



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2023
PERSHING ARENA
11:00 A.M.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Cheryl J. Cozette

Chair

Nancy Gingrich
Vice Chair

Philip J. Christofferson Secretary

Sarah Burkemper

Jennifer Kopp Dameron

Bill Lovegreen

Mike McClaskey

K. Brooks Miller, Jr.

Ella Schnake Student Representative

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

MUSICAL PRELUDE

The music for commencement is provided by the

Truman Brass Quintet under the direction of Eric Dickson, Associate Professor of Music.

Fanfare from "La Peri" — Paul Dukas, arr. Wayne Barrington

Sonata from "Die Bankelsangerlieder" — Anonymous, ed. Robert King

PROCESSIONAL

United States Army ROTC Color Guard

Grand Marshal
Carolyn Cox
Professor of Health Science

President of the University
Sue Thomas

Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Eric Freedman

> Commencement Speaker Laura Brooks

Student Speaker
Michael Owsley
Bachelor of Science in Political Science & International Relations and
Bachelor of Fine Arts in Creative Writing

Board of Governors

Vocal Soloist Laura Alexander Bachelor of Music in Music Emphasis Groups

Reader
Julene Ensign
Associate Professor of Exercise Science

Marshal Kathryn Brammall *Professor of History*

Candidates

Master of Science
Master of Arts in Education
Master of Arts
Bachelor of Science
Bachelor of Arts
Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Bachelor of Music
Bachelor of Fine Arts

Faculty Honoree

Faculty and Administration

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

The Star Spangled Banner — Francis Scott Key, arranged by Arthur Goldstein

Laura Alexander

WELCOME, OPENING REMARKS, AND INTRODUCTIONS

President Thomas

GREETINGS FROM BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Introduction of Commencement Speaker

President Thomas

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Laura Brooks

RECOGNITION OF FACULTY HONOREE

Provost Freedman and President Thomas

Kenneth N. Carter, Jr. *Professor Emeritus of Chemistry*

Introduction of Student Speaker

Provost Freedman

STUDENT ADDRESS

Michael Owsley

RECOGNITION OF HONOR STUDENTS

Provost Freedman

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES AND CONFERRING OF DEGREES

Provost Freedman and President Thomas

Julene Ensign

Candidates for the Degree Bachelor of Fine Arts
Candidates for the Degree Bachelor of Music
Candidates for the Degree Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Candidates for the Degree Bachelor of Arts
Candidates for the Degree Bachelor of Science
Candidates for the Degree Master of Arts
Candidates for the Degree Master of Arts in Education
Candidates for the Degree Master of Science

TURNING OF TASSELS AND CLOSING REMARKS

President Thomas

AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL

arranged by Roger Cody

Laura Alexander

RECESSIONAL AND POSTLUDE

Quintet No. 1. Mvt. III - Victor Ewald

JUNIOR MARSHALS

The Junior Marshals, robed in white, serve as escorts during the Commencement ceremony.

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

Laura Brooks



Laura Brooks is the co-founder and managing partner of Foundation Collective, a premier consultancy specializing in developing actionable go-to-market and brand strategies to empower brands to establish a solid marketing foundation and efficiently execute their visions. In her capacity at the agency, Brooks serves as a fractional chief marketing officer for a diverse range of clients, and she is an advisor and investor to early-stage consumer packaged goods companies.

As a seasoned marketing professional in the consumer packaged goods industry, Brooks' expertise spans a wide array of leadership, marketing, e-commerce and insights roles, solidifying her reputation as a classically

trained marketer. Her career took root at The Clorox Company, where her tenure in a Fortune 500's brand management department laid the groundwork for her subsequent accomplishments with venture-backed companies.

Brooks' passion for working with small, mission-driven companies ignited during her role as director of marketing at Angie's BOOMCHICKAPOP where she spearheaded the brand's inaugural national TV advertising campaign. In part to her work, the company was acquired by ConAgra for \$250 million in 2018. Brooks' track record continued to flourish when she assumed the role of vice president of marketing and e-commerce at Solid Gold Pet. Her strategic vision repositioned the brand, sparking a remarkable business turnaround that culminated in the company's sale to H&H Group in 2020 for \$163 million. This background ultimately led Brooks to embark on the journey of entrepreneurship as co-founder and CEO of Dojo Labs supplements, achieving national distribution with GNC upon launch.

A 2009 graduate of the University, Brooks earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in business administration, with concentrations in marketing and management, along with a minor in psychology. Apart from her career, she works with the Women on Boards Project, a non-profit organization with a mission to facilitate the placement of more women in first-time board seats.

Outside of her professional endeavors, Brooks is a true advocate for staying active, both in the gym and amidst the great outdoors and enjoys embarking on adventures with her husband, Justin, their two young boys, Jackson and Grayson, and their beloved Papillon, Vivian.

THE GRADUATES

The Commencement program is a roster of candidates, not an official list of graduates. Appropriate degrees and honors will be awarded to candidates who successfully complete all requirements by established deadlines.

BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS

Kameron Alexander Clark, Art
Melissa Rennee Eaton, Creative Writing
Emmalee Gilliam, Creative Writing
Cortney Goodman, Creative Writing
Ryan William Hays, Creative Writing
Michael Victor Owsley (also BS), Creative Writing
Ashlynn Warren, Art

BACHELOR OF MUSIC

Laura Beth Alexander, Music Emphasis Groups (BM) Alexander Douglas Stoneburner Karst, Music Emphasis Groups (BM)

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

Julianne Carol Amato, Nursing Hannah Kathleen Conboy, Nursing

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Anthropology

Kent Allsberry, Biology
Hailey Shane MacKenna Alvis, Modern Language
Drew William Arends, Interdisciplinary Studies
Jaymison Boeker, History
Delany Borella, Art
Samuel Becket Clark, Psychology
Taylor Ann Clayton, Communication Disorders
Alexis Gayle Cook, Communication and Sociology/

Fatoumata Moctar Coulibaly, Business Administration Stephen B. Dixon, Political Science & International Relations

Morgan Eastin, English
Amanda Egbert, Business Administration
Rachel Gaworski, Business Administration
William Harrison Gibson, Business Administration
Bryce A. Goodall, History
Lucah Jeanette-Marie Gordon, Political Science &
International Relations

Keridan Marie Gossrau, Communication Disorders Edward August James Hahn, Communication

Andrew Hilliard, English Zixian Jiang, English Isabelle Juan, English Kenneth Michael Keefer, English Samuel Timothy Lock, Business Administration Sarah Anatasia Macomber, Modern Language Elias Mains, Art Nardos Zerihun Mengesha, Business Administration Jenna Lynn Minor (also BS), English Alyse Nicole Nguyen, Communication Jessica Rene Norman, English Emily Danielle O'Leary, Communication Sinclair Phyllis Osterhaus, Biology Cory Price, Communication Miranda Scheel, Communication Disorders and Modern Language Samuel Scherff, English Siara Lynn Schweiger, Mathematics Alyssa Michele Shellabarger, English Austin James Sopko, Communication Dakota B. Spicer, Business Administration Veronica Maire Stockton, Sociology/Anthropology Jonathan Richard Sullins, English Kaylee Swanson, English Megan Travis, English Molly L. Wease, Biology Alyssa Lynn Wippler, Sociology/Anthropology Zirui Xie, English Keer Zeng, Economics

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Mohammed Abdikebir, Computer Science
Amr Ahmed, Justice Systems
Cüneyt Aksoy, Computer Science
Jonna Kay Albright, Justice Systems
Austin Edward William Allen, Justice Systems
Sydnie Alise Andell, Biology
Alyssa M. Anders, Biology
Saul Armendariz Lobera, Biology
Hildana Assefa, Computer Science
Xin Bai, Accounting
Matthew Bateson, Economics and Political Science
Juliet S. Bauta Motty, Accounting
Jayden Leigh Bell, History
Shikha Bhattarai, Statistics

Irma Amirah Bien-Aime, Health Science

Justin Thomas Bonds, Chemistry

Andrew Shelby Alexander Breedlove, Computer

Science

Jacob Aaron Capps, History Jesse Lee Cash, Psychology

Ruonan Chang, Economics

Teagan Charles, Health Science

Catherine Elizabeth Clark, Psychology

Mallory Renee Compas, Psychology Carl Ian Conant, Business Administration

Olivia Constance Coon, Sociology/Anthropology

Benjamin F. Cramer, Physics

Tate Crane, Accounting and Business Administration

Katherine Paige Crumpecker, Business Administration

Reagan Elizabeth Damron, Health Science

Ian Pierce Dawkins, Psychology

Paxton Michael Dempsay, Mathematics Madison Catherine Devlin, Exercise Science

Blaine Ryan DeVolld, Exercise Science

Matthew James Dochterman, Exercise Science

Kiersten Marie Dooley, Accounting and Business

Administration

Nellea Christine Dovin, Biology Madison Easley, Psychology

Hannah Elizabeth Effland, Psychology

Matthew Scott Eisenreich, Mathematics and Statistics

Gabriella Rose Engemann, Accounting Isabel Sara Fultz, Justice Systems

Jaden Galang, Communication Disorders

Daniel David Joseph Gernander, Statistics

Emmanuella Ewenam Goe, Physics

Madison Sydney Hadley, Exercise Science

Nolan Hair, Exercise Science

Elizabeth Ann Hamlin, Agricultural Science

Conner Harrison, Business Administration and

Accounting

Taylor Nicole Henness, Psychology

Abygale Lee Higgins, Psychology

Riley Elizabeth Holzmeier, Justice Systems Mason Thomas Huddleston, Agricultural Science

Kaeli Lynn Hutson, Communication Disorders

Alivia Jacquot, Communication Disorders Matthew Channer Johnson, Liberal Studies

Katelyn Juskiv, Exercise Science

Breanna Kalesh, Criminal Justice Studies and

Psychology

Joelle Kantayya, Communication Disorders

Kana Gebrekidan Kassa, Biology

Emma Rose Klaas, Biology

Jackson Knust, Business Administration

Juyoung Ko, Biology

Norah Amber Kovac, Psychology

Shiyu Liao, Economics

Cheryl Lin, Biology

Garrett Linn, Mathematics

Andrew Thomas Lipe, Exercise Science

Carter George Lowe, Computer Science DeAndre L. Malone Jr., Agricultural Science

Justin Ridge Maloney, Exercise Science

Joseph Mark Manganiello, Business Administration

Laura Isabella Marks, Criminal Justice Studies

Benjamin Massenberg, Accounting

Bradley McCollum, Exercise Science

Kaitlyn Elizabeth McDaniel, Biology and

Agricultural Science

Molly Ann McGurn, Psychology

Colleen McNamara, Communication Disorders

Jenna Lynn Minor (also BA), Psychology

Mary Katherine Mueller, Psychology

Kaeden Grace Noland, Communication Disorders

Gabriel O'Donnell, Computer Science

Holly Claire Olson, Agricultural Science

Maxwell Opper, Computer Science

William Seth Overall, Psychology

Michael Victor Owsley (also BFA), Political Science &

International Relations

Lauren Akina Peck, Music Business

Brent Perry, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology

Jordan Plassmeyer, Accounting

Olivia G. Pursley, Communication Disorders

Natalie Record, Exercise Science

Anna Renee Rhein, Communication Disorders

Allison Nicole Roberts, Biology

Brett Alexander Manchester Rog, Exercise Science

Clare Schickler, Psychology

Justin Schneider, Computer Science

Abigail Elizabeth Schooley, Psychology

Raistlyn Kaylyn Kiiri Sevits, Agricultural Science

Samuel James Shaffer, Agricultural Science

Isabella Renee Slunaker, Mathematics

Caitlyn M. Smith, Psychology

Henry Smith, Accounting

Cody Alexander Speh, Computer Science Madison Rae Stogsdill, Exercise Science

Jessica Stratman, Communication Disorders

Rylie Elisabeth Struckmann, Psychology

Serena A. Taylor, Justice Systems Ellen Grace TenEyck, Health Science

Benner Thomas, Exercise Science

Peter Thullen, Physics

Kelly Genevieve Tobin, Agricultural Science

Laura Toenjes, Exercise Science

Siqi Tong, Accounting

Allie Jo Unruh, Agricultural Science

Madelyn Ann Wahby, Exercise Science

Victoria Lynn Wahoski, Biochemistry & Molecular

Biology

Tyler Brett Webb, Exercise Science Nicholas G. Wheatley, Biology Daniel White, Sociology/Anthropology Jessica Willhoite, Sociology/Anthropology Nicole Lynn Willis, Exercise Science Brandon Edward Winston, Business Administration Isabella Rose Wirthlin, Sociology/Anthropology Parker W. Wolgast, Exercise Science Xian Wu, Computer Science Nicole Renee Yowell, Communication Disorders Xinran Yu, Accounting Fengfan Zhang, Accounting

MASTER OF ARTS

Megan Bonham-Smith, Leadership Kaleb Collier, Gifted Education Natalie Ruth Fatka, Leadership Virginia Grace Christie Ford, School Counseling Brianna Mackenzie Forney, Mental Health Counseling Mary Kathleen Haas, Mental Health Counseling Kacie Dyan Henson, Mental Health Counseling Rebecca Jean Hutchison, Mental Health Counseling Bridget Kathleen Kelly, Gifted Education Savannah Krichau, English Robert Scott Myers II, Leadership Payton Elizabeth Ness, School Counseling Amy Rose Puzniak, English Carissa Riney, Communication Disorders Kimberly Shepherd, Mental Health Counseling Abigail Paige Sokeland, School Counseling Natalie Jean Summers, Communication Disorders Shaun Elizabeth Turner, School Counseling Zachary Thomas Zerwig, Leadership

MASTER OF ARTS IN EDUCATION

Abigail Ann Bidwell, Elementary Education
Jared Hagemeier, History/Social Science Education
Savannah Lee Mauck, Elementary Education
Rebecca Rose Rosenow, Elementary Education
Vivian Scott, Music Education
Yang Sun, Elementary Education
Teagan Sarah Wilson, Elementary Education

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Brianna Nichelle Carter, Data Science & Analytic Storytelling

Jessica Droege, Data Science & Analytic Storytelling Madison Fitzgerald-Ingerman, Data Science & Analytic Storytelling

Jerry Lin, Data Science & Analytic Storytelling Madison Nicole Nguyen, Data Science & Analytic Storytelling

Spencer Donald Ratermann, Data Science & Analytic Storytelling

Elizabeth Scholl, Data Science & Analytic Storytelling Mark Van Coutren, Data Science & Analytic Storytelling

RECOGNITION OF HONOR GRADUATES

UNIVERSITY HONORS

Undergraduate students receiving a baccalaureate degree with a grade point average (GPA) of 3.50 or above will have the degree conferred with honors. Honor graduates will wear special insignia during commencement. University Honors are awarded based on the following overall grade point averages:

Summa Cum Laude

3.90 - 4.0 GPA

Morgan Eastin
Hannah Elizabeth Effland
Keridan Marie Gossrau
Katelyn Juskiv
Joelle Kantayya
Norah Amber Kovac
Shiyu Liao
Colleen McNamara
Natalie Record
Anna Renee Rhein
Brett Alexander Manchester Rog
Miranda Scheel
Alyssa Michele Shellabarger
Madelyn Ann Wahby
Molly L. Wease

Magna Cum Laude

3.75 - 3.89 GPA

Mohammed Abdikebir Laura Beth Alexander Taylor Ann Clayton Hannah Kathleen Conboy Tate Crane Kiersten Marie Dooley Amanda Egbert
Matthew Scott Eisenreich
Emmalee Gilliam
Emmanuella Ewenam Goe
Cortney Goodman
Ryan William Hays
Zixian Jiang
Cheryl Lin
Molly Ann McGurn
Lauren Akina Peck
Jonathan Richard Sullins
Laura Toenjes
Isabella Rose Wirthlin
Zirui Xie
Nicole Renee Yowell

Cum Laude

3.50 - 3.74 GPA

Sydnie Alise Andell

Blaine Ryan DeVolld

Drew William Arends Hildana Assefa Shikha Bhattarai Justin Thomas Bonds Delany Borella Reagan Elizabeth Damron

Hailey Shane MacKenna Alvis

Nellea Christine Dovin Melissa Rennee Eaton Gabriella Rose Engemann Jaden Galang Abygale Lee Higgins Isabelle Juan Alexander Douglas Stoneburner Karst Emma Rose Klaas Juyoung Ko Garrett Linn Sarah Anatasia Macomber Kaitlyn Elizabeth McDaniel Kaeden Grace Noland Jessica Norman Gabriel O'Donnell Sinclair Phyllis Osterhaus Allison Nicole Roberts Abigail Elizabeth Schooley Raistlyn Kaylyn Kiiri Sevits Samuel James Shaffer Kavlee Swanson Ellen Grace TenEyck Peter Thullen Megan Travis

Xian Wu

Xinran Yu

DEPARTMENTAL HONORS

Departmental honors in the major are available in several disciplines for outstanding majors who have achieved distinction as determined by measures specific to the Departmental Honors Program. Students meeting the requirements for Departmental Honors will have their transcripts annotated.

Agricultural Science

Kaitlyn Elizabeth McDaniel

Communication Disorders

Jaden Galang
Keridan Marie Gossrau
Joelle Kantayya
Colleen McNamara
Anna Renee Rhein
Miranda Scheel
Nicole Renee Yowell

Criminal Justice Studies

Breanna Kalesh

Economics

Shiyu Liao

English

Morgan Eastin Zixian Jiang Isabelle Juan Alyssa Michele Shellabarger Jonathan Richard Sullins Kaylee Swanson Zirui Xie

Exercise Science

Katelyn Juskiv

Modern Language

Miranda Scheel

Music Business

Lauren Akina Peck

Music with Emphasis Groups

Laura Beth Alexander

Psychology

Norah Amber Kovac Abigail Elizabeth Schooley

Sociology/Anthropology

Isabella Rose Wirthlin

Message to New Alumni

Congratulations! Today marks the completion of a truly impressive achievement. You have grown as a person, not only through your academic program but also in your relationships with friends and classmates you met at Truman and in the community. You are leaving Truman a different person than when you started, and you should be proud of the hard work that has brought you to this point. Your liberal arts and science education has prepared you well for the opportunities ahead.

While today marks a completion, it is also a new beginning. Today, you become an alum and join the ranks of nearly 66,000 proud Bulldogs worldwide. You are part of a special community of people who shared the Truman experience. We are Bulldogs Forever. On behalf of the Truman Alumni Association, welcome to the community!

The Truman Alumni Association is dedicated to helping alumni connect to one another, creating meaningful ways to connect you back to Truman and championing the Truman spirit across our networks around the world. Led by alumni just like you who volunteer their time, we sponsor networking opportunities, philanthropic events, social outings and Homecoming activities to stay connected. Much like your experience as a student was made better by your friends and classmates, the Alumni Association is stronger when people from all walks of life come together. We welcome you to come check us out and help bring what only you can bring to the table. To learn more about virtual or in-person events to connect to other alumni, you can connect with us on LinkedIn, Instagram, Facebook and online at truman.edu/alumni.

As you join other Truman alumni, we believe your experience will be similar to ours and you will find amazing Bulldogs around the world who are here to help one another.

Congratulations and good luck, and stay #TRUMANSTRONG! We can't wait to hear what comes next!

Bulldog Forever,

Lori Hart ('84) President

Alumni Association Board of Directors

COMMENCEMENT INFORMATION

THE UNIVERSITY

In 1867, Joseph Baldwin returned to Missouri from Indiana, looking for a location to open a school to educate teachers. On September 2, 1867, Baldwin opened the North Missouri Normal School and Commercial College in Kirksville. In 1870, Baldwin's school became the First District Normal School of Missouri, the first in the state's new normal school system, dedicated to the education of teachers for the public schools.

At the close of the 1869-70 academic year, the Normal School graduated its first class of 15 men. The Commencement program was held in the auditorium of the Cumberland Academy building on Friday, June 24, 1870. President Joseph Baldwin preached the sermon and T. A. Parker, state superintendent of schools, delivered the address.

Today, Missouri's statewide public liberal arts and sciences university celebrates its Fall Commencement with approximately 220 bachelor's and master's degree graduates. Although the people, the campus, the mission, and the name of the University have changed during the last 156 years, the traditions of the commencement ceremony have remained intact.

THE DRESS

The academic costume worn today is the dress of the medieval secular clergy with a few alterations introduced by 16th century Protestant reformers. The intellectual revival of the 12th century gave impetus to the founding of the European universities. Students in these institutions were clerks; thus, they wore the dress of the secular clergy. In the 16th century, Protestant reformers, who associated academic habits with popery, adopted more civilian gowns.

The oldest article of academic wear was the robe, which was a loose gown. The habit, a tunic with short, wide sleeves, was worn over the robe. A hood lined with fur or inexpensive skins could be gathered around the neck or pulled up on the head as a turban. Finally, there were three kinds of caps worn: the round cap, reserved for doctoral dignity; a round cap with strings tied under the chin, worn by jurists; and the square cap. Universities such as Oxford made the square cap official; however, secular universities adopted the Tudor bonnet still worn by doctors of law, medicine and music.

American academic costume was not established until 1895. It consists of three types of gowns, three styles of hoods and two kinds of cap tassels. The bachelor's gown has long, pointed open sleeves with no ornamentation. The master's gown has even longer sleeves, which are closed at the bottom but feature openings about halfway down for the hands. The doctor's gown has full-length lapels of velvet and bell-shaped sleeves with three horizontal velvet bars. The color of caps and gowns is usually black; however, some universities feature doctoral gowns of distinctive colors, such as Harvard's crimson and Yale's deep blue. Many schools outside the United States have also adopted colorful gowns.

The doctor's hood is the longest and fullest among the degrees. The major field of study can be determined from the velvet facing on the hood according to the following color scheme: white, the arts; gold-yellow, science; purple, law; apricot, nursing; green, medicine; sapphire, business administration; lemon, librarianship; scarlet, theology; and dark blue, philosophy.

The hood is lined with silk in the colors of the institution which granted the degree. Truman's masters graduates, for example, wear a purple and white-lined hood. The faculty at Truman State University represent doctoral-granting institutions around the world. A few of their hood colors are the blue and white of Duke, the orange and black of Princeton, the crimson of Harvard, and the scarlet of Oxford.

The candidates for graduation wear black caps to which are attached tassels of colors illustrative of their degrees:

White: Bachelor of Arts, Master of Arts, Master of Accountancy, Master of Science,

Master of Arts in Education, Master of Athletic Training

Brown: Bachelor of Fine Arts Yellow-Gold: Bachelor of Science Apricot: Bachelor of Science in Nursing Pink: Bachelor of Music, Master of Music

The medallions worn by some of the undergraduate degree candidates signify the designation of "honor graduate." There are three levels of honors based on a student's cumulative grade point average (GPA): a bronze medallion on a white ribbon signifies Cum Laude, a GPA of 3.50 to 3.74; a silver medallion on a purple ribbon signifies Magna Cum Laude, a GPA of 3.75 to 3.89; and a gold medallion on a purple and white ribbon signifies Summa Cum Laude, a GPA of 3.90 to 4.00. Final honors will be determined after all grades have been received and may be adjusted from those awarded for Commencement.

THE ACADEMIC PROCESSION

The procession is led by the Grand Marshal. The Grand Marshal carries the University Mace which symbolizes the academic corporate body of scholars possessing its own jurisdiction and legally constituted authority. The mace, made of Missouri black walnut and decorated with purple and white tassels, is topped with the University seal. Following the Grand Marshal are the platform guests dressed in doctoral robes with hoods featuring the purple and white colors of the University. Following the Marshal are the degree candidates aligned according to the degrees granted. The University faculty are brightly attired in the academic dress of their degree-granting institutions.

Junior marshals appear throughout the procession dressed in white robes and caps. They are Truman students who help form the procession and seat the commencement participants.

COMMENCEMENT PREPARATIONS

Special recognition goes to the following for commencement preparations and arrangements:

Academic Affairs Office
Advancement
Athletics
Blue Key Honor Society
Cardinal Key Honor Society
Graduate Studies Office
Health and Exercise Sciences
Department
Information Technology Services

Music Department

Physical Plant
President's Office
Public Relations
Public Safety
Publications
Registrar's Office
Sodexo
Student Access and Disability
Services Office
Student Union