

*Celebration of
Academic Excellence
2021-2022*



Manchester
University

Congratulations students,

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

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

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

Celia Cook-Huffman
Vice President for Academic Affairs

Graduation with Distinction

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

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

McKinley Adams, *Magna cum laude*
Bachelor of Science
History

McKinley will graduate as a history major with a specialization in secondary education as he plans to embark on a career in high school history teaching upon graduation. His long-term educational and career plans include obtaining a master's and a PhD in educational leadership to become a school principal. McKinley is a smart, confident and self-assured young man with an excellent work ethic. As his advisor and as the instructor for several courses he took as a history major, I have been continually impressed with the maturity he displays for someone so young and with his intrinsic motivation that allows him to work in a self-directed manner. These qualities were particularly evident during the long process of completing the history SCE as he meticulously adhered to the various steps involved in this process to write a quality research paper. His passion to teach history, particularly U.S. history, at the high school level has been affirmed by the positive experience he has had as a student teacher. This has been the most significant experience of his undergraduate career as it has allowed him to discover a lot about himself and about how to be the best teacher he can be. McKinley is well equipped - in terms of attitude, skills and commitment - to realize both his immediate and long-term career goals of becoming a high school history teacher and a school principal respectively. It has been my pleasure to have McKinley as an advisee and as a student during his undergraduate career at Manchester, and I wish him the very best as he embarks on a career that will allow him to "improve the human condition".

Dr. Uma Ganesan

Elizabeth Allred, *Magna cum laude*
Bachelor of Science
Social Work

It has been my privilege and pleasure to know Elizabeth Allred during her entire tenure at Manchester. She has displayed excellent leadership qualities since her first semester when she was elected president of the Social Service Club. Under her capable leadership, the Social Service Club held two major events: Christmas Angel Tree donations for children whose parent(s) was/were incarcerated and help for a family from Guatemala who had recently moved to the area. Elizabeth knew how to communicate a vision and then formulate, present, implement and oversee projects. She led by example by representing the Social Service Club in collaborative events with other organizations and initiatives such as Manchester's campus-wide voter registration drive. Elizabeth progressed from her leadership of the Social Service Club to secretary, vice president and president of the Student Senate. In addition to leading governance meetings, she focused on getting students' concerns heard through forums on Zoom. As an honors student, Elizabeth has demonstrated outstanding self-discipline, motivation, attention to detail and organizational skills so that she excels in her studies. With her public relations minor, she has learned how to plan major events and develop strong oral and written communication skills. As a person, I have found Elizabeth to be responsible, reliable, emotionally mature and committed. She also knows how to persevere through difficult circumstances. Although she has always been busy, Elizabeth has taken time to participate in service activities such as volunteering for Rock Solid Teen Center and chairing the Riley Children's Hospital Dance Marathon Family Relations Committee. In her senior social work field placement at Aging and In-Home Services of Northeast Indiana, Elizabeth has learned to assist vulnerable individuals with navigating major, complex systems such as Medicaid and Medicare, and helping them access services such as in-home care and nutritional programs. This experience has increased her ability to advocate for people who are often overlooked. With Elizabeth's proven academic capabilities and service accomplishments, I anticipate that she will go far. Upon graduation, she plans to obtain her social work license and pursue a career working with elders. This includes obtaining a master's degree in social work, specializing in gerontology and health care. She will certainly be an asset to the social work profession! And to top it off, Elizabeth will be a bride in October of this year. Congratulations!!

Dr. Alicia L. Dailey

Joel Arney, *Cum laude*
Bachelor of Science
Exercise Science and Fitness

Joel Arney will graduate with honors from the Exercise Science Department with a degree in Clinical and Rehabilitation Sciences. It has been a pleasure working with Joel since the beginning of his college career. I remember a young student visiting due to his brother attending MU. He was unsure of his final decision but after speaking with him I knew he was a fit for MU. He is a great person and driven in all that he does. He

has spent countless hours in the classroom learning what it takes to be successful. He is dedicated to his schooling and community. Joel is a giver and very selfless when it comes to helping others before himself. He was always one I could count on donating time to tutor someone or even come to my office and talk department ideas. He was a collegiate athlete that led to his growth in adversity. With some ups and downs, I believe he learned a lot from both his athletic and academic career. He is looking to attend a Doctorate of Physical Therapy school and become a licensed physical therapist. Joel is just the type of person to become a service driven professional and he will do great in his profession and life. I wish you the best of luck Joel and I am always here for guidance or just a good talk.

Dr. Jeffrey Beer

Kaylee Benge, *Cum laude*
Bachelor of Science
Social Work

Kaylee Benge has been a dedicated and ambitious student since arriving at Manchester. It has been a pleasure having her in class, as she is always focused on doing her best. She has so many strengths—persistence, determination, conscientiousness—not to mention her elaborate color-coded organizational system, which is truly something to behold! Kaylee’s commitment to her own learning has been evident in her decision to pursue multiple field experiences while at Manchester. She successfully completed two different practicums—one in community mental health and another in child protective services. In addition, she has exceeded expectations in her social work Field Instruction placement at the YWCA of Northeast Indiana this spring. In that capstone placement, she was responsible for serving people of all ages and backgrounds who had experienced domestic violence. Kaylee was pivotal in their journey toward healing and self-sufficiency, as she assisted them in navigating difficult decisions about safety, parenting, housing and employment. In recognition of expertise and outstanding performance, Kaylee was asked to help train the organization’s new full-time Housing Coordinator! Kaylee’s undergraduate achievements led to her acceptance—with advanced standing—into Aurora University’s Master of Social Work program. At Aurora, she plans to specialize in the study of forensic social work, building on both her social work major and criminal justice minor from Manchester. Kaylee has a bright future ahead of her, with so much to offer the communities she will go on to serve. Congratulations, Kaylee!

Dr. Barb J. Burdge

Miranda Bieghler, *Cum laude*
Bachelor of Science
Elementary Education

“As we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same,” Nelson Mandela said, and as a servant leader, Miranda Bieghler has done just that in a variety of ways. Since the beginning of her collegiate career, Miranda has led by example: in the classroom, as the President of the Student Education Association, in scholarship, as the organizer of a children’s program called Lace Up and Dribble, and as a captain on the Manchester University Women’s Basketball team. This spring, Miranda successfully balanced and excelled not only in her student teaching clinical experience, but also as a starter and captain on the women’s basketball team, leading the conference in steals and assists. Few can handle the pressure of attending to two demanding life experiences, but Miranda quickly figured out how to give her full attention to her students and then shift her focus to basketball. Whether she realized it or not, in the grace and attention she was able to give these important parts of her life, Miranda modeled important life skills for her younger teammates. Miranda’s light shines in such a way that others’ lights are illuminated, and that is an important gift. As a young woman, Miranda Bieghler will make a positive impact on this world as she leads by example, whether that is in her soon-to-be classroom, on the court as a basketball coach, or as a volunteer in her community.

Dr. Heather Schilling

Zachery Brazel, *Magna cum laude*
Bachelor of Science
Biology-Chemistry

Zach will graduate with a major in Biology-Chemistry. Although I have only known Zach since Spring 2021, I have tremendous respect for him as a student and as a person. Zach has completed two courses that I teach (Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy, Advanced Human Physiology), both of which are highly demanding. In addition, Zach completed Comp. Vert. Anatomy as a tutorial, which naturally creates its own set of challenges. Zach has done a terrific job. He simply rises to the challenges he faces. Both inside and

outside the classroom, Zach is approachable, respectful, diligent and he approaches everything in a professional manor. Zach has achieved great academic success, which will take him far, but with his personality, work ethic and his genuine nature, he will go even farther. I am eager to see what Zach continues to achieve and the impact that I know that he will have. Congratulations Zach!

Dr. Aron Costello-Harris

Kendall Brown, *Summa cum laude*

Bachelor of Arts

Peace Studies, Spanish

I first met Kendall Brown when I was a junior at Manchester University in 2018. I feel fortunate to have been her peer, learning together in Peace Studies classes and hanging out in the Peace Studies Lounge. When I graduated and became Peace Studies Coordinator, Kendall became one of the student workers I oversee, and she also became one of my closest friends. She has worked within the Peace Studies program for many years, and in doing so has shown a deep commitment to community engagement and direct service. Kendall combines her passion for service with her love for the Spanish language, and thus has earned degrees in both peace studies and Spanish. During her time as a student at Manchester, Kendall earned a summer internship with Sacred Heart Center in Richmond, Virginia, through the Shepherd Higher Education Consortium on Poverty. She worked to connect Latinx families, especially children, with the tools they need to thrive in their communities. Kendall studied abroad in Barcelona, Spain, and now works as an English language instructor for Spanish speakers in Wabash County. Her thesis research centers around the Spanish speaking community in North Manchester, and she will present this research to the Manchester student body in a Values, Ideas and the Arts presentation this April. Kendall's dedication to using her Spanish skills as a resource to serve her community is apparent in both her academic and extracurricular pursuits. Kendall is a frequent volunteer in North Manchester, and has been involved on campus as well, as president of the Kenapocomoco Peace Coalition and playing in the Manchester Symphony Orchestra. She juggles all these commitments and responsibilities with grace and good humor, graduating with honors and all the while continuing to be an incredible friend. Anyone who has had Kendall in class knows the kind of student and person that she is – thoughtful and dedicated to learning. Kendall is wise, hard-working, patient and kind. I have seen her navigate every kind of stressful situation life has to offer with grace and poise. In her academic, personal and professional life, she leads with compassion and understanding. Kendall is always the first to lend a helping hand, to offer to do whatever she can for someone else, despite how much pressure she might be feeling. She has faced disappointment head on, always looking at the bright side and recognizing new opportunities. Kendall personifies the qualities necessary for a successful peacemaker and community builder – she advocates for others, uses her skills to uplift people, fosters love wherever she goes, and gives the best hugs. Peace studies is lucky to have Kendall as an alumna, and I am lucky to have Kendall as a lifelong friend.

Virginia Rendler

Madison Brown, *Summa cum laude*

Bachelor of Science

Biology-Chemistry

Madison is a tremendously talented student. I have had the pleasure of working with her in many different capacities over the last three years. I had her in class my first year back at MU, and she impressed me from the beginning. In addition to her innate talent, I have been so impressed with her hard work and dedication to whatever task she has. In addition to her excellent academic performance, she has been a member of an athletics team, tutors students through the success center, works as a chemistry lab assistant, participated in research with me over the summer and during the academic year, works the desk and concession stand in the PERC and is a CNA at a local facility. She is also graduating from the Honors Program and will be presenting her honors thesis this spring. I really don't know how she manages to do it all. Aside from her academic accomplishments, I have also been impressed with her heart. She is supportive and loyal to her friends, and cares about the well-being of others. She has been accepted and will be attending the Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine at the University of Pikeville this coming fall. I have no doubt that she will make an amazing physician. The end of the year is always bittersweet because amazing students like Madison graduate and leave Manchester to go on to bigger and better things. While it will be sad see her leave, I am so excited for the bright future ahead of her.

Dr. Kyle D. Watson

Tasha Brubaker, *Cum laude*
Bachelor of Science
Biology, Environmental Studies

Vision, empathy, and a relentless drive to find solutions to even the most difficult of problems. Each of these are core characteristics of an exceptional environmental scientist. Each of these are characteristics embodied by Tasha Brubaker. I have had the absolute joy of serving as Tasha's advisor for the past four years. Together, we have spent time studying everything from small mammals and birds to turtles and salamanders (Who knew shrews could yell so loudly?). Throughout this time, I have watched Tasha grow in confidence and focus. She thoughtfully ponders each opportunity and trial that comes her way, and she uses what she has learned to improve and expand her understanding of the world. She loves to learn new things and to rethink the things that she already knows. Tasha has a remarkable knack for seeing and understanding the complex connections inherent in nature and our profound dependence, as humans, on the stability of those connections. She cares deeply about using knowledge to help us all move toward a more sustainable future. She is a clear example of why the world needs more Manchester graduates. Tasha will graduate with a double major in environmental studies and biology. After graduation, Tasha plans to spend some time exploring the natural world and then return to academia to pursue a graduate degree in the field of ecology. I wish you the best in all that you do, Tasha. Your energy and vision for achieving a sustainable future for all living things is exceptional. I look forward to cheering you on as you change the world for the better!

Dr. Suzanne Beyeler

Kaitlyn Burger, *Summa cum laude*
Bachelor of Science
Elementary Education

Kaitlyn Burger will soon graduate from Manchester University's teacher education program with summa cum laude honors. It is with great joy that the Henney Department of Education congratulates Miss Burger on this honor and welcomes her to the profession as an elementary teacher. Miss Burger's professional presence as an educator inspires all who cross her path as she seeks to make a difference in the lives of children. Students look forward to learning with Miss Burger because they know she has devoted time to them with her planning and preparations. She is a magnet for children and curiosity. Her dedication to study and passion for learning about meeting the needs of children far surpasses that of the average undergraduate student. With each course taken in the Education Department, we saw Miss Burger's interest and drive grow. Techniques, strategies, and methods encountered in coursework or clinical experiences led to deep discussions about pedagogy and practical classroom application. Miss Burger seamlessly puts theory into practice. A true life-long learner, Miss Burger will engage with professional development opportunities and support her colleagues as they grow together. We know the children and families who work with Miss Burger in the future will be both loved and inspired. Our communities are in good hands with teachers like Miss Kaitlyn Burger. We are grateful she chose both Manchester and teaching as part of her journey.

Dr. Stacy Stetzel

Cora Campanello, *Cum laude*
Bachelor of Science
Educational Studies

Cora's genuine kindness, warm smile, inquisitive nature, and reflective approach to life has been a constant during her time as an educational studies major in the Henney Department of Education. Whether in class, clinical field experiences, time with family and friends, or any other aspect of her life, Cora's philosophy reflects the very spirit of author, poet and civil rights activist Maya Angelou: "My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style." As a student, Cora made great contributions to class discussions, asking probing questions and thinking deeply about the thoughts and responses of her peers and faculty members. Not only did she add depth to the learning community, but she included those around her, inviting her classmates into the discussions. In her clinical experiences, she engaged with educators and learners not to simply complete the task, but to seek understanding of child development and the learning process. Cora arrived at Manchester ready to take on the world, bringing in enough credit to finish her degree in three and a half years. In the fall, she completed over 240 hours in her internship working with children at West End Kidz Academy in Kentucky where she now resides. Cora's love of children, coupled with her ability and conviction, gives her the natural platform for improving the human condition, one day at a time, one child at a time.

Dr. Heather Schilling

Phillip Clesceri, *Cum laude*
Master of Accountancy
Bachelor of Science
Accounting

Phillip, graduating with a Master of Accountancy and psychology minor, has made an impact on Manchester since arriving from Mason, Ohio in the fall of 2017. While on campus, Phillip has embraced many opportunities from being a member of both the varsity men's soccer team and the track and field team, to serving as honors program assistant. His love for accounting and psychology aided him well, as he defended his Honors thesis May 2021, "The Interplay of Academic Cheating and Corporate Fraud", in which he researched fraud behavior in corporations and compared it to collegiate academic dishonesty. Phillip is a natural leader and his leading abilities have assisted him in his work as resident assistant, soccer referee and strength and conditioning coach for high school athletes. He is also strongly committed to serving others. Phillip built stoves, distributed hunger relief and other resources to the local community and coordinated youth soccer activities while supporting the non-profit organization Mayan Families in Guatemala. He also has served as assistant lay director, for the last five years, of Chrysalis an event held to teach, enhance spiritual growth, and develop youth leaders of the United Methodist Church. Phillip's leadership abilities, competence in accounting, and strong people skills landed him two accounting internships: Baden Gage and Schroeder, LLC audit intern and RSM US, LLP tax intern. Ultimately pursued by both, he chose to begin his career as a tax associate with RSM's Cincinnati office in the fall of 2022 after sitting for the 4-part rigorous CPA exam summer and early fall of 2022. Having spent time in Spain in the past, he hopes to return there this summer and enjoy the culture, people and food while studying for the "big" exam. Although Phillip's many talents will be missed on campus, I know he exemplifies Manchester's mission of graduating persons with ability and conviction to lead principled, productive and compassionate lives and that his contributions to his community and profession will be significant. I cannot wait to learn of where his future leads him!

Heather Twomey

Grace Clotfelter, *Cum laude*
Bachelor of Science
Exercise Science & Fitness

When I think about Grace, the first word that comes to my mind is genuine. Grace is one of those few people who never leaves you questioning, but you just know is the real deal. This is what I most admire about Grace. She has the gift of being self-assured enough to hold her ground when questioned, but also open-minded and compassionate enough to consider things from multiple perspectives. This, I believe, is an invaluable attribute. Having worked with Grace as both her instructor and supervisor for her teaching assistant role, I can confidently say that she is a student that has left a lasting impact on those around her. When Grace is excited about something, her enthusiasm is palpable. This is precisely why I asked Grace to serve as a teaching assistant for my Fundamentals of Human Anatomy course. While many students view the content as dry, Grace is able to engage with the content in a passionate and productive way. I regularly enjoy "nerding out" with her over anatomy case studies and am proud to see her passing this interest onto other students. Grace, you are perhaps one of the most frank and honest individuals I have met. I know your sincerity is one of your greatest gifts and that it will take you far in the future. I am excited to see where this next path leads you!

Dr. Cassie Gohn

Becca Colbert, *Cum laude*
Bachelor of Arts
Educational Studies, History

The Henney Department of Education proudly recognizes Becca Colbert's upcoming graduation with cum laude honors. Becca intentionally spent time at Manchester University exploring options for a major. History, secondary education, and educational studies were each experienced during this journey. Realizing her true passions, Becca chose educational studies as the major needed to set forward motion toward realizing her passions. She will continue her studies in graduate school to study behavior therapy. She knew her place was serving others and that children and young adults intrigued her. Becca is deeply invested in scholarship and thinking critically about topics in education, particularly topics beyond the classroom. GPA tells the story of her academic merit. Over her time at Manchester, assignments were always completed with great skill and extra layers of depth. Often, Becca sought opportunities to discuss lecture topics beyond class time to better understand and to consider multiple perspectives. Becca has experienced great success in her final

internship with the local early learning center. She has earned accolades from both supervisors and board members during her short time as she brought innovative ideas and grant funding to the center. I am a better human and more skilled educator thanks to time spent with Becca. Our community has been positively impacted by Becca's choices to live the Manchester mission in her professional life.

Dr. Stacy Stetzel

Yonael Dawit, *Cum laude*

Bachelor of Science
Software Engineering

Yonael completed his software engineering degree *Cum laude* in January 2021. Yonael started the software engineering program in the fall of 2018. During his time at Manchester University, he matured much, learned to write and speak well. His mind tended more towards the mathematical and analytical. In his software engineering courses, he completed projects such as: A KOSK-Control system, scheduling software that is currently being used in the Math/Computer Science department and an internship at Amazon where he worked on graph problems to aide Amazon to trace and find nodes in their web-service architecture.

Dr. Robin Mitchell

Dilyn Dewey, *Cum laude*

Bachelor of Science
Finance

Dilyn Dewey is a senior finance undergraduate, with an interest in computer science and psychology. I first meet Dilyn in my January 2019 Foundations of Computer I course. As I got to know Dilyn that January, I discovered that he had staying power; he wanted to understand, his grade was secondary. He did well in Foundations I.

Still wanting to explore software engineering as a major or minor, Dilyn took Foundations of Computer Science II in the spring. Foundations II was more of a struggle for him, he still did well, but it took much more energy. Towards the end of that semester, he came to me to discuss other options. After much conversation, he decided to try other majors and eventually became a finance major.

As the years passed, Dilyn and I have stayed in touch about life, school and life after school. Last year, Dilyn took the software quality course. He had matured much and was still dedicated and hard working. Having not done any programming for three years, it was almost starting over, but in a 300-level course. He did not complain or ask for special treatment. As he gave his final project presentation, the entire class gave him a standing ovation. He did not do the most work, but he did put in the most effort. I am not surprised that he is graduating with honors. In the last year, Dilyn has started to explore mixing his finance major with data analytics. He has sought out professors, myself and others, to help point him in the right direction. I believe that he is a life-long learner and has gained the most important skill learned in college, the ability to be self-taught and to think critically.

Dr. Robin Mitchell

Megan Engelhardt, *Magna cum laude*

Bachelor of Science
Elementary Education

Megan Engelhardt was made to fill the role of elementary teacher in our community! The Henney Department of Education proudly celebrates her magna cum laude honors. The transformation from student to teacher has been filled with discovery for Miss Engelhardt. Along the way, classmates, students in clinical experiences, and faculty have nurtured the development of this teacher who is ready to build brighter futures for children. Miss Engelhardt cares deeply about learning and about the science of teaching. A studious undergraduate, she took her time to think thoroughly about situations and contexts as she made professional decisions. Schools today need Miss Engelhardt on their team. We look forward to welcoming her to the profession. Thank you for choosing Manchester and thank you for choosing education, the world needs more Manchester teachers like you in our classrooms!

Dr. Stacy Stetzel

Haley Fellabaum, *Cum laude*

Bachelor of Science
Educational Studies

It is a delightful day when Haley Fellabaum stops by for a chat! One of the things I appreciate most about this human is her cheery disposition and love for her people. The Henney Department of Education shouts with joy about Haley's cum laude honors and degree in educational studies. The curvy road that led her to this major was filled with discovery and wonder. Haley interned at a local school serving our youngest of learners this final semester. It was in this position that she truly learned how important her role is in the lives of children. She is a favorite of students and teachers alike. We are grateful Haley chose education and we are so excited to see where the journey leads next. Haley, you are an individual who lives each day with conviction. Your ability will open doors and take you far so that conviction can be shared with the world. Keep your light burning brightly, we see you and your passion!

Dr. Stacy Stetzel

Zackary Freel, *Cum laude*

Bachelor of Science
Biology-Chemistry

During his time in our American government course, Zackary earned near perfect scores on every assignment and exam. This is no easy feat, especially during a pandemic! Consistently, it seemed that Zackary had an advanced knowledge of politics, but he never allowed himself to get too comfortable and remained humble about his knowledge on the topics covered. As intelligent as he is, and with a near perfect grade to boot, Zackary never missed our class even while simultaneously balancing tougher courses. He participated in ways that added extreme value to the intense political discussions our class engaged in frequently and respectfully listened to others as they discussed their personal opinions. Although Zackary is a Biology-Chemistry major, his wealth of knowledge is not limited to the natural sciences. It was clear to me in class that he would be, and he will be, successful in any career or venture he takes part in going forward. I am sincerely honored to have worked with Zackary and I am excited to see all the achievements he tackles in the future. Congratulations, Zackary!

Brittany Page Brake

Omar Gadzhiev, *Summa cum laude*

Bachelor of Science
Philosophy, Political Science

Omar is one of the brightest, hard-working, and intuitive students I have had the pleasure of advising and teaching. I have taught Omar in several courses, but his talent is undoubtedly most obvious in political philosophy. Not only is he able to pick up on nuanced arguments and complex political theories from hundreds of years ago, but he is able to make connections between the historical, social and political events leading to why authors wrote about politics in the way they did. One of the most impressive things I observed was Omar, a staunch Communist from Russia, in our Political Ideologies course critique and criticize his beliefs and ideas in a class where his ideas and values were consistently challenged and/or not accepted by his peers. However, with maturity and an inquisitive nature that most cannot replicate, he did what most aspire to do: he communicated and had a conversation about his perspective to help others understand his lens of the political world. To me, this demonstrated an impressive level of introspection as well as an unmatched level of critical thinking. To be able to truly understand why you belong to a political ideology, while being cognizant of the flaws of said political ideology and the party who espouses said ideas, WHILE being criticized by your peers, is not only admirable but a sign of true maturation. It was a proud day for me as his advisor, indeed. More than that day, though, I am simply proud of Omar and I know he is destined to accomplish amazing goals. I have told him before, but I will say it again, so he never forgets: You are an exceptionally intelligent human being, your ideas and opinions in and out of the classroom are extremely valuable, and anyone who works with you in the future will be truly honored to have your work ethic, skill and abilities, and character on their side. Горжусь тобой! Congratulations, Omar!

Brittany Page Brake

Abby Giddens, *Cum laude*

Bachelor of Science
Psychology

Abby will graduate with a psychology Major with concentrations in both cognitive neuroscience and industrial-organizational psychology. She will have a minor in Spanish as well. She has opted to take some of the most challenging classes in the Psychology Department and excelled! She worked on a research team producing a project entitled: Student Relationships with Faculty/Staff and Effects on Student Success. It was accepted at the Midwestern Psychological Association in Chicago, IL and presented at the Manchester University Research Symposium where it won the Outstanding Poster Award. She is a member of two Honor Societies, Phi Gamma Mu and Psi Chi. I have been pleased to watch her grow and develop as a scholar and professional! I have noted that she frequently chooses to work on teams with others in research and projects. I have seen her working synergistically with peers to accomplish big goals. Her team approach to important tasks has been an effective strategy! It is no wonder that Abby reports that making lifetime friendships is one of the most meaningful and important experiences she has had at MU! She has been a part of many supportive teams. She plans to use her newly acquired skills from MU in service and is considering a summer internship program at Faith Ministries in which she will do volunteer work (build houses, clean gardens, clinic work) where her Spanish minor can be useful. She is also very interested in working for either the Indianapolis Humane Society or ICAN, a non-profit that provides children and adults with service animals that are groomed to fit their personal requirements. Their mission is to help people with disabilities live more independent lives. Abby has tremendous skills and ability as well as the conviction to make a difference in her world. I look forward to hearing how she impacts the lives of those around her! While we are excited to see what she will do in the years ahead, we will miss her!

Dr. Rusty Coulter-Kern

Baylee Grine, *Cum laude*

Bachelor of Science
Biology-Chemistry

Baylee Grine sets challenging goals and then perseveres to achieve them. In the Fast Forward program, she will graduate with a biology-chemistry major and a psychology minor after only three years. Starting with her initial FYS course and continuing through upper-level ones in chemistry, I have found Baylee's steady, organized, personable, calm focus to be exceptional. During her time at MU, she has contributed substantially to campus functioning through her efforts as peer tutor in math, biology-chemistry assistant, chemistry stockroom assistant, and Success Center front desk person. While I was hoping that we would share a study abroad, Medical Practicum experience in Guatemala before she graduated, the pandemic changed plans. Over the last almost two years she has worked approximately 1050 hours as a State Tested Nursing Assistant (STNA) in addition to her course load and campus jobs. As an STNA, she has served many long-term care facility residents in ways that were especially important during the difficult, dark months of the pandemic. When COVID-19 restrictions prevented family members from visiting, she was part of the health care team that became each resident's support system. She helped provide human contact for those lonely residents, providing comfort and reassurance along with assisting with activities of daily living. She has a passion to gain more knowledge so that she can provide medical care to those that call for it in times of need. Baylee will become an excellent physician assistant (PA) and strengthen the communities in which she finds herself. For the next step along her path, Baylee will take a gap year to accrue additional patient care hours and to apply to PA school.

Dr. Jeff Osborne

Maria Hayward, *Summa cum laude*

Bachelor of Science
Elementary Education

Maria, thank you for choosing education. You have a true passion in your heart for what is just and right. As you advocate for children in our communities, they will see opportunities blossom while they grow and develop under your care and guidance. The Henney Department of Education welcomes you to the world of teaching! We celebrate beside you as you graduate with summa cum laude honors. Your attention to detail and perseverance will nurture success in an elementary education teaching career. Just as you always have, be the voice of your students. You have prepared for this job and you are ready to embark on the journey that is this vocation. Live and love with conviction and be the teacher our children need.

Dr. Stacy Stetzel

Trinitee Henning, *Cum laude*

Bachelor of Science
Communication Studies

I have had the pleasure of knowing Trinitee Henning for the extent of her college career here at Manchester University. She has been in the health clinic weekly starting her first week on campus. During her time in our office, Trinitee and I would chat about her week, her classes, professors, activities, friends, and those most important to her, her family. This year, when I was notified that we would have openings for student health assistants, I encouraged Trinitee to apply. I had come to appreciate her quiet, kind spirit, and I felt she would be a great addition to our clinic staff. Now, she is a daily presence in Health Services, and she continues to demonstrate kindness and compassion to all who enter, and with her coworkers. She has an unwavering spirit to help, never questions, jumps in and helps wherever she is needed, without question. Without Trinitee realizing it, she began displaying leadership qualities by showing interest and taking over projects in our clinic. She has made the Acorns Food Pantry, which she is very passionate about, a priority, and she has worked diligently to spread the word about the pantry across campus. Weekly, she comes up with new ideas to make new recipes with products available in the pantry, for students to easily make in their dorm rooms. I have seen tremendous growth in Trinitee from her first year here on campus, to this year. She has pushed beyond her comfort zone many times and she embraces the uncomfortable experiences each and every time with confidence, grace and strength. I have no doubt that Trinitee will continue to be successful wherever her path may lead her in the future. I will close by referencing a quote from one of Trinitee's favorite people. My hope is that you will always remember this on your hardest days and celebrate it on your best days. "All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them." -Walt Disney

Kristina Wilson

Erin Hickel, *Magna cum laude*

Bachelor of Arts
Digital Media

Over the last four years, I have had the pleasure of watching Erin grow into a thoughtful, creative, and confident professional. I remember when Erin started talking to me about majoring in digital media and what that may look like. I was overjoyed to share with her about all the possibilities and what courses to take. I also slyly told her she should add a public relations minor. Fast forward to this past summer, she completed an internship with the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo where she worked on public relations and social media projects. Through this internship, she was able to put a lot of what she has learned over the last few years to use with a professional organization, and she left that internship with a new-found confidence. That is what I have been most excited to witness with Erin; her growth and confidence over the last 4 years from FYS to SCE. She was timid as a first year, but she quickly stepped into new roles and responsibilities and started to hone her digital media and public relations skills. She took the lead as the Honors Program Social Media Coordinator. With little guidance, she took ownership and utilized her creativity to create a presence for the Honors Program. She also was the Athletic Writing Intern for the Sports Information Office and has honed her skills as a writer and leader on campus and in the community. It goes without saying that Erin has embraced and excelled in the many opportunities she has had in her time at Manchester. As you start on your next journey, my hope for you is that you continue growing in your confidence by finding ways to share your creative voice. Your creativity is unmatched, so do not fear in sharing your ideas and being part of the solution (even if you are in an entry level position), because that is what will help you stand out. I am grateful I have gotten to know you in and outside of the classroom through the Honors Program and whether you were truly stopping by my office with questions or just for the candy, we will never know. Please know I will continue to be your guide on the side no matter how near or far you go, and I promise to continue being your biggest fan as you take on the world.

Dr. Tim McKenna-Buchanan

Logan Hochstetler, *Cum laude*

Bachelor of Science
History

Logan Hochstetler, cum laude honors, will soon graduate with a history degree and specialization in secondary education. This major intensely merges the study of world histories and analysis with pedagogy. A critical examination of history prepared Mr. Hochstetler to successfully pass content licensure exams and to complete a challenging student teaching internship. During this past January Session, I had the chance to collaborate with Mr. Hochstetler in a methods course. We spent day after day together in a cohort piecing together how the theories of education play out in a classroom with real students. Each discussion was filled

with passion and energy. When Mr. Hochstetler spoke, we all paused to listen. Meaningful messages about the realities of teaching and the great student needs in our classrooms came from his soul. I know he will always put students first in his daily teaching efforts. The Henney Department of Education congratulates Mr. Hochstetler on these honors and accomplishments. We are grateful you chose education as your path. Wherever you may roam, may the Manchester mission fill your classroom with hope and peace. Your role in the lives of young people nearing adulthood is filled with opportunity. Remember the journey you traversed as you inspire future generations.

Dr. Stacy Stetzel

Riley Hogenson, *Magna cum laude*
Bachelor of Science
Biology-Chemistry

I have had the pleasure of working with Riley for the last two years as his professor and academic advisor. I have always been impressed with his ability to take in complex materials, engage with the content and ask interested questions. I have also always appreciated his meticulous attention to detail in lab. Riley came to Manchester as a transfer student and was immediately successful in his work here. I've been impressed with his work ethic and his drive to be successful. I have no doubt that he will make a wonderful healthcare provider in the future.

Dr. Kyle D. Watson

Kimberly Khavayi, *Cum laude*
Bachelor of Science
Political Science, Peace Studies

Kim Khavayi was not recruited to peace studies; rather, she pulled us into her plans. Already committed to a course in political science, Kim recognized both the challenges of political violence and the possibilities represented by creative civil and political response. In her academic work, Kim demonstrates a nuanced critical analysis as well as an integrative reflection that distinguishes her. Kim's success as a scholar will continue at Brown University, where she has been accepted into a graduate program in cybersecurity. Kim is an effective leader and collaborator, holding pivotal positions at Manchester in the Model UN chapter and the Office of Multicultural Affairs. In this work, she has led many campus projects through all stages of development. Of lasting importance is Kim's contribution to a project documenting racism on campus and efforts to address both racist attitudes and systemic racism. Our program aspires to graduate persons with a critical understanding of the causes and consequences of violence and injustice, equipped with both theoretical and practical knowledge of nonviolent ways of resolving conflict and promoting justice. Kim models just such principled discernment, ability and conviction. We are deeply grateful that Manchester has been part of the path she has chosen. Kim is astute, thorough, and reliable – and brings a sense of humor and an appreciation of irony that make working with her a pleasure. We'll miss you, Kim!

Dr. Katy Gray Brown

Chloe Leckrone, *Summa cum laude*
Bachelor of Arts
Peace Studies

I count among my most significant accomplishments in the last decade my remarkable restraint in practically every conversation I had with Chloe Leckrone before they declared a peace studies major. Chloe had all the markers of a peace studies major: concern for justice, curiosity about solutions, a strong streak of non-conformity and a penchant for surprising people. So, I put all my chips in and waited for the community of the program to do its magic. Granted, Chloe's heart belongs first to their English courses and second, to the Toronto Maple Leafs. But peace studies got to come along for the ride, and we are so much the better for it. Chloe is a behind-the-scenes powerhouse. They are writing screenplays or drafting grant proposals or recording the most scathingly footnoted meeting minutes and the world isn't any the wiser until an attachment quietly appears in your inbox and reveals all. Chloe's writing is clear, accessible and nuanced. Like other sharp objects, such talent is best wielded with restraint and care. Chloe does so, unfailingly using language constructively and kindly, even when delivering criticism or challenge. Chloe's talents are accompanied by the full range of personal qualities that contribute to academic success: organizational skills, perseverance, responsibility. In addition, Chloe should be recognized for their courage: they have pushed themselves to take advantage of opportunities far outside their comfort zone. In long-haul travel courses or a remote summer internship, Chloe has demonstrated an ability to find their balance and contribute importantly and distinctively. Of all the traits that Chloe brings to the ice, though, what those of us

who have worked most closely with them value is Chloe's unshakable dedication. When we've needed a document edited or a last-minute press release drafted, Chloe is the call we make. With great perceptiveness, skill and compassion, Chloe quietly comes in for the assist. We take comfort in knowing that no matter where post-graduation opportunities may take them, Chloe will always have our backs.

Dr. Katy Gray Brown

Rebecca Long, *Cum laude*

Bachelor of Science

Biology-Chemistry

I have had the privilege of getting to know Becky in various capacities over the last three years. When I first met her as a student in my Introduction to Molecular Biology lecture, I immediately noticed her drive. Becky was always one of the first people in the classroom, one of the first hands raised to answer a question, and one of the first to ask for more information. Becky's learning style is more than a passive listener, but rather an active, engaged participant. She approaches every class with an application-based attitude. Becky constantly wants to relate her classroom studies to things outside of the classroom. She is one of those precious few students who is able to seamlessly relate course content to life after graduation. To Becky, each class session is an opportunity to better herself for the future. Outside of the classroom, I have been fortunate to work with Becky as both a teaching assistant and club president. In these roles, I have seen her blossom into an organized, effective leader who is respected by peers and faculty, alike. Becky's organizational skills are perhaps some of her most enviable traits and her ability to juggle multiple responsibilities is admirable. In these roles, Becky has demonstrated her ability to manage her time both efficiently and effectively, which is a skill that will undoubtedly serve her well in the future. Becky, you are one of those students who, although I will miss dearly, I can confidently say you are off to bigger and better things. You have taken all we have taught you and are now ready to use it to better the world in many ways. I am excited to see what your future holds and know you will make us proud.

Dr. Cassie Gohn

Vanessa Mahmoud, *Cum laude*

Bachelor of Science

Health Communication, Global Health

I enjoyed getting to know Vanessa Mahmoud in the fall of 2018 when she would drop by my office to clarify quiz questions and puzzle through career options. She found a home in health communication and went on to study with Dr. Gabriela Morales. I knew she was in good hands. Dr. Morales worked with Vanessa in Introduction to Health Communication, Health Literacy, and Community Health Work, noting, "Vanessa always brought her curiosity, integrity and empathy. She applied these to her work and as a result, engaged in research that challenged her and that provided her opportunities to grow as an individual. Having a student in as many classes provided me an opportunity to see this from Vanessa firsthand. It was not just a onetime thing – it was consistent every year she was a student in my courses." Drs. Morales, McKenna-Buchanan, Calka and I have seen Vanessa be an exceptional student and person. As an intern with MedPro Group, Dr. Calka noted her thoughtfulness, conscientiousness, and motivation to get as much as she could from her internship experience. And, as a graduate, we continue to be impressed with her dedication to her current work as a Patient Experience Coordinator with Athletico. We are excited to see all the ways you will continue to help others in the future!

Dr. Mary Lahman

Laura Mejia, *Cum laude*

Bachelor of Arts

Health Communication

Passionate, insightful and determined are a few words that I would use to describe Lau. She enters a room with a vibrant energy; whether she is excited about an opportunity, frustrated about life, or overwhelmed with classes, her vigor is unmatched. Over the years, we have shared laughs, tears, words of encouragement, and words of perseverance, but in all that time, she has grown in confidence with a keen desire to learn. Although she has tried on several occasions to get rid of me, a few weeks or months go by and I find her right back in my office chair asking for advice on next steps. She may have switched majors, academic advisors, and in/out of classes, but look where we stand tonight. I am so grateful I got to be a small part of her journey at Manchester. My hope for you is that you continue saying "yes" to you even if that means you must turn down opportunities, keep challenging the norm and pushing other people to think about things differently, and in all of this do not lose your voice. When you need me, my office door will always be open

(e-mail and phone as well), I promise I will continue to push you to be your best because I know your potential and look forward to watching you follow your dreams. It goes without saying, Lau is an exceptional student. She has served our university as a peer educator, resident assistant, Spartan ambassador, and volunteered in our community. She even took the extra steps to become a Certified Community Health Worker all while maintaining an exceptional GPA. I do not yet know what is next for Lau, because she is weighing all her options, but I know her passion and determination will continue to grow, and I am so glad I got to be a small part of her journey.

Dr. Tim McKenna-Buchanan

Caitlin McGettrick, *Cum laude*

Bachelor of Science

Psychology

One of the first things you notice about Caitlin McGettrick is her infectious laugh. Although she is a hard-working student who brings tremendous assets and enthusiasm to any task, when you work on a project with her it is also more fun! She had been an amazingly dedicated student with a major in psychology and concentrations in both cognitive neuroscience and industrial organizational psychology. In addition, she has minors in both data science and peace studies. She is truly a student who is well grounded in the liberal arts. She will be attending Western Kentucky University's M.S. in Psychological Science program and will be co-mentored by Dr. Jeni Teeters who researches substance use preventions and interventions and Dr. Matthew Woodward who researches substance use reduction for individuals with trauma histories. She has received a full tuition waiver and an assistantship with up to a \$14,000 a year stipend. She reports that "An aspect of my experience at Manchester that has been meaningful has been my minors in both data science and peace studies. Being encouraged to pursue a minor in data science as a psychology major has made me feel much more qualified for graduate school while applying. And my minor in peace studies is a very uniquely Manchester experience which I have met many amazing people through and had many amazing experiences, including my Jan term trip with the Peace Studies department. My Jan term trip with the Psychology department to France was also a meaningful experience to me." Her goal is to obtain a doctorate degree in Community Psychology in order to improve the human condition through the use of psychological assessment and community development. she reports, "I hope to apply substance use and harm reduction research to community mental health facilities across the country to destigmatize harm reduction and increase access to life saving resources. Further down the road I would like to be a psychology professor at a small liberal arts school like Manchester". We wish her well and I think she will make a wonderful researcher and excellent professor should she choose that path! We will miss her!

Dr. Rusty Coulter-Kern

Macy Miller, *Cum laude*

Bachelor of Science

Biology-Chemistry, Global Health

It is my privilege to share a bit about graduating senior, Macy Miller. I first met Macy nearly three years ago when she was a student in my Introduction to Molecular Biology lecture section. Upon interacting with Macy in class, it became clear that she was one of those students who would push me to be a better teacher. Macy always wanted to know more, more background, more real-life application, more next steps. She was not content to passively listen to lectures, but instead always kept me on my toes asking challenging and thoughtful questions. This passion for learning is something that I admire most about Macy, and I believe will serve her well in the future. Not only will this inquisitive nature allow Macy to be a life-long learner, but it will also push those around her to grow. In addition to being a stellar student, Macy is also a star on the basketball court. Juggling classes, labs, practice, and a social life is not an easy task, yet somehow Macy made it look effortless. I remember often overhearing her conversations with other classmates about her schedule and thinking to myself that I could have never managed everything. And still, here we are. Macy is graduating with academic honors and numerous athletic accolades. Macy, I feel so fortunate to have had the opportunity to play a small role in your story. Our interactions have bettered me, as well. Thank you for staying curious. Never stop questioning. By doing so, you will go far in your future pursuits.

Dr. Cassie Gohn

Erica Mohr, *Magna cum laude*
Bachelor of Science
English//Language Arts Education

Miss Erica Mohr walks the hallways of her internship as an English teacher. A decorated student both academically and athletically, Miss Mohr graduates with magna cum laude honors. The Henney Department of Education is so proud to congratulate our student and our colleague. Hard work, dedication, perseverance and genuine curiosity for learning led Miss Mohr to these honors. The challenging path of English and secondary education included deep analysis and reflection. Miss Mohr completed the degree with a devotion to the learning process that deepened the experience of all in her classes. Equity and inclusion were common themes of Miss Mohr's queries in class discussions. She is an advocate for all learners and someone who seeks to understand diversity. The sensitive topics involved in learning about one's place in our diverse world were approached respectfully by Miss Mohr with dignity and grace. Much respect was earned through collaborations with classmates, faculty members, and cooperating teachers. Miss Mohr, you are our future. The insights you have now will only continue to mature as you gain more experience in the world. We are grateful you chose teaching. Our communities will be more inclusive because of the work you do. Thank you.

Dr. Stacy Stetzel

Bridget Nash, *Cum laude*
Bachelor of Science
Digital Media, Marketing

If you're looking to find Bridget, good luck. Bridget is far busier than many of us know yet handles each of her tasks with enthusiasm and attention to detail. You might find her behind the lens of a camera pursuing her passion for photography, on the basketball court or on the soccer field. (Two majors AND a two-sport athlete!) You might find her helping plan the Dance Marathon, connecting with first years during the Week of Welcome, and meeting with the Creators Club, which she co-founded. This summer you may have seen her at events for Grow Wabash County, where she worked as a Marketing intern, or in summer 2020 at the Wabash County Museum as a Communications Intern. Bridget has truly made the most of her Manchester experience, finding rich opportunities to develop as a scholar, athlete, and professional. She is the epitome of the well-rounded liberal arts graduate. Whether she encourages teammates on the basketball court and soccer field or leads classmates in lively debates about ageism and camera angles, Bridget brings enthusiasm and new perspectives. Bridget has a rare knack for connecting with anyone and everyone in a room and making them feel comfortable and included. In class, she is always present and engaged. We wish we could bottle her infectious energy. At the end of her summer internship, her supervisor wrote, "To say we are sad to see Bridget go is an understatement. We're all in denial that Bridget will soon be leaving us... She has been an absolute joy to work with and we look forward to seeing the incredible things she does in the future!" We couldn't agree more.

Drs. Michelle Calka and Mary Lahman

Sydney Newton, *Magna cum laude*
Bachelor of Science
Psychology, Psychology & Religious Culture

Sydney has been a "go-getter" since she arrived on campus. She is tenacious, determined and willing to jump in with both feet to tackle whatever task lies before her. Through her work in the library and the work she has done in psychology, she has not just done a job, but actively worked to make systems and processes better. I have appreciated her willingness to tackle large complex projects and bring order to them. I appreciate all the work she has done with me and the ways in which she makes things better for all involved. She has been extremely busy since coming to Manchester University and has made positive contributions across campus. She plans to move home after graduation and get a job in the field of psychology in order to gain more experience. Her future career goal is to have a Ph.D. in industrial-organization, and work with people in the field like Dr. Jack Wiley and Dr. KJ Kessie. She reports that what has been most instrumental in her educational experience is the professors in the psychology department, the religion department, Dr. Erickson-Pesetski, the library staff, the campus store staff and April White. "Having these wonderful people that I connected with allowed me to find and establish a home away from home and gave me a safe space to grow and succeed. The people are what makes Manchester what it is, and these people exemplify that in my mind". We are delighted Sydney stopped by the psychology

department during her time at MU. She has made amazing contributions to our department and our lives during her time at Manchester. We will miss her!

Dr. Rusty Coulter-Kern

Mary O'Neill, *Cum laude*
Bachelor of Arts
Psychology, Spanish

Since arriving at MU, Mary has sought a variety of experiences that have put a variety of tools in her toolbox. She is a double major in Spanish and psychology with a cognitive neuroscience concentration. She has been a part of multiple research teams and has presented a poster at the Midwestern Psychological Association with Dr. KJ Kessie, entitled: Recovery and Smartphone Use: The Influence of Self-Regulation on Student Behavior. She is currently completing her honors thesis under the direction of Dr. Mark McCoy, entitled: Prevalence of Adverse Childhood Experiences in Poverty Areas: A Predictor of Depression and Anxiety in Adults. She has been active at MU and working and volunteering on campus, at Timbercrest and with Children in the summer. She reports that one of the most meaningful parts of my undergraduate experience at Manchester University has been the relationships with professors, exposure to new career paths and exposure to so many different opportunities and options. After graduation, she will work a year for AmeriCorps and is considering going to graduate school in social work, where no doubt she can use both her knowledge of the human condition and her Spanish skills to serve those in need. Mary is a delightful, quiet soul and I look forward to hearing the about the ways she enriches the lives of those she serves.

Dr. Rusty Coulter-Kern

Anna Ousley, *Cum laude*
Bachelor of Science
Elementary Education

“Vocation,” Frederick Buechner writes, “is the place where our deep gladness meets the world’s deepest need.” From her earliest memories, Anna Ousley has wanted to be a teacher. In fact, one can easily say she has been called to teach the most vulnerable of society – our youngest children. Every step along her academic journey has been intentional. Whether it is teaching Sunday school, babysitting, running summer camps, or spending hours of her free time as a substitute teacher or paraprofessional in classrooms, Anna has actively and intentionally found ways to hone her craft as an educator. As a member of the Henney Department of Education, Anna quickly became a valuable and contributing young professional. Because her passion for teaching runs so deeply, she arrived as a first year eager for skills and knowledge that would enable her to create inclusive, engaging learning communities. Her natural propensity for teaching, her curiosity for learning, her passion for children, her desire to make a difference, her intellectual abilities, and her fine-tuned skills in the classroom during student teaching led the Henney Department of Education to nominate Anna as one of the Department’s nominees for the Indiana Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (IACTE) Outstanding Future Educator Award, joining the ranks of other top future educators from around the state of Indiana. Without a doubt, Anna Ousley has demonstrated time and again her immense joy of teaching children – filling the world’s deepest need, the need for excellent educators.

Dr. Heather Schilling

Darcie Patton, *Cum laude*
Master of Accountancy
Bachelor of Science
Accounting

Darcie Patton is a true Renaissance woman. She is a gifted student who seems to learn easily. Darcie will be joining the CPA firm of Hamil, Lehman and England when she graduates this spring with a Master of Accountancy degree. She will also be spending time studying and preparing for the rigors of the four-part CPA exam. In addition to these academic abilities, she is also a welder and a bartender. She has passed on her knowledge that she has learned at Manchester University by tutoring other students in economics, accounting and finance. She had the leading role in the 2021 Theatre Society production of “The View” and participated in the 2022 Theatre Society Production of “It’s a Woman’s World”. Darcie is also a Children’s Ministry Volunteer at her church. Darcie has successfully engaged in a variety of adventures that makes her a well-rounded Renaissance woman. A graduate that will be successful as she moves forward into to her personal and professional life. Congratulations and good luck in all your future adventures.

Brad Pyrah

Charlie Peterson, *Cum laude*
Bachelor of Arts
Business Management, Marketing

I met Charlie during his junior year when he was completing his internship. He was one of the few that got offered a position after completing his internship. His supervisor raved about him, which made me curious about him as a student. In his senior year, I met Charlie in my marketing research class, the one everyone fears. Based on my experience with Charlie, I would have to say he is a 'fruitful' person. I say this as you will find Charlie to be very pleasant to work with, but he has a lot of flavors that speak for who he is. He is one of the few students who are capable of using both sides of the brain – analytical and creative. In class, he is not shy to ask challenging questions that typically do not lead to an answer. His questions often led to a class discussion that would take up the entire class. He is not afraid to point out the flaws of research that were written by renowned scholars and he will provide analytical evidence to prove his point. In addition, he will come up with creative solutions to attack the problems that would often lead to a solution beyond your imagination. When you have Charlie in class, you need to have a flexible agenda just in case the class needs to discuss issues beyond the lesson plan. He is a sports enthusiast and as much as I wished he had majored in sport management, I am grateful to keep him as a fan. Don't even get him started with the Colts game – he will talk about anything from ticket sales to player stats. He is the kind of fan we (sport managers) want in the stadium because he is a loyal fan. We exchanged great conversations about the business of sport to the extent that I am confident that he will be a fine sport marketer if that route is what he wishes to pursue. In terms of his character, Charlie is insightful and observant. He knows which battles to fight and which ones to give. He also thrives on challenges and he will deliver projects beyond your expectations when pushed to his limits. I know this as I made him change multiple drafts of his research paper and he would typically respond, "that makes sense" and rehaul his projects without complaints. I also made him memorize how to interpret ANOVA (statistical analysis) results in my office just to refine his research presentation skills. He will persevere through all the grilling processes with a smile, and that was Charlie. These are the traits we would often find from the greatest businessperson, and I highly value these traits of his. With his intelligence, wisdom, and 'not failing to have fun' work ethic, I truly enjoyed having Charlie in class and I now look forward to meeting him as a colleague. After years, I will think of you from time to time when I'm watching the Colts game. Thinking of you always made me smile. Congratulations on your achievement!

Dr. Sun Kang

Alina Reed, *Cum laude*
Bachelor of Science
Digital Media Arts

When I think of Alina, I think of a creative spirit. Whether she's painting a mural of the covered bridge on wall at the Main View (check it out, it's beautiful), dancing with the Spartanettes, organizing the MU Dance Marathon, or behind the camera as a photographer, she's in her element when expressing herself. She co-founded the Creators Club to build community with others who enjoy creative outlets. During her digital marketing internship with the Wabash County Museum, I was so impressed with her innovative ideas for events and marketing materials. In the classroom or on the job, she readily makes connections between ideas and has developed the skills to turn those ideas into reality. Dr. Mary Lahman noted, "Alina is enthusiastic about learning and diligently prepares for class. She seeks advice ahead of time to ensure optimum understanding of assignments and course concepts. Even when work and community service keep Alina from attending evening classes, she completes the learning activities she missed, asking clarifying questions that lead deep learning." Her internship supervisor at the Wabash County Museum wrote, "Alina exceeded our expectations in every way. She is self-motivated and driven toward excellence. She seemed to grasp each project and then take it to the next level." I think "taking it to the next level" describes Alina well; she can see the bigger picture and envision ways to make it better and include others in the process. In *Finding Flow: The Psychology of Engagement with Everyday Life*, Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi wrote, "it is how we choose what we do, and how we approach it, that will determine whether the sum of our days adds up to a formless blur, or to something resembling a work of art." I have no doubt that Alina will continue to engage with the world in her own unique way and make it something special.

Dr. Michelle Calka

Blake Rentschler, *Cum laude*

Bachelor of Science

Exercise Science and Fitness

Blake Rentschler will graduate with honors from the Exercise Science Department with a degree in clinical and rehabilitation sciences. Blake has been a great yet under the radar student in our department. He has great talent and gracefulness, but it wasn't until his junior year he made a much bigger presence in my classrooms. He is a soft-spoken person with a great personality and intelligence. He is very humble and is willing to go the extra mile to accomplish tasks and help others. Selflessness is how he lives his life from what I can see while maintaining high level academics. He is a great communicator with his peers and me as a professor and advisor. He is driven and academically has accomplished high level accolades. It is no wonder he is graduating with honors as he has the intensity and focus for such a task. He is also an accomplished tennis player with skills he uses on and off the court. His ability to communicate, work well with others and dominate his environment is unprecedented. He does everything with poise and respect both academically and athletically. He is a great person to know and understands how to learn, teach and respect his environment when it comes to his professional life. Blake is planning to attend a doctorate of physical therapy school and looks to be the great professional I always knew he could be. I am happy to have known him over his career and especially his last two years when I was honored to really get to know Blake. I wish you the best of luck Blake and cannot wait to see the professional you will be in the near future.

Dr. Jeffrey Beer

Madeline Russow, *Cum laude*

Bachelor of Science

Biology-Chemistry

Maddy is one of the first students I had when I came back to teach at Manchester. From the very beginning, I knew she was a talented student with a bright future ahead of her. In addition to seeing her succeed in the classroom, I have had the pleasure of working with her in other ways too. Maddy has served as a lab assistant for the Chemistry Department and I could always count on her to be a wonderful help in lab, even if she didn't think she was. Maddy also worked with me over the summer doing research on antibiotics. It was amazing to see her grow from the more hesitant research student to an independent and confident scientist by the end of the summer. We had many talks about her future endeavors, and I am so excited that she has been accepted to the pharmacy program at Purdue University. She is a caring person and will make an amazing healthcare professional. I have also had the honor of working with Maddy as the coach of the tennis team. She is a great competitor but has always been honest and fair. Her opponents frequently comment on how nice she is. She has been awarded the conference sportswomen award twice as a result. It has been so amazing to see Maddy grow into the person she is today, and I am so excited for her future.

Dr. Kyle D. Watson

Alex Sanchez, *Magna cum laude*

Bachelor of Science

Psychology

Alex Sanchez has been an amazing student in the psychology department and at Manchester University. He leaves here with a 3.9 GPA. Alex has been involved in Psychological Society and Psi Chi. He has also worked as a student assistant in our department and helped us in so many ways. Alex stood out from the very beginning, always showing up with a smile and an upbeat attitude. He works hard and delivers excellent results. What will we do without you? Alex has worked on several research projects at MU. He examined the effects of COVID-19 on MU students' relationships with their parents and consequently, mental health. He collaborated with Mackenzie Coulter-Kern on a second language acquisition study at IU. He is currently investigating the effects of collegiate compensation on MU students' employee engagement. I asked Alex about his favorite classes at MU and he said, "In my first semester at MU, my favorite class was Basic Design. The people in that class were fun to work with and the professor was very kind and made the course that much more enjoyable. Another favorite was American Music. The course content was fun in its own weird way but mostly because of some of the music we would listen to. After returning from the pandemic shutdown, my favorite class was Neuropsychology because of how insightful and interesting the content was. It inspired me to elect my last-minute concentration in cognitive neuroscience and remains the only class where I enjoyed reading the in-class textbook. Finally, in the second semester of my junior year, my favorite class was Stats & Research: Developmental Psychology, though it was not until the end of the course that I enjoyed it. Throughout the semester, this course was stressful, and it took a lot of my time to ensure success in the course. However, after the project was finalized, the poster presented, and the paper

written, I finally had the time to notice how interesting it was to run statistical analyses and review results, things I never felt I would come close to showing an interest in.” I also asked Alex about his hopes for MU in the future and he said, “My hope is that MU can one day return to where it was when I first arrived on campus in 2018. To hear about and see a community that is as vibrant, engaged, and unified as it was before the pandemic, and reminds me once again why I chose to enroll at MU.” The most important thing I want to say about Alex is that people trust him. Other psychology majors often go to Alex for support, technical help and guidance. Students appreciate working with Alex because he is kind, extremely competent and efficient. That is a great legacy to graduate with and I am so thankful that you chose to spend your four years with us in the Psychology Department.

Dr. Marcie Coulter-Kern

Mallory Sands, *Cum laude*

Bachelor of Science

Biology-Chemistry

Mallory Sands - exuberant, tenacious, gracious. Mallory and I joined MU at the same time in Fall of 2018, her as a student and me as a new assistant professor together in our BIOL-108 lab. It has been a joy to watch her grow as a scientist and a Spartan over the last four years. She never gives up but leans in and embraces every challenge. Mallory has been doing independent research in my lab since June of 2021 studying how soybeans respond to mechanical wounding which forms the basis of her honors thesis. While working with plants was not her first choice, she was fascinated by molecular biology and dove into the mechanisms and pathways with enthusiasm. Her experiments required sampling every six hours for 48 hours which meant 4 AM sampling times, yet she never complained about it. Instead, lab meetings featured selfies in her PJs grinning with her soybeans in the middle of the night! Her research samples need to be run on a piece of equipment at IUPUI, so she spent an entire Saturday (6:30am – 6:30pm) on a research road trip with me. The monotony of sample prep was broken by her upbeat playlist which had us grooving while pipetting. Mallory can always be counted on to turn a frown upside down in any situation :) Outside the Science Center, Mallory can be found on the tennis courts showing the same level of passion and perseverance. She puts her whole heart into practice and games whether playing on the court or cheering her teammates on from the sidelines. In March, she was the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference Women’s Tennis Athlete of the Week when she won her double and single matches to lead the Spartans to victory! Mallory will be graduating with a biology-chemistry major and psychology minor. In addition to her Latin honors, she is a member of the TriBeta Biology Honors Society and will graduate with Achievement from the Honors Program for her thesis entitled “Investigating the Local and Systemic Wounding Response in Soybean”. This fall, she joins the Wingert lab at Notre Dame where she will study the molecular mechanisms of kidney development using Zebrafish as a model species. I have no doubt that her future research will lead to discoveries that improve the human condition. Mallory, never doubt how bright you shine! I am truly honored to have been your professor, research advisor and honors thesis chair. I look forward to becoming your colleague as you enter this next phase of your life.

Dr. Jennifer Robison

Maddie Shepard, *Cum laude*

Bachelor of Science

History

Madison, or Maddie as her family and friends call her, has a gentle disposition, but behind her thoughtful, quiet personality is a powerhouse of a young woman who is passionate about creating inclusive spaces for all humans regardless of their intellectual capabilities, socio economic status, gender identity or other socially constructed categories. Her love of learning and sharing that joy with others has called her to the discipline of education, and it is in the history classroom that she has found her voice. Mother Theresa is credited with saying, “A joyful heart is the normal result of a heart burning with love. She gives most who gives with joy,” and few young people reflect a joyful heart like Maddie. As an academic, Maddie has embraced difficult dialogues, signing up for elective courses that give her opportunities to explore questions that do not possess easy answers, even for which there are no answers. These investigations have led her to exploring equity in education for students with learning exceptionalities as well as the role Critical Race Theory has in public schools. It is in these classroom discussions and explorations that Maddie has intellectually and rationally vocalized her thoughts around difficult issues in education. During her time at Manchester University, Maddie has involved herself across campus in a variety of clubs as well as playing for and serving as a captain of the Spartan Women’s Soccer Team. After completing her student teaching in history secondary education, Maddie will pursue a classroom teaching position, and she hopes to find

herself along the sidelines of the pitch as a coach. Regardless of where Maddie's journey takes her, she will do it joyfully and seeking ways to help others.

Dr. Heather Schilling

Samuel Springer, *Cum laude*
Bachelor of Science
Psychology

Unfortunately, I have not had a lot of time to get to know Sam but I have been glad for the time that I have known him. My first exposure to Sam was as an upper-class student who was assisting the Psychology department. I would later have the chance to get to know Sam in Evolutionary Psychology in the January 2022 term. Sam impressed me as a student with his ability to quickly grasp material and because of the quality of the contributions that he made to discussions. This has been true in every course that I have had with Sam. Personally, I have enjoyed getting to know Sam because he has such a positive attitude talking with his peers and mentors. As an instructor in higher ed., there is a trend of students not being effective communicators. This is sometimes simply because the student is young and inexperienced and sometimes because the student is trying hard to sound impressive. With Sam, my experience has been that he is confident in himself and that he views me and other faculty as people, both regarding how respectfully he approaches interactions but also regarding his approach to conversation. All of this is meant to say that Sam is a bright young man with whom I have enjoyed spending time with inside and outside of classroom interactions. Whether we are discussing a novel, food, psychology, or career aspirations, Sam demonstrates thoughtfulness and maturity. I look forward to wrapping up this year, but the feeling is bittersweet due to the endings that come with them. Sam will soon graduate and be moving on to bigger and better things; having been accepted to multiple master's programs in general and I/O psychology, I am confident that Sam will have an exciting and meaningful career in whatever area of psychology that he ends up choosing to pursue in graduate school. Remember that life is a series of journeys and that the end is never really the end but the transition to a new beginning. We are all very proud of you Sam and we wish you the best of luck!

Dr. Mark McCoy

Ashley Steel, *Summa cum laude*
Bachelor of Science
Psychology, Psychology and Religious Culture

Ashley has been one of the top performers in each class at Manchester. In addition, she has done this while working for the Psychology Department as a student assistant and being on multiple research teams. She is very active in leadership in student organizations and has a psychology major with a cognitive neuroscience concentration and a major in psychology and religious culture. Along with her research team, she presented: Effectiveness of Substance Use as a Form of Recovery Among College Students at the May 2020 Midwestern Psychological Association Conference. She has been very curious about the human experience and its relationship to the world and other forms of human thought. She reports, "one of the most meaningful parts of my undergraduate experience has been getting to know the professors at Manchester. It is clear they genuinely care about students' well-being and setting them up for success in and out of the classroom. I also really appreciate that Manchester is a liberal arts university. Getting exposure to so many different fields (psychology, philosophy, religious studies, literature, history, political science, etc.) has allowed me to appreciate the interconnectedness of all worldly phenomena." Ashley plans to take a gap year after graduating with and consider a graduate degree in psychology, philosophy, or religious studies anticipating working in academia as a professor. We will miss Ashley and her inquisitive mind and wish her the very best in her career.

Dr. Rusty Coulter-Kern

Andy Vance, *Magna cum laude*
Bachelor of Science
Performing Arts Administration

Among the student crew members working for Cordier, there are always a few who are more interested and more involved than the rest. Every once in a while, we get someone who is so involved and so influential that it is difficult to remember what things were like before they were here and impossible to imagine what it will be like when they leave. Andy Vance is very much one of those people. Seemingly from the moment she arrived here, Andy threw herself into her work with Cordier with the same determination and energy she applies to everything that interests her. After learning what she could as a student technician, Andy expanded her technical knowledge with an internship at Sweetwater Sound where her skill and work ethic

was appreciated enough to be offered employment beyond the internship. She has also been instrumental in planning, running, or supporting many events on campus, at times taking on actual or de facto leadership roles in several clubs and working to reinvigorate the student Theatre Society. When Andy found her interests did not match anything Manchester offered, she worked to create her own major. Similarly, when Theatre Society could not get rights for a production, she opted to write a show for the group to perform and is in the process of doing so again for her final production. The enthusiasm and interest Andy often display makes her a joy to work with and seems to make those around her more willing to help and get involved. I will miss Andy both personally and professionally after she walks across the graduation stage and into the next phase of her life.

Matt Unger

John Velasquez, *Magna cum laude*

Bachelor of Science

Exercise Science and Fitness

John Velasquez will graduate with honors from the Exercise Science Department with a degree in clinical and rehabilitation sciences. John is a student I have admired for quite some time. He walked onto our campus as a shy and yet introverted student looking to go into athletic training. I was not sure if this would be the case down the road with this demeanor. It was not long as I had John in class that he proved me wrong. John became one of my best students in the classroom with his ability to think on his feet, work with others, be open minded, take a challenge and speak through things as a professional. He has a way about him that makes you feel comfortable with his decisions, leadership and drive for his peers, professors and future patients. He pushes himself every day in the classroom, socially and physically. He strives for the best and thrives on adversity both in academics and athletics. He is disciplined, dedicated and confident. John is a great person and focuses his daily routine on others before himself. His athletic career has been a great one as a soccer player. He has developed himself into a great player though hard work, effort and selflessness. His teammates love him and his dedication to both academics and athletics grow every day. I am a better professor after meeting someone like John and having him in my classes. I thank him for the efforts and dedication he puts toward everything in his life. I know he will be a great professional and cannot wait to challenge him even more in graduate school as he enters our Master of Athletic Training program.

Dr. Jeffrey Beer

Abigail Walker, *Cum laude*

Bachelor of Science

Business Management, Sport Management

I have known Abi since her freshman year as her advisor, mentor, committee member and teacher. It was amazing to witness her academic, individual and professional growth. She was very quiet and shy at the beginning, but always asked good questions in class. Abi was one of those students that would keep teachers on their toes. Throughout the years, she emerged as a leader and a role model for the lower classmen. It was a joy to watch this quiet girl lead the entire meeting, with her own agendas in the College of Business Event Planning Committee. It was incredible to watch the girl that barely spoke in class presenting her project with confidence in front of her peers during our senior class. Looking at her growth throughout the years, I could confidently now tell her that she is completely off my 'worry child' list. Abi, as a basketball player, understood that practice was the only way to get better. I saw her practicing her presentation in an empty classroom, saw her working on homework before and after going to practice and I saw Abi organizing her calendars to get everything done on time, which she always did. She stayed up late so many nights to just perfect her assignments and projects. I know this because we will email each other at midnight as if this is her normal routine. But these were the nights after her basketball practice, games, travels and workouts. That was Abi throughout the four years here giving 110% to everything she was passionate about. She earned this honor with her hard work. As a person, Abi is always kind to everyone. Although she will always look serious, you'll just have to see the smile on her face, and you'll know that she is full of love and joy. She is probably one of the most positive people I have ever known. But I know they come with a price, and she is more than willing to pay for it to keep her momentum and yours going. She was encouraging and calming to this Californian driver in the snow blizzard on our way back to campus from Pacer's professional development trip in Indy. She is definitely a team player. When you pick a team, you better make sure she is on your side; if not, you better be ready as she will be impossible to defend against. And most importantly, she is explanatory to our mission. I respect the infinite worth of Abi Walker as I believe she will lead a compassionate life that would improve the human condition of the world. It was an honor and privilege to be her mentor. I learned from her as much as she learned from me. Congratulations on your achievement!

Dr. Sun Kang

Sara Wauters, *Cum laude*
Bachelor of Science
Exercise Science and Fitness

Sara Wauters will graduate with honors from the Exercise Science Department with a degree in clinical and rehabilitation sciences. What can I say about Sara other than she is the most soft-spoken individual I believe I have ever met. Now some might say this is negative, but Sara has used this to her advantage. She is one that pushes to accomplish high levels of excellence in her academics. This is evident with her honors degree and work in the classroom. She uses that soft-spoken demeanor to identify where things need to be done and how to do them at high levels. She is one that gets the job done but without drawing attention to herself. Sara is one of the better students I have had in class and does it with class, integrity and drive. Sara will continue her education at Baylor University as I have learned in exercise physiology. It was only until recent she found a passion for this area of interest from her original plan. It is a degree that fits her well and a profession she will make a profound mark in during her career. She surprises me all of the time with her thoughts and feelings on topics and academics. She focuses her life of helping others when she can and maintaining a chaotic academic life at a high level. She is president of our academic club and leads with the upmost respect from her peers. She gives guidance when needed and takes tasks on for both the club and academics with intensity and focus. All of this is done with the soft demeanor and clarity of her future. She is a great person and student who I have had the pleasure of meeting, teaching and working with to improve our academic department. I wish you the best of luck in your professional career and thank you for allowing me to guide you in this path.

Dr. Jeffrey Beer

Jared Wayne, *Cum laude*
Bachelor of Science
Exercise Science and Fitness

Jared Wayne will graduate with honors from the Exercise Science Department with a degree in clinical and rehabilitation sciences. Jared is looking to continue his education in a doctorate of physical therapy program to become a licensed physical therapist. Jared has been great to work with in the classroom. He has great character and integrity when it comes to his academics, athletics and life. His goals are set, and he is in control of his own future. The future is very bright with students like Jared and the profession of physical therapy will be grateful he has chosen it as a profession. Jared will be great with patients as his demeanor is relaxed, guided, focused and supportive. He thrives on helping others and doing what it takes to succeed. He is a great communicator and works well with his peers and professors. His character is unscathed and if put into any ethical or moral dilemma I am sure he will come out on top. Jared is the kind of student who is responsible, committed and driven in the task at hand. His ability to troubleshoot and juggle multiple tasks is remarkable. His time as a soccer player helped shape him as the human he is today. The discipline it takes to be a student-athlete is one that flowed through Jared both in athletics and academics. He was loved by his teammates and classmates during his time at MU. I enjoyed having him in my classroom and could count on him for anything. I wish you the best of luck Jared on your professional ventures. The world and profession are in a better place with you in it.

Dr. Jeffrey Beer

Zach White, *Cum Laude*
Bachelor of Science
Physical Education

Zachary White will graduate with honors from the Exercise Science Department with a degree in physical education and health promotion minor. Unfortunately, it was not until Dr. Kim Duchane's retirement that I began to know Zach. I knew he was a very good baseball player and understood from Dr. Duchane he was a top-notch student. I had passed him in the halls and had him for a few courses, but he was a quiet student. He is reserved but ready to take on the world in education. I know his instructors from education value his knowledge, drive, passion and understanding of his academics. I began to really know Zach in a few courses but also as a baseball player helping young kids. I began to see Zach as a teacher in an entirely different world outside of the classroom. I would see his passion, understanding and focus when it came to young athletes and teaching them the skills of a great game. What I began to learn more as we worked together was Zach the academic and person. He is a focused, caring, intense and has the qualities of a great teacher. His faculty love him, and my players idolized what he could do and the person he is. He is the definition of a great human being who understands the world and earns the respect of everyone he meets in life. Graduating with honors is of no surprise to me as he is a great student with fantastic thoughts and ideas

to change the world. I value his opinion in all aspects and respect him not only as a student but as a future professional shaping the minds of our youth. I know Zach has a passion for coaching the game of baseball as well for his future. He will be a great coach teaching in yet another capacity. His young players no matter what level will become not only great players but even better human beings. It is what Zach will demand and get from his students in such a way both his younger students and parents will respect. It has been an honor getting to know Zach over these years and I am only jealous of Dr. Kim Duchane that he has known Zach from the beginning and a bit longer than I have at MU.

Dr. Jeffrey Beer

Tiffany Williams, *Magna cum laude*
Bachelor of Arts
English

“Even if you don't feel confident in what you write at the time, at least you are writing; someone might look at your writing and think it is beautiful.” Tiffany, in response to identifying one life lesson, she will take away from her MU career. Spanning the first course in Introduction to Literary Studies to our Senior Seminar on Indigenous/Native American Literature, I have been blessed to enjoy Tiffany's wonderful, charismatic spark across her career as an English major and double minor at Manchester University. Tiffany claims the vocation of an advanced mind and soul. As a keen perceiver and prober of literary and other worlds, she always listens with an open mind and a willing heart. Quiet. Attentive. Astute. Focused. Imaginative. Gracious. Efficient: all of these character and professional traits also allow her to not only mentor students in the Writing Center but also assist customers at the local grocery store where she works many hours, and that in addition to maintaining excellence as a full-time student. Her impressive writing competence coupled with her astute oral and listening skills model the profile of an exquisite scholar. Guided by a natural sense of curiosity to learn and engage with all genres across the writing crafts, Ms. Williams consistently not only excelled but exceeded the expectations linked up with critical analyses, expository, argumentative, as well as imaginative and creative writing projects. Given to a dynamic, extremely kind and gently affirming personality, Tiffany claims authority naturally. It is this uncompromising synergetic commitment also to understand and connect to those who are misunderstood, underrepresented, disenfranchised and abused that led Tiffany to her capstone senior writing project, Gendered Violence Through Storytelling in Native American Culture. This original scholarly work investigates how Native American literature explores gendered violence against Native women, revealed through storytelling in a way that allows their truth to be told with authenticity, applicability, and purpose. Tiffany, I will miss your grace, intellect and service commitments I so have treasured as a professor and fellow learner. Keep crafting your verse in beauty on page and through Your wonderful crocheting. Never doubt your sparkle! Grateful,

Dr. Beate Gilliar

Ayda Woldegerima, *Cum laude*
Bachelor of Science
Biology-Chemistry

Ayda will graduate with a major in biology-chemistry. I have known Ayda since the spring of 2019 at which time she completed a course I teach entitled Principles of Biology I. Ayda quickly stood out as an exceptional student. Since then, she has completed upper-level courses I teach (Advanced Human Physiology and Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy) and Ayda is still an exceptional student. Ayda is dedicated, self-motivated and she has a clear desire and ability to understand and integrate information. Her written and oral communication skills, along with the thoroughness with which she writes, are exceptional. In and out of the classroom, she is attentive and engaged, and is always willing to ask and answer questions. On a personal level, Ayda is genuine, respectful, approachable, mature and reliable. Ayda faces challenges and completes tasks well and with pride in her work. Congratulations Ayda!

Dr. Aron Costello-Harris

Taylor Wollen, *Magna cum laude*
Master of Science
Bachelor of Science
Accounting

I have had the opportunity to work with Taylor since the beginning of her academic experience. She was a natural leader in Principles of Accounting 1. This class was a mix of majors and Taylor instantly took on the role as a leader to help her peers better understand the material. I once had a parent tell me that you either have the accounting gene or not: Taylor has the accounting gene! From day one, her passion for accounting

inspired me as she greatly enjoyed learning the material and knew she was destined to be an accountant. Her love for learning contributed to her ability to crack the accounting code – she understands how to put the accounting pieces together in a way to visualize the big picture. This ability gives her the gift of being able to ask excellent thought-provoking questions. This is not just my personal observation, but her internship supervisor also commented that she asks well thought out questions. Taylor also understands that if you understand why you are doing something, you will be better at it and Taylor practices this approach often. Taylor, you should never underestimate the talent of asking thoughtful questions, connecting the dots not already connected, based on your understanding; this will not only serve you well in your work as an auditor but also in your life. Taylor's strong analytical skills, professionalism, positive attitude and flexibility landed her an auditing internship with Crowe, LLP in Elkhart in the spring of 2021. She then accepted a full-time position with the firm beginning fall of 2022. Taylor will be preparing for the rigorous four-part CPA exam this summer and early fall before starting her career as an auditor. Although I will miss having Taylor in class, I am excited to see Taylor's career progression and the great successes she will have in her personal and professional life.

Heather Twomey