Wartburg College
Commencement
One Hundred and Seventy-Second Year

Sunday, the Twenty-Sixth of May
Two Thousand Twenty-Four
Ten-Thirty in the Morning
Hoover Fieldhouse & Track
Wartburg-Waverly Sports & Wellness Center
**Order of Commencement Exercises**

*Academic Processional

*Pomp and Circumstance* ................................................................. Edward Elgar

Tony Hobson ’27, Macebearer
Alex Crawford ’25 and Haylee DeLong ’26, Wartburg Flag Carriers
Students with Flags Representing Countries of the 2024 Graduates
Dr. Joy Trachte Becker ’97 and Dr. Todd Reiher, College Marshals
Wartburg College Board of Regents
Wartburg College Vice Presidents
Doug Koschmeder, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
Alexis Larson ’26 and Cole Wessling ’25, Processional Ushers
Master of Arts Candidates & Class of 2024
Emeriti Faculty & Faculty
Members of the Class of 1974
Platform Party

*Invocation and Opening Prayer

The Rev. Maggie Falenschek, Dean of Spiritual Life
and Herbert and Cora Moehlmann Chaplaincy Chair

Welcome

Mike McCoy, Chair, Wartburg College Board of Regents

Introduction of Student Speakers

Greg Kneser, Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students

Student Remarks

Megan McGuigan
Rahima Waheed
Conferring of Degrees
Presentation of Candidates for Degrees
Dr. Debora Johnson-Ross, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty

Conferring of Degrees
Dr. Rebecca Ehretsman, President

Alumni Induction
Alicia Faust ’12, Alumni Board President

Charge to the Class of 2024
President Ehretsman

*Wartburg Loyalty Song

College of our brightest days, Unto thee we chant our praise.
Ne’er thy name shall cease to be a most happy memory.
Thine the spirit we love best, Finest in the East or West,
And we sing with loyalty: Wartburg College, hail to thee!

*Closing Prayer and Blessing
Chaplain Falenschek

Academic Recessional
Brighton Beach ................................................................. William P. Latham

Recognition of Retiring Faculty
Wartburg College, in appreciation and respect, here records the names and years of service of those members of the faculty who are retiring from full-time service to the college.

Barbara Fedeler, Professor of Art (2000-2024)
Megan McGuigan, a music education major with a vocal concentration, is representing the Class of 2024 as one of today’s Commencement speakers. Originally from Story City, Iowa, she will teach vocal music at Glenwood High School in Glenwood, Iowa.

At Wartburg, she was a soprano section leader and choir librarian for the Wartburg Choir, president of the college’s National Association for Music Education, an Opera Workshop performer, and a Dance Marathon participant.

She also was an Orientation Staff leader and a Baldwin Leadership Fellow. She cheered for football, basketball, and wrestling and was on the American Rivers Conference champion competitive team. She also volunteered with Wartburg College Sparkles, a cheer and dance team that includes students and community members of all abilities.

Rahima Waheed, a computer information systems major, is representing the Class of 2024 as one of today’s Commencement speakers. A Davis United World College Scholar, she is seeking a job in analytics and hopes to one day create a foundation that empowers women.

At Wartburg, Waheed served as the social media coordinator for International Club, the secretary of the Computer Science Club, and an ELITE technology consultant in Vogel Library.

Waheed was an operations intern for Global Atlantic Financial Group in Des Moines during summer 2023. She also has worked as a student manager in the college’s Dining Services.

Originally from Karachi, Pakistan, she is the daughter of Surraiya Khatoon and the late Abdul Waheed.
The Academic Regalia

The pageantry and dress of Commencement have been inherited from the medieval universities of the 11th and 12th centuries.

Academic life as we know it today began in the Middle Ages, first in the church, then in the guilds. The teaching guild was the Guild of the Master of Arts, where the Bachelor was the apprentice of the Master and the dress was the outward sign of privilege and responsibility.

Principal features of academic dress are the gown, the cap, and the hood. It became necessary for universities to set rules to preserve the dignity and meaning of the academic dress. Since the 15th century, both Cambridge and Oxford have made academic dress a matter of university control, even in its minor details, and have repeatedly published revised regulations. American universities agreed on a definitive system in 1895. In 1932, the American Council of Education presented a revised code, which, for the most part, governs the style of academic dress today.

The Gown: The flowing gown comes from the 12th century. While it originally was worn as protection against the cold of unheated buildings, today it has become symbolic of the democracy of scholarship, for it covers any dress of rank or social standing underneath. It is black for all degrees, with pointed sleeves for the bachelor’s degree, long closed sleeves with a slit at the arm or wrist for the master’s degree, and full bell sleeves for the doctor’s degree. Bachelor’s and master’s gowns have no trimming. For the doctoral degree, the gown is faced down the front with velvet and has three bars of velvet across the sleeves in the color distinctive of the faculty or discipline to which the degree pertains.

The Cap: When Roman law freed slaves, they won the privilege of wearing a cap. Thus, the academic cap is a sign of freedom of scholarship and the responsibility and dignity with which scholarship endows the wearer. Old poetry records the cap of scholarship as square to symbolize the book. The color of faculty tassels denotes the discipline.

The Hood: The hood is trimmed with one or more chevrons of a secondary color on the ground of the primary color of the college. The color of the hood facing denotes the discipline represented by the degree; the color of the lining designates the university or college from which the degree was granted.

Colors associated with the academic disciplines worn by the faculty are as follows:

White – English, French, German, Spanish, Speech
Copper – Economics
Light Blue – Education
Pink – Music, Music Therapy
Sage Green – Physical Education, Fitness Management, Exercise Science
Gold – Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Biochemistry, Mathematics, Computer Science, Computer Information Systems
Citron – History, Political Science, Social Work, Sociology, Psychology
Navy Blue – Philosophy
Orange – Engineering
Scarlet – Religion
Brown – Art
Crimson – Journalism & Communication, Electronic Media, Print Media, Public Relations
Lemon – Library Science
Drab – Business Administration, International Business, Management, Finance, Marketing, Accounting
Salmon – Public Health
Master of Arts in Leadership

Wartburg College has long been at the forefront of leadership education in higher education. The Institute for Leadership Education was formally established in 1989 with the creation of the Irving R. Burling Chair in Leadership, initially held by Dr. Fredric Waldstein. Defining leadership as “taking responsibility for our communities and making them better through public action,” undergraduate students have learned about leadership largely through the leadership minor curriculum, which was implemented in 1998 and continues to be the largest minor at the college.

Due to the success of undergraduate leadership initiatives and the alignment of leadership within Wartburg’s mission statement, the institution expanded leadership offerings beyond the bachelor’s degree. The Wartburg Board of Regents approved the Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Leadership (now Graduate Leadership Certificate) in 2018 and the Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Leadership (now Master of Arts in Leadership) in 2020, enrolling the first cohort of Master of Arts in Leadership students in summer 2021.

Wartburg’s cohort-based Master of Arts in Leadership is delivered entirely online and can be completed in under two years. Through an emphasis on real-world project implementation, students from varying industries and work sectors can address leadership challenges in their workplaces and communities. Students benefit not only from the expertise of instructors coming from different academic backgrounds and work experiences, but also from peers with equally varying experiences.

The black hood of the Wartburg College Master of Arts in Leadership graduates includes one orange chevron, representative of Wartburg College. The peacock blue edging represents the field of public administration, which is closely associated with how we define leadership at Wartburg College.

Class of 2024

Master of Arts in Leadership

Emily Christine Garden
Charles City, Iowa

Jack D. Kelley, Jr.
Oaks, Oklahoma

Emily Ryan
Waverly, Iowa

Kristine LeAnne Grimm
Cedar Falls, Iowa

Allison Anne Krehbiel
Donnellson, Iowa

Caitlynn Marie Smith
Cedar Falls, Iowa

Karla Lynn Harter
Grinnell, Iowa

Lesli Lyn Lien
Sioux City, Iowa
In Absentia
Bachelor of Music Education and Bachelor of Arts

Gwen Agnes McQuaig  
Cum Laude  
Regents Scholar  
Music Education  
Vocal  
Religion  
Music  
Church Music  
Wenatchee, Washington

Britta Marie Williams  
Cum Laude  
Lambda Pi Eta  
Music Performance  
Vocal  
Journalism & Communication  
Organizational & Public Relations  
Graphic Design  
Mora, Minnesota

Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts

Zachariah James Abbey  
Summa Cum Laude  
Regents Scholar  
Engineering  
Electrical Engineering  
Computer Science  
Johnston, Iowa  
In Absentia

Bachelor of Music Education

Gianna Rose Borer  
Magna Cum Laude  
Music Education  
Vocal  
Webster City, Iowa  

Tyler Ray Fall  
Cum Laude  
Music Education  
Vocal  
Mount Vernon, Iowa

Joseph Paul Gutzmann  
Summa Cum Laude  
Regents Scholar  
Music Education  
Vocal  
Fond du Lac, Wisconsin

Payton M Hass  
Cum Laude  
Kappa Delta Pi  
Music Education  
Percussion  
Hickory Hills, Illinois

Tori Alexandria Hofer  
Regents Scholar  
Music Education  
Vocal  
Illinois City, Illinois

Faith Marie Howard  
Summa Cum Laude  
Regents Scholar  
Music Education  
Vocal  
Prairie City, Iowa

Megan Lily McGuigan  
Summa Cum Laude  
Regents Scholar  
Music Education  
Vocal  
Story City, Iowa

Emily Clare Reedy  
Summa Cum Laude  
Regents Scholar  
Music Education  
Trumpet  
Minooka, Illinois

Grant James Schnieders  
Music Education  
Vocal  
Delhi, Iowa

Tiffany Trace Sherwood  
Magna Cum Laude  
Kappa Delta Pi  
Music Education  
Vocal  
Waterloo, Iowa

Amber Lee Sweeney  
Regents Scholar  
Music Education  
Vocal  
Walcott, Iowa

* Lydia Grace Weippert  
Cum Laude  
Music Education  
Music Therapy  
Vocal  
Grand Forks, North Dakota

Erin Elizabeth Wisecup  
Kappa Delta Pi  
Music Education  
Vocal  
Ankeny, Iowa

*August graduate
Bachelor of Music

* Brianna Nicole Carroll
  Summa Cum Laude
  Regents Scholar
  Music Therapy
  Vocal
  Lakeville, Minnesota

* Leia Marie Hagerman
  Cum Laude
  Music Therapy
  Vocal
  Davenport, Iowa

* Carlea Christine Jones
  Magna Cum Laude
  Music Therapy
  Vocal
  Center Point, Iowa

* Carly Marie Lagge
  Cum Laude
  Regents Scholar
  Music Therapy
  Piano
  Corsica, South Dakota

* Ryleigh Grace Parrack
  Magna Cum Laude
  Regents Scholar
  Phi Eta Sigma
  Music Therapy
  Vocal
  Papillion, Nebraska

* Jordan Y. Rhine
  Magna Cum Laude
  Regents Scholar
  Music Therapy
  Percussion
  Des Moines, Iowa

* Emersen Elizabeth Smith
  Cum Laude
  Regents Scholar
  Music Therapy
  Vocal
  Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin

* Aubrey Ellen Vitense
  Summa Cum Laude
  Regents Scholar
  Music Therapy
  Piano
  Tipton, Iowa

Bachelor of Science

Cael William Boehner
  Cum Laude
  Regents Scholar
  Engineering
  Mechanical Engineering
  Lake Mills, Iowa

Victor Hugo Cano Ramirez
  Summa Cum Laude
  Engineering
  Interdisciplinary
  Guatemala City, Guatemala

Gage Hunter Cates
  Magna Cum Laude
  Regents Scholar
  Engineering
  Mechanical Engineering
  Rockwell City, Iowa

Quentin James Kelso
  Engineering
  Electrical Engineering
  Keokuk, Iowa

Joseph Charles Pins
  Cum Laude
  Regents Scholar
  Engineering
  Mechanical Engineering
  Dubuque, Iowa

Jack Saylor Priske
  Summa Cum Laude
  Regents Scholar
  Phi Eta Sigma
  Engineering
  Mechanical Engineering
  Fruita, Colorado

Britta Leigh Solheim
  Summa Cum Laude
  Regents Scholar
  Phi Eta Sigma
  Engineering
  Mechanical Engineering
  Blaine, Minnesota

Bachelor of Arts

Kristina Kay Agerbeck
  German
  Spring Lake Park, Minnesota

Robert Al Khoury
  Beta Beta Beta
  Neuroscience
  Antelias, Lebanon

Maria José Álava Plaza
  Sociology
  General Sociology
  Business Administration
  Guayaquil, Ecuador

Dylan Joenis Albrecht
  Health & Fitness Studies
  Waverly, Iowa

Trent C Allard
  Cum Laude
  Regents Scholar
  Business Administration
  Finance
  Eldridge, Iowa

Lily Victoria Aulwes
  Cum Laude
  Elementary Education
  Edgewood, Iowa

Mason James Ayres
  Summa Cum Laude
  Regents Scholar
  Business Administration
  Marketing
  West Des Moines, Iowa

Ian R Barry
  Actuarial Science
  Fennimore, Wisconsin

Noah Barrett Bauereis
  Cum Laude
  Regents Scholar
  Biology
  Lincoln, Nebraska
Haley Dawn Beminio  
*Cum Laude*  
Neuroscience  
Psychology  
Belmond, Iowa

Samantha Jane Bennett  
Regents Scholar  
Biochemistry  
Spanish  
Lisbon, Iowa

Grace Kathryn Benson  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Exercise Science  
Mason City, Iowa

Luke Xavier Benson  
Business Administration  
Supply Chain Management  
Sioux City, Iowa

Brooke Renee Best  
Spanish  
Social Work  
Fairbank, Iowa

Acacia Brandall Biehl  
*Cum Laude*  
Phi Alpha Theta  
History  
Public History  
Ankeny, Iowa

Ashley Danielle Bloomquist  
*Cum Laude*  
Regents Scholar  
Biology  
Fairfield, Iowa

Marlee Anna Boyle  
*Cum Laude*  
Elementary Education  
Janesville, Iowa

Alexis LeAnn Brown  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Regents Scholar  
Elementary Education  
New London, Iowa  
In Absentia

Erin Laura Buchheit  
Graphic Design  
Manchester, Iowa  
In Absentia

Jordan Alex Bushey  
Health & Fitness Studies  
Coaching  
Plattsburgh, New York  
In Absentia

Thomas Sean Butters  
Business Administration  
Kalona, Iowa

Antonio Xavier Cadena  
*Cum Laude*  
Regents Scholar  
Business Administration  
Mason City, Iowa

Sean Severson Carroll  
Regents Scholar  
Economics  
Business Administration  
Phoenix, Arizona

Naomi Rose Carter  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Regents Scholar  
Biology  
Longmont, Colorado

Alyssa Kay Chyma  
Regents Scholar  
Biology  
Tama, Iowa

Joseph Angelo Ciero  
Regents Scholar  
Exercise Science  
Glen Ellyn, Illinois

Christopher John Collet  
Health & Fitness Studies  
Verona, Illinois  
In Absentia

Maria Kay Cooper  
*Cum Laude*  
Regents Scholar  
Business Administration  
Marketing  
Waverly, Iowa

Katie Rose Crock  
Social Work  
Manchester, Iowa

Carter Lee Cuelerier  
Business Administration  
Parkersburg, Iowa

*Corinne Rose Dahlby Albright*  
Regents Scholar  
Beta Beta Beta  
Environmental Science & Studies  
Environmental Science  
Grinnell, Iowa

Reegan Lynn Deuprey  
Social Work  
Hiawatha, Iowa

Adam Matthew Dettmer  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Political Science  
International Relations  
Mason City, Iowa

Isabella Rose Devenuto  
Lambda Pi Eta  
Journalism & Communication  
Organizational & Public Relations  
Plainfield, Illinois

Juan Carlos Diaz  
Business Administration  
Management  
Estherville, Iowa

Annabella LeAnn Dietrich  
*Cum Laude*  
Regents Scholar  
Exercise Science  
Vidalia, Georgia

Teresa Anne Disney  
Exercise Science  
State Center, Iowa

Graceanne Marissa Dodd  
*Summa Cum Laude*  
Regents Scholar  
Nu Rho Psi  
Phi Eta Sigma  
Neuroscience  
Winthrop, Iowa

Benjamin James Dunlap  
*Summa Cum Laude*  
Regents Scholar  
Business Administration  
Supply Chain Management  
Orion, Illinois

Michael James Dunn  
Business Administration  
Finance  
Iowa City, Iowa

Hannah Mae Dutcher  
*Summa Cum Laude*  
Regents Scholar  
Journalism & Communication  
Organizational & Public Relations  
Ogden, Iowa

Benjamin Thomas Edwards  
Social Work  
Holly Springs, North Carolina

Logan Allen Egler  
Physical Education  
Sycamore, Illinois

*August graduate*
Brinna Jean Ehler  
*Cum Laude*  
Social Work  
Ossian, Iowa  

Connor Cassidy Elumba  
Business Administration  
Marketing  
Burnsville, Minnesota  

Peyton Jae Emgarten  
Psychology  
Sociology  
General Sociology  
Casey, Iowa  

Massoma Black Endene  
Business Administration  
Arlington, Texas  

Riley Jade Engelhardt  
Biology  
Allison, Iowa  

Chloe Ann Fagerlind  
Psychology  
Iowa Falls, Iowa  

Dylan James Fenneman  
Business Administration  
West Union, Iowa  

Aubrie Evelyn Fisher  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Regents Scholar  
Psychology  
Sociology  
General Sociology  
Ackley, Iowa  

In Absentia  

Kaleb Claus Flenker  
Health & Fitness Studies  
Coaching  
Maquoketa, Iowa  

Dominic Taylor Ford  
Business Administration  
Sport Management  
Urbandale, Iowa  

Hailey Ann Foxhoven  
Regents Scholar  
Sociology  
Criminology/Criminal Justice  
Emmetsburg, Iowa  

Gisselle Ahilin Hernandez  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Regents Scholar  
Business Administration  
Management  
Immokalee, Florida  

Richard Joseph Herra  
Music  
Vocal  
Elburn, Illinois  

Cameron J Hill  
Political Science  
Chicago, Illinois  

Alexandra Patton Holden  
Regents Scholar  
Elementary Education  
Fairfield, Iowa  

Michael Craig Holtz  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Regents Scholar  
Biochemistry  
Center Point, Iowa  

Macy Kayleen Harris  
*Summa Cum Laude*  
Regents Scholar  
Elementary Education  
Business Administration  
Grinnell, Iowa  

Kathryn Leigh Heaverlo  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Lambda Pi Eta  
Journalism & Communication  
Organizational & Public Relations  
Norwalk, Iowa  

Nicholas Jay Henry  
*Cum Laude*  
Regents Scholar  
Mathematics  
Cheney, Washington  
In Absentia  

Dayne W. Hensler  
*Cum Laude*  
Regents Scholar  
Biology  
Business Administration  
Portage, Wisconsin  

Hailey Jean Harper-Chambers  
*Phi Alpha*  
Social Work  
Cedar Falls, Iowa  

Madison Colleen Frush  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Regents Scholar  
Exercise Science  
La Porte City, Iowa  

Rebekah Anne Gershenoff  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Elementary Education  
Edwards, Colorado  

Abigail Marie Gerth  
Music  
French Horn  
Ankeny, Iowa  

Joseph Randall Goetz  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Regents Scholar  
Phi Eta Sigma  
Computer Science  
Buffalo Center, Iowa  

Keaton James Gray  
*Cum Laude*  
Business Administration  
Sport Management  
Marketing  
Finance  
Ankeny, Iowa  

Mackenzie Ellen Griffin  
Regents Scholar  
Psychology  
Sociology  
Criminology/Criminal Justice  
Tipton, Iowa  

Evan Jacob Guttormson  
*Cum Laude*  
Regents Scholar  
Business Administration  
Finance  
Grafton, Wisconsin  

Audrey LeAnn Guyer  
*Cum Laude*  
Regents Scholar  
Elementary Education  
Wilton, Iowa  
In Absentia  

Claudia Morgan Hall  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Regents Scholar  
Sociology  
Criminology/Criminal Justice  
Graettinger, Iowa  

Kaitlyn Maria Hall  
Social Work  
Kenosha, Wisconsin  

Maxwell Julius Hansen  
Regents Scholar  
Exercise Science  
Grand Mound, Iowa  

Jordyn Lee Harper-Chambers  
Phi Alpha  
Social Work  
Cedar Falls, Iowa
Shaelyn Carroll Hostager
Summa Cum Laude
Regents Scholar
Alpha Chi
Alpha Kappa Delta
Psychology
Sociology
Criminology/Criminal Justice
Dubuque, Iowa
In Absentia

Kaylyn Ann Hoth
Magna Cum Laude
Kappa Delta Pi
Elementary Education
Sumner, Iowa

Laura Rose Hovenga
Magna Cum Laude
Regents Scholar
Beta Beta Beta
Phil Eta Sigma
Biochemistry
Grinnell, Iowa

Harlee Elle Hunt
Summa Cum Laude
Regents Scholar
Beta Beta Beta
Phil Eta Sigma
Business Administration
Waverly, Iowa

* Jeannic Theresia
Ibara Engondo
Business Administration
Brazzaville, Congo

Tara Nicole Jochumsen
Cum Laude
Regents Scholar
Phi Eta Sigma
Computer Information Systems
Business Administration
Hudson, Iowa

Ellie Elizabeth Johnson
Regents Scholar
Environmental Science & Studies
Environmental Science
Biology
Andover, Minnesota

Tate D Jones
Cum Laude
Regents Scholar
Psychology
Sociology
General Sociology
New London, Iowa

Elyse Leonor Juarez
Elementary Education
Davenport, Iowa

Natsumi Kaketani
Cum Laude
Individualized: English
Expression in Cross-Cultural Perspective
Asaka-shi, Japan
In Absentia

Riley Marie Kammeyer
Elementary Education
Tripoli, Iowa

Jacob Daniel Keay
Environmental Science & Studies
Environmental Science
Treynor, Iowa

Saad Khan Khattak
Mathematics
Islamabad, Pakistan

Alexis Nicole Klug
Music
Piano
Cedar Falls, Iowa

Daekota Marie Knott
Psychology
Fulton, Illinois

* * *

Nathaniel Peter Knutson
Summa Cum Laude
Regents Scholar
Theta Alpha Kappa
Religion
New Lenox, Illinois

Rainy A. Kock
Cum Laude
Regents Scholar
Biology
Greene, Iowa

Elizabeth Renae Kochler
Alpha Kappa Delta
Sociology
Criminology/Criminal Justice
Bettendorf, Iowa

Halina Kraft
Cum Laude
Regents Scholar
English
Urbandale, Iowa

Dillon John Kremer
Cum Laude
Journalism & Communication
Organizational & Public Relations
Business Administration
Marketing
Alburnett, Iowa

Cael Dean Krueger
Physical Education
Denver, Iowa

Kaylee Michelle Kueker
Summa Cum Laude
Regents Scholar
Kappa Delta Pi
Phi Eta Sigma
Elementary Education
Denver, Iowa

Alexander Micheal Lahmon
English
Secondary Education
Marion, Iowa

Tal Leizer
Business Administration
Marketing
Rishon Lezion, Israel

Ella Rose Link
Sociology
Criminology/Criminal Justice
Dyersville, Iowa

* Samuel Paul Robert Lockhart
Regents Scholar
Graphic Design
Denver, Iowa

Jordan Leigh Lorenzen
Summa Cum Laude
Regents Scholar
Beta Beta Beta
Nu Rho Psi
Biochemistry
Neuroscience
Center Junction, Iowa

Thor Andrew Maakestad
Magna Cum Laude
Regents Scholar
Exercise Science
Osage, Iowa

Alaina Irene Malaski
Cum Laude
Phi Alpha
Social Work
Lindstrom, Minnesota

Pedro Martinez Jr.
Regents Scholar
Neuroscience
Belmond, Iowa

Raegen Mackenzie Matthews
Summa Cum Laude
Regents Scholar
Beta Beta Beta
Biology
Johnston, Iowa

Benjamin Paul Mauro
Cum Laude
Regents Scholar
Business Administration
Finance
Des Moines, Iowa

*August graduate
Leo Joseph Mauro  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Regents Scholar  
Business Administration  
Finance  
Des Moines, Iowa

Grace Ellen McCartan  
Regents Scholar  
Psychology  
Public Health  
Carroll, Iowa

Gabrielle Claire McCoy  
Cum Laude  
Name

Madeline Ruth Merten  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Environmental Science & Studies  
Adams, Minnesota

Logan Michael Meyer  
Business Administration  
Denver, Iowa

Maxwell August Miller  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Regents Scholar  
Elementary Education  
Spirit Lake, Iowa

Katherine Graciela Molina Castro  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Beta Beta Beta  
Environmental Science & Studies  
La Libertad, El Salvador

Troy David Monahan  
Sociology  
Criminology/Criminal Justice  
Mason City, Iowa

Reed Marcus Monson  
Psychology  
Greenwood, South Carolina

Jenna Lucy Morey  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Regents Scholar  
Exercise Science  
Spencer, Iowa

Nicole Marie Motzko  
Biology  
Cedar Falls, Iowa

* Darius Mynar  
Health & Fitness Studies  
Makawao, Hawaii

Melissa Bongekile Mziyako  
Social Work  
Mbaban, eSwatini

Rachel Ann Nagel  
*Cum Laude*  
Regents Scholar  
Exercise Science  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Ashley Nicole Nelson  
*Cum Laude*  
Regents Scholar  
Biochemistry  
Dekalb, Illinois

Emma Faith Nelson  
*Summa Cum Laude*  
Elementary Education  
Waverly, Iowa

Joshua James Nemitz  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Beta Beta Beta  
Biology  
Todville, Iowa

Samuel Snyder Niculino  
*Cum Laude*  
Sociology  
Criminology/Criminal Justice  
Des Moines, Iowa

Georgia Mikelle Nissen  
*Summa Cum Laude*  
Regents Scholar  
Kappa Mu Epsilon  
Phi Eta Sigma  
Sigma Pi Sigma  
Mathematics  
Physics  
Eldridge, Iowa

Chloe Rae Nixon  
*Summa Cum Laude*  
Kappa Delta Pi  
Phi Eta Sigma  
Elementary Education  
Madrid, Iowa

Gracie B O’Donnell  
*Summa Cum Laude*  
Regents Scholar  
Phi Eta Sigma  
Business Administration  
Finance  
Altoona, Iowa

Jenna Kay O’Donnell  
*Cum Laude*  
Regents Scholar  
Business Administration  
Management  
Evansdale, Iowa

Seok Ju Oh  
International Relations  
Goyang, Republic of Korea

Anna Hellen Ohman  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Phi Eta Sigma  
German  
Economics  
Winterset, Iowa

Grant G. Olson  
Exercise Science  
Story City, Iowa

Chihiro Ono  
*Cum Laude*  
International Relations  
Political Science  
Hitachinaka, Japan

Nnami A. A. Onuigbo  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Regents Scholar  
Political Science  
Cedar Falls, Iowa

Arendel Samuel Owen  
Sociology  
General Sociology  
Tunapuna, Trinidad and Tobago

Mac Johnny Pedemo  
Social Work  
Waterloo, Iowa

Alexey Petyushev  
Phi Eta Sigma  
Computer Information Systems  
Moscow, Russian Federation

Noah William Peyton  
*Cum Laude*  
Regents Scholar  
Biology  
Marion, Iowa

Erin Marie Phelan  
*Cum Laude*  
Phi Alpha  
Social Work  
Waukesha, Wisconsin  
In Absentia

Keli Anne Potter  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Regents Scholar  
Biology  
Secondary Education  
Iowa City, Iowa
Henry Aaron Powers  
*Summa Cum Laude*  
Regents Scholar  
Lambda Pi Eta  
Journalism & Communication  
Multimedia Journalism  
Sports Media  
Organizational & Public Relations  
Cedar Falls, Iowa  

Riley Nicole Preuss  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Kappa Delta Pi  
Elementary Education  
Edgewood, Iowa  

Morgan Renee Pruitt  
Music  
Trumpet  
Clarinda, Iowa  

Mikayla S Prusha  
Cum Laude  
Elementary Education  
Iowa City, Iowa  

Danika Rose Rademacher  
*Cum Laude*  
Regents Scholar  
Lambda Pi Eta  
Journalism & Communication  
Sports Media  
Organizational & Public Relations  
Multimedia Journalism  
Digital Cinema & Production  
Princeton, Minnesota  

Camryn Michelle Ray  
Regents Scholar  
Economics  
Business Administration  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa  

Chaitrali Raju Reddy  
*Cum Laude*  
Alpha Kappa Delta  
Phi Eta Sigma  
Psychology  
Pune, India  

Kristen Jeanne Reicks  
*Cum Laude*  
Regents Scholar  
Political Science  
Cresco, Iowa  

Benjamin Carl Revier  
Journalism & Communication  
Organizational & Public Relations  
Multimedia Journalism  
Digital Cinema & Production  
Owatonna, Minnesota  

Kyra Anne Richard  
Business Administration  
Clive, Iowa  

Riley Reid Richards  
Exercise Science  
Morton, Illinois  

Ethan Richard Riedemann  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Environmental Science & Studies  
Remsen, Iowa  

Giselle Dorisamar Rodríguez Montaño  
Psychology  
Spanish  
Spanish for Health Professions  
Chicago, Illinois  

Jersey Jane Rosteck  
Business Administration  
Parkersburg, Iowa  

Brielle Marie Ruch  
Business Administration  
Marketing  
Des Moines, Iowa  

Carson William Rygh  
*Summa Cum Laude*  
Regents Scholar  
Business Administration  
Finance  
Accounting  
Lake Mills, Iowa  

Samuel Harry Salzwedel  
Business Administration  
Marketing  
Finance  
Madison, Wisconsin  

Cora Ann Saunders  
*Summa Cum Laude*  
Regents Scholar  
Phi Eta Sigma  
Elementary Education  
North Liberty, Iowa  

Eva Elizabeth Schoell  
Lambda Pi Eta  
Journalism & Communication  
Organizational & Public Relations  
German Studies  
Lisle, Illinois  
In Absentia  

Lauren Ann Sease  
*Cum Laude*  
Accounting  
Business Administration  
Ankeny, Iowa  

* Riku Shimura  
Mathematics  
Tokyo, Japan  
In Absentia  

*Brittney E. Shipman  
Religion  
Rock Falls, Illinois  

Nathan Donald Shultz  
Regents Scholar  
Biology  
Charles City, Iowa  

Bailey Kay Sinnwell  
*Summa Cum Laude*  
Phi Eta Sigma  
Business Administration  
Management  
Marketing  
Waterloo, Iowa  

Delaney Rae Sorem  
Psychology  
Sociology  
General Sociology  
Zearing, Iowa  

Carley Marie Spooner  
Psychology  
Waterloo, Iowa  

Kaylie Jane Springer  
*Summa Cum Laude*  
Regents Scholar  
Alpha Chi  
Alpha Kappa Delta  
Phi Eta Sigma  
Psi Chi  
Psychology  
Sociology  
General Sociology  
Dubuque, Iowa  

Andrew Braden Stille  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Regents Scholar  
Journalism & Communication  
Sports Media  
Organizational & Public Relations  
Asbury, Iowa  

Sydney Rae Stoll  
Sociology  
Criminology/Criminal Justice  
Preston, Iowa  

Claire Marie Strauel  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Regents Scholar  
Alpha Chi  
Beta Beta Beta  
Phi Eta Sigma  
Biochemistry  
Jesup, Iowa  

*August graduate
Jordan Ashley Swiatkowski
Cum Laude
Regents Scholar
Beta Beta Beta
Neuroscience
Psychology
Mundelein, Illinois

Emma Cylena Jaye Tellinghuisen
Business Administration
Waverly, Iowa

Riley Timothy Theobald
Business Administration Management
Plainfield, Illinois

Taylor Richard Thompson
Engineering Science
Hudson, Wisconsin

Andrew George Tomlinson
Computer Science
Kaukauna, Wisconsin

Martha Soko Tetema Tondoneh
Beta Beta Beta
Biochemistry
Freetown, Sierra Leone

Mary Degba Tetema Tondoneh
Biochemistry
Freetown, Sierra Leone

Kyle Charles Tremelling
Business Administration Management Marketing
Marshfield, Wisconsin

Lauren Ann Ulveling
Magna Cum Laude
Lambda Pi Eta Journalism & Communication Multimedia Journalism Digital Cinema & Production Organizational & Public Relations Cedar Rapids, Iowa

* Andrew Paul Valenzuela
Regents Scholar
Beta Beta Beta
Exercise Science
Chicago, Illinois

Nicholas Michael Van Laningham
Regents Scholar Journalism & Communication Digital Cinema & Production Organizational & Public Relations Kenosha, Wisconsin

Halle Flynn Van Roekel
Magna Cum Laude
Regents Scholar
Beta Beta Beta
Biology
Johnston, Iowa

Jacob Vander Wilt
Regents Scholar Computer Science
Eldora, Iowa
In Absentia

Rece Benjamin Vining
Summa Cum Laude
Regents Scholar Business Administration Finance
Bettendorf, Iowa

Rahima Waheed
Computer Information Systems Karachi, Pakistan

Hanna Jo Ward
Environmental Science & Studies
Environmental Science Ridgeway, Iowa

Sara Lynn Webb
Cum Laude
Regents Scholar
Beta Beta Beta
Biology
Tipton, Iowa

Jacy Cathryn Werning
Summa Cum Laude
Regents Scholar Lambda Pi Eta Journalism & Communication Organizational & Public Relations Graphic Design Solon, Iowa

Macy Jo Wilhelm
Sociology Criminology/Criminal Justice
Preston, Iowa

Jenna Nicole Willey
Summa Cum Laude
Regents Scholar Accounting Business Administration Shell Rock, Iowa

* Kaylia Mae Wirfs
Sociology Criminology/Criminal Justice
Anamosa, Iowa

Logan Michael Wisocki-Johnson
Business Administration
East Moline, Illinois

Paul Bingham Zelle
Summa Cum Laude
Regents Scholar Alpha Chi Kappa Mu Epsilon Phi Eta Sigma Sigma Pi Sigma Computer Science Physics Waverly, Iowa

*August graduate

Cum Laude (3.50-3.69 GPA) | Magna Cum Laude (3.70-3.84 GPA) | Summa Cum Laude (3.85-4.00 GPA)

Students awarded Summa Cum Laude academic honors received gold cords. Students recognized by their honor societies, based on cumulative grade point average and active membership, received other cords.

Regents Scholar signifies students who have received Regents Scholarships all four years.

Regents and Presidential Scholars received medals in recognition of this honor.

As final action cannot always be taken by the time this program is printed, the list of degree and award recipients is tentative; the college reserves the right to withdraw or add names and make any other necessary changes.
OUTSTANDING SENIORS

Departments may select outstanding seniors by major based on excellent academic record and exemplary service and leadership.

Zach Abbey — Engineering Science
Acacia Biehl — History
Addy Carlson — Mathematics Education
Joey Ciero — Exercise Science
Adam Dettmer — International Relations
Olivia Donlea — Neuroscience
Bailey Erickson — English Education
Joey Goetz — Computer Science
Joey Gutzmann — Music Education
Shaelyn Hostager — Sociology
Nathaniel Knutson — Religion
Halina Kraft — English
Kaylee Kueker — Elementary Education
Alaina Malaski — Social Work
Raegen Matthews — Biology
Gwen McQuaig — Music

Madeline Merten — Environmental Science & Studies
Georgia Nissen — Mathematics
Anna Ohman — German Studies and Economics
Nnamdi Onuigbo — Political Science
Carson Rygh — Accounting
Bailey Sinnwell — Business Administration
Emersen Smith — Music Therapy
Lindsey Spolidoro — Spanish
Kaylie Springer — Psychology
Claire Strauel — Biochemistry
Milagros Toribio Porras — Graphic Design
Lydia Weippert — Music Education/Music Therapy
Jacy Werning — Journalism & Communication
Britta Williams — Music Performance
Paul Zelle — Physics

HONORS COMMUNITY GRADUATES

The Honors Community (formerly known as the Scholars Program) is Wartburg’s academic honors program. It strives to enrich honors students’ Wartburg careers, emphasizing growth through deeper academic challenges, meaningful service activities, coursework, research, and other creative endeavors, culminating in a final thesis that they defend on Research, Internship and Creative Endeavor (RICE) Day. The program is dedicated to improving honors students’ academic and life skills so they learn to think more independently and critically while incorporating multiple disciplines and perspectives. Students who have successfully completed the program earn white stoles with orange trim and tips.

Samantha Bennett       Claudia Hall       Halina Kraft       Chaitrali Reddy       Claire Strauel
Honor Societies

Alpha Chi
Promotes academic excellence and exemplary character among college and university students in all disciplines and honors those who achieve such distinction.

Alpha Kappa Delta
Promotes excellence in scholarship in the study of sociology and the research of social problems.

Beta Beta Beta
Improves the understanding and appreciation of biological study and extends the boundaries of human knowledge through scientific research.

Delta Mu Delta
Promotes higher scholarship in training for business and recognizes and rewards business administration students who have distinguished themselves scholastically.

Kappa Delta Pi
Recognizes scholarship and excellence in education.

Kappa Mu Epsilon
Promotes interest of mathematics among undergraduate students.

Lambda Pi Eta
Recognizes scholarship and excellence in communication arts and promotes philanthropic work.

Nu Rho Psi
Recognizes scholarship and excellence in neuroscience and promotes interest therein.

Phi Alpha
Fosters high standard of training for social workers and recognizes excellence in scholarship and achievement in social work.

Phi Alpha Theta
Promotes the study of history through encouragement of research, teaching, publication, and intellectual and social exchange.

Phi Eta Sigma
Encourages and rewards academic excellence among first-year students in institutions of higher learning.

Pi Gamma Mu
Encourages the study of the social sciences and recognizes outstanding achievement.

Psi Chi
Encourages, stimulates, and maintains excellence in scholarship and advances the science of psychology.

Sigma Delta Pi
Recognizes excellence in the study of the Spanish language, civilization, and literature.

Sigma Pi Sigma
Recognizes scholarship in physics and promotes philanthropic work.

Theta Alpha Kappa
Recognizes scholarship and excellence in theology and religious studies.
FLAGS FOR 2024 COMMENCEMENT

Flags in the processional represent the countries of students who are participating in today’s ceremony.

Cherokee Nation
Orange with a green rope edge; the seal is surrounded by seven yellow stars; a single black star is in the upper right corner

Congo, Democratic Republic of
Divided diagonally from the lower hoist side by a yellow band; the upper triangle is green, and the lower triangle is red

Ecuador
Three horizontal bands of yellow, blue, and red with the coat of arms superimposed at the center of the flag

El Salvador
Three equal horizontal bands of cobalt blue, white, and cobalt blue with the national coat of arms centered in the white band

eSwatini
Three horizontal bands of blue, red, and blue with red band edged in yellow and centered black and white shield

Guatemala
Three equal vertical bands of light blue, white, and light blue, with the coat of arms centered in the white band

India
Three equal horizontal bands of saffron, white, and green, with a blue chakra centered in the white band

Israel
White with a blue hexagram known as the Magen David centered between two equal horizontal blue bands near the top and bottom edges of the flag

Lebanon
Three horizontal bands consisting of red, white, and red with a green cedar tree centered in the white band

Pakistan
Green with vertical white band and large white crescent and star

Russian Federation
Three horizontal bands of white, blue, and red

Sierra Leone
Three bands of light green, white, and light blue

Trinidad and Tobago
Red with a white-edged black diagonal band from the upper hoist side to the lower fly side

United Nations
Blue with white world map surrounded by olive branches, the symbol for peace

United States of America
Thirteen horizontal red and white stripes with a blue rectangle in upper hoist-side corner with 50 white stars

Other flags on display represent the countries of current and graduating Wartburg students.

Albania          Korea, Republic of
Australia        Liberia
Cameroon         Maldives
Canada           Mexico
China            Mozambique
Congo            Nepal
Egypt            Nigeria
Gambia           Peru
Germany          Philippines
Ghana            Somalia
Hong Kong        South Africa
Indonesia        South Sudan
Iraq             Sudan
Japan            Sweden
Jordan           Uganda
Kenya            Zambia
**College Mace**

The ceremonial mace is a symbol of Wartburg College’s history designed by Arthur C. Frick, professor emeritus of art.

Like the ancient Roman standard-bearer or the legendary monarch, a mace leads a ceremony with tradition and grandeur. The Wartburg mace stands 80 inches tall and features an ornate cross, signifying Wartburg’s heritage as a college of the church. Six smaller crosses projecting from the mace symbolize the six previous locations of the college. The style of the crosses is consistent with Wartburg’s German heritage. Orange and black stones incorporated on the main cross and the base represent the official college colors.

The walnut staff features an engraving of the words “Faith and Learning,” main elements of the college mission statement. The Martin Luther rose is placed prominently at the center of the main cross as the official seal of the college.

**Class of 1974 Reunion**

The Wartburg community offers a special welcome to members of the Class of 1974, on campus this weekend to commemorate the 50th anniversary of their commencement. Class members have participated in a variety of reunion activities, including lifelong learning sessions and social gatherings. Some of the class members and spouses who attended the reunion participated in the processional today.

**Greenery**

Special thanks to the following firms whose donations provided greenery for today’s ceremony: CUSB Bank, Waverly and Shell Rock; Fidelity Bank and Trust; First Bank; and Johnston Financial Services LLC.

**UKnight Pledge**

Many members of the Class of 2024 have signed the UKnight Pledge, signifying their commitment to providing the support needed to further strengthen the Wartburg experience. The pledge reads: “I promise to participate in the life of the College, provide for Wartburg through financial gifts, and promote the College, as I am able, for the remainder of my life.”

**Sustainable Regalia**

Green Weaver caps and gowns worn by today’s graduates are made of recycled plastic bottles. Each gown keeps an average of 23 plastic bottles from the landfill.
Wartburg College Board of Regents
2023-24

Mike McCoy
Chairman of the Board
Waverly
Retired Executive VP and CFO
Hormel Foods Corporation

Andrea Westmeyer ’89
Vice Chair of the Board
Chair, Institutional Advancement Committee
Urbandale
CEO, Measurement Mojo
CEO, Epiphany Project
Exec. Producer and Host, Living Essence

Dr. Marilyn Flachman ’60
Westminster, Colo.
Retired Librarian

The Rev. Dr. Sherman Hicks
Co-Chair, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force
Chicago, Ill.
Retired ELCA Director

Dr. Ann Adams Bullock
Vice Chair of the Board
Chair, Academic Affairs Committee
Elon, N.C.
Dean, Dr. Jo Watts Williams School of Education and Professor of Education
Elon University

Ruth Bahe-Jachna ’80
Chair, Retirement Plan Subcommittee
Chicago, Ill.
Attorney

Tammy Jackson ’83
Carol Stream, Ill.
Senior Director
Ministries with Diverse Communities and Cultures
ELCA

Sharon Corrigan ’80
Vice Chair of the Board
Chair, Student Recruitment Committee
Bluffton, S.C.
Marketing/Assistant Loan Officer/Processor
Nationwide Mortgage Bankers, Inc.
Retired Jaguar Land Rover Auto Executive

Dr. Delford Doherty ’06
Vice Chair of the Board
Chair, Audit Committee
Houston, Texas
Founder/CEO
Prodigy Care Services

Dr. Rebecca Ehretsman
Waverly
President
Wartburg College

The Rev. Kevin Jones
Mason City
Bishop
Northeastern Iowa Synod-ELCA

Barbara Gamez ’98
Vice Chair of the Board
Chair, Student Life Committee
Rochester, Minn.
Laboratory Services and Partnership Development Director
Mayo Clinic

Jim Buchheim ’85
Co-Chair, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force
DeForest, Wis.
Retired Insurance Executive
American Family Insurance

Jim Loveridge ’69
Brookfield, Wis.
Retired Insurance Executive

Mark Hanawalt
Vice Chair of the Board
Chair, Business and Finance Committee
Waverly
Retired President
United Equipment Accessories, Inc.

Liz Mathis
Hiawatha
Retired Nonprofit Executive and State Senator

Rachel Riensche ’80
Vice Chair of the Board
Chair, Governance Committee
Waverly
Attorney

Steve Meirink ’99
Inver Grove Heights, Minn.
CEO, Financial & Corporate Compliance and Member,
Global Executive Leadership Team
Wolters Kluwer

Alicia Faust ’12
Alumni Board President
Cedar Rapids
Executive Director
Willis Dady Homeless Services

The Rev. Amy Current
Chair, Investment Subcommittee
New Hartford
President
CVT Group

Ben Shanno ’04
Virginia Beach, Va.
Vice President/General Merchandise Manager
Family Dollar

Andrea Westmeyer ’89
Vice Chair of the Board
Chair, Institutional Advancement Committee
Urbandale
CEO, Measurement Mojo
CEO, Epiphany Project
Exec. Producer and Host, Living Essence

Felecia Boone ’93, ’23 MA
Minneapolis, Minn.
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Consultant
Hennepin County, Minn.

Amy Kilgus Chamley
Champaign, Ill.
Professor and Program Director
Parkland College

The Rev. Dr. Sherman Hicks
Co-Chair, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force
Chicago, Ill.
Retired ELCA Director

Barbara Gamez ’98
Vice Chair of the Board
Chair, Student Recruitment Committee
Bluffton, S.C.
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Chair, Governance Committee
Waverly
Attorney

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Cedar Rapids
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Willis Dady Homeless Services

The Rev. Amy Current
Chair, Investment Subcommittee
New Hartford
President
CVT Group

Ben Shanno ’04
Virginia Beach, Va.
Vice President/General Merchandise Manager
Family Dollar
Wartburg College

Founded in 1852, Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa, is dedicated to challenging and nurturing students for lives of leadership and service as a spirited expression of their faith and learning. Together, we create an inclusive community combining diverse curricular and co-curricular experiences to prepare students to be resilient leaders of positive change through service in a complex world.

Wartburg’s nearly 1,500 students, hailing from 41 U.S. states and 44 countries, create a community where each person is known and valued for the unique experiences and identities they bring to the college.

The college offers undergraduate degrees in more than 60 areas of study in the arts and sciences. Our graduates achieve remarkable success after Wartburg, with exceptional placement rates in graduate programs, including an 82 percent placement rate in medical school — more than twice the national average. Those who begin their careers also find success, with new graduates landing meaningful opportunities at prestigious organizations like the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and John Deere. Since 2021, the college has offered a Master of Arts in Leadership and will continue to pursue innovative undergraduate and graduate programs aligned with our mission and strengths.

Wartburg’s extensive co-curricular offerings include more than 15 music ensembles, 25 Division III athletic teams, and more than 50 student-led organizations. Wartburg’s athletic teams are consistently ranked in the top 5 percent nationally, and the college has a 29-year streak of winning at least one individual or team national title. In addition to frequent performances throughout the United States, many of the college’s 18 music ensembles perform during the college’s Christmas with Wartburg performances, which are viewed by thousands each year. Touring ensembles travel abroad during May Term, frequently visiting Wartburg Castle, the college’s namesake in Eisenach, Germany.

Wartburg has a strong alumni base of more than 24,000 graduates who enrich the life of the college through continued engagement with faculty, staff, and current students and upholding the rich traditions of the college through their participation in events like Homecoming & Family Weekend, UKnight Day, and alumni events around the world.