

# *Commencement*

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*December 2023*



**BETHEL**  
UNIVERSITY



COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES, COLLEGE OF ADULT & PROFESSIONAL STUDIES,  
AND GRADUATE SCHOOL  
*Commencement Exercises*

**Friday, December 15, 2023**

5 p.m. | Benson Great Hall

**Presiding**

Ross Allen, B.A., President

**PROCESSIONAL**

“March No. 1” from *Pomp and Circumstance Marches*, Edward Elgar  
Ju Young Lee, D.M.A., Adjunct Assistant Professor of Music

**Order of Processional**

Laver and Ewer Bearers

Marshals

Candidates for Associate’s Degrees

Candidates for Bachelor’s Degrees

Candidates for Master’s Degrees

Candidates for Doctoral Degrees

Faculty and Administration

Program Personnel

**WELCOME**

Ross Allen

**INVOCATION**

James K. Christenson, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Chemistry

**GRADUATE REFLECTIONS**

Angel Lee Yang, Class of 2023, College of Arts & Sciences

Angela Fuerst House, Class of 2023, College of Adult & Professional Studies

Ashlee Greer Lemons, Class of 2023, Graduate School

**WELCOME TO THE BETHEL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

Jennifer Scott, M.A., Senior Director of University Relations

**CONFERRING OF DEGREES AND PRESENTATION OF DIPLOMAS**

Ross Allen

Robin Rylaarsdam, Ph.D., University Provost

**Assisted By**

Cheryl Fisk, Ed.D., University Registrar

**Hooding of Graduate School Candidates**

Peggy McCormick, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Special Education

Jeanine Parolini, Ph.D., Associate Professor; Program Director, MBA

Lisa Silmser, Ed.D., Teaching Partner; Program Director, M.A. in Education K-12

Molly Wickam, Ph.D., Program Director, Accounting, Business Management, Finance, and Teaching

**BENEDICTION**

Laura Gilbertson, M.Div., Assistant Professor and Program Director of Christian Ministries

**RECESSIONAL**

“Toccata” from *Symphony No. V*, Charles-Marie Widor

Ju Young Lee

*Please remain at your seat until after the recessional.*

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Marshals are College of Arts & Sciences students who are chosen because of their outstanding academic achievement.

Our marshals are:  
Ruth Domingo, Class of 2024  
Trey Henry, Class of 2024

Cords or medallions may be worn over the graduation gown to recognize outstanding academic or athletic achievement as follows:

The university awards gold honor cords to College of Arts & Sciences graduates at three levels of GPA standing using the Latin honor system: *cum laude*, *magna cum laude*, and the highest level, *summa cum laude*.  
In the College of Adult & Professional Studies, the university awards gold honor cords to graduates in bachelor's degree programs based on cumulative GPA.  
Graduates in Bethel's Pietas Honors Program wear a medallion on a blue ribbon.  
The university awards navy and white cords to NCAA intercollegiate athletes.  
Graduates who belong to a national or international society may choose to wear these insignia:  
Members of Lambda Pi Eta, a communication honor society, wear crimson and silver cords.  
Members of Pi Sigma Alpha, a political science honor society, wear red, black, and white cords.  
Members of Sigma Theta Tau, a nursing honor society, wear purple and white cords.  
Members of Sigma Zeta, a science and mathematics honor society, wear a medallion on a gold ribbon.  
Members of TriBeta, a biological honor society, wear red and green cords.

Following the recessional, everyone is invited to a reception in Brushaber Commons. Signs and hosts will direct you.  
Guests are encouraged to meet graduates and faculty by program banners at the reception.  
The Campus Store, also located in Brushaber Commons, will be open.  
If you need assistance, please ask event staff.

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## Dear Graduates,

Congratulations on your graduation from Bethel University, an institution with a great past and an exciting future. We have built upon the legacy of John Alexis Edgren, who envisioned a school that educated students by first rooting them in God's Word. With that foundation, students' education equipped them for service, grounded them in Christ, encouraged them in spiritual growth, and guided them through mentoring friendships with faculty and staff.

Today Bethel stands fully within Edgren's vision, offering an education that is excellent, globally engaged, and superior in equipping you to make exceptional contributions for God in the world. We look forward to the significant ways you will make a difference as you live faithfully in the years ahead!

It has been our privilege to have you study at Bethel University in the College of Arts & Sciences, College of Adult & Professional Studies, or Graduate School. Our prayer is that your Bethel education has taught you what it means to be an adventurous Christ-follower and instilled in you a commitment to help transform the world.



Ross Allen  
President



Robin Rylaarsdam  
University Provost

# Candidates for Graduation

## College of Arts & Sciences Associate's and Bachelor's Degrees

### ASSOCIATE OF ARTS

**Ava Kathleen Henderson**  
A.A. General Studies

**Abigail Joy Peterson**  
A.A. General Studies

### APPLIED HEALTH SCIENCES

**Evan S. Ginter**  
B.S. Biokinetics

**Anna Grace Laura Johnson**  
B.S. Biokinetics

**Jacob Russel Kateley**  
B.S. Biokinetics

**Maria Elizabeth Knutson**  
B.S. Biokinetics

**Andrew Robert Libbon**  
B.S. Biokinetics  
*magna cum laude*

**Ryan Joseph Parker**  
B.S. Human Bioenergetics

**Maya Josephine Spinler**  
B.S. Biokinetics  
*cum laude*

### ART AND DESIGN

**Elizabeth Mae Berry**  
B.A. Graphic Design  
*cum laude*

**Angel Lee Yang**  
B.A. Graphic Design  
*magna cum laude*

### BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

**Rebecca Kay Lorenson**  
B.A. Missional Ministries

**Harrison Ray Muller**  
B.A. Missional Ministries

**Ethan Paul Sampson**  
B.A. Biblical and Theological Studies  
*cum laude*

### BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

**Allyson Nicole Akervik**  
B.A. Biology  
*cum laude*

**Kayla Shaye Engebretson**  
B.S. Biology

**Yealinatou Sidiki Kamara**  
B.A. Biology

**Skylin Annette Krier**  
B.A. Biology

**Grace Ann Land**  
B.S. Biology  
*summa cum laude*  
*Honors Program*

**Tiffani Anna Martinez-Luhmann**  
B.A. Biology

**Alana Nicole Osborne**  
B.S. Biochemistry and Molecular Biology  
B.A. Chemistry

**Kayleen Marie Schacht**  
B.S. Biochemistry and Molecular Biology  
B.A. Chemistry  
*cum laude*  
*Honors Program*

**Trent Robert Viesselman**  
B.S. Environmental Science

**Josslyn Amore Warneke**  
B.S. Neuroscience  
*magna cum laude*

### BUSINESS

**Gabriel Austin Ante**  
B.A. Business  
*cum laude*

**Ian Michael Baack**  
B.A. Business

**Nissi Jesuloluwa Babalola**  
B.A. Business

**Kylie Jade Binder Locnikar**  
B.A. Business  
*cum laude*

**Simon Michael Broersma**  
B.A. Business

**Bjorn Berg Charles**  
B.A. Business

**Nathan Michael Doely**  
B.A. Business

**Alex Riley Edstrom**  
B.A. Business

**Aaron Daniel Ellingson**  
B.A. Business  
*summa cum laude*

**Caleb John Harris**  
B.A. Business

**Ethan Andrew Herron**  
B.A. Business

**Grace Marie Hill**  
B.A. Business

**Thomas Joseph Jensen**  
B.A. Business

**Cooper Aaron Kennedy**  
B.A. Business  
*cum laude*

**Jackson Chad Kirchoff**  
B.A. Business  
*summa cum laude*

**Samuel James Locke**  
B.A. Business

**Zach Dale Luepke**  
B.S. Accounting and Finance  
*summa cum laude*

**Julia Kathleen McAlpin**  
B.A. Business

**Avery T. Metzger**  
B.A. Business

**David Gary Nelson**  
B.A. Business

**Gabriel Michael Oquendo**  
B.A. Business

**Stephen Earl Powell**  
B.A. Business

**Michael Ryan Savelkoul**  
B.A. Business  
*magna cum laude*

**Lyli Caroline Sondrol**  
B.A. Business

**Isabella Grace Swendra**  
B.A. Business  
*cum laude*

**Rebekah Maria Vliem**  
B.A. Business

**Anika Rose Weiberg**  
B.S. Accounting and Finance  
*summa cum laude*

### CHEMISTRY

**Fisher Roderick Marberg**  
B.S. Chemistry  
B.A. Physics  
*cum laude*

### COMMUNICATION STUDIES

**Elijah Brian de Jongh**  
B.A. Communication Studies

**Megan Quinn Jensen**  
B.A. Organizational Communication

**Ava Elizabeth Johnston**  
B.A. Communication Studies  
*magna cum laude*

**Annah Lenae Scherman**  
B.A. Communication Studies  
*magna cum laude*

**Allison Marie Stone**  
B.A. Organizational Communication

**Triston Wesley Thomas**  
B.A. Communication Studies

### COMMUNITY HEALTH

**Isabella McCall Heckmann**  
B.A. Community Health  
*cum laude*

**Peyton Audrey Tongen**  
B.A. Community Health  
*magna cum laude*

### EDUCATION

**Emely Andrea Castillo-Hernandez**  
B.A. Elementary Education,  
Grades K-6

**Michelle Kristine Cutlan**  
B.A. Science Education, Grades 9-12  
Science Education, Grades 5-8  
*summa cum laude*

**Grace Marie Jacobs**  
B.A. Elementary Education,  
Grades K-6  
*magna cum laude*

**Bailey Lee Johnson**  
B.A. Elementary Education,  
Grades K-6  
*magna cum laude*

**Tucker Roger Kaup**  
B.A. Social Studies, Grades 5-12

**Nicholas Donald Ketola**  
B.A. Social Studies, Grades 5-12

**Julia Marie Klancher**  
B.A. Math Education, Grades 5-12  
*cum laude*

**Madeline Paige Koenig**  
B.A. Special Education  
*magna cum laude*

**Kaden Zachariah Lamb**  
B.A. Communication Arts and  
Literacy Education, Grades 5-12

**Juella Pearl Mahto**  
*in absentia*  
B.A. Communication Arts and  
Literacy Education, Grades 5-12

**Jordan Elaine Mehrer**  
B.A. Elementary Education,  
Grades K-6

**Morgan Alexis Mengis**  
B.A. Elementary Education,  
Grades K-6

**Kylie Alana Nybakken**  
B.A. Communication Arts and  
Literacy Education, Grades 5-12  
*summa cum laude*

**Jacob Wesley Siira**  
B.A. Elementary Education,  
Grades K-6  
*magna cum laude*

**Sophia G. Trude**  
B.A. Elementary Education,  
Grades K-6  
*magna cum laude*

#### ENGLISH AND JOURNALISM

**Aaron Raymond Heckmann**  
B.A. Journalism  
*cum laude*

**Makenzi Melissa Johnson**  
B.A. Journalism  
*cum laude*

**Owen Kenneth Mantz**  
B.A. English Literature and Writing  
*summa cum laude*

#### HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

**Signe Anne Christensen**  
B.A. Political Science  
*summa cum laude*

**Brennan Alexander Kinsey**  
B.A. Political Science  
History  
*magna cum laude*

**Elizabeth Lyn Paul**  
B.A. Political Science

**Madison Renae Wilson**  
B.A. Political Science  
Reconciliation Studies  
*magna cum laude*

**Emily Marie Roeck**  
B.A. History  
Digital Humanities  
*magna cum laude*

#### LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

**Samuel Gary Cargill**  
B.A. Spanish Education, Grades K-12

#### MATHEMATICS AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

**Abenezer Endale Bekele**  
B.A. Computer Science  
Digital Humanities

**Abigail Heather Busch**  
B.A. Mathematics Education,  
Grades 5-12

**Christelle Deborah Iranezereza**  
B.A. Mathematics

**Zachary William Owen**  
B.A. Mathematics

**Drew Wayne Rapley**  
B.A. Mathematics

#### PHYSICS AND ENGINEERING

**Faith Retzer**  
B.S. Applied Physics

**Trevin Brett Schmidt**  
B.S. Physics  
*cum laude*

#### PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCES

**Ron Edward Wright Enos**  
B.A. Psychology  
Business  
*summa cum laude*

**Lindsey Ann Ford**  
B.A. Psychology

**Katherine Elizabeth O'Neill**  
B.A. Psychology  
*magna cum laude*

**Eryn Corinne Pfeifer**  
B.A. Psychology  
*cum laude*

**Maya Ann Singer**  
B.A. Art Therapy  
*magna cum laude*

**Abigail Brooke Swanda**  
B.A. Psychology  
*summa cum laude*

**Caitlyn Ann Teske**  
B.A. Psychology

## College of Adult & Professional Studies Bachelor's Degrees

#### ACCOUNTING

**Lyndon Ande Adebiyi**  
*in absentia*  
B.S. Accounting

**Denise Arce**  
B.S. Accounting

**Annie Rebecca Eidson**  
*in absentia*  
B.S. Accounting  
*with honors*

**Nathan Thomas Roney**  
*in absentia*  
B.S. Accounting

#### BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

**Austin Robert Holm**  
B.S. Business Management  
*with honors*

**Momolu Kpakelipaye**  
*in absentia*  
B.S. Business Management

**Joseph G. Moses**  
*in absentia*  
B.S. Business Management  
*with honors*

**Elizabeth Kalia Vang**  
B.S. Business Management

#### CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

**Vanessa Jenkins**  
B.A. Christian Ministries

**Jackson Adams Stone**  
*in absentia*  
B.A. Christian Ministries

**Benjamin Douglas Thompson**  
B.A. Christian Ministries

#### FINANCE

**Damaris Odalis Arce**  
B.S. Finance

**Jacob MacInnis Conger**  
*in absentia*  
B.S. Finance

**Tate Nelson**  
B.S. Finance

#### HUMAN SERVICES

**Virgil Schmit**  
B.A. Human Services  
*with honors*

**Bao Yang**  
B.A. Human Services

#### NURSING

**Madeline Ames**  
*in absentia*  
B.S.N. Nursing  
*with honors*

**Anna Kristina Bahe**  
*in absentia*  
B.S.N. Nursing  
*with honors*

**Adelia Behrens**  
*in absentia*  
B.S.N. Nursing  
*with honors*

**Maqsuud Abdullahi Bishar**  
*in absentia*  
B.S.N. Nursing

**Jasmin Elizabeth Broom**  
*in absentia*  
B.S.N. Nursing  
*with honors*

**Angela Craker**  
*in absentia*  
B.S.N. Nursing  
*with honors*

**Megan Marie Eberhardt**  
*in absentia*  
B.S.N. Nursing

**Olivia Catherine Gapinski**  
*in absentia*  
B.S.N. Nursing

**Martin Morgan Gisairo**  
B.S.N. Nursing

**Jeffrey Alan Gray**  
*in absentia*  
B.S.N. Nursing

**Jada Zailena Harley**  
*in absentia*  
B.S.N. Nursing

**Taylor Shea Harrison**  
*in absentia*  
B.S.N. Nursing  
*with honors*

**Kamiko Higashi**  
*in absentia*  
B.S.N. Nursing

**Sylvia M. Hill**  
*in absentia*  
B.S.N. Nursing

**Blake Richard Johnson**  
*in absentia*  
B.S.N. Nursing  
*with honors*

**Emily Yelena Johnson**  
*in absentia*  
B.S.N. Nursing

**Erin Christine Johnson**  
*in absentia*  
B.S.N. Nursing

**Matthew Ryan Johnson**  
*in absentia*  
B.S.N. Nursing  
*with honors*

**Kiley Joy Knoeck**  
*in absentia*  
B.S.N. Nursing

**Sean Garrett Lewandowski**  
*in absentia*  
B.S.N. Nursing

**Vane Nyabokey Makabe**  
*in absentia*  
B.S.N. Nursing  
*with honors*

**Yelizaveta Lvovna Malkovich**  
*in absentia*  
B.S.N. Nursing  
*with honors*

**Matanda Divine Muange**  
*in absentia*  
B.S.N. Nursing

**Christina Faye Pineault**  
*in absentia*  
B.S.N. Nursing  
*with honors*

**Anna Geraldine Mae Sawtell**  
*in absentia*  
B.S.N. Nursing

**Cameron Stepka**  
*in absentia*  
B.S.N. Nursing  
*with honors*

**Gyeongwon Suh**  
*in absentia*  
B.S.N. Nursing

**Marissa Danielle Terwilliger**  
*in absentia*  
B.S.N. Nursing  
*with honors*

**Mackenzie Ann Walters**  
*in absentia*  
B.S.N. Nursing

**Megan Ann Wieczorek**  
*in absentia*  
B.S.N. Nursing

**Sarah Marie Yoost**  
*in absentia*  
B.S.N. Nursing  
*with honors*

## ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP

**Natalie Michelle Davis**  
B.A. Organizational Leadership

**Hayley R. Farris**  
B.A. Organizational Leadership  
*with honors*

**Angela Marie Fuerst House**  
B.A. Organizational Leadership  
*with honors*

**Jonathan Scheffert**  
B.A. Organizational Leadership  
*with honors*

## PSYCHOLOGY

**Justina Awofolaju**  
B.A. Psychology

**Brooke Marie Boweter**  
B.A. Psychology

**Alecia E. Kaesemacher**  
B.A. Psychology

**Lydia Rachel Roehl**  
*in absentia*  
B.A. Psychology  
*with honors*

## SPECIAL EDUCATION

**Alli Marie O'Halloran**  
B.A. Special Education

**Brantley Steele**  
B.A. Special Education Studies

# Graduate School Master's Degrees

## BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

**Kailey Anne Boyd**  
MBA

**Danette Renee Charles**  
MBA

**Maria Isabella Constantin**  
MBA

**Jennifer Dau**  
*in absentia*  
MBA

**Joshua Decker**  
MBA

**Miranda Jo Decker**  
MBA

**Melissa Doyle**  
*in absentia*  
MBA

**Julie Ann Embry**  
*in absentia*  
MBA

**Adisa Featherstone**  
*in absentia*  
MBA

**Klara Isaacson**  
MBA

**Tara Jean Jacobson-Crowder**  
*in absentia*  
MBA

**Christy Lea Johnson**  
*in absentia*  
MBA

**Ashlee Greer Lemons**  
MBA

**Leighton Rae McAlpin**  
MBA

**Jennifer Lea McMahon**  
MBA

**Lisette Mulungie Bibi Mulela**  
MBA

**Alec Christopher Olson**  
MBA

**Kari Marie Rodas**  
*in absentia*  
MBA

**Kayleigh Kathleen Sommerfeldt**  
MBA

**Catherine Effie Rebecca Triemert**  
MBA

## EDUCATION K-12

**Kayla Marie Badgie**  
M.A. Education K-12

**Andrea Renee Beauchamp**  
*in absentia*  
M.A. Education K-12

**Holly Beck**  
*in absentia*  
M.A. Education K-12

**Olivia A. Erickson**  
*in absentia*  
M.A. Education K-12

**Morgan Jean McGarry**  
*in absentia*  
M.A. Education K-12

**Lynwood A. Meyer**  
M.A. Education K-12

**Sydney Nicole Olson**  
*in absentia*  
M.A. Education K-12

**Amanda Kay Reinarts**  
M.A. Education K-12

**Marwa Sayed Sallam**  
M.A. Education K-12

**Sarah Jean Schroeder**  
M.A. Education K-12

**Sohee Shin**  
*in absentia*  
M.A. Education K-12

**YuTing Shuai**  
*in absentia*  
M.A. Education K-12

**Iris Athala Straube**  
*in absentia*  
M.A. Education K-12

**Amelia Tyson**  
*in absentia*  
M.A. Education K-12

## MEDICAL SCIENCES

**Levi Ebenezer Cornelius**  
M.S. Medical Sciences

**Koussy Yang**  
M.S. Medical Sciences

## NURSE-MIDWIFERY

**Sulma Denise Disselbrett**  
*in absentia*  
M.S. Nurse-Midwifery

## PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

**Alondra Susana Arredondo**  
M.S. Physician Assistant

**Becca Lynn Barry**  
*in absentia*  
M.S. Physician Assistant

**Katherine Cooley**  
*in absentia*  
M.S. Physician Assistant

**Caitlin Corinne Crowley**  
*in absentia*  
M.S. Physician Assistant

**Ryan Edward Deering**  
*in absentia*  
M.S. Physician Assistant

**Olivia DeMeyer**  
*in absentia*  
M.S. Physician Assistant

**Alan Falkowski**  
*in absentia*  
M.S. Physician Assistant

**Chanda Nicole Gritters**  
*in absentia*  
M.S. Physician Assistant

**Saydee J. Homolka**  
*in absentia*  
M.S. Physician Assistant

**Christine Elizabeth Luce**  
*in absentia*  
M.S. Physician Assistant

**Casey Palmer McAllister**  
*in absentia*  
M.S. Physician Assistant

**Arielle Melum**  
*in absentia*  
M.S. Physician Assistant

**Mikaela Marie Morrison**  
*in absentia*  
M.S. Physician Assistant

**Yuan Neumair**  
*in absentia*  
M.S. Physician Assistant

**Spencer Lee Pearson**  
*in absentia*  
M.S. Physician Assistant



**Jessalyn J. Rombocos**  
*in absentia*  
M.S. Physician Assistant

**Samuel Austin Wolfe**  
*in absentia*  
M.S. Physician Assistant

**Abby Marie Young**  
*in absentia*  
M.S. Physician Assistant

## **SOCIAL WORK**

**Melissa Grace Bennett**  
*in absentia*  
MSW

**Charity Abena-Osei Boadiwah**  
MSW

**Charity Essenam Daklou-Kotubetey**  
MSW

**Carter Klasen**  
*in absentia*  
MSW

**Kiersti Grace Phenow**  
MSW

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION**

**Marissa Leigh Auer**  
*in absentia*  
M.A. Special Education

**Caroline T. Becker**  
*in absentia*  
M.A. Special Education

**Kelsey Ann Black**  
*in absentia*  
M.A. Special Education

**Samantha Nicole Buckley**  
*in absentia*  
M.A. Special Education

**Suzan Cevheroglu**  
M.A. Special Education

**Timothy Dougherty Gilbert**  
*in absentia*  
M.A. Special Education

**Megan Joy Haack**  
M.A. Special Education

**Anne Margaret Helseth**  
*in absentia*  
M.A. Special Education

**Hilary Anne Hinrichs**  
M.A. Special Education

**Kimberly Jean Huls**  
*in absentia*  
M.A. Special Education

**Lisa Ann Kermode**  
*in absentia*  
M.A. Special Education

**Elizabeth Maureen Ketz**  
M.A. Special Education

**Molly Elizabeth Larson**  
*in absentia*  
M.A. Special Education

**Roberta Luby**  
*in absentia*  
M.A. Special Education

**Donna Macoskey**  
*in absentia*  
M.A. Special Education

**Connor Joseph Malcolm**  
M.A. Special Education

**Erin Olivia Maly**  
*in absentia*  
M.A. Special Education

**Bree Medin**  
M.A. Special Education

**Rachel Elizabeth Nardelli**  
*in absentia*  
M.A. Special Education

**Sarah Ogren**  
M.A. Special Education

**Jessica Robbins Ostendorf**  
M.A. Special Education

**Travis Rotegard**  
*in absentia*  
M.A. Special Education

**Christopher Patrick Scanlon**  
*in absentia*  
M.A. Special Education

**Christa Rose Skitsko**  
*in absentia*  
M.A. Special Education

**William Mervan Sprouls**  
M.A. Special Education

**Michaela Marie Steinfeldt**  
M.A. Special Education

**Matthew Carl Straumann**  
M.A. Special Education

**Mariah Kay Uphoff**  
M.A. Special Education

**Jessie McVeigh Wick**  
*in absentia*  
M.A. Special Education

**Marian Alicia Williams**  
*in absentia*  
M.A. Special Education

**William Jay Ziesmer**  
M.A. Special Education

## **STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP**

**Heber Alexander Mena**  
*in absentia*  
M.A. Strategic Leadership

**Nathan Michael Ross**  
*in absentia*  
M.A. Strategic Leadership

**Nicole Marie Smalley**  
M.A. Strategic Leadership

**Mikaela Sue Taylor**  
M.A. Strategic Leadership

**Hannah M. Wilhite**  
*in absentia*  
M.A. Strategic Leadership

## **TEACHING**

**Matthew Robert Carlson**  
M.A. Teaching

**Kimberly Nicole Davis**  
M.A. Teaching

**Hannah Marie DeFranco**  
*in absentia*  
M.A. Teaching

**John Jordan Douglas**  
*in absentia*  
M.A. Teaching

**Alec Julian Herbst**  
*in absentia*  
M.A. Teaching

**Hannah Lynette Leidall**  
*in absentia*  
M.A. Teaching

**Drewe Von Bank Peterson**  
M.A. Teaching

**John Michael Schetinski**  
M.A. Teaching

**Andrew Robert Swenson**  
M.A. Teaching

**Amanda Sue Vaughn-Traaseth**  
M.A. Teaching

**Benjamin Michael Witt**  
M.A. Teaching

# **Graduate School Doctoral Degrees**

## **DOCTOR OF EDUCATION**

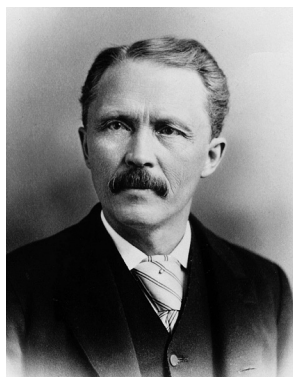
**Brandon Huisman**  
Ed.D. Leadership in Higher Education  
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# A History of Bethel University



John Alexis Edgren, founder of what is now Bethel University, wrote a letter to Christopher Silene, his first student, and convinced the young Swedish immigrant from Minnesota to attend the new school for preachers by simply stating, “Come, brother; God will provide.” Silene arrived in Chicago in October 1871 to find the city in ruins, the result of a fire only two days before. In the wake of the Great Chicago Fire, the determined teacher and the aspiring student forged ahead in their calling to Christian theological education and ministry preparation.

A fellowship of churches—which became the Baptist General Conference (now Converge), Bethel’s sponsoring denomination—originated in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century among stalwart Swedish settlers who were scattered across the northern United States. They were pietistic Christians characterized by simple worship, an irenic spirit, and a vital and personal relationship with Christ.

Edgren, born in Sweden in 1839, stands out clearly as the pivotal figure of the third and fourth decades of Swedish Baptist life in America. A gifted linguist, theologian, sea captain, artist, and educator, he had a passion for life and a commitment to excellence in both preparation and service.

Edgren founded what became known as the Scandinavian Department of the Baptist Union Theological Seminary, which was associated with the University of Chicago. From the beginning, he made clear his desire for Swedish Baptists to

have an academy and a college, as well as a ministry training school. His vision was realized when, after brief relocations to Minnesota in 1884 and Nebraska in 1886, the seminary made a permanent move to St. Paul in 1914. The seminary then joined with Bethel Academy, a high school opened in 1905 in Minneapolis by the Swedish Baptist Conference, to become Bethel Academy and Theological Seminary. A campus was constructed on Snelling Avenue adjacent to the state fairgrounds.

In 1931, Bethel Junior College opened, and subsequent to the phasing out of the academy, expanded its academic program to become a four-year liberal arts college in 1947. By 1959, with the awarding of accreditation by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, it became evident that room was needed to house the growing schools. Land was purchased, and a new campus was built in the present Arden Hills location. The seminary relocated to the new location in 1965 and the college in 1972. Many enhancements have been made to the facilities over the years to meet the changing needs of the schools.

On July 1, 2004, the corporate name was changed from Bethel College & Seminary to Bethel University, with the College of Arts & Sciences, the College of Adult & Professional Studies, the Graduate School, and Bethel Seminary as component schools. Bethel University enrolls more than 4,500 students from all 50 states and 32 countries in undergraduate, graduate, seminary, and adult undergraduate programs. Based in St. Paul, Minnesota, Bethel University offers rigorous majors and programs in more than 80 relevant fields.

Throughout the years, Bethel has remembered its rich heritage and held to the guiding principles of its founder while forging a Christ-led vision for the future.



Bethel Academy and Theological Seminary, St. Paul, MN, in 1920.



# Academic Regalia and Symbols

## Academic Regalia

Academic regalia lend dignity and pageantry to commencements and other college and university ceremonial occasions, and reveal academic achievements through styles of gowns, hoods, and varying colors. The custom of wearing distinctive dress for academic ceremonies dates to the Middle Ages.

In the 12<sup>th</sup> century, universities took form under the jurisdiction of the church. Most of those studying were clerics in holy orders, monks, or priests. They wore woolen cloaks or habits for warmth in unheated quarters. Attached to the cloaks were cowls or hoods, used to warm their tonsured heads or thrown back in mild weather. Sometimes these hoods served the purpose of holding food or the alms that were dropped in by passersby.

As European commerce began to flourish, persons of the same trade or pursuit formed associations called guilds. Their dress was an outward sign of privilege and responsibility, designed to distinguish the wearer from other guilds and other townspeople. The teaching guild was for the master of arts, and the bachelor was the apprentice of the master.

The styles and colors of academic garb came to vary greatly in Europe. In 1894, most American universities and colleges adopted a uniform code of academic attire drawn up by a convention of representatives called together by Princeton University. The underlying concept was that the academic costume is a uniform that unites a given group of persons (academics) while distinguishing among them by significant variations. Each part of the uniform is therefore significant in characterizing the level of the degree and the institution and discipline conferring it.

Principal features of academic dress are the cap, gown, and hood. The cap worn almost universally in academic processions is the Oxford cap, better known as the mortarboard. From poetry we learn that the cap of scholarship is square to symbolize a book. Another style, called the Cambridge cap, resembles a large beret. Caps and gowns representing degrees from foreign universities may vary noticeably from those in the United States—the most obvious difference being the cap, which is often a soft, round hat of the style worn by medieval scholars.

The use of a dark robe in academic processions is thought to have arisen from the clerical practice of wearing a cape or mantle in religious processions during the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries, when universities arose from cathedral schools. Traditionally, commencement gowns have been black. In recent years, however, a number of universities have adopted other hues that signify the school's traditional colors.

The bachelor's gown has long, pointed sleeves. The master's

gown has crescent-shaped sleeves descending from the elbows. The doctor's robe has very full sleeves with three horizontal bars of velvet on each sleeve and two vertical velvet bars down the middle of the front. The velvet is either black or the degree color.

Hoods are the most significant conveyors of degree identification. The bachelor's hood is pointed, three feet long, with a two-inch border. The master's hood is pointed, three-and-one-half feet in length, with a three-inch border. The doctor's hood is four feet long, rounded at the bottom, with a five-inch border. The hoods have velvet borders and are lined in silk or satin in the official color of the institution that conferred the degree, with a chevron used for a second color if needed. The color of the velvet border represents the discipline. Investiture with the hood signifies the conferral of the degree.

In practice, the bachelor's hood is rarely worn. Instead, conferral of the baccalaureate degree is signified by moving the tassel from the right to the left side of the cap. All persons possessing at least a bachelor's degree wear the tassel on the left side of the cap.

The president's apparel is notably different from that of the faculty. It is a doctoral-style robe with four horizontal bars on the sleeve. The president wears a pendant medallion, in the form of the school seal, that bears the names of previous presidents.

## Academic Symbols

One hundred fifty years ago, John Alexis Edgren founded a seminary that would become today's Bethel University. To celebrate the milestone, and to function as a symbol of servant leadership into the future, Bethel Provost Robin Rylaarsdam commissioned the creation of new academic symbols to be used in commencement ceremonies. In a collaboration between two students and a faculty member, a ewer and laver—in common vernacular, pitcher and basin—were created and now serve as the academic symbols that lead Bethel University's formal processions. The simplicity of these two symbols suggests that the loving act of footwashing be a humble, simple, and common manifestation of faith in action. The decision to place the university's insignia in the bottom of the laver, where one would place their feet for washing, communicates the concepts of servant leadership from Mark 10:43-44. The ewer remains without insignia to represent the selfless love that each graduate is ceremonially encouraged to practice in both their professional and personal lives. The collaborative creation of these symbols lives out one of Edgren's core principles of education:

*The relation between teacher and students should not be that of superior and subordinate, but one of real friendship and helpfulness, remembering that One is our Master, and we are all brethren.*



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*The information in this program is accurate as of the time of publication.*