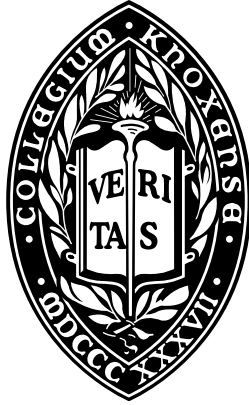


KNOX COLLEGE

COMMENCEMENT 2026

GALESBURG, ILLINOIS

KNOX COLLEGE



THE 181ST COMMENCEMENT

SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2026

10:00 A.M.

GALESBURG, ILLINOIS

GRAND MARSHAL
JENNIFER TEMPLETON

FACULTY MARSHAL
GABRIELLE RALEY-KARLIN

COLLEGE MARSHAL
VANS CHUGH '27

ORDER OF EXERCISES

PRELUDE

All the Things You AreJerome Kern / Oscar Hammerstein II
Day by Day.....Axel Stordahl, Paul Weston / Sammy Cahn
Knox Cherry Street Combo
Andy Crawford '00, Director
Jude Reed '27 – Bass Eileen Christina Sheetz '26 – Tenor Saxophone
Ian J. Catanzaro '26 – Drums Madelyn J. Goss '26 – Trumpet
Guy McEntarffer '28 – Piano Dylan Poniewaz '28 – Drums
Maya Dengler Kaufman '28 – Isabella Maldonado '29 – Vocals
Alto Saxophone

PROCESSIONAL

Autumn Leaves.....Joseph Kosma / Jacques Prévert, Johnny Mercer
Blues for OrangeGuy McEntarffer '28
Knox Cherry Street Combo

The audience will stand for the Processional.

OPENING

Dan Marlin
Director of Spiritual Life

WELCOME

John Lawler '88
Chair, Knox College Board of Trustees

SONG

I'll Be on My Way.....Shawn Kirchner
Knox College Choir
Tyler Demaree, Conductor
Director of the Choir
Janell Johnson – Pianist

SENIOR CLASS SPEAKER

Patience Claire Wagner '26

PRESENTATION OF THE PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FOR FACULTY EXCELLENCE

Matthew Jones-Rhoades
Chair and Associate Professor of Biology
Chair of Biochemistry

THE KNOX HYMN HAIL TO ALMA MATER

1. HAIL TO ALMA MATER,
FLING HER BANNER HIGH!
SING THE SONGS OF COLLEGE DAYS,
SONGS OF DAYS GONE BY.

REFRAIN:

FOR THE LONG, LONG ROAD TO ALMA MATER
IS THE ROAD THAT CALLS US HOME
O'ER HILLS AND PLAINS,
BY LAKES AND LANES,
OUR WOODLANDS, OUR CORNFIELDS,
OUR COUNTRY, OUR HOME.

2. IN THE QUIET HOURS,
OF THE STARRY NIGHT,
DREAM THE DREAMS OF COLLEGE DAYS,
MEM'RIES BURNING BRIGHT.
(REFRAIN)

3. HAIL TO ALMA MATER,
LET OUR VOICES RING!
HAIL TO KNOX ALL GLORIOUS,
UNTO THEE WE SING.
(REFRAIN)

PLATFORM PARTY

JOHN LAWLER '88

Chair, Knox College Board of Trustees

C. ANDREW MCGADNEY

President of the College

MELISSA GLENN

Provost and Dean of the Faculty

MARIN AMUNDSON-GRAHAM

Vice President for Advancement

DEBORAH F. RUTTER

Honorary Degree Recipient

DOROTHY TUCKER

Honorary Degree Recipient

JUSTIN HARTLEY

Honorary Degree Recipient
and Commencement Speaker

JOAN HUGUET

Chair and Associate Professor of Music

DAVID SCHULZ '74

Trustee

ELIZABETH CARLIN METZ

Chair and Smith V. Brand Distinguished Professor of Theatre
Chair of Business and Management
Chair of Arts Administration

MATTHEW JONES-RHOADES

Chair and Associate Professor of Biology
Chair of Biochemistry

JENNIFER TEMPLETON

Professor of Biology

GABRIELLE RALEY-KARLIN

Associate Professor of Anthropology-Sociology

DAN MARLIN

Director of Spiritual Life

PATIENCE CLAIRE WAGNER

Member of the Class of 2026

HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT

DEBORAH F. RUTTER

Deborah F. Rutter, currently vice provost for the arts at Duke University, is an internationally respected arts executive with nearly five decades of leadership at premier cultural institutions. Known for her collaborative, artist-centered approach and commitment to access and innovation in the arts, she served from 2014-2025 as the first female president of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the nation's preeminent cultural center. She led a period of transformative growth while centering artists in all aspects of the institution's work.

A fierce advocate of artistic voices, Rutter believes artists hold a mirror to society, and her role is to uplift their work. She has collaborated with and established strong artistic collaborations with renowned artists throughout her career, including Renée Fleming and Yo-Yo Ma. During her tenure at the Kennedy Center, she expanded the institution's artistic and educational programming across genres and audiences, including the introduction of Social Impact programming in 2019. She also developed an innovative exploration of arts and well-being in collaboration with National Institutes of Health and the National Endowment for the Arts, as well as establishing the Hip Hop Culture Council. Notably, Rutter led the planning, design, construction and celebrated 16-day opening festival of the Center's first physical expansion—The REACH—encompassing 72,000 sq. ft. of indoor space and 130,000 sq. ft. outdoor green space. During her tenure, she was also responsible for increasing the Kennedy Center's endowment by 62 percent to \$162 million.

Beginning her career at the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Rutter went on to lead such esteemed cultural institutions as the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the Seattle Symphony Orchestra. She serves on the boards of Vital Voices and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and is the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including honorary doctorates at Duke University, American University, Roosevelt University, and Cornish College, among others.

A pianist and violinist, Rutter earned a bachelor's degree from Stanford University and an MBA from the University of Southern California.

HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT

DOROTHY TUCKER

Dorothy Tucker is an award-winning broadcast journalist whose career has been defined by investigative excellence, community advocacy, and an unwavering commitment to telling the stories that matter most. A native of Chicago, Tucker was raised in the city's Lawndale and Austin communities, experiences that helped shape her deep connection to the issues affecting everyday residents.

Since 1984, Tucker has been a trusted voice at CBS News Chicago, where she has served as a reporter. She has exposed systemic discriminatory practices, prompting the creation of task forces and even legislative action. Her reporting has also led to the incarceration of notorious scam artists through a series of high-profile consumer fraud investigations. Throughout her career, Tucker has consistently focused on public safety, education, and social justice—bringing urgency and humanity to the stories she tells.

Tucker's journalism has earned her widespread recognition, including multiple Emmy Awards and prestigious Edward R. Murrow Awards. Her work has also been honored nationally by the Society of Professional Journalists and the News Leaders Association. In 2021, Tucker was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Chicago Association of Journalists. Beyond reporting, Tucker has demonstrated strong leadership within the industry. She served as president of the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) from 2019 to 2023, guiding the organization during a pivotal period. In 2025, she expanded her role as a storyteller by serving as executive producer of the organization's 50th anniversary documentary, *Beyond the Headlines: The NABJ Journey*. She also remains active locally as a board member of NABJ-Chicago and as a mentor to emerging journalists.

Tucker's career began with an internship at CBS News Chicago in 1977 and evolved through roles at stations across the country, including stations in Pittsburgh, Denver, Memphis, and Peoria. She is a graduate of Northwestern University, earning a bachelor of science in communications with honors.

HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT

JUSTIN HARTLEY

Justin Hartley currently stars in and executive produces CBS' hit drama series *Tracker*, entering its fourth season as the most-watched entertainment series on network television. Since its record-shattering post-Super Bowl debut in February 2024, *Tracker* has amassed over 80 million viewers and counting, quickly becoming a cornerstone of CBS' primetime slate. He previously starred in NBC's critically acclaimed, award-winning drama *This Is Us*, which earned more than 230 award nominations and 50 wins during its celebrated run.

Hartley received multiple Critics Choice Award nominations for his performance as Kevin Pearson in *This is Us* and, alongside his cast mates, won consecutive SAG Awards for Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Drama Series. He also made his directorial debut on the series, helming the emotionally acclaimed episode "A Hell of a Week: Part Three."

On the film front, Hartley's credits include *Bride Hard*; Netflix's holiday hit *The Noel Diary*, which debuted at #1 globally on the platform; Netflix's comedy *Senior Year*; the indie feature *A Lot of Nothing*; Universal Pictures' *The Hunt and Little*; STX's *A Bad Moms Christmas*; *Another Time*, which he also executive produced; and *Spring Breakdown*. Beyond his on-screen work, Hartley has also lent his voice to high-profile projects, including the narrative podcast *Harley Quinn & The Joker: Sound Mind*. As a producer, Hartley continues to develop premium projects through his production company, ChangeUp Productions. The company recently secured a script commitment at ABC for the drama series *No Good Deed*.

Born in Knoxville, Illinois, and raised in Orland Park, Hartley developed an early passion for storytelling and pursued acting while studying history and theatre at Southern Illinois University Carbondale and the University of Illinois at Chicago. After moving to Los Angeles, he landed his first series regular role on the daytime drama *Passions*, ultimately leading him to primetime television and film.

CLASS OF 2026
BACHELOR OF ARTS

KHALID BIN ABDULLAH

Lahore, Pakistan
Economics;
Integrative Business and Management

SUBRAT ACHARYA

Kathmandu, Nepal
Integrative Business and Management
Minor in Self-Designed: Data Analysis

LISSETTE LETICIA ADAME

Skokie, Illinois
Integrative Business and Management
Minor in Spanish Translation

SUBHAN AHMAD

Magna Cum Laude
Lahore, Pakistan
Data Science;
Integrative Business and Management

DANIYAL AHMED

Cum Laude
Islamabad, Pakistan
Economics
Minor in Philosophy

STEVEN EDGARDO ALVARENGA CISNEROS

Springdale, Arkansas
Economics;
Integrative Business and Management

ESTEBAN ALVAREZ II

Cicero, Illinois
Anthropology and Sociology
Minor in Latin American Studies

PHOEBE AISLING AMIRI

Cum Laude
St. Louis, Missouri
History
Minor in Classics and Ancient
Mediterranean Studies; Educational Studies

ELLIE 'STYX' ANDERSON

Cum Laude
Lake Zurich, Illinois
Classics and Ancient Mediterranean Studies
Minor in Art History; Archaeology

ANDREW COLE PHILIP ANDREWS

Magna Cum Laude
Wheaton, Illinois
Data Science; Economics

AHMAD AKRAM BACHA

Islamabad, Pakistan
Data Science
Minor in Integrative Business and Management

LUKA BAGI

Cum Laude
Bideford, England
Integrative Business and Management
Minor in Economics

MELANY BENITEZ TURCIOS

Houston, Texas
Integrative Business and Management
Minor in Spanish Translation;
Anthropology and Sociology

ZACH BENSON

Durham, North Carolina
Anthropology and Sociology
Minor in Political Science

NAVODIT BIR BHUJEL

Kathmandu, Nepal
Integrative Business and Management;
Economics

NYAH BILLUPS

Little Rock, Arkansas
Integrative Business and Management
Minor in Self-Designed:
Women in the Black Diaspora

LEAH AIYUAN BINZEL

Bristol, Wisconsin
Psychology
Minor in Studio Art;
Anthropology and Sociology

AAWAZ BISTA

Kathmandu, Nepal
Integrative Business and Management
Minor in Self-Designed: Social Connections

NICHOLAS VINCENT BLENCOE

Round Lake Beach, Illinois
Educational Studies - Elementary Education
Minor in Self-Designed: Physical Development

URVI BOHRA

Kathmandu, Nepal
Self-Designed: Graphic Design
Minor in Economics

NATHAN ANDREW BROOKS

Summa Cum Laude
Rosharon, Texas
History
Minor in Art Museum Studies; German

NOELLE MAÏRE BROWN

Magna Cum Laude
Gilberts, Illinois
Anthropology and Sociology; Theatre

LEE BUELL

Summa Cum Laude
Skokie, Illinois
Anthropology and Sociology
Minor in Peace and Justice Studies;
Studio Art

OLIVIA CANALIZO KUTNER

Cum Laude
Mandeville, Louisiana
Creative Writing
Minor in English Literature

WILHELM DOERKSEN CARRUTHERS

Chicago, Illinois
Art History
Minor in German

IAN J. CATANZARO

St. Louis, Missouri
Creative Writing
Minor in Economics

ISAIAH JACOB COLEJONES

Oceanside, California
Integrative Business and Management
Minor in Religious Studies

HELEN JOHNSTON CONRAN

Cum Laude
Fond du Lac, Wisconsin
Political Science; Creative Writing

GRACE ELIZABETH SEEHAFFER DINGES

Cum Laude
Pullman, Washington
Theatre
Minor in Classics and
Ancient Mediterranean Studies

RICHELIE GORDON DIX

Summa Cum Laude
Hessel, Mississippi
Computer Science; Data Science

TRUMAN CULLEN DIXON

Hartford, Wisconsin
Integrative Business and Management
Minor in Philosophy

MARCELLA DOLEZAL

Columbia, Missouri
Educational Studies - Special Content Area;
Music

CARL LEE DORTCH

Galesburg, Illinois
Philosophy
Minor in History

BETHANY ROSE DUFFEY

Magna Cum Laude
Elburn, Illinois
English Literature

OLIVIA CLARK DUNN

Summa Cum Laude
Portland, Oregon
Political Science; Environmental Studies

MACKENZIE MAY EDWARDS

Galesburg, Illinois
Studio Art
Minor in Art History

HARRISON SAMUEL EISNER

Los Angeles, California
Integrative Business and Management
Minor in Self-Designed: Sports

ISRAEL ESCAMILLA LOPEZ

Chicago, Illinois
Integrative Business and Management; Spanish

ROSA ESCOBAR

Magna Cum Laude
Chicago, Illinois
Integrative Business and Management
Minor in Economics; Psychology

ALEK ROGER ESPER

Port-au-Prince, Haiti
Integrative Business and Management
Minor in Economics; International Relations

SASHA FRITZ ESPER
Port-au-Prince, Haiti
Integrative Business and Management
Minor in Economics; International Relations

MANUEL CHRISTOPHER ESPITIA
Whittier, California
Psychology; Anthropology and Sociology

ALEXANDRIA FLOWERS
Chicago, Illinois
International Studies
Minor in Economics

ISAAC JAI FREEMAN
Chesterfield, Missouri
Data Science
Minor in Health Studies

NATSUKO FURUKAWA
Magna Cum Laude
Osaka, Japan
Integrative Business and Management

COLE GINO
Cum Laude
Shaftsbury, Vermont
Anthropology and Sociology
Minor in Psychology

ESMERALDA ISABEL GOMEZ
Chicago, Illinois
Anthropology and Sociology
Minor in Philosophy; Film Studies

WINTER GOODNER
Cum Laude
Lakeville, Minnesota
Anthropology and Sociology
Minor in Classics and
Ancient Mediterranean Studies

TAYLOR KAY GOUDSCHAAL
Ursa, Illinois
Psychology

BRANDY LIN GREGORY
Cum Laude
Galesburg, Illinois
Anthropology and Sociology

CECELYA F. HAAS
Galesburg, Illinois
Anthropology and Sociology
Minor in Psychology;
Gender and Women's Studies

MARY ELIZABETH HALL
Naperville, Illinois
Political Science
Minor in Religious Studies

HANNAH MALENA HARVEY
Des Moines, Iowa
Creative Writing
Minor in Arts Administration; Film Studies

SMITH HENKE
Columbia, Missouri
Creative Writing
Minor in Anthropology and Sociology

AZUCENA M. HERNANDEZ
Chicago, Illinois
Integrative Business and Management
Minor in Spanish Translation

MARTIN HERRERA
Chicago, Illinois
Anthropology and Sociology
Minor in Educational Studies

NHI HOANG
Summa Cum Laude
Hanoi, Vietnam
Data Science; Economics

JUNOW IWASAKI
New York, New York
Computer Science
Minor in Self-Designed Minor:
Complex Systems

WYATT ANTHONY JANIGA
Cum Laude
Whiting, Indiana
History
Minor in International Relations

ANDREA JIMENEZ - HERRERA
Cicero, Illinois
Environmental Studies
Minor in Health Studies; Public Policy

SPENCER CAMPBELL JONES
Franklin, Tennessee
History
Minor in Religious Studies

EMILY G. JORDAN

Summa Cum Laude
 Macomb, Illinois
 English Literature
 Minor in Film Studies

MUHAMMAD ABDULLAH KASHIF

Lahore, Pakistan
 Data Science;
 Integrative Business and Management

ANNE KASHIWAGI

Summa Cum Laude
 Tokyo, Japan
 Anthropology and Sociology
 Minor in Ethnomusicology

ALLISON KELLY

Chicago, Illinois
 Studio Art
 Minor in Art Museum Studies

DAEUN KIM

Magna Cum Laude
 Daegu, South Korea
 Psychology
 Minor in Educational Studies

DALTON JAMES KLOSSING

Galesburg, Illinois
 Integrative Business and Management

JOSEPH MICHAEL KRANTZ

Batavia, Illinois
 Educational Studies - Secondary; History

PHYLLIS-ANNE KUTEESA

Kampala, Uganda
 Mathematics
 Minor in Psychology

CARMEN A. LABRADOR

Magna Cum Laude
 Chicago, Illinois
 Integrative Business and Management
 Minor in Spanish Translation

JULIA MARON

Magna Cum Laude
 Jundiá, Brazil
 Psychology; Creative Writing

SILAS MARTIN

Springdale, Arkansas
 Philosophy
 Minor in English Literature; Studio Art

LUKE DAVID MATHIEU

Cum Laude
 Byron, Illinois
 Educational Studies - Elementary Education
 Minor in English Literature

WYATT COOPER MCKECHNIE

Cum Laude
 Penobscot, Maine
 Computer Science
 Minor in Japanese

REESE ANTONIO MILLER

Summa Cum Laude
 Mascoutah, Illinois
 Political Science; Public Policy

EVAN MORRIS

Peoria, Arizona
 Psychology
 Minor in Anthropology and Sociology;
 Political Science

GRAEL ILUNGA MULATA

Magna Cum Laude
 Galesburg, Illinois and
 Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo
 Integrative Business and Management
 Minor in French

PRANAV NANDAKUMAR

Chennai, India
 Economics;
 Integrative Business and Management

GABRIEL JACKSON NEWMAN

Cum Laude
 Chicago, Illinois
 Anthropology and Sociology
 Minor in Psychology;
 Integrative Business and Management

GABRIELA ORDUÑA-APARICIO

Waukegan, Illinois
 Psychology;
 Integrative Business and Management

KOMOMO OSHIMA

Kawagoe, Japan
 Gender and Women's Studies
 Minor in Computer Science

MIA PALMER

Cum Laude
 Wilmette, Illinois
 Studio Art
 Minor in Educational Studies; Psychology

AHMAD TARIQ PATTAL

Basti Pattal, Pakistan
 Integrative Business and Management
 Minor in Economics

MADELYN DOMENICA PELLEGRINO

Chicago, Illinois
 Anthropology and Sociology
 Minor in Biology; Psychology

DAKOTA WILLIAM PEPPER

Oak Park, Illinois
 Data Science
 Minor in Creative Writing; Japanese

ELYSHIA PEREZ

Chicago, Illinois
 Integrative Business and Management
 Minor in Spanish Translation

JUAN PABLO PEREZ MEJIA

Cum Laude
 Medellin, Colombia
 Computer Science; Economics

CARTER PIERSON

Chicago, Illinois
 Creative Writing
 Minor in English Literature

KATHERINE ANESSA PLACKETT

Magna Cum Laude
 Galesburg, Illinois
 Educational Studies - Secondary;
 English Literature

KATIE ISABEL PONCE

Cum Laude
 Galesburg, Illinois
 Educational Studies - Elementary Education

SARANSH RAINA

Dubai, United Arab Emirates
 Data Science;
 Integrative Business and Management

CHRISTOPHER DAVID REGIACORTE

Groveland, Florida
 Educational Studies - Special Content Area;
 Music

JEFFERY ALAN RIPKA

Cum Laude
 Schiller Park, Illinois
 Economics;
 Integrative Business and Management

EESHA RIZWAN

Magna Cum Laude
 Dhahran, Saudi Arabia
 Data Science
 Minor in Mathematics; Computer Science

JORDAN PATRICIA ROEMHILDT

Mankato, Minnesota
 International Studies
 Minor in Japanese

ETHAN ROMPALA-MATTHEWS

Chicago, Illinois
 Psychology
 Minor in Health Studies

FLETCHER ROREM

Park Ridge, Illinois
 English Literature
 Minor in Studio Art

NICOLE Y. RUBY

Magna Cum Laude
 New York, New York
 Asian Studies;
 Educational Studies - No Licensure

HAJIRA SAJID

Lahore, Pakistan
 Anthropology and Sociology;
 Integrative Business and Management

EMAAN SAJJAD

Lahore, Pakistan
 Integrative Business and Management
 Minor in Economics

AJANI MESSIAH SALVARY

Birmingham, Alabama
 Political Science
 Minor in English Literature

KALASH SAPKOTA

Magna Cum Laude
 Kathmandu, Nepal
 Economics;
 Integrative Business and Management

JACOB POLINO SCHNEIDER

Montgomery, New Jersey
 Anthropology and Sociology
 Minor in Educational Studies; Religious Studies

HENRY ABRAHAM SCHOLES*Cum Laude*

Toronto, Canada

Integrative Business and Management

Minor in Political Science; Philosophy

ALEXIS RAE SENDALL*Magna Cum Laude*

Choctaw, Oklahoma

Self-Designed: Educational Literature

Minor in Religious Studies

MEGAN KATHLEEN SHAFAR*Summa Cum Laude*

Elk Grove, Illinois

Environmental Studies; Public Policy

MUHAMMAD SHAHRYAR

Layyah, Pakistan

Data Science; Economics

JESSICA NICOLE SHANNON*Summa Cum Laude*

St. Louis, Missouri

Creative Writing

Minor in Design; Gender and Women's Studies

SYDNEY SHAUGHNESSY*Magna Cum Laude*

Wilmington, North Carolina

Computer Science

Minor in Japanese

ISABELLA K. SHUBERT

San Diego, California

Political Science

Minor in Peace and Justice Studies;

Self-Designed: Sports Policy

AISHA ARMSTRONG SPEAR*Cum Laude*

Horseheads, New York

Anthropology and Sociology

Minor in Psychology

SARAH LOREK STRAUSS*Magna Cum Laude*

Rochester, Minnesota

Environmental Science; International Relations

MANAVI SUBBA

Kathmandu, Nepal

Integrative Business and Management

Minor in Economics; Psychology

KEPLER SWIRNOFF*Cum Laude*

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Creative Writing

Minor in English Literature

ZOE TEDESCO

Madison, Wisconsin

Creative Writing

Minor in Classics and

Ancient Mediterranean Studies

DIANA TOLENTINO DE LA CRUZ

Chicago, Illinois

Political Science

Minor in Psychology; Spanish Translation

ETHAN TOZER

Tallahassee, Florida

Studio Art

Minor in Japanese

VALERIE TUMBLESON*Cum Laude*

Middleton, Wisconsin

Creative Writing

Minor in Philosophy

KIERRE TURNER

Chicago, Illinois

Integrative Business and Management

Minor in Studio Art

KENGO UEHARA

Naha, Japan

Theatre

Minor in Self-Designed: Digital Media Arts

ADITHYA VAITHINATHAN ASOKAN

Vellore, India

Data Science

Minor in Economics; Computer Science

BENNETT VAN METER

Houston, Texas

Biology

Minor in Integrative Business and Management

SAM VANDER MEULEN*Summa Cum Laude*

Chicago, Illinois

Creative Writing

Minor in Integrative Business and Management;

Studio Art

ELLIOTT STEPHEN VARNUM

Cum Laude

Ann Arbor, Michigan

Political Science; Public Policy

ASWINI VENKATESH

Magna Cum Laude

Bellevue, Washington

Philosophy

Minor in Peace and Justice Studies

LUVINA VILAPRIÑO AGUIRRE

Mendoza, Argentina

Neuroscience; Spanish

VO NGUYEN MINH DUY

Dong Nai, Vietnam

Integrative Business and Management;

Economics

THOMAS RYAN WILMOT

Cum Laude

Johns Creek, Georgia

Integrative Business and Management

Minor in Environmental Studies

PAYTON ANDREW WINTERS

Centralia, Illinois

Integrative Business and Management

Minor in Environmental Studies;

Religious Studies

KAI EIKO WOITALLA

Magna Cum Laude

Fort Wayne, Indiana

Theatre

Minor in Educational Studies

CAROLINE ELIZABETH WOLTERS

Magna Cum Laude

Ames, Iowa

Educational Studies - Secondary; Mathematics

BRYCE SEBASTIAN WOODARD

Summa Cum Laude

East Peoria, Illinois

History; Political Science

RUSSELL ANDRÉ WRIGHT

Savannah, Georgia

Integrative Business and Management

Minor in Psychology

YOSUKE YABUKI

Magna Cum Laude

Yokohama, Japan

Integrative Business and Management;

Economics

MUHAMMAD YAHYA

Karachi, Pakistan

Integrative Business and Management;

Data Science

GRAYSON PATRICIA ZEMAN

Walnut, Illinois

Educational Studies - Special Content Area;

Studio Art

CLASS OF 2026
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

SIENA RUŽA ADWERE-BOAMAH

Magna Cum Laude
Palo Alto, California
Psychology
Minor in Philosophy

SAMANTHA LYNN AGAN

Cum Laude
Knoxville, Illinois
Psychology
Minor in Health Studies

SAMANTHA LYNN BLACK

Cum Laude
Willowbrook, Illinois
Neuroscience
Minor in Biochemistry;
Anthropology and Sociology

SELENE CHEW CHIEN HUEI

Summa Cum Laude
Penang, Malaysia
Biology
Minor in Neuroscience; Music Performance

SUYASH CHITRAKAR

Ichangu Narayan, Nepal
Computer Science
Minor in Design

LUCAS DAHLBORG

Cum Laude
Brookline, Massachusetts
Mathematics
Minor in Computer Science

BAIRD DELSON

Chicago, Illinois
Biology
Minor in Philosophy

RIDHAM DHOLARIA

Magna Cum Laude
Ahmedabad, India
Computer Science; Data Science

ASHEL RIFFA DSOUZA

Dubai, United Arab Emirates
Psychology;
Integrative Business and Management

STEVAN DZOLIC

Stickney, Illinois
Computer Science;
Integrative Business and Management

PAULA FLORES CEVALLOS

Cum Laude
Madrid, Spain
Biology
Minor in German; Spanish Translation

JACK GALES

Cum Laude
Downers Grove, Illinois
Biology
Minor in Environmental Studies

TISYA GOEL

Cum Laude
Mumbai, India
Biology
Minor in Neuroscience; Chemistry

MADELYN J. GOSS

Magna Cum Laude
Vernon Hills, Illinois
Neuroscience
Minor in Psychology

ISAAC JEFFREY GROENE

St. Louis, Missouri
Physics; Mathematics

MADISON ALANA HICKS

Stansbury Park, Utah
Biology
Minor in Neuroscience

NAYSHA JAIN

Summa Cum Laude
Faridabad, India
Physics; Computer Science

ZOE ADELE JOBGEN

Winfield, Illinois
Environmental Science
Minor in Earth Science

RYUDO KAWANAMI*Summa Cum Laude*

Kawasaki, Japan

Biochemistry

Minor in Anthropology and Sociology

AVERY CELIA LEIGH*Summa Cum Laude*

Sauk Prairie, Wisconsin

Environmental Science

Minor in Statistics; Chemistry

JACK KENNISON LUBBS*Summa Cum Laude*

San Jose, California

Chemistry

Minor in Japanese; Computer Science

ANIRUDH MADARAPU*Summa Cum Laude*

Hyderabad, India

Computer Science; Data Science

SIKANDAR MATEEN

Lahore, Pakistan

Neuroscience; Data Science

CLAYTON JAMES MCCUNE*Cum Laude*

St. Louis, Missouri

Environmental Science

Minor in Chemistry

FIONN L. MEEHAN*Cum Laude*

Chicago, Illinois

Biology

Minor in Religious Studies

LANCE MILLER*Summa Cum Laude*

San Francisco, California

Biochemistry

Minor in German; Chemistry

MEGAN A. MOORE

Chicago, Illinois

Biology

Minor in Psychology; Health Studies

MICHAELA-ANN MOOREA MUELLER*Cum Laude*

Overland Park, Kansas

Environmental Science

Minor in Biology

ARITO NAKAMICHI*Cum Laude*

Kanazawa, Japan

Physics; Computer Science

H. PHUONG NGUYEN

Hanoi, Vietnam

Psychology; Anthropology and Sociology

JAMES NGUYEN*Summa Cum Laude*

Hanoi, Vietnam

Computer Science

Minor in Physics

GRAYSON CAMPBELL NUGENT

Wilmette, Illinois

Biology

Minor in History

PRECIOUS MOFIYINFOLUWA ODEJIMI*Summa Cum Laude*

Abuja, Nigeria

Biochemistry

Minor in Ethnomusicology

ARAN OGAKI*Magna Cum Laude*

Kobe, Japan

Computer Science

ZOË ARACELI PAV*Summa Cum Laude*

Washington D.C.

Biochemistry

Minor in Political Science; Chemistry

NYSA DEEPAK PHULWAR*Summa Cum Laude*

Mumbai, India

Biology; Integrative Business and Management

C.J. QUICK*Cum Laude*

Taipei, Taiwan

Neuroscience

Minor in Psychology; Chinese

EILEEN CHRISTINA SHEETZ*Cum Laude*

South Elgin, Illinois

Chemistry; Biochemistry

SANIA SHETTY

Magna Cum Laude

Mumbai, India

Psychology;

Integrative Business and Management

DRISHTI SHRESTHA

Sainbu, Nepal

Psychology; Computer Science

UJJWAL SINGH

New Delhi, India

Computer Science;

Integrative Business and Management

VINEET SINGH

Nagpur, India

Computer Science;

Integrative Business and Management

IAN DAVID SMITH

Cum Laude

St. Louis, Missouri

Biology; Music

VYAAS SUBRAMANIAN

Rockford, Illinois

Computer Science

Minor in Data Science

DAVID SULPICE

Summa Cum Laude

Sellersburg, Indiana

Computer Science

Minor in Japanese

HISASHI TAGAI

Summa Cum Laude

Tokyo, Japan

Computer Science; Music

KYLIE MICHELLE THOMSON

Olathe, Kansas

Psychology

Minor in Biology

ABIGAIL VAN BLARCOM

Cum Laude

Omaha, Nebraska

Chemistry

Minor in Biochemistry

PATIENCE CLAIRE WAGNER

Summa Cum Laude

Topeka, Kansas

Environmental Science

Minor in Biology; Music Performance

TAMIA WARE

Merrillville, Indiana

Computer Science

Minor in Psychology; French

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Lahore, Pakistan

SOROUSH ALAZMANI
Gorgan, Iran

NIDA FATIMA BAIG
Chicago, Illinois

JACOB EDWARD BAKER
Lincoln, Illinois

HENRY 'BRADY' BERTRAND
Bourbonnais, Illinois

VINAYAK BHUCHAR
Kathmandu, Nepal

KYLEE MADISON CALLAHAN
Tucson, Arizona

AUSTIN JONATHAN CERNICH
Rock Falls, Illinois

ELISE CATHERINE CONNOLEY
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Hanoi, Vietnam

SIENNA DESUZA-BRADSHAW
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Salvador, Brazil

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Normal, Illinois

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DECEMBER 2026, *cont.*

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KADIN ANTHONY SPENCER
Galesburg, Illinois

GUIDO AUGUSTO ROCHÍN JIMENEZ
East Peoria, Illinois

PHILLIP JAMES STRAHLE
Chatham, Illinois

KAYLEE ELISE ROSS
Galesburg, Illinois

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Chicago, Illinois

GAVIN DALE SIGEL
Lanark, Illinois

JOSEPH RICHARD WILLIAMS JR.
Huntley, Illinois

CARLY DANIELLE SMITH
Galesburg, Illinois

STUDENTS PARTICIPATING
IN THE ENGINEERING 3-2 PROGRAM

BRIA GILLIAM
San Diego, California

EMMANUEL ANTONIO MARIANO
Quezon City, Philippines

SEONGKYUNG JUNG
Incheon, South Korea

MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 2025
WHO HAVE RECEIVED DEGREES SUBSEQUENT TO JUNE 2025

BACHELOR OF ARTS

NEVEAH ANDRADE

Tucson, Arizona
Creative Writing
Minor in Psychology

PATRICK JAMES CAWLEY

Evanston, Illinois
Political Science
Minor in Anthropology and Sociology

CHARLES D. CHATMAN III

Huntington Beach, California
Philosophy

ULPANAY DJOLDASOVA

Tashkent, Uzbekistan
Biology
Minor in Economics

MANSOORA KHAN

Lahore, Pakistan
Data Science
Minor in Film Studies

GAVIN GREGORY LOCKARD

Cum Laude
Moline, Illinois
Spanish; Educational Studies - No Licensure

FERNANDO GIOVANNI MEDRANO

Chicago, Illinois
Environmental Studies
Minor in Anthropology and Sociology

TRINITY M. SLAVIK

Muskego, Wisconsin
Political Science; Public Policy

RAJ TELI

Ahmedabad, India
Data Science;
Integrative Business and Management

ETIENNE MICHAEL THOMAS

Baltimore, Maryland
Political Science
Minor in Educational Studies

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

LANA M. GALLAGHER

Elmhurst, Illinois
Environmental Science
Minor in Biology

ISABEL SOLOMON NEGASH

Cum Laude
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Biology, Computer Science

COLLEGE HONORS

ANTHROPOLOGY/SOCIOLOGY

ANNE KASHIWAGI – Seeking to Belong: Culture, Community and Academics Among International Students at Knox College

BIOLOGY

SELENE CHEW CHIEN HUEI – The effect of *Bacopa monnieri* on the Proliferation and Morphology of C6 Glioma Cells

TISYA GOEL – Effect of *Bacopa monnieri* on Oxidative Stress in C6 Rat Glioma Cells

IAN DAVID SMITH – Development of an Analytical Framework for Applying XROMM Data to Clinically Relevant Jaw Joint Pathologies

CHEMISTRY

RYUDO KAWANAMI – Comparison of liquid crystalline properties of heteroleptic copper(II) dimers with mixtures of homoleptic copper(II) dimers.

PRECIOUS MOFIYINFOLUWA ODEJIMI – Computational analysis of model iron cyclooctadiene catalysts supported by substituted alpha-diimine ligands

COMPUTER SCIENCE

RIDHAM DHOLARIA – On-Premises vs. Cloud: Replicating Core Cloud Infrastructure on a Raspberry Pi Cluster and Evaluating the Cost, Effort, and Feasibility of Self-Hosted Computing

RICHIE GORDON DIX – Integrating and Fine-tuning Single-Image-to-3D Model for 4D XR Human Visualization

ANIRUDH MADARAPU – Wrench Voice: Reclaiming the Hours Lost to Typing in the Automotive Service Bay

DAVID SULPICE – Effects of Gameplay Intensity on Player Engagement

CREATIVE WRITING

JULIA MARON – Dreamland: A Novel

ECONOMICS

DANIYAL AHMED – Interest Rates and Inflation under New-Keynesian and Modern Monetary Theory

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND STATISTICS

AVERY CELIA LEIGH – The Effect of Ecotone Proximity on Ecosystem Resilience in Temperate Forest-Grassland Systems

GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES AND ANTHROPOLOGY/SOCIOLOGY

BRUNO SANTANA FREITAS – Care, Embodiment, and Kinship in Bahia: Domestic Workers and the Social Life of Feeling

HISTORY

NATHAN ANDREW BROOKS – Curating the Nation: Museums as an Instrument of Influence

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

SARAH LOREK STRAUSS – Peace Parks: Analyzing the Effectiveness of Conservation as a Form of Peacebuilding

MASCULINITY STUDIES

H. PHUONG NGUYEN – “First of all, I’m not white”: A mixed-methods study of navigating masculinities in young East Asian men living in the United States

PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY

NAYSHA JAIN – Estimating Black Hole Masses in Quasars Using Machine Learning on Photometric Time Series

POLITICAL SCIENCE AND HISTORY

BRYCE SEBASTIAN WOODARD – The New Deal, Same as the Old Deal? Monopoly, Collusion, and Continuity of the Liberal State

PSYCHOLOGY

SANIA SHETTY – Sounds That Stick: The Role of Sound Symbolism in Memory & Perception

PUBLIC HEALTH AND MODERN LANGUAGES

PAULA FLORES CEVALLOS – Reproductive Justice Through the Lens of Surrogacy

ELECTED TO PHI BETA KAPPA

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ROSA ESCOBAR	PRECIOUS MOFIYINFOLUWA ODEJIMI
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MADelyn J. GOSS	NYSA DEEPAK PHULWAR
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NAYSHA JAIN	SANIA SHETTY
STORM KREMER JANOSKY	SARAH LOREK STRAUSS
EMILY G. JORDAN	SAM VANDER MEULEN
ANNE KASHIWAGI	PATIENCE CLAIRE WAGNER
RYUDO KAWANAMI	BRYCE SEBASTIAN WOODARD

*Elected as Juniors

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VICE PRESIDENT/SECRETARY	Nicole Y. Ruby

SCHOLARLY DISTINCTIONS, PRIZES AND AWARDS TO GRADUATING SENIORS

ACS DIVISION OF ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY UNDERGRADUATE AWARD	Jack Kennison Lubbs
ACS ILLINOIS HEARTLAND LOCAL SECTION COLLEGIATE SCHOLASTIC AWARD.....	Jack Kennison Lubbs
ACS DIVISION OF INORGANIC CHEMISTRY UNDERGRADUATE AWARD	Jack Kennison Lubbs
	Ryudo Kawanami
ACS PRIZE IN ORGANIC CHEMISTRY	Jack Kennison Lubbs
ACS PRIZE IN PHYSICAL CHEMISTRY	Ryudo Kawanami
DAVID R. ARNOLD AWARD	Ryudo Kawanami
HELEN RUDD ARNOLD PRIZE	Grael Ilunga Mulata
HOWELL ATWOOD AWARD	H. Phuong Nguyen
	Lee Buell
	Anne Kashiwagi
	Carly Danielle Smith
DR. DIANA BECK HONOR AWARD	Luke David Mathieu
ERIC MARTIN BERG MEMORIAL AWARD	Anne Kashiwagi
	Ian David Smith
	Ian J. Catanzaro
	Jack Kennison Lubbs
	Lucas Dahlborg
	Madelyn J. Goss
DONALD L. BENEDICT STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD	Naysha Jain
EVELYN BIELEFELDT AWARD	Kylee Madison Callahan
BLICK ART MATERIALS PRIZE IN PAINTING	Grayson Patricia Zeman
BLICK ART MATERIALS SENIOR AWARD	Grayson Patricia Zeman
BLICK ART MATERIALS PRIZE IN MIXED MEDIA	H. Phuong Nguyen
BLICK ART MATERIALS PRIZE IN NEW MEDIA	Urvi Bohra
BLICK ART MATERIALS PRIZE IN CERAMICS	Alice Rowan Harwood
BOOKFELLOW LIBRARY PRIZE	Nathan Andrew Brooks
DON C. M. BRACKER AWARD IN MUSIC	Ian David Smith
WILLIAM E. BRADY PRIZE IN ENGLISH LITERATURE	Bethany Rose Duffey
	Emily G. Jordan
SMITH BRAND MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP	Grace Elizabeth Seehafer Dinges
CLEAVE BRIDGMAN TROPHY	Lance Miller
JOHN W. BURGESS PRIZE IN POLITICAL SCIENCE	Bryce Sebastian Woodard
ELDA CRICHTON CAMPBELL PRINT PRIZE	Grayson Patricia Zeman
GENERAL CHEMISTRY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD	Lance Miller
	Precious Mofiyinfoluwa Odejimi
	Ryudo Kawanami
	Zoë Araceli Pav
SALLY COLEMAN PRIZE IN SPANISH LITERATURE.....	Paula Flores Cevallos
COLLEGE MARSHAL	Patience Claire Wagner
A. EUGENE & ELLA STEWART DAVENPORT LITERARY AWARD IN FICTION	Julia Maron
A. EUGENE & ELLA STEWART DAVENPORT LITERARY AWARD IN NON-FICTION	Jessica Nicole Shannon
	Julia Maron

A. EUGENE & ELLA STEWART DAVENPORT LITERARY AWARD IN POETRY	Olivia Canalizo Kutner Bethany Rose Duffey
LAWRENCE L. DEMOTT PRIZE	Avery Celia Leigh Patience Claire Wagner
DENNIS E. DONHAM PRIZE IN HISTORY	Nathan Andrew Brooks
NINA MARIE EDWARDS MEMORIAL AWARD	Julia Maron
FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP PRIZE.....	Avery Celia Leigh
WILLIAM FERN RESEARCH AWARD IN HONOR OF THEODORE YELICH.....	Anne Kashiwagi
DESMOND FORTES ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PRIZE	Sarah Lorek Strauss
E. INMAN FOX PRIZE.....	Lance Miller
GENDER AND WOMEN’S STUDIES PRIZE	Bruno Santana Freitas
RUTH LOCKWOOD GOODSILL PRIZE	Ian David Smith Tsuzumi Hosokawa
MATTHEW DALE GUNTHER MEMORIAL AWARD IN DRAWING	Katie Isabel Ponce Mia Palmer
MIKISO HANE ASIAN STUDIES PRIZE.....	David Sulpice Julia Maron
PHILIP HARING AND JOHN HOUSTON AWARD	Aksungil Djoldasova
ROBERT STEVENS HARPER PRIZE FOR GRADUATE STUDY IN PSYCHOLOGY.....	H. Phuong Nguyen
ROBERT STEVENS HARPER PRIZE FOR OUTSTANDING PSYCHOLOGY SENIOR RESEARCH POSTER	Siena Ruza Adwere-Boamah Tsuzumi Hosokawa Kylie Michelle Thomson
LELAND HARRIS AWARD IN CHEMISTRY	Lance Miller Precious Mofiyinfoluwa Odejimi Ryudo Kawanami
JOHN W. HILDING PRIZE.....	Lance Miller
JOHN HOFAS PRIZE IN DANCE	Alexandria Flowers Phyllis-Anne Kuteesa
HUNTER TROPHY.....	Lance Miller
SYLVIA & IRWIN JAFFE MEMORIAL PRIZE IN ECONOMICS	Nhi Hoang
SYLVIA & IRWIN JAFFE MEMORIAL PRIZE IN MEDICAL SCIENCES	Zoë Araceli Pav
CLARENCE HUBERT JOHNSON AWARD.....	Selene Chew Chien Huei
VINTON C. JOHNSON PRIZE.....	Daniyal Ahmed
VICTORIA LEGNER JUNOD PRIZE IN MATHEMATICS	Lucas Dahlborg
K-CLUB AWARD	Isabella K. Shubert
LINDA ELIZABETH KARGER AWARD IN THE THEATRE ARTS	Grace Elizabeth Seehafer Dinges
THEODORE HAZEN KIMBLE MEMORIAL AWARD IN JOURNALISM.....	Megan Shafar
KNIGHT FUND FOR THE STUDY OF RELIGION AND CULTURE	Alexis Rae Sendall
HARLEY KNOSHER FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR AWARD	Kylee Madison Callahan
HARLEY KNOSHER MALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR AWARD.....	Lance Miller
THE LINCOLN ACADEMY STUDENT LAUREATE	Zoë Araceli Pav
LILLY LINDAHL PRIZE IN GERMAN.....	Paula Flores Cevallos

DAVID LOWRY JAZZ AWARD	Eileen Christina Sheetz Madelyn J. Goss
MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT DISTINGUISHED RESEARCH AWARD.....	Lucas Dahlborg
MATTHYSSE STUDENT RESEARCH FUND	Selene Chew Chien Huei Tisya Goel
MOGBO SUSTAINABILITY FUND AWARD	Tisya Goel
MOLLER CUP.....	Eileen Christina Sheetz
MERRITT H. MOORE PRIZE IN PHILOSOPHY	Aswini Venkatesh
HERMANN R. MUELDER PRIZE.....	Bryce Sebastian Woodard
GLENN M. NAGEL UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FUND	Eileen Christina Sheetz Lance Miller Ryudo Kawanami
LASZLO J. NEMETH MEMORIAL RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP AWARD	Precious Mofiyinfoluwa Odejimi
INN-SIANG OOI PRIZE	Avery Celia Leigh
OUTSTANDING SENIOR AWARD.....	Reese Antonio Miller
PAUL'S PRIZE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE	David Sulpice
PEACE AND JUSTICE STUDIES STUDENT PRIZE	Aswini Venkatesh Lee Buell
ALVAH PETERSON BIOLOGY PRIZE.....	Nysa Deepak Phulwar Selene Chew Chien Huei
ELBRIDGE PIERCE PRIZE FOR SCHOLASTIC IMPROVEMENT.....	Andrew Dean Garrett
PORTER/ANDREAS PRIZE.....	SeongKyung Jung
JANET GREIG POST PRIZE IN MUSIC	Patience Claire Wagner
JEFF SANDBURG MENTAL TOUGHNESS AWARD.....	Carl Lee Dortch
FRANK & RUTH SCHMITT STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD.....	Lance Miller Ryudo Kawanami
THE SCRIPPS PRIZE	Sam Vander Meulen
ROBERT F. SEIBERT PRIZE	Sarah Lorek Strauss
PROCTOR FENN SHERWIN PRIZE IN FRESHMAN WRITING	Michaela-Ann Moorea Mueller
PROCTOR FENN SHERWIN SHORT STORY AWARD	Edith Flachmeyer
LORRAINE SMITH PRIZE IN ENGLISH.....	Olivia Canalizo Kutner
LORRAINE SMITH PRIZE IN FRENCH.....	Grael Ilunga Mulata
SMITH PRIZE IN PHYSICS.....	Naysha Jain
DOROTHY INNESS STANFORD AWARD	Bryce Sebastian Woodard
THE DONALD R. STROBEN ENTREPRENEUR FUND AWARD	Yosuke Yabuki
LUCILE SUDBURY PRIZE	Ian David Smith
LANE V. SUNDERLAND PRIZE FOR EXCELLENCE IN AMERICAN CONSTITUTIONAL STUDIES.....	Reese Antonio Miller
RUSSELL P. SUTTON PRIZE IN ORGANIC CHEMISTRY	Avery Celia Leigh Jack Kennison Lubbs Selene Chew Chien Huei Storm Kremer Janosky Zoë Araceli Pav

SZOLD PRIZE IN HISTORY	Nathan Andrew Brooks
IDA M. TARBELL MEMORIAL PRIZE FOR INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING	Julia Maron Megan Shafar
CHARLES & ARVILLA TIMME FELLOWSHIP AWARD	Anirudh Madarapu
DEAN S. TREVOR AWARD FOR MEN	Reese Antonio Miller
DEAN S. TREVOR AWARD FOR WOMEN	Avery Celia Leigh
VAN CLUTE PRIZE	Kai Eiko Woitalla Noelle Máire Brown
EDITH POWERS VAN DYKE MEMORIAL AWARD IN PSYCHOLOGY	Leah Aiyuan Binzel
LIZZY WARNER FUND FOR WOMEN IN STEM	Madelyn J. Goss
JOHN C. WEIGEL PRIZE	Avery Celia Leigh Lance Miller
BEVERLY K. WHITE & FRIENDS CREATIVE WRITING PRIZE	Smith Henke
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of National Strategic Partnerships
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Professor of Distinction Emeritus in Economics
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Boulder, Colorado
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Cargill Inc
St. Louis Park, Minnesota
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CHAIR EMERITUS
Chancellor Emeritus and
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ACADEMIC REGALIA

The regalia worn by participants in today's academic procession have their origins in the garb worn by scholars in the first European universities in the 12th century, most of which held theological charters. The robes were similar to clerical cassocks, and capes and hoods were worn for warmth in the unheated stone buildings of the time. At the Council of Oxford in 1222, England's archbishop Stephen Langton required all clergy to wear the *cappa clausa*, a closed, flowing gown. Nearby Oxford and Cambridge Universities adopted the same style, which was brought to the United States by the colonists. By the late 19th century, different styles of academic gowns were adopted by various American institutions. This led to an 1895 conference at Columbia University to standardize academic regalia. The Inter-collegiate Bureau Code, established after the 1895 conference, has guided academic regalia ever since, supported by sponsorship from the American Council on Education in 1932.

Most of the gowns in today's procession are doctoral robes, with bell-shaped sleeves, velvet panels down the front and around the neck of the gown, and three velvet bars on each sleeve. During the 20th century, many universities departed from the prescribed black robe. Among those colors today are the crimson of Harvard, blue of Yale, black with orange of Princeton, and maroon of The University of Chicago, among others. Many members of the Knox College Board of Trustees choose to wear special Knox gowns of purple and gold.

The hood is another medieval relic. Each hood is lined with the official colors of the institution conferring the degree, and the lining is worn exposed. The hood is trimmed with the color indicating the branch of learning to which the degree pertains. Most of the hood trim in today's procession is dark blue, indicating the large number of Ph.D.s, or "Doctor of Philosophy" degrees. Other trim colors include violet (journalism); white (arts, letters, humanities); and purple (business).

Caps awarded by American universities are either the mortar board (the Oxford tradition) or the beret-like "softcap" (the Cambridge tradition). Some universities outside the United States have unique styles of caps.

Adapted from the University of Idaho Faculty Handbook and from "Academic Costumes and Regalia" by Dr. Stephen E. Lunce. Used with permission.

The accessories to the graduates' Commencement regalia signify four distinct honors. Gold stoles signify Latin honors from the College. Those wearing gold and white cords have been initiated into Order of Omega, an honor society for members of Greek organizations. Knotted together gold and purple cords signify the student has completed College Honors.

KNOX COLLEGE IS...

HISTORIC

In 1836, a colony from upstate New York, led by Presbyterian minister George Washington Gale, traveled to Western Illinois to found an educational institution and a town. Knox Manual Labor College was chartered by the Illinois legislature in 1837, 189 years ago. Twenty years later, our name was shortened to Knox College. Abraham Lincoln first denounced slavery on moral grounds in his debate with Stephen A. Douglas in 1858 on the steps of Old Main—the centerpiece of our campus, then just a year old. Today, Old Main is a National Historic Landmark and the only remaining Lincoln-Douglas debate site in the nation.

DIVERSE

Social reformers who opposed slavery in all its forms founded Knox, and we quickly became known as a center for abolitionism. The first Black American to serve in the United States Senate, Hiram Revels, studied at Knox in the 1850s, and the College awarded a bachelor's degree in 1870 to Barnabus Root, one of the first Black college graduates in Illinois. Knox was also a pioneer in higher education for women. The Knox Female Seminary was established in 1841 as one of the earliest educational opportunities for women in Illinois, and the first woman to receive a degree from Knox College, C. Maude Tenney Brown, graduated in 1872. Today, more than half of all Knox students are either international—hailing from 56 countries—or students of color, creating a global and diverse learning environment.

COMMITTED

We remain steadfast in our belief that a liberal arts education best prepares students for successful careers and a lifetime of learning and civic engagement. Our founders believed the College should teach one how to think, how to argue, how to listen, and how to learn, with academic degrees based on intellectual abilities regardless of gender identity, race, cultural background, or financial means. We offer a diverse teaching faculty with close faculty-student working relationships. We support independent research and creative and career exploration by providing students with a minimum of \$2,000 to use during their junior or senior year through the Power of Experience program. Today's Peace Corps Preparatory Program, the first of its kind in the nation, and KnoxCorps, a joint community service partnership between Knox and Galesburg, are two ways current students prepare themselves to become global citizens committed to bettering their communities and the world.

ENGAGING

Knox students have the opportunity to engage in more than 100 study away programs across all seven continents. Seventy percent of our students participate in at least one varsity, intramural, or club sport. Knox's record of engaging students in community service has been recognized multiple times with the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. Student theatre productions, dance performances, concerts, and exhibits fill the College's calendar.

INDEPENDENT

Since 1878, Knox's award-winning student newspaper, *The Knox Student*, has carried on the tradition of independent journalism established by its founder, S.S. McClure. McClure, Class of 1882, was the creator of *McClure's Magazine*, one of the first publications in the field of American investigative journalism. Students and faculty together have earned Knox national notice for the quantity and quality of independent undergraduate research. Knox's Gerald and Carol Vovis Center for Research and Advanced Study coordinates funding for student generated research and creative projects. Close to 90 percent of Knox students complete independent studies as part of their undergraduate experience.

CREATIVE

During the past three academic years, more than 50 percent of the faculty had work published, publicly performed or exhibited (often via new technologies), or received grants to support new research or awards for their scholarly achievement. The nation's oldest continuously published literary journal, *Catch*, has received national and international awards. For more than 50 years, Knox's Repertory Theatre Term—the only undergraduate program of its kind in the country—has introduced students to the experience of operating a repertory theatre company. Our 19,000 alumni are proof that a liberal arts education gives graduates the skills to find professional and personal success.

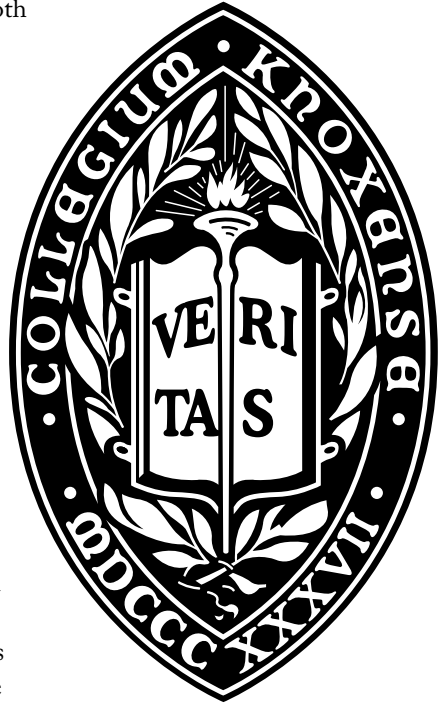
SUSTAINABLE

Our campus community is dedicated to a more socially equitable world and ecologically sustainable future. Knox is a signatory on the Talloires Declaration and a member of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE), which rates Knox among its "Silver STARS" colleges and universities. Sustainability is integrated into many aspects of the College's curriculum, operations, planning, and community outreach as outlined in the College's first Sustainability and Resiliency Action Plan. Knox's Alumni Hall and Whitcomb Art Center are LEED Gold certified, highlighting the College's commitment to sustainable energy and resource use. Knox also commits to reducing waste with various on-campus opportunities to share resources, composting of the cafeteria's food waste, and growing produce for campus consumption at the Knox Farm. As evidence of our students' commitment to these values, 166 members of the Class of 2026 have signed the Graduation Pledge for Social and Environmental Responsibility, noted by a green ribbon among their Commencement regalia.

THE COLLEGE SEAL

The Knox College Seal, in its present form, dates from 1937, the year of the College's centennial. It was designed by artist Ralph Fletcher Seymour and is a refinement of earlier designs. Oval in shape, it has in its center a stylized lighted torch superimposed on an open book, both symbols of learning. The book bears the word *Veritas* (Latin for "Truth"), and the symbols are wreathed in laurel leaves, the Roman symbol of honor. Around the outer rim of the seal are the College's name in Latin, *Collegium Knoxense*, and the date of its founding, 1837, in Roman numerals.

This is the College's fifth seal. The first two, dating from approximately 1838 and 1857, were round, with the College's name and location surrounding an image of an open book. The third seal, also round, was designed in 1887 by Robert J. Finley, a graduate of that year. It introduced all the elements of the current seal, plus an outer ring of pine branches. The fourth seal was adopted in 1903 from an 1890s design by Finley's brother, John Huston Finley, Class of 1887, the College's seventh president. Carrying forward most of the elements of its predecessor, the fifth seal reconfigured them for the first time into the familiar oval shape we see today.



MISSION STATEMENT

Knox College is a community of individuals from diverse backgrounds challenging each other to explore, understand and improve ourselves, our society and our world. The commitment to put learning to use to accomplish both personal and social goals dates back to the founding of the College in 1837. We take particular pride in the College's early commitment to increase access to all qualified students of varied backgrounds, races and conditions, regardless of financial means.

Today, we continue to expand both the historic mission and the tradition of active liberal arts learning. We provide an environment where students and faculty work closely together and where teaching is characterized by inviting and expecting students to pursue fundamental questions in order to reach their own reflective but independent judgments. The mission is carried out through:

Our curriculum: Combining inquiry in traditional as well as newer disciplines with the integrative perspective of interdisciplinary work; building from basic skills of writing, reading, calculating and critical analysis to opportunities for sophisticated student research and creative expression.

The character of our learning environment: Encouraging the critical exchange of ideas, challenging our students with high expectations and persistent demands for rigorous thinking within a supportive and egalitarian environment, characterized by the informality and openness that mirrors our Midwestern surroundings.

Our residential campus: Encouraging the personal, cultural and intellectual growth of our students in a reflective, inclusive and engaged campus community through supportive residential opportunities, numerous student organizations, a wide array of creative activities and cultural programming and opportunities for intercollegiate and recreational sports.

Our community: Reaffirming and extending our ongoing commitment to a diverse community of students, faculty and staff with each new hiring and admission.

Our aims throughout are to foster a lifelong love of learning and a sense of competence, confidence and proportion that will enable us to live with purpose and to contribute to the well-being of others.

