Commencement
CLASS OF TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-ONE

Sunday, May 16, 2021 • 11 a.m.
Decorah, Iowa
PRELUDE
Luther College Symphony Orchestra
Festive Overture
Dmitri Shostakovich (1906–1975)

INVOCATION
Michael Foss, Campus Pastor

WELCOME
Jenifer K. Ward, President

GREETING FROM THE BOARD OF REGENTS
Wendy Davidson ’92, Chairperson, Board of Regents

PRESENTATION OF THE JENSON MEDAL
Stephen Sporer, Vice President for Development

ADDRESS
Chris Norton ’15

WELCOME TO THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
Lisa Steinbauer ’88, President, Alumni Council

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES AND CONFERRING OF DEGREES
Kevin Kraus, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the College
Wendy Davidson

BENEDICTION
Mike Foss

RECESSIONAL
Luther College Symphony Orchestra
Overture to Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg
Richard Wagner (1813–1883)
STUDENT MARSHALS
Nicholas Andrew Behrens '21
Mae Genevieve Cody '21
Emily Lauer '21
Andrew John Scheller '21

ELIZABETH A. AND PAUL G. JENSON MEDAL
In affirmation of the Luther mission, the Elizabeth A. and Paul G. Jenson Medal is presented to an outstanding senior, selected by the graduating class, who best demonstrates the ideals of the college through service to students and to the college community. The Jenson Medal was established through an endowment gift from Luther alumni Elizabeth (Dybdal) '49 and Paul Jenson '48 of Vassalboro, Maine.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
CHRIS NORTON '15
Chris Norton '15 is a motivational speaker and the founder and manager of the SCI CAN Foundation, a nonprofit organization focused on prolonging the health and recovery of SCI (spinal cord injury) individuals by creating more and better therapy opportunities. In 2010, Chris suffered a debilitating spinal cord injury while playing in a football game at Luther. The 2021 feature-length documentary 7 Yards, available on Netflix, explores his resilience and perspectives.

LUTHER COLLEGE BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE
Any student who aspires toward a bachelor of arts degree from Luther College must be formally admitted to the degree program by the Faculty Admissions Committee. To qualify for a degree, a student must earn at least 128 semester hours of credit at a level of proficiency specified by the faculty. Slightly more than one-third of these hours must be applied toward fulfillment of a system of general requirements determined by the faculty; slightly less than one-third must be applied toward fulfillment of requirements for a major prescribed by the faculty of a student’s major discipline; the remainder are considered elective hours, to be acquired in classes selected by the student in consultation with a faculty advisor.

The registrar of the college reviews the academic records of all senior students to determine whether degree requirements have been fulfilled. The registrar then brings a roster of candidates before an assembly of department heads for their approval. The dean of the college, acting on behalf of the faculty, recommends to the Board of Regents that approved candidates be awarded the diploma. The president, by the authority vested in her by the Board of Regents, then confers the degree.

Students who complete degree requirements with a cumulative grade point average of 3.90 and above are awarded the degree summa cum laude; those with an average of 3.70 to 3.899, magna cum laude; and those with an average of 3.50 to 3.699, cum laude.
ACADEMIC TRADITION AND REGALIA

Since 1866, when the eight members of Luther’s first graduating class were awarded their degrees, Luther College has conferred before today a total of 31,204 bachelor of arts degrees, 526 certificates in education, and 231 honorary degrees. Commencement exercises have been held successively in the chapel of the first Main Building, the frame gymnasium, C.K. Preus Gymnasium, Nustad Field, the Luther Field House, Carlson Stadium, and, as of 2020, across the country and around the globe.

The stage display of flags you see before you represents the countries of origin of our graduating seniors—Australia, Botswana, Brazil, Burundi, Cambodia, Eswatini, Georgia, India, Jamaica, Japan, Lesotho, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Russia, South Africa, South Sudan, Thailand, United States, and Vietnam.

Luther College traces its academic lineage to the medieval University of Copenhagen, Denmark (founded 1479). Following the Reformation, Copenhagen was reorganized as a Lutheran university in 1537 by graduates of Wittenberg in Germany. At that time, the Copenhagen and Wittenberg faculties (including Martin Luther in Wittenberg) wore academic garb almost identical to what is worn today at Luther College. For more than 300 years, Copenhagen was the only university in Denmark and Norway. By 1811, the Royal Fredrik University had been established in Oslo, Norway, by graduates of Copenhagen. Fifty years later, in 1861, graduates of Royal Fredrik University established Luther College as the university’s first daughter institution in the New World.

From the three items of academic attire—the cap, gown, and hood—it is possible to distinguish the institution from which the wearer graduated, the field of learning in which his or her degree was earned, and the level of degree—bachelor, master, or doctorate.

The cap, originally round, is now a square black mortarboard, standard at most colleges and universities in the United States. Its distinguishing feature is the color of the tassel—black for holders of bachelor’s and master’s degrees, gold for doctoral degrees and the governing officers of educational institutions.

The gown is also usually black, although the chief officers of many universities wear colored gowns, and several institutions have authorized doctoral gowns that embody the institution’s colors. The level of degree is indicated by the gown’s cut. The bachelor’s gown is full with a closed front and long, pointed sleeves. The master’s gown is open in the front with square-cut sleeves that reach nearly to the wearer’s knees. The doctoral gown is open in the front with velvet collar, front panels, and three bars on each sleeve.

In the United States, the hood is the most distinctive feature of academic attire. The cape is worn at the back, suspended from the shoulders. The length of the hood and the width of the velvet border indicate the level of degree held. The length of the bachelor’s hood is three feet, and the velvet border is two inches. The hood for the master’s degree is three and one-half feet long with a three-inch border. The doctoral hood is four feet long, and the border five inches wide.

The color of the hood’s velvet border indicates the field of learning in which the degree was earned. In assigning the distinctive colors, the Intercollegiate Commission retained many historical associations. The white border for arts and letters is taken from the white fur trim of the Oxford and Cambridge bachelor of arts hood. The royal purple of King’s Court signifies law. Blue, the color of wisdom and truth, signifies philosophy. The color chosen for the fine arts is brown; for music, pink; for science, gold; for business administration, drab; for education, light blue; for physical education, sage green; for divinity, scarlet; for economics, copper; for library science, lemon; for oratory (speech), silver green; for nursing, apricot; and for social work, citron. The hood’s lining indicates the university that conferred the degree through the use of the official colors of that institution.
Luther College currently has chapters in several national and international honor societies.

Honor society membership criteria are established by the national offices and local chapters. Some seniors inducted into honor societies wear honor cords or stoles representing their membership. The honor societies, academic discipline, and representative colors are Phi Beta Kappa (liberal arts—pink and sky blue), Lambda Alpha (anthropology—blue and yellow), Chi Alpha Sigma (athletics—black and gold), Beta Beta Beta (biology—red and green), Eta Sigma Phi (classics—purple and gold), Lambda Pi Eta (communication studies—gold or red and white), Omicron Delta Epsilon (economics—royal blue and yellow), Sigma Tau Delta (English—cardinal and black), Pi Delta Phi (French—blue, white, and red), Delta Phi Alpha (German—black, red, and gold), Phi Alpha Theta (history—madonna red and blue), Alpha Mu Alpha (marketing—red), Pi Mu Epsilon (mathematics—violet, gold, and lavender), Pi Kappa Lambda (music—gold and white), Sigma Pi Sigma (physics—green and ivory), Pi Sigma Alpha (political science—red, white, and black), Psi Chi (psychology—blue and gold), Phi Alpha (social work—royal blue and light gold), and Sigma Delta Pi (Spanish—red and yellow).

Cords or stoles are also bestowed to honor commitment to service groups, student organizations, and other co-curricular activity on campus. The list above includes academic honors only.
CANDIDATES FOR BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE

EMMA HALLER ABERNETHY
Nursing
Arvada, Colorado

LANDON ALBRO
Biology
Waterloo, Iowa

WILL ALLEN
Computer Science, Data Science, Music
Raleigh, North Carolina

STEPHANIE ALMQUIST
Summa cum laude
Chemistry, Spanish
Delano, Minnesota

JOEL ALVARADO MORALES
Biology
Northfield, Minnesota

KACI AMES**
Management
Keokuk, Iowa

EVAN ANDERSON
Cum laude
Nursing
Rockford, Illinois

JENNIFER ANDERSON
Cum laude
Art
Andover, Minnesota

KYLE ANDERSON
Allied Health Sciences
Northfield, Minnesota

NATHAN ANDERSON
Cum laude
Music
Duluth, Minnesota

KIERSTEN BAALSON
Summa cum laude
Nursing
Clear Lake, Iowa

BRIER BABIN
Political Science
Saint Amant, Louisiana

RAHUL BAGGA
Art
Anaheim, California

SADIE BELLE BAKER
Social Work
West Des Moines, Iowa

MARIAH DOLORES ARTERO BALAJADIA
Psychology
Guttenberg, Iowa

JACOB CHRISTOPHER BARSNESS
Summa cum laude
Music Education
Pine Island, Minnesota

RACHEL ELIZABETH BARTLEMAN
Music
Ankeny, Iowa

PAIGE BARTLETT
Cum laude
Nursing
Lindenhurst, Illinois

ANNELIESE BARTON
Biology
Des Moines, Iowa

ELAINA BAYSE**
Magna cum laude
Music
Dallas Center, Iowa

*Completed graduation requirements in September 2020
**Completed graduation requirements in January 2021
Graduation requirements pending for remaining candidates.

This list of graduates and their honors was compiled April 16. Some changes in the honors listing and the intended dates of graduation may have occurred in the final weeks of the semester.
NICHOLAS ANDREW BEHRENS
*Summa cum laude*
Physics
Falcon Heights, Minnesota

QUINN BEITHON
*Cum laude*
Management
Northfield, Minnesota

SABRINA BENEDICT
*Cum laude*
Elementary Education
Grand Mound, Iowa

KIERAN BENSON
*Magna cum laude*
Communication Studies
Rock Island, Illinois

AIDEN CHRISTOPHER BERDAHL
*Magna cum laude*
Physics, Political Science
Sioux Falls, South Dakota

KENNEDY BEVERLEY BERGREN
*Cum laude*
Biology
Mahtomedi, Minnesota

KIRSTEN BERNER**
Nursing
Wildwood, Missouri

GABRIELLE BETZER
*Cum laude*
History
Milledgeville, Illinois

NOOR BIBI
Neuroscience
Pakistan

ASHLEY BICKNESE**
*Magna cum laude*
Management
Iowa Falls, Iowa

AJ BIERWIRTH**
Nordic Studies
Missouri Valley, Iowa

LEVI PAUL BIRD
*Summa cum laude*
Nordic Studies
Muscoda, Wisconsin

ADDYSON LOUISE BIXBY
Elementary Education
Waverly, Iowa

RYAN BJELKE
Health
Plant City, Florida

GRETCHEN BLAIN
*Summa cum laude*
Neuroscience
Spearfish, South Dakota

EYTHAN BLAIR
Management
Swea City, Iowa

ANDREA BLOCKER
*Cum laude*
Communication Studies, Music
Fort Dodge, Iowa

AARON BLUMBERG
*Summa cum laude*
Data Science, Mathematics/Statistics
Melbourne, Australia

TYLER BOESEL
Physical Education
Forest Lake, Minnesota

LIZ BOLTHOUSE
Data Science, International Studies
Palatine, Illinois

MADELYN BOLTON**
Nursing
Saint Paul, Minnesota

DEVON BOURGET
Biology
Eau Claire, Wisconsin

CALVIN BRINDA
Economics
Stillwater, Minnesota

RACHAEL BROLIN
*Magna cum laude*
Accounting
Madison, Wisconsin

EMMA LYNN BROOKS
*Summa cum laude*
Psychology
Wild Rose, Wisconsin
ANNA BRUNEAU
Religion
Decorah, Iowa

EMMA BUDDECKE
Social Work
Decorah, Iowa

LUVIA BURLEIGH
International Studies
Saint Paul, Minnesota

LUCAS BYL**
Summa cum laude
Classics, Religion
Forest Lake, Minnesota

JESSICA CALLAHAN
Magna cum laude
Management
Marion, Iowa

ELISE CARLSON**
Magna cum laude
Political Science, Religion
Battle Lake, Minnesota

DIANA CARREON VELAZQUEZ
Cum laude
Music Education
Phoenix, Arizona

BRIDGET CARRUTH
Cum laude
Accounting
Saint Paul, Minnesota

KIM CHHAM
Magna cum laude
International Studies
Banteay Meanchey, Cambodia

TREYTEN CHIGLO
Cum laude
Data Science, Economics
Lanesboro, Minnesota

CHLOE ANN CLEVEN
Psychology
La Crosse, Wisconsin

KYLE MICHAEL CLOUGH
Accounting, Management
Deerfield, Illinois

MAE GENEVIEVE CODY
Summa cum laude
Mathematics
Glencoe, Illinois

HANNAH CAILYN COLE
English
Sauk City, Wisconsin

LUKE COLLINS
Magna cum laude
Biology
Plainfield, Illinois

RYAN CONROD
Cum laude
Data Science, Management
Eagan, Minnesota

COURTNEY COOPER
Summa cum laude
Biology, Psychology
Lansing, Iowa

JUSTIN CORTESE
Magna cum laude
Management
Swansboro, North Carolina

KATRINA ASHLEY COTANT
Social Work
Cresco, Iowa

LORELAYN COTO
Cum laude
Visual Communication
Chicago, Illinois

JACK CRAVEN
Economics
Saint Paul, Minnesota

ELIZABETH CRAWFORD
Elementary Education
Lakeville, Minnesota

MEGAN CUPERSMITH
Social Work
Minneapolis, Minnesota

JOHN FENTON CURRAN II
Allied Health Sciences
La Grange, Illinois

EVAN D’ALESSANDRO
Environmental Studies
Iowa City, Iowa

CARSON GORDON DAVENPORT
Cum laude
History
Rockford, Illinois
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<td>SARAH ANN DAVIDSON**</td>
<td>Magna cum laude</td>
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<td>JACEY DAVIS</td>
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CORY LYNN EULL  
*Magna cum laude*  
Dance  
Saint Michael, Minnesota

EMMA KATHERINE EVERITT  
*Summa cum laude*  
Communication Studies  
Madison, Wisconsin

BEATRIX FACKEL  
*Summa cum laude*  
Nursing  
Saint Paul, Minnesota

KIMBERLY MARIE FANK  
Nursing  
Winthrop, Iowa

ELIZABETH FASS  
*Cum laude*  
Nursing  
Madison, Wisconsin

TRAVIS FEKKERS  
*Magna cum laude*  
Data Science, Management  
Meservey, Iowa

KALI CRYSTAL FELDERMANN  
Neuroscience  
Galena, Illinois

MEGAN FERGUSON  
Elementary Education  
Dubuque, Iowa

RYAN SCOTT FERGUSON  
*Magna cum laude*  
Communication Studies, English  
Urbandale, Iowa

HANNAH FICHTNER  
*Magna cum laude*  
Music Education  
Richfield, Wisconsin

SAMANTHA FLETCHER  
Anthropology, Biology  
New Prague, Minnesota

LAUREN FREDRICH  
*Cum laude*  
Theatre  
Dodgeville, Wisconsin

JEFFREY FREIBERG  
Athletic Training  
Yorkville, Illinois

KAITLYN ELIZABETH FREIMUTH  
*Cum laude*  
Elementary Education  
Winnebago, Illinois

GABRIELLE FRITZ  
Social Work  
Johnston, Iowa

BRAYTEN JAMES FUNKE  
*Cum laude*  
Anthropology, English  
Greenfield, Iowa

MAREN ELIZABETH GABOR  
Biology  
Algonia, Iowa

JONATHON GANGL  
Accounting  
Mantorville, Minnesota

LERANG TEDDY GAOSITWE  
Accounting, Data Science  
Gaborone, Botswana

BERGEN GARDNER  
*Cum laude*  
Nordic Studies, Women and Gender Studies  
Stoughton, Wisconsin

CLEO GARZA  
Theatre  
Speedway, Indiana

MALEAH GEORGEN**  
Psychology  
Manchester, Iowa

KAYLA GIBSON  
*Magna cum laude*  
Biology  
Dubuque, Iowa

KAYLA GILBERT**  
*Magna cum laude*  
Nursing  
New Hampton, Iowa

SOREN GLOEGE TORP  
*Summa cum laude*  
German, Political Science  
Apple Valley, Minnesota

9
ODALIS GONZALEZ
Management
Chicago, Illinois

CLAIRE ROSE GOODFELLOW
Elementary Education
Iowa City, Iowa

DAVID GORMAN
Cum laude
Music Education
Marion, Iowa

COURTNEY LYNN GRAVES
Cum laude
Elementary Education
Mabel, Minnesota

BENJAMIN GRAY
Accounting
Spring Grove, Minnesota

HOPE GRAY
Accounting
West Point, Iowa

HARRISON GREENE
Magna cum laude
Computer Science, Mathematics/Statistics
Wausau, Wisconsin

JARROD ALLEN GROSS
Biology
Northfield, Minnesota

VINCENT GRUBE
Cum laude
Environmental Studies, Political Science
Minneapolis, Minnesota

STEPHEN HADAWAY
Cum laude
Political Science
Winona, Minnesota

CARSON HAGEN
Accounting, Management
Lakeville, Minnesota

KATHRYN HALL
Sociology
Mesa, Arizona

HANNAH RUTH HALVERSON
Management
Janesville, Wisconsin

JAM RIYAN HAMZA
Chemistry
Muzaffargarh, Punjab, Pakistan

ELIZABETH HAND
Magna cum laude
Music Education
Solon, Iowa

CAROLINE VIRGINIA HANDLEY
Summa cum laude
History
Rochester, Minnesota

KATHRYN HANGGI
Magna cum laude
Chemistry
Lake Elmo, Minnesota

MIKAELA HANRAHAN
Magna cum laude
Music, Theatre
Lake Mills, Wisconsin

AUSTIN HANSEN**
Data Science
Howell, Michigan

CARINA HANSEN
Magna cum laude
Biology, Psychology
Cedar Falls, Iowa

TREVOR HAREN
Magna cum laude
Theatre
Parkersburg, Iowa

ATHENA HATFIELD
Sociology
Apple Valley, Minnesota

ALYSE LINNEA HAUGEN
English, History
Minneapolis, Minnesota

ANNA HAWKINS-SAURER
Art
Northfield, Minnesota

CAITLYN HAYDEN
Social Work
Lexington, Massachusetts

CAMDEN HEIMERMAN
Magna cum laude
Music Education
Blooming Prairie, Minnesota
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<td>EMMA BELLE HORMAN</td>
<td>Cum laude</td>
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<td>Eyota, Minnesota</td>
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