

Academic Excellence
Banquet

April 25, 2018
Jo Young Switzer Center



Manchester
University

Program

Reception

6 p.m.

Beauchamp Balcony Lounge

Welcome

Raylene M. Rospond

Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs

Dinner

6:30 p.m.

Lahman Room

Introduction of Students

Faculty and Staff Members

Honor Students

Jacob Ahlgrain, cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Biology-Chemistry

I have known Jacob since the Spring of 2016, and by the end of this semester he will have been in three classes I teach. Jacob embodies what I envision as a great student; he is engaged, dedicated, passionate, goal oriented, and compassionate. I had the opportunity to ask Jacob about why he chose Manchester, his time at Manchester, and what it is he hopes to do after Manchester. In his own words, Jacob said "I chose Manchester because I wanted a small campus in Indiana that offered a rewarding, but rigorous curriculum in science. Manchester emerged as a friendly university which was brought to my attention first. Upon more questioning and research, I realized that Manchester would be ideal for my prerequisites. Furthermore, my first campus visit boded so well into my vision of an ideal campus that I instantly knew this would be my home for the upcoming years." Manchester, has changed Jacob, in fact, Jacob indicated that "While studying at MU, I gained more in the sense of teamwork and cooperation than I have anywhere else ... No more than a month into my first semester and I began having fits of doubt and high stress levels beyond anything I have ever experienced. I wanted to quit. I finally let my ego disappear and started seeking additional help from professors, peers, and occasionally friends. It dawned on me that I am not alone, I have the support of those around me whenever I may need it. My biggest, perhaps the most trivial, take away from my tenure at MU is to always ask for and appreciate help." Jacob has performed well academically at Manchester and he is now looking at his time after Manchester. Jacob hopes to work in the CDC. Jacob said that "Epidemiology and microbiology are two fields which I am most interested in. To achieve this long-term dream, I would need to earn a potential master's in public health and/or a Ph.D./M.D. from an accredited school. One of my biggest goals is to help the population around me." I am proud of Jacob's accomplishments and look forward to seeing the many more to come.

Dr. Aron Costello-Harris

Mariam Aly Ibrahim, cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Political Science, Psychology

Mariam Aly Ibrahim came to Manchester after studying at the American University in Cairo for three semesters. A native of Cairo, Mariam identifies as a woman, an Egyptian, a Muslim, and an Arab. Her various identities initially made the adjustment to life on campus and in North Manchester quite a challenge. For the first time in her life, she had to come to grips with what it felt like and what it meant to be a member of an ethnic and religious minority. That challenge, however, provided her with an opportunity to explore the meaning of her own identity. Mariam soon joined the Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA) as the Special Assistant to the Director, a position that let her interact with people from different backgrounds and cultures. As a Multicultural Affairs Programmer, Mariam organized thought-provoking events regarding matters of race and diversity and exposed the campus community to an array of cultures and ideas. Working for OMA gave Mariam the resources and relationships she needed to meet the challenges of studying in a foreign country. It helped make her the generous and capable person that she is today. Known for her enthusiasm and beaming smile, Mariam has been involved with many campus organizations. She played important roles on the varsity tennis team and in Model United Nations competitions. Her academic achievements led to memberships in Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society, and Pi Gamma Mu, the International Social Science Honor Society. With majors in Political Science and Psychology, and a minor in International Studies, Mariam initially aspired to be a diplomat. To that end, she interned at the League of Arab States, getting to know how an international organization works, and meeting diplomats from all over the world. However, Mariam's experience at Manchester provided her with research opportunities and a change in direction. In Psychology, she researched the effectiveness of career fairs in meeting student expectations and the relationship between country culture and what employees most value. She presented her research at five different academic conferences, including the Midwestern Psychological Association. In Political Science, she conducted qualitative research on the political and economic effects of globalization and on U.S. foreign policy toward Iran. More recently, Mariam examined the extent to which citizens of the European Union view refugees as a threat to their national security. Experiences with qualitative and quantitative research methods helped Mariam become a research intern at a Dutch center in Cairo, where she studies

the role of religion in Egyptian political life and serves as a liaison with the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (Egypt's official statistical agency). Looking ahead, Mariam hopes to continue her research and pursue a graduate degree in international relations. Afterward, she wants to return to Egypt, help develop her country, and work towards progress in the Arab world—perhaps by creating a think tank that researches and advocates for human rights and women's rights.

Dr. Leonard Williams

Emily Anderson, summa cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Accounting

If one performed a web search for “the ideal student”, the first result would be a picture of Emily. This image of Emily as an ideal student is due to three things. First, Emily was always prepared for class and really any situation given her Mary Poppins-like bag on wheels. Second, Emily spent countless hours connecting ideas and topics from class to class and semester to semester – brain dump is not in her vocabulary. Third, Emily always asked challenging questions, in and outside of the classroom. It became apparent from Emily's facial expressions her content or discontentment with the answers she was given. From Emily's first day on campus, four and a half years ago, she was committed to learning and becoming an accountant. Over the last four and a half years, Emily has accomplished both as she is graduating summa cum laude this spring, and later this year, will begin a full-time position as an auditor with the second largest accounting firm in the world. Emily's commitment to learning meant many nights of no sleep, hundreds of pages of note-taking and hours of content review. In addition to working incredibly hard in class, Emily served as treasurer and vice president of the Black Student Union and member of the Community Outreach Subcommittee of the College of Business Club. Spring of 2017, Emily was selected by the College of Business faculty as the Lola V. Sanger Accounting Award recipient. Just as Emily's inquisitive mind, incredible work ethic, and strong integrity made her a perfect candidate for the prestigious Lola Sanger Award; these qualities also make her an outstanding alumna of Manchester and ideal future leader in the accounting profession. Emily will spend this summer studying for the 16-hour long CPA exam before beginning her career with PricewaterhouseCoopers in Detroit, Michigan, where she has interned for the last three summers.

Ms. Heather Twomey

Katy Ashpole, cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Psychology, Religious Studies

Katy Ashpole came to Manchester University and immersed herself in both the academic and sports culture here. She has a double major in Psychology and Religious Studies and a minor in Business. In addition, she has been a varsity tennis player. She approaches all of life with great enthusiasm and is a diligent and thoughtful student. She has sought out numerous research skills and has been a part of a number of research teams. She is a kind and conscientious team member. She has presented her research at the Midwestern Psychological Association and Manchester University. She is poised to be a great contributor in any setting fortunate enough to hire her. She will be able to utilize her business acumen, psychological research skills, and her understanding of the human condition to make any organization in which she lands a better, more humane and efficient place. She is currently exploring opportunities in human resources.

Dr. Rusty Coulter-Kern

Alivia Banks, cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Mathematics, Chemistry

Alivia Banks is a math and chemistry double major. It has been my privilege to watch her grow from her earliest days as a first-year student in General Chemistry, all the way through her senior Physical Chemistry sequence and time in my research group. Throughout that time, Alivia has been an outstanding, thoughtful student who puts her formidable intellect to use in weaving her interests in math and chemistry into a seamless whole. Sometimes, this is as simple as noticing how a linear algebra concept applies to quantum mechanics. Other times, this is asking for the mathematical derivations behind the equations she is using to analyze her research on the electrocatalytic properties of fluorescent carbon nanodots. Regardless, students like Alivia, whose face lights up upon discovering yet another new relationship between the fields she studies, are what makes teaching at Manchester special. I wish her joy and success in her pursuits after college.

Dr. Kathy Davis

Tristan Barley, cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Environmental Studies, Biology

When I first meeting Tristan, you may be fooled into thinking that he is a quiet and distant person. For example, my first interaction with him was during his sophomore year when he took my Invertebrate Zoology course. I do not recall him speaking up the entire semester. Do not be fooled! While Tristan is unassuming, he is an extremely intelligent and thoughtful individual with many insights to share. He also possesses a terrific sense of humor and, as I have learned, can quickly zing you with his sarcastic wit. In addition to working with Tristan as a student, I have also had the opportunity to work with him on a summer research project. Through the many hours that we spent driving between field sites, slogging through wetlands, and staring through microscopes at aquatic insects, I gained an even greater appreciation of Tristan's professionalism and good-natured demeanor. His witty banter went a long way toward making those long drives and uncomfortable days in the field bearable. Tristan is a dependable individual with a strong work ethic. He is also an excellent problem solver, quickly and easily coming up with solutions to problems with minimal guidance. Perhaps most importantly, his is a self-motivated learner and views the world with excited curiosity. As Tristan moves forward to pursue a graduate degree at Miami University, I wish him the best. I know that he is capable of accomplishing whatever he sets out to do.

Dr. Suzanne Beyeler

Katie Jo Breidenbach Wooding, cum laude

Bachelor of Arts

Peace Studies

I met Katie Jo Breidenbach Wooding in the spring of her first year at Manchester, when she introduced herself and shared her intentions to major in peace studies. I had reservations when I learned that Katie Jo, with whom I had not worked, had enrolled in my senior-level philosophy course, one that informally serves as a capstone for the peace studies program. The material in the course assumes a body of prior knowledge in both peace studies and philosophy, and requires students to read a book each week and fulfill the participation expectations of a graduate seminar. My concerns were erased quickly. Katie Jo is that student – the one who completes all the assignments and then brings up a related article, exhibit, or lecture that she's seen; the

one who comes into your office to run through some paper ideas as soon as the assignment is announced; the one who takes notes and is thoroughly engaged and asks the questions you hope someone will ask...and then asks a new question. She raises everybody's game. Katie Jo's strengths as a scholar extend beyond her clear intellectual ability. She is a skilled communicator and has a voracious curiosity about people and the world. Through her work with the Kenapocomoco Coalition and Students for Justice in Palestine, Katie Jo's commitments to peace and community building have shaped this campus. She is reliable, creative, and willing to assume more than one person's fair share of work to see a project to completion. Her sense of humor, flexibility, and open nature make collaborating irresistible. Katie Jo is the best sort of colleague. All of these qualities speak to a character that is principled, reflective, empathetic, and compassionate. Now, Katie Jo graduates to a wide and struggling and beautiful world, one more than ready for such a skilled and committed advocate for human rights. My only concern is how our small program will adjust to the shock of her absence.

Dr. Katy Gray Brown

Katie Byers, cum laude

Bachelor of Science
Biology-Chemistry

Katie Byers has made the most of her college experience as a student at Manchester University, and has really woven herself into the fabric of the University. She is involved in several organizations including: Beta Beta Beta Biology Honorary, basketball, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Red Cross Blood Drive, social media ambassador, Manchester Catholics, and "Students Today Alumni Tomorrow." She strives to be involved and make changes across campus with her involvement and energy. Her engagement with the community continues with her jobs, assisting with men's basketball recruitment, student orientation leader, and as a student videographer. Katie even found time to study abroad in New Zealand at the University of Otago, an experience that helped her grow and mature, not to mention one she will never forget. She has clearly found her niche, and works diligently to make everyone she meets know that Manchester is home. Her commitment and involvement on campus have not hindered her clear desire to learn in each of her classes. She has been able to put her knowledge of biology and chemistry to good use, as she works at Dupont Hospital assisting patients and nurses, ensuring high-quality health care. She will continue her work in health care as she applies to become

a physician's assistant. I know that Katie will make an excellent health care provider and be a productive member of her community. I can't wait to see what Katie achieves.

Dr. Rachel Polando

Michael Cheesman, cum laude

Bachelor of Science
Accounting, Finance

Michael will be graduating as a double major with honors in both accounting and finance. The largest influence on Michael growing up has been his parents. His older sister also had a large influence on him. He has looked up to her and states that their sibling rivalry has helped him become who he is today. Michael's success at MU has come from his refusal to fail and from an understanding that life is a balance of many things. While he joked about his time management skills, it is clear he did not give up on his academic goals, even if it takes waking up early to finish homework assignments or studying up until the very last minute before an exam. His intelligence is not limited to his academic success; he also understands that college is a unique time for students. He played on the MU soccer team, was a member of Manchester Activities Council, a member of the College of Business Club, a finance tutor, and a College of Business mentor for underclassmen. With all of that going on, he still found time to make lifelong friends. After graduation Michael will continue to study before he officially starts work. He has accepted a job with RSM, which is a large international CPA firm. He will be working as a tax associate in the Detroit, Michigan office starting in November. Until then, he says he will be studying 24/7 in order to pass the CPA exam. As he looks to the future, Michael would like to be on the partner track at a large CPA firm, preferably located in Michigan or Wisconsin. He has plans for almost everything in his future ... a family, a dog named Kona, a craftsman style house with a 3-car garage, a summer car, and a truck. But he knows that things rarely go as planned, so as long as he is healthy and has a job that can support his family, he will be happy. Michael's most memorable experience at MU was May Day mud volleyball his freshman year. He recalled that the weather was absolutely perfect, which made the entire May Day weekend a blast. When asked what advice Michael would have for future MU students he states; "Keep in mind that college isn't just about earning a degree. It's about getting an education. Besides learning about debits and credits, learn that team work makes the

dream work. Learn that sometimes a dinner with friends is more important than your quiz the next morning. Just be sure to get an education along with your degree.”

Mr. Joe Messer

Taylor Crisman, magna cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Psychology, Educational Studies

Taylor Crisman has been an outstanding student in the department of Psychology since she was a first-year student. She is an active participant in both the Psychology Honor Society, Psi Chi, and the Psychology Club, Psychological Society. She has spent hundreds of hours in the Cognition and Emotion research lab with Dr. David Johnson. She has conducted numerous studies, trained new student researchers, analyzed data, and helped write research reports. She has presented her research at the Midwestern Psychological Society, Butler Undergraduate Research Conference, and the Association for Psychological Science. She has presented her research in Indianapolis, Chicago, and Boston. She has been a SOL leader, an officer in both Psychology organizations and helped mentor numerous students both in and out of the Psychology Department. She has done all of this with a patience for all around her. It is wonderful to have someone both talented and kind with which to work. She is currently applying for lab positions in cognitive neuroscience labs and has already had two interviews at one neuroscience lab at an Ivy League school. She plans to pursue a research career in cognitive neuroscience.

Dr. Rusty Coulter-Kern

Nicole Dombek, cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Management, Marketing

Nicole will be graduating with majors in both business management and marketing and a minor in industrial organizational psychology. When reflecting on her time at Manchester, Nicole commented, “During my time at Manchester, I have become more confident in my abilities. More sure of myself.” The largest influence on Nicole growing up has been her mother. She mentioned that her mom always pushed her to be great and to never settle for good enough. Nicole

says professors have helped her by challenging her to think outside the box. She hopes that MU professors continue to push students outside their comfort zones and to challenge them to view life in ways they never expected. Nicole's success at MU has come from hard work and her determination to succeed. Nicole had two demanding internships during her time at MU. Her first was a sales and marketing internship at Ford Meter Box where she worked on social media and the company website, created surveys and gathered information on competitors. In her second internship, Nicole worked for the Wabash County Economic Development office preparing the 2017 Wabash economic report. On campus, she was a resident assistant in Garver, was the vice president and secretary of the Residence Hall Association, was a member of the College of Business Club and was a member of the Community Outreach committee in the College of Business club. In addition to those MU activities she was a volunteer church camp counselor at Camp Alexander Mack. Nicole has been accepted into the Sherwin-Williams management training program upon graduation. Her desire is to climb the ranks at Sherwin-Williams all the way to the regional manager. When asked about her most memorable experience at MU, she said it was traveling to Hawaii! It is something she always wanted to do but never thought would happen. She is thankful that Manchester helped her achieve that goal.

Mr. Joe Messer

Jennifer Erdman, cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Biology-Chemistry

Graduating with a biology-chemistry major, Jenny Erdman has been involved in many curricular and co-curricular activities. She has been a regular lab assistant in general chemistry over the last three years, during which time she interacted well with the students, consistently maintaining a healthy balance between helping students and letting them learn on their own. Outside of the classroom, Jenny has been a Pre-Professionals of Science student organization member each year, focusing on the work with underserved patients through 85 Hope. As a Certified Nursing Assistant, she has worked directly with health care patients through Mulberry Health. Further, she has been a member of the track team for several years as well as the volleyball team. Over January Session 2017, Jenny participated in the Manchester University Medical Practicum. On that trip to Nicaragua, there was almost continuous opportunity for learning, not only about health care and health care careers, but also about the less-

developed country in which we worked. She clearly processed her experiences and articulated her personal evolution via regular nightly sharing, journaling, an essay, and a formal presentation. Jenny contributed reliably, consistently, and completely to the Medical Practicum group; explored the society in which it worked; and learned much about herself and her vocation goals. She was particularly drawn to women's health. Jenny has developed a perceptive, international view of health care and the human condition. She will excel in physician assistant school and, thereafter, likely specialize in women's health. Jenny Erdman will enter the Master of Physician Assistant Studies program at Kettering College immediately upon graduation.

Dr. Jeff Osborne

Alex Figueroa, summa cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Chemistry

A first-generation college student, Alex Figueroa excels in and outside the classroom, graduating with a chemistry major and biology minor. He has been a laboratory assistant and a tutor for several chemistry courses. He completed summer research fellowships over two summers, at Miami University of Ohio and University of Kentucky. He has been on the MU Academic Integrity Panel for two years. At MU, he served as a student health assistant on campus for one academic year. Initially through the Pre-Professionals of Science student organization and 85 Hope, Alex has been involved with community health education. He started by preparing and delivering educational programs and materials on diabetes for underserved people in the county. The campaign has since obtained support from Parkview Health and grown into a series of educational presentations by the students in North Manchester retirement center. On the January session 2017 Medical Practicum, he willingly replaced a missing English-Spanish translator. He stepped up to the role of interpreting for the physicians and dentist, which placed him directly in the middle of the health care process and allowed him to understand what was happening with each patient and to ask many questions of the health care providers. He worked especially well with a young D.O. in the group, opening Alex's eyes to the world of osteopathic medicine. He returned to Nicaragua with the January session 2018 trip, once again, interpreting for the group. A competitive power lifter, Alex does not shy away from literal and figurative heavy lifting when the situation demands. He does make his moves wisely after reading the situation and other people closely, which has also made him an accomplished poker

player. He is a hard-working, talented student who will certainly become a physician and/or Ph.D., who will use his abilities and convictions to work to improve the human condition, with special attention to the underserved and powerless. This summer, Alex Figueroa will enter the Doctoral Diversity Program at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine.

Dr. Jeff Osborne

Baileigh Fleming, summa cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Exercise Science and Fitness

Baileigh has been an exceptionally hard-working student since coming to us from St. Joseph's College. Although her track to Manchester University was part of an unfortunate situation, she has thrived since stepping foot on our campus. She has been actively pushing herself academically to stay the course for graduation. She will be graduating with an Exercise Science and Fitness degree from the ESAT department. She is hardworking, responsible, and great with our PEP kids and is a great person to be around. I am so very proud of her accomplishments and know she will be successful in any venture she chooses. Baileigh is looking to attend Occupational Therapy School after graduating from Manchester University. She hopes to be certified in Gerontology and Global Health Rehabilitation Sciences.

Mr. Jeff Beer

Carissa Fockler, cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Exercise Science and Fitness

Every year a student comes along that you think, "he or she gets it". When I reflect on my time with Carissa Fockler, that's what I remember thinking. Carissa Fockler "got it." Carissa is the quiet type. I remember having her in my Human Physiology course and she rarely spoke up. But she is as academically strong as I have seen in my time at Manchester. As an academic advisor, she made my job easy. She would always show up to class or individual meetings well prepared. When she told me that her ultimate goal was to achieve a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree, I remember thinking to myself, "yeah, that won't be a problem for her." She has the drive, the commitment, and intellect to excel in graduate school. It is clear that she has a true passion for

and commitment to learning. I wish her the best, and I know that she will represent herself and Manchester University in the best of ways, not just in her profession, but her life.

Mr. Zachary Dougal

Audriana Fuentes, summa cum laude

Bachelor of Arts

English/Language Arts Education

Audri is truly a student of ability and conviction – she is thoughtful and curious and loves learning about how others look at the world. She will graduate with an Honors Diploma and a BA in English/Language Arts Education. She has participated in the Cantabile women’s chorus during her time at Manchester. Audri has been a joy to have in class and work with individually; she is serious about her studies and her school work, and is one of the most insightful students I have ever had. But, she also very much enjoys laughing with her classmates and contributing to the random tangents in class discussion. She also has been known to sit on the floor and pet a classroom dog or two. ;) Audri recently got married to Jake, a fellow MU student -- a “joyful time during a very busy semester,” she reported. She has a bright future ahead of her -- whether in the classroom inspiring others to love literature or in her daily life listening to the world around her and learning from others.

Dr. Stacy Erickson-Pesetski

Matthew Grothouse, cum laude

Bachelor of Science

History, Secondary Education

Friendly, creative, intentional, curious, generous, encouraging – these are but a few traits seen in the kaleidoscope of character present in Matt Grothouse. I have had the privilege and pleasure of getting to know him since the fall of 2015 when he joined the Manchester University A Capella Choir. Matt has continued to make a place for music in his life: opera roles, choir tours, composing piano pieces and serving as pianist for the Sacred Heart School in his hometown of Warsaw, Ind. Besides his musical involvement, and thriving academically as a History Education major, Matt has also worked many hours at Cardinal Services “supporting people with disabilities or challenges to live lives full of dignity, growth and opportunity.” Matt loves people. He is always willing

to have a conversation, give others his full attention and seek to encourage, learn and laugh together. Matt Grothouse exemplifies the Manchester mission in so many ways - I look forward to seeing how he will compassionately educate and improve the human condition when he leaves this campus. Matt – “You’re a star!”

Dr. Pamela Haynes

Frehiwot Gudeta, magna cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Computer Science

As a Computer Science major, Frehiwot brings intelligence, persistence and creativity to her problem solving. Some of her accomplishments at Manchester University include: the development of an application used by Sports Exercise Sciences, completion of a successful internship with the Washington DC Mayor’s office where she evaluated alternative methods of deriving city population, and an Honors thesis, “The impact of user-centered development,” where she evaluates the impact of user-centered development techniques and makes recommendations on when and how to use these techniques.

Mr. Robin Mitchell

Annika Harley, cum laude

Bachelor of Arts

Social Work, Peace Studies

I met Annika Harley when she visited Manchester as a prospective student, and she made a clear point of telling me she was not committed to pursuing a peace studies major. If it happened to work out, she said, that would be okay. Four years, many classes, several internships, and more brave leaps than I can count later, this introduction to Annika was my first lesson to learn: Annika Harley knows what NOT to care about. This surely should be classified as a superpower. One of the pitfalls of both social work and peace studies, Annika’s dual fields, is that there is simply so much to care about. The enormity of injustice, indifference, and ignorance can disorient and dishearten even the most committed among us. However, in every context I’ve seen, Annika knows intuitively what is most important, and with a focus that is both persistent and pragmatic, insists that everyone pay attention. When discussing sometimes abstract theories, Annika’s questions consistently remind us to consider the

ways that these theories play out in people's lives. Whether in an Indiana classroom, traversing the Ecuadoran rainforest to document environmental injustice, or relocating to Chicago to complete her social work internship, Annika's priority is always to make a practical change in the world. She is deeply committed to human rights, to principles of justice, and to a radical understanding of social change. In any project, Annika will be the most reliable of collaborators, always willing to do the least glamorous (and sometimes most tedious) tasks without complaint. Annika combines a keen intelligence, a big-picture analysis, and an in-the-dirt work ethic – capabilities that the world surely needs. To top things off, more likely than not, she'll be the funniest person in the room. But ultimately, these critical skills are overshadowed by Annika's even greater distinctions: a profound openness to the world, a genuine sensitivity to suffering, and a natural honesty that embodies, for me, the very concept of "speaking truth to power." The project of improving the human condition and protecting the natural world needs just such courage and integrity. Thank you, Annika, for it all.

Dr. Katy Gray Brown

Christopher Holston, cum laude

Bachelor of Arts
Accounting

Chris Holston came to Manchester from Edwardsburg, Michigan. He intended from the beginning to study accounting, and he earned the 150 hours required to be eligible to sit for the CPA exam in only four years. A strong work ethic also made it possible for Chris to earn a minor in French. He was active in the College of Business Club, serving on the Professional Development Committee and as a student ambassador. He also participated in intercollegiate track and field, and he volunteered for Habitat for Humanity. As a young man with great curiosity and a desire to be exposed to new cultures, Chris had one of his most significant experiences of his college career in the fall of his junior year when he took advantage of the opportunity to study abroad, spending the semester in Strasbourg, France. The following summer he completed an audit internship with the public accounting firm Crowe Horwath in Elkhart, Indiana, and he has since accepted a full-time position with the same firm as a staff accountant in auditing. Immediately following graduation, Chris will prepare and sit for the CPA exam before beginning his new job in the fall.

Mr. Timothy A. Ogden

Eric Jagger, cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Environmental Studies

Eric Jagger is one of the most thoughtful, caring, and respectful people on this planet. He arrived at Manchester with some unidentified interest in environmental studies and uncertainty if Manchester was exactly where he wanted to complete his education. Thoughtful and thorough conversations with Eric resulted in a mutually beneficial outcome. His professional vision became clear, and he embraced this journey with zeal and hard work. Eric has demonstrated his formal academic excellence through grades, and he demonstrated his understanding for the need of professional training through experiential learning. He participated in three internships over his four years. During the summer of 2015, Eric was chosen to work as research technician on the Eel River Watershed project where he gained experience with scientific water quality research in an agricultural landscape. While he was a fantastic technician, this experience guided him to the policy track of environmental studies. His second internship was with the Indiana Forest Alliance (IFA). The IFA is an advocacy group dedicated to protecting old growth forests in Indiana. His research with IFA resulted in report that helped guide the organization and shape a strategic plan. His evaluation from this organization was excellent. His summer of 2017 was spent in Reno, Nevada, where he worked for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). In his position, Eric assisted a team of law examiners to verify that BLM lands were available for oil, gas and geothermal leases. As a first-year student, Eric was unsure whether he was ready for college and lacked self-confidence. Eric was quiet, polite, but thoughtful. In just three years he ventured from his home in Indiana to Nevada where he worked with one of the largest natural resource agencies in the United States. Eric will always be a compassionate person and exceptionally sensitive to the needs and feelings of others within the context of his environmental ethics. Eric is a person of integrity and is the exemplary outcome of formal and applied technical training within the context of a liberal arts curriculum, Manchester style. Eric is an affirmation of the core mission and values of Manchester University. He will change the world.

Dr. Jerry Sweeten

Olivia Jenks, cum laude

Bachelor of Arts

Chemistry

Olivia is a chemistry major from Elkhart who is finishing her degree in three and a half years. Olivia is like a sponge in a lot of ways, as she soaks up everything presented to her. She simply absorbs information, and watching her process it all is a delight. During her time at the University, she has been a lab assistant and a tutor in chemistry. She has been a student cadet with safety and security, and she was sprinter on the track team. She will begin a doctoral program in organic chemistry at Colorado University Boulder in the fall.

Dr. Susan Klein

Paige Keller, cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Physical Education

Paige E. Keller (Troy, Ohio) is a senior all-grade physical education major in the Department of Exercise Science and Athletic Training. She is preparing for a career teaching students health education and physical education. Paige student-taught in the Chicago Public Schools at Shoemith Elementary and Gage Park High School. Paige is the recipient of the 2018 Outstanding Future Educator award selected by the faculty in the Department of Education. The recognition is bestowed upon the university's top teacher candidate. She was also honored with the 2017 Jean Lee/Jeff Marvin Collegiate Scholarship from the Indiana Society for Health and Physical Educators (InSHAPE). Moreover, Paige was a finalist for the InSHAPE Outstanding Student of the Year. "It was an honor to be considered for these awards in teacher education and physical education," Paige said. "Receiving the award and scholarship were great opportunities, and it truly was a privilege to be able to receive these distinguished awards and represent Manchester University." Paige is a mover and a shaker who pursues every opportunity to learn, earning an impressive 3.8 grade point average. In addition to her success in the classroom, she has been recognized on the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference All-Academic Team as a member of the MU varsity track and field team. Paige takes pride in her accomplishments. She is a leader on campus, as well as in the community. Paige is a member of the Student Education Association and captains the Spartan Track and Field team. In addition, she willingly shares her talents teaching gymnastics in the Manchester Recreation Association, teaching homeschool

children in the on-campus Physical Education Program, and coaching athletes with disabilities in the Wabash County Special Olympics program. Additionally, she participates on the Council for Future Professionals for her state health and physical education association. According to Dr. Kim Duchane, professor of exercise science and athletic training, "Paige displays academic excellence, her energy is infectious, and her teaching engages students in the learning process. She is committed to becoming a teacher of ability and conviction who makes a difference in the lives of her students."

Dr. Kim A. Duchane

Brody Kirby, cum laude

Bachelor of Arts

Business Management, Sales

Brody has excelled both on the court and in the classroom during his four years at Manchester. When asked how he has changed during his time at MU Brody answered, "Over the last four years I grew immensely as a student, athlete, and as a person. I have become more outgoing, confident, and humble. This place has really shown me the value of coming out of my shell and creating relationships with all kinds of people." Along with his wonderful attitude, good nature, kind heart, and competitive spirit, Brody's willingness to learn is one of the keys that made him successful at MU. He is constantly seeking out information and advice to try to better himself. He states, "One of my favorite parts about MU is being able to go to absolutely any of my professors' offices and pick their brain about anything and everything." Brody's father has been the largest positive influence in his life. He admires him as an incredible role model as a father, husband, and professional. Brody desires to follow in his father's footsteps and to reflect his dad's characteristics as he travels through life after MU. As a captain on the Spartan basketball team and as a leader in the classroom, Brody always puts others first. He will continue this commitment to others once he leaves MU as he takes on the job of protecting our country. After graduation Brody will be commissioned as a 2nd Lt in the United States Marine Corps where he will serve a minimum of 4.5 years of active duty service. When asked what he wants to be doing 10 years from now he stated, "I want to be doing something where I am making a real difference in the world. I am not sure what that is just yet, but I know I want to be contributing to making this a better place for everyone." Brody's most memorable experience at MU has been living with his best friends in a house off campus his senior year. He cherishes the incredible memories they made and is sure they will remain

“brothers for life.” Brody’s time at MU is best captured with his own statement, “I have had an incredible experience as a student-athlete here at MU. I would not go back and change a single thing about my college experience.”

Mr. Joe Messer

Ciara Knisely, cum laude

Bachelor of Arts

English

You are. Poetry: A tribute to Ciara Knisely

Phoenix-like from desert borne
a power of quiet rapture with crater’s impact
luminous and dazzling as
Your words unearth, shake and spark
Deliberate and (un)settle
To remind of most refined edges
piercing your Words into sculpting stories
and a legacy into superb Forms
bearing witness on how
Journalism is a modern villanelle
And fiction, in deed (sic), is fact.

Quiet, mindful, soulful with a very uncanny sense of humor, you have reached a new stanza in your story and I am so grateful I have been blessed to be part of your fast-forward MU journey. Your poetic voice will continue to resonate as it probes so truthfully and deeply. Keep adding your Verse as it will continue to empower, change, and intrigue. Thank you for your unflappable spirit in reaching out, from baking cookies for a stranger who just learned of their divorce to a peer who needed an ear or two. I Can Do That (your unofficial tagline) will continue to sustain and contribute wherever you will choose, and allow me to add: yes, You Will and beyond your own expectations. As Journalist. As Lawyer. As Professor. As one to make the world a more gracious and meaningful place. In gratitude, Beate.

Dr. Beate Gilliar

Alexandra Kreider, cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Exercise Science and Fitness

Alexandra and I share a common background. We both went to Huntington North High School, although, in entirely different decades. Our parents both own restaurants in Huntington. While my parents' restaurant, The Country Post, boasts about their "Heart Attack on a Plate." Alexandra's family pizza place, Z-Place Pizza, is a cornerstone in the community. It was this subtle bond several years ago that connected us as I became her academic advisor. But, I truly came to admire Alexandra when I learned of her work ethic and intelligence. She has always been timely and prepared for our advising meetings. In the classroom, she demonstrated all of the qualities professors love to see in students: attentive, engaged in lecture and labs, and a high achiever. This is proof of Alexandra's commitment to her education and the seriousness with which she approaches her coursework during her time at Manchester University. I have had the pleasure of having Alexandra in three of my classes – Nutrition, Emergency Care and Medical Considerations. In every course, she has never been afraid to ask questions and seek help, exhibiting a mastery of the course content. Alexandra's educational goal has always been to seek a doctoral degree in physical therapy, and I have no doubt that she will do so. I will miss Alexandra's smile, her joy and positive attitude that she brought every day that I saw her. Alexandra, it has been my pleasure to watch your personal and professional growth these past few years. I wish you nothing but the best in the future.

Mr. Zachary Dougal

Ashley Landon, cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Biology

Ashley Landon is graduating with a biology major and hopes to work as a laboratory assistant, eventually going to graduate school in the field of genetics. Ashley stood out in her classes even in her first year at Manchester, and has since then continued to shine in her upper level courses. She completed an internship last summer to help with the development of experiments for use in introductory level biology courses, and as a result she became an expert at culturing *Daphnia magna*, growing plants in the greenhouse, and analyzing fish genetics, among other things. She approached the experiments with curiosity,

dedication, and persistence; she not only did the daily work of keeping the experiments going but also generated interesting preliminary results from the fish genetic study, setting the stage for future work on the project. She has also served this year as a mentor for a younger science student, having been chosen for this work because of her competence, humility, and ability to relate to others. In whatever Ashley finds herself doing in the future, she will no doubt pursue it with the same commitment and open-mindedness with which she has pursued her biology degree at Manchester.

Dr. Kristen Short

Benjamin Miller, cum laude

Bachelor of Science
Biology

Ben Miller is graduating with a biology major and has been accepted into Manchester's Pharmacogenomics Program, which he'll begin in a few months. During his time as a biology major, Ben has committed himself to studying hard, challenging himself with hard classes, and doing research. In class, Ben could always be counted on to ask good thought-provoking questions, make astute observations, and insert subtle humor on a regular basis. Ben spent significant time in his summers and during the school year working on ecology research which at times was tedious and difficult, yet he never hesitated to sample in the rain and endure the mosquitoes if it meant getting his project done. His biology major coupled with his further study in pharmacogenomics will set him well on his way to pursuing his dream career of working at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital doing genetic testing or pharmacogenomics.

Dr. Kristen Short

Blake Moore, summa cum laude

Bachelor of Science
Communication Studies, Sport Management

I met Blake when I started my career at MU. My encounter with Blake always starts with a good question such as, 'what can I do to better myself?' Our discussion often reflected on MU's mission of leading a compassionate life. Blake excelled in academia while balancing two majors, and demonstrates his ability to excel through his leadership. Blake was elected as the president of the College of Business Club and his ability to lead and serve positively influenced others around him. As a double major, Blake was one of the few students

that integrated the strengths of the Communication and Sport Management applications to his passion in sport broadcasting. As an example, he successfully managed the MU Spartan Stream (WBKE), Spartan Shows, and assisted the sports information director for various athletic events. He also interned with the Randolph County YMCA past summer, and is currently interning with the Indiana Tech Sport Information Department. Blake's experience and ability to excel in different disciplines was a result of hard work and dedication. His achievements and energy inspires others to be their best self. As Blake's professor, I applaud him for his accomplishments and his step forward toward his milestone.

Dr. Sun Kang

Adam Newport, magna cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Biology-Chemistry

Adam is a biology-chemistry major from Fort Wayne who is finishing his degree in three years. He is intentional and motivated, and leaves nothing to chance. From the moment I met him in his freshman year I knew that he would strive for the best in all that he does. During college, he has participated in student organizations and spent considerable time shadowing physicians and surgeons. He has also been a tutor in the biology department. His goal is to become a cataract surgeon and is awaiting an acceptance to medical school.

Dr. Susan Klein

Haylee Parrish, cum laude

Bachelor of Arts

English

Haylee is graduating with a BA in English Writing and a Minor in TESOL. Her time at Manchester has been full of amazing opportunities and experiences -- some close to home and some very far away from Northeast Indiana. Perhaps the most influential was her Spring 2017 semester abroad in Japan, funded in part by the prestigious Gilman Scholarship. This life-changing time opened up Haylee's imagination and worldview and also pushed her toward more time abroad; she is a finalist for a position as an Assistant Language Teacher for the JET program and will likely be teaching in Japan come Fall. Haylee, indeed, is a natural teacher -- in class settings she is thoughtful and eager to help others

and she is often the most requested and thorough Writing Consultant over in the Writing Center. She will no doubt inspire countless minds in all of her future endeavors.

Dr. Stacy Erickson-Pesetski

Katie Peden, magna cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Environmental Studies

Katie Peden arrived on campus as a very shy young person, and she was intimidated by the college culture of academics and “Professors.” She will, however, graduate as a bright young scientist with a firm understanding of her professional goals and responsibilities. Katie is smart, kind, compassionate, and genuine. She cares deeply for the earth within the context of human endeavors. In addition to her stellar academic record, Katie has participated in internships and research opportunities each summer while at Manchester University. She worked one summer as a research technician on the Eel River Initiative and two summers with the Natural Resources Conservation Service Area Office in Fort Wayne. Her research focused on the efficacy of aluminum sulfate as a means to mitigate loss of phosphorus from agricultural fields. This project was relevant to the Department of Agriculture in regards to water quality in the western basin of Lake Erie. In addition to the more traditional college activities of going to class, conducting research, and playing tennis, Katie was involved in two adventures that will forever remain defining moments in her life journey. During her first summer working on the Eel River research project, she conquered her life-long fear of canoeing and swimming (mostly). She even learned to carry a canoe on her shoulders. Secondly, one day this past winter Katie called me to let me know the snowy owl that arrived on her family farm near North Manchester had died. The owl had frozen in the snow, and she called me to inquire what she should do with the owl. After some encouragement, she agreed to retrieve the owl and bring it to school so I could show students in the Introduction to Environmental Science class. What she did not know was the day she brought the owl to campus there was also a meeting with United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) biologists in the Science Center. When she arrived at my office with the owl, she was quite concerned when she encountered the USFWS biologists in the parking lot. Since he had no knowledge of the meeting, she was sure they had arrived on campus to confiscate the owl and perhaps even arrest her. Katie Peden is the exemplary

outcome of formal and applied technical scientific training within the context of a liberal arts curriculum, Manchester style. Katie is an affirmation of the core values and mission of Manchester University. She will change the world.

Dr. Jerry Sweeten

Karly Prichard, magna cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Communication Studies

Karly Prichard graduated in December 2017 with a degree in Communication Studies. During her time at Manchester, Karly took advantage of many opportunities to gain experience, learn new skills, and live her faith. Karly fearlessly faces new challenges and applies her many talents to serve others. She was a social media ambassador for MU, a writing consultant, sales and ad manager and graphic designer for *The Oak Leaves*, co-leader of Delight Ministries, and had three internships: a marketing internship with the Death Row Support Project; a marketing internship with Arts United Fort Wayne; and with Allowing Christ to Shine as a communication project coordinator, where she planned and coordinated a communication strategy for the organization, managed digital content for the website, revamped the sponsorship system, and developed the framework for a women's ministry in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. She also worked for the Communication Studies department and the Kosciusko Community YMCA. Karly is currently working as a freelance graphic designer and social media manager in the Fort Wayne area and pursuing full-time opportunities.

Dr. Michelle Calka

Jennifer Pudlo, cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Biology-Chemistry

A first-generation college student, Jenny Pudlo will graduate with a biology-chemistry major. She has been president of the Pre-Professionals of Science student organization and a multi-year member of the Student Athletic Advisory Committee. She performed summer research at Indiana University School of Medicine Northwest, where she also participated in their International Human Cadaver Prosection Program. In addition, she was a Student Health Assistant on campus for one academic year. An Indiana-Certified Nurse Aide, she has worked providing direct patient care. A three-year captain for the women's

soccer team, Jenny maintains a healthy, durable balance, both physically and figuratively, in all that she does. She received a Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference Sportsmanship Award for Soccer in 2016. She has also been a part of indoor and outdoor track and field teams. The internal motivation required for such a physical activity, coupled with the academic success he has achieved, portends success in her future endeavors. Jenny is bright, but she is also a team player who is ready to join in the fray and tackle adversity. She participated in the trips to Nicaragua over January 2017 and January 2018 via the Medical Practicum and a Health Practicum. Jenny handles herself capably and professionally in dynamic, cross-cultural situation, valuing the ability to look at the world from the point of view of another person. Equilibrium is a clear strength of Jenny's. This sense of balance leads her to easily accomplish what is needed, and to lead others, while remaining reliable, trustworthy, humble, and friendly. This summer, Jenny Pudlo will begin the Masters in Orthotics and Prosthetics program at Northwestern University.

Dr. Jeff Osborne

Savannah Pugmire, summa cum laude

Bachelor of Arts

Educational Studies

Savannah Pugmire's gentle spirit and inquisitive nature allows her to get to know people in ways with which others struggle. A pivotal moment for Savannah occurred when she attended a career and major exploration event on campus, an event that introduced her to the flexibility of the Educational Studies degree. She has seen this major and her time at Manchester as a way to explore the world, studying abroad and traveling during January session. When Savannah arrived at Manchester, she came ready to serve, and as she looks to her future, she plans to move to St. Louis for a career in higher education before joining the Peace Corps. As Mahatma Gandhi said, "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others," and whether that service is in the intentional focus on elementary children in urban Atlanta, Georgia, or in her work with English language learners in North Manchester, Savannah Pugmire certainly embodies the spirit of the Manchester graduate, a person of ability and conviction.

Dr. Heather Schilling

Kaylyn Rager, summa cum laude

Bachelor of Science
Medical Technology

Kaylyn Rager is graduating with a medical technology major and will finish up her clinical year at the IU Methodist Clinical Laboratory Science program in June. Kaylyn has always been at the top of her classes at Manchester, excelling not only because she works hard but also because she has intended to pursue a career in laboratory science since starting college four years ago and has used this vision for her career to fuel her studies. She is a cheerful, friendly, and enthusiastic presence in her classes and in her interactions with professors, constantly smiling and optimistic. Kaylyn is currently applying for jobs as a clinical laboratory scientist, hoping to work in the laboratory of a large hospital in Indianapolis. She hopes to apply her scientific skills to become a successful laboratory scientist and potentially become a laboratory supervisor in the future.

Dr. Kristen Short

Ashleigh Ridenour, summa cum laude

Bachelor of Arts
Psychology, Educational Studies

Ashleigh has had an outstanding academic career as a student-athlete at Manchester. She is highly focused, with an outstanding work ethic, and extraordinary academic and interpersonal skills. She was an all-conference and all-region athlete while maintaining a 3.9 GPA in the university as well as in her Psychology and Educational Studies majors. She has worked on several research projects in both the psychology and education departments and has consistently sought out professional experiences to advance her skills. Her knowledge of psychology was demonstrated recently in her stellar performance on the Major Field Test in Psychology, an assessment of knowledge across multiple areas of psychology that's administered to over 20,000 students nationwide. Ashleigh scored 185 out of 200 on this test, placing her in the 96th percentile of psychology majors in the US. Ashleigh is bright, hardworking and highly motivated. While we will miss her around the psychology department, we expect she will go on to do great things.

Dr. David Johnson

Kelsey Ropp, magna cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Biology-Chemistry

Graduating with a biology-chemistry major, Kelsey Ropp has been a part of many activities outside of the classroom. She was first a member of Manchester Activity Council for two years and thereafter its vice president. She has been a student health assistant on campus three years. In 2016, she became a certified nurse aide, allowing her to work directly with elderly patients in health care. A four-year member of the women's soccer team, Kelsey persevered through knee injuries to play the sport she loves. She also coaches girl's soccer. On January session 2016, Kelsey participated in the Manchester University Medical Practicum. In Nicaragua, the group worked and lived together closely, during which time Kelsey's excellent group member qualities became clear. Each day she worked with a different doctor or health professional or helped with other aspects of staffing the clinic. She maintained a high level of maturity and a professional attitude with the patients and the providers. She asserted herself well when required. Kelsey's demeanor was, and remains, steady and engaged. Kelsey's daily journal entries from the journey and reflection paper written upon returning to the U.S., revealed a student earnestly and thoroughly processing what she experienced. Whether in co-curricular activities, work, or in academics, Kelsey Ropp readily and effectively, as the saying goes, "puts her nose to the grindstone" to see tasks through to the end. She consistently shows perseverance and seriousness to take on challenging tasks responsibly. Kelsey will utilize her ample academic preparation and steady work ethic to do well in physician assistant school and then will work in that career to make a positive difference in the people's lives and be a leader in the profession. Kelsey Ropp will enter the Master of Physician Assistant Studies program at Grand Valley State University this summer.

Dr. Jeff Osborne

Spencer Shore, cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Athletic Training

Spencer is an athletic training major at Manchester University. He has been an exceptional student and representative of the athletic training major, ESAT department and this university. Spencer shows the world every day I have known him how special he is and what he is capable of as a person. He is a

kind, responsible, intelligent, and giving person you just want to be around on any given day. Spencer has a desire to continue his educational journey after Manchester University with the field of physical therapy. Spencer has been accepted into the University of Indianapolis for Physical Therapy School and will finish with a doctorate degree in Physical Therapy. We are so very proud of him and wish him the best of luck after graduating with an athletic training degree from Manchester University.

Mr. Jeff Beer

Leah Smith, cum laude

Bachelor of Arts

Psychology

As a student, Leah is someone who is always prepared and ready for coursework. She also seeks out additional information and actively takes in all around her. Although somewhat quiet and unassuming, she is always prepared and displays excellent critical thinking skills and analytical abilities. Leah has sought out numerous research experiences and consequently has one of the most well rounded research portfolios of any undergraduate this year. She has conducted research in our College Student Development lab, our Cognitive Neuroscience lab and our Industrial-Organizational Psychology lab. She has engaged in research using “big data,” conducted psychophysiological research, and has conducted mixed-method research utilizing and integrating qualitative and quantitative research in the same study. She has presented numerous research posters and is currently completing a grant funded research project with over 300 parents and 50 teacher participants for the Community Foundation of Wabash County. Leah will leave us this summer to pursue a clinical graduate degree with a specialty in Neuropsychology from the University of Texas at Tyler.

Dr. Rusty Coulter-Kern

Brock Spangle, magna cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Biology-Chemistry

Brock Spangle is a senior biology-chemistry major who came to Manchester in the fall of 2015. I first met him when he was a part of one of my night lab sections for General Chemistry. I've found that teaching night labs is a little bit different than day labs. Students are more awake and they are more focused

(with the goal of going home for the day!), but along with that, they tend to be more outgoing and talkative, so that the whole experience is more relaxed. That made night lab a good place to get to know Brock as a first-year student. Throughout that semester, and through the semester of General Chemistry lecture and lab that followed, I discovered that I could count on Brock to offer a thorough, well-thought-out application of course concepts to any problem we encountered in class or in lab. This skill has only strengthened in Brock's time here – one doesn't become an honors student or graduate in three years with a 3.92 GPA without it! – and three years later, I gained even more respect for Brock's academic skills as I watched him give one of the best biology-chemistry oral senior comprehensive exams I have ever seen. I know that he will succeed, and thrive, as he pursues a career in the medical field.

Dr. Kathy Davis

Abigail Stefanatos, cum laude

Bachelor of Science

History

It has been my pleasure to know Abby Stefanatos. I have known her for over two years in my capacity as assistant professor of history at Manchester University. She has been a student in three of my classes: History of South and Southeast Asia, Ancient to 1500 (Fall 2016), History of South and Southeast Asia, 1500 to Present (Spring 2017), and Historiography and Research Methods (Fall 2017). I have also had interactions with her outside class. In that time, I have learned of Abby's growing interest in pursuing a graduate degree in Library and Information Science. Her work experience at local libraries since her high school years is ample testimony to her passion for the field. I am confident that she will be an asset to any graduate program she chooses as she will exceed expectations driven by her strong work ethic. As a dedicated and committed student and learner, Abby is regular in attendance and keenly engaged in learning as reflected in her attentiveness in class and participation in class discussions. Her contributions are meaningful and relevant, revealing not only her preparedness for class but also her ability to challenge herself intellectually. She unfailingly meets deadlines for assignments and consistently produces work of good quality. In short, her strong work ethic, as demonstrated by her hard work, diligence, sense of responsibility, commitment to quality, and ability to work productively with others, is her greatest asset, a quality that makes her an unqualified pleasure to have in class. She is a team-worker, an excellent listener, punctual, willing to learn, an avid note-taker, goal-oriented, a hard

worker, and is driven to excel. These qualities will stand her in good stead in life and in whatever career she chooses. Abby is committed to improving the basic skills she has acquired through her work at libraries and to learning new skills in the ever-evolving and challenging field of library and information science. While it is with mixed feelings that we see our students leave, especially quality students like Abby, I wish her the very best in life and in her career.

Dr. Uma Ganesan

Ashlyn Teders, summa cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Biology-Chemistry

Ashlyn Teders is a senior biology-chemistry major who is completing her undergraduate degree in three years. It isn't every day that you meet a student who can do that and maintain a 3.96 GPA, but Ashlyn truly is that talented. One of my favorite experiences with Ashlyn was supervising her honors conversion of General Chemistry II. This project involved replacing an exam with a paper written about a topic that corresponded to that exam material. Ashlyn chose to independently research acids, bases, and pH in the gastrointestinal tract. This was because she has a personal connection with gastrointestinal disease, and she wanted to do the research in order to better understand it. Even as a first-year student, her questions were sophisticated: what is pH like through various regions of the gut? What acid-base systems maintain those pH levels? How does gut pH affect the medicines that someone might take to treat diseases like ulcerative colitis or gastro-esophageal reflux disease (GERD); and in reverse, can the medications themselves disrupt pH balance in the gut? First-year Ashlyn wrestled valiantly with medical and chemical literature, producing an outstanding paper that showed just how well she came to understand the material. As she pursues a career in pharmacy, I know she will apply the same care and extraordinary analytical skill to her work in that field to become an exceptional practitioner.

Dr. Kathy Davis

Kidist Tessema, magna cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Engineering Science

Kidist is a dual-degree engineering science major currently finishing her first year in the computer engineering program at Drexel University. She will

graduate from Manchester this May and plans to graduate from Drexel next year. She holds the distinction of being the first student to complete the Manchester portion of the dual-degree program in just five semesters. Last year, Kidist was inducted into the Manchester chapter of Sigma Pi Sigma, the national physics honor society, for her outstanding work in the physics courses she has taken. She was also involved with BSU, ASA, MUIA, and SPS. Kidist is a hardworking and industrious student and we look forward to following her engineering pursuits in the future.

Dr. Gregory Clark

Judy Truong, cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Biology-Chemistry

Judy is one of our ambitious and exceptional fast-forward students. In three years, she will have completed the coursework for a biology-chemistry major as well as a minor in gerontology. She has been active in the Pre-pharmacy club, the Pre-Professional of Science Club, and Tri-Beta. She also helped to revive the Asian Awareness Association, acting as president for one year. In addition to her participation in student organizations, Judy quite enjoyed attending Science Seminars and VIAs. She recently wrote that “the knowledge, experiences, and friends that I gained here during my time at Manchester will continue to help me to grow and develop as a person.” Judy’s plan is to enter the Manchester University pharmacy program in the fall.

Dr. Gregory Clark

Elena White, cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Athletic Training

Being asked to provide some observations about a student for the annual Academic Excellence Banquet is bittersweet; it is both a pleasure to recognize a student for her or his academic achievement, but it is sobering to realize that you will not be seeing that student on a daily basis again. Such is the case for me with Elena White, a graduating Athletic Training major from Greentown, Ind. Having had Elena in my Human Anatomy and Exercise Physiology courses, mentoring her through an original research project, and working with her as an unofficial academic advisor, I have come to know Elena very well over the past four years. Elena has shown a true passion for and commitment to learning. Her knocking at my door during office hours to seek clarification of a

class topic, making sure that things are being done correctly, and her constant, insightful questions have demonstrated her commitment to learning, her intellect and her creativity. Elena has always solicited constructive feedback and has implemented suggestions without hesitation. I was fortunate enough to mentor Elena and her co-author through an original research project, “The effects of ultrasound and heat on the external rotation range of- motion of the shoulder, a very well-thought-out and well-designed study. Elena’s ultimate educational objective has been to achieve a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree. She has worked very hard toward that goal and her discipline has paid off: she will be beginning her DPT program at Trine University later this year. I wish her the best, and I know that she will continue to represent herself and Manchester University in exemplary fashion.

Dr. Mark Huntington

Bradley Williams, magna cum laude

Bachelor of Science
History

Lao Tzu wrote, “A leader is best when people barely know he exists, when his work is done, his aim fulfilled, they will say: we did it ourselves.” As an undergraduate, Bradley Williams has not only flourished in the academic realm, but also he has developed a keen sense of purpose through leadership opportunities. In fact, Bradley has immersed himself in every aspect of college life. If you cannot find him playing intramurals or starting a euchre club, you will find him leading the Student Education Association. As the organization’s treasurer for two years, Bradley led the organization by example and nurturing the development of rising leaders. Bradley found opportunities through the National Education Association to hone his leadership skills through Student Leadership conferences and national Representative Assemblies, traveling to both Washington, D.C. and Boston where he quickly became an asset to the representatives from Indiana. Bradley is currently seeking employment as a history teacher. Because he so deeply reflects the Manchester graduate, a scholar who recognizes the worth in every individual, young people will be fortunate to call Bradley Williams teacher and mentor.

Dr. Heather Schilling

Zander Willoughby, cum laude

Bachelor of Arts

Political Science, French

Genuinely curious about a wide range of subjects, Zander Willoughby continually strives to understand political and cultural phenomena at the deepest level possible. A conversation with him can lead down many paths—from the problems posed by the latest crisis in international politics to the joys of living in a little pink house. No matter where the conversation goes, though, you can be assured that it will never be a boring one. Pursuing majors in Political Science and French, and a minor in Peace Studies, Zander has been an active contributor to the Manchester experience in many ways. He has served in several roles in the Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA)—he has been a multicultural affairs programmer, the social media coordinator, and the liaison to Black Student Union and United Sexualities & Genders. He has been a member of MU's Student Senate, the Academic Integrity Panel, and other organizations—notably Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society, and Pi Gamma Mu, the International Social Science Honor Society. Active on a variety of social media, Zander has been a serious presence on Twitter—tweeting on behalf of OMA and doing so as himself. Over the last year and a half, he has contributed a variety of blog posts that have been featured on the Manchester website. During his studies in Strasbourg in 2016-17, Zander wrote a series of posts that not only communicated his personal experiences as a student abroad, but also enlightened his readers about the French way of life. Indeed, his comments on the culture and politics of contemporary France were astute, informative, and culturally sensitive. Clearly, Zander has many passions. They center, however, on three forces that animate his life: (a) his academic study of political science, international relations, and modern languages; (b) his experiences of traveling and studying in locales such as Nigeria, Palestine, and France; and (c) his dedication to understanding the world's many peoples and improving their condition. Thinking back on his Manchester education a year ago, Zander identified Modern and Contemporary Political Thought as his favorite course. He liked that it encouraged one to question the foundations of belief and to see the world from multiple perspectives. More recently, he tweeted an important capstone reflection: “When I first came to @ ManchesterUniv, I was skeptical of liberal arts education. I was annoyed that I had to take non-PoliSci courses. Now I can't imagine not having it.” No better testimony to the impact of learning at Manchester University can be found. Zander plans to spend time in volunteer service work before he continues his

formal education and begins a career in some aspect of international affairs. Whatever path he pursues, it will be shaped by his wholehearted commitment to serving the cause of international peace and understanding.

Dr. Leonard Williams

Amber Willwerth, cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Psychology, Educational Studies

Amber Willwerth was invited to this banquet because she is an intelligent person and an excellent student. However, these are not the qualities that best define her as an individual or as a contributor to this institution. First and foremost, Amber is an incredibly genuine person with a passion for learning. She has engaged in multiple research projects voluntarily, purely out of individual interest. She has empirical research experience covering a range of disciplines and subject areas, including: fear extinction learning (cognitive neuroscience), metacognition, self-regulation, motivation, and learning strategies (educational psychology), and perceptions of mental health issues and resources on campus (psychology and educational studies). Amber does not merely do what is required; rather, she gets involved in projects and experiences that are related to topics and causes that she cares deeply about. In that vein, Amber's contributions, both in and out of the classroom, go far beyond what is required, expected, or even desired. If Amber is involved in something, she gives her absolute best effort and the collective work becomes better as a result of her presence. As a person who embodies this institution's mission, her genuine approach to life extends far beyond academic work. Amber is an incredibly nice and caring person. She is quick to help people in their time of need, and she is also very reliable. If Amber says that she is going to do something, it happens and it is done well. Amber also has very strong interpersonal skills, and her collaborative spirit has contributed greatly to her success in college. She works well with others because she approaches those that have different views with an open mind and a non-hostile worldview, and she views interactions with them as an opportunity for growth. Among all of these strengths, this may be her most impressive trait. Amber thinks critically and is not afraid to admit mistakes, learn new things, or explore ideas that may counter her beliefs. She does not want to simply know the answer to questions; she wants to understand the answer, and know whether there are other possible answers. Amber's approach to college is one that serves as a model for younger students, and the way that she carries herself as a person embodies

everything that a Manchester student is supposed to be. She is currently in the process of applying to graduate schools, and will undoubtedly be successful anywhere. Amber's diverse academic experiences, independent spirit, caring nature, collaborative skills, work ethic, and critical thinking ability make her stand out in a very unique way. She will be greatly missed at Manchester.

Dr. Mike Martynowicz

Catherine Wrzesien, cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Exercise Science and Fitness

“Thank You and Have a Wonderful Day.” That’s how Catherine signs off on her e-mails to you. Every. Single. Time. And there have been many e-mails over the last four years from this Exercise Science and Fitness major – most of them asking for an appointment to go over material from class or for a letter of recommendation for graduate school or a scholarship. This is illustrative of Catherine’s commitment to her education and the seriousness with which she has undertaken her studies at Manchester. I have had the pleasure of having Catherine in two of my classes – Human Anatomy and Exercise Physiology. In both instances I have found her to be a serious, mature, dedicated, and committed student. She has never been afraid to ask questions or to seek extra help, exhibiting a spirit of inquiry not usually seen in undergraduates. As her academic advisor I have found Catherine to be proactive and organized about the approach she has taken to her studies. Catherine’s educational objective has always been to continue on for either a Physical Therapist or Physical Therapist Assistant credential, and I know that she will be successful in this quest. After she leaves Manchester I will miss her always-cheerful demeanor and her positive attitude. Catherine, I will sign off and to you I will say “Thank You, and have a Wonderful Life of Ability and Conviction”.

Dr. Mark Huntington

