



WARTBURG COLLEGE COMMENCEMENT

ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-SECOND YEAR

SUNDAY, THE TENTH OF DECEMBER

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE

TEN-THIRTY IN THE MORNING

NEUMANN AUDITORIUM

ORDER OF COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

***Academic Processional**

Pomp and Circumstance Edward Elgar

Matthias Letsche '25, Macebearer
Dr. Christine DeVries and Dr. Todd Reiher, College Marshals
Class of 2023
Wartburg College Senior Leadership Team
Doug Koschmeder, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
Emeriti Faculty and Faculty
Platform Party

***Invocation and Opening Prayer**

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

Welcome

Mike McCoy, Chair, Wartburg College Board of Regents

Introduction of Student Speaker

Rick Willis, Vice President for Student Recruitment

Student Remarks

Owen Grover

Presentation of Wartburg Medals

Tom '68 and Marnie Phillips '69 Hubbard

Dr. Rebecca Ehretsman, President

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

President Ehretsman

Charge to the Class of 2023

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

A reception will follow the ceremony in Bachman Fine Arts Center lobby.

STUDENT SPEAKER



OWEN GROVER

Owen Grover, a biology major with chemistry and leadership minors, is representing the Class of 2023 as today's Commencement speaker. A Regents Scholar, Grover earned a 3.99 grade point average and will attend the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine following graduation.

Grover, a starting linebacker and captain on the Wartburg football team, is one of 16 finalists for the William V. Campbell Trophy, college football's premier student-athlete award that recognizes an individual as the best in the nation for their combined academic success, football performance, and exemplary leadership. He also is one of 20 semifinalists for the 2023 Gagliardi Trophy, which is presented to the most outstanding football player in NCAA Division III.

In addition to his academic and athletic success, Grover helped his classmates succeed in their courses as a chemistry tutor, IgKnight mentor, and study table tutor. He also was a Dance Marathon morale captain; a Unified Sports Day leader; and a member of the Catholic Knights executive team, Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and the Academically and Civically Engaged Scientist Program. He also was a member of the college's Honors Community.

Originally from Dyersville, he is the son of Judd and Michelle Grover.

WARTBURG MEDAL RECIPIENTS



TOM '68 AND MARNIE PHILLIPS '69 HUBBARD

Tom '68 and Marnie Phillips '69 Hubbard are Knights through and through, faithfully serving their alma mater for a combined 70 years. In 1977, Tom began work in the Admissions Office and then served as the student employment coordinator for Dining Services until his retirement in 2012. Marnie joined the college in 1979 and was a Vogel Library technical services associate until retiring in 2015.

In the community, the Hubbards volunteer at the Waverly Health Center and are active in the work of its Women's Auxiliary. Tom is a member of Wartburg's Retirement Plan Advisory Group and worked for the Waverly Chamber of Commerce. He also has been a member of Kiwanis and served on the St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School Board and the Waverly Senior Center Board. Marnie was the treasurer of the Wartburg Scholarship Club (formerly the Wartburg Women's Club). She also is active in Waverly Chapter BC of P.E.O. and served on the state P.E.O. board, as well as on the Wartburg Community Symphony and Waverly Municipal Band boards.

Beyond their service to the college and community, the Hubbards also support the mission of the institution through financial giving. They are members of the Heritage Society and established the Marnie and Tom Hubbard Dining Services Student Manager Scholarship.

They have two children, Andrea Hubbard Ritchie '91 and Steven Hubbard '96.

A list of past Wartburg Medal recipients can be found at www.wartburg.edu/president.

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

CLASS OF 2023

Bachelor of Music Education

Malena Rose Rumelhart

Regents Scholar
Music Education
Percussion
Guthrie Center, Iowa

Bachelor of Music

Josephine Lynn Arganbright

Regents Scholar
Music Therapy
Vocal
Panora, Iowa

Megan Joy Bywater

Regents Scholar
Music Therapy
Flute
Iowa City, Iowa

Sarah Katherine Whipple

Cum Laude
Music Therapy
French Horn
Lakeville, Minnesota

Bachelor of Science

Kanan Rylee McKoy Morris

Engineering
Mechanical Engineering
Central City, Iowa

Darius Antre Whaley

Engineering
Mechanical Engineering
Danville, Iowa

Brennon Cole Woody

Cum Laude
Regents Scholar
Engineering
Mechanical Engineering
Grimes, Iowa

Bachelor of Arts

Jackson Reese Bevans

Summa Cum Laude
Regents Scholar
Elementary Education
Davenport, Iowa

Alivia Lynn Brandhorst

Elementary Education
Grundy Center, Iowa

Matthew Howard Buckner

Business Administration
Finance
Shakopee, Minnesota

Sadie Rose Callow

Elementary Education
Forest City, Iowa

Addy Rachel Carlson

Summa Cum Laude
Regents Scholar
Mathematics
Secondary Education
St. Ansgar, Iowa

Brayden Mikle Carlson

Journalism & Communication
Multimedia Journalism
Waverly, Iowa

Hunter Michael Clasen

Business Administration
Marketing
Springbrook, Iowa

Hunter Davis

Business Administration
Sport Management
Management
Albuquerque, New Mexico

James Paul Devine*Cum Laude*

Business Administration
Marketing
Sport Management
Council Bluffs, Iowa

Jordan Thomas Downing

Regents Scholar
Biology
Waverly, Iowa

Katelyn Marie Eilders

Cum Laude
Regents Scholar
Biochemistry
Robins, Iowa

Owen Travis Grover

Summa Cum Laude
Regents Scholar
Biology
Dyersville, Iowa

Lauryn Jean Henderson

Magna Cum Laude
Regents Scholar
Graphic Design
Business Administration
Marketing
Independence, Iowa

Davion Deree Houston

Business Administration
Management
Des Moines, Iowa

Brennan Albert Imoehl

Business Administration
Management
Sport Management
Waverly, Iowa

Tyler Douglas Johnson

Cum Laude
Journalism & Communication
Organizational & Public
Relations
Digital Cinema & Production
Robins, Iowa

Olivia Rose Junk

Cum Laude
Regents Scholar
Spanish
Secondary Education
Waverly, Iowa

Steven Jacob Karas

Health & Fitness Studies
Fitness Management
Pleasant Hill, California

Nathan Isaiah King

Accounting
Cedar Falls, Iowa
In Absentia

Samuel Cowan Kissner

Business Administration
Supply Chain Management
Finance
Milan, Illinois

Riley Todd Konrardy

Business Administration
Sport Management
La Motte, Iowa

Rachel Ann MacDonald

Biology
Valley, Nebraska

Nile Charles McLaughlin

Cum Laude
Business Administration
Finance
Eldridge, Iowa

Ann Grace Meirick

Magna Cum Laude
Elementary Education
Decorah, Iowa

Stanzin Norzang

Computer Information Systems
Jammu & Kashmir, India
In Absentia

Alonso Angel Pacheco

Computer Information Systems
Glenwood Springs, Colorado

Rachel Rae Patton

Journalism & Communication
Organizational & Public
Relations
Story City, Iowa

Brandt Douglas Petersen

Physical Education
De Witt, Iowa

Nile Anthony Petersen

Business Administration
Atlantic, Iowa

Colton Edward Praska

Magna Cum Laude
Regents Scholar
Biology
Rochester, Minnesota

Savanna Gail Richardson

Regents Scholar
Chemistry
Waukee, Iowa

Leah Kathryn Ristau

Summa Cum Laude
Regents Scholar
Accounting
Business Administration
Denver, Iowa

Edvin Rizvic

Magna Cum Laude
Biochemistry
Biology
Waterloo, Iowa

Preston James Rochford

Regents Scholar
Business Administration
Management
Edgewood, Iowa

Tysen John Skopec

World History Education
Coralville, Iowa
In Absentia

Quinten Erik Nelson Sommers

Sociology
Criminology/Criminal
Justice
Ankeny, Iowa

Dylan Allen Steen

Cum Laude
Accounting
Business Administration
Finance
Webster City, Iowa

Kelsey Marilyn Stortz

Psychology
Sociology
Criminology/Criminal
Justice
Ridgeway, Iowa

Olivia Nadine Szymke

Biology
Manchester, Iowa

Mallory Eileen Thys*Cum Laude*

Regents Scholar

Business Administration

Blairstown, Iowa

Sawyer John Vanden Brink

Environmental Science & Studies

Environmental Science

Decorah, Iowa

Drew Torgerson Wyffels

Regents Scholar

Business Administration

Management

Finance

Supply Chain Management

Mabel, Minnesota

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.

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 other necessary changes.

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.

WARTBURG COLLEGE BOARD OF REGENTS

2023-24

Mike McCoy

Chairman of the Board

Waverly

Retired Executive VP and CFO

Hormel Foods Corporation

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

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

Barbara Gamez '98

Vice Chair of the Board

Chair, Student Life Committee

Rochester, Minn.

Laboratory Services and Partnership

Development Director

Mayo Clinic

Mark Hanawalt

Vice Chair of the Board

Chair, Business and Finance Committee

Waverly

Retired President

United Equipment Accessories, Inc.

Rachel Riensche '80

Vice Chair of the Board

Chair, Governance Committee

Edina, Minn.

Attorney

Andrea Westmeyer '89

Vice Chair of the Board

Chair, Institutional Advancement

Committee

Johnston

CEO, Measurement Mojo

CEO, Epiphany Project

Exec. Producer and Host, Living Essence

Ruth Bahe-Jachna '80

Chair, Retirement Plan Subcommittee

Chicago, Ill.

Attorney, Greenberg Traurig LLP

Kerri Blobaum '94

Livermore, Calif.

Materials Scientist

Lawrence Livermore National

Laboratory

Felecia Boone '93, '23 MA

Minneapolis, Minn.

Diversity, Equity and

Inclusion Consultant

Hennepin County, Minn.

Jim Buchheim '85

Co-Chair, Diversity, Equity,

and Inclusion Task Force

DeForest, Wis.

Community and Social Impact Officer

American Family Insurance

Amy Kilgus Chamley

Champaign, Ill.

Professor and Program Director

Parkland College

Jen Bye Christy '95

Alumni Board President-Elect

Johnston

Strategic Portfolio/Program Manager

Principal Financial Group

The Rev. Amy Current

Dubuque

Bishop

Southeastern Iowa Synod-ELCA

Dr. Rebecca Ehretzman

Waverly

President

Wartburg College

Alicia Faust '12

Alumni Board President

Cedar Rapids

Executive Director

Willis Dady Homeless Services

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

Tammy Jackson '83

Carol Stream, Ill.

Senior Director

Ministries with Diverse

Communities and Cultures

ELCA

The Rev. Kevin Jones

Mason City

Bishop

Northeastern Iowa Synod-ELCA

Jim Loveridge '69

Brookfield, Wis.

Retired Insurance Executive

Liz Mathis

Hiawatha

Retired Nonprofit Executive and

State Senator

Steve Meirink '99

Inver Grove Heights, Minn.

CEO, Financial & Corporate

Compliance and Member,

Global Executive Leadership Team

Wolters Kluwer

Mike Murphy '89

Ankeny

Owner

Powerhouse Retail Services

Greg Schmitz '83

Chair, Investment Subcommittee

New Hartford

President

CVT Group

Ben Shanno '04

Virginia Beach, Va.

Vice President/General

Merchandise Manager

Family Dollar

WARTBURG COLLEGE

Wartburg College traces its roots to 1852, when Pastor Wilhelm Löhe of Neuendettelsau, Bavaria, sent Georg Grossmann and five students to found a teacher-training school for German immigrants in Saginaw, Mich. The college moved several times before making its permanent home in Waverly in 1935.

The college is named after the Wartburg Castle in Eisenach, Germany. A center of art and culture during the Middle Ages, the castle was home to St. Elizabeth in the 13th century and was a refuge for Martin Luther during the stormy days of the 16th-century Reformation. The castle is a frequent destination for students and alumni, and a formal agreement between the college and the Wartburg Castle Foundation provides ongoing academic and cultural exchanges between Eisenach and the Wartburg campus. Waverly and Eisenach are Sister Cities, further strengthening the bonds between the two communities.

Wartburg's 2023-24 enrollment of 1,472 includes students from 41 U.S. states and 45 countries. Dedicated to challenging and nurturing students for lives of leadership and service, the college is characterized by vigorous academic expectations within an environment of strong personal support.

Community engagement has become nationally and internationally recognized as a hallmark of the Wartburg experience. The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching recognizes Wartburg among colleges that foster experiential learning and community engagement. Wartburg was the first private college in Iowa, and the ninth in the nation, to earn a Gold rating from the Association of Sustainability in Higher Education.

Wartburg is listed in *U.S. News and World Report's* edition of *America's Best Colleges* and *The Princeton Review's* ranking of *Best Midwestern Colleges*. Its 118-acre campus includes more than 30 buildings. Old Main, built in 1880 and renovated in 1986, as well as the 25-acre historic core of campus, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The newest facilities include the McCoy Living & Learning Center, which was dedicated in October 2016, and the Meyer Strength & Conditioning Annex, which was completed in 2021. The McCoy Living & Learning Center encompasses the renovated Clinton Hall, a residence hall built in 1957, and an east-side addition that features a faculty apartment. The annex, a two-story addition to the Wartburg-Waverly Sports & Wellness Center, features 17 weight platforms and expanded areas for strength and conditioning activities.

The college recently finished renovating Slife (formerly Centennial) and Vollmer halls, which were constructed about 70 years ago. The \$11 million project features a new HVAC system that allows for air conditioning in individual rooms, new restroom and shower facilities, a new fire sprinkler system, and an electrical and plumbing overhaul. An elevator and rooms that combine individual sleeping spaces with bathrooms make the building more accessible for all.

Wartburg College is dedicated to challenging and nurturing students for lives of leadership and service as a spirited expression of their faith and learning.

