

*Celebration of
Academic Excellence*



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 the 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

Honor Students

Baylee Adkins, cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Early Childhood and Elementary Education

What I first noticed about Baylee Adkins was her infectious smile and laugh, which will serve her well as she steps into her role as a teacher, putting students at ease in her classroom. During her four years at Manchester University, Baylee has taken several opportunities to grow in her confidence and profession as a future teacher, as well as giving back to the community. She was active in MU's chapter of the Student Education Association, which allowed her to participate in ISTA conferences, as well as granting her additional professional development opportunities. Baylee also worked on honing her skills as a teacher by volunteering for Partners in Learning, an after-school tutoring program at Manchester Elementary School where she worked with 2nd and 3rd grade students on homework and grade-level standards. As a student orientation leader, Baylee helped first year students adapt to college life. In addition, Baylee was inducted into Phi Gamma Mu this past year. It has been a pleasure watching Baylee grow from a first year student, with a strong desire to be a teacher, to a senior who is doing just that, leading her classroom (in class and now virtually) in a compassionate, caring and poised manner. In May, Baylee will graduate with a degree in early childhood and elementary education with mild intervention. Upon graduation, she plans on teaching near her hometown of Frankfort, Ind. On behalf of my department colleagues, I congratulate Baylee on this recognition of her hard work and resiliency.

Heidi Wieland

Kwaku Archer, summa cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Biology-Chemistry

Kwaku Archer is a hard-working, talented student who will graduate with a major in biology-chemistry. In addition to excelling in coursework, Kwaku has helped others in their own studies by serving multiple times as a lab assistant for chemistry and biochemistry, and a study table tutor for biochemistry. Students respond well to his patient explanations and guidance. Outside academics, Kwaku's love for music finds him playing piano regularly on campus

for chapel events, through which he supplies emotional and spiritual balance to both his life and those of others. Because Kwaku lived in Ghana until attending Manchester University, he has been able to build upon his rich life experience to take many formal and informal roles with international students, including president of the African Students Association at MU. Along with excellent interpersonal and teaching skills, he has an unusually developed ability to see the world from the point of view of another person, bringing a strong cross-cultural communication, understanding and cultural humility. Currently, Kwaku is applying to one-year masters' in medical physiology and medical science programs to continue toward the career of medical doctor. His social intelligence, deep empathy and perseverance will continue playing key roles in his progress toward becoming a compassionate, wise physician who works to improve the human condition.

Dr. Jeff Osborne

Annamarie Augustinovicz, cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Biology-Chemistry

Annamarie Augustinovicz is a senior biology-chemistry major who keeps a calm head and maintains a long-term view on her goals. This approach, coupled with ability and a strong work ethic, has helped her excel at Manchester University and will result in many future successes. In the lecture classroom, she has worked hard and achieved high marks. In the laboratory, she has applied herself diligently to thrive as a student, as a laboratory assistant and as a researcher. She flourished off campus on the short-term experience in global health that is the Medical Practicum to Nicaragua in January 2019, where she opened herself up to new experiences, interacted with the variety of people she encountered, and improved her ability to see the world "from the others' point of view." The healthy communication skills and international perspectives she has developed will be invaluable as she continues along her path toward medical school. She finished her MU bachelor's in 3.5 years and is currently part way through a one-year Master's in Biology (pre-professional, non-thesis) at IUPUI. She brings to all her endeavors a strong yet gentle manner and a grounded persistence, indicating that she will be an outstanding health care provider. Annamarie will work hard to live a balanced life and to change the world for the better.

Dr. Jeff Osborne

Dalton Bailey, cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Criminal Justice, Psychology

One of the first qualities that strikes you in meeting Dalton is his maturity. It is not that he is unable to joke around and have fun. No, this quality of maturity is present in the ways in which Dalton approaches questions and problems. Dalton does not shy away from uncomfortable topics, nor does he strictly adhere to the masculine norms of showing little emotion or seeking help and advice from others. Furthermore, Dalton is the rare student who regularly shows interest in how his faculty members are doing on a personal level, recognizing the humanity of professors. Dalton is an excellent student who was not satisfied to do what was necessary. Instead, during his undergraduate career at Manchester University he progressively volunteered to take on more in order to squeeze every last drop out of his college experience. Dalton was inducted into the Pi Gamma Mu International Honor Society in Social Sciences. Later, he became the secretary of the MU chapter Pi Gamma Mu. Initially, Dalton planned to finish at Manchester University in three years. However, he decided instead to stay four years so that he could add an additional major in psychology and a minor in Peace Studies to his first major in criminology. In his senior year, Dalton collaborated with a faculty member in evaluating a county drug court program. This applied research project has helped to prepare him for graduate studies in social sciences quantitative data analysis. In addition to his academics, Dalton was a student-athlete, playing on the men's tennis team at Manchester. Dalton embodied the spirit of NCAA Division III athletics in that he played for the camaraderie of his teammates and the love of the game. It was always a highlight of looking at a course roster to see his name on the list. Dalton's time at Manchester University is a reminder that although they graduate and move on to new challenges there is the promise of meeting new students with the same love of learning and excitement for new challenges possessed by Dalton Bailey.

Dr. Jared Friesen

Emily Bailey, summa cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Early Childhood and Elementary Education

I have had the pleasure of knowing Emily for the majority of her academic career at Manchester University. I did not get to know Emily right away in her first year due to her bringing to Manchester previous credit for an Introduction to Special Education course. What I soon discovered was I had

greatly missed out on Emily's incredible knowledge, passions and work ethic. As a student-athlete and active leader on campus, Emily has consistently embraced and shared her many abilities and convictions. Emily has been a dedicated member of the Student Education Association, serving on the Executive Board during multiple semesters. Emily is currently wrapping up her student-teaching experiences in Warsaw. During this most challenging time in history, Emily has been a calm and consistent presence in the lives of many educational stakeholders in that community. I asked Emily to share what makes her most proud of her experiences at Manchester University and Emily's response included: "I successfully completed four years as a volleyball student-athlete, while also being involved with Student Education Association and serving on the Executive Board. I really worked hard to stay involved while also keeping my GPA up. In addition, I am also proud I got out of my comfort zone and traveled to Texas for our January session course on mindfulness and culturally responsive teaching. Through this experience, along with many other conferences and workshops, I was able to extend my education beyond our courses." Emily has left her indelible mark on the Education Department and the full Manchester community. We have all been blessed by her presence among us during her four remarkable years at Manchester University. On behalf of all my department colleagues, I congratulate Emily on this well-earned recognition of her excellence and wish her great success in this beautiful profession.

Kurt Kurtzhals

Daniel Baker, summa cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Exercise Science and Fitness

Daniel is an insightful, compassionate and dedicated student-athlete at Manchester University. I have the pleasure of knowing him well and spending time with him as I have been his cross country and track and field coach during his four years at Manchester.

As a team member on the cross country and track and field teams, Daniel has emerged as a strong leader. It is very easy to see that his teammates respect him, value his opinions and admire his work ethic. Daniel is goal-oriented. He sets his goals at the beginning of the season and does what it takes to reach them. Daniel is also very hardworking – in fact, there would be very few athletes at Manchester who could say they outwork him.

One thing I value most about Daniel is his personality. Daniel has an amazing spirit that you can see and feel when he walks into a room. He has a way about

him that is confident, intelligent, unique and genuine. Daniel is a very kind and caring individual who is often found cheering up his peers, doing random acts of kindness, or going out of his way to check in on others.

While Daniel works hard for his athletic achievements, he understands that academics come first when you are a student-athlete. Daniel is an excellent student and has been very active in Manchester's Honors Program. His ability to manage his time well, adhere to deadlines, and become a leader in the classroom setting has allowed him to achieve great success academically. Serving others and being involved are very important to Daniel. This is not only evident in how he treats others but in his direct involvement in service work through various projects and organizations including local community dinners, the annual Walk Into My Future event, campus cleanup projects, Habitat for Humanity and blood drives to name just a few. Daniel has been elected to officer positions in different organizations as well including Society of Physics, A Cappella Choir, Simply Brethren and Oakwood Hall Council.

Daniel plans to work for a year and then pursue a doctorate in physical therapy.
Brian Cashdollar

Destinee Boutwell, cum laude

Bachelor of Arts

English/Language Arts Education

When Destinee arrived at Manchester University, she didn't realize she was an educator, but when you are called to teach, you teach. Four years after arriving at Manchester University, Destinee will graduate with an English Language Arts secondary education degree, and a teaching license enabling her to teach middle and high school English. Destinee is articulate, intelligent and inquisitive. She has a natural propensity toward investigating the entire story, and she has applied this skill in her studies as well. Recently, Destinee successfully defended her honors thesis entitled "Raising Liberated Learners: Actualizing Progressive Philosophies in Public Schools," a project that examined seminal pieces of pedagogical literature such as those by Paulo Freire, Tom Little, Zaretta Hammond, and John Dewey. Through her analysis of the literature as well as her own experiences with progressive pedagogy used during her student teaching placement, Destinee was able to "defend progressive pedagogy to administrators, parents, and students."

Others also recognize Destinee's gifts and talents, and this fall, she will enter an MA program at the University of Toledo earning a full tuition scholarship

and \$10,000 stipend. Recently, the Henney Department of Education selected Destinee as one of the recipients for the Outstanding Future Educators award. Whether she ends up teaching middle school, high school or college English courses, Destinee Boutwell was destined to be a teacher. Through her own educational journey, Destinee has become a liberated learner herself.

Dr. Heather Schilling

Laura Brubaker, cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Early Childhood and Elementary Education

When Mahatma Gandhi said, “In a gentle way, you can shake the world,” he had Laura Brubaker in mind. This humble young woman lives life as a servant leader. Through action and service, Laura has made difference in the Manchester University community. Not only has she been engaged in professional development opportunities offered through the Henney Department of Education, but she has been an active member of the Student Education Association. Equally as important, Laura has been an important part of religious life here at Manchester University. She been active in both Campus Ministry and Simply Brethren.

Behind Laura’s reserved demeanor is an infectious laugh and a smile that lights up a room. You will be hard pressed to find a young adult as compassionate, loyal, and empathetic as Laura Brubaker. In fact, Laura’s choice to earn a degree in elementary education with mild intervention reflects her caring character. After student teaching at Millersburg Elementary this spring, Laura plans on securing a teaching position, an opportunity for her to mentor inside and outside the classroom. This young woman of ability and conviction will certainly use her relationships with her students to gently shake the world.

Dr. Heather Schilling

Emilee Carder, magna cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Exercise Science and Fitness, Biology-Chemistry

Emilee Carder is an energetic exercise science major and student-athlete with a true passion for and commitment to learning. I have had Emilee in a number of my courses and worked with her as an athlete and academic student. In both, she demonstrated the ability to truly synthesize information and produce great work. Emilee has been a bright part of the classroom since she began her career

at Manchester University. She has great leadership skills and leads by example when working with others. I am very excited for her future as any venture she takes on she conquers. Emilee takes every second of the day and makes them productive for her friends, family and peers. She takes care of herself and others in a way that is truly genuine and meaningful. I am extremely happy for Emilee and what the future holds for such a talented young person. She is anticipating taking her talents to graduate school and any school she chooses will benefit from her admittance. MU is a better place having someone like Emilee on its campus. I know I am a better professor and person with a student such as Emilee. I would like to say congratulations and you will be missed.

Dr. Jeffrey Beer

Victoria Clark Conrad, cum laude

Bachelor of Arts

History, English

Victoria Clark Conrad will graduate this spring as a double major in history and English, but even these two broad majors barely encompass her wide range of interests.

For example, Victoria's senior thesis in history explores cultural questions surrounding the assimilation of the native Inuit people into white Canadian society during the mid-1900s. For her English degree, Victoria's senior paper revolves around ghosts, ghost mythology (particularly around Yorkshire), Emily Brontë's 1847 novel, *Wuthering Heights*, neo-historicism, and how interpretations of ghosts changed over the course of the Victorian age in England.

Victoria's final paper in our current class on Gender in European History studies the career of Chevalier d'Éon, an androgynous 18th century French soldier, diplomat and spy who led an adventurous life of intrigue sometimes as a man but other times as a woman. Victoria told me that she first crossed paths with this interesting person as a character in a popular role-playing adventure game.

As those of us lucky enough to know her can attest, Victoria is a friendly and forward-looking person who brings a positive outlook and a marvelous sense of fun to class each day. She is never afraid of creative self-expression, especially in her choice of entertaining headgear. Intellectually, Victoria has an uncanny ability to raise challenging and sometimes unorthodox questions about the course material that have regularly stimulated our class discussions.

Victoria's immediate future involves studying law next year at one of the many universities where she has been accepted. Congratulations, Victoria, we will miss you!

Dr. Mark Angelos

Hayley Cochran, magna cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Choral Music Education

Hayley is one of the hardest working students I've had the honor to teach. When she first came into our music department, she had very little experience with art/classical music and was very far behind on music reading skill and vocal training. I remember talking with her about this early on and letting her know that I believed she had an excellent, albeit unexplored vocal instrument and that she was very teachable. I also told her that she would have to work very hard to catch up to where she needed to be as a first-year music major, but I believed she could do it if she diligently applied herself. I've had similar conversations with other students in my 20+ years of teaching, but no students have taken me at my word and followed my advice with as much vigor and determination as Hayley. She did catch up and even exceeded what I thought possible for her. She can now sight-read quickly and accurately, and she has developed a love for classical music. Her voice has grown and matured so much that I encouraged her to add vocal performance as a second major to her music education degree.

Hayley worked as my student assistant for two years, and has also served as an exec board member in A Cappella Choir. She has proven herself trustworthy, open-minded, compassionate and organized. In addition to being one of my best students, I am pleased to also count her among my friends.

Hayley is passionate about teaching -- especially at the elementary level. I so enjoyed seeing her smiling face at my door so many afternoons during her student teaching semester, as she would proceed to tell me about all the things she was doing in the classroom. Her comments were always student-focused, which was a sure sign to me that she would be a tremendous success as a teacher. Now she is about to embark on her first teaching position. While I will miss seeing her in the halls of the Winger building every day, I will be happy knowing that she is thriving and growing into a fantastic elementary music educator. Her students and colleagues will be very fortunate to have her.

Dr. Debra Lynn

Ellexis Cook, cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Marketing

What a pleasure to have Ellexis in the Gilbert College of Business. She is a gifted student. I say this not only because of her natural intelligence but also the inquisitive and contemplative approach she brings to her coursework. In analyzing a selection of twenty advertisements from a broad variety of organizations, Ellexis showed keen insight and a professional understanding of communications and influence. Other faculty agree, also commenting on her insight and perseverance. Additionally, Ellexis' peers benefitted from her participation in class and, even more so, when they were fortunate to have Ellexis on their team for group work. Ellexis is a leader and an achiever.

As the faculty mentor for the Marketing Committee of the Gilbert College of Business Club, I witnessed Ellexis' creativity in designing promotional pieces and collaboration on committee projects. As she graduates from Manchester, my vision of Ellexis is as a young professional full of talent and promise prepared to embark on new achievements. Ellexis plans on pursuing an MBA and, ultimately, a marketing and advertising career in fashion and cosmetics. Ellexis has the ingenuity, initiative and style to succeed with these plans.

Dr. Wendy Hoffman

Kelleen Cullison, summa cum laude

Bachelor of Arts

English

One of my earliest Manchester memories of Kelleen is from her first year; she was watching a film in my South Asian Literature class and started sobbing at a devastating plot twist (not just one or two tears ... full on sobbing). This moment really encapsulates Kelleen – she feels everything deeply, and one of her greatest qualities is her empathy for others and the larger world. I will miss her passionate defense of a seemingly unlikeable literary character and her well-crafted and fiery analyses of difficult topics. Mostly, though, I will miss her popping by my office for a pep talk or a quick catch up or because she just had to show me a cute picture of her dog. Kelleen has a bright future ahead of her, and I hope she always thinks of Manchester – and my office – as one of her homes.

Dr. Stacy Erickson-Pesetski

Sarah Driscoll, cum laude

Bachelor of Arts

Accounting

Sarah Driscoll came to Manchester University from Urbana, Ind. to major in accounting. Sarah worked tirelessly to earn 150 hours of credit in just three and one-half years to become eligible to sit for the CPA exam. This is quite a feat when considering she was a transfer student and only became an accounting major after transferring to Manchester. While that kept her busy, Sarah was also the president of Manchester Catholics for two years and a member of the College of Business Club. She is currently interning at Kline's CPA Group in Huntington. Sarah's future goals include passing the CMA this fall, the CPA soon after that, and earning an MBA.

Jen Lutz

MiKayla N. Duzan, cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Physical Education

MiKayla N. Duzan (Valparaiso, Ind.) is a senior physical education major and health promotion minor preparing for a career teaching K-12 students. She has demonstrated academic competence, leadership and service in the Department of Exercise Science and Athletic Training receiving several recognitions during her tenure at Manchester University (MU).

MiKayla is a "mover and a shaker" who pursues every opportunity to learn, earning an impressive 3.8 grade point average during her undergraduate years. In addition to her success in the classroom, she has also been recognized by the Society for Health and Physical Educators (SHAPE) as the Midwest District Outstanding Student; by the Indiana SHAPE as their Outstanding Student of the Year; and Major of the Year by the MU Department of Exercise Science and Athletic Training.

Ms. Duzan takes pride in her accomplishments. She is a leader on campus, as well as in the community. MiKayla is a student orientation leader, works with the Manchester Activities Council, and is a member of the Student Education Association. In addition, she willingly shares her talents coaching athletes with intellectual disabilities in the Wabash County Special Olympics program and served as a team leader for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life of Wabash County. Ms. Duzan also taught homeschool students physical activities in a weekly physical education program.

Moreover, MiKayla is the recipient of the Indiana SHAPE Jean Lee/Jeff Marvin Collegiate Scholarship and Catherine Wolf Major of the Year Scholarship, as well as the MU Dean's List Scholarship. "It was an honor to be considered for these scholarships," she said. "Receiving them was a great opportunity and it truly was a privilege to be able to be recognized with these distinguished scholarships and represent Manchester University."

According to Dr. Kim Duchane, professor of exercise science and athletic training, "MiKayla displays academic excellence, her energy is infectious, and her service to others is impressive. She is committed to becoming a teacher of ability and conviction who makes a difference in the lives of her students."

Dr. Kim Duchane

Jerod Elston, cum laude

Bachelor of Science
Software Engineering

Jerod Elston hails from Plainfield, Ind. He is receiving a B.S degree in software engineering with minors in data science and environmental studies. His hobbies include both the indoors -- video gaming, and the outdoors -- traipsing through woods and along creeks.

Jerod first came to my attention when, as a sophomore, he took my upper-level Algorithms & Data Structures class. His technical skills, motivation and creativity immediately distinguished him amongst his junior and senior level peers. Not only is Jerod proficient with computing tools such as Java, Python, C#, HTML and SQL, he has exceptional project management skills and is an outstanding communicator. Skills that will take him far in the software industry.

In the summer of 2019, Jerod worked for Infosys in Indianapolis, a company focused on developing technology skills throughout Indiana in fields such as Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, and Big Data. At Infosys, he honed his skills in 3D modeling, 3D printing and machine learning. This final topic, machine learning, piqued his interest in developing a neural network framework for image recognition and Big Data.

Throughout this academic year, Jerod has worked on an intellectually demanding senior project, Neural Networks and Threat Identification. This project involves building a neural network structure to learn from input images the visual characteristics of handguns, rifles, knives, screwdrivers, bats and backpacks – all potential threats at an airport or public event. The neural model

is then applied to detect these types of objects in other images. To pursue this project Jerod taught himself the entire topic of neural networks, one that is both highly abstract and highly computational, as well as the modeling package TensorFlow. Of the fifteen or so senior research projects I have advised over the years, his is easily in the top three in terms of technical difficulty, depth of analysis and written exposition.

While I had suggested Jerod develop a model that distinguishes a handgun from a banana and subtitle his project Self-Defense Against Fresh Fruit (per www.youtube.com/watch?v=F4PZXuk3TsM) he ignored my advice and decided to play it straight. Nonetheless, I look forward to hearing of Jerod's many successes in software and in life over the coming years!

Dr. Jim Brumbaugh-Smith

Haley Farris, magna cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Athletic Training

Haley has been a pleasure to teach and mentor over these past four years. She is a smart, dedicated and respectful human being. She has and will always put others' needs in front of her own. Her focus on others shows everyone the true meaning of being selfless. She has put in the work as a basketball player, mentor, athletic training student and friend. She can be seen as a model student that enjoys friendships, hard work and treats others with the utmost respect. Haley has been a great person since stepping onto this campus and will leave an even better person through her experiences. What I can truly say is that I am a better person and professor for having someone like Haley Farris around our campus, life and my classroom. I am so very proud of her as a student and person and wish her the best of luck. Haley will be taking her talents to the University of Indianapolis for her Master of Arts in Mental Health Counseling.

Dr. Jeffrey Beer

Lalita Ford, cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Exercise Science and Fitness

Lalita started Manchester in the spring semester and quickly made an immediate impression. Lalita has a strong work ethic and is motivated to do "all of the things." She strives for excellence in her academics and appreciates the rigor. These characteristics will suit her well within the exercise science

profession. Lalita generally cares for others and this caring nature will serve her clients well with whatever path she chooses from here. She certainly a student that fits Manchester's mission of graduating students of "ability and conviction."

Erin Foreman

Chris Francois, summa cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Peace Studies

Coming of age in Haiti, Chris Francois recognized both the challenges of authoritarianism and the possibilities of civil resistance. Seizing upon the Peace Studies Program, Chris took every opportunity to develop their skills as a scholar and organizer. January travel courses, national and regional conferences, mediation trainings, Peace Lab workshops – Chris's name was often the first on our roster for any experiential education activity.

Chris is a skilled scholar and organizer, with a nuanced critical analysis and a level of reflection that distinguishes their work. Chris has also been a central figure outside of class in student social justice organizations, responsible for developing educational programs and engagement opportunities for students on a wide variety of peace and justice issues. Chris started Manchester's Sunrise Movement campus chapter, organized the MU Climate Strike, and has presented at national undergraduate research conferences in addition to providing the keynote at Manchester's own research symposium. Chris's combination of academic ability and commitment to organizing and advocacy work is powerfully effective. These strengths won Chris a summer internship placement in New York City through the Shepherd Higher Education Consortium on Poverty.

Chris has taken extraordinary efforts to shape not only the university but also our small rural community. Chris co-facilitated a community-wide discussion about using the measures of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals to design ways to make Wabash County (home to Manchester University) more welcoming of new residents. When local service agencies were inhospitable to university international students, Chris initiated a dialogue with campus and community partners to improve relations. Chris has published letters and editorials in the regional press, sharing about their experience as a person of color in a predominantly white region, and challenging community members to do better. Few students have such a far-reaching impact.

Chris is our program's planner par excellence. For example, Chris was awarded the prestigious Schwarzman Scholarship to complete a Master's degree in Global Affairs at Tsinghua University in Beijing. The day after receiving the acceptance letter, Chris was researching Ph.D. programs, planning the next step to advance their expertise as a scholar-practitioner.

Chris models dedication, ability and principle. We are deeply grateful that Manchester has been part of the path they have chosen.

Dr. Katy Gray Brown

Holly Granfield, cum laude

Bachelor of Arts

Biology-Chemistry, Spanish

It has been an absolute pleasure to get to know Holly Granfield over these past four years. She has a long list of accomplishments, but her joy-filled, down-to-earth personality and passion for learning are her greatest assets. She will graduate with a double major in biology-chemistry and Spanish, a great combination for a future dentist, and plans to attend the IU School of Dentistry. From Day 1 at Manchester, she has sought out experiences that would help her to reach her goal of becoming a dentist. She is active on the Honors Leadership Council and has written the Honors Thesis "Lost in Translation: The ethical ramifications of utilizing ad-hoc interpreters in a healthcare setting," inspired by her experience working with indigenous patients in Mayan villages in Guatemala as a participant in Manchester University's Medical Practicum. The Medical Practicum experience followed a semester abroad at Universidad San Francisco De Quito in Ecuador. I am not at all surprised that during her time abroad, the Admissions Office found a way to Skype her into a Presidential Scholars dinner of about 60 prospective students. She lit up the room with her enthusiasm. Holly participated in summer research experiences in pharmacogenomics and biology and served as a peer mentor for the NSF-STEM Pathways Academy. Students like Holly make teaching and advising an absolute joy. We look forward to Holly coming back to Manchester as a dentist for the Medical Practicum.

Dr. Terrie Salupo-Bryant

Keiton Hall, cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Accounting, Sport Management, Finance

Keiton Hall came to Manchester University from Lansing, Mich. to major in sport management. But while fulfilling business core requirements, Keiton enjoyed his in accounting and finance courses so much he decided to triple major in all three areas. When Manchester started its new Master of Accountancy Program, he decided to take advantage of that opportunity as well. He managed to achieve all this while being involved in the College of Business Club and playing basketball for four years. Keiton developed his leadership skills as a starter and a captain on the basketball team for two years and as the vice president for the College of Business Club for one year. With this wealth of experience, Keiton was selected the president of the Case Studies in Business class this semester. After graduation, Keiton will focus on studying and sitting for the CPA exam. In the fall, Keiton will begin work as an audit associate at RSM in Atlanta, Ga.

Jen Lutz

Stephani Hallgarth, cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Environmental Studies, Biology

Stephani is a biology and environmental studies double major graduating with distinction. She transferred into Manchester looking for community and connection with her instructors and peers. It is clear that she found it. I have had the immense pleasure of mentoring Stephani for the past year on a research project. Starting in the summer of 2019, she joined my lab to complete her research requirement which only lasted 10 weeks but she stayed to continue the project for the rest of the academic year because she realized how much she enjoyed research. There were many bumps in the road on the project that she weathered, a testament to her resilience and resolve. Despite her busy schedule with courses, research and volunteer work, I have seen her take younger students under her wing to help encourage and support them through the transition into college life. Stephani truly exemplifies the spirit of Manchester University.

Dr. Jennifer Robison

Sydnee Jensen, cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Exercise Science and Fitness

Finishing in just three years, Sydnee Jensen (Casper, Wyo.) will graduate in May with a degree in exercise science. During her time at Manchester, Sydnee excelled both inside and outside the classroom. Sydnee was a three-year soccer player and was named a "Player to Watch" by the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference. She was also one of MU's top defenders. She is the definition of what it means to be a student-athlete. She is a curious, personable and driven individual. From the moment I met Sydnee, I knew she would be an exceptional athletic trainer. Her compassionate demeanor and attention to detail will serve her well. In the fall, Sydnee will continue her education at Manchester in the Master of Athletic Training Program. I am thrilled to continue to mentor her as she transitions to our Fort Wayne campus.

Dr. Lucas Dargo

Josh Jordan, magna cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Mathematics

Josh is an outstanding thinker, problem solver and planner. Upon arriving at MU as a first-year student, he already had a strong interest in pursuing a career in actuarial work. He has doggedly pursued this goal throughout his entire time here. After completing prerequisite courses, as a sophomore Josh completed a Special Problems course in Actuarial Probability. To become (and remain) an actuary, one must pass a demanding sequence of professional exams administered by the Society of Actuaries, beginning with the Probability (P) exam and Financial Mathematics (FM) exam. In summer 2018, Josh became the first MU student in over twenty-five years to pass the P exam while still an undergrad. In Spring 2019, he undertook another Special Problems course, Financial Mathematics (skillfully teaching me the subject), and in January 2020, passed the actuarial exam in this subject as well. It goes without saying that Josh is highly adept at learning new mathematical and statistical concepts, techniques and algorithms, and applying them to a wide variety of quantitative and mathematical-modeling problems.

To illustrate Josh's determination in pursuing his actuarial goal, during his sophomore year he applied for a summer internship. While the company was impressed, they indicated a stronger background in computing and statistics was needed. So, in addition to his coursework for the mathematics

major, Josh added minors in computer science and data science, enabling him to successfully land the same internship following his junior year. During summer and fall 2019, Josh successfully completed this internship. His primary project involved re-implementing various data management procedures in the SAS statistical language, a process that had previously been performed in MS Access. This resulted in significantly streamlined processes, saving both computer and human resources.

In addition to being an outstanding student and professional, Josh is an outstanding person and friend. Though he is quiet by nature, Josh is supportive of those around him, whether in the classroom or in extracurricular activities. He has served as a statistics and calculus tutor the past few years and is currently an officer for SPAM (Students Pondering About Mathematics). Did I mention that Josh has excellent time management skills? In addition to all his academic and professional commitments, during his career for Spartan soccer Josh played in 50 plus games, primarily as a midfielder.

Josh will soon be returning to his old stomping grounds of Indianapolis's northern suburbs. Originally from Zionsville, he has accepted an actuarial position with the CNO Financial Group in nearby Carmel. It has been my honor to call Josh my student, my comrade, and soon-to-be, my fellow professional.

Dr. Jim Brumbaugh-Smith

Madi Kaylor, magna cum laude

Bachelor of Arts

Psychology

Madi has been an outstanding student since she arrived at Manchester University. In all classes, she performed extremely well and was a strong participant! She displays intellectual curiosity and is quick to attempt new and interesting activities—pushing her own comfort level in the process. She is an incredibly hard worker who is a diligent student who was always prepared. In class discussions and written work, she displayed excellent critical thinking skills and analytical abilities. When she traveled to France with our class, she embraced the opportunity and practiced her French speaking skills on multiple occasions. She engaged local residents in conversations and was an active participant in every occasion. She assisted other students and was readily available to help others in need. She was a valuable team member! Madi has displayed excellent leadership skills and has done an outstanding job negotiating with student colleagues who have not proven to be as hard-working and industrious as herself. She has followed through on tasks that are above and beyond the classroom expectations demonstrating the persistence

necessary to complete difficult and challenging assignments. Madi has demonstrated responsibility and has a personal discipline that has enabled her to be successful in and out of the classroom. She has demonstrated excellent research, task management and intellectual skills. She has enthusiastically engaged the material and expressed a personal openness and interest in helping those around her. She has a strong interest in helping children and is actively pursuing graduate school in applied behavior analysis. She will be an excellent graduate student, and an excellent helping professional with children and their families!

Dr. Rusty Coulter-Kern

Jack Kinsey, cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Finance, Accounting, Business Management

Jack is one of those rare students who will be graduating from MU with a triple major. He has completed the required coursework to earn majors in accounting, finance and business management. Along Jack's life journey he has been influenced by many people, including professors he has had at Manchester. However, none have compared to his father's influence. Jack shared that his father and three others started a company just when the Great Recession started. Being able to observe the choices and risks his dad took along the way to keep the company afloat intensified Jack's interest in business and his appreciation for his father's management abilities. Jack's business acumen is outstanding. He is able to make the links between the needs of all the constituents in a business. He values customers, employees, owners and society and has shown a remarkable ability to find solutions that benefit all those groups. Jack mentioned that seeing how well his dad handled his own business startup was highly motivating and added to his education at MU.

Jack's success at MU comes from two traits that really stand out, adaptability and determination. Jack always shows a determination to make the best of any situation, and he is adaptable enough to focus on important issues while avoiding distractions. These two traits helped drive Jack to where he is today. Regardless the situation Jack will go with the flow and still get the best outcome he can.

His intelligence is not limited to his academic success Jack also understands that college is a unique time for students. Jack has excellent time management skills and because of that he was able to earn outstanding grades while earning three degrees and still find time to help start the eSports program at MU. Some of his most memorable moments at MU arose from his video game club. The club

was the precursor to the eSports program which was started this year. Jack and others worked with some of the Manchester staff in getting an eSports room dedicated to the team members. The room was a great place for Jack and his friends to hang out after long days of studying.

After graduation Jack hopes to find a job relatively close to home. He wants to save up money and build up work experience while driving to his goal of starting his own firm. As someone who has seen Jack grow and succeed over the last several years, I have no doubt that he will continue to be a wonderful leader and soon reach his ultimate goal of business ownership.

Joe Messer

Ryan Lantz, magna cum laude

Bachelor of Science
Sport Management

Ryan is a lover of all things Fort Wayne Tin Caps! I cannot remember a day without him sporting a hat, t-shirt or sweatshirt to support his favorite hometown team. He comes by this love honestly by moving up the ladder in the organization from parking attendant to a full-time intern last year in merchandise and retailing. He worked tirelessly in this position and earned accolades from not only his direct supervisor but also the upper management of the team. This passion will serve him well as he works in sport management, preferably in minor league baseball (hopefully for the Tin Caps!). I have had the pleasure of teaching Ryan as well as traveling with him during January session to Greece and Rome. In the classroom, he is smart and engaged. He has a work ethic that I appreciate and, especially in this last year of school, a maturity in his work that has been a real treat to see! I have full faith that Ryan will be successful in any future endeavor. Good luck to you, Ryan!

Dr. Ryan Hedstrom

Sierra Lehman, magna cum laude

Bachelor of Science
Accounting

Sierra Lehman does not draw attention to herself. She does not say a lot, and when she does speak, she is soft spoken. However, one should not be deceived. When she chooses to speak, her words are powerful and insightful, and her voice takes on an entirely different meaning when she sings, which she has done with the A Cappella Choir at Manchester for the last four years. Sierra came to MU from Fort Wayne not only as a Presidential Scholar but also as a

Music at Manchester Scholarship recipient. It is not unusual to see her pushing a cart across campus with various supplies tied to her work as a printing services assistant, and she has done significant work for others. On campus, she has worked as a peer tutor, helping other students with their accounting and finance courses. She also put her accounting knowledge to work in the service of others off campus when she volunteered with Pathfinder Services to prepare income tax returns for those who could not afford the fees that an accounting firm would charge. She completed three internships while at Manchester, and she will be eligible to sit for the CPA exam this summer. Sierra is the 2020 co-recipient of the Arthur L. Gilbert Award for Excellence in Accounting, and she will join the Fort Wayne public accounting firm Baden, Gage & Schroeder as an auditor following graduation.

Timothy Ogden

Katie Loera, cum laude

Bachelor of Arts

Early Childhood and Elementary Education

Through service and a passion for children, Katie Loera has made an impact on the Henney Department of Education. As an elementary education with mild intervention major, Katie has demonstrated ability and conviction repeatedly over the past four years. Not only has she been an active member of the Student Education Association, but also she has served on its executive board as president. She believes in the power of education, and she has taken that belief beyond the classroom. Because of her sensitivity to the needs of others, Katie frequently supports faculty in their work, volunteers to organize and implement extracurricular programs, and checks in with others simply to see how they are doing. These actions reflect the deep empathy and compassion Katie has for others, and she is an integral part of the education program.

This spring, Katie student taught at South Whitley Elementary, and in the midst of the pandemic, she demonstrated her ability to be flexible and comfortable with being uncomfortable as she moved to a Google classroom. Recently, the Henney Department of Education recognized Katie as a Future Outstanding Educator, and, without a doubt, Katie will make a huge impact on the students in her care. Katie is actively seeking employment in an elementary school, a vocation for which she has been called.

Dr. Heather Schilling

Taylor Lopez, magna cum laude

Bachelor of Science

History

In wrapping up her time at Manchester, Taylor found herself in a psychology classroom as somewhat of an afterthought. I had known her only as the diligent student who always seemed to be studying on the third floor of the Academic Center, so I was intrigued to get to know her during our Intro to Psychology course. Taylor was a standout student and de facto leader of any group. Her peers were impressed by and respected her deep preparation for the course. I enjoyed Taylor's energy and enthusiasm for learning during our time together. These skills will serve her well after graduation, when she plans to work at a museum. Eventually she may return to school to pursue an advanced degree in history.

Dr. Kelsey-Jo Kessie

Emily Lynn, cum laude

Bachelor of Arts

Music, French

I've known Emily Lynn since she was born, actually -- because in addition to being my student, she is also my daughter. Emily started showing signs of musicianship when she was very young. It didn't really surprise us because her father and I are both musicians -- so that end of the gene pool is pretty deep. Her siblings are also musical, but they aren't singers. Emily played violin long before she showed much interest in singing, but she was always exploring her voice -- imitating everything she heard around her. She could match the pitch, inflection, and tone quality of any human, animal, or cartoon character from before she could form sentences. When our kids got into mischief, toys and books were forbidden in the time out chair. Well, with Emily we had to add a mandate of silence because she would sit and play with her voice. It's no wonder she finally found her niche in the spotlight as a singer and actress.

The operatic timbre in her voice emerged when she was about 13 years old, which is quite unusual. Her voice matured quickly and very naturally, and so did her love of opera. In addition to exploring her voice, Emily has always been interested in languages. She loved the sound of French best of all. Since her high school didn't offer French as an option for language study, Dr. Janina Traxler agreed to allow Emily to enroll in French at MU as a junior in high school. Dr. Traxler is an excellent teacher, but she is also very demanding -- even at the 100 level. There were a lot of tears and frustration on Emily's part during those first two years, but she was determined to keep learning. By the time

she began her first year at MU, she was already at the 300 level in French, and was very interested in pursuing it as a major in addition to music. Since opera singers need experience with several languages, this made perfect sense and has served her well.

When it came time to look for a college, Emily was not interested in applying to any other schools. Manchester was where she wanted to be. Her older sister had chosen MU as well, but she was not a music major. I tried to impress upon Emily that, as a voice performance major at Manchester, I would be her primary instructor and she would also be in several classes taught by her father. She insisted that would be fine with her, and honestly we felt that she probably was mature enough to handle the complexities of the situation. We were right. It's tempting for musically gifted people to slack off in small school settings where there isn't a lot of competition. But, since Emily is aware that some might suspect favoritism, she has always made a point to hold herself to a higher standard of excellence in all her endeavors, musical or otherwise. Her graduation with honors and her invitation to present at two student research symposiums (once as keynote speaker, her sophomore year), is evidence of her hard work and high ability.

In addition to her academic work, I am particularly proud of Emily's determination to study two semesters in Strasbourg, France (when only one semester was required of her). This caused her to have to take several alternate year music classes as tutorials, and to take the initiative to find a voice teacher and prepare most of her junior recital in France. I am also proud of Emily for continuing as a competitive runner, when it would have been much more convenient to have set that aside. Like everything else she endeavors to accomplish, Emily has exhibited the self-discipline to improve steadily as a student-athlete.

Emily is about to embark on graduate school, studying opera. She has emerged as a promising young soprano with a bright future ahead of her. I look forward to seeing where the next bend in the road takes her. I know Manchester University is proud to claim her as one of their own.

Dr. Debra Lynn

Mason McBride, cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Instrumental Music Education

Mason McBride is a dedicated academic, creative musician, and is thoughtful to peers and professors alike. I have always been quite impressed with him both

professionally and personally. Mason's work ethic is outstanding. He is never shy about taking on extra responsibilities, particularly in his musical training and participation. He was an integral member of the MU Symphonic Band (as a section leader), the MU Jazz Ensemble, the Manchester Symphony Orchestra, Gold and Black Attack, A Cappella Choir, Chamber Singers, and Percussion Ensemble. His growth as a musician has been exceptional. As one of my private saxophone students, Mason has excelled. One of the expectations of the saxophone studio is that you pass a "scale barrier" by the time you graduate. It consists of learning, practicing, and performing a total of 144 scales and arpeggios. Not only is he the first saxophone student in 12 years to actually complete the task, but he did it well ahead of schedule. Mason has experienced the challenges of remote learning both as a student and a student teacher. He has had to step up to fill the need of student teaching during these times. He has been willing to go above and beyond what a normal student teaching experience should be, while also demonstrating a great deal of adaptability. His cooperating teacher has assigned him all of the e-learning modules and lessons, and Mason has had to field questions and grade assignments from over 80 students. I am very proud of his work. He will be missed at MU. I feel strongly that he will make a great addition to the field of music education. I look forward to watching his career!

Dr. Scott Humphries

Epherata Molla, cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Accounting, Finance, Economics

Epherata (Ephi) is one of the most talented and dedicated students that I met during my teaching career. She is not only extremely smart and dedicated, her passion for learning is also extraordinary. Ephi is very polite and respectful toward her teacher, and it is hard to find her on campus without a smile on her face. I was fortunate to be a part of her undergraduate journey and wish her all the best in her future career.

Dr. Sreenath Majumder

Katrina Murray, cum laude

Bachelor of Arts

Instrumental Music Education

Katrina Murray is a wonderful young woman both personally and artistically. She is well-respected among her peers and professors alike. As a musician, she strives for excellence on a daily basis, which is evident in both her academics

as well as her musical performance abilities. Katrina did not shy away from hard work. In addition to her standing out in her general coursework, she was a vital member of six different ensembles. Simultaneously, she was a part of symphonic band (also serving as section leader), jazz ensemble, the Manchester Symphony Orchestra, Gold and Black Attack, A Cappella Choir, and Chamber Singers. Academics were not the only work she did. For three years, Katrina held the assistant to the director position, which is my personal student associate. She maintained the instrumental music library, served as a copyist, and provided music to four separate ensembles. This is no easy task, particularly while maintaining her high academic and instrument practice regimens. Additionally, she has gone far and above what was required of this position; this includes cataloging and data-basing well over 500 pieces of music in the jazz library alone. On a daily basis, casual communication reveals a personality that is at once kind, clever and witty. I have thoroughly enjoyed interacting with her and watching her grow throughout her academic career. I wish her all the luck as she launches her career as a music educator; she will do great things!

Dr. Scott Humphries

Amanda Pairitz, summa cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Criminal Justice

Finishing in three years, Amanda Pairitz will graduate with a degree in criminology and minors in sociology and gerontology. To an outside observer, Amanda appears only to have a laser focus on her academic work. She arrives early to almost every class and often stays after to clarify points that were made in class and to request further instruction on upcoming assignments. Amanda works ahead and never stops short of exhaustive work whether it is in answering essay exam questions, responding to course readings, or writing papers for her classes. I have rarely encountered a student with the commitment and intelligence with which Amanda approaches academic work. However, it would be a mistake to view Amanda's way as being mechanical or free of feeling or conviction. Although she is rarely the first person to speak in a class, Amanda shares insights that make it clear she has contemplated how power is wielded and the marginalization of various groups in society. Her writing often shows her contemplative soul as she recounts interactions with everyone from family members with opposing views to sitting with elders in her work as a caregiver. Amanda has a spirit that is both humble and deeply thoughtful. One gets this sense in listening to Amanda or reading her writing that she has embraced a deep faith in God while simultaneously questioning

evil, pain and suffering on earth. I do not doubt that many faculty members will be sorry that she is graduating only because of the loss of regular interaction with an excellent student and an even better person.

Dr. Jared Friesen

Songwoo Park, magna cum laude

Bachelor of Arts

Art

From the moment I met Song, she has been a quiet, gentle presence in the back of the classroom and studio, always present, always working, always reminding me that success doesn't have to be accompanied by loud, clamorous acclaim or a burning spotlight. Song meets each challenge with brilliant integrity and relentless persistence. In her quiet struggles, it's often overlooked that her natural shyness, her separation from family an ocean away, and language translation struggles make everyday challenges so much harder. But Song rises every time. She is dauntless. She is brilliant—an intelligent, gifted artist who wants to use her abilities to help others. No matter the circumstance, Song forges on with gentle grace and courage. I am honored to have been given the chance to work alongside her. Songwoo Park graduated in December 2019, with a major in studio art, and minors in psychology and gerontology. She plans to pursue a career in counseling and therapy using artistic expression.

Ejenobo Oke

Virginia Rendler, magna cum laude

Bachelor of Arts

Peace Studies

I met Virginia Rendler on November 10, 2015, when she arrived on campus as a non-prospective student – meaning she had absolutely no intention of studying at Manchester. It was about 10:30 p.m., dark, chilly, and I was on my bicycle, wearing a headlamp, and carrying a mallet; we had just finished setting up the Armistice Day memorial on the mall.

Sometimes every break goes your way. Virginia chose Manchester, and suddenly she was everywhere: writing for *Oak Leaves* and MU blogs, planning volunteer projects and VIAs, assisting in Spanish labs and the Success Center. Virginia carefully honed her expressive and analytic abilities through elective courses across programs, in peace studies, philosophy, religious studies, English, art, political science and sociology. Virginia masters course content and applies it to new contexts and to her own experiences. Her understanding of the ways

that broad systemic injustices affect individuals motivates Virginia to think about social change critically – not only the important matter of providing direct services to individuals, but also a matter of challenging policies that disadvantage groups of people and deprive them of human rights. In her SCE essay, Virginia wrote that she was drawn to philosophy because of its central concerns for goodness and truth. I can think of no better concerns to guide us.

Four years, seven courses, 100+ Kenapoc hours, and more than 8,000 miles together in university vehicles have shown me strengths beyond the intellect and academic ability that land Virginia here in the honors section. She is remarkable in relating to others. Virginia is intuitive, compassionate, and approachable. Importantly, she uses these skills not only to strengthen interpersonal relationships, but to support the kind of community that makes significant social change possible.

Virginia understands the connection between theory and practice can be messy and hard, but in every context, she leans into the task at hand: she is always ready to learn, and always ready to work. Virginia is the first one to pick up a shovel and the last one to straggle off a work site. Whether she is cleaning chicken coops, preparing community meals, editing resumes to assist refugees with a job search, or organizing a group to present at a conference, Virginia unfailingly demonstrates flexibility, patience, resilience and a sense of humor that gets everyone through.

I would say we should keep all this in mind when picking our teams. But the certainty here is that Virginia is the one assembling her crew, just as she's gathered the skills and experiences that will support her continuing pursuit of goodness and truth. We can only hope that, again, she chooses us.

Dr. Katy Gray Brown

Brandon Renninger, magna cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Accounting, Finance

It has been my great pleasure to have Brandon in class during his time at Manchester! Brandon will graduate in May with bachelor's degrees in accounting and finance as well as a Master of Accountancy. He has achieved high academic honors while taking very challenging courses. He plans to start his accounting career at Baden, Gage, and Schroeder, a regional CPA firm in Fort Wayne. I have no doubt that he will be extremely successful! In the classroom, Brandon is typically contemplative. He answers questions when asked and asks questions when he has them. He is always careful to articulate his questions

and answers in a professional manner. Outside of the classroom, Brandon enjoys playing soccer. He played on travel teams, on his high school team, and on the men's soccer team at Manchester. He was captain of the team in fall 2018, named to the HCAC men's all-conference soccer team in fall 2017, and named to the HCAC academic all-conference team in fall 2016 and fall 2019. He also enjoys intramurals and following sports in general, especially hockey. His favorite team is the Boston Bruins. In one of my upper level finance courses, we were working on a case regarding Tesla, Inc. During that case, I found out that Brandon is quite the car enthusiast. He enjoys learning about new models and the engineering behind them. If I remember correctly, his laptop screensaver is a picture of an exotic, expensive and fast automobile! One of his most memorable experiences while at Manchester was a trip to Jamaica with the soccer team where they visited a school for deaf children and helped with various construction projects to improve their facilities. Another impactful academic experience was in the Advanced Managerial Accounting class taught by Prof. Jen Lutz. In this course, students work with the Entrepreneurship and Small Business Management class (taught by Prof. Joe Messer) to develop a business plan. He admits that while taking the course, it was frustrating working on such a comprehensive project but looking back, he realizes that he was proud of their work in the end and he learned a lot from the experience. Brandon has accomplished a lot in his short time here and he will definitely be missed. I congratulate him on his successes and look forward to the positive impact he will have on the accounting profession.

Jenny Simmers

Matthew Roop, summa cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Sport Management, Marketing

Matt has been a wonderful student to work with while at Manchester University! He brings an enthusiasm and maturity to classroom work I truly appreciate. Matt has been a tremendous leader here at Manchester both in the men's soccer program and in the Gilbert College of Business. Besides the classroom setting, I was able to travel with Matt on two separate January session courses to Greece, Rome and Spain (Madrid and Barcelona). As a football fanatic, it was great to watch him experience international football while taking facility tours, meeting with front office and league staff, and attending multiple matches. His curious and open approach to these travel experiences was truly awesome! It does not surprise me at all he wants to go into college coaching and athletics where he can be a mentor to students. He will be a phenomenal asset to any college program both on the field and

in the boardroom. He will work tirelessly to make not only his players but himself better. This is why I have no doubt Matthew Roop will be successful in endeavors past Manchester University. Good luck to you, Matt!

Dr. Ryan Hedstrom

Nolan Sipe, cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Environmental Studies, Biology

Nolan Sipe arrived at Manchester University with the goal of pursuing a degree in which he could combine his love of nature with his desire to be a leader and a problem solver. Nolan's strong work ethic and giving personality have served him well in the pursuit of this goal. Nolan will graduate with a double major in environmental studies and biology and a minor in data science. He will also graduate having made a significant contribution to the Manchester University community through his service as a resident assistant and his leadership on the MU football team. Additionally, Nolan has contributed to the broader community through his environmental science research and internship experiences. Moving forward, Nolan plans to complete a graduate degree in ecology and focus his career on helping us better understand how to care for and maintain the natural world for future generations. Nolan, I have no doubt that you will quietly and persistently lead the way toward a more sustainable future for our planet.

Dr. Suzanne Beyeler

Kaitlynn Still, cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Marketing

Kaitlynn Still is driven! She has completed both high school and college in three years each. Just imagine a 20-year-old graduating from MU with her bachelor's degree in marketing! When asked what it took to do that, she told me, "I am determined to become successful, and without planning out how to accomplish each of my goals, I would not have gotten very far." As her friend and academic advisor, I can say that she certainly has gotten far in her first 20 years.

Kaitlynn's success comes from her persistence, organizational, and planning skills and her desire to make sure everything is under control. I have seen Kaitlynn grow both professionally and academically during her time at MU. Over the last three years, I've seen her become more confident in herself. Both

in class and in social situations she is more willing and comfortable when she shares her personal beliefs and voices her own opinion. Don't let her small stature fool you, when Kaitlynn talks, she commands the room. Most recently, in BUS 485 – Senior Seminar, Kaitlynn gave a powerful presentation on Jim Collins' book *Good to Great*. As I sat in class along with her 36 classmates, it was obvious that she was matched with the perfect book. I could not help but think what a wonderful expression Kaitlynn Still is of greatness.

Kaitlynn shared with me that every professor in the College of Business has shaped her into the young professional she is today. In addition to expanding her business acumen, her psychology and philosophy professors have helped her to think deeply and consider topics that had never crossed her mind before. Her most memorable experience at MU was not a single occurrence, but the relationships she has created throughout the years. She recognized that both the professional and personal relationships she has developed while at MU are incredibly valuable.

After graduation Kaitlynn will be working full-time for the Honeywell Foundation in Wabash, Ind. as the digital marketing coordinator. She began working at Honeywell in May of 2019 as a marketing intern and has been with them ever since. During her time there, she would like to learn as much as possible about digital marketing, professional interactions, and where the entertainment industry is heading.

Her long-term goals include pursuing a master's degree within 10 years and moving somewhere new. She loves the Indiana that she grew up in, but she desires to see what else the world has waiting for her. She would like to continue traveling, and hopefully by the time 10 years goes by, she will have traveled to Europe and beyond.

Joe Messer

Helen Teferi, summa cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Biology-Chemistry

Helen is an outstanding woman: intelligent, articulate, hardworking, detail oriented, resourceful, compassionate and full of integrity are only a few of the traits that she possesses. It has been my pleasure to watch her grow in skill, ability and conviction over her four years at Manchester. It has been an even greater pleasure to watch her take what she has learned and devote it to improving the lives of others. She has provided academic aid by mentoring and tutoring first-year students. She has raised money through the University

Phonathon. She has celebrated diversity and illuminated campus issues through her work with the Black Student Union and African Student Association. She has connected students to much-needed resources in her work as a peer educator and student health assistant and provided medical care to underserved groups in Guatemala. The University, and I'd say, the world, are a better place because of Helen. I will miss her friendly smile and chats on campus, but I know she will brighten someone else's life as she pursues her dream of a career in medicine. I wish you nothing but the best, Helen, and I know that you have the tools to succeed beyond any of our wildest expectations.

Dr. Kathryn Davis

Noah Tong, cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Sport Management, Marketing

Noah has been a wonderful student to teach at Manchester! While he is quiet in the classroom his reflection and level of work is almost always outstanding. He has a true strength in writing and personal reflection that I really appreciate seeing in his work. In his upcoming professional life, Noah will be able to combine two of his passions; writing and sports. He has already begun work as a sports writer and journalist. I look forward to following his thoughtful approach to covering sports and news stories. As well as time in the classroom, I had the opportunity to travel with Noah to Greece and Rome during the 2019 January session. Being a football nut, he was able to see professional football at a whole new international level. I also appreciated the maturity and curiosity he displayed during the study abroad experience. I have no doubt Noah will be successful in endeavors past Manchester University. Good luck to you, Noah!

Dr. Ryan Hedstrom

Lacy Walker, cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Psychology

In addition to being an excellent student, Lacy has long expressed an interest in helping those around her. She is always prepared, does her assignments on time, works well in groups, carries her load in classroom activities, and reaches out to others who need help. As someone that has overcome loss in her own life, she has expressed strong interest in helping others who experience grief or difficult challenges. It is easy to see how she can be impactful in the lives of others. All through school, she has kept a positive attitude and brought her best self to the work we do together. She has managed her responsibilities well and

has shown resilience and been productive with a stressful workload. She has chosen a challenging path by completing her degree in three and a half years while achieving an excellent GPA! Lacy will make an excellent counselor and colleague in any clinical practice or team. In a psychology practice, it quickly becomes clear who helps the team moving forward. Lacy is the kind of ethical, intelligent, kind and productive individual who does whatever it takes to get the job done right and does so in a helpful manner. She is the kind of caring person that I would want as a therapist or support person. She will be a positive force wherever she chooses to land in her career!

Dr. Rusty Coulter-Kern

Nicole Weaver, cum laude

Bachelor of Arts

Biology

Nicole Weaver will graduate with a biology major and minors in chemistry and Spanish, commencing a Ph.D. program in molecular biology at the University of Notre Dame next year. She will build upon her solid, broad foundation of undergraduate accomplishments. After one summer research position at the University of Notre Dame funded by the National Science Foundation, her next summer found her completing a pharmacogenomics (PGx) research internship at MU. That PGx project led to her impressive undergraduate keynote speaker talk at the Manchester University Student Research Symposium, in which she spoke competently and clearly, as well accessibly to the non-scientists in the audience. She worked toward success in the lab as well as on the court, as she was starting shooting guard and a captain on the MU basketball team. In addition, she worked with two first-year mentees in this year's inaugural Biology-Chemistry Peer Mentor Program, helping them evaluate changes, share insights, navigate challenges and celebrate successes. She has had many other leadership and volunteer roles in campus student organizations, moving easily between various cultural, social, and professional groups. Her social intelligence, teaching ability and interpersonal communication are excellent. Nicole Weaver is a hard-working, talented, likeable student who will excel in a graduate school research lab and, thereafter, as a researcher/educator/administrator.

Dr. Jeff Osborne

Leslie Wells, magna cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Biology-Chemistry

Leslie Wells is graduating magna cum laude this spring with a major in biology-chemistry. Leslie is a warm, friendly and genuinely happy person most of the time. She greets most everyone with a smile and a positive attitude. Academically, she is intentional and thorough, and attacks every challenge with vigor. One very strong attribute that Leslie has is her willingness to ask questions. While in three of my lecture classes and two lab courses, she was unafraid to ask lots of questions. So many students think that they somehow have to figure out everything alone and do not seek help. Others are unwilling to figure out anything alone and ask to be lead step by step. Leslie lives in the perfect land in between, where she figures out a lot of things, and assembles much information, then comes to ask specific and insightful questions. It was always a delight to see her in my office.

Her plans after graduation are a doctoral degree at the Indiana University School of Medicine in either biochemistry or molecular genetics. I am certain that her inquisitiveness and personable qualities will take her far as she pursues the frontier of science.

Dr. Susan Klein

Naomi Yilma, cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Finance, Economics, Business Management

With a triple major in finance, economics and business management and a GPA of 3.75, Naomi Yilma clearly defines an outstanding student. Yet there is much more. Naomi is also a member of Pi Gamma Nu, the oldest and preeminent international honor society in the social sciences. Naomi has been the director of event planning for the Gilbert College of Business Club and was secretary of the Economics Club. Additionally, Naomi has served as an admissions ambassador, peer tutor, student research intern, orientation leader, and resident assistant. Naomi's work as a research assistant produced key data analysis that will be included in soon-to-be published economics book authored by a faculty member. All of this, while excelling in her courses.

As a professor for several of her classes and her academic advisor, I recognize Naomi's outstanding character along with her outstanding accomplishments. Naomi is a thoughtful, considerate and engaging young adult, well-liked by peers, faculty and staff. Similarly, another faculty member describes Naomi as

“the complete student.” Furthermore, the faculty member comments that if one gives Naomi a task, it will be accomplished without need for intervention. Naomi Yilma looks forward to graduate school where, I can say with certainty, she most definitely will impress those who work with her as she has done at Manchester University.

Dr. Wendy E. Hoffman

Marcus Zwiebel, cum laude

Bachelor of Science
English

Marcus Zwiebel is every bit a student of the Humanities. His abilities in creative expression shine brightly in his art and writing, but his strongest works show his ability to connect ideas across disciplines. An art minor, Marcus is independent and curious, investigating material and technique completely unafraid of whether success or failure lie ahead. The result of such courage produces works that have been accepted to every single juried exhibition he has ever entered—an impressive feat for an artist. His need to know, to understand, and to move forward direct his progress.

An English major, he writes with the same passion, clarity and keen understanding. As editor of *Spectrum*, MU’s creative and literary magazine, as well as contributor, Marcus continues to shine with integrity and thoughtfulness. Most impressive of all is that at the heart of all his work, the center of his explorations is his regard for the individual and his passion to celebrate all that makes one human. After graduating this May, Marcus intends to continue to work, write, make art and travel—remaining true to his center.

Ejenobo Oke

