Dear Blugold graduates,

Congratulations! Today we celebrate an achievement for which you’ve worked long and hard: You’ve earned your UW-Eau Claire degree!

Not a day goes by that I am not amazed by your many talents and successes both in and outside the classroom. I have had the pleasure of meeting many of you, and in our conversations I have been inspired by your goals for the future — goals for success in your chosen careers and aspirations to make a difference in the communities you will call home in the years to come.

You can look to the future knowing there is real value in your UW-Eau Claire degree. In its 2018 “Best Colleges for Your Money” list, MONEY ranks UW-Eau Claire as the top public regional university in Wisconsin and Minnesota for educational quality, affordability and alumni success. Furthermore, according to the 2019 Educate to Career College Rankings Index, UW-Eau Claire ranks among the top 13 percent in the nation for added value in terms of graduate employability and earnings, and we are the only UW System regional university on the Forbes America’s Best Value Colleges list.

Also know that as you leave this great university, you join the ranks of our more than 87,000 Blugold alumni making a difference the world over, carrying the Power of AND into their workplaces and communities. Just look at the shining examples provided by our alumni award recipients being honored here today. The world will be a better place because of your skills AND wisdom, entrepreneurship AND integrity of spirit, strong work ethic AND inspiring creativity — all hallmarks of your UW-Eau Claire degree.

As we say in our mission statement (proudly printed on this page), UW-Eau Claire provides a “transformative liberal education.” I challenge you to audaciously pursue your goals, knowing that your UW-Eau Claire degree has prepared you for all you aspire to achieve. And most of all, I wish you joy on your journey.

With all best wishes for a bright Blugold future,

James C. Schmidt | Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

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Mission Statement of the University

We foster in one another creativity, critical insight, empathy and intellectual courage, the hallmarks of a transformative liberal education and the foundation for active citizenship and lifelong inquiry.
Commencement Program

December 22, 2018  
James C. Schmidt, Chancellor, Presiding

9 a.m.  
College of Business  
College of Education and Human Sciences

2 p.m.  
College of Arts and Sciences  
College of Nursing and Health Sciences

Prelude by UW-Eau Claire  
Faculty Brass Quintet  
Michael Alexander, horn  
Robert Baca, trumpet  
Jacob Grewe, tuba  
Phil Ostrander, trombone  
Mikayla Rolling, trumpet

Greetings  
Evan Weiher, Commencement Marshal, Chair, University Senate

Processional  
Pomp and Circumstance, No. 1 (Land of Hope and Glory) by Sir Edward Elgar  
Please rise and remain standing through the National Anthem.

National Anthem  
The Star-Spangled Banner by John Stafford Smith  
Led by Matthew Pfantz, Bachelor of Music Education, Choral (morning)  
Led by Jamison Wendlandt, Bachelor of Music Education, Choral (afternoon)

Welcome and Introductions  
Patricia A. Kleine, Provost and Vice Chancellor

Introducing Members of the Platform Party  
James C. Schmidt, Chancellor  
Albert Colom, Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management  
Tamara Johnson, Vice Chancellor for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion  
Michael Carney, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs  
Darrell Newton, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Dean of Graduate Studies  
Brewer Doran, Dean, College of Business (morning)  
Rodd Freitag, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences  
Carmen Manning, Dean, College of Education and Human Sciences  
Joseph Abhold, Dean of Students (morning)  
Debra Jansen, Associate Dean, College of Nursing and Health Sciences (afternoon)  
Margaret Cassidy, Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences (afternoon)  
Jean Pratt, Interim Associate Dean, College of Business (afternoon)  
Jill Prushieiek, Associate Dean, College of Education and Human Sciences (morning)  
Robin Beeman, Assistant Dean, College of Nursing and Health Sciences  
Bob Erffmeyer, MBA Director, College of Business (morning)  
Evan Weiher, Commencement Marshal, Chair, University Senate
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Greetings from the UW System Board of Regents</td>
<td>Regent Jason Plante, Regent Ryan Ring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congratulatory Remarks</td>
<td>James C. Schmidt, Chancellor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction of Alumni Award Recipients</td>
<td>Patricia A. Kleine, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charge to the Class</td>
<td>Bert Colianni, CEO, Marquette Companies, and Suzie Colianni, Retired Owner/Operator of Ski-Away Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation of Master’s Candidates</td>
<td>Patricia A. Kleine, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conferral of Master’s Degrees</td>
<td>James C. Schmidt, Chancellor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation of Baccalaureate Candidates</td>
<td>Patricia A. Kleine, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conferral of Baccalaureate Degrees</td>
<td>James C. Schmidt, Chancellor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blugold Reflections</td>
<td>Sarah Beck, Bachelor of Arts, English (morning)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sidney Barnette, Bachelor of Arts, Integrated Strategic Communication (afternoon)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Alma Mater</td>
<td>Led by Olivia Willett, Bachelor of Music Education, Choral (morning)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Led by Kevin Ruhl, Bachelor of Music Education, Choral (afternoon)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Please rise and join in singing. Words and music are printed at end of program.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recessional</td>
<td>Pomp and Circumstance, No. 1 <em>(Land of Hope and Glory)</em> by Sir Edward Elgar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Triumphal March from “Aida” by Giuseppe Verdi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>You are welcome to move from your seat as soon as the platform party, faculty and graduates have exited the arena.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photographs</td>
<td>A professional photograph will be taken of all graduates as they receive their diplomas. In order to reset the arena for the next event, there will be no photo opportunities in Zorn Arena following the ceremony.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reception</td>
<td>The chancellor, faculty and members of the graduating class cordially invite all guests to a reception immediately following the ceremony in the Marketplace on the first floor of the W.R. Davies Student Center.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Candidates for Degrees

Graduation with distinction is being conferred on those graduates who have an outstanding scholastic record. They are identified by gold cords and recognized in the program as follows: *cum laude (grade-point average of at least 3.2), **magna cum laude (GPA of at least 3.5) and ***summa cum laude (GPA of at least 3.8). Graduates receiving departmental honors are identified by the symbol †. The recognition of graduates receiving University Honors is noted under the student’s name. Graduates receiving University Honors are identified by a gold ribbon and medal. Baccalaureate candidates who are members of scholastic honor societies are identified by silver cords. See Page 24 for the key listing UW-Eau Claire’s degree interpretations.

College of Nursing and Health Sciences

BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

Natalie Lin Bailey ** Coon Rapids, MN B.S.N., Nursing
Mindy Lee Barquist * Eau Claire B.S.N., Nursing
Kaitlyn Jean Belanger * Athens B.S.N., Nursing
Chelsea Nell Bingenheimer ** Germantown B.S.N., Nursing
Britta Anne Bollum ** Apple Valley, MN B.S.N., Nursing
Tyler Gregory Bowe * Eau Claire B.S.N., Nursing
Kristin Marit Brunsell * Madison B.S.N., Nursing
Kimberly Ann Donaldson *** Osceola B.S.N., Nursing
Anna Noel Drawenek ** Neenah B.S.N., Nursing
Kayli Lynn Ennen ** Eau Claire B.S.N., Nursing
Emily Robinson Greenwood ** Chippewa Falls B.S.N., Nursing
Lindsay Elizabeth Gresch *** Antigo B.S.N., Nursing
Jessica Lynn Gutknecht *** Wausau B.S.N., Nursing
Lauren Hannelore Hasler * Oconomowoc B.S.N., Nursing
Marissa Eleanor Herman * Madison B.S.N., Nursing
Bethany Renee Hilbert Barron B.S.N., Nursing
Monica Mary Ann Hintz *** Eau Claire B.S.N., Nursing
Nicole Sue Howe * Rushford, MN B.S.N., Nursing
Abby Jo Jameson * Rushford, MN B.S.N., Nursing
Julie Lauren Johnson ** Plover B.S.N., Nursing

Daria Ann Kahl * Rice Lake B.S.N., Nursing
Mathilda Emily Kalina ** England University Honors
Bethanie Estelle Kent * Rice Lake B.S.N., Nursing
Nicole Marie Kreider ** Rogers, MN B.S.N., Nursing
Xeng Lor Wausau B.S.N., Nursing
Monica Lauren Luck ** Whitehall B.S.N., Nursing
Taylor Shaye Miller *** Mantorville, MN B.S.N., Nursing
Jodi Jayne Moody * Chanhassen, MN B.S.N., Nursing
Kelsey Quinn Murphy * Middleton B.S.N., Nursing
Winter Dawn Nielsen ** Eagle River B.S.N., Nursing
Lauren Helena Norgren ** Fergus Falls, MN B.S.N., Nursing
Robert Peter Ottestad ** Osseo B.S.N., Nursing
Tenzin Paldon ** Madison B.S.N., Nursing
Jamie Lynn Palecek ** Park Falls B.S.N., Nursing
Hailie Jane Richter *** Plover B.S.N., Nursing
Jennique Nicole Richter ** Cameron B.S.N., Nursing
Jamie Marie Riley *** Cashton B.S.N., Nursing
Rachel Rindt * Medford B.S.N., Nursing
Brenna Ann Roshell *** Chippewa Falls University Honors B.S.N., Nursing

Mckenzie M Rotar * Marshfield B.S.N., Nursing
Bryanna Morgan Rothwell ** Eau Claire B.S.N., Nursing
Janel Nichol Rottscheit ** Marshfield B.S.N., Nursing
Jennifer Lynn Schaab * Oakdale, MN B.S.N., Nursing
Tiffany Christine Scherr ** Marshfield B.S.N., Nursing
Collin Michael Sternad *** Pewaukee B.S.N., Nursing
Danae Lynn Sternecker * Elk Mound B.S.N., Nursing
Drew William Sternecker * Elk Mound B.S.N., Nursing
Andreas George Studinski ** Marathon B.S.N., Nursing
Sawyer Abigail Thiel ** Eau Claire B.S.N., Nursing
Sara Elaine Thielen ** Eau Claire B.S.N., Nursing
Clarissa Jean Tripp ** Sarona B.S.N., Nursing
Jaedyn Anne Walz ** Woodbury, MN B.S.N., Nursing
Olivia Sara Weiss * Mondovi B.S.N., Nursing
Shelley Ann Wells * Eau Claire B.S.N., Nursing
Alexandra Rae Wenzel *** Apple Valley, MN B.S.N., Nursing
Rebecca Lynn Wilcox * Roseville, MN B.S.N., Nursing
Denette Amanda Williams ** Eau Claire B.S.N., Nursing
Brandi Zawislanski *** Unity B.S.N., Nursing
College of Education and Human Sciences

MASTER’S DEGREES

Amy Marie Eppinger Portage
M.E.P.D., Professional Development – Library Science
B.A., 2007, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
Program Advisor: Mr. Rob Reid

Jessica Anne Holt Eau Claire
M.S.E., Special Education
B.S., 2004, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
Program Advisor: Dr. Cathy Thorsen

Karen LuJean Howell River Falls
M.E.P.D., Professional Development – Library Science
M.A., 1995, University of Missouri-Columbia
B.S.E.D., 1991, University of Missouri-Columbia
Program Advisor: Mr. Rob Reid

Marci Ann Meyer Deer Park
M.E.P.D., Professional Development – Library Science
B.S., 2005, University of Wisconsin-Stout
Program Advisor: Mr. Rob Reid

Olivia Lee Vollmar Argonne
M.S.T., Reading
B.S., 2011, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
Program Advisor: Dr. Jill Prushieik

BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

Aisia Kendall Ackard ** Waunakee
B.S., Elementary Education

Paige Ahrens * Hastings, MN
B.S., Kinesiology

Rebecca Marie Al-Awdi ** Chippewa Falls
B.S.W., Social Work

Ashley Marie Albrecht *** Greenville
B.S., Elementary Education

Kristin Jo Alderman *** La Crosse
B.S., Special Education

Ryan Richard Ames ** Shakopee, MN
B.S., Elementary Education

Madison Andresen *** Minnetonka, MN
B.S., Elementary Education and Spanish

Cara Anne Arrowood Weston
B.S.W., Social Work

McKenna Grace Bachmann ** Chanhassen, MN
B.S., Communication Sciences and Disorders

Joseph Carter Barnett * Black River Falls
B.M.E., Music

Grace Dawn Barnhardt * Eau Claire
B.S.W., Social Work

Daryl Jessica Barry * Stevenson Ranch, CA
B.S., Communication Sciences and Disorders

Sarah Beth Bartel ** Germantown
B.S., Special Education

Leah Amy Bartsch ** Hortonville
B.S.W., Social Work

Sarah Kate Beck *** Wausau
B.A., English

Paul Barry Benson * Eden Prairie, MN
B.S., Special Education

Katherine Mariah Berg Chippewa Falls
B.S., Kinesiology

Carlene Marie Bertrand Green Bay
B.S.W., Social Work

Hayley Lynn Ann Block ** Fairbault, MN
B.S., Kinesiology

Bradley Raymond Boecher * Bloomington, MN
B.S., Special Education

Sarah Elizabeth Boehm ** Grafton
B.S., Special Education

Lydia Jane Boerboom * Chisago City, MN
B.S.W., Social Work

Brady Robert Bolz Phillips
B.S., Kinesiology

Cristina Elisa Bommarito ** Hudson
B.S., Elementary Education

Ethan Covington Bone Rochester, MN
B.S., Kinesiology

Karissa Lyn Bornemann Milton
B.S.W., Social Work

Chantal Rea Padilla Bougie ** Oshkosh
B.S., Kinesiology

Lindsey Paige Brehem Hixton
B.S., Elementary Education and Spanish

Allyson Christine Breyer ** Minnetrista, MN
B.S., Special Education

Kasey Nicole Brylski * Oshkosh
B.M.E., Music

Allison Marie Bugei Woodbury, MN
B.S., Kinesiology and Communication

McKenzie Margaret Burton * Round Lake, IL
B.S., Special Education

Kristina Nicole Byars-Dewanz ** Coon Rapids, MN
B.S., Kinesiology

Sean Robert Campbell Hopkins, MN
B.S., Kinesiology

Jessica Ashley Carlson Rochester, MN
B.S., Elementary Education

Anna Mae Cashman * Two Harbors, MN
B.S., Elementary Education

Katelyn Mary Catura *** New Berlin
B.S., Elementary Education

Caitlin Mae Christy ** Madison
B.S., Special Education

Christopher John Clark ** Ashwaubenon
B.S., Elementary Education

Logan Thomas Coert ** Cedarburg
B.S., Elementary Education

Benjamin Louis Cole North St. Paul, MN
B.A., Social Studies

Caitlyn Elizabeth Cook *** Hudson
B.S., Communication Sciences and Disorders

Elisabeth Christine Cooley * Oshkosh
B.S.W., Social Work

Ashley Annette Cordes *** Goodhue, MN
B.S., Elementary Education

Hunter Catherine Cormican * Glenwood City
B.S.W., Social Work

Elizabeth Lee Crotteau * Rice Lake
B.S., Kinesiology

Melanie Lynn Daas * Roshoit
B.S.W., Social Work

Mallory MaryBeth Daniels * Webster
B.S., Kinesiology

Elizabeth Ann Davis *** Dodgeville
B.S., Elementary Education and Spanish

Laura Marie Delestry ** Chippewa Falls
B.S., Elementary Education

Haley Kristene DenHartog ** Hopkins, MN
B.S., Communication Sciences and Disorders

Tristan Connor Devick ** Rochester, MN
B.A., German

Savanna Tai Dickinson ** Fond du Lac
B.A., Social Studies

Morgan Ann Dohms Appleton
B.S., Communication Sciences and Disorders and Spanish

Rachel Jean Douglas * Bangor
B.S., Special Education

Rachel Lauren Douglas *** Milwaukee
B.S., Elementary Education

Terren David Driscoll ** Kiel
B.S., Elementary Education

Hayley Jean Duwerwacht ** La Crescent, MN
B.S., Special Education

Catherine Ann Edgington ** Burlington
B.M.E., Music

Jordan Thomas Ellenbecker * Weston
B.S., Kinesiology

Wyatt James Elmer ** Mankato, MN
B.S., Kinesiology

Nadia Lynn El-Yousseph *** Spain
B.S., Communication Sciences and Disorders

Alicia Renee Endreas ** Spencer
B.S., Special Education

Crystal Ann Erickson ** Chippewa Falls
B.S., Communication Sciences and Disorders

Jacob Joshua Esterberg * Elk River, MN
B.M.E., Music

Maya Rain Fabian *** Stoughton
B.M.E., Music

Sarah Ferber * Eau Claire
B.S.W., Social Work

Matthew D Filla * Lake Elmo, MN
B.S., Biology

Bianna Raine Forrest * Elk River, MN
B.S., Special Education
Rylie Helen Fourre * North Branch, MN
B.S., Communication Sciences and Disorders
Nicole Rose Fox * Fond du Lac
B.S.W., Social Work
Alyssa Mae Frame *** Andover, MN
B.S., Special Education
Kelsey Brooke Frank ** Sartell, MN
B.S., Special Education
Carissa Elise Franzaimeier * New London
B.S., Elementary Education
Ian Z Freiburger ** Batavia, IL
B.A., English and Political Science
Jacob Tyler Fuchs *** Hager City
University Honors
B.S., Kinesiology and Spanish
Zoe Murphy Gaspar ** Greendale
B.S., Special Education
Emily Grace Genovese ** Waukesha
B.S., Elementary Education
Lindsey Marie Geurkink ** Bloomer
B.S., Special Education
Jenna Ellen Ginter *** Vesper
B.S.W., Social Work
Sarah Elizabeth Glidden Greenville
B.S., Kinesiology
Cassandra Joanne Gobel ** Hayward
B.S., Kinesiology
Erin Maureen McNeely Goodell *** Woodbury, MN
B.S., Kinesiology
Grace Leah Goodwin ** Prior Lake, MN
B.S., Special Education
Alyssa Jo Greene * Osseo
B.S.W., Social Work
Madison Lin Griffin *** Green Bay
B.S., Special Education
Mikaila Christine Griffin *** Green Bay
B.S., Communication Sciences and Disorders
Claire Beth Gruber *** Neenah
University Honors
B.S., Mathematics
Makenzie Allison Hamer ** Cottage Grove
B.S.W., Social Work and Spanish
Shelby Elizabeth Hamlin-Bowe *** Eau Claire
B.S., Biology
Kayla Claire Hanley ** Chippewa Falls
B.S., Special Education
Jasmine Shay Hanson ** Wild Rose
B.S., Elementary Education
Megan E Hanson * Withee
B.S., Special Education
Bailey Rae Harder *** Chippewa Falls
B.S., Communication Sciences and Disorders
Samantha Grace Harkness * Eau Claire
B.S.W., Social Work
Amber Marie Harris Coon Rapids, MN
B.S., Kinesiology and Spanish
Alexandria Devon Haug * Rhinelander
B.S., Elementary Education
Jamie Marie Hebel * Green Bay
B.S., Kinesiology
Katherine Alexis Hegna ** Black River Falls
B.S.W., Social Work
Morgan James Heichel Lindgren * St. Croix Falls
B.A., Social Studies
Jenna Lee Heikkinen Mukwonago
B.S.W., Social Work
Courtney Heller * Eagle River
B.S., Communication Sciences and Disorders
Tyler James Henke ** Osseo
B.S., Special Education
Laura Nou Kou Chee Her Madison
B.S.W., Social Work
Dalton Thomas John Hessel ** Hayward
B.S., Elementary Education
Amber Grace Hickson ** Sobieski
B.S., Elementary Education
Maranda Elsie Hilby *** Onalaska
B.S., Special Education
Joy Elizabeth Hittenmiller *** Rockford, IL
B.S., Kinesiology and Business Administration
Mason James Hoeper Neenah
B.S., Kinesiology
Elizabeth Lee Holtz * Eau Claire
B.S., Elementary Education
Kenneth Clayton Hood *** Chetek
B.A., English
Brenna Christine Hughes ** Brooklyn Park, MN
B.S., Mathematics
Faith Bryanna Hultman * Rice Lake
B.A., English
Brenna Elizabeth Jagodzinski *** Weston
B.S., Elementary Education
Samantha Jerome Rib Lake
B.S.W., Social Work
Hannah Marie Johnson * Waukesha
B.S., Elementary Education
Rachel Carol Johnson ** Maple Grove, MN
B.S., Elementary Education
Bailey Mary Keeble * Ladysmith
B.S., Special Education
Megan Claire Keefe * Waverly, MN
B.S., Special Education
Jordan Nicole Kernen *** Sun Prairie
B.S., Elementary Education
Liyah Mae Kissner Prescott
B.S., Kinesiology
Kelly A Knetter * Wausau
B.S., Kinesiology
Anna Elizabeth Kohler *** Birchwood
B.S., Kinesiology
Olivia Mae Korson ** Onalaska
B.S., Special Education
Jesse Jordan Kozak Greenville
B.M.E., Music
Malysa Lynn Kraico *** Richland Center
B.S., Elementary Education
Ashley Marie Kroll *** Weston
B.S., Elementary Education
Bailee Krueger * Antigo
B.S., Kinesiology
Devon Isaac Lawrence ** Rosemount, MN
B.M.E., Music
Brandon James Lee * Viroqua
B.S., Special Education
Samantha Ann Lefaive * Coon Rapids, MN
B.S., Kinesiology
Michelle Marie Lisowski *** Mondovi
B.A., Spanish
Nicole Marie Long ** Green Bay
B.S., Elementary Education
Kayla Susan Marquardt * Wausau
B.S., Communication Sciences and Disorders
Katrina Marie Matthews * New Berlin
B.S., Special Education
Breanna Carol McFaul *** Appleton
B.S., Communication Sciences and Disorders
Raychel Marie Menne ** Maplewood, MN
B.S., Elementary Education
Rachel Mary Meyers * Green Bay
B.S., Communication Sciences and Disorders
Grace Elizabeth Mikkelson *** Eden Prairie, MN
B.S., Special Education
Matthew Devin Miller * Minnetrista, MN
B.M.E., Music
Nicole Elizabeth Miller *** Neenah
University Honors
B.S., Kinesiology
Abigail Jo Monn ** Inver Grove Heights, MN
B.S., Special Education
Chantelle Marie Neaman ** Rice Lake
B.S., Communication Sciences and Disorders
Samantha Jo Neuberger Lakeville, MN
B.S., Kinesiology
Andrew Ray Nicholson Ladysmith
B.M.E., Music
Cassandra Rae Ninnemann * Wausau
B.S., Elementary Education
Nicole Lindsey Nolte Rierdon ** Green Bay
B.S., Communication Sciences and Disorders
Maja Sofia Nord Mora, MN
B.S., Elementary Education
Sabrina Kaye Norte * Pine Island, MN
B.S., Elementary Education
Brianna Mae Novy ** Reedsburg
B.S., Elementary Education
Kenneth Clinton Olson ** Eagan, MN
B.A., English
Jessica Rae Onsager ** Onalaska
B.A., French
Linsi Jo Osland *** Rogers, MN
B.S., Special Education
Brendon James Overly Green Bay
B.S., Kinesiology
Courtney Jane Patri *** Hortonville
University Honors
B.A., Spanish and Mathematics
Jordyn Kay Pederson Black River Falls
B.S., Kinesiology
Sophie Louise Peters ** Waukesha
B.S., Kinesiology
Matthew Joseph Pfantz * Merrill
B.M.E., Music
Taylor Jordan Piecuch Rice Lake
B.S., Kinesiology
Alexander Guy Plum * Eagan, MN
B.M.E., Music
Larrick James Potvin Brooklyn Center, MN
B.S.W., Social Work
Sergei Nicolas Raspel *** Omro
B.S., Elementary Education
Alyssa Marie Rayburn * Chippewa Falls
B.S., Elementary Education
Kelsey Joy Reding *** Red Wing, MN 
B.S., Special Education

Rebecca Anne Roeder Mosinee 
B.S., Communication Sciences and Disorders and Psychology

Gabriel Charles Rowley * Stoughton 
B.A., Spanish

Kevin Paul Ruhl Wausau 
B.M.E., Music

Emma Louise Rusnacko ** Fridley, MN 
B.S., Special Education

Allison Marie Russell Dayton, MN 
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B.A., Spanish

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B.S., Communication Sciences and Disorders and Psychology

Gabriel Charles Rowley * Stoughton 
B.A., Spanish

Kevin Paul Ruhl Wausau 
B.M.E., Music

Emma Louise Rusnacko ** Fridley, MN 
B.S., Special Education

Allison Marie Russell Dayton, MN 
B.S., Communication Sciences and Disorders and Psychology

Gabriel Charles Rowley * Stoughton 
B.A., Spanish

Kevin Paul Ruhl Wausau 
B.M.E., Music

Emma Louise Rusnacko ** Fridley, MN 
B.S., Special Education

Allison Marie Russell Dayton, MN 
B.S., Communication Sciences and Disorders and Psychology

Gabriel Charles Rowley * Stoughton 
B.A., Spanish

Kevin Paul Ruhl Wausau 
B.M.E., Music

Emma Louise Rusnacko ** Fridley, MN 
B.S., Special Education

Allison Marie Russell Dayton, MN 
B.S., Communication Sciences and Disorders and Psychology

Gabriel Charles Rowley * Stoughton 
B.A., Spanish

Kevin Paul Ruhl Wausau 
B.M.E., Music

Emma Louise Rusnacko ** Fridley, MN 
B.S., Special Education

Allison Marie Russell Dayton, MN 
B.S., Communication Sciences and Disorders and Psychology

Gabriel Charles Rowley * Stoughton 
B.A., Spanish

Kevin Paul Ruhl Wausau 
B.M.E., Music

Emma Louise Rusnacko ** Fridley, MN 
B.S., Special Education

Allison Marie Russell Dayton, MN 
B.S., Communication Sciences and Disorders and Psychology

Gabriel Charles Rowley * Stoughton 
B.A., Spanish

Kevin Paul Ruhl Wausau 
B.M.E., Music

Emma Louise Rusnacko ** Fridley, MN 
B.S., Special Education

Allison Marie Russell Dayton, MN 
B.S., Communication Sciences and Disorders and Psychology

Gabriel Charles Rowley * Stoughton 
B.A., Spanish

Kevin Paul Ruhl Wausau 
B.M.E., Music

Emma Louise Rusnacko ** Fridley, MN 
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B.S., Communication Sciences and Disorders and Psychology

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Emma Louise Rusnacko ** Fridley, MN 
B.S., Special Education

Allison Marie Russell Dayton, MN 
B.S., Communication Sciences and Disorders and Psychology

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Kevin Paul Ruhl Wausau 
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Emma Louise Rusnacko ** Fridley, MN 
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B.A., Spanish

Kevin Paul Ruhl Wausau 
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Anna Noelle Selchow ** Apple Valley, MN 
B.S., Communication Sciences and Disorders

Kathleen Ann Shubin ** Temecula, CA 
B.S., Communication Sciences and Disorders

Shelbie Kristine Smieja ** Andover, MN 
B.S., Elementary Education

Allison Marie Steinberg *** Oak Creek 
B.S., Special Education

Bryann Ashly Stengard ** Hurley 
B.S.W., Social Work

Madison Elizabeth Stokes *** East Bethel, MN 
B.S., Elementary Education

Nicholas Jay Stowell ** Eau Claire 
B.S., Kinesiology

Carolyn Louisa Stroschein *** Waukesha 
B.S., Elementary Education

Anna Joo Studinski * Marathon 
B.S., Elementary Education

Jacob James Stuttgen ** Fall Creek 
B.S., Elementary Education

Kendra Henny Taber ** Sheldon 
B.S.W., Social Work

JoHannah Michael Theisen ** Eau Claire 
B.S.W., Social Work

Sophia Katherine Thoen *** Rochester, MN 
University Honors
B.S.W., Social Work

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B.S., Communication Sciences and Disorders and Spanish

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B.S., Kinesiology

Tanner Drake Toft Mikana 
B.S., Kinesiology

Brandon James Tomamadison 
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Jordan Nicholas Townsend * Wausau 
B.S., Elementary Education

Tara Elizabeth Vandenhousten ** Green Bay 
B.S., Elementary Education

Amy Lynn Verdegan * Hayward 
B.S., Communication Sciences and Disorders

Andrew John Vogel ** Waconia, MN 
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B.S.W., Social Work and Psychology

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B.S., Kinesiology and Psychology

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B.S., Kinesiology

Kathleen Ellen May Weller ** Athens 
B.S., Special Education

Jamison Robert Wendlandt * Sand Creek 
B.M.E., Music

Morgan Lyn Wilde *** Merrill 
B.S., Biology

Olivia Delphine Willett ** Osceola 
B.M.E., Music

Madeline Marquita Willi ** Hudson 
B.S., Kinesiology

Paul Charles Wilson * South Beloit, IL 
B.S., Kinesiology

Brianne Olive Winkelmann ** Eau Claire 
B.S., Special Education

Allison Katherine Wirth *** Kimberly 
B.A., English

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B.S., Communication Sciences and Disorders and Spanish

Abby Leigh Wold *** Eau Claire 
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Dejntshia Yang * Wausau 
B.S., Elementary Education

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Brittany Susan Zellmer ** Montello 
B.S., Kinesiology

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B.B.A., Information Systems

Gary Terrel Butcher Hazel Crest, IL  
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B.B.A., Management

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B.B.A., Economics

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B.B.A., Accounting

Arianna Elizabeth Cormier White Bear Township, MN  
B.B.A., Accounting

Nicholas Ryan Cossi Bessemer, MI  
B.B.A., Business Administration

Dominic Richard Craig West Allis  
B.B.A., Marketing

Mckenna Lea Culliton Mount Horeb  
B.B.A., Management

Ian Ross Dalebroux De Pere  
B.B.A., Business Finance

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Matthew Joseph Ehlers Wisconsin Rapids  
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Ellen Ashley Eisch Kimberly  
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Annika Elaine Ekblad Eau Claire  
B.B.A., Management and Spanish

Michala Sharon Enli De Pere  
B.B.A., Management

Miranda Sue Erickson Strum  
B.B.A., Information Systems

Johann Elizabeth Erfmeyer Eau Claire  
B.B.A., Information Systems and German

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Jason Phillip Faschingbauer Chippewa Falls  
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Pauline Ferre Eden Prairie, MN  
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Katherine Ann Fleck Rogers, MN  
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Carlton James Fowler Rice Lake  
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Sarah Ann Fuechtmann Lino Lakes, MN  
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Jacob Daniel Gallagher Owatonna, MN  
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Katie German Jordan, MN  
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Aquila Jean Glosmski Cadott  
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Brian James Gobler Eau Claire  
B.B.A., Management

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B.B.A., Accounting and Information Systems

Ryan Jason Gray Eau Claire  
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B.B.A., Management

Olivia Ray Hart Menasha  
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Shelby Fawn Hauge Altoona  
B.B.A., Management

David Scott Henry Foster City, CA  
B.B.A., Accounting and Information Systems

Jorge Herrero Berengue Spain  
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Brandon Andrew Hofschulte Lake City, MN  
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Caleb Jeffrey Holton Hartford  
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Alex John Hoover South Milwaukee  
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Connor Jacob Hurst Little Chute  
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Stacey Nicole Ibe Richfield, MN  
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Katelynn Lucy Jacque Thorp  
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Megan Carole Jahnz New Richmond  
B.B.A., Marketing

Anthony Leonard Jazwiecki Mountain  
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Callie Rae Jirik New Richmond  
B.B.A., Business Finance

Drew Thomas Johnson Milton  
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Erin Kristine Johnson Green Bay  
B.B.A., Accounting

Joyce Ann Johnson Blaine, MN  
B.B.A., Management

Nicole Ann Jossart Maple Grove, MN  
B.B.A., Management

Evan Gerard Kaminski Sun Prairie  
B.B.A., Management

Sarah Lynn Kazy-Garey Sharon  
B.B.A., Accounting and Information Systems

Dillon James Kempen Suring  
B.B.A., Marketing

Justina Khang Wisconsin Rapids  
B.B.A., Management

Shoua Nicole Khang Eau Claire  
B.B.A., Business Administration

Elizabeth Mary Kinderman Fall Creek  
B.B.A., Management

Jacob Michael Kirley Waukesha  
B.B.A., Marketing

Cole Richard Kivist Hurley  
B.B.A., Management

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Katie Kablhas Xiong  Eau Claire  
B.B.A., Management

Ningyue Xu  *  China
B.B.A., Economics

Ling Yang  China
B.B.A., Business Finance

Pajai Yang  Eau Claire
B.B.A., Information Systems

Zhao Yang  **  China
B.B.A., Economics

Tristan Lee YellowCloud  Neillsville
B.B.A., Management

Danielle N. Zais  Osceola
B.B.A., Accounting

Sisi Zhou  **  China
B.B.A., Economics

Jingyuan Zhu  China
B.B.A., Business Finance

Ben Michael Zielinski  ***  Bessemer, MI
B.B.A., Business Finance and Accounting

Kelly Emily Zimmer  **  Sussex
B.B.A., Accounting

Jacob Michael Znidarsich  Madison
B.B.A., Business Administration
College of Arts and Sciences

SPECIALIST DEGREES

Megan Ashley Diedrick Peshtigo
Ed.S., School Psychology
M.S.E., 2012, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
B.S., 2010, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Program Advisor: Dr. Mary Beth Tusing
Thesis: School Psychologists’ Social Acceptability
  Ratings of Social Skills Interventions for
  Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder
  Thesis Advisor: Dr. Michael Axelrod

Amy Lynn Steingas Woodbury, MN
Ed.S., School Psychology
M.S.E., 2015, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
B.A., 2014, University of St. Thomas
Program Advisor: Dr. Mary Beth Tusing
Thesis: Barriers to Implementing School-Based Cyberbullying Programs
  Thesis Advisor: Dr. Jennifer Muehlenkamp

MASTER’S DEGREES

Lauren Eileen Brinkman Maple Grove, MN
M.S.E., School Psychology
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M.S., Data Science
B.S., 2011, Purdue University
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Megan Kay Burmood * Hager City B.F.A., Art
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Emily Louise Elliott * West Allis B.A., English and Theatre Arts
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Sarah Jane Faste ** Eagan, MN B.A., Spanish
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Brooke Ray Frank Sun Prairie B.S., Computer Science
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Sierra Rayn Marie Garcia Fort Atkinson B.A., Geography
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Sam Paul Gladis III Waterford B.A., Communication
Ian Edward Godin Menasha B.A., Geography and Spanish
Conner James Goeben *** Green Bay B.S., Mathematics
Nicole Kathleen Gottfriedsen *** Ashwaubenon University Honors B.A., Psychology and German
Madeline Rose Grinnell Chippewa Falls B.S., Economics
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Claire Catherine Guenther * La Crosse B.A., Psychology
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Dylan Michael Haling Elkhorn B.S., Mathematics
Ayla June Hammill * Madison B.S., Chemistry with Business Emphasis
Andrew John Harter Wausau B.S., Computer Science
Samantha Rae Harvey Jordan, MN B.A., Integrated Strategic Communication
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<th>Name</th>
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<td>Christopher Thomas Zimmerman</td>
<td>Colfax, B.S., Biology</td>
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SPECIAL THANK YOU TO
Rachel Kohn, signing for the deaf and hard of hearing

Readers
Naomi Frisinger, Freshman, Theatre Arts Major
Benjamin Qualley, Junior, Theatre Arts Major

COMMENCEMENT PRODUCTION AND COORDINATION STAFF
Evan Weiher, Commencement Marshal,
Chair, University Senate
Debra Lang, Events and Special Projects
Coordinator, Offices of the Chancellor
and UW-Eau Claire Foundation
Sarah Tweedale, Commencement Assistant
Jane Larson, Coordinator of
Alumni Engagement and the Alumni
Association Board of Directors
Tyler Edmondson and members
of the University Centers Event
Services student staff
Jeff Bria and staff members of
the Records and Registration Office
UW-Eau Claire Integrated Marketing
and Communications staff
Mark Andrie, Tina Wolfgram and staff
members of University Printing Services
Brooke Weiss and staff members
of the University Service Center
Learning and Technology Services staff
GradImages, Fairfield, Iowa
Blugold Dining by Sodexo

DEGREE INTERPRETATIONS
B.A. Bachelor of Arts
B.B.A. Bachelor of Business
Administration
B.F.A. Bachelor of Fine Arts
B.L.S. Bachelor of Liberal Studies
B.M. Bachelor of Music
B.M.E. Bachelor of Music Education
B.P.S. Bachelor of Professional Studies
B.S. Bachelor of Science
B.S.E.P.H. Bachelor of Science in
Environmental Public Health
B.S.N. Bachelor of Science in Nursing
B.S.W. Bachelor of Social Work
D.N.P. Doctor of Nursing Practice
Ed.S. Specialist in Education
M.A. Master of Arts
M.B.A. Master of Business Administration
M.E.P.D. Master of Education-
Professional Development
M.S. Master of Science
M.S.E. Master of Science in Education
M.S.N. Master of Science in Nursing
HONORS PROGRAM

The Honors Program provides an extra measure of challenge and enrichment for students who are academically distinguished by previous and current achievements and by high levels of motivation and curiosity. The program seeks to challenge exceptionally able students to perform at the highest level of which they are capable, to enhance their capacity for critical inquiry and independent learning, and to develop their potential for leadership in their future vocations. The Honors Program has two components: University Honors and Departmental Honors. Students may complete one or both components. Students graduating with University Honors have attained a grade-point average of at least 3.5 and have completed at least 24 University Honors credits. Graduates receiving University Honors are identified by a gold ribbon and medal.

In addition, 32 scholastic honor societies are recognized at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. They exist primarily to recognize the attainment of scholarship of a superior quality and to confer distinction for high achievement in undergraduate, graduate and professional studies; in student leadership; and in various fields of research. Baccalaureate candidates who are members of scholastic honor societies are identified by silver cords.

ACADEMIC APPAREL

The academic apparel worn by the faculty and staff in the processional has its origins in the universities of the Middle Ages. Because the universities grew out of church schools, both faculty and students were regarded as part of the clergy and wore clerical clothing based on monastic dress.

The head covering developed from the skullcap worn to protect tonsured heads in cold weather. In the universities, the skullcap acquired a point on top, which gradually evolved into a tassel. In Europe the bonnet with tassel is still worn but has been replaced in America by the mortarboard cap or tam with tassel.

The style of the gown may have been borrowed from the Benedictine monk’s habit. In the Middle Ages, those with bachelor’s and master’s degrees could be distinguished by the simplicity or elaborateness of their gowns. The master’s gowns were often furred, a decoration surviving as the three velvet bars now used on the sleeves of the doctoral gown.

The hood was originally worn over the head in bad weather and otherwise dropped onto the shoulders. First worn by faculty and students, the hood is now added to the apparel of those with master’s, specialist in education and doctoral degrees. The color of the velvet trim on the hood indicates the scholarly field: for example, dark blue (philosophy), golden yellow (science), light blue (education), pink (music), apricot (nursing), drab (business), white (arts). The colors of the satin lining are those approved and authorized by the college or university from which the degree was earned.

UNIVERSITY MACE AND STAND

The University Mace represents the proud history and community connections of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. It was donated in 2016 in honor of the University’s centennial by Dr. Susan Harrison, emerita professor of mathematics, who served for 15 years as chair of the University Senate and commencement marshall. The mace includes wood from the original Council Oak tree and Kent State Memorial trees that was saved when the trees were replaced. It was crafted by members of the Chippewa Valley Woodturners Guild. The University Medallion at the center of the mace was Dr. Harrison’s, given in recognition of her university service. The mace reminds graduates of the University’s history of excellence and its many contributions to the people of the region and of Wisconsin.
Senior Class Gift

Each year, graduating seniors have an opportunity to commemorate their graduation by making a gift to the UW-Eau Claire Foundation. This semester, more than 80 seniors joined our community of alumni and donors who support UW-Eau Claire each year.

Graduating seniors were encouraged to donate to any area of the university including academic colleges and departments or the Excellence Fund to support UW-Eau Claire’s overall mission. By making a senior class gift, students are able to support current and future Blugolds even after they graduate.

The UW-Eau Claire Foundation thanks the following seniors for their generosity and for participating in the Senior Class Gift campaign. Senior class gift donors can be recognized wearing Blue and Gold Spirit Cords during the commencement ceremony. The following seniors made a gift of at least $20.18 in support of UW-Eau Claire and to commemorate their graduation year:

Othman S. Aloobood
Autumn R. Anklam
Grant L. Arnold
Cara A. Arrowood
Dhiyanni Arumugam
Mackenzie R. Bauer
Tyler J. Bee
Katherine M. Berg
Erin E. Bergo-McDonald
Brady R. Bolz
Kevin D. Brian
Emily N. Brinza
Kayla A. Budd
Allison M. Bugel
Ryan P. Burr
Gary T. Butcher
Kristina N. Byars-Dewanz
Rachel R. Clepper
Kiersten R. Clifford
Elizabeth L. Crotteau
Johanna K. Dertinger
Morgan A. Dohms
Brian H. Dombrowski
Sadie E. Dupont
Ellen A. Eisch
Andreas L. Erickson
Sarah M. Ferber
Nicole K. Gottfredsen
Laura N. Her
Jorge Herrera Berengue
Brianne E. Hopkins
Keely R. Huber
Maxwell E. Inskeep
William G. Johnston
Nicole A. Jossart
Tara N. Kammes
Austin M. Kolden
Bailee Krueger
Lauren W. Lisowy
Xeng Lor
Zachary J. Lydon
Tye A. McLaughlin
Nicole E. Miller
Samantha A. Monson
Samantha J. Neuberger
Sabrina K. Norte
Joshua J. Olson
Chloe C. Paul
Jordyn K. Pederson
Taylor J. Piecuch
Karissa A. Plath
Taylor C. Prestidge
Riley C. Pretat
Amelia J. Sable
Maria K. Schaab
Breanna L. Schara
Cassie S. Schouten
Anna N. Selchow
Mackenzie K. Severson
Jessica R. Short
Lexie C. Smetana
Veronica Snell
Allison D. Spegal
Kimberly R. Stefonik
Elizabeth A. Tapia
Sara E. Thielen
Phuong P. Vo
Kathleen E. Weller
Shelley A. Wells
Allison L. Welter
Matthew J. Weltzien
Morgan L. Wilde
Paul P. Willfahrt
Megan R. Wirth
Andrew W. Wojtowicz
Ningyue Xu
Alexandra L. Ziepke

*Some donors are not listed per request*
Alumni Awards

Eight alumni and friends of the university are receiving awards from the UW-Eau Claire Alumni Association today, recognizing their professional and personal successes as well as their contributions to their alma mater, their communities and their professions. In these pages we introduce you to these distinguished Blugolds as they share their best advice with today’s graduates and welcome them into the Blugold alumni family.

ALUMNI DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Alumni Distinguished Achievement Award recognizes distinguished service to the community, state or nation in a manner that brings credit upon the recipient and the university.

Angelica Hambrick ’02

bachelor’s degree in public communication

Angie Hambrick is the assistant vice president for diversity, justice and sustainability at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington. She is widely recognized for her success in bringing programs and services to campus that promote a more culturally responsive, socially just and sustainable community for students, faculty and staff.

An active and engaged Blugold alumna who previously served on the UW-Eau Claire Alumni Association board of directors, Hambrick and classmate Angela Pittman Taylor established the UW-Eau Claire Black Alumni Network and the Alumni of Color Social Justice and Inclusion Scholarship, a fund designated to support student advocates for tolerance, understanding and change.

The recipient of multiple grants and regional, national and international awards, Hambrick recently was honored by NASPA, the leading association for individuals in the student affairs profession, with its regional Innovative Program Award. NASPA recognized her program called “PLU Listen,” a collection of submitted personal stories on her campus that weave together a tapestry of perspectives on creating a community that embraces diversity and actively promotes social change.

Hambrick earned a master’s degree in education at Southern Illinois University and is completing work on her doctorate in higher education at Azusa Pacific University, where her research explores the impact of social justice education on students, faculty and staff, and examines the experiences of white campus members who are engaged in anti-racist activities.

Angela Pittman Taylor ’00

bachelor’s degree in public relations

Angela Pittman Taylor is senior vice president and public relations operations manager with Baird in Milwaukee, where she started as a student intern in 1998 and became a full-time employee before graduating from UW-Eau Claire.

In 2013, Pittman Taylor was awarded the Black Excellence Award from The Milwaukee Times newspaper, selected as a “Corporate Trailblazer” among a long list of black leaders in the greater Milwaukee area for her history of diversity efforts and initiatives at Baird and in the region. She was also named a 2011 Woman of Influence by the Business Journal Serving Greater Milwaukee.

Pittman Taylor and fellow Blugold and Angelica Hambrick co-founded the UW-Eau Claire Black Alumni Network and the Alumni of Color Social Justice and Inclusion Scholarship, a fund designated to support student advocates for tolerance, understanding and change.

In addition to her public relations role at Baird, Pittman Taylor has served as the communications chair of PRISM, the firm’s multicultural association resource group, and the secretary of Sisters with Stock, a Baird-sponsored women’s investment club focused on increasing financial literacy in the African-American community. She also founded and co-chaired Baird’s Business Diversity Council.

Advice to new Blugold alumni:

Even if you doubt your ability to make an impact, just begin. Take that first step and keep going. Work hard, know your worth and stay the course. Be open to success taking many different forms and extend yourself some grace.
The Outstanding Recent Alumnus Award acknowledges the special achievements and great promise of alumni who are within 15 years of their graduation from UW-Eau Claire.

**Shawn Everhart ’04**

bachelor’s degree in marketing and management information systems

After graduating from UW-Eau Claire, Shawn Everhart joined Cargill Inc. in Minneapolis as a business intelligence analyst and developer. For the past 14 years Everhart has held various business and IT roles advancing Cargill’s holdings across the U.S. in the field of systems implementations, analytics and business intelligence.

Everhart has led numerous projects to upgrade and replace Cargill Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) business systems under a long-term companywide initiative. He coordinated large-scale system implementations in the U.S. before relocating with his family to Belgium in 2014 to implement Cargill systems across western and central Europe. Everhart returned to the U.S. in 2017 and now serves as the director of Cargill’s North American ERP deployment division.

Outside of his work at Cargill, Everhart was nominated for the Carnegie Hero Medal by the St. Croix County Sheriff’s Office for helping to save a man from burning in 2015. He also volunteers as a teacher at his church and is an avid photographer. Everhart’s landscape and travel photos from 37 countries have been used by various national and international musical groups, Pikes Peak Museum and the University of Vermont, and on the sets of TV shows in Warner Bros. studios.

**Advice to new Blugold alumni:**

Ask a lot of questions, network, have a positive attitude, don’t take work stress home with you and don’t forget about having a work/life balance. Right away you might be intimidated working next to senior people that have years or decades of experience, but you can jump in and immediately contribute even just days out of college, so it’s important to have a positive attitude and confidence!

---

**Erin Klaus ’05**

bachelor’s degree in English literature

Erin Klaus is the co-founder and owner of two arts-related businesses in downtown Eau Claire, an artist’s collective gallery and retail shop called Tangled Up In Hue, and a supply store for makers of jewelry and textiles called Blue Boxer Arts.

After graduating from UW-Eau Claire in 2005, Klaus left for Arizona to begin graduate school in women’s studies. Due to an illness in her family, she soon returned to Eau Claire, where she tapped into an entrepreneurial spirit inspired by the community-based art culture of Tucson.

Klaus and her business partner, Jamie Kyser, have been leaders in the “shop local” movement, with such success that Tangled Up In Hue recently expanded to serve and support more area creatives; the space now holds workshops, live music performances and more. Klaus also led the establishment of the outdoor summer Artist Market in Eau Claire’s Phoenix Park and monthly downtown First Fridays events.

Klaus serves on the South Barstow Business Improvement District board and the Downtown Eau Claire Inc. board of directors and executive board. She has been at the forefront of both the women-owned and shop-local movements — driving forces in Eau Claire’s recent downtown revitalization. Klaus is seen by colleagues and the community as a role model for young women dreaming of creating their own businesses.

**Advice to new Blugold alumni:**

Engage with your community, take initiative and take risks. You are the source of your own destiny, and truly, anything is possible with hard work and commitment. Life is full of challenges and the experience you had UW-Eau Claire has prepared you well for these challenges. However, sometimes life happens and can hit you like a ton of bricks all at once. Never forget what a powerful force you can be, and when you use that force to create positive change in your community, you will be unstoppable.

Be patient with yourself as you work toward your goals and be open and ready for change. Not everything goes as first planned. Navigate and use adversity, hardship and challenges to become better equipped for life and your role in it. Don’t ever get stuck thinking in terms of failure. Every closing door is an opportunity to push it back open, find another one, or better yet build a bigger door. In fact, there is plenty of room to build those bigger doors, or your dreams, right here in Eau Claire.
PRESIDENT’S AWARD

The President’s Award recognizes outstanding professional and personal achievements and service to UW-Eau Claire.

David Larson ’90
bachelor’s degree in chemistry

David Larson is the director of scientific marketing at CAMECA, a global leading supplier of microanalytical and metrology instrumentation for research and process control. Larson is being recognized for his pioneering contributions to the development of atom probe tomography, especially its application to the field of materials science.

As a graduate student at Oxford University, Larson co-invented the local electrode atom probe, a patented technology that has revolutionized the field of atom probe tomography over the last 15 years. CAMECA now manufactures and sells this instrumentation around the world. In 2011, Larson and his research colleagues were awarded the Materials Research Society “Innovation in Materials Characterization Award” for this groundbreaking achievement.

Larson serves in visiting honorary faculty roles at the University of Oxford, the University of Sydney and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He also is fulfilling a six-year term as president of the International Field Emission Society, the leading professional society in the field of atom probe-related science and technology.

The author of roughly 250 scientific publications and an invited guest presenter at more than 50 global materials science institutions, Larson has been granted eight U.S. patents and has been awarded the National Science Foundation’s International Research Fellow Award and the Microscopy Society of America’s Burton Medal. He previously was recognized by UW-Eau Claire with the 2005 Outstanding Recent Alumnus Award.

Advice to new Blugold alumni:
Always ask questions. There are never any dumb ones. The only dumb thing to do is not raise your hand to ask the question.

Don’t worry about failing. Sometimes it is the only way to figure out how to succeed. In college I was terrified of speech class and refused to take it. Now I have given hundreds of seminars and lectures around the world.

You do not have to be the smartest, or the fastest, or the richest, or the prettiest to succeed in this world. In graduate school, my Ph.D. advisor, Tom Kelly, turned me on to a quote by Calvin Coolidge that I have kept on my office wall ever since. A portion of it goes like this: “Nothing in this world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent.” I have stuck to this principle for years. Another variant of the concept goes like this: “Attempt the impossible in order to improve your work” (Bette Davis).

HONORARY ALUMNUS AWARD

The Honorary Alumnus Award is presented to non-alumni or non-degreed alumni who have demonstrated great love of and service to UW-Eau Claire or the greater community.

Willie Green

When Willie Green left UW-Eau Claire in 1996 to work at the Eau Claire Academy, he did not have a Blugold degree in hand, but it was the start of an impressive career supporting high-risk youth, and it is for his passion and service of Wisconsin K-12 students that Green is receiving the Honorary Alumnus Award.

Green is the founder and executive director of Mentoring Positives, a Madison-based nonprofit. MP (the initials of Green’s late mother) has grown from an individual mentoring program in 2004 to the current organization offering individual and group mentoring, along with entrepreneurship programming, to Dane County students. Last May, Green’s program won the $175,000 Nan Cheney March for Justice Award from the CUNA Mutual Group Foundation.

A former Blugold men’s basketball player, Green also is the head girls’ basketball coach at Madison LaFollette High School, a role that earned him the 2017-18 WIAA “Big 8 Coach of the Year” award. Additional notable recognitions are inclusion on the “Most Influential People in Madison 2017” list, the Grassroots Hero award from the Urban League of Greater Madison, the Outstanding Citizen’s Community Award from the Wisconsin Council of Deliberation, the Madison Police Department’s Outstanding Supporter Award 2012, inclusion on the 2011 “Madison’s People of the Year” list, and the Dane County Youth Gang Prevention Task Force Certificate of Recognition for 2009.

Green completed his bachelor’s degree in psychology at Upper Iowa University.

Advice to new Blugold alumni:
Do not allow fear to stop you from doing anything. Stay focused on your dreams through all the obstacles. Your peer groups and the people you chose to spend your time with will be very important. (One thing I wish I would have known earlier was how important networking and making connections were coming out of college.) Time is your most precious possession spend it wisely. Lastly, remember that we all go through some sort of loss/pain. The loss of my mom was hard, and I was able to turn my pain into passion.
LIFETIME EXCELLENCE AWARD

The Lifetime Excellence Award is presented to UW-Eau Claire alumni who have demonstrated longtime and successful commitment to their careers and communities. These individuals have made a positive and dramatic impact through enthusiastic dedication to service and living their lives as a testimony to UW-Eau Claire's motto, “Excellence.”

**Bert Colianni ’76**
bachelor’s degree in accounting

**Suzie Colianni**

Bert Colianni, chief executive officer of Marquette Companies, oversees the numerous and diverse operating companies and investments of the Minneapolis-based organization. Since 1982 when he began as a controller, Bert has served in multiple executive positions within the corporation, including CEO of its previously owned bank and 20 years overseeing the commercial real estate, finance and investment branches of the organization. Bert worked for the firm now known as PricewaterhouseCoopers before joining Marquette Companies.

Bert maintains extensive commitments working to support the Twin Cities community, serving on multiple boards and executive committees, including those of Greater MSP, Hill Museum and Manuscript Library of St. John’s University, Optum Bank and Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church. He has also served as chair of the board for multiple organizations, including the UW-Eau Claire Foundation, Breck Preparatory School Board of Trustees, the Downtown Council of MSP, and CommonBond Communities.

Bert also was a recipient of the UW-Eau Claire Alumni Distinguished Achievement Award in 1996.

Suzie Colianni, who met Bert while attending UW-Eau Claire in 1974, has long been an active leader in volunteerism and philanthropy in Minneapolis-St. Paul. She currently serves as chair of the board for Ascension Catholic School, where her efforts and leadership have helped to raise $15 million. For 23 years Suzie co-owned and operated Ski-Away Inc., a popular Minnesota women’s alpine skiing and snowboarding school.

The Coliannis’ commitment to educational, ecumenical and cultural volunteerism has not gone unnoticed in their state: The Minnesota Association of Fundraising Professionals honored them with the 2017 Outstanding Volunteer Fundraisers Award.

**Advice to new Blugold alumni:**

We recommend that no matter what your field of study has been, stay broad and never stop learning. A keen interest in history, other cultures and a sense of place gained through travel is essential to be a fully participating world citizen. Both of us believe strongly in having an insatiable appetite for reading — fiction and nonfiction. Learn to open your eyes, ears and mind to art, architecture, music, philosophy and religion. By staying healthy in mind, body and spirit, we become better citizens and family members.
1. Oh School of Eau Claire, our voices we raise; Accept thou this anthem of undying praise. We pledge to be faithful, stout-hearted and strong. And cherish thy mem’ry as our lives are long.

2. Give honor to thee, and sing out thy name. Oh college of ours, we dearly acclaim. In still thou within us a feeling of pride. We pray Alma Mater forever abide.