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 one of the top two public regional universities 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 12 percent in the nation for added value in terms of graduate employability and earnings, and we are one of only two UW System public regionals 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 90,000 Blugold alumni making a difference the world over through their contributions in 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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>College Name</th>
<th>Formal Title</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9 a.m.</td>
<td>College of Arts and Sciences</td>
<td>James C. Schmidt, Chancellor, Presiding</td>
<td>Congratulations</td>
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<tr>
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<td>College of Nursing and Health Sciences</td>
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<td>2 p.m.</td>
<td>College of Business</td>
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<tr>
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<td>College of Education and Human Sciences</td>
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**Prelude by UW-Eau Claire Faculty Brass Quintet**
Mike Alexander, horn
Robert Baca, trumpet
Jacob Grewe, tuba
Matthew Mealey, trumpet
Phil Ostrander, trombone

**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 Eliza Morris, Bachelor of Music, Applied Voice Choral (morning)
Led by Cally O'Leary, 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
Warren Anderson, Vice Chancellor for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion & Student Affairs
Albert Colom, Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management
John Haven, Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance
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
Rodd Freitag, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Carmen Manning, Dean, College of Education and Human Sciences
Linda Young, Dean, College of Nursing and Health Sciences
Debra Jansen, Associate Dean, College of Nursing and Health Sciences (morning)
Margaret Cassidy, Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences (morning)
Jill Prusheke, Associate Dean, College of Education and Human Sciences (afternoon)
Jean Pratt, Associate Dean, College of Business (afternoon)
Evan Weiher, Commencement Marshal, Chair, University Senate

**Congratulatory Remarks**
James C. Schmidt, Chancellor

**Introduction of Alumni Award Recipients**
Patricia A. Kleine, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
See pages 19-22 for background on the award recipients.

**Charge to the Class**
Beatris Mendez Gandica, Security Tooling Program Manager, Microsoft Corporation
Patricia A. Kleine, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

**Presentation of Master's Candidates**
Patricia A. Kleine, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

**Conferral of Master's Degrees**
James C. Schmidt, Chancellor

**Presentation of Baccalaureate Candidates**
Patricia A. Kleine, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

**Conferral of Baccalaureate Degrees**
James C. Schmidt, Chancellor

**Blugold Reflections**
Seth Reinhard, Bachelor of Arts, Political Science (morning) - ‘Always Say Thank You’
Hannah Metry, Bachelor of Arts, English, Teaching (afternoon) - ‘The Next Big Something’

**University Alma Mater**
Led by Carlos Raja, Bachelor of Art, Music (morning)
Led by Nicole Bergquist, Bachelor of Music Education, Choral (afternoon)
Please rise and join in singing. Words and music are printed at end of program.

**Recessional**
Pomp and Circumstance, No. 1 (Land of Hope and Glory) by Sir Edward Elgar
Triumphal March from ‘Aida’ by Giuseppe Verdi
You are welcome to move from your seat as soon as the platform party, faculty and graduates have exited the arena.

**Photographs**
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.

**Reception**
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.

Congratulate your graduate: #UWECGrad
Candidates for Degrees

Graduation with distinction is being conferred on those graduates who have an outstanding scholastic record. They are identified by gold cords. See Page 16 for the key listing UW-Eau Claire’s degree interpretations.

Graduates receiving University Honors are identified by silver cords. See Page 16 for the key listing UW-Eau Claire’s degree interpretations.

Graduates receiving departmental honors are identified by yellow cords. See Page 16 for the key listing UW-Eau Claire’s degree interpretations.

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 *.

College of Arts and Sciences

SPECIAL DEGREES

MASTER’S DEGREES

Adam Charles Hendel Lake Elmo, MN
M.S., 2015, University of Minnesota
Advisor: Dr. Mary Beth Tusing

Joseph L. Saitta Centreville, VA
M.S., 2015, George Mason University
Advisor: Dr. Alex Smith

Allison Rose Kocik Madison, WI
M.S., 2017, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Advisor: Dr. Mary Beth Tusing

Matthew Dwan Hackett Lake Elmo, MN
M.S., 2017, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Advisor: Dr. Mary Beth Tusing

Tianna Jeanette Olsen Cumberland, MD
M.S., 2017, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Advisor: Dr. Mary Beth Tusing

Antonio Aloysius Raymond Yamanon Philippines
M.S., 2017, De La Salle University
Advisor: Dr. Alex Smith

BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

Joseph Coleman Albert Crystal, MN
B.A., Psychology

Eric Wayne Anderson Burlington, VT
B.S., Mathematics

Briania Marie Anderson Wisconsin Rapids, WI
B.A., Psychology

Evon Joseph Andor Madison, WI
B.S., Women's Studies

Chase Dale Anderson Oshkosh, WI
B.A., Sociology and Communication

Sophia Marie Amell B.L.S., Liberal Studies

Ryan Matthew Baemmert Eau Claire, WI
B.A., Computer Science

Kaitlyn Jean Baker Menomonie, WI
B.A., Integrated Strategic Communication

Liam Broman Chicago, IL
B.A., Integrated Strategic Communication

Natalia Morgan Barry B.S., 2017, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay
B.A., Biology

Aslihae Irene Baltzer Rogers, MN
B.S., Neuroscience

Natalie Finch Baughman Eau Claire, WI
B.A., Family Relations

Andrew Douglas Collins Oshkosh, WI
B.S., Computer Science

Adara Carol Coker Rochester, MN
B.S., Biology

Colin John Copley Madison, WI
B.S., Business Administration

Olivia B. Cramer Waukesha, WI
B.S., Communication

Ryan M. Cushman Eau Claire, WI
B.A., History

Vincient Robert Dagnorist Eau Claire, WI
B.A., Criminal Justice

Jacob Sawyer Dawson Eau Claire, WI
B.S., Computer Science

Logan William Dawson Eau Claire, WI
B.S., Biochemistry / Molecular Biology

Elle Kayl Delp Northfield, MN
B.S., Computer Science

Shania Jane Dutra Marshfield, WI
B.A., Communication

Holly Margaret D'Novo Hayward, WI
B.A., English

Lauren Elena Dibelius St. Cloud, MN
B.B.A., Integrated Strategic Communication

Iris Mackenzie Dishno Altoona, WI
B.A., Integrated Strategic Communication

Shannon P. Bies BESE, Environmental Public Health
Olivia Carmen Bloch Chicago, IL
B.S., Communication

Jordyn Beth Bowker Rice Lake, WI
B.A., Psychology

Shane Ray Brandl Kimball, MN
B.S., Computer Science

Michael James Brant Pulaski, WI
B.A., Criminal Justice

Rachael Marie Brinker Holdenford, MN
B.A., Criminal Justice

Lauren Brooks Elko New Market, WI
B.A., Political Science and Spanish

Bridget Ann Brownwell Eau Claire, WI
B.S., Criminal Justice

Isaac Douglas Barholwry Appleton, WI
B.A., Mathematics

Nicholas Andrew Bures Oshkosh, WI
B.S., Political Science

Weston Charles Busch Eau Claire, WI
B.A., Computer Science

Euren Alan Can Brook Park, MN
B.S., Computer Science

Kileen Liquori Carter Wisconsin Rapids, WI
B.S., Computer Science

Elise Catherine Chapin Eau Claire, University Honors
B.S., Computer Science

Emma Lynn Fischer Lakeland, MN
B.S., Materials Science

Kennedy Elizabeth Fitzgerald Rice Lake, WI
B.L.S., Liberal Studies

Jennifer Elizabeth Fitzsimmons La Crescenta, CA
B.S., Criminal Justice

Isaac Alan Flahner Winona, MN
B.A., Mathematics and Computer Science

Brett David Flugstad Bloomington, MN
B.S., Integrated Strategic Communication

Isaaz Fabiana Foulon Hudson, WI
B.A., Psychology

Shelisa Rose Freesley Oakdale, WI
B.A., Communication

Kyle L. France Eau Claire, WI
B.S., Computer Science

Aaron Matthew Fredrics Janesville, WI
Biology

Jackson James Freuler Eau Claire, WI
B.A., Criminal Justice

Ashlea Marie Gubash Woodman, IA
B.A., Psychology

Deidra Marie Gibson Eau Claire, WI
B.A., French

Trevor Samuel Griffin Napperville, IL
B.S., Biology

Evan Michael Gunning Waunauka, WI
B.S., English

Joseph Eugene Guttemer Pine Island, MN
B.S., Computer Science

Katlin Marie Hahn Mamaroneck, NY
B.A., University Honors

James Albert Halverson Cedar Rapids, IA
B.A., Psychology

Haileigh Anne Hanson Baraboo, WI
B.S., Liberal Studies

Paige Taylor Hansom Rosemount, MN
B.A., Geography

Monica DONNELL Harlan
Eau Claire, WI
B.A., Communication

Natalie Marie Hans Cold Spring, MN
B.S., Psychology

Kaili Lipton Heck Green Bay, WI
B.A., English

Derrick Lee Henrichs Kansas City, MO
B.A., Psychology

Karen Chai Hsinwasi Eau Claire, WI
B.A., Communication

Jennifer Marie Herman Middleton, WI
B.A., Psychology

John Anthony Hohlfeld IV Rockford, IL
B.A., Political Science

Joshua David Hogan Farmington, MN
B.A., Political Science and History

Nicole Mary Hulewinski Eau Claire, WI
B.A., Psychology

Nicholas Karl Hovens Winona, MN
B.A., Business Administration

Jacob Anthony Huynh Chicago, IL
B.A., English

Jiachen Hua China
B.S., Biology

Jinghui Huang China
B.A., English

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College of Nursing and Health Sciences

DOCTORAL DEGREES

Alicia Nicole Grimm
D.N.P., Nursing (Adult Gerontologic Primary Care Nurse Practitioner)
B.S.N., 2011, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
B.S.N., 2009, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
Advisor: Dr. Robin Neeman
DNP Project: Flash Continuous Glucose Monitoring: Primary Care Provider Education and Protocol for Referral

BACCAULAERATE DEGREES

Florence Shari Fen
D.N.P., Nursing
M.S.N., 2015, Walden University
B.S.N., 2011, Grand View University
Advisor: Dr. Dales Jensen
DNP Project: A Quality Improvement Project to Educate Providers and Clinical Staff in a Neighborhood Community Clinic on Customizing Care Plans for New Adult Immigrants

Brittany Robin Marie Amborn
B.S.N., Nursing

Shayna Nichole Ambrozaitis ** Rice Lake
B.S.N., Nursing

Caroline Rose Anglin *** Rochester, MN
B.S.N., Nursing

Katie Ruth Barber ** Hudson
B.S.N., Nursing

Maria Jean Becker ** Montgomery, IL
B.S.N., Nursing and Spanish

Hattie Bell Berry ** Almond
B.S.N., Nursing

Savannah Rose Berthiaume ** Superior
B.S.N., Nursing

Emily Ann Billingsley *** Menomonie
University Honors
B.S.N., Nursing and Spanish

Rebecca Katherine Broschard ** Eau Claire, MN
B.S.N., Nursing

Adam Lewis Buchholtz ** Superior
B.S.N., Nursing

Alexa Beth Collins ** Spooner
B.S.N., Nursing

Chelsiay Renee Craig ** Phillips
B.S.N., Nursing

Kaitlin Marie Crites ** Somerset
B.S.N., Nursing

Dannialle Margaret Dachel ** Colfax
B.S.N., Nursing

Ryleigh Diane Dahlke ** Edgar
B.S.N., Nursing

Whitney Lee Demoe ** Colfax
B.S.N., Nursing

Kellee Dixon ** Hudson
B.S.N., Nursing

Emily Claire Dorn ** Saint Cloud, MN
B.S.N., Nursing

Andrea Nicole Dornbusch ** Eau Claire
B.S.N., Nursing

Nathaniel John Egeberg ** New Hope, MN
B.S.N., Nursing

Amanda Jean Erickson ** Black River Falls
B.S.N., Nursing

Tammy Jean Fette ** Edgar
B.S.N., Nursing

Brett William Fullerton ** Barron
B.S.N., Nursing

Mariah Lynn Glitter ** Greenville
B.S.N., Nursing

Jade Jo Hackbarth ** Wausau
B.S.N., Nursing

Jensen Nicole Hagen ** Emerald
B.S.N., Nursing

Elizabeth Anne Handrick *** Marathon
B.S.N., Nursing

Sunshine Beabry Her ** Woodbury, MN
B.S.N., Nursing

Anna Marie Herkert ** Marshfield
B.S.N., Nursing

Kaleb Andrew Herman * Spencer
B.S.N., Nursing

Stacie Lee Jacobs ** Wisconsin Rapids
B.S.N., Nursing

John Michael Jacobson *** Holmen
B.S.N., Nursing

Megan Rose Kearney ** Spooner
B.S.N., Nursing

Alicia Marie Kurschner * Eau Claire
B.S.N., Nursing

Anthony Joseph LaTour ** Shakopee, MN
B.S.N., Nursing

Emily Jane Leonard ** New Brighton, MN
B.S.N., Nursing

Samuel Oliver Livingston ** Two Rivers
B.S.N., Nursing

Brooke Kristine Luma * Grand Rapids, MN
B.S.N., Nursing

Caitlin Lunder Masser ** Lino Lakes, MN
B.S.N., Nursing

Maddison Lee McCormick ** Green Bay
B.S.N., Nursing

Molly Frances Merlin * Cambridge
B.S.N., Nursing

Katelyn Michelle Meyers ** Kaukauna
B.S.N., Nursing

Sarah Ann Miller ** Green Bay
B.S.N., Nursing

Sydney Jean Miller *** Grand Rapids, MN
B.S.N., Nursing

Alexa Rose Niebuhr ** West Salem
B.S.N., Nursing

Bailey Kathryn Nilssen ** Sparta
B.S.N., Nursing

Megan Lynnna Pearson ** Oregon
B.S.N., Nursing

Trinity Morgan Peterson ** Rib Lake
B.S.N., Nursing

Jenna Marie Pyka ** Arcadia
B.S.N., Nursing

Gabriella Sheri Rodriguez ** Lakeville, MN
B.S.N., Nursing

Jacob Roth ** Rochester, MN
B.S.N., Nursing

Sara Anne Rybak ** Eau Claire
B.S.N., Nursing

Jordan Marie Sather * River Falls
B.S.N., Nursing

Lindsay Allison Schafer *** Waukesha
University Honors
B.S.N., Nursing

Caillen Marie Schartaus ** Omro, WI
B.S.N., Nursing

Alyssa Lynn Schiemellennig ** Waterloo
B.S.N., Nursing

Jennifer Rachel Schubkegel ** Waterloo
B.S.N., Nursing

Olivia Virginia Spiegel *** Chippewa Falls
B.S.N., Nursing

Taya Marie Strom *** Houston
B.S.N., Nursing

Pahl Thao ** Wisconsin Rapids
B.S.N., Nursing

Rebecca Rose Thomas *** Roberts
University Honors
B.S.N., Nursing and German

Kara Nicole Trainer ** Menomonie
B.S.N., Nursing

Alexa Elizabeth Tremble ** Mukwonago
B.S.N., Nursing

Lydia Cora Wargula ** Ripon
B.S.N., Nursing

Kari Marie Wilcox*** New Richmond
B.S.N., Nursing

Samantha Jo Weinertor ** Eau Claire
B.S.N., Nursing

Claire Campbell Wenzel ** Woodbury, MN
B.S.N., Nursing

Rebecca Marie Wicken *** Oconomowoc
University Honors
B.S.N., Nursing

Emma Christine Wilcox ** Lindstrom, MN
B.S.N., Nursing

Rachel Erin Wilhelm ** Saint Croix
B.S.N., Nursing

Ainsley Marie Williams ** Rochester, MN
B.S.N., Nursing

Caroline Suzanne Withall *** Hudson
B.S.N., Nursing
Bachelor of Professional Studies
Bachelor of Applied Specialist in Education
Bachelor of Fine Arts
Bachelor of Music Education
Master of Science
Bachelor of Business
Bachelor of Science
Master of Business Administration

B.S., Kinesiology

Jena Marie Swiggum
Jordan Michael Swanson
Brenna Lee Sullivan
Madison Nicole Stilp
Kaitlyn Marie Stein

B.S., Kinesiology

Lauren Jean Spankowski
Emma Jean Snow
Isabel Rose Smith
Monica Jo Sjodin
B.S., Elementary Education

Alyson Jaye Simon

Sarah Tweedale, Commencement Assistant
Corry Mahnke, Commencement Assistant
Debra Lang, Events and Special Projects
Evan Weiher, Commencement Marshal, Coordinator, Offices of the Chancellor
Alumni Engagement and the Alumni Association Board of Directors

Dan Hess, Junior, Management, Operations and Supply Chain Management Major
Tyler Edmondson and members of University Printing Services
Mark Andrle, Tina Wolfgram and staff of University Printing Services

B.S.W., Social Work

Kevin Kelly Verbeten
Taylor Faye Vander Wegen
Heather Anne Turnmire
Tia GeorgAnn Tilley

B.A., English

Andrew John Thompson

B.A., Elementary Education

Jordyn Kristine Thaves
Daniele Marie Thompson

B.A., English

Autumn Marie Tikkanen
Tia GeorgAnn Till
Mary Kay Whipple
Colin Thomas Williams
Emily F Williams
April Marie Wunderlin

B.S., Special Education

Maxwell Williams Walker

B.S., Kinesiology

Morgan Jo Weaver

B.S., Special Education

Judith Thomas Weis

B.S., Kinesiology

Ryan Bain, Junior, Criminal Justice Major
Benjamin Qualley, Senior, Theatre Arts Major

B.S.E.P.

M.Ed.

M.E.P.D.

B.A.A.S.

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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:

- Johann K. Dertinger
- Morgan A. Dohms
- Brian H. Dombrowski
- Sadie E. Dupont
- Ellen A. Esch
- Andreas L. Erickson
- Sarah M. Ferber
- Nicole K. Gottfredsen
- Laura N. Her
- Jorge Herrero Berengué
- Brianna E. Hopkins
- Keely R. Huber
- Maxwell E. Inskeep
- William G. Johnston
- Nicole A. Jossart
- Tara N. Kammes
- Austin M. Kolden
- Bailee Krueger
- Lauren W. Lisiowy
- Xeng Lor
- Zachary J. Lydon
- Tye A. McLaughlin
- Nicole E. Miller
- Samantha A. Monson
- Samantha J. Neuburger
- Sabrina K. Norte
- Joshua J. Olson
- Chloe C. Paul
- Jordyn K. Pederson
- Taylor J. Piocuch
- Karissa A. Rath
- Taylor C. Prestidge
- Riley C. Pretat
- Amelia J. Sable
- Maria K. Schaab
- Brianna L. Schara
- Cassie S. Schouten
- Anna N. Selchow
- Mackenzie K. Severson
- Jessica R. Short
- Lesie C. Smetana
- Veronica Snell
- Allison D. Spegal
- Karlie R. Stofnik
- Elizabeth A. Tapia
- Sara E. Thielten
- Phuong P. Vo
- Kathleen E. Weller
- Shelley A. Wells
- Allison L. Welter
- Matthew J. Wetzstein
- Morgan L. Wilde
- Paul P. Wilfarth
- 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.

OUTSTANDING RECENT ALUMNUS AWARD

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.

Bridget Obsorn ’08

bachelor’s degree in geology

Bridget Obsorn was the first Blugold to complete UW-Eau Claire’s geology dual degree in engineering in partnership with the University of Minnesota, through which she earned a bachelor’s degree in geology from UW-Eau Claire and a bachelor’s degree in geological engineering from the University of Minnesota. She also enjoyed a successful track and field career as a Blugold, becoming an All American in the heptathlon her senior year.

A water resource project engineer with HR Green in St. Paul, Minnesota, since 2010, Obsorn creates innovative solutions for managing storm water and other runoff. For example, she played a key role in designing two water reuse irrigation systems along a narrow roadway reconstruction corridor in Woodbury, Minnesota. The green infrastructure technology helped reduce downstream pollutants and reduce strain on a depleting aquifer.

For her outstanding work in the field, Obsorn has earned multiple awards and professional recognitions, including the 2014 Emerging Leader Award from the American Council of Engineering Companies of Minnesota, one of five national ACEC Young Professional of the Year Awards for 2016 and the Discover Engineering New Face of Engineering Award in 2016.

Ajay Jain, water resources practice leader at HR Green, said Obsorn’s dedication and talent make her highly deserving of recent accolades.

“Bridget brings lots of energy and dedication to finding practical, cost-effective solutions for her clients while improving the environment and quality of life for the communities she serves,” Jain said. In addition to her work with HR Green, Obsorn is a volunteer at Habitat for Humanity, her local watershed district and environmental conservation nonprofit Great River Greening. She also gives talks to students about engineering, especially for girls considering the STEM fields.

In a recent interview, Obsorn spoke about her talks with youth: “I love seeing the kids’ faces, that ‘ah ha’ moment when they learn how interesting you’re doing, too. It’s the most rewarding part of my job.”

Advise to new Blugold alumni:

All the knowledge we have is built from our experiences. Take every opportunity to learn what you can. Even if it doesn’t directly apply to your career goals, it may be relevant to a future client, co-worker, friend or family member. Network, network, network. The more people you meet, the more opportunities you’ll have.

Abigail Zimmer ’07

bachelor’s degree in English – creative writing

Since graduating from UW-Eau Claire in 2007, Abigail Zimmer has earned a master of fine arts degree in creative writing from Columbia College Chicago and built an acclaimed and prolific career as a poet and poetry editor, publishing two chapbooks and one full-length collection of her own poetry, and working as an editor for the small Chicago publishing company she co-founded, the Lettered Streets Press. To date, the press, which champions emerging voices, voices of color and LGBTQ voices, has published 12 books of poetry from 16 authors, many of whom were publishing their first collections.

“It’s so exciting to be able to provide a platform for emerging voices and contribute toward a genre of literature that has in many ways become my Mecca,” Zimmer said.

Joshua Young, with whom Zimmer founded the Lettered Streets Press, said, “Abigail looks at the world from the inside, allowing room for a poet or writer to publish work that is inherently theirs.”

Zimmer also maintains a full-time position as an editorial and production coordinator at the Society of American Archivists, where she edits and manages content for a bimonthly magazine, a biannual journal and three book publications a year.

Zimmer’s poetry has garnered several awards, including the Chicago Review of Books 2016 Poetry Award, the 2014 Lannan Prize from the Academy of American Poets and the 2014 Lyra Ohy Rosenblum Award from Columbia College Chicago. Her works have appeared in numerous publications and anthologies, including NightBlock, Jellyfish, The New Megaphone and Fairy Tale Review, among others.

Advice to new Blugold alumni:

The writing advice that has most influenced me is “Write what you want to read” which I think is applicable to any field. In other words, is there a program, community, artwork, code, study, etc. you wish to see? Create the space to do the work you want to do. And be gentle with yourself. Your interests, desires and career path will evolve. Times of loss and heartbreak may require you to slow down. Keep returning to what gives you life. Most likely, someone else needs the work you’re doing, too.
Kristie Franz ‘95 bachelor’s degree in geology
Kristie Franz, a native of nearby Chippewa Falls, entered UW-Eau Claire as a first-generation college student, intending to major in psychology. But after just one term, she decided to pursue a bachelor’s degree in geology and switched her major to geology.

After her UW-Eau Claire graduation, Franz worked for four years as a hydrogeologist before pursuing a master’s degree in hydrology and water resources from the University of Arizona, followed by a doctorate in civil engineering from the University of California, Irvine. In 2006 she accepted a faculty position in the department of geological and atmospheric sciences at Iowa State University, where she is now a tenured associate professor. A nationally recognized research scientist, Franz has authored or co-authored 24 peer-reviewed journal articles since 2003 and presented research findings at more than 30 professional conferences and meetings over the past five years.

Franz, whose research focuses on improving the understanding and prediction of watershed behavior, has obtained more than $2 million in grant funding for her studies, many of which are aimed at improving flood and water supply forecasts across the country. Her work includes mentoring both graduate students and undergraduates, and she views their successes as her biggest impact on the science of hydrology. Franz said UW-Eau Claire geology faculty have remained a source of support and guidance as she has advanced in her career.

“One of the most important opportunities I received at UW Eau Claire was being a part of an undergraduate research project under the guidance of professors,” Franz said. “These experiences were invaluable for gaining insight into how research is done, learning about my scientific strengths and weaknesses, and defining my interests and goals.”

Advice to new Blugold alumni:
Your major in college and your first jobs do not have to define your entire professional career. It is OK if you do not know what you want to do with the rest of your life. Use college as a time to set yourself on a path with options, learn to be open to opportunities, and accept that you will always be learning.

Andrew Neesley ‘03 bachelor’s degree in music
Andrew Neesley is an award-winning and inventive trumpeter, violinist, singer, composer and producer. Born in Milwaukee and based in New York, Neesley has made his mark nationally performing with contemporary music greats — among them National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Master Candido Camero, the Roots, James Taylor, Chris Botti, Lady Gaga and many others.

Neesley has performed, composed and arranged with the Bobby Shew Big Band on three Grammy-nominated albums, Latin Grammy-nominated album. His gospel rock band Jesus On The Mainline features: 15 talented young New York musicians and recently released “The Morning Bell” its debut full-length album. Other collaborations have included working with fellow UW-Eau Claire alumnus David Whitman on the Independent Music Award-winning album “Oh, Clar!” in 2017 and an upcoming 2020 album. Neesley also serves as music director for mmm... bands, a boutique private event company.

Neesley, who received a master’s degree from the Manhattan School of Music after graduating from UW-Eau Claire, is a past recipient of the ASCAP Young Jazz Composer’s Award, winner of the National Trumpet Competition, finalist in the International Trumpet Guild Jazz Improvisation Competition and recipient of a Downbeat Student Music Award for Best Engineered Studio Album. He continues to teach brass and jazz improvisation to a new generation of musicians, maintaining a private lesson studio in New York.

Neesley said the teaching of UW-Eau Claire professor of music and jazz studies director Robert Baca has been central in his career and life.

“I really grew into the musician and adult I am today during my time studying under his tutelage,” Neesley said. “To this day I can call on so many life lessons learned in his second-floor office. And they are lessons I pass on to new generations of my own students.”

Advice to new Blugold alumni:
Find a balance of trusting your hard work and looking for new answers to old questions. Also, be kind to each other. The relationships you’ve made at UW-Eau Claire will follow you. You’ll call on your friends for favors, they’ll call on you. You’ll grow old together. It’s beautiful.
“My time at UW-Eau Claire didn’t guarantee a successful career, but it provided me the background and experiences to go out and create one,” Murphy said.

Advice to new Blugold alumni:

Let the path take you to your dreams rather than predefining them. Taking the uncertain route creates the greatest opportunity for mistakes and the biggest opportunity to learn from them. Follow that unknown path wherever it leads you because it is the journey that you will remember forever, not the destination. You’ll be happy where the road takes you, wherever that may be.

On Jan. 1, 2019, Timothy J. Murphy retired from his role as president and CEO of Nortrax Inc., a John Deere construction and forestry equipment dealer with branches throughout the United States and Canada.

Murphy began his career with Nortrax in 2000 as vice president and general manager of the Midwest region and was named president and CEO in 2013. In this role, Murphy directed his focus and expertise to the areas of transition and change management, and successfully led the company to become one of the most successful global John Deere subsidiaries, one with 56 locations, 1,400 employees and many thousands of dedicated customers.

Prior to his years with Nortrax, Murphy spent 23 years in the construction and forestry equipment industry, holding various sales and marketing management roles with American and Canadian corporations. His return to Wisconsin to join Nortrax offered him the opportunity to give back to UW-Eau Claire as a guest lecturer in the College of Business, where every year he presents his “Ten Leadership Lessons from the Real World” lecture twice each semester.

Since retiring, Murphy has offered his time and expertise to the areas of transition and change management, and general manager of the Midwest region and was named president and CEO in 2013. In this role, Murphy directed his focus and expertise to the areas of transition and change management, and successfully led the company to become one of the most successful global John Deere subsidiaries, one with 56 locations, 1,400 employees and many thousands of dedicated customers.

The Lifetime Excellence Award is presented to UW-Eau Claire alumni who have demonstrated longevity 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.”

Timothy J. Murphy ’76

bachelor’s degree in marketing

Jane Trimble Johanos ’76

bachelor’s degree in nursing

On Jan. 1, 2019, Timothy J. Murphy retired from his role as president and CEO of Nortrax Inc., a John Deere construction and forestry equipment dealer with branches throughout the United States and Canada.

Since retiring, Murphy has offered his time and expertise as a consultant for a nonprofit called Project 180. The group is devoted to successful rehabilitation of formerly incarcerated individuals, providing various means of assistance in their transitions back to society. Murphy also volunteers at a homeless day care center in Sarasota, Florida, serves within his local St. Patrick’s Parish and officiates golf events as a certified USGA expert rules official.

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ALMA MATER

Melody by William Croft
Harmonized by George Frederick Handel

Words by Mark D’Amico
and William Oesterreich

Members of The Singing Statesmen, 1969

1. Oh School of Eau Claire, our voices we raise; Accept thou this
   anthem of unending praise. We pledge to be faithful, stout
   ours, we dearly acclaim. In still thou within us a

2. Give honor to thee, and sing out thy name. Oh college of
   hearted and strong. And cherish thy memory as our lives are long.
   feeling of pride. We pray Alma Mater forever abide.