

MOUNT MARTY UNIVERSITY



COMMENCEMENT

MAY 3, 2025

10:00 A.M.

CIMPL ARENA, YANKTON, SD

2025 COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

PROCESSIONAL

“Pomp and Circumstance”

Marches, Op. 39, No. 1

by Sir Edward Elgar

Led by Dr. Deborah McCuin

Academic Senate Chair

NATIONAL ANTHEM

“The Star Spangled Banner”

by Francis Scott Key

Mount Marty University Choir

INVOCATION

Ashinee George '25

**“The Mount Marty
University Prayer”**

by Anthony Maglione

WELCOME

Dr. Marcus Long

President

STUDENT AWARDS AND RIBBON CEREMONY

Dr. Katie Harrell

Vice President for Student Success

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Dr. Marcus Long

PRESENTATION OF

CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

Dr. William Miller

Provost

CONFERRING OF DEGREES

Dr. Marcus Long

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

WELCOME

Johanna Jablonoski '14

Director of Alumni & Family

Relations

BENEDICTION

Father Grant Lacey

Chaplain and Director of Campus

Ministry

“Come to the Water”

arr. Lynda Hasseler

RECESSIONAL

“Procession of the Nobles”

from *Mlada*

by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov

Led by Dr. Deborah McCuin

It is customary for the audience to stand during the Processional, National Anthem, Invocation, Benediction and Recessional.

MOUNT MARTY PRAYER

O God,

Creator of all things and source of wisdom and knowledge, send your Holy Spirit to guide our thoughts, words, and actions so that everything we do will begin with your inspiration and continue with your guidance and blessing. Help us to speak and act with integrity so that we may uphold the values of Mount Marty University. May we use our talents and abilities in the best ways possible so that You may be glorified and our neighbor served.

We pray these things through Jesus, your Son, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

AMEN.

*The Mount Marty Prayer was written by
Father Thomas Wordekemper, OSB, '79.*

CLASS RIBBON CEREMONY

In 2020, we embarked on a new phase of our history as Mount Marty University. To commemorate the moment in MMU history, our students and administration created a new tradition to be conducted during the commencement ceremony to honor and celebrate the graduation of the senior class and the introduction of the next: the Class Ribbon Ceremony.

During this ceremony, the graduating president of the Student Government Association will be joined on stage by the president-elect. Together, they will tie a ribbon representing the new senior class to the shield. The ribbon, selected by members of the incoming senior class, may contain a Bible verse, quote or other meaningful representation intended to forever mark their impact on the Mount Marty community.

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

by Dr. Marcus Long

A native of Missouri, Marc Long has spent his entire life living within 30 miles of the Missouri River, which flows by Mount Marty University's (MMU) Yankton campus. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Missouri and a Ph.D. in educational leadership and policy studies from the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

Prior to joining the MMU community as president of the university, Long served as the vice president for administration at the University of Health Sciences and Pharmacy in St. Louis, and before his tenure in St. Louis, Long served 13 years in the chancellor's office at the University of Missouri.

Long is MMU's 11th president. He began his tenure on July 15, 2015, and has focused on increasing enrollment and student success, fostering Benedictine leadership principles across the university, and partnering with other entities to better serve MMU students and the region. From 2019 to 2023, Long served as chair of the Association of Benedictine Colleges and Universities, and he led the Council of Presidents of the Great Plains Athletic Conference from 2021 to 2023. He was the first MMU president to lead either organization. In 2023, he became the longest-serving president in MMU's 87-year history except for the three Benedictine sisters who served in that capacity.

Since 2015, MMU has completed more than \$20 million in new building projects, including the Ruth Donohoe First Dakota Fieldhouse and Rickenbach Suites. In addition, MMU became the first private university in South Dakota to offer doctoral programs. During Long's tenure, enrollment increased by thirty percent during eight consecutive years of growth, and he worked with Avera Health to establish the Avera Nursing Advantage program, which offers significant financial and professional advantages to MMU nursing students who choose to become Avera nurses after graduation. In the process, Mount Marty became Avera's preferred nursing school. The university also added football, archery, cheer and dance to its athletics offerings and completed its first major fundraising campaign in history.

In addition to his higher education leadership work, Long has served on the Yankton Thrive and United Way and Volunteer Services of Greater Yankton boards. Long also serves as an adjunct research professor of emergency medicine at the University of Missouri and continues to serve as a volunteer mentor for doctoral students at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. He is also a Benedictine oblate at Sacred Heart Monastery in Yankton.

In March 2025, Long announced his intentions to retire from MMU after a transformational ten years leading the institution.

BACHELOR OF ARTS

RYAN BACHMAN

Recreation Management and Tourism
Rapid City, SD
Summa Cum Laude

LIAM BATES

Exercise Science
New Westminster, Canada
Summa Cum Laude

TED BENGSTON

English
Secondary Education
Wausa, NE
Magna Cum Laude

CHRISTIAN BERRY

Business Administration
Papillion, NE

EVAN BOCK

Business Administration
Columbus, NE

ELLIOT BURNS

Interdisciplinary Studies
Rapid City, SD

LEXA MADISYN BURTZLAFF

Exercise Science
Whitewood, SD
Summa Cum Laude

CLAYTON JAMES BYER*

Business Administration
Placerville, CA
Magna Cum Laude

KYLE A. CAHALL

Business Administration
Broomfield, CO

ELLIOT MARTIN CARBAJAL

Criminal Justice
Gilroy, CA

JONATHAN WYATT CARLSTEDT

Criminal Justice
Council Bluffs, IA
Alpha Phi Sigma

SANTIAGO CASTILLO*

Physical Education
Secondary Education
Brownsville, TX
Cum Laude

JANEAH CASTRO

Business Administration
Fillmore, CA

SAVANNAH CHOUINARD

Interdisciplinary Studies
Lee, FL

JIMMIE CUNNINGHAM

Business Administration
Yankton, SD

CALVIN B. DATHER

Business Administration
Crofton, NE

KAESHA NICOLE DAVIS

Pre-Professional Studies
Wheatland, WY
Magna Cum Laude

AVA LOUISE DINGER

Exercise Science
Wall, SD
Summa Cum Laude

GEORGIE DOWNES

Exercise Science
London, England

KANNON T. DUMONT

Exercise Science
Bennington, NE
Summa Cum Laude

DAWSON STEVEN DURYEA

Exercise Science
Solomon, KS

MATHEW JOHN ELLIS^

Business Administration
Marlton, NJ

KATIE FARRELL

Exercise Science
Watford, England

JEFFREY MAXIMILIAN FIEGEN

Exercise Science
Canton, SD

JOSIAH DAVID GAETANI

Recreation Management and Tourism
Montgomery, TX

WILLIAM GARDNER

Business Administration
St. Albert, Canada

TREY STERLING-ALLEN HANSEN

Business Administration
Gilbert, IA
Cum Laude

KELSEY RENE HEATH

Elementary Education
Special Education
Sisseton, SD
Magna Cum Laude

ZACHARY HEGGE*

Mathematics Education
Lyons, NE
Magna Cum Laude

MAXWELL HERBER

Exercise Science
Dell Rapids, SD
Cum Laude

AUBREY JO HERBOLSHEIMER

Psychology
Norfolk, NE

MADISON RENA KAY HERMSEN

Human Service
White River, SD
Psi Chi

**MIGUEL ANGEL
HERNANDEZ-JAIME**

Criminal Justice
Greenfield, CA

CARLY HERRBOLDT*

Criminal Justice
Menno, SD
*Magna Cum Laude, Alpha Phi Sigma,
Psi Chi*

KINLEY HETLETVED

Psychology
Bismarck, ND

KENDRA RAE LYNN HORSLEY

English Writing
Human Service
Psychology
Lawton, IA
*Magna Cum Laude, Sigma Tau Delta,
Psi Chi*

EMMA JAROVSKI

Elementary Education
Brandon, SD
Magna Cum Laude

TATUM JENSEN

Elementary Education
Special Education
Rock Rapids, IA
Summa Cum Laude

MARCUS E. JNOFINN*

Exercise Science
Crosby, TX

ANNIKA PAIGE JOHNSON

Criminal Justice
Hugo, MN

WILLIAM JOHNSON

Business Administration
Lincoln, NE

AIDAN KAMPERMAN-CHANG

Business Administration
Roseville, CA
Magna Cum Laude

JONAS KELP

Accounting
Hamburg, Germany

CHASE C. KING

Accounting
Business Administration
Alliance, NE
Magna Cum Laude

TYRELL KLEIN

Elementary Education
Alton, IA

MADISON ELIZABETH KOVAR

Pre-Professional Studies
Needville, TX

KEATON LIST

Exercise Science
Yankton, SD

JOSHUA JON LIVERMORE*

Criminal Justice
Hartford, SD

ALESSANDRA MIA LOPEZ

Psychology
Corona, CA

JARED LOPEZ^

Business Administration
Lincoln, NE

EDWARD D. LUNDAY JR.

Exercise Science
Flandreau, SD
Cum Laude

EASTON L. MACKLEM^

Criminal Justice
Le Mars, IA

CHLOE G. MADISON

Elementary Education
Lincoln, NE
Cum Laude

OLEKSANDR MAKAROV

Exercise Science
Odessa, Ukraine
Magna Cum Laude

HUNTER THOMAS MARSO

Business Administration
Brandon, SD
Magna Cum Laude

MOLLY MCCLOUD

Elementary Education
Rapid City, SD

KAYLEE MCNEESE

Business Administration
Lincoln, NE

CHRISTIAN TAYLOR MICKELSON

English

Secondary Education

Norfolk, NE

Summa Cum Laude, Sigma Tau Delta

CAMERON WILLIAM MIDDLETON

Exercise Science

Montgomery, TX

KAYLEE ELIZABETH MILLER

Recreation Management and Tourism

David City, NE

PAIGE E. MILLIKAN

Business Administration

Clarinda, IA

EMMA DIANE NEISES

Exercise Science

Carthage, SD

Summa Cum Laude

SPENCER NELSON

Exercise Science

Wakonda, SD

JAY ALAN NEUGEBAUER^

Exercise Science

Hermosa, SD

Magna Cum Laude

DALYN NORMAN^

Business Administration

Gainesville, FL

JUSTIN DANIEL OGLE^

Business Administration

Woodland Hills, CA

ÁLVARO OLIVAR FERNÁNDEZ

Business Administration

Madrid, Spain

SAMUEL PALMER

Elementary Education

Dell Rapids, SD

FRANCESCO PANACCIONE

Accounting

Business Administration

Frosinone, Italy

Magna Cum Laude

ANIEL E. PASTRANA-OTERO

Criminal Justice

Fort Worth, TX

ALMUDENA PÉREZ LÓPEZ

Pre-Professional Studies

Madrid, Spain

PATRICK PERKINS

History

Secondary Education

Van Vleck, TX

Phi Alpha Theta

KADEN PHILLIPS

Business Administration

Sturgis, SD

JOSHUA PICKTHORN^

Exercise Science

Brandon, SD

ALESSIO GIORGIO PIRRELLO

Business Administration

Fellbach, Germany

Magna Cum Laude

RYAN ANTHONY PISTULKA

Business Administration

Nolensville, TN

CADEN POTTER

Health and Fitness Management

Hermantown, MN

ANDREW D. RAMIREZ
Business Administration
Las Vegas, NV

WILLIAM A. RAUCH
Exercise Science
Lubbock, TX
Cum Laude

SHYANNA E. REICH*
History
Edmonton, Canada
Cum Laude, Phi Alpha Theta

**LESSLIE SAMANTHA ROMO
GUTIERREZ***
Human Service
Schuyler, NE

MAREN SANDERS
Accounting
Milaca, MN

CANE SCHMITT
Pre-Professional Studies
Moville, IA
Cum Laude

CAYCEE JO SCHNEIDER
Biology
Pre-Professional Studies
Turton, SD
Summa Cum Laude

ADRIAN SCHOBY^
Business Administration
Brandon, SD

LAUREN STIEFVATER
Mathematics Education
Salem, SD
Magna Cum Laude

CAITLYN E. STIMPSON*
History
Pickstown, SD
Phi Alpha Theta

**THOR DAWAYNE ROSS
SUNDSTROM**
Exercise Science
Sturgis, SD

COOPER THOMAS SYZDEK
Exercise Science
Kingsbury, TX
Summa Cum Laude, Psi Chi

JAMES TERRY
Exercise Science
Nottingham, United Kingdom
Summa Cum Laude

ISAIAH G. THOMPSON
Exercise Science
San Diego, CA

DANIEL TIBBETT
Exercise Science
Cambridge, England
Magna Cum Laude

**MEGAN JACQUELINE
TOPLOVICH**
Human Service
Great Falls, MT
Psi Chi

OLIVIA VALDEZ
Pre-Professional Studies
Lambertville, MI
Magna Cum Laude

TREY ALAN VANDE KOP
Biology
Pre-Professional Studies
Rock Rapids, IA
Magna Cum Laude

ARIEL WALLER

Exercise Science
Tom Bean, TX
Cum Laude

SLAYDER ART WATTERSON

Business Administration
Burley, ID
Magna Cum Laude

ETHAN PAUL WARMKAGATHJE

Business Administration
Saint Charles, MN
Summa Cum Laude

SYDNEY EILEEN WEAR

Human Service
Lillington, NC
Alpha Phi Sigma, Psi Chi

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

BRYNN BARGMAN^

Radiologic Technology
Bloomfield, NE

BRENNA ROSE NORRIS^

Radiologic Technology
Omaha, NE
Cum Laude

CASSIE ANNA HOHRMAN^

Radiologic Technology
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Radiologic Technology
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Radiologic Technology
Sarcoxie, MO
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ASHINEE DIAMONIQUE GEORGE

Shiprock, NM

ZOIE BERTSCH

Sioux Falls, SD

KALEE GILSDORF

Madison, NE
Cum Laude

XAVIER GABEL

Lennox, SD
Summa Cum Laude

MADELYN HECKENLAIBLE

Menno, SD
Magna Cum Laude

PAYTON WILLIAM GASSMAN

Henry, SD
Magna Cum Laude

ELECIA HERRBOLDT

Hermantown, MN
Magna Cum Laude

MADISON JEAN IRELAND

Scotland, SD

EMILY JOHNSON

Rapid City, SD

Magna Cum Laude

ALLISON KANNEGIETER

Nursing

Psychology

Willow Lake, SD

ALYSSA MARIE KEISER

Alcester, SD

CHARLES S. KELLY

Clark, SD

Summa Cum Laude

MACY JO KEMPF

Mitchell, SD

Magna Cum Laude

KENNEDY KNIPPLING

Mitchell, SD

MICHAELA KOKES

Delmont, SD

Summa Cum Laude, Sigma Theta Tau

FERNANDO ANTHONY LOPEZ JR.

San Diego, CA

TREY LAWRENCE LOPEZ

Milford, NE

NATALEE LUETTEL

Albion, NE

LAUREN MARIE MITCHELL

Sioux Falls, SD

Cum Laude

REMEDY CHRISTINE MORRISON

White River, SD

ADDISON NIEUWSMA

Sioux Falls, SD

Summa Cum Laude

JACKSON L. NOEM

Lake Norden, SD

Cum Laude

DAVIN QUAIL

Watertown, SD

ELLA RAY

Brandon, SD

Magna Cum Laude

LUKE JONATHAN RETTEDAL

Tea, SD

AUSTIN CARTER VIGANTS

Brandon, SD

CADE WARNER

Larchwood, IA

Cum Laude

DAWSON WATTS

Pierce, NE

ASSOCIATE OF ARTS

TRAVIS HERSCHEL EARLEY^

Accounting
Business Administration
Monroe, IA

MIGUEL A. GARZA

Business Administration
Omaha, NE

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Business Administration
Whittier, CA

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Criminal Justice
Central City, NE

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Business Administration
Waterloo, IA

GRADUATION HONORS AND NOTES

Graduation honors are awarded to students earning bachelor degrees in recognition of superior scholarship. Latin honors are based on December grade point average.

Summa Cum Laude is the honorary title used to signify those with a cumulative grade point average of 3.9 and is recognized by navy/gold honor cords.

Magna Cum Laude is the honorary title used to signify those with a cumulative grade point average of 3.7 and is recognized by gold/white honor cords.

Cum Laude is the honorary title used to signify those with a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 and is recognized by navy/white honor cords.

Alpha Phi Sigma is the honor society for criminal justice and is recognized by blue/gold cords and gold sash.

Phi Alpha Theta is an American history honor society and is recognized by a blue/red cord and red sash.

Psi Chi is the international honor society for psychology, which includes psychology and human service disciplines, recognized by a platinum/navy blue cord and platinum stole.

Sigma Tau Delta is the national English honor society and is recognized by a pin.

Sigma Theta Tau is the international honor society of nurses and is recognized by a purple and white cord.

Honors Program is Mount Marty University's program to recognize students who demonstrate exceptional academic skill and who explore areas above and beyond the standard classroom requirements and is

*** INDICATES DECEMBER 2024 GRADUATE**

^ INDICATES AUGUST 2025 CANDIDATE

Names listed in this publication and participation in the commencement exercises may not be construed as documentation of completion of degree requirements. Certification of the conferral of a degree is by official transcript noting degree completion.

ACADEMIC REGALIA

The tradition of academic costume has a history of nearly eight centuries. In medieval Europe, all townsmen wore long flowing robes or gowns. The materials and colors varied greatly, according to wealth and rank of the individual and were governed by royal decree. Gradually, distinctive gowns developed for the various professions, trades and guilds. This tradition survives today in gowns of religious orders, the judiciary and the academic regalia.

The gowns worn by the recipients of the various degrees vary somewhat in design. The sleeves of the gown worn by recipients of the baccalaureate degree are long and pointed, while the sleeves of the gown worn by the master's degree recipients are square at one end with a slit at the elbow. The doctor's gown has flowing sleeves with three bars of velvet and a facing of velvet down the front of the gown.

Most distinctive of the academic regalia is the hood, which identifies the graduate degree and the institution where the degree was awarded. The hood is lined with silk in the official colors of the institution. The velvet edging indicates the degree as follows:

Arts, Letters, Humanities: White

Commerce, Accountancy, Business: Drab

Education: Light Blue

Fine Arts: Brown

Music: Pink

Nursing: Apricot

Philosophy: Dark Blue

Physical Education: Sage Green

Science: Golden Yellow

Theology: Scarlet

MOUNT MARTY UNIVERSITY

Mount Marty University is a Catholic, Benedictine institution of higher learning founded in 1936 by the Sisters of Saint Benedict of Yankton, South Dakota. The institution is named in memory of Martin Marty, a Swiss monk, who came to the Dakota Territory in 1876 and became the territory's first Catholic bishop. As bishop, he invited the Benedictine Sisters to establish a religious community in South Dakota.

The university functioned as a junior college for women for 15 years; in 1951 it awarded its first Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees. In 1969, the college became coeducational. Associate of Arts degree programs were introduced in 1975 in areas compatible with already existing programs. Graduate study came to the institution with the first Master of Science degree being awarded in 1983, followed by the first Master of Art degree in 1999. The first doctorate in Nurse Anesthesia Practice was approved in 2016. Mount Marty University is the first private university in South Dakota to offer doctoral degrees.

Mount Marty University's main campus is located in Yankton, SD. There are two additional locations in Watertown, SD, and Sioux Falls, SD.

Mount Marty University-Watertown has been serving northeast South Dakota since 1972 and offers numerous undergraduate degrees in non-traditional formats. This non-residential learning environment offers flexible options that cater to all students and working professionals looking to enhance their lives and further their careers through higher education.

Sioux Falls is home to the Mount Marty Doctorate of Nurse Anesthesia Practice graduate program, a program that has been producing successful nurse anesthetists for more than 75 years. This 36-month program prepares the next generation of advanced practice nursing professionals for commitment to excellence in clinical care, advancing the profession and service to the human community. The Sioux Falls location is also home to Mount Marty University's new Master of Science in Biotechnology degree, the first such degree in the state.

In keeping with the Benedictine tradition, the university exists as a community of learners. Primary emphasis is placed on the development of each person as a complete human being with intellectual competence; professional and personal skills; and a composite of moral, spiritual and social values.

PRESIDENTIAL MEDALLION

The Presidential Medallion represents the authority granted to the President of the institution by the Board of Trustees. It carries the seal of the university as well as four banners with the core values: awareness of God, community, hospitality and lifelong learning. They serve as a constant reminder that these values are believed in and carried out from the leader of the institution on to the various internal and external publics that Mount Marty University serves. On the bottom of the medallion are the words; scientia (knowledge), veritas (truth) and sapientia (wisdom). It is a symbol that will inspire the quest for knowledge by the faculty and our students. It is a symbol that will inspire the pursuit of spiritual wholeness for all the members of our community.

MOUNT MARTY UNIVERSITY MISSION STATEMENT

Mount Marty University, an academic community in the Catholic Benedictine liberal arts tradition, prepares students for a contemporary world of work, service to the human community and personal growth.

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