differences between male and female subjects". Adri certainly has a firm grip on her educational and career objectives - Adri's goal from the very beginning has been to become a physical therapist, and she has been unswerving in pursuit of that goal. Adri will be graduating after three years at Manchester with an Honors Diploma, a 3.75 GPA and appropriately will be continuing her education in the Doctor of Physical Therapy program at Trine University. Adri, we applaud your academic achievement, and wish you well as you go forth. You will represent Manchester University with distinction. I predict that Adri's patients will love her gentle and caring spirit, and I predict that her initial evaluation and progress notes will always be up-to-date. Thanks for being my student, Adri.

Dr. Mark Huntington

Kaitlin Mindiola, cum laude

Bachelor of Science
Psychology, Sociology

In my first classroom interactions with Kaitlin I did not think she was very interested in the class because I did not hear from her in classroom discussions. Once she shared in class I realized that my perception of her as a student was mistaken. In fact, Kaitlin is always paying attention. From the first time I heard her share in class it has always been apparent to me that she has put in a significant amount of time on her academic work outside of the classroom. Throughout the time I have known Kaitlin she has demonstrated diligence and a willingness to invest time and thought into class materials outside of class. There are times when I am nervous about tackling a difficult concept in class.

Uba, in Borno State Nigeria. The event that really captured her attention was when her aunt narrowly escaped captivity by this international terrorist group. Susu had always known that she wanted to remedy the problems of the world, but she had no clear perception how to go about doing so. The event with her aunt helped to focus her to be a voice for the growing community of internally displaced persons in Nigeria and around the world. She wants to dedicate the rest of her life to working towards improving our shared human condition. As a fellow Nigerian, I believe in you Susuyu, for what you want to do for our motherland, and for the world. I wish you the very best on that journey. Do a good job, be well, and stay in touch!

Dr. Benson Onyeji

Nolan McBride, magna cum laude

Bachelor of Science
Religious Studies, History

Nolan McBride might have the most jovial spirit in the world. He is a master of wit and biblical hermeneutics. Nolan has the rare ability to balance empathetic listening with adroit critical observation. He is a scholar's scholar. But don't be fooled, you will know it is Nolan down the hall when you hear his spontaneous rendition of one of his many favorite Broadway Show tunes. Nolan balances song and intellect, comedy and reflection. His work in Religious Studies has been downright marvelous. Indeed, I find myself often thinking, "I wish I could have articulated it that way!" Nolan McBride: a gentleman's gentleman. Thank you for being what Manchester stands for.

Dr. Justin Lasser

Joshua McCoy, cum laude

Bachelor of Science
Mathematics

Josh McCoy, an accounting major and mathematics minor, has been an outstanding student since arriving on campus from La Porte, Indiana. While at Manchester, Josh has taken advantage of many different opportunities presented to him. He has served as a consultant for the Writing Center, been a member of the Kappa Mu Epsilon and the College of Business Club, and competed as a member on the soccer team. Josh also spent his time at Manchester learning about his chosen profession off campus by interning at Crowe Horwarth's South Bend office, twice. Josh was able to intern in both tax and audit. Although different, audit side won him over as this is the area he will start his career. However, both experiences will surely serve Josh well as he starts his career at Crowe Horwarth. He will begin working this October, after studying for the rigorous, four-part CPA exam this summer. Josh will be sure

demeanor but all the while is absorbing and considering detail, nuance, and interpersonal dialogue. He quickly leaps to the core of problems and brings to light novel solutions. He debates with open-mindedness and argues with conviction. Through his approach, Michael has been a stellar student and an asset to the learning environment for his peers. His academic record as a business management major with a minor in professional sales is excellent evidenced by a GPA exceeding 3.6 and a repeated place, semester after semester, on the Dean's List. Michael's accompanying extracurricular and work experiences also reveal a depth of accomplishments. He has interned in sales and worked in manufacturing and retail as well. Adding to this, Michael has been an ambassador for the College of Business, vice president of the Garver Hall Council, member and treasurer of We are the Board, vice president of the Disney club, and vice president of the MU Hand Bell Choir. He has been invited to the Leadership Conference of Student Leaders and been awarded the Wall Street Journal Student Achievement Award in 2018. Michael is deliberating his next step whether continuing his academic career or bringing his talents to the workplace. In Michael's case, past results are a predictor of future successful performance. He will contribute at a high level as his life's journey continues.

Dr. Wendy Hoffman

Carly Kwiecien, magna cum laude

Bachelor of Science
Communication Studies, English

Considerate, witty, and passionate are a few words that describe Carly. She enters a room with a calm confidence and a keen desire to learn. In fact, my first memory of Carly was during Welcome Week when she entered the room and sat down and took out her pen. There are few students that take notes during Welcome Week, but Carly is one of them. As a first-year she was known as Abby's younger sister, but as I have gotten to know her better she has embraced her passion as a strong and independent individual. I didn't realize it until we road-tripped to Milwaukee for the Central States Communication Association and she presented her paper in front of seasoned scholars. She was posed and presented with confidence and conviction. Carly may have entered our major not knowing where life would lead her, but she has grown as an engaged and vibrant writer who has found her voice. I look forward to the many opportunities to learn from her and follow her journey. Thank for you for including me on your journey and don't forget us when you change the world.

Dr. Tim McKenna-Buchanan

Tabatha Lanning, cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Communication Studies, Philosophy

Tabatha Lanning is the embodiment of dedication, motivation, and ambition. I had the privilege of having Tabby in my Intercultural Communication class and it was always a pleasure when her curiosity surfaced during class discussions. She always had a mindful and courteous way of voicing her opinion and providing a safe space for her fellow classmates to ask questions or build off of what she would bring to the conversation. Speaking with other professors, I know her work ethic and contributions were just as strong in other courses. Her presence at Manchester University is certainly known by many. Her involvement in events like Giving Day, Senior Prom, Blood Drives, Special Olympics, Blessings in a Backpack, Food Pantry, and the Color Run, among others, have made Tabby a staple in the MU community and a point of guidance for her fellow peers. Her work with organizations like Pi Gamma Mu, Philosophy Club, the Student Budget Board, Student Senate, Comm Club, College Democrats, and many others have earned her the admiration and respect from her student body. As one of Tabby's professors, I have certainly found her work ethic and involvement at the university and surrounding communities to be top notch. She's not only represented MU in the best possible way, but she has also encouraged her fellow students to believe in themselves and help make the world a better place. I know MU will miss her. Her classmates will miss her. Her professors will miss her. However, we are all excited to see what Tabby's future will look like. She'll continue to strive to be the best and I know she'll accomplish many wonderful things. I wish you the best, Tabby! Manchester will always be your home.

Dr. Gabby Morales

Matthew Lantz, cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Business Management, Sales

Matt, a business management and professional sales double major, chose Manchester University because numerous family members had attended and discussed the impact of faculty involvement in their student success. Matt made being a student at MU a family affair by attending at the same time as two of his brothers! He says, "We've always been really close and having the ability to hang out and get advice from each other was one experience I could never take for granted." Traveling with Professor Messer to New Zealand ranks among his top experiences while at Manchester University. He also takes away the valuable lesson (again from Professor Messer) that in business, people buy solutions and not just products. He strives to make himself the "solution" for

whichever organization he works for in the future. He states, "Make yourself the solution to someone's problem and nothing will hold you back. Leveraging the knowledge we gained here gives us an advantage over others that we can choose to either use or not." Matt's top advice for students is that "You can take something from every class if YOU choose to do so. I did and I think it helped me succeed." After graduation, he plans to enter the workforce in business and sales, staying in the Fort Wayne area. Matt will succeed after Manchester University because of his work ethic, curiosity about the world, and drive to be his very best!

Dr. Ryan Hedstrom

Susuyu Lassa, cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Political Science

Susuyu Lassa came from a solid family background in Nigeria. Before arriving at Manchester, Susu, as we call her, studied at one of the best high schools in the nation called, Hill Crest Academy, located in Jos, Nigeria. Established by the Church of the Brethren in the 1940's, Hill Crest became the intellectual hub for grooming the children of missionaries, and those of the emergent Nigerian elites. The Hill Crest Academy curriculum has a reputation for excellence in Nigeria and elsewhere in Africa where similar schools appeared in the form of international schools for students with exceptional ability. Susuyu brought the Hill Crest experience along when she enrolled in Manchester University in spring 2016. Susu's work here at Manchester has been exceptional, as well. She is in this banquet today because she has good grades like every other student in this room. Much more than grades, however, Susu has grown with remarkable speed from someone who is smart but quiet in class to one who carries more than her weight when it comes to class discussions. I looked forward to my classes each time Susu is there, because she brings unique perspective to class. She has an unbelievable theoretical mind, and could reason anything through. She not only knows how to pose good questions, but also, how to move skillfully from one stage of argument to another without falling back to received ideas. Although, she may not be satisfied with her own answers or those provided by her colleagues and me, yet she moves on in a manner that makes everyone involved to be happy that they were a part of the dialogue. I am gratified that Susu will be going to one of the prestigious professional schools of international studies, the American University School of International Studies for her graduate work. She wants to focus her research on one of the enduring issues in international relations today, namely international terrorism. Her interest stems from her experience with the Boko Haram terrorist group in Nigeria that has in the past decade or so, terrorized and endangered the life of her family and community members in their Local Government Area of