



TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Fall Commencement

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2024

PERSHING ARENA

11:00 A.M.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Nancy Gingrich

Chair

Philip J. Christofferson

Vice Chair

William B. Lovegreen

Secretary

Sarah Burkemper

Taylor W. Burks

Jennifer Kopp Dameron

Mike McClaskey

Adli Jacobs

Student Representative

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

MUSICAL PRELUDE

The music for commencement is provided by the
Truman Brass Quintet under the direction of Aren Van Houzen, Assistant Professor of Music.
Fanfare from “La Peri” — Paul Dukas, arr. Wayne Barrington
Sonata from “Die Bankelsangerlieder” — Anonymous, ed. Robert King

PROCESSIONAL

United States Army, ROTC Color Guard

Grand Marshal
Elizabeth Wiles

Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice Studies

President of the University
Sue Thomas

Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost
Eric Freedman

Commencement Speaker
Marjorie Maas

Board of Governors

Vocal Soloist
Michelle Yoder

Senior Music (Pre-Certification) and Music Emphasis Groups Major

Reader
William Ashcraft

Professor of Philosophy and Religion

Marshal
K. Scott Alberts
Professor of Statistics

Candidates

Master of Science
Master of Arts in Education
Master of Arts
Master of Accountancy
Bachelor of Science
Bachelor of Arts
Bachelor of Fine Arts

Faculty Honoree

Faculty and Administration

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

The Star Spangled Banner — Francis Scott Key, arranged by Arthur Goldstein

Michelle Yoder

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

President Thomas

GREETINGS FROM BOARD OF GOVERNORS

INTRODUCTION OF COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

President Thomas

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Marjorie Maas

RECOGNITION OF FACULTY HONOREES

Provost Freedman and President Thomas

Stephen M. Wynn
Librarian Emeritus

RECOGNITION OF HONOR STUDENTS

Provost Freedman

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES AND CONFERRING OF DEGREES

Provost Freedman and President Thomas

William Ashcraft

Candidates for the Degree Bachelor of Fine Arts
Candidates for the Degree Bachelor of Arts
Candidates for the Degree Bachelor of Science
Candidate for the Degree Master of Accountancy
Candidates for the Degree Master of Arts
Candidates for the Degree Master of Arts in Education
Candidates for the Degree Master of Science

TURNING OF TASSELS AND CLOSING REMARKS

President Thomas

AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL

arranged by Roger Cody

Michelle Yoder

RECESSIONAL AND POSTLUDE

Quintet No. 1, Mvt. III – Victor Ewald

JUNIOR MARSHALS

The Junior Marshals, robed in white, serve as escorts during the Commencement ceremony.

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

MARJORIE (IWAI) MAAS



Marjorie (Iwai) Maas ('02) believes there is enough: enough good to help others, enough resources and smarts to solve problems, and enough kindness and grace to surmount any challenge. This mindset of abundance helps her empower others to strive for big goals and big impact.

Whether as an executive, marketer, fund developer, advocate or consultant, Maas has helped both startup and established initiatives and organizations for 20 years in her Omaha, Nebraska, home. Now, she has a voice nationally as the CEO of Share Good, an engagement partner for communities, foundations, and nonprofits wanting to increase local philanthropic involvement. Its community platform brings local nonprofits together in one

place and offers simple and creative ways for people to do good and engage with them.

Past roles for Maas have included serving as the founding executive director of SHARE Omaha, director of corporate social responsibility for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska, and development officer for College Possible Omaha. In line with her love of the arts and degree in art history from Truman State University, she previously served arts organizations, artists and arts events as the sole proprietor of her consultancy, Palette Promotions, and as director of Nebraskans for the Arts.

Among her many community service efforts, Maas was a commissioner and immediate past commission chair of ServeNebraska, the state's volunteer service agency. She has also held board or leadership roles with The Collective Hope, Omaha Network, and Hear Nebraska.

Maas' love of community and service has led to her inclusion on the national Points of Light Honor Roll, as well as recognition as a TOYO – Ten Outstanding Young Omahans. She also received Omaha's Up and Coming Trailblazer Award and was honored in 2023 as a Truman State University Alumni Fellow.

Maas greatly enjoys cooking and hosting family and friends at her home, where she and her husband raise their son and daughter and love on their rescue Boston Terrier.

THE GRADUATES

The Commencement program is a roster of candidates, not an official list of graduates. Appropriate degrees and honors will be awarded to candidates who successfully complete all requirements by established deadlines.

BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS

Ali Rae Christensen, Creative Writing
Zoë Holt, Creative Writing
Rebecca N. Hwang, Creative Writing
Tyler Stanfield, Design

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Neh Awasom, Business Administration
Emma Noel Berens, English
Hattie Berke, Sociology/Anthropology and
Modern Language
Anna Marie Carroll, English
Fatoumata Moctar Coulibaly, Business
Administration
Jacquelyn Danter, Theatre
John Austin Eritreo, Communication
Sydney Grace Freund, Political Science &
International Relations
Anna Christine Glen, English
Aidan Grantham, Sociology/Anthropology
Erin Griffin, Liberal Studies
Kathryn Jeanne Hammock, Communication
Darian Taylor Harper, English
Emma Nicole Hulbert, Liberal Studies
Alana Samone Kim, Art
Sara Marie Klamm, Communication

Reagan Leckie, Sociology/Anthropology
Katie Scarlett Lee, Political Science &
International Relations
Emma Lutker, Business Administration
Rosemary Martin, Music (Pre-Certification)
Andrew Lloyd Miller, Physics
Lillie Marie Morisaki, English
Stephanie Dawn Nau, Communication
Matthew Robert Nothdurft, Music
María Fernanda Pareja Avalos, Political Science
& International Relations
Payton Petty, Business Administration
Natalie Elizabeth Samson, Theatre
Kaylee Anne Sieg, Art
Gregory Simington, Music (General) and
Psychology
Ian Quinn Snider, Physics
Octavian Grey Dean Stickann, Art
Jincan Sun, Economics
Rehana Syed, Communication
Ella Tomschin, Sociology/Anthropology
Grace Madison Vandall, History
Hammond Whiting, Art
Quinten Winkeler, Music (Pre-Certification)
Keer Zeng, Economics
Emily Michelle Zuehlke, Political Science &
International Relations

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Caitlyn Alcorn, Psychology
Andrew Christopher Bernatow, Computer Science
Elizabeth Morgan Bindner, Agricultural Science
Shannon Elizabeth Birlingmair, Criminal Justice Studies and Psychology
Jacob Blasdel, Criminal Justice Studies
Liam Bogue, Mathematics
Kirsten Claire Boyle, Psychology
Cole Joseph Bracken, Computer Science
Araïna Ann Brummett, Communication Disorders
Madeline Kate Burwell, Accounting
Clayton Louis Caringer, Accounting
Peyton Carr, Business Administration
Edward Carroll, Business Administration
Anna Kathryn Cernich, Biology
Jingxue Chen, Accounting
Courtney Elizabeth Crow, Communication Disorders
Kayla Jean Cunningham, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology
Shane Dabbs, Exercise Science
Madeline Rose Dando, Biology
Joseph M. Danner, Agricultural Science
Tal Everett Dean, Biology
Ashley Mae Deierling, Agricultural Science
Alexander M. Eckes, Exercise Science
Bryce Zachary Ensign, Statistics
Jenna Marie Ernst, Justice Systems
Olivia Feibel, Accounting
Nina Fenasci, Accounting
Joseph Fischer, Business Administration
Daniel David Joseph Gernander, Statistics

Mara Elizabeth Gullett, Political Science & International Relations
Yixuan Guo, Accounting
Alexis Holman, Psychology
Rachel Homoki, Exercise Science
Seth Christopher Jarvis, Political Science & International Relations
Shane Matthew Johnson, Exercise Science
Chase Jones, Exercise Science
Benjamin Micah Jordan, Mathematics
Jackson Lee Keeting, Business Administration
Paul Keiser, Computer Science
Lauren Kelley, Accounting
Jack Alexander Kenney, Statistics
Payton Rae Koopman, Health Science
Matthew Alexander Kruse, Economics
Margaret Eileen Laux, Mathematics
Brandon K. Leap, Psychology
Chrystal Lee, Political Science & International Relations
Keelyn Birkita Legler, Mathematics
Ziyue Li, Accounting
Lexus Luedtke, Communication Disorders
Jordan Marlott, Exercise Science
Tyler Montana Maul, Accounting
Ian G. McIntyre, Computer Science
Juan Mejia Beltran, Agricultural Science
Gabiellah Metcalf, Linguistics
Kelsey Linea Miner, Biology
Colton Mitchell, Computer Science
Cole Patrick Mullins, History
Habib Nasir, Computer Science
Camille Nunes, Linguistics
Mary Kathleen O'Reilly, Chemistry

Ezra Grace Ortvals, Communication Disorders
Emily Nicole Pearson, Exercise Science
Alyssa Ann Peavler, Communication Disorders
Emma Pouvaranukoah, Liberal Studies
Dylan Powers-Cody, Political Science &
International Relations
Bailey Quigley, Health Science
Brendan Quinn, Statistics
Clayton James Reed, Health Science
Abbie Nichole Ross, Communication Disorders
Tahlia Tya Gray, Criminal Justice Studies
Emily Grace Sander, Psychology
Seth David Sayler, Exercise Science
Myka Rae Schaefferkoetter, Communication
Disorders
Taylar Daytona Schafer, Liberal Studies
Hana Awraris Sheto, Computer Science
Payten Michelle Shively, Psychology

Kale Louis Slayton, Business Administration
Hannah Spainhour, Business Administration
Mary Elizabeth Stahlschmidt, Biology
Jack Steurer, Political Science & International
Relations
Joseph Stivers, Agricultural Science
Lance Edward Stotler, Criminal Justice Studies
Klaire Tappel, Communication Disorders
Nina Anne El Koury Thomas, History
Liesel K. Van Horn, Biology
Austin Warren, Agricultural Science
Zoey Annabelle Wilber, Communication
Disorders
Gabrielle M. Wilson, Sociology/Anthropology
Xingji Yi, Business Administration
Ryan Howard Zerwig, Business Administration
Chenyang Zhang, Accounting

MASTER OF ACCOUNTANCY

Jordan Plassmeyer, Accountancy

MASTER OF ARTS

Vanessa Nicole Alexander, Leadership

Kaylea Renae Bard, Mental Health Counseling

Addison Claire Burris, School Counseling

Randall Elizabeth Chambers, Disability Studies:
Applied Behavior Analysis

Joseph Ilen Cheng, Music

Kerrion Cornelius Dean, Leadership

Taryn Lorraine Gough, Communication Disorders

Christine Marie Harker, Mental Health
Counseling

Brian Christopher Holland, Gifted Education

Jennifer Horsefield, School Counseling

Amanda Eileen Kline, Mental Health Counseling

Savannah Marcella Kluesner, English

Kristina Renee Lee, School Counseling

Cassi Meikle, School Counseling

Tucker Martin Murry, Communication Disorders

Angela K. Ortinou, Gifted Education

Nora Marie Rechten, English

Samantha Rose Sambolin, School Counseling

Kerrie Sanchez, School Counseling

Felicia Storm, Gifted Education

Joseph Micah Taylor, Gifted Education

Katherine Tudeen, Mental Health Counseling

Amanda Jo Turnbull, Mental Health Counseling

Emily Syble Wagner, Communication Disorders

Andrea Marie Williams, Gifted Education

Isabella Rose Wirthlin, Leadership

Jesse Wren, Gifted Education

MASTER OF ARTS IN EDUCATION

Hailey Shane MacKenna Alvis, Foreign
Language

Rocio Fuertes Navarro, Elementary Education

Curtis Dean Halbrook, Music

Tyler Brett Webb, Exercise Science

MASTER OF SCIENCE

*All are Master of Science in Data Science &
Analytic Storytelling Candidates*

Jacob Paul Bichsel

Benjamin Edward Carlson

Kevin M. Donohue

Omar Sven Gasmann

Laura Beth Haarmann

Mae Katherine Kinkade

Ryan Kottmann

Branden Lawson

Sylvia Modesitt

Stephen Quinn

Adam Heath Raines

Spencer Donald Ratermann

RECOGNITION OF HONOR GRADUATES

UNIVERSITY HONORS

Undergraduate students receiving a baccalaureate degree with a grade point average (GPA) of 3.50 or above will have the degree conferred with honors. Honor graduates will wear special insignia during commencement. University Honors are awarded based on the following overall grade point averages:

Summa Cum Laude

3.90 - 4.0 GPA

Hattie Berke
Andrew Christopher Bernatow
Araina Ann Brummett
Anna Marie Carroll
Anna Kathryn Cernich
Emma Nicole Hulbert
Rebecca N. Hwang
Seth Christopher Jarvis
Matthew Alexander Kruse
Lillie Marie Morisaki
Cole Patrick Mullins
Mary Kathleen O'Reilly
María Fernanda Pareja Avalos
Dylan Powers-Cody
Abbie Nichole Ross
Natalie Elizabeth Samson
Seth David Sayler
Zoey Annabelle Wilber
Quinten Winkeler

Magna Cum Laude

3.75 - 3.89 GPA

Clayton Louis Caringer
Ali Rae Christensen
Tal Everett Dean
Rachel Homoki
Chrystal Lee
Ian G. McIntyre
Juan Mejia Beltran
Kelsey Linea Miner
Habib Nasir
Emily Grace Sander
Myka Rae Schaefferkoetter
Taylar Daytona Schafer
Ian Quinn Snider
Hannah Spainhour
Lance Edward Stotler
Nina Anne El Koury Thomas
Ella Tomschin

Cum Laude

3.50 - 3.74 GPA

Caitlyn Alcorn
Neh Awasom
Shannon Elizabeth Birlingmair
Kirsten Claire Boyle
Peyton Carr
Ashley Mae Deierling
Aidan Grantham
Kathryn Jeanne Hammock
Zoë Holt
Jack Alexander Kenney
Payton Rae Koopman
Katie Scarlett Lee
Keelyn Birkita Legler
Lexus Luedtke
Tyler Montana Maull
Gabriellah Metcalf
Ezra Grace Ortvals
Alyssa Ann Peavler
Hana Awraris Sheto
Klaire Tappel
Ryan Howard Zerwig

DEPARTMENTAL HONORS

Departmental honors in the major are available in several disciplines for outstanding majors who have achieved distinction as determined by measures specific to the Departmental Honors Program. Students meeting the requirements for Departmental Honors will have their transcripts annotated.

Chemistry

Mary Kathleen O'Reilly

Communication

Kathryn Jeanne Hammock

Communication Disorders

Araina Ann Brummett

Myka Rae Schaefferkoetter

Creative Writing

Ali Rae Christensen

Zoë Holt

Rebecca N. Hwang

Criminal Justice Studies

Shannon Elizabeth Birlingmair

Lance Edward Stotler

English

Anna Marie Carroll

Lillie Marie Morisaki

History

Cole Patrick Mullins

Nina Anne El Koury Thomas

Modern Languages

Hattie Berke

Political Science and International Relations

Seth Christopher Jarvis

María Fernanda Pareja Avalos

Dylan Powers-Cody

MESSAGE TO NEW ALUMNI

Congratulations! Today marks the completion of a truly impressive achievement. You have grown as a person, not only through your academic program but also in your relationships with friends and classmates you met at Truman and in the community. You are leaving Truman a different person than when you started, and you should be proud of the hard work that has brought you to this point. Your liberal arts and science education has prepared you well for the opportunities ahead.

While today marks a completion, it is also a new beginning. Today, you become an alum and join the ranks of nearly 66,000 proud Bulldogs worldwide. You are part of a special community of people who share the Truman experience. We are Bulldogs Forever. On behalf of the Truman Alumni Association, welcome to the community!

The Truman Alumni Association is dedicated to helping alumni connect to one another, creating meaningful ways to connect you back to Truman and championing the Truman spirit across our networks around the world. Led by alumni just like you who volunteer their time to stay connected, we sponsor networking opportunities, philanthropic events, social outings and Homecoming activities. Your Truman journey has not ended. The Bulldog Forever alumni network encompasses graduates with diverse attributes and interests. We welcome you to check us out and help bring what only you can bring to the table. To learn more about virtual or in-person events to connect to other alumni, you can follow us on LinkedIn, Instagram, Facebook. Additional resources are available online at truman.edu/alumni.

As you join other Truman alumni, we believe your experience will be similar to ours and you will find amazing Bulldogs around the world who are here to help one another.

Congratulations and good luck, and stay #TRUMANSTRONG! We can't wait to hear what comes next!

Bulldog Forever,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori Hart". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Lori Hart ('84)

President

Alumni Association Board of Directors

COMMENCEMENT INFORMATION

THE UNIVERSITY

In 1867, Joseph Baldwin returned to Missouri from Indiana, looking for a location to open a school to educate teachers. On September 2, 1867, Baldwin opened the North Missouri Normal School and Commercial College in Kirksville. In 1870, Baldwin's school became the First District Normal School of Missouri, the first in the state's new normal school system, dedicated to the education of teachers for the public schools.

At the close of the 1869-70 academic year, the Normal School graduated its first class of 15 men. The Commencement program was held in the auditorium of the Cumberland Academy building on Friday, June 24, 1870. President Joseph Baldwin preached the sermon and T. A. Parker, state superintendent of schools, delivered the address.

Today, Missouri's statewide public liberal arts and sciences university celebrates its Fall Commencement with approximately 180 bachelor's and master's degree graduates. Although the people, the campus, the mission, and the name of the University have changed during the last 157 years, the traditions of the commencement ceremony have remained intact.

THE DRESS

The academic costume worn today is the dress of the medieval secular clergy with a few alterations introduced by 16th century Protestant reformers. The intellectual revival of the 12th century gave impetus to the founding of the European universities. Students in these institutions were clerks; thus, they wore the dress of the secular clergy. In the 16th century, Protestant reformers, who associated academic habits with popery, adopted more civilian gowns.

The oldest article of academic wear was the robe, which was a loose gown. The habit, a tunic with short, wide sleeves, was worn over the robe. A hood lined with fur or inexpensive skins could be gathered around the neck or pulled up on the head as a turban. Finally, there were three kinds of caps worn: the round cap, reserved for doctoral dignity; a round cap with strings tied under the chin, worn by jurists; and the square cap. Universities such as Oxford made the square cap official; however, secular universities adopted the Tudor bonnet still worn by doctors of law, medicine and music.

American academic costume was not established until 1895. It consists of three types of gowns, three styles of hoods and two kinds of cap tassels. The bachelor's gown has long, pointed open sleeves with no ornamentation. The master's gown has even longer sleeves, which are closed at the bottom but feature openings about halfway down for the hands. The doctor's gown has full-length lapels of velvet and bell-shaped sleeves with three horizontal velvet bars. The color of caps and gowns is usually black; however, some universities feature doctoral gowns of distinctive colors, such as Harvard's crimson and Yale's deep blue. Many schools outside the United States have also adopted colorful gowns.

The doctor's hood is the longest and fullest among the degrees. The major field of study can be determined from the velvet facing on the hood according to the following color scheme: white, the arts; gold-yellow, science; purple, law; apricot, nursing; green, medicine; sapphire, business administration; lemon, librarianship; scarlet, theology; and dark blue, philosophy.

The hood is lined with silk in the colors of the institution which granted the degree. Truman's masters graduates, for example, wear a purple and white-lined hood. The faculty at Truman State University represent doctoral-granting institutions around the world. A few of their hood colors are the blue and white of Duke, the orange and black of Princeton, the crimson of Harvard, and the scarlet of Oxford.

The candidates for graduation wear black caps to which are attached tassels of colors illustrative of their degrees:

White: Bachelor of Arts, Master of Arts, Master of Accountancy, Master of Science,
Master of Arts in Education, Master of Athletic Training

Brown: Bachelor of Fine Arts

Yellow-Gold: Bachelor of Science

Apricot: Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Pink: Bachelor of Music

The medallions worn by some of the undergraduate degree candidates signify the designation of "honor graduate." There are three levels of honors based on a student's cumulative grade point average (GPA): a bronze medallion on a white ribbon signifies Cum Laude, a GPA of 3.50 to 3.74; a silver medallion on a purple ribbon signifies Magna Cum Laude, a GPA of 3.75 to 3.89; and a gold medallion on a purple and white ribbon signifies Summa Cum Laude, a GPA of 3.90 to 4.00. Final honors will be determined after all grades have been received and may be adjusted from those awarded for Commencement.

THE ACADEMIC PROCESSION

The procession is led by the Grand Marshal. The Grand Marshal carries the University Mace which symbolizes the academic corporate body of scholars possessing its own jurisdiction and legally constituted authority. The mace, made of Missouri black walnut and decorated with purple and white tassels, is topped with the University seal. Following the Grand Marshal are the platform guests dressed in doctoral robes with hoods featuring the purple and white colors of the University. Following the Marshal are the degree candidates aligned according to the degrees granted. The University faculty are brightly attired in the academic dress of their degree-granting institutions.

Junior marshals appear throughout the procession dressed in white robes and caps. They are Truman students who help form the procession and seat the commencement participants.

COMMENCEMENT PREPARATIONS

Special recognition goes to the following for commencement preparations and arrangements:

Academic Affairs Office
Advancement Office
Athletics Department
Blue Key Honor Society
Cardinal Key National Honor Society
Graduate Office
Information Technology Services
Music Department
Physical Plant

President's Office
Public Relations
Public Safety
Publications
Registrar's Office
Sodexo
Student Access and Disability Services
Truman State University Bookstore
Union and Involvement Services