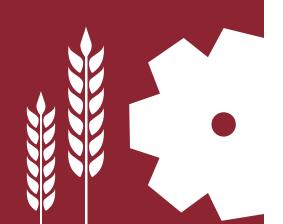
MAY 12

CLASS OF 2024

BETHEL COLLEGE

ESTABLISHED 1887



WELCOME

Welcome to Bethel College's 131st Commencement.

Thank you for joining us as we recognize the accomplishments of our latest class of Bethel College graduates. Commencement is one of the most formal and significant ceremonial events of academic life. It represents the culmination of baccalaureate education and the beginning of a new chapter in the lives of our graduates. The splendor of regalia and the ceremony acknowledge the history and traditions of academic achievement.

Today we are pleased to recognize each graduate for their achievements. We are thankful for the role relationships have played – and will continue to play – in the lives of these students. We are proud to welcome them as alumni of Bethel College. May they be guided by their faith, and confident in their liberal arts education and readiness for employment.

These graduates are special. They have been through a challenging period of time in society. They've persisted, adapted, and stayed on course. I am proud of each one of them. I am proud that they are Threshers! I am confident that they will be successful in their future endeavors.

Jon C. Gering, Ph.D.

mathan C Gering

President

BACCALAUREATE SERVICE

Sunday, May 12, 2024 | 10 a.m.

Worship service with prelude Memorial Hall

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

Sunday, May 12, 2024 | 4 p.m.

Memorial Hall



MISSION

Bethel College

prepares students for meaningful lives of work and service through faith formation, the liberal arts, and practical experience in career pathways.

VISION

Bethel College

graduates students who increase human flourishing (shalom) in society by owning and enacting their faith, demonstrating compassion for the powerless, engaging in critical thought, and bringing value to the workplace.

VALUES

High standards and expectations

for behavior and performance in all dimensions of campus life

Dialogue

that transforms conflict within communities where there are differences in opinion and understanding

Peace and justice

that seek fair and equitable treatment for all members of society

Vocational discernment

that helps students identify their calling and God's purpose for their professional lives

Holistic wellness

through a balance of mental, physical, and spiritual practices

Creative approaches

for living harmoniously within a constantly changing world and workplace

Community with global consciousness

that cherishes social connectivity, shared endeavors, and intergenerational living

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MeShonya Wren-Coleman, Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students

BACCALAUREATE SERVICE

Theme

Fight the Good Fight

Prelude

Prelude in G, Op. 28 No. 3

Sonata in E, K 380

Phillip Balzer, piano

Chopin

Scarlatti

Brighter Days Blessing Offor

Hayden Honomichl, tenor Sophie Girtz^, soprano Peter Buller^, piano

Amazing Grace arr. Craig Courtney

Angelika Donaldson, soprano

i carry your heart Connor Koppin

Woven Road

Ain'a That Good News William L. Dawson

Woven Road

Welcome, call to worship & opening prayer On screen

Kaity Shima

Theme Scripture reading / from 2 Timothy 4:1-8

Kylah Carter, English Louis Etienne, Haitian Kréyol Jazmin Levario-Espino, Spanish Milan Bucek, Czech

Worship music / Concert Choir

We Were Not Made For Silence Melinda Bargreen

Precious Lord Thomas A. Dorsey

arr. Arnold Sevier

Second Scripture reading / Isaiah 40:29-31

Isaiah Bartel

Reflections

Aaliyah Hunt Joshua Kennell

*Congregational song of response On screen

My Life Flows On

Reflections

Kayden Christiansen Jesse McMichael Ernest Ferrier

Blessing and sand

Dakota Piovesan

When music begins, seniors are invited forward to pour a cup of sand into the vase.

Song of response / Concert Choir

Over the Rainbow, from The Wizard of Oz

April Powls^, soloist

Abby Chappell Deckert^ & Caleb Garber^, cello

Prayers

Angelika Donaldson Lauren McCreary Jesse McMichael Schyler Entz

*Congregational singing

Guide My Feet On screen v. 1-3, 6

Sung benediction / Concert Choir

The Lord bless you and keep you Peter C. Lutkin

Postlude

*All who are able are invited to stand.

^Non-graduate

Hymn leader: Henry S. Waters, D.M.A. Accompanist: Christina Liu, D.M.A

Student greeters: Tessa Lies, Lauren McCreary, Macy Sisco, Destiny Tollette Student ushers: Emily Brandt, Kayden Christiansen, Lia Groves, Joshua Kennell,

Jabril Powell, Brenden Sanders

Baccalaureate Planning Committee: Kaity Shima (senior representative), Kylah Carter, Schyler Entz, Ernest Ferrier, Hayden Honomichl, Aaliyah Hunt, Daniel Kaufman, Jazmin Levario-Espino, Michael Unruh (campus pastor)

CHORAL TEXTS

We Were Not Made For Silence

music & text by Melinda Bargreen

We were not made for silence. We were made to sing. And through the darkest days and deepest hours we lift our voice, we lift our song out of despair into hopefulness. We were not made for silence. There is no halting, no halting of the human voice, no muting of our spirit. There is no way to stop, no way to stop our hopes, our dreams, our music: The songs we were meant for, the songs that were made for us. Come with us on this journey, lift your hearts in time with our voices. Celebrate the end of silence. Open your ears to the sounds they were meant to hear: The songs of our souls. We are not made for silence. We were made for song.

Precious Lord

music & text by Thomas A. Dorsey arr. Arnold Sevier

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand, I am tired, I am weak, I am worn; through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light. Take my hand, Lord, and lead me home.

When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near, when my life is almost gone, at the river, Lord, I stand, guide my feet and hold my hand: Take my hand, Lord, and lead me home.

CHORAL TEXTS

Over the Rainbow, from The Wizard of Oz

arr. Jacob Narverud

When all the world is a hopeless jumble and the raindrops tumble all around, heaven opens a magic lane.

When all the clouds darken up the skyway, there's a rainbow highway to be found, leading from your window pane to a place behind the sun, just a step beyond the rain.

Somewhere over the rainbow, way up high, there's a land that I heard of once in a lullaby. Somewhere over the rainbow, skies are blue, and the dreams that you dare to dream really do come true.

Some day I'll wish upon a star and wake up where the clouds are far behind me. Where troubles melt like lemon drops, away above the chimney tops, that's where you'll find me!

Somewhere over the rainbow, bluebirds fly. Birds fly over the rainbow, why then, oh, why can't I? If happy little bluebirds fly beyond the rainbow, why oh why can't I?

The Lord Bless You and Keep You

music & text by Peter C. Lutkin

The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord lift his countenance upon you, and give you peace; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you.

Amen.

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

*Processional

Thresher Brass Quintet

Kyle Unruh '11, trumpet

Evan Koch '14, trumpet

Genevieve Rucker '13, horn

Andrew Thiesen '17, trombone

Trae Gehring '22, tuba

President's Welcome

Jonathan C. Gering '94, Ph.D., President

Invocation

Denzel Dixon, Student Chaplain, Graduate

Welcome from the Board of Directors

Wynn Goering '77, Chair, Board of Directors

**Presentation of the Ralph P. Schrag Distinguished Teaching Award

Robert Milliman, Ph.D., Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty

Commencement Address

"Make today THE day"
Stacy Middleton '95
Athletic Operations Administrator and Senior Women Leader

Presentation of Candidates for Degrees and Honors

Robert Milliman, Ph.D., Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty Christine E. Crouse-Dick, Ph.D., Professor of Communication Arts

Conferring of Degrees

Jonathan C. Gering, Ph.D., President

Welcome to New Alumni

Jeffrey Graber '04, Alumni Association Representative

Closing Prayer

Tucker Smith, Student Chaplain, Graduate

*Recessional

Thresher Brass Quintet

^{*} Audience members who are able please stand.

^{**}The Ralph P. Schrag Distinguished Teaching Award is presented to a Bethel faculty member in recognition of outstanding classroom contributions and distinguished teaching. The award was endowed by the family of Ralph P. Schrag '37.

STACY MIDDLETON, B.S.

Stacy (Koontz) Middleton is in her third year as Bethel's athletic operations administrator, while serving as the Senior Women Leader.

She is also in her 13th season on the softball coaching staff. Middleton started the women's softball program in 2011 and coaches with her husband, David.

Middleton, a graduate of Haven (Kan.) High School, was offered a scholarship from George "Jolly" Rogers '69 to join the Bethel



College track program in 1991. As a Bethel student, Middleton also participated in both volleyball and track and field for four years, and played two years of basketball.

She was a two-year letter winner in volleyball as a defensive specialist and a four-year letter winner in track. She was a member of two KCAC volleyball championship teams as a sophomore and a senior. On the track and field team, Middleton was a standout javelin thrower and finished her career as a two-time NAIA All-American. She owns the women's javelin record for the KCAC championship meet, and the Bethel College program record.

In 2018, Middleton was inducted into the Bethel College Hall of Fame class for her athletic achievements as a student-athlete.

Middleton received a bachelor's degree from Bethel College in 1995 in Health and Physical Education/Elementary Education, with a minor in Coaching.

Program notes

When the Bethel bell, which is always rung to mark the beginning of the school year, begins to ring, you will know that the graduates are leaving the Luyken Fine Arts Center to make their way to Memorial Hall. The bell will continue to ring until all the graduates have entered Memorial Hall. As they approach the steps of Memorial Hall, the graduates are invited to touch the threshing stone to symbolize their going out into the world as Threshers.

Photographer Emily Timperley will be taking photographs of graduates receiving diplomas, as well as other photos. Please visit <u>bethelks.edu/graduation</u> for instructions on how to download or print photos.

During the recessional, the Memorial Hall chimes will ring, and the graduates will recess out of Memorial Hall to meet loved ones on the Green (Thresher Gym in case of rain).

CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES 2023-24

All degrees granted May 12, 2024, unless listed with another date. Names of those graduating in absentia will not be read.

Junior Marshals: Shayla Dao and Benjamin Rudeen

Mussawir Ahmed, B.A. London, United Kingdom Psychology

Osvaldo Alvarez, B.S. Wichita, Kansas Health and Physical Education (12/23)

Grace Olivia Anderson, B.S. Heath, Texas Business Administration (12/24)

Kevin Alonso Applewhite, B.S. Panama City, Panama Business Administration

Kiara Marie Ashurst, B.S.N. Independence, Missouri Nursing

Phillip Andrew Balzer, B.A.*** Freeman, South Dakota Music

Isaiah J. Bartel, B.S.N.* Andover, Kansas Nursing

Elly Grace Bertholf, B.S.***
Winfield, Kansas
Flementary Education (12/24)

Elementary Education (12/24) †

Joseph Arthur Blakesley, B.S.

Business Administration

Emily Grace Brandt, B.S.

Topeka, Kansas

Newton, Kansas Social Work

Milan Bucek, B.S.** Pelhrimov, Czechia Business Administration

Tristen Kennith Burger, B.S. Larned, Kansas Business Administration (12/23)

Kylah Dionne Carter, B.S.* Houston, Texas Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (12/24)

Michael Cech, B.S. Teplice, Czechia Business Administration

Naomi Chavez, B.S.* Newton, Kansas Business Administration

Kayden James Christiansen, B.A.*** Lakin, Kansas Natural Sciences

Brianna Anela Okalani Clark, B.S.* Las Vegas, Nevada Health and Physical Education Raven Briann Cobbins, B.S.N.* Wichita, Kansas Nursing

Michayla Denise Contreras, B.A. Las Cruces, New Mexico Communication Arts, Business Administration (12/24)

Robert Miles Crager, B.S. Valley Center, Kansas Business Administration

Adale Sandra Crawford, B.S.N. Wichita, Kansas Nursing

Anthony Denzel Dixon, B.A. Newark, Delaware Communication Arts

Angelika Roxanne Donaldson, B.A.** Highland, Illinois Music

Sean Michael Drake, B.A. Newton, Kansas History

Ashtin Leigh Duerksen, B.S.N. Wichita, Kansas Nursing

Alexis Mae Eddy, B.S*** Valley Center, Kansas Business Administration

Schyler Marie Entz, B.S.* Newton, Kansas Elementary Education †

Josie Dawn Epp, B.A.** Marion, South Dakota Mathematical Sciences

Brett August Esch, B.A.**
Carrollton, Texas
Communication Arts (7/24) †

Louis Vethner Etienne, B.S. Port de Paix, Haiti Health and Physical Education (7/24)

Ernest Ferrier, B.S. Humble, Texas Health and Physical Education (12/24)

Jaycee Renee Freshour, B.A.*** Oklahoma City, Oklahoma Natural Sciences (12/23)

Meya Ryann Green, B.S. Newton, Kansas Social Work (12/24)

Lia-Jing Elizabeth Groves, B.S.* Valley Center, Kansas Health and Physical Education

Jaime Guardado Hernandez, B.S. Durango, Mexico Business Administration

Nathan Rolando Gutierrez, B.A.

Bixby, Oklahoma Natural Sciences (7/24)

Hannah Marie Harris, B.S.N.

Chapman, Kansas Nursing

Marissa Lynn Harrison, B.A.

Mountain Park, Oklahoma Biology (12/24)

Claire Elizabeth Hedlund, B.S.

McPherson, Kansas Business Administration (12/23)

Emma Nayellee Hershberger, B.S.

Buhler, Kansas Business Administration (12/23)

Sean Maclorin David Holness, B.S.

London, United Kingdom

Health and Physical Education (12/23)

Hayden Kohl Honomichl, B.A.*** Great Bend, Kansas Communication Arts †

Alexander L. Hoofer, B.S. Wichita, Kansas

Social Work

Keyaun Namir Hoskin, B.S. Dallas, Texas

Business Administration (8/24)

Aaliyah Levelle Hunt, B.A. La Grange, Texas

Psychology

Harlie Marie Hunton, B.S. El Dorado Hills, California Social Work

Daniel Armin Kaufman, B.S.***

Moundridge, Kansas **Business Administration**

Ashley Marie Kehrt, B.A. Aledo, Texas

Biology Macee Yvonne Kelsay, B.S.N.

Bentley, Kansas Nursing

Tea N. Kennedy, B.S.

Miltonvale, Kansas Elementary Education (12/24) †

Joshua Michael Kennell, B.A.***

Newton, Kansas Biology

MacKenzie Jo Koehn, B.S.N. Hesston, Kansas Nursing

Halle Zhang Krehbiel, B.S.*** Hesston, Kansas **Business** Administration

Kelsie Anne Kreutzer, B.A. Wichita, Kansas Psychology

Marcus Alan LaBonde, B.S.*

Grand Junction, Colorado Business Administration (7/24)

Darby Shaye LaBrayere, B.S.N. Wichita, Kansas

Nursing

Jazmin Azucena Levario-Espino, B.S.N.** Elkhart, Kansas

Nursina

Newton, Kansas Business Administration

Marielena Guadalupe Licea, B.S.

Tessa Jane Lies, B.S.**

Wichita, Kansas Business Administration (8/24)

Lawrence, Kansas Art

Morgan Elizabeth Marsh, B.A.

Jakoby Kenneth Masters, B.S. Lawrence, Kansas Health and Physical Education †

Lauren Ashleigh McCreary, B.A.* Skiatook, Oklahoma

History and Political Science, Communication Arts Jesse Abigail McMichael, B.S.**

Highland, California

Art (12/23)

Elementary Education † Meehlia Coltilde Mendiola, B.A. Tumwater, Washington

Natural Sciences Edel Brooke Miller, B.A. Goessel, Kansas

Rylee Ann Moon, B.S.N. Derby, Kansas Nursing

Nicolas Roman Morgan, B.S. Tulsa, Oklahoma Health and Physical Education

Lynzi Lea Myrick, B.S.N. Larned, Kansas Nursing

Lucas Pardo, B.S. Montevideo, Uruguay Business Administration (12/24)

Nalea Ann Payton, B.S.***

El Dorado, Kansas Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Kelsey Ryan Pent, B.S.N. Parker, Colorado Nursing

Davontae Monteke Pickard, B.S. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma Health and Physical Education

Dakota Marie Piovesan, B.S. Vancouver, Washington

Business Administration (7/24)

Jabril Rahman Powell, B.A. Waco, Texas

Waco, Texas Natural Sciences

Tomas Agustin Quercia, B.S.* Buenos Aires, Argentina Business Administration

Mario Angel Quintero, B.S. Haven, Kansas Elementary Education (12/24) †

Katie Raleigh, B.S. Hesston, Kansas Social Work (12/23)

Myran Terrell Randle, B.A. Bakersfield, California

Communication Arts

Jalyn Phillip Richardson, B.S. Flower Mound, Texas

Business Administration

Jared Woodrow Richardson, B.S.

Flower Mound, Texas Business Administration

Colton James Carter Rothwell, B.S. Wichita, Kansas Business Administration

Brenden Tariq Sanders, B.S.

Plano, Texas Health and Physical Education Taylor Rose Sanfillippo, B.S.N.

Corona, California Nursing

Keaton Lane Shaffer, B.S. Stigler, Oklahoma Business Administration

Kaitlyn Marie Shima, B.A.*** Topeka, Kansas

Topeka, Kansas Natural Sciences Macy Dawn Sisco, B.S. Wylie, Texas Business Administration

Garrett William Slater, B.S. Hesston, Kansas Business Administration

Business Administration

Tucker Harrison Smith, B.A.

Muscotah, Kansas Natural Sciences (12/23)

Jordyn Gabrielle Smith, B.S.** Axtell, Kansas Health and Physical Education

Francisco Juvenal Soto, B.S. Wichita, Kansas Business Administration

Christopher Wayne Strecker Jr., B.A. Goessel, Kansas History and Political Science

Meghan J. Symonds, B.S. Newton, Kansas Social Work

Jalyn C. Todd, B.A. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma Biology (7/24)

Destiny Janai Tollette, B.S. Killeen, Texas Elementary Education (12/24) †

Stefanie Torres, B.A. Newton, Kansas Natural Sciences

Nicole Nicole Tran, B.S. Newton, Kansas Business Administration

Bryce Underwood, B.A. Bakersfield, California History (12/23)

Miguel Mateo Vojtova, B.S. Madrid, Spain Health and Physical Education

Juan Ignacio Volker Vergara, B.S.** Vina del Mar, Chile Business Administration (12/24)

GPA honors for graduates are indicated by (an) asterisk(s) behind their degree and by the color of their cords.

*Cum Laude: 3.500-3.649 G.P.A. | Cords: Gray

**Magna Cum Laude: 3.650-3.799 G.P.A. | Cords: Maroon and Gray

***Summa Cum Laude: 3.800-4.0 G.P.A. | Cords: Maroon, Gray and White

t Teacher Education

B.A. Bachelor of Arts B.S. Bachelor of Science B.S.N. Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Degree honors are listed as of the program print date and may be subject to change based on final grades. Honor cords are given when students have completed all degree coursework, and are based on final cumulative GPA.

ACADEMIC REGALIA

The ceremonial gowns worn in the academic process speak by their shape and color of both the breadth and the historic dignity of intellectual pursuits. Their design derives from that of the gowns of the clerics who were the teachers and students in the first universities, founded in the Middle Ages. The gown is a symbol of the democracy of scholarship, since it covers any clothing indicating other rank or status.

The doctor's gown is ankle-length, with wide lapels of velvet and full, bell-shaped sleeves marked with three bars or chevrons of velvet. The color of the gown is usually black, but some American universities have adopted gowns of a color appropriate for each school. The master's gown is black with sleeves that are squared at the end. Individuals with bachelor's degrees wear a black gown that has long, pointed sleeves.

The gown also tells the academic history of the scholar who wears it. The lining of the hood displays the heraldic colors of the university that granted the degree, whereas the border of the hood and the chevrons on the gown announce the scholar's field of study—white, for example, stands for history, scarlet for theology, pink for music, drab for business administration, etc.

The cap has its own traditions. The first right of a freed Roman slave was the privilege of wearing a cap, so the academic cap is the sign of the freedom of scholarship. Although the flat square cap or mortarboard is most usual, the doctoral cap is an octagonal tam of velvet.

The tassel is used in commencement ceremonies both for differentiation and unifying purposes. The graduation tassel, attached to a mortarboard for a college or university, represents belonging to a particular class that has completed its goals. Tassels on the cap most often are the color or colors of the particular institution; in the case of Bethel College, the tassel is maroon. At commencement, graduates wear the tassel on the right side, moving it to the left when their degree is conferred. Faculty participating in academic ceremonies wear the tassel to the left throughout the proceedings.

Bachelor's degree candidates may have a stole provided by their major department to indicate their field of study or ethnic group. The following are represented in the Bethel College commencement: light blue for education; pink for music; gold for math; apricot for nursing; citron for social work; Kente cloth for students recognized by the African American Alumni Association; serape for students who identify as Latinx/Hispanic; blue and white for students who identify as Asian American/Pacific Islander; multicolor for students who identify as Native American or Alaska Native. International students wear a stole in the colors of their nation's flag.

Each student wearing a green ribbon has signed the pledge organized by KIPCOR (Kansas Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution): "I pledge to explore and take into account the social and environmental consequences of any job I consider and will try to improve these aspects of any organizations for which I work." Since 1987, this Graduation Pledge of Social and Environmental Responsibility has been offered at colleges and universisites throughout the world.

Nursing students inducted into the Sigma Theta Tau International honor society receive purple and white honor cords.



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