

Academic Excellence
Banquet

2022-2023

April 26, 2023
Jo Young Switzer Center



Manchester
University

Program

Reception

6 p.m.

Beauchamp Balcony Lounge

Welcome

Celia Cook-Huffman

Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dinner

6:30 p.m.

Lahman Room

Introduction of Students

Faculty and Staff Members

Congratulations students,

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

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

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

Celia Cook-Huffman
Vice President for Academic Affairs

Graduation with Distinction

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

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

Honors Students

Kayla M. Anderson, *cum laude*

Bachelor of Science

Psychology

It has been a great privilege to get to know Kayla during my time at Manchester University. I first met her in my Criminal Behavior course beginning in August 2022, and have had her in several subsequent courses. My first impression of her was that she is a dedicated and ambitious student. I have enjoyed having her in the class and the several conversations we have had about her courses and her future goals. She is smart, kind, professional, organized, a hard worker and diligent. She embodies the heart and mission of Manchester, to “lead principled, productive, and compassionate lives that improve the human condition.” She successfully completed an internship with the Philadelphia Police Accident and Investigation headquarters where she had the opportunity to work with criminal justice professionals during investigations, collecting evidence, serving warrants and delivering important documents to judges. Kayla is also involved in several clubs, trainings and other Manchester activities. For instance, Kayla is involved in the Psi Chi club and worked with the Criminology Club to show a film to both the criminology club and the Psi Chi club students and others interested. In doing so, she was able to bridge her interests in both psychology and criminology and increase the interests of both criminology and psychology students in the intersections of both disciplines. Kayla has an impressive academic and service record, one which will serve her well during her time as a graduate student and throughout her career. She has a very bright future ahead of her and so much to offer others in the communities she will eventually serve. Congratulations Kayla!

Dr. Jenn Cheek

Jake Armstrong, *magna cum laude*

Bachelor of Science

Marketing, Sport Management

It has been my privilege and pleasure to know Jake Armstrong since his freshman year. Jake was impressive from the moment I met him. He will be the first one to inform me about the latest marketing news and will always ask how I thought about the current event. He would then respond with ‘I could see your point’ and then will tell me how he thought about the issue. I was always impressed with his ability to analyze and articulate his ideas. Over the four years, it was amazing to witness the development process of his knowledge and growth as a person and professional. His progress could easily be identified

through his questions, which went from ‘What do you think’ to ‘How does this work’ to ‘How would this impact’ questions. Many times, the questions were quite in-depth, and I would have to give them some serious thought before answering. Now thinking back, I truly enjoyed his questions, which often provoked my curiosity to research the topics he brought up in our conversation. If that wasn’t enough, he would also send the latest articles via email for my pleasure. Over the last four years, I learned from Jake as much as he learned from me. I will think of him when I get a chance to watch hockey or when I read an article about the latest marketing trends. I can’t wait to see what the future holds for you, Jake!

Dr. Sun Kang

Mikaya Auerbach, *magna cum laude*

Bachelor of Science

Sociology, Criminology

I first met Mikaya in my Victimology course beginning in August 2021. She has been an absolute joy to have in the classroom then and every semester since. She is bright, kind, a hard worker and passionate about creating change, particularly regarding the criminal justice system. In the classroom, she offers important insights and asks challenging questions. She approaches her academic work with the goal of understanding and integrating her knowledge from different perspectives, courses and subjects. Mikaya works on campus as a student outreach specialist in the admissions office and is involved in several clubs and Manchester activities, where she is often a leader in planning and implementing events on campus. She is also employed as a resident assistant on campus for the past three years, where she meets with incoming students and helps freshmen students adjust to college life. The residents she works with have the nicest things to say about her because she is attentive and caring. She attends specialized trainings on campus to further her knowledge and skills, such as the Title IX and Safe Colleges training. She also organized a speaking event on campus, where she proposed, hosted and introduced the founder of You Yes You, Ericka Sanders. You Yes You is a non-profit organization in Indianapolis, which helps incarcerated men stay connected to their children. She also spends her down time reading important academic books in the field of criminology, and I have thoroughly enjoyed our intellectual conversations about the criminal justice system. She has also recently accepted admission to, and a graduate assistantship with, the O’Neill School of Environmental and Public Affairs program at Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis where she will earn her masters in policy analysis. Her long-term goals are to integrate her expertise in the criminal justice system and policy analysis to develop just and effective criminal justice policies. Given Mikaya’s academic and

service accomplishments, I have faith that she will continue to be successful academically in her master's program and go on to positively impact the world around her, advocating for social justice causes and those who do not have a voice.

Dr. Jenn Cheek

Heather Casey Binion, *summa cum laude*

Bachelor of Science

Chemistry, Engineering Science

I have known and worked with Heather in many capacities since she started at Manchester. I have been so impressed with how much she has grown during the last four years. She is one of the most talented students that I have had, and she consistently works hard towards her success. Heather has great potential to do big things in the future and I am so excited to see where she goes from here.

Dr. Kyle D. Watson

Alexandra D. Blackwood, *magna cum laude*

Bachelor of Arts

English/Language Arts Education

“There is something special about having deep conversations with people who respect and value your opinions,” Alexandra Blackwood noted as she reflected on her four years at Manchester. Throughout her time in college, Alexandra has been a thoughtful, empathetic presence across campus – whether in small group discussions during her English or education classes, in informal chats with peers at work at the library and Writing Center or in her own classroom this semester as a student teacher at Wabash City schools. She leaves MU with many accomplishments, including an Outstanding Future Educator Award, election to the Sigma Tau Delta International English Honor Society and the Kauffman Award. Above all, though, Alexandra will be remembered for making a difference in the lives of those around her and by showing us all the importance of lifting up the voices of the voiceless. In June 2022, for example, she discussed book banning, representation and censorship as a Student Voices Panelist, and she even wrote a paper for Shakespeare class that connected the

centuries-old play Othello to recent Black Lives Matter protests. Alexandra plans to use her degree in English/language arts secondary education to help others develop their own passions and empathy; in the future she plans to “teach middle school in a community where I feel welcome and happy.”

Dr. Stacy Erickson-Pesetski

Bizayehu Bomberger, *cum laude*

Bachelor of Science

Political Science

Bizayehu Bomberger will graduate as a political science major with a psychology minor as he plans to embark on a future career in law. His long-term educational and career plans include obtaining a law degree on the West Coast. Biz is a smart, confident and self-assured young man with an excellent work ethic. As his advisor and as the instructor for several courses he took as a political science major, I have been continually impressed with the maturity he displays in his work for someone so young and with his intrinsic motivation that allows him to work in a self-directed manner. As an honors student, Biz has demonstrated outstanding self-discipline, motivation, attention to detail and organizational skills so that he excels in his studies. Biz is well equipped—in terms of attitude, skills and commitment—to realize both his immediate and long-term career goals. It has been my pleasure to have Biz as an advisee and as a student during his undergraduate career at Manchester, and I wish him the very best as he embarks on a career that will allow him to “improve the human condition”. Congratulations, Biz!

Dr. Gabriela Ramalho Tafoya

Lainey Bonser, *cum laude*

Bachelor of Science

Exercise Science & Fitness

Lainey Bonser is the perfect example of a NCAA III student-athlete. “Division III student-athletes are fueled by passion. They strive to do their best on the field and in the classroom because they realize the value in athletics lies beyond a scoreboard.” Lainey has excelled in the classroom while being relentless in her pursuit of being the ultimate softball teammate and maximizing her individual softball talents. I often use the English proverb “many hands make light work” or “leave it cleaner than you found it.” After road trips, I appreciate how Lainey (with a silly smirk) quietly stares at me until I speak one of those lines. I know the truth; I don’t need to say anything when Lainey is present. She is always the first to volunteer, assist a teammate or simply be the first to do what is right,

whether on or off the field. Lainey is a Spartan for Life, one who fully lives the Manchester mission statement. I am extremely genuine when I say, "Thank you, Lainey, for leaving me a better person and coach than you found me!"

Coach Dzurick

Brooke Bouwens, *cum laude*

Bachelor of Science

Biology-Chemistry

While her school records for indoor 60 meter and 400 meter hurdles show Brooke Bouwens's ability to focus for short-duration sprints, steady persistence is her most impressive quality. An excellent student, her tenacity and creativity really appear when working on problems in the research lab. Along with multiple hours of research credit at MU, she also completed a National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates summer program at the University of Nebraska. She works well both by herself and with others. She excels at talking through different approaches and technical options available for specific research problems. While her novel research at MU has advanced the understanding of polystyrene metabolism, her time at the University of Nebraska resulted in a national conference presentation on corn growth metrics and at least one manuscript submission. Along with a full class schedule during the academic year, resulting in a B.S. with a Biology-Chemistry major and a Spanish minor, she has also served as a biology-chemistry peer mentor for first-years, excelled in indoor/outdoor track and worked as a certified nursing assistant at a retirement center. In general, Brooke handles large workloads in balanced, healthy productive ways. After venturing to Guatemala on the January 2023 Medical Practicum, where she improved her Spanish, learned how to interact with Guatemalans and thrived in the cross-cultural challenges, she is now planning to return to Guatemala for a month in July to continue learning about culture, improving her Spanish and serving with the community development organization Fundación para el Desarrollo del Norte. In August, Brooke will continue her education by matriculating to a Ph.D. program in Biochemistry at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

Dr. Jeff Osborne

Hannah Brubaker, *summa cum laude*

Bachelor of Science

Mathematics

What do long-distance runners and mathematicians have in common? Ask Hannah Brubaker, she demonstrates excellence on both stages! Perseverance, devotion and confidence. Whether it is a math problem that requires critical thinking, or a training run that offers extra mileage or intense intervals, Hannah's mastery of perseverance has been nurtured during her undergraduate years at Manchester University. The extra layer that Hannah adds to her expertise makes her unique. She doesn't just run, she competes. The drive to excel beyond others is an innate fuel that not only pushes Hannah but inspires teammates and challengers alike. She doesn't just do math, she synthesizes, evaluates and creates. This extra layer is also what has developed her pedagogical maturity. Perseverance is not only needed to solve advanced mathematical challenges, but it is vital when teaching others the art of the discipline. Hannah is a teacher, one I confidently say I want on my team. She does not pause in her planning until all preparations are made for all students. Hannah is deeply devoted to not only her discipline, her craft and her passions, but she is a woman who fiercely and faithfully loves her people. As a Christian, Hannah seeks to spread love and acceptance through testimony. The miles logged while running cross country and track provided a stage for others to witness Hannah's deep devotion. The classroom where she will soon be called teacher is a space where she will live out loud, modeling devotion to future generations of adolescents. When you put in the work and you believe in the mission, your confidence grows. Hannah Brubaker knows why she is here. She devoted time and effort toward her personal growth and development. Through this, she loved others and supported their journeys. While confidence wanes during some seasons of our lives, Hannah walks to the starting line confident in her preparation. The mathematics classroom is a space where Miss Brubaker will inspire many humans to persevere through the tough problems, devote the time to train and walk confidently through their individual races.

Dr. Stacy Stetzel

Jennifer Budd, *magna cum laude*

Bachelor of Science

Biology

Jenny is a bright light on campus. She is always engaged and ready to participate in discussions ranging from bioethics to plant anatomy. I have had the pleasure of watching Jenny grow as a scientist during her time at MU. Jenny always scores high on assignments, but the place she has shown the

most growth is in her presentation skills. Her scientific writing was good when she arrived at MU, but now they are exquisite! During oral presentations her nerves used to get the better of her, but she now can stand confidently and present complicated scientific topics with ease. She shows the Spartan spirit in her interactions with her peers, always ready to support and help those around her regardless of the situations. After graduation, she plans to seek a job in agriculture or river monitoring.

Dr. Jennifer Robison

McKenna Burkholder, *cum laude*

Bachelor of Science

Sociology

I first met McKenna on a Zoom call after she had transferred to Manchester during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in the fall 2020 semester. I wondered how our advisee/advisor relationship would go because at the time, there was no end to the pandemic in sight. Would we ever meet in person? How would I get to know her? Would she end up graduating from Manchester? There were so many questions. Clearly, McKenna continued with her academics here at MU and will be finishing strong this spring! In addition to her studies, McKenna played two seasons for the Spartan women's soccer team. Being a student-athlete meant that she needed to have strong time management skills and an ability to follow through on commitments. Sometimes I do not get to know students who are self-starters and as independent as McKenna. However, throughout her time at Manchester I have gotten to know McKenna and have appreciated her friendship. I have also seen her grow in understanding of the discipline of sociology. One of the practical ways I have seen this growth play out is in how she is approaching her career goals. McKenna is planning to become a school counselor. She has designed several course projects so that completing the assignments meant that she applied lenses of justice and equity to various populations of students she will work with in schools. I am proud of McKenna, and I know she will be great working with students whether they be at the primary, middle school or high school level. Despite transferring to MU, making new friendships, getting to know new faculty members, balancing time between athletics and academics and doing all of this during a global pandemic, McKenna has persevered. I am sad to see McKenna graduate, but I know that she is ready to move on to the next chapter in her life.

Dr. Jared Friesen

Savana Case, *cum laude*

Bachelor of Science

Political Science

It has been my privilege and pleasure to know Savana Case from Tucson, AZ, during her tenure at Manchester. She has displayed excellent leadership qualities since I met her, and she has served as the president of the Model United Nations Organization this past year. Under her capable leadership, the Model United Nations team participated in an intercollegiate conference at Indiana University Southeast, competing against four other teams. As a person, I have found Savana to be responsible, reliable, emotionally mature and committed. She has always taken an interest in Native American culture and rights and always has responsible, mature and civil opinions and ideas to share. She never ceases to amaze me with her breadth of knowledge about a variety of subjects within and outside the political science major. Savana consistently demonstrated a deep understanding of politics and the world, and she has a sharp analytical mind when evaluating complex political issues. A frequent participant in class discussions, Savana is a mature and highly knowledgeable young adult that has always impressed me with her arguments and respectful discourse. Her writing is top-notch, having been well-researched and written with clarity and purpose. Although she has always been busy, Savana has taken time to participate in university-wide activities. For example, Savana volunteered to lead a debate on Global Climate Change Cooperation as part of Discussion Day at Manchester University. Her long-term goals are to pursue a graduate degree. She will certainly be an asset to any school and professional network she gets involved in. It has been my pleasure to have Savana as an advisee and as a student during her undergraduate career at Manchester, and I wish her the very best as she embarks on a career that will allow her to “improve the human condition”. Congratulations, Savana!

Dr. Gabriela Ramalho Tafoya

Makayla M. Combs, *cum laude*

Bachelor of Science

Biology-Chemistry

I have worked with Makayla for the last few years as her academic advisor and in her role as president of the American Chemical Society. I have always enjoyed her fun demeanor and contributions to our classes and events. I am so excited for her future endeavors and I am sure that she will make wonderful contributions to her community.

Dr. Kyle D. Watson

Audrianna Diaz, *cum laude*

Bachelor of Science

History

It has been an incredible pleasure to watch Audrianna “Audrey” Diaz develop intellectually and professionally over the past four years. She is bright and inquisitive, as I have learned first-hand working with her as my advisee and as a student in many of my courses. If there’s one word to describe Audrey, it would be determined. I could offer multiple examples of her diligence, but one will have to suffice: in the spring of 2020, Audrey was in my Latin American History course when COVID hit and we were forced to finish the semester remotely. While all students of course struggled with that transition, Audrey managed to attend every virtual meeting of class. She completed all her assignments on time and she aced the final exam. Beyond her top-notch academic work, Audrey displays intense dedication to her multiple communities, both on campus and in the wider world. She has extensive volunteering experience at Manchester, including with the cross-country team and the science Olympiad. She is a bilingual heritage speaker of Spanish who is completing a minor in Spanish, and her deep understanding of both Latin American and US Latina/o/x experience will aid her in her next phase of life. Since shortly after her arrival at Manchester, Audrey has talked about wanting to become a lawyer. This fall she will take the next step on that journey, beginning her studies at the Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law. I look forward to watching her pursue her dreams, knowing she can achieve them.

Dr. Michael Staudenmaier

Hannah Durkes, *cum laude*

Bachelor of Science

Social Work

Hannah and I come from the same small, rural community and graduated from the same high school, but she has accomplished so much more as an undergraduate than I ever did. She has obviously excelled academically, but in addition to being a diligent and dedicated student, Hannah has a heart for service. She has helped build the MU student experience through her work with MAC and other student groups. She has poured herself into service as an employee of Daniel’s Place and as a social work field student at the Bowen Center. In both settings, she has unselfishly devoted herself to making life better for vulnerable and disenfranchised individuals and families in our community. One thing I have learned about Hannah is that she loves to listen—a gift that is all too rare in our world. She loves to listen to people’s stories—where they’ve been and where they’re going, what has hurt them and what has inspired them.

Hannah also has the gift of walking alongside and encouraging others to believe in themselves, even when no one else has. She has a knack for helping people find their strengths and tap into a sense of their infinite worth. With these skills at the ready, Hannah will be an outstanding social worker. It has been an absolute privilege to see Hannah achieve all she has at Manchester. Now she is poised to serve the larger world, and I cannot wait to see all she will accomplish as a Manchester graduate. I have no doubt she will contribute to improving the human condition—she has already begun to do just that.

Dr. Barb J. Burdge

Edna Eben Ebai, *cum laude*

Master of Accountancy

Bachelor of Science

Accounting, Business Management

It has been my privilege and pleasure to have worked with Edna during her time at Manchester. Edna is a double (or it may be considered triple) major (business management and accounting) and also a Master of Accountancy Degree.

Edna is committed to her own learning and this is evident with her multiple degrees. She also participated in three internships while at Manchester: one in management and the other two in accounting. In addition to doing well in her degree focused areas, she also placed in the top ten in a National Sales Competition. She is smart, wise for her age, focused on producing excellence and always shares a warm smile. I will indeed miss her stopping by my office to just say “Hi” and see how my day is going or the many times we have met arranging her schedule so she could achieve her educational goals. Edna will begin her career in Indianapolis with Ernst & Young. Her first role will be within the Audit area. I hope Edna and I will stay connected as she impacts the world, both in her career and life.

Professor Beth Driscoll

Madison Fielder, *cum laude*

Bachelor of Science

Psychology

Madison’s success comes from her organizational and planning skills and her desire to make sure everything is under control. I have seen Madison grow both professionally and academically during her time at MU. Over the last four 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. Do not let her stature fool you,

when Madison talks, she commands the room. Most recently, in BUS 485 –senior seminar, Madison shared a powerful story about her internship in applied behavior analysis last summer where she helped autistic children. She shared how a young child became agitated and violent requiring her to clear the rest of the children out of the room and calm the agitated child down. As I sat in class along with her 36 classmates, it was obvious that she has both the commitment and the ability to help others understand and then manage their emotions. As a Psychology major with concentrations in IO psychology and cognitive neuroscience and a minor in entrepreneurship, she is setting herself up to have her own practice one day. Madison has been busy during her time at MU. She is president of the psychology society and secretary of PSI CHI. Her most memorable experience at MU was not a single occurrence, but the three January term trips she went on. She had the opportunity to travel to France, Disney World in Florida and Hawaii. She recognized that both the professional and personal relationships she has developed while at MU are incredibly valuable. I especially enjoyed one exchange with Madison where she said our innovation and business class continually pushed her out of her comfort zone. She takes those ‘out of comfort zone’ opportunities to grow and learn which makes her a true professional. After graduation, Madison will attend graduate school to get her advanced degree in psychology. Her long-term goals include pursuing a Ph.D. and to work in counseling or clinical mental health. She has a bright future and will help many people along the way, a true representation of a MU graduate.

Joe Messer

Cole Filson, *summa cum laude*

Bachelor of Science

Finance, Marketing

The importance of diesel exhaust fluid. The impact of solar farms on turkey populations. Not every finance major is well versed in these topics. But Cole Filson brings a wealth of practical experience to the classroom. This blend of “hands on” knowledge and academic talent, embodied in his summa cum laude GPA, enables him to craft creative, insightful and vetted alternatives to strategic and tactical decision making. Like so many other student athletes, Mr. Filson embodies Manchester’s “academics first” approach to athletics. His game today against Wabash started less than one hour after Enterprise Risk Management ended. Per his coach’s instructions, Mr. Filson was in class for the entire session completing his case analysis. As a two-time, all-academic team selection in the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference and one of the leading hitters on the team this year, he has successfully balanced the time demands of the classroom

and the diamond. As his advisor, it has been my pleasure to see him develop his talents as he prepares to embark on his career as a financial analyst with Patrick Industries.

Dave McGrady

Kendal Garringer, *cum laude*

Bachelor of Science

Biology-Chemistry

An excellent student, Kendal Garringer sets goals and then achieves them. While completing pre-dental studies during the heart of the pandemic has been an incredibly challenging task, she has survived and flourished. On the January Session 2023 Medical Practicum to the central highlands of Guatemala, which was a short-term experience in global health, Kendal's compassion for patients, especially dental patients, was clear from her time helping the dentists. Although the U.S.-based dentist of our team was available for the first week and three different Guatemalan dentists volunteered to cover most of the second clinic week, patient demand still vastly exceeded provider capacity. These three dentists had varying approaches to the tradeoff between quality vs quantity patient care, an equilibrium faced in any profession, but amplified in that clinic situation by the fact that the communities would not have a dentist after our group left. In that context, how one dentist emphasized quantity during the second week affected Kendal deeply, leading her to ask many questions and only find some answers. The experience increased her already strong empathy with patients. In summary, Kendal has surpassed many obstacles so far in her journey to becoming a dentist. After graduating with a B.S. in Biology-Chemistry, Kendal will continue her studies this fall at Indiana University School of Dentistry. I know her patients will appreciate the high-quality care, empathy and hard work she will provide.

Dr. Jeff Osborne

Natalee Gawthrop, *cum laude*

Bachelor of Science

Biology-Chemistry

When anyone asks, "And what did you do during the pandemic?", Natalee Gawthrop will be able to answer with certainty that she served and that she engaged. Her long hours of work as a Certified Nursing Assistant in a long-term care facility during the depths of the SARS-CoV-2 outbreak provided essential care and comfort to so many elderly people. In addition, she did well in her

demanding, pre-physician assistant coursework. Both efforts were true to her stated overall goal of caring for and comforting those around her, especially when the times are the hardest. A strong student in the classroom, she sought to gain more perspective and to learn from new, challenging situations by participating in the January Session 2023 Medical Practicum course, a short-term experience in global health to two rural, Q'eqchi' and Poqomchi' (Maya) communities in the central highlands of Guatemala. Over these three weeks in January, our group from the U.S. of 12 students and nine medical professionals worked with Guatemalan medical professionals to staff primary care clinics. Natalee performed exceptionally well during that trip's dynamic, fluid, "thinking on your feet" situations of cultural ambiguity. After receiving her B.S. with a major in biology-chemistry and a minor in gerontology, Natalee will begin the Master of Science in Pharmacogenomics program at MUFW and begin applications to physician assistant school for matriculation the following year. Natalee will become an excellent healthcare provider, drawing upon a pharmacogenomic perspective and strengthening the communities in which she finds herself.

Dr. Jeff Osborne

Hope Gebhart, *summa cum laude*

Bachelor of Arts

Art, Public Relations

A Message for Hope—Dear Hope, too often we find ourselves so caught up in the details of college—so many assignments, so many deadlines, so many exams. How easy it becomes to get swallowed up, to bend under the weight of it all. But here you are, making it happen. But the real challenge is not that you survive it; it is not that you “pass,” but how you pass. That you find your place or that you make your place. That you gather up your strength to carry your load, or that you gather up your people and carry each other. That you lay out your path and follow it unfailingly with faith and conviction, or that you dig into your faith and conviction and find the path that emerges. I see you, Hope. I see you work, write, paint, draw, cry, dream, study and struggle ... I have seen you gather up your strength when you thought you had none left. I have seen you gather up your people in your arms, share your art supplies, your patience, your heart. You have made your place, Hope. You have found a good path to walk. You lead by example, but you lead with your heart. You are a light for us all. Thank you for sharing this part of your incredible journey with us. It is an honor to walk this path with you.

E. Oke

Kaitlin Graber, *summa cum laude*

Bachelor of Science

Biology-Chemistry

Kaitlin is a top student. While working with Kaitlin in traditional class formats is easy and productive, she also excels in other situations. For example, when a scheduling overlap left us without a pharmacist for one day on the January Session 2023 Medical Practicum course in Guatemala, Kaitlin was the obvious choice to manage the pharmacy, under the very loose guidance of a physician. Kaitlin showed her leadership ability, working calmly and effectively. A superior team member, her eyes, attitude and general aura seemed to glow throughout the trip, with her kind laugh sounding that all is well. In addition, Kaitlin has served as Medical Practicum Assistant for this academic year, in which she has regularly handled complex, tedious, loosely described tasks with grace. Her work in that role has a major reason why our January 2023 trip was so successful. During the pandemic, Kaitlin performed essential work as a Certified Nursing Assistant in a long-term care facility. Her thoughtful initiative to play impromptu violin concerts for the painfully isolated geriatric population there led to her senior honors thesis research project on the benefits of that interaction. She has also made beautiful music for the broader public as the Violin 1 chair next to the Manchester Symphony Orchestra concertmaster. She also helped first-year biology-chemistry majors transition to MU through her efforts as a biology-chemistry peer mentor over the years. After receiving her B.S. in May, majoring in biology-chemistry and minoring in music, Kaitlin will move on to our Master of Science in Pharmacogenomics program and begin applications to medical school for a start in the following year.

Dr. Jeff Osborne

Carly Greaves, *summa cum laude*

Bachelor of Science

English

At Manchester, Carly Greaves has truly found her place. She found comfort and compassion from likeminded peers and mentors, but also the encouragement and momentum to grow and try new things. Though she entered college as an undeclared major, I am very thankful that Carly quickly grounded herself in all the English program had to offer. She leaves MU with a major in English Writing and minors in journalism and communication Studies and with several years as writer, web editor and co-editor of our two campus publications The Oak Leaves and Spectrum. Her article “Students Rapidly Move Out of Residence Halls, Relocate for Remainder of Semester” won Best News Story in the 2021 Indiana Collegiate Press Association statewide contest, and several of her press

releases from her two internships with MU's Media Relations department have been shared widely. I have no doubt that Carly will find her place beyond Manchester as well in a writing or editing position. Beyond her impressive academic credentials, Carly's more casual and lighthearted compositions are also memorable; each time we finished a play in Shakespeare class, for example, she made us smile with an elaborate power point presentation suggesting what each character would look like as a dog. I'll miss her visits to my office, her careful and meaningful comments in class discussions, and most of all, her deep concern for humanity and those around her.

Dr. Stacy Erickson-Pesetski

Madeline Hanks, *summa cum laude*

Bachelor of Arts

Social Work

It has been my privilege and pleasure to have been Madeline Hanks' academic advisor and her professor for several social work classes. She has a strong academic identity as well as a strong work ethic. She is highly disciplined, highly motivated, and well-organized. Madeline is also graduating with a minor in French. Her linguistic skills in her first year at MU were already at such a level that she requested a more challenging French course than the one in which she was originally enrolled in her first semester at Manchester. It was then that I knew that I was advising a very highly performing student! Madeline is past president of the Student Senate and made several improvements in its processes. She is a strong advocate on behalf of students, yet she is not an abrasive person. Her strong social skills and reason allow her to capably work with many different types of people. Madeline has developed the ability to juggle academic and personal responsibilities. She has persevered through difficult personal circumstances, and amazingly, has continued to excel in her studies. I am not surprised that Madeline has earned the highest level of honors program achievement because of her strong commitment to academics. For her honors conversion assignment in Racial, Ethnic, and Gender Inequality, she interviewed international students about their experiences at Manchester University and Earlham Colleges—two small liberal arts colleges in the Midwest. She focused on their experiences related to institutional and interpersonal racism. One of the things that professors at a liberal arts institution want to see in their students is the development of critical thinking skills. Madeline has learned how to question the “powers that be” and advocate for social justice. Most social work students are drawn to work with individuals, families and small groups but struggle with 1) understanding state and federal policies and

2) working to change unjust systems on the community and societal levels. Madeline truly embodies an emerging generalist social worker with the skills, knowledge, values, and abilities to work with oppressed and vulnerable people on multiple levels. I am honored to celebrate her and expect to hear about her contributions toward making a more just and compassionate world!

Dr. Alicia Dailey

Rachael Harkins, *cum laude*

Accelerated Bachelor of Science

Nursing

I had the privilege and honor of working with Rachael Harkins throughout her accelerated BSN journey. As you know, being “a first” can be both exciting and frustrating. Pursuing an accelerated BSN degree from a brand-new program during a global pandemic is not for the faint of heart. Rachael’s determination, resilience and flexibility were evident as the program went through some growing pains. Rachael’s sweet smile and positive disposition provided a glimpse into the compassionate, caring nurse that she will become. I am thrilled to extend my warmest congratulations to Rachael on achieving the academic distinction of *cum laude*. Your hard work, dedication and commitment to academic excellence have paid off, and you should be proud of your outstanding achievement. As a *cum laude* student, you have demonstrated exceptional academic performance and a deep understanding of the subject matter. Your high grades are a testament to your intelligence, perseverance and diligence. You have set a high standard for yourself, and you have proven that with hard work and determination, anything is possible. Your academic achievement reflects your character, your values, and your drive to succeed. You have shown that you can meet the highest academic standards while also balancing other responsibilities, such as family, work, extracurricular activities and community service. As you embark on the next phase of your professional journey, I have no doubt that you will continue to excel and achieve great success. I am confident that you will use the knowledge and skills you have acquired to make a positive impact on patients, families and community health outcomes. Once again, congratulations on your remarkable achievement. You have earned this honor through your hard work and dedication, and I am proud to celebrate this milestone with you.

Dr. Nancy Schroeder

Alexia Hernandez, *summa Cum laude*

Bachelor of Science

History

Alexia Hernandez is my academic advisee as a history major, and I have also been fortunate to have her as a student in many courses over the past four years. Alexia exemplifies the essence of what makes Manchester graduates “persons of ability and conviction”: she is smart, resourceful, curious, thoughtful, hard-working and kind-hearted. Many students, especially in my advanced history seminars, struggle with comprehension on difficult readings, but Alexia routinely draws connections with other prior discussions and elucidates themes that draw her fellow students into the conversation in deeper ways. She is finalizing a fantastic SCE essay on gender and the Chicano movement of the 1970s, combining original research with a thoughtful analysis of major scholarly works on the topic. Alexia is also completing the rigorous secondary education degree program. Even as her ambitions pivoted toward pursuing an advanced degree, she has kept to her commitments in the double major and will exit Manchester with a set of teaching credentials—and a broad pedagogical knowledge base—that will serve her well regardless of where the future takes her. After graduating, Alexia will enter the PhD program in history at Indiana University in Bloomington, one of the most prestigious graduate programs in our field in the United States. Exceedingly few Manchester graduates go on to pursue a history Ph.D. at all, much less at such a distinguished program. It does not surprise me to see Alexia buck this trend, and I cannot wait to see what she accomplishes in her next phase of life.

Dr. Michael Staudenmaier

Gabrielle Hochstetler, *summa cum laude*

Bachelor of Science

Environmental Studies, Biology

Many of the greatest scientists throughout history were accomplished musicians such as Leonardo da Vinci, Alexander Borodin, Albert Einstein, George Antheil, William Herschel and Richard Feynman. Even on our campus, we have terrific musical scientists: Greg Clark, Mark Bryant and Kathy Davis to name a few. So it’s not surprising to find science majors like Gabby practicing in the Winger building or playing concerts on the Cordier stage. Science and music very naturally go hand in hand. I haven’t witnessed Gabby’s work in the science area, but I am certain she’s been a very dedicated and hardworking biology and environmental studies major. How do I know? Because I have seen her work as a musician. Sometimes I forget Gabby is not a music major, because she’s so dedicated to her art form. It takes a lot of determination and self-discipline for

music majors to make consistent progress on a string instrument. Gabby has done so while majoring in biology and environmental studies (and graduating summa cum laude, no less). I would imagine her work in the Manchester Symphony Orchestra is similar to her work elsewhere on campus. She's always prompt and prepared. She's a team player who eagerly volunteers to assist her peers, even when it will require a lot of extra time from her. She never expects accolades for her contribution. She is content to play the part of one "pah" in the "oohm-pah-pah;" a "chuck" among all the "boom-chucks." Gabby is like heatshield epoxy on a spacecraft. She reliably supports the whole without glitz or fanfare (sometimes almost invisibly), but without her everything would collapse and immediately fall apart. She doesn't just sit there and saw away on her viola; rather, Gabby is constantly self-correcting. She listens attentively to those around her and adjusts what she's doing in order to make the group better. Ensemble rehearsals are like labs, so she takes it all on like a boss! Gabby hypothesizes, forms and executes a plan, self-assesses, revises her plan and tries again until she gets it right. She does all this with humility, positivity, good humor and authenticity. Gabby is so mature and responsible, I bought her a graduation gift last May because I mistakenly thought she was a senior then. She is definitely ready to take on the wide, wide world in 2023. I am 100% certain Gabby will be a perpetual student: of science, of music and of life. The world needs more Manchester graduates like you, Gabby. Go do all the things, see all the things, love all the things and be all the things –because you can! I'm super proud of you and I am honored to be your friend!

Dr. Debra Lynn

Jenna Lynn Kane, *magna cum laude*

Bachelor of Science

Psychology

Jenna Kane has been a top student in the Psychology Department and will graduate magna cum laude with a psychology degree and a concentration in cognitive neuroscience and a minor in communication studies. She has worked in a variety of social service requiring strong organizational and social skills. If you need something to get done, Jenna would be a person who could do it! She has worked on multiple research projects and presented her research, *Romance and Remoteness A Look at the Effect of Covid-19 on the Formation and Strength of Romantic Relationships* at the Manchester University Student Research Symposium in 2021 and presented her research, *How Counterfactual Thinking and Third-Party Confiding Changes Perspective of the Situation* at the Manchester University Student Research Symposium in 2022. This year she will also attend the Midwestern Psychological Association Conference in Chicago. She has been accepted to the Master's in Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Program at Governors State University in Illinois where Jenna has received an assistantship! She will be a competent and caring professional who will have a strong and lasting impact on children as she serves in a school setting.

Rusty Coulter-Kern

Bailey Keim, *cum laude*

Bachelor of Science

Exercise Science & Fitness

Bailey Keim, *cum laude*, will graduate with honors from the Exercise Science Department with a Bachelor of Science degree in Clinical and Rehabilitation Sciences. Bailey has been a joy to be around and teach. She has pushed herself to the limits and risen to the top. She strives to be a leader and is whole heartedly focused on her future self. I have had the pleasure to be her mentor, professor, advisor and friend. She has made my life better while at Manchester University. She lifts others up when needed and allows herself to be the selfless person we all know her to be. Bailey has become one of my best students in the classroom with her ability to think on her feet, work with others, be open minded, take a challenge and speak through things as a professional. She has a way about her that makes you feel comfortable with her decisions, leadership and drive. She strives for the best and thrives on adversity both in academics and athletics. Although some ups and downs with injury in athletics, she has persevered and been the best person she knows how to be. She did not lose sight of that no matter the circumstances. She pushes herself in all aspects and I respect that 100%. I am truly a better professor after meeting someone like Bailey and having her in my classes. I thank her for the love of athletic training she has although she is not staying to continue with me. She has a fire and passion for the profession I had when I was her age. It is a fire I do not ever want to go out and with her philosophy on life and academics, I do not see that happening. I wish her the best of luck in her new ventures and remember I am always here for you no matter what. Bailey will be continuing her education as part of the Master of Athletic Training program at Franklin College.

Dr. Jeffrey Beer

Payten Kimmell, *magna cum laude*

Bachelor of Science

Early Childhood & Elementary Education

"I have incredibly big goals for the future and a big heart for the education field."

Payten Kimmell

Payten's vision as an educator was clear from the moment she introduced herself to her peers in our First Year Seminar, *Death and Other Endings*. As an astute listener, model reader and fine writer, the material was processed with intellectual depth and an eager joy to learn. As a deep and well-read analyzer, Payten established connections outside those obvious evoked by the texts, quickly transposing questions into research projects of pedagogical value. Ms. Kimmel's academic and educational savvy was affirmed early on: here is an Educator Extraordinaire in the making. Her special brand in progressive pedagogy may be attributed to her life-long curiosity and intrigue to challenge yet more learning by asking difficult questions: consistently. As a result of her didactic vision and mission, it should not surprise how Payten, e.g. transformed those lessons into an honors project exploring ways to integrate divorce education into elementary pedagogy. In yet another course, I continued to enjoy Payten's practice in open mindfulness and so much more.

Invariably, at various opportunities across our African American Literature course, Payten shared her special connections to writer, essayist, dancer, ambassador, etc. Maya Angelou. As Dr. Angelou affirms, she attributes her hardships, tragedies, and her suffering to the core elements that instilled confidence in herself. Payten marveled at this African American philosopher/writer as an overcomer and as an empowerer. She characterized Maya Angelou," as a symbol of piercing resilience against oppression and a strong advocate for global feminism." Payten demonstrates how she radiates that spirit herself, revealed and challenged in, "Phenomenal Woman," where the poet conveys the empowering emotions that can occur from—as Payten summarizes—"the confidence in every single female's skin."

In the words of the late poet herself, allow me to remind of the incantation that young women learn to resound more fully, as Payten will instill such self-faith in them:

(lines excerpted from Maya Angelou's poem "Phenomenal Woman")

I don't shout or jump about
Or have to talk real loud.
When you see me passing,
It ought to make you proud.
...
'Cause I'm a woman
Phenomenally.
Phenomenal woman,
That's me.

Dear Payten,

As one of those envisioned women, ‘phenomenally’ embracing you: purpose-guided, open-minded, question-marking, delightful-gracious and beautifully-soulful. You are ready to take on the world; and, again, let me thank you for shining your humbling grandeur into the minds and hearts of your students and the rest of us.

And remember: Never Doubt Your Sparkle.

Dr. Beate Gilliar

Ani King, *magna cum laude*

Bachelor of Science

Political Science

Ani King has been a dedicated and ambitious student since arriving at Manchester. It has been a pleasure having her in class, as she is always focused on doing her best. She has so many strengths—persistence, determination, conscientiousness. Ani’s commitment to her own learning has been evident in her decision to pursue multiple degrees while at Manchester, a political science major, International Studies and Peace Studies minors. Ani consistently demonstrated a deep understanding of political theory, as well as a sharp analytical mind when evaluating complex political issues. She regularly engaged in class discussions, bringing insightful and thought-provoking perspectives to the table. Her writing is always well-researched and clearly articulated. Ani has also shown a strong commitment to community service and civic engagement. She has been actively involved in the Black Student Union, Model United Nations and has organized/participated in community service projects that demonstrate her commitment to making a positive impact in society. One example of this is in Fall 2021 when Ms. King was one of the student panelists at the university-wide conversation on racism as part of our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Initiative. Ani is currently applying to graduate programs, with an interest in politics and public policy. Any one of the programs she applied to will be lucky to have her. Ani has a bright future ahead of her, with so much to offer the communities she will go on to serve. It has been my pleasure to have Ani as an advisee and as a student during her undergraduate career at Manchester, and I wish her the very best as she embarks on a career that will allow her to “improve the human condition”. Congratulations, Ani!

Dr. Gabriela Ramalho Tafoya

Matt Kochanski, *magna cum laude*

Master of Accountancy

Bachelor of Science

Accounting

If I had to select one memory of Matt Kochanski, it would be from the semi-finals of the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference basketball tournament in February. He didn't hit a game winning three pointer. He didn't make a crucial free throw. In fact, he didn't even play. He wasn't in uniform. He was in the stands. Vocally supporting other students at Manchester. I've been told by other students, he actually is an exceptional basketball player. But I've never heard Mr. Kochanski say that. I admire his humility. Like all the other students being honored, Mr. Kochanski has a long list of accomplishments and other admirable traits. I'll mention one other. Mr. Kochanski demonstrated an uncanny ability in advanced tax to make the complex seem simple. He quickly could decipher the myriad rules governing controlled groups. More than once, he pointed out to me none of the answers on the homework question I had written could be correct. I always had to bring my "A game" in that class. I thank him for that.

Dave McGrady

Elizabeth Kreps, *summa cum laude*

Bachelor of Arts

Peace Studies, Educational Studies

I met Libby Kreps in the fall of her first year at Manchester. That does not distinguish me much; I would bet by six weeks into that semester, Libby had established a solid network of friends and acquaintances that, if mapped, would have covered 90% of campus clubs, programs and offices. This alone would be sufficiently remarkable, but in addition, Libby has the academic chops that have calmly carried her to the list of summa cum laude graduates. Libby 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 drops by your office to run through some paper ideas as soon as the assignment is announced; the one who asks the questions you hope someone will ask, then perfectly applies a theory that you discussed in some course three semesters ago but haven't mentioned since. Libby raises everybody's game.

As impressive as it is, the list of Libby's community work, social activities and academic achievements doesn't appropriately honor the personal qualities that distinguish everything Libby does. Libby's openness, enthusiasm, humility and reflexive kindness draw people to her; it is the most effective organizing power

there is. If I were asked what is most needed to change the world, to build the kind of communities that can confront the hardest questions and generate the most promising answers—that package of traits that Libby unfailingly brings? That would be it.

Dr. Katy Gray Brown

Sara Lynette Lake, *summa cum laude*

Accelerated Bachelor of Science

Nursing

Sara Lake brought dedication and a “teacher’s mindset” to the ABSN program. As a wife, mother and teacher for many years, she was such a stabilizing presence in the classroom. It was a joy to share in her educational journey and to witness her transformation into a professional nurse. Sara worked tremendously hard to excel academically and experientially all while maintaining work, life and school balance. I remember distinctly how respectful, caring, and professional Sara was with patients, classmates, faculty and staff. I am thrilled to extend my warmest congratulations to Sara on achieving the academic distinction of *summa cum laude*. Your hard work, dedication, and commitment to academic excellence have paid off, and you should be proud of your outstanding achievement. As a *summa cum laude* student, you have demonstrated exceptional academic performance and a deep understanding of the subject matter. Your high grades are a testament to your intelligence, perseverance and diligence. Congratulations on your new role as a Post Anesthesia Care Unit nurse, I have no doubt that you will continue to excel and achieve great success. I am confident that you will use the knowledge and skills you have acquired to make a positive impact on patients, families and community health outcomes. Congratulations on your remarkable achievement. You have earned this honor through your hard work and dedication. It has been an honor and privilege to share this milestone with you.

Dr. Nancy Schroeder

Emily Lynch, *cum laude*

Bachelor of Science

Software Engineering

Software Engineering major Emily Lynch is ... shy ... quiet ... dedicated ... organized ... dependable ... prepared ... dogged ... inquisitive ... resourceful. When I first met Emily in Fall 2019, it was evident from the get-go that she was the first two, shy and quiet. It did not take long to realize she was also the next two, dedicated and organized. Emily is always committed to her courses and

organizes her time and her work to get the most out of classes. I have had Emily in seven courses; I can depend on her to be there early (usually in the front corner seat of Science 142) and prepared with questions from the previous class session. Emily does not give up when she faces obstacles. Instead, she digs until she has found resources and information needed to solve a difficult programming problem or more thoroughly understand a certain software functionality. I have had the pleasure this year of advising her senior project on the topic of Natural Language Processing and Detection of Fake Product Reviews. We have worked together to build neural network models to classify on-line reviews as either human written or computer generated. Next time you see Emily you should ask about tokenization and lemmatization, stop words and stemming! In addition to her Software major, through pursuit of minors in mathematics and data science, Emily has taken 21 courses in our department. I think it is safe to say Emily counts ... and computes ... and codes ... and compiles ... and collects ... and correlates! It is also worth noting she is an excellent writer, applying her organizational skills to researching and synthesizing information. Throughout the time I have known Emily it has been my goal to make her laugh at least once in every course. This has sometimes been a difficult task; however, my ultimate teaching success was this semester when, I not only made her laugh, but actually giggle. Best wishes, Emily—our department has very much enjoyed having you with us these past four years!

Dr. Jim Brumbaugh-Smith

Lisette Moreno, *magna cum laude*

Accelerated Bachelor of Science

Nursing

When I reflect on Lisette Moreno's time in the ABSN program at Manchester University, I think of so many amazing attributes that she brought to the program. Lis is an excellent student, demonstrating a high level of learning engagement in the classroom, clinical and lab settings. She consistently produced above-average coursework and maintained an exceptional GPA while working as a Patient Care Technician (PCT) in the Preoperative/Recovery Unit. In addition to her work and school load, she was pursuing a master's in public health (MPH) degree from George Washington University. I'm not sure how she did all this! Lis is a phenomenal student who fully embraces a love for lifelong learning. She always sparked interesting discussions in class. In addition to her many academic achievements, Lis was also a leader. She served as Secretary of the Indiana Association of Nursing Students (IANS). In this role, Lis prepared the annual budget, managed expenditures and secures reimbursements. Lis played a lead role in many volunteer activities including distributing Covid 19

vaccine education and surveys. Lis has such an impressive array of educational, leadership, service and work-related experiences. She is a conscientious, hardworking individual who cares and advocates for her patients. I am thrilled to extend my warmest congratulations to Lis on achieving the academic distinction of magna cum laude. Your hard work, dedication, and commitment to academic excellence have paid off, and you should be proud of your outstanding achievement. I know that Lis will continue to excel and achieve great success. I am confident that you will use the knowledge and skills you have acquired to make a positive impact on patients, families and community health outcomes. Congratulations on your remarkable achievement. You have earned this honor through your hard work and dedication. It has been an honor and privilege to share this milestone with you.

Dr. Nancy Schroeder

Bridget Nash, *cum laude*

Bachelor of Science

Digital Media, Marketing

Bridget Nash ... I was introduced to Bridget, a freshman two-sport student-athlete, as someone who liked to take photos and was creative. My immediate thought was “I could put her to work!” So, I did. That is how our connection began – I had a need and Bridget was eager to be challenged.

The first year Manchester hosted the NCAA Division III Men’s Basketball Championship in 2019, Bridget was asked if she could create a hype video for each of the four teams advancing to the semifinal round of the tournament as well as a compilation video that encompassed the teams’ road to the final four. She enthusiastically said “YES!” The results were the highlight of the tournament, played for the teams and those in attendance at the tournament. That was all that was asked of her, but she took it one step further and, overnight, created new videos for the championship participants with footage from their first game, setting a new standard.

Bridget is a scholar of her craft. During conversations with Bridget about the process, I learned that she was unsure how to accomplish certain aspects of her vision, but she didn’t let that stop her from getting the look and feel she wanted. She researched and watched YouTube tutorials, asked others for advice, and trial and error, always learning.

After a two-year hiatus for creating NCAA content due to COVID cancelling the DIII tournaments, Bridget came back with bigger ideas and higher goals. In 2022, content for the videos would include soundbites from the selection show,

content from promotional events around Fort Wayne, and ultimately, a video created specifically for the tournament champion. She managed a creative team of two additional students and brought the DIII tournament to a level typically reserved for Division I, elevating the standard.

Going into what could be her final DIII tournament, she again asked herself, how can we elevate the tournament experience this year? The answer, an individual video shoot for the teams advancing to the championship game. In 2023, the content team increased to three additional students who captured video and still images that were incorporated into the four teams' hype videos, the participants' road to the final four video, individual player intro videos for the championship game, and the champion's overall path to the trophy including the buzzer beater shot that went up with 0.6 seconds on the clock to give the championship team their two-point victory. Her team's work was showcased twice on the national vlog D3hoops.com in their recap of the Men's Basketball championship.

All-the-while, Bridget has maintained high academic standards, appearing on the Dean's list, being named Academic All-HCAC, working no less than one on or off-campus job, participating in women's soccer and basketball and graduating with honors. I can't say enough about Bridget—her ability, her drive, her tenacity, her desire to continually learn and how she has impacted me. Thank you, Bridget, for the opportunity to be along for the ride!

Tami Hoagland

Ryan Nastav, *cum laude*

Bachelor of Science

Engineering Science

Ryan Nastav is one of our illustrious dual-degree engineering science majors at Manchester University. He will be the one of the last two majors in this challenging forty-three-year-old program as he finishes up coursework at Manchester before moving on to an engineering school. There he will complete his MU degree requirements and earn a second degree in engineering from that institution. Ryan has been a great student to work with. He is easy going, has a great sense of humor, possesses a curious and inquiring mind and has been deeply engaged in his studies. Mr. Nastav asks questions in and outside of class to make sure he deepens his understanding of the material at hand and he has shown a knack for working in the laboratory. While working hard on his studies in mathematics and physics, Ryan was able to balance his time well and play on the MU baseball team while also serving as a tutor in mathematics—not an easy task! He survived the “interesting” second semester at Manchester when

the pandemic hit and stayed well engaged during that long spring. After that taxing introductory year of college, he took off with his upper-level courses, taking three challenging upper-level physics courses from me (with demanding accompanying laboratories), all the while embracing the challenge and excelling in his work. Ryan has applied to a number of engineering schools to continue his studies and is awaiting responses so that he can make his final decision as to where he will attend. Whatever school he chooses, he will be an excellent addition to the program and to whatever group with which he works. I wish Ryan all the best as he moves into the next chapter of his engineering journey and I look forward to hearing of his future successes.

Dr. Gregory W. Clark

Alexis Quick, *summa cum laude*

Bachelor of Science

Marketing, Business Management

Do I even know where to start? I have had the honor of watching Alexis grow into the strong and empowered leader that she is today. I remember her entering with a pure eagerness to learn and lead, but also the perfectionist tendencies that we have slowly chipped away at and learned from. I have had the pleasure of having her in class where she leads and listens with enthusiasm and passion, she will be the first person to help a peer and the last one to leave the classroom. Additionally, Alexis has served alongside me as the Honors Program Coordinator for the past three years. She has helped me in countless ways to keep the Honors Program moving forward so that it is organized and energized. She was instrumental in advocating for an Honors Program floor in one of the first-year residence halls and served on the Undergraduate Honors Committee as we made necessary changes. It goes without saying that Alexis has embraced and excelled at Manchester University (no one would be shocked to hear that), but I do want her to always remember the valuable and unique contribution she brings to any room she enters. There are many students that will leave a lasting impression and be remembered, but Alexis will be one on a short list for me that I will deeply miss. Whether it is her just stopping by my office for life advice, a laundry list of courses and life goals, or sharing a funny story about a weekend adventure I want her to remember, I will always be in her corner and support her however I can (do not ghost me). As she starts on her next journey at Illinois State (my alma mater), my hope for her is that she keeps going where she finds joy. Her drive is unmatched, I want her to remember to not let anyone slow her down because her journey will be endless. I will close with this last piece of advice, Alexis always remember you can do hard things and every small accomplishment deserves to be celebrated.

Dr. Tim McKenna-Buchanan

Nicole Redden, *magna cum laude*

Accelerated Bachelor of Science

Nursing

Nicole, it is with great pleasure that I extend my heartfelt congratulations on your exceptional achievement of graduating with magna cum laude honors. This is a remarkable accomplishment! Nicole always demonstrates a dedication and attention to detail that will serve her well as she provides safe, effective care for her patients. She is also a critical thinker and will apply this essential attribute to becoming an amazing nurse! Your academic success is a testament to your intellectual ability, exceptional work ethic and strong commitment to excellence. You have demonstrated an unwavering passion for learning, a love for lifelong learning and the pursuit of academic excellence, which are qualities that will pave the way for successful future endeavors. It is an honor and privilege to serve as one of your learning facilitators as you made your educational journey in the ABSN program. I have been impressed by your collaborative approach to solving problems, your questioning spirit and commitment to positive patient outcomes. Your contributions to improve the ABSN student experience are highly valued and deeply appreciated. I am confident that your future will be bright and successful as you continue to apply these skills in your professional and personal life. Once again, congratulations on this remarkable achievement, and I wish you all the very best for your future.

Dr. Nancy Schroeder

Rachael Lynn Ressler, *cum laude*

Bachelor of Science

Business Management

Over the last four years, I have had the pleasure of watching Rachael grow into a thoughtful, solution-focused, and confident professional. Rachael is used to hard work. She grew up on a family farm, enjoyed a four-year volleyball career at MU and stepped into leadership positions in the classroom and other areas. The drive and determination I have witnessed will be such an asset to her life and those who work alongside her. Racheal also is quite introspective as she works to determine her purpose and how best to align her life. I have worked with her on defining who she is at the core and to align her beliefs and goals in a way that will bring her fulfillment and impact her piece of the world in a major way. Racheal will graduate with a major in business management and a minor in professional sales. I have had the privilege of having her in sales classes and she certainly adds a spark to the room. Her leadership within a student sales team was evident as the group placed second in a National

Competition. She also completed an internship at Metrolina Greenhouses which prompted her to focus on sales opportunities within the horticulture industry. I will miss Rachael. She has been a light to this campus since day one. As she continues to discern her next step, I am confident that wherever she lands and whatever she does will add tremendous value. I am grateful I have been part of the journey thus far and my hope is that Rachael and I will stay in contact throughout her life and career.

Professor Beth Driscoll

Thomas Richardson, *summa cum laude*

Bachelor of Science

Software Engineering

Software engineering major Thomas Richardson excels in all things software and all things running. Just as he has gone the extra mile for MU's cross country and indoor track teams, his classroom preparation and work products are at an all-star level. When not coding software or writing documentation, Thomas is often seen running—or should I say darting—around campus, seemingly tearing up the sidewalks while at complete ease. (In fact, I just saw him in full stride gliding past my office—for the third time—as I write this on a Saturday evening.) His athletic accomplishments include: Member of 2019 Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference championship team; 2021 Fall HCAC Individual Champion; Holder of 4th best 5000-meter men's indoor time in MU history, and 11th best cross-country time and Two-time Academic All-HCAC. Thomas has a wicked sense of humor, which means we have had many pleasant linguistic jousts. However, as the semesters have progressed, I have initiated fewer and fewer of these friendly battles as he always seems to get the best of me! In addition to athletics, Thomas has been active on campus as a Resident Assistant and a member of the Environmental Studies Club. Upon graduating, Thomas will be working for Nucor Steel in Crawfordsville, IN, where he had a successful internship last summer. Based on a stellar academic foundation and his strong work ethic, I'm sure he will hit the ground running as he begins his software career. And am also sure he will continue to hone his running talents—running code, running debuggers, running test—and mainly, running circles around the competition! P.S.—Thomas is also extremely thorough, paying careful attention to assignment instructions. If asked for a response of 300-500 words, he would certainly make sure his was no less than ...

Dr. Jim Brumbaugh-Smith

Terri J. Roach, *cum laude*

Bachelor of Science

Psychology

Ever since the first time Terri was in her first class of mine, I have deeply appreciated her ability to think critically and the courage to speak her mind. Knowing Terri from class is one thing, but during her time at Manchester University I had the opportunity to see her perform standup comedy at a student talent show in Cordier Auditorium. This kind of thing takes guts! Terri was hilarious. I have so much respect for her for even getting on stage by herself in a large venue and trying to entertain people, let alone doing it successfully. In addition to performing stand up on campus, Terri has also been involved in various Manchester Theater Society productions. Terri has also participated on the MU Esports team. During her four years at MU, Terri has worked to get every last drop out of her undergraduate experience by working hard academically, developing friendships with a variety of other students and taking part in multiple on-campus experiences. Any time I see Terri on campus we have a conversation, which is different from many other students. Often, I get a wave or “Hey Friesen” and I appreciate these gestures. But the students who want to have conversations are the ones I get excited about knowing. There is a genuine investment that goes both ways and it is a sign both of curiosity and maturity. Terri lives this out in her daily life. Events such as the Academic Excellence Banquet are bittersweet for me. On one hand we spend time honoring great people. On the other hand, moments like these mark the end of a season with these students. I hope others see Terri’s potential and abilities. I believe she (and I suspect she will roll her eyes at this) is and will be a graduate who lives out the MU mission statement to be a person of conviction that will improve the human condition.

Dr. Jared Friesen

Fernanda Robles, *cum laude*

Bachelor of Science

Criminology, Sociology

Drive, focus and execution are words I would use to describe Fernanda. Over the past four years I have witnessed her pursue her undergraduate education with an intensity that few other students match. It has taken me four years to even think I know what Fernanda is thinking about a topic or plan. At first, I thought this was because she was shy. I no longer think of Fernanda as shy. She simply doesn’t often waste words when nothing needs to be said. As a first generation student and as the child of immigrants Fernanda has had countless firsts in her life that many other students could not imagine handling. Perhaps

these experiences have shaped her efficient and thorough approach to her academic career. I am in awe of students such as Fernanda who have “adulted” throughout their lives to not only get to college but to crush it while she has been here at Manchester University. Fernanda has expressed to me on several occasions that she would like to pursue a career in law. In order to do this she will need to employ the skills and knowledge she has accumulated to this point in her life to go beyond what is expected. There is no doubt in my mind that Fernanda can become an attorney if that is what she wants to do. Whatever the future holds for Fernanda, she will be great at it and we will be proud to call her one of our graduates.

Dr. Jared Friesen

Sarah Rohr, *summa cum laude*

Bachelor of Science

Psychology

Sarah Rohr has been a top student in the Psychology Department and will graduate *summa cum laude* with a psychology major. She has worked as a student assistant and tutor for the Psychology Department all the while she has been a Spartan Ambassador for the Admissions Department at MU! She has engaged in multiple research projects and is currently collecting data on Fortune 500 companies’ mission statements. She presented her last research project, *The Role of Professor Support in Career and Life Preparedness*, at the Midwestern Psychological Association Conference in Chicago in 2022. She will take a Gap year to work before she pursues a doctorate as an Industrial-Organizational Psychologist. Her work ethic, quantitative and qualitative research skills will serve her well as she leaves MU to excel in graduate school!

Rusty Coulter-Kern

Elizabeth Joan Schmidt, *magna cum laude*

Master in Accountancy

Bachelor of Science

Accounting, Finance

Brava, Elizabeth! I marvel at what you have done and continue to accomplish. You are a SCHOLAR soon to graduate as an Honors Medallion recipient with a Master of Accountancy & Bachelor of Science in Finance & Accounting (and with a minor in music who plans to continue graduate studies in vocal performance)! You are a LEADER holding positions as College of Business Club President, Riley Dance Marathon President, College of Business Writing Place

Director and Student Senator. You are a MUSICIAN participating in multiple music ensembles, performing leading roles in Opera Workshop and preparing to present a solo vocal recital. You have accomplished all of this with discipline, dedication and determination. When you have arrived at my office for piano lessons, I have known that you will be prepared. Thank you for consistently practicing and being willing to receive criticism which will most likely result in the need for more practicing. You have learned that the life of a musician is full of many hours of practice in solitude. These hours can be tedious and trying, but you have experienced the fruits of your labor. Your persistence has paved the way for your success! May you be blessed as you continue to live life fully no matter what the future holds. As they say in the opera world, “Toi, Toi, Toi!”

Dr. Pamela Haynes

Adrianna Shires, *magna cum laude*

Bachelor of Science

Global Health

Why do they do that? Have you ever thought of doing it a different way? Will they have sushi? AJ is one curious individual! I came to know this when we travelled to Belize, Central America for a course trip in January. It is amazing how the dynamic of the group is changed because of one student’s curiosity and willingness to ask questions. There is freedom and exhilaration that comes from taking risks and some students choose to shut down or pull up short when they are in a foreign setting. In spite of missing comforts of home and people she loves, AJ extended herself during this course trip. I witnessed a student in AJ that was trying to make the most out of every experience. In doing so, she extended an invitation to the rest of us to do the same. Few people can accomplish what AJ has done academically. But even fewer people can take that next step of asking why? What is it all about? What if we did things differently? This quality is exceedingly rare in our modern world. You might think this attitude and behavior was cultivated in a worry-free childhood environment. This has not been the case for AJ. Experiencing the death of a parent and other disruptions along her path to Manchester University are among the hurdles AJ has had to clear. In many ways, AJ wasn’t supposed to make it to college, let alone wildly succeed here. The fact that she has done so and continues to want to know more without experiencing the head start many have is one of the many reasons we should not just honor AJ for her accomplishments but also be humbled that she spent four years with us. We are proud of what she has done but even more excited for what’s next in her life.

Dr. Jared Friesen

Sara Shultz, *cum laude*

Bachelor of Science

Social Work

To say Sara has been an absolute pleasure to have in class is an understatement. Her attention to detail is impressive, as is her ability to understand the “why” behind any given assignment. She is a strong critical thinker who adeptly grapples with the ambiguities and complexities of the world. Not only is Sara a stellar student, but she is a person of considerable leadership ability. She has helped establish a positive, productive tone among her peers. One of Sara’s most remarkable leadership qualities is the sense of sturdiness she brings to the table and how this emboldens those around her. I have seen her have this effect on her classmates in challenging courses as well as on clients whom she has served during her social work field placement at Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana this spring. Being so grounded and centered in her own authenticity, Sara empowers others to be themselves and to value themselves. She sees the best in others, keeps her sense of humor and sense of perspective, and has the gift of giving courage to others who are struggling to find their way. Sara has a great deal to give to the world, and I for one am eager to see all she accomplishes after graduation. I am not at all surprised that she has already been accepted into graduate school, and I have no doubt that she will excel there as she has at Manchester. I have complete confidence that Sara will be an exceptional social worker who uses her considerable talent, energy, and wisdom to improve the human condition for so many who are most in need.

Dr. Barb J. Burdge

Lauren Smith, *cum laude*

Bachelor of Science

Business Management

Lauren is one of those rare students who will be graduating from MU with a Bachelor of Science in Business Management with a minor in entrepreneurship and seven seasons of NCAA competition. Running cross-country for four years and indoor and outdoor track for three years. This past fall MU’s cross-country team won the conference championship while Lauren won second and her teammate/best friend went first. Lauren has grown immensely athletically, intellectually and emotionally throughout the past four years. In addition to her family who have continually loved and supported her. Some of the major influencers at MU were Hannah Brubaker one her best friends, her teammates, her coach and Taylor, a previous roommate. Lauren contributes her success at MU to becoming more self-aware. It has contributed to her growth and helped her better understand the people in her life. Lauren will surely succeed in her

chosen profession. Her business acumen is outstanding. Her caring personality, desire to understand people, team approach and the competitive drive to push herself will continue to make her an ideal leader. She wants the best for herself, but more than that she wants the best for others around her. She understands the link between the needs of all constituents in a business. She values customers, employees, owners, society and the environment. She has shown a remarkable ability to find solutions that benefit all those groups. Lauren's success at MU comes from two traits that really stand out, adaptability and determination. Lauren is determined to make the best of any situation, and she is adaptable enough to focus on important issues while avoiding distractions. These two traits helped drive Lauren to where she is today. Her intelligence is not limited to her academic success. She understands that college is a unique time for students. Lauren has excellent time management skills and because of that she was able to earn outstanding grades in both her major and minor and still find time to train and compete at the highest level of distance running while at MU. Some of her most memorable experiences at MU were the ones spent with her best friends. Lauren shared that they made her experience the absolute best and she wouldn't be the person she is today without them. Currently Lauren is looking for a position where she can thrive by using her talents and passions. She is planning on relocating to Bloomington in the fall. As her life progresses, she wants to be spending time with the people she loves and working at a job where she can fulfill her passion of helping others. As someone who has seen Lauren grow and succeed over the last several years, I have no doubt that she will continue to be a wonderful leader, teammate, and friend.

Joe Messer

Lauren K, Sponseller, *magna cum laude*

Bachelor of Science

Psychology

Lauren Sponseller has been a top student in the Psychology Department and will graduate magna cum laude with a psychology major. She has worked in a variety of jobs serving clients in mental health, supporting women in distress and providing support and structure for children at a youth club. She has strong interpersonal skills, strong organizational skills and is always a delight to be with. She is presenting her research, Investigating the Relationship Between Job Satisfaction, Life Satisfaction and Low-Income Individuals at the Midwestern Psychological Association Conference in Chicago. She will take a gap year to work before beginning a degree to become a School Psychologist. She will be a competent and caring professional who will have a strong and lasting impact on the children she serves.

Rusty Coulter-Kern

Adelle Stanko, *magna cum laude*

Bachelor of Science

Biology-Chemistry

Asking Adelle Stanko “What book are you reading?” will usually return a different answer. Her love of literature (and of learning and understanding) is wonderful in this era in which time seems to be passed more commonly with TikTok. Broadly gifted, Adelle’s abilities and interests in many areas sometimes evoke a variation of the classic omnivore’s dilemma. With so many interesting directions and possible paths from which to choose, how does one write the next pages in one’s life? When the spotlight of her focus illuminates a subject, though, she learns brilliantly. In 400-level biochemistry, she was one of the top students in the class, displaying excellent understanding and asking insightful questions. A leader outside the classroom, too, and having abundant energy to channel, she has been a defensive mainstay on the MU soccer team, from which her work ethic and speed have also transferred to track’s sprints and jumps. Seeking still other experiential learning opportunities, her desire to leap across the ocean in international study programs was unfortunately stifled by the pandemic’s restrictions. Nevertheless, she took the initiative to explore the United Kingdom on her own this past fall, facilitated by living and laboring with families on organic farms in England. This summer, after receiving a B.S. with a major in biology-chemistry and a minor in psychology, Adelle will work at a camp to begin the next chapter in her story.

Dr. Jeff Osborne

Aidan Stevens, *magna cum laude*

Bachelor of Science

Psychology

When I see Aidan Stevens listed on my class roster, I smile and feel a bit of relief. I’m not alone in this—any faculty and students have told me as much. Aidan has been a true student leader in and out of the classroom, and he has made every environment better by being a part of it. He is funny, brings out the best in others, approachable, and respectful of all. In four years Aidan has committed to each educational opportunity with the wisdom to make the most of it, and has grown in his ability to do so without placing too much pressure on himself. I know in graduate school he will help other students be able to relax but work hard and that his professors will enjoy his creativity and enthusiasm as much as we have. This guy is going to keep succeeding and bringing others along with him. We (the psych department) are all SO proud of him!

Dr. KJ Kessie

Gianna Struewing, *summa cum laude*

Master of Accountancy

Bachelor of Science

Accounting

Gianna started her Manchester journey as a premed student and quickly learned that although she loved to learn and enjoyed analytical challenges, accounting was better suited for her. Gianna made her debut as an accounting major in the throes of a pandemic and never looked back. She excelled quickly, acing the introductory classes, and serving as a peer tutor for students in the principles of accounting and business law courses. Gianna's unwavering commitment to excelling in all she does is evident by her accomplishments: graduating with honors and starting full-time as a staff accountant. Her unwavering commitment was not just for accounting but for all her classes. Gianna just has a strong passion for learning! And she has stayed true to this passion along the way, connecting her interest in sciences and love for accounting when she settled on a topic for her honors project: *The Correlation Between Math Skills in Accounting and Chemistry*. I am confident that no other person shares this level of passion for both accounting and chemistry that Gianna does. Gianna's strong analytical skills, professionalism, positive attitude and flexibility landed her an internship with Kemper CPA Group, LLP in Connersville in the winter and spring of 2022. These same attributes earned her a full-time position with the firm beginning summer of 2023 where she will be working as a staff accountant focusing on tax work. In addition to getting married and starting her career this summer, Gianna will be preparing for the rigorous four-part, 16-hour, CPA exam. And if that is not enough, she may even be seen participating in a pick-up basketball game when time permits (another passion of hers). Although I will miss having Gianna in class and on-campus, I am excited to see Gianna's career progression and the great successes she will have in her personal and professional life.

Heather Twomey

Giovanna Struewing, *summa cum Laude*

Bachelor of Science

Exercise Science & Fitness, Psychology

Giovanna Struewing will be graduating summa cum laude with a double major in exercise science & fitness and psychology. I began working with Giovanna in January 2021 as her Success Advisor and have enjoyed seeing her grow and come out of her shell over the years. Giovanna is a prime example of a lifelong learner and will be continuing her education at Ball State University, where she has been accepted into their competitive master's program for Sport and

exercise psychology. Outside of the classroom, Giovanna has enjoyed being a member of BSU and playing intramural basketball. Going forward, Giovanna will take the skills she has learned here at Manchester and be a light in her community sharing her love of academics and service to others. I am so proud and cannot wait to see all the things she will accomplish. Congratulations, Giovanna!

Jen Kuepper

Naomi Taddesse, *summa cum laude*

Bachelor of Science

Software Engineering

Naomi Taddesse will graduate summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in Software Engineering. It has been my pleasure to know and work with Naomi. She is naturally proactive and a tenacious learner. We have had many conversations about projects, and she always wanted to know the why, not just the how. Beyond scholastic, Naomi was a student worker for ITS and was actively involved in international student events. Even though she had a busy schedule (she graduated a semester early), she always had time to help other students, often partnering with weaker students on projects and helping them with homework. She completed a Software Engineering internship in Virginia with a non-profit where her family lives. After the internship, she was offered a position with that company, but at our last conversation she is going to take her time to find her perfect job.

Professor Robin Mitchell

Kaitlin Velie, *summa cum laude*

Bachelor of Science

Exercise Science & Fitness

Kaitlin Velie, summa cum laude, will graduate with honors from the Exercise Science Department with a Bachelor of Science degree in Clinical and Rehabilitation Sciences. It has been a pleasure working with Kaitlin since the beginning of her college career. I remember a young and energetic student ready for learning in every situation she could. She has been so sure of her educational direction and drive and still does today. She is a great person with passion, focus and drive in every aspect of her life. She has spent countless hours in the classroom learning what it takes to be successful. She is dedicated to her schooling, peers and community. Kaitlin is a very selfless person in all aspects and is a joy to teach even today in our Master of Athletic Training program. She has a passion for traveling and language which I admire very

much. Her hard work and effort towards multiple majors made her who she is today, which is a class act and great human being. Kaitlin makes everyone around her better and others should be blessed to know her. She will continue to be successful and make us all proud at MU. She has already continued her education in Fort Wayne as part of the Master of Athletic Training program. Since starting, she has not missed a beat with her education, dedication and drive. We are hopeful we can send her to Spain for clinical rotations to use her vast knowledge of athletic training and her love for the Spanish language. I wish you the best of luck Kaitlin and I am always here for guidance or just a good talk.

Dr. Jeffrey Beer

Shayla Welch, *magna cum laude*

Bachelor of Arts

Educational Studies, Mathematics, Peace Studies

In some ways, it does not make sense for me to write this summary. I never had Shayla as a student in a class (except supervising her internship). In some ways, though, it makes perfect sense. I have been her advisor for four years and I know her more from activities outside of class, like student clubs, than in class. Shayla is active in several student clubs. She has taken an active role in student clubs on campus. She helps to lead discussions and she participates in trips and conferences when they are available. She is also willing to help whenever she can with whatever needs help. As examples, Shayla has helped out with food drives and has given talks to community organizations. Shayla is a triple major: mathematics, peace studies and educational studies. As a requirement for the mathematics major, she did an internship. Internships for mathematics majors are not always easy to acquire, but she did it. What is more impressive, though, is the internship she did. She worked at the United Planning Organization in Washington, DC, a public service agency. In this internship, Shayla was able to pull in aspects from all three of her majors and combine them in a way that helps people. The internship had a few hiccups, but she was able to persevere and complete a solid project that will benefit residents of Washington, DC now and in the future. Shayla is a very determined student. She does not let things get in her way. She meets deadlines even when I might have doubts. She creates high quality work. She does this while pursuing three majors and holding down a job. Honestly, I am continually surprised by what Shayla can do, though at some point, the surprise should wear off. She is a phenomenal student who will not let anything stop her from achieving her goals. We will be hearing the name Shayla Welch again in the future.

Dr. Tim Brauch

Diana Wilson, *magna cum laude*

Bachelor of Science

Environmental Studies, Biology

Persistent, joyful, astute—those are the top three adjectives describing Diana. I have had the pleasure of mentoring Diana as a professor and research advisor during her time at MU. Diana is on a mission to save the world's freshwater, and I have no doubt she will do so! During the course Orientation to Research (BIOL-395), Diana laid out a research plan to investigate the potential of native aquatic plants to remove excess nutrients from fertilizer runoff in the Eel River. The proposal was well laid out with laboratory studies to identify the most useful plant species and multi-year field monitoring in the river. When we discussed her project, I suggested she actually do a pilot study in the lab and she did! For her summer research, she examined a native plant's bioremediation potential in aquariums in the MU greenhouse. Through this process she learned a great deal about the process of science, especially how proposals do not always translate perfectly into experimentation. She was able to identify a species that would not be a good choice for aquatic bioremediation. Her research has been presented at the Indiana Academy of Sciences annual meeting and will be presented at the MU Student Research Symposium this week. In addition to her research skills, and more importantly, Diana is a wonderful human being. She genuinely cares for those around her and strives to not only reach success for herself, but to ensure her peers also achieve success. After graduation she is seeking employment as a researcher in a shellfish fishery to continue protecting our natural waterways.

Dr. Jennifer Robison

Paige Young, *magna cum laude*

Master of Accountancy

Bachelor of Science

Accounting

Paige is the kind of student instructors look forward to having in their classes. She exhibits professionalism in everything she does. She is always punctual and fully engaged in class. I first met Paige in the Fall of 2019 when she was a first-year student in my Principles of Accounting I class. At that time, she was leaning towards a career in accounting but had not fully decided. I am so glad she made the decision to continue her pursuit of a career in accounting. It has been a pleasure watching her excel in her courses. I also had the privilege of being her academic advisor. In a few weeks, she will graduate with both a bachelor's degree in accounting and a Master of Accountancy. Earning two degrees in four years is not easy. It is a very difficult curriculum. She will have

earned at least 150 hours of college credit, allowing her to sit for the CPA exam. Paige will begin her career on July 19th at the accounting firm, Forvis (formerly, BKD, Inc.). During her tenure at Manchester, not only was Paige a conscientious student but she was very involved in the College of Business club. She served two years on the event planning committee and served one year as treasurer of the club. For three years, she was also a member of the women's soccer team. The accounting profession needs more people like Paige. She embodies the Manchester mission of graduating persons of ability and conviction. I will miss her when she graduates, but I look forward to hearing about her accomplishments! Congratulations, Paige!

Jenny Simmers

