



Saint Mary's University of Minnesota



# **COMMENCEMENT CONVOCATION**

**June 7, 2025**

**10:00 a.m.**

**Orchestra Hall**

**1111 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN**

*Very Rev. James P. Burns, IVD, Ph.D.  
President of Saint Mary's University of Minnesota  
Presiding*

*Susan Hines D'07, Ed.D.  
Vice President for Academic Affairs —  
Minneapolis, Rochester, Online  
Master of Ceremonies*

**SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA**  
**SCHOOLS OF GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS**  
**MINNEAPOLIS CAMPUS**

# SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA COMMENCEMENT CONVOCATION

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## PRELUDE

Copper Street Brass

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## PROCESSIONAL

Copper Street Brass

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## MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Susan Hines D'07, Ed.D.  
Vice President for Academic Affairs

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## NATIONAL ANTHEM

Members of the VocalEssence Ensemble Singers  
Copper Street Brass

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## INVOCATION

Ann Merchlewitz, J.D.  
Senior Vice President and General Counsel

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## WELCOME

Gregory Stevens B'74  
Chair, Board of Trustees

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## REFLECTIONS

Belinda Lee Armstead  
Doctor of Business Administration

Hudda Omar Ibrahim  
Doctor of Education in Leadership

Mych-Jarrold Dallozzi  
Doctor of Psychology in Counseling Psychology

# SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

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## **PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

Very Rev. James P. Burns, IVD, Ph.D.

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## **PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES**

Mary Jacobs, M.A.

Associate Dean of Business and Technology

Michael Hahn, Ph.D.

Associate Dean of Education

Mallory Knipe, D.S.W., L.I.S.W.

Master of Social Work Program Director  
and Chair of Social Work Programming

---

## **AWARDING OF DEGREES**

Very Rev. James P. Burns, IVD, Ph.D.

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## **ALMA MATER**

Members of the VocalEssence Ensemble Singers

Copper Street Brass

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## **BENEDICTION**

Ann Merchlewitz, J.D.

Senior Vice President and General Counsel

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## **RECESSIONAL**

Copper Street Brass

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## **POSTLUDE**

Copper Street Brass

# SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY

## BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

---

### ACCOUNTING

Giovanni Herrera Presteguin  
Benjamin Christopher Stimac

### BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

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Katelyn Renae Gustafson  
Jennifer Ann Jandro  
Kathryn Suzanne-Klevan Scharnweber  
Laura Ann Underdahl  
Hashim Ali Yusuf

### CRIMINAL JUSTICE LEADERSHIP

Chad Richard Anderson  
Derek Brian Anderson  
Donald William Kostohryz  
Travis Andrew Mulvihill  
Lee Hamilton Smith  
Kyle James Waterstreet

### HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

David Darareksmey Keo  
Amara Lynn Mayorga  
Bethany D. Tilseth

### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Mohamed Dahir Abdi  
Mohamed Hussein Abdi  
Fosiya Ibrahim Abdulahi  
Nathan Edward Chick  
Anthony Jose Giron  
Boghos Hratch Kenderjian  
Sheetal Kubsad Rudresh  
Adam Michael Nelson  
Jacob Carl Templeton

## MASTER OF ARTS

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### HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Morgan Elise Anderson  
Rana Elsaadany

Barbara Barry Hood  
Samira A. Noor  
Kaylor Lyn Fern Ragels  
Emily Joan Stanze

### ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP

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Emily McKinnon  
Geofrey Seme Nyanyuki  
Bonnie Billington Packer  
Florence Waruguru Wahome Nyoike  
Holly Marie Walters

### PHILANTHROPY AND DEVELOPMENT

Kim Katherine Cassar Torreggiani  
Ellen E. Heydon  
Lori J. Quinn  
Whitney Jewel Springston  
Shannon Leigh Watts

## MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

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### BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

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Edith Alison Anderson  
Nwamaka Dorathy Anyanwu  
Dikere Malicka Bamba  
Holly Marie Bauers  
Thomas Milton Boose  
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Jessica Carey  
Ethan Peter Christensen  
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Waylon Dean Hartwick  
Ismail Abdi Hassan  
Fayiza Ahmed Hassen  
Kayla Ann Heyer  
Marisa Louise Hicks-Mayson  
Timothy Karl Hiller  
Simran Karki  
Maureen Nkatha Kirimi

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Nyashadzashe Igeal Makayi  
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Teresa Thuy Tien Pham  
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Erin Wester-Crader

## MASTER OF SCIENCE

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### ACCOUNTING

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Teresa Jean Housey  
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Nina Thao  
Pachia Xiong  
Wesley Kezele Zubawuo Jr.

### BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE AND DATA ANALYTICS

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Christine Margaret Amstutz Winfrey  
Melake Weldekidan Araya  
Rachel Nicolette Bayerl  
Oladele Yao Bello  
Julia Ann Boe  
Kevin Douglas Brian  
Matthew Dano DeOcampo  
Uyi Prince Enodunmwben  
Guled Liban Gedi  
Tyler James Hyatt  
Harley Kaye Jones  
Kloey Karah Lekatz

Edwin Lyaruu  
Megan Gene Mahan  
Fatuma I. Mohamud  
Asonganyi Neros  
Jane Leah Oden  
Christabelle Nana Ama Sam - Woode Myers  
James Alwyn Smith  
Varney Cole Swaray  
Shivonna Sherrelle Thomas  
Darla Cecile Thompson  
Vita Ishmael Tue  
Tony Vang  
Habtam Fikru Woldea  
Owen Zachery Ziegler

### CYBERSECURITY

Gloria Garcia

### DATA INTELLIGENCE AND GEOANALYTICS

Mohamed Nur Hassan  
Lucas K. Shappell  
Abdulaziz Abdullahi Sharif  
Yahye Abdi Sheikh

### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Melissa Claire Corinne Gurung

### PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Meagan L. Tuttle

## DOCTOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

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### BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Paul Kolawole Adejuyigbe  
*A Quantitative Analysis of the Relationship  
Between Student Loan Debt Ratio and Financial  
Stress Among University Graduates With Over  
Ten Years of Repayment in the USA*

Dr. Raj Beekie  
Dissertation Chair

## SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY

Sekai Aguiya

*Addressing Gender Pay Disparities and Understanding Barriers for Women in Construction: The Impact of the Lilly Ledbetter Act*

Dr. Raj Beekie  
Dissertation Chair

Carrie Colleen North

*The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Employee Engagement: A Correlation Study of U.S. Federal Employees*

Dr. Raj Beekie  
Dissertation Chair

Belinda Lee Armstead

*Investigating the Disparities for Black Women in STEM*

Dr. Antar Salim  
Dissertation Chair

Renee Lynn Thompson

*The Impact of Intra-Family Relationships on Succession Planning in Multi-Generational Century Family Farm Business: An Ethnography*

Dr. Matt Nowakowski  
Dissertation Chair

Abisola Femi-Jegede

*A 30-Year Correlational Analysis Between Homelessness, Unemployment, Underemployment, and High School Graduation Rates Among Young Adults in Minnesota*

Dr. Antar Salim  
Dissertation Chair

Jenifer Marie Zinsmaster

*The Impact of Corn Futures Price Volatility Based on Three Economic Factors*

Dr. Matt Nowakowski  
Dissertation Chair

# SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

## MASTER OF ARTS

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Dara Joy Anderson  
Allison J. Beach  
Alisa Jeanette Becker-Dunn  
Frances M Beggs  
Leah Christine Bell  
Felicia Antoinette Brown  
Jessica Elane Cantore  
Kayla Marie Chapek  
Tracy Ann Cirves  
Marisa Jill Corcoran  
Naoual Dahiba  
Kristina Diane DeLanty  
Madison Elizabeth Edstrom  
Abigail Jane Fifer  
Kathryn Fay Gadke  
Kallie Nikol Gau  
Brianna Rose Graham  
Andrew Carroll Harrison  
Amanda Harriet Hemann  
Muna Bashir Hussein  
Vanessa Brooke Jagim  
Muna Hassan Jama  
RaeAnna Jean Johnston  
Sarah Jeanne Kelleher  
Melissa Ann Livingston  
Laura Jean Lorenz  
Alexandra Lynn Mack  
Jaclyn T. Mackey  
Jennifer Elizabeth Malepsy  
Madeline Marie Matthews  
Emily Marie Meier  
Charles Edward Miller  
Skye Elizabeth Moore  
Abby Jeanne Mullenbach  
Katelyn A. Mullenbach  
Jessica Ione Olson  
Emily Lynn Petska  
Nicholas Thomas Raymond  
Jaimee Elizabeth Rosene  
Sonia Elaine Salmon Lindsay  
Ashley Marie Schmelzer  
Sarah Jean Schultz  
Sara Tarek Sharaf El Din  
Alysa Simerson  
Philip R. Smithley  
Kari L. Taylor  
Kayla Marie Thilges

Nichela Rae Urbanciz  
Abigail Jean VanBergen

### EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

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Andrea Jean Larson  
Amy Elizabeth Musser  
John Andrew Plettner  
Joanna Aloma Porter  
Kevin John Rall  
Jared Dale Rowan  
Taylor Mackenzie Wright

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Andrea Lea Baker  
Heidi Renee Eaves  
Ayan Nor Jama  
Mattie Ellen Jenney  
Brooke Ann Reiner  
Lori Gilbert Rogers

### TEACHING

Brittany Christine Beebe  
Katherine Mary Gammon  
Will John Harren  
Kristina Terese Kelly  
Meghan Marie Lange  
Rebecca Anne Hed Manocchio  
Elias Paul Marino  
Matthew Allen Miller  
Katherine O'Malley Wells

## GRADUATE CERTIFICATE

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Ashley Canfield  
Sharon Marie Carlson  
Denise Cote  
Jordan Lindsay Flynn  
Leila Mohamed Hassan  
Sarah Mary Maistrovich  
Tracey Lea Peters  
Nathan David Peterson  
Macoy Rudolph  
Brian Schleisman  
Marita Joy Schmitz  
Joshua Paul Smith  
Sarah Striemer  
Stacey Lynn Zierden



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Michael Emmet Moch  
Amy Marie Oliver  
Tracey Lea Peters  
Timothy Michael Tydlacka

### EDUCATION SPECIALIST

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#### EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATION

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Jamie Joseph Studnicka  
Lisa Anne Wiener

### DOCTOR OF EDUCATION

---

#### EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

Katherine A. Forkner

#### LEADERSHIP

Cynthia A. Arauz

*The Professional Lived Experience of Upper  
Midwestern Library Staff Who Possess Visible  
Piercings and/or Tattoos*

Dr. Susan Hines  
Dissertation Chair

Elias Admassu Getabecha

*The Effects of In-Service Training in ADHD on  
Teacher Knowledge*

Dr. Jack McClure  
Dissertation Chair

Vivian Eberechukwuka- Nwonye Gilleylen

*The Impact of Resilience on Black Women  
Leadership Journeys in the Upper Midwest:  
A Phenomenological Study*

Dr. Yvette Pye  
Dissertation Chair

Dawn Marion Hallsten

*Grounded Theory Study on Factors Influencing  
Minnesota Families' School Choices*

Dr. Paul Kotz  
Dissertation Chair

Ashwak Mohamud Hassan

*Somali Parents' Lived Experience While Raising  
a Child Diagnosed with Neurodevelopmental  
Disorder in Minnesota: A Phenomenological  
Research*

Dr. Yvette Pye  
Dissertation Chair

Hudda Omar Ibrahim

*Manufacturing Employees' Experiences of an  
Inclusive Workplace and Career Advancement:  
A Phenomenological Study of Foreign-Born  
Somali Americans in Central Minnesota*

Dr. Amanual Teklemariam  
Dissertation Chair

Xiao Liang

*Exploring the Lived Experience of Chinese  
International Students Who Studied in a U.S.  
Midwest University Graduate School During  
the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Phenomenological  
Study*

Dr. Paul Kotz  
Dissertation Chair

Cynthia Jean Mueller

*A Case Study of an Elementary School  
Principal's Leadership Practices Within a School  
That Increased Student Reading Achievement*

Dr. Susan Hines  
Dissertation Chair

Phitsavath Phitz Nantharath

*Ethnographic Research: Integrating Traditional  
Medicine into Science-based Medicine*

Dr. Amanuel Teklemariam  
Dissertation Chair

James D. Reyerson

*The Perceptions of Women Involved in Sexually  
Exploitative Professions in Regard to Their  
Relationships With Men*

Dr. Jack McClure  
Dissertation Chair

Wosra Jerome Sakpeider

*Workplace Experiences of sub-Saharan African  
Immigrant Professionals Employed in State and  
Local Government Organizations in the Upper  
Midwest*

Dr. Paul Kotz  
Dissertation Chair

Elena I. Viglianco-Espinosa

*The Essential Elements of Leadership Within  
Early Childhood Education as Described by  
Effective Educational Supervisors*

Dr. Jack McClure  
Dissertation Chair

# SCHOOL OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

## BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

---

### APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY

Zaynab Ahmed Barkhadle II  
Anna Marie Carlyle  
Nakeda Marquette Frazier  
Hussein Yusuf Qanyare

### HEALTHCARE MANAGEMENT

Bintalhuda Alnabi  
Melissa Sue Brown  
Kelly Eileen Gornick  
Stacy Lynn Schultz  
Sarah Melissa Turan  
Sarah Mae Zimmerman

## MASTER OF ARTS

---

### COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES

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Jose Brizard  
Ben Paul Chaput  
Joleen Marie Conrad  
Ann Thien Do  
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Abigail Grace Fafinski  
Benjamin Christopher Flattum  
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Cleveland Joseph Gordon III  
Grace Harvey  
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Stephanie Renee Higley  
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Emily Ida Jarecki  
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Yee Yeng Lau  
Olivia Matthys  
Bilan Mohamed  
Amanda Lee Natoli  
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Sydney Olberg  
Aaron Michael Ostler  
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Serena Jo Peterson  
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Abdullahi Mohamed Rage  
James Rockwell  
Alexandra Nicole Rosenbaum  
Sydney Bates Schaefer  
Muna Bashir Sheckdon  
Faiza Sheikhmohamed  
Lauren Kathleen Singstock  
Michael Charles Smith  
Benjamin J. Swanson  
Cecilia Tierney  
Garrett West Vollmender  
Julian Vrudny  
Hani Abdi Wahab  
Bethany Ceynowa Weingart  
Kyelee Anne Wilson

### COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES AND GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN ADDICTION STUDIES

Ruqia M. Ali  
Ranny Robert Mattila  
Karl Andrew Noyes  
Briget Perez-Roberts  
Daimon Ross Sawyer  
Nathan Everett Toso  
Coreen Kim Anderson Walker

### HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Anthony M Howey

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Meekey K Brownell  
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Jeannine Sawvel  
Jamie Marie Schwartz  
Chanreamsmy So  
Victoria Leigh Tinucci  
Katherine June Todd  
Becky Lynn Vanderwerf Myers  
Jenna Irene Welo  
Karsen James Yelle

### MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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#### PUBLIC HEALTH

Edna T. Garcia-Kelley

### MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK

---

#### SOCIAL WORK

Sahra A. Ahmed  
Cassidy Mackenzie Allen  
Kiersten Bakke  
Candyce Marie Beal  
Tamika Renee Black  
Shakisha Renee Carter  
Christine Rae Cole  
Alexandra Nelson Cotter  
Suad Ahmed De Leeuw  
Ikran Abshir Farah  
Molly Lewis Frey  
Talia Ranae Giarrusso  
Isabel Brozic Gleekel  
Joshua Roy Goudge  
Katlyn Suzanne Gross  
Denise Irene Hanson  
Tara Anne Hanson  
Shahrazad Moheyeldeen Hassan  
Kendra Joy Holloway  
Paul David Johnson  
Riley Kay Johnson  
Tyra Johnson  
Krysta Elaine Kahveci  
Sarah Kemp  
Caitlin Lawrence  
Jesse Lynn Mann  
Molly Ann McGough-Rhode  
Suado Mohamed Moalim  
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Danielle Kelly Nelson  
Caitlin Ann Ness  
Laurie Nordahl  
Theresa Kemunto Onyancha  
Diana Irene Pimentel  
Katyann Elizabeth Quinn

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Lea Lorraine Shealy  
Dylan William Svobodny  
Hannah Elizabeth Thompson  
Bryan Lee Thomsen  
Sierra Marie Trost  
Hannah Morgan Wessels  
Briana Cheron Wiggins  
Carol Ann Williams Omernik  
Abigail Grace Zeidler

### DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE

---

#### NURSE ANESTHESIOLOGY

Peter Nyaberi Anyona  
Kayla Jean Bedard  
Alexis Rose Boll  
Joseph Alan DeZurik  
Xin Dwyer  
Lindsay Jo Ek  
Abbey Elizabeth Enfield  
Jonathon Gerry  
Bryan Patrick Groff  
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Alyssa Marie Palo Klein  
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Estefana Marie Vasquez-Penner  
Emma Rose Verby  
Chelsea Christine Webb  
Jonathan Michael Werner  
Kathryn Williams Wieber  
Audrey Anne Yee

### DOCTOR OF PSYCHOLOGY

---

#### COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY

Corri Ann Awdng

*Mental Health Literacy on TikTok: A Content Analysis of ADHD-Related Viral Videos*

Dr. Signe Nestingen  
Dissertation Chair

Jessica Elizabeth Bemlott

*The Impact of Cultural Identification with Deaf Communities on Psychological Wellbeing*

Dr. Elizabeth Fleming  
Dissertation Chair

Mych-Jarrodd Dallozzi

*I Am the American Dream, Why?: An Autoethnographic Study of Upward Mobility in Modern America*

Dr. Ann Schissel  
Dissertation Chair

Margaret Falwell

*Clinically Significant Change in Ketamine Infusions Based on Risk for Toxic Stress*

Dr. Elizabeth Fleming  
Dissertation Chair

Jacqueline Meryl Hambrick

*Characteristics and Personality Factors Related to Quality of Life in Individuals with Chronic Migraine*

Dr. Jerome Shih  
Dissertation Chair

## SCHOOL OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Amanda Janke

*Correspondence Between Performance and Self-Report Attention Measures in Children: Implications for General Associations and ADHD Diagnosis*

Dr. Kathryn LaBore  
Dissertation Chair

Abby Theresa Porter

*Experiences of Mental Health Providers Working with Sexual Violence Survivors and Providing Ethical Treatment in Rural Communities*

Dr. Andrew John  
Dissertation Chair

Ulysses Lennin Jimenez

*Assessing the Needs of Prospective Hypnosis Practitioners to Inform Organizational Support Initiatives*

Dr. Ann Schissel  
Dissertation Chair

Victoria Grace Richter

*The Role of Sexual Offense History and Gender on Clinicians' Attitudes and Willingness to Provide Therapeutic Services*

Dr. Elll Yuvarajan  
Dissertation Chair

Leslie Ella Johnson

*Clinical Trainees Perception of Fentanyl Use: Understanding the Influence of Race and Pathway to Use*

Dr. Elizabeth Fleming  
Dissertation Chair

Jordan Elizabeth Schneider

*Initial Validation of the Anti-Racism Institutional Behavior Inventory*

Dr. Elizabeth Fleming  
Dissertation Chair

Tanner Ian McCarthy

*The Impact of Parental Autonomy and Social Connectedness on Self-Efficacy in Neurodivergent Emerging Adults*

Dr. Jerome Shih  
Dissertation Chair

# SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

## MISSION

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Enriched by the Lasallian Catholic heritage, Saint Mary's University of Minnesota awakens, nurtures, and empowers learners to ethical lives of service and leadership.

## VISION

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Grounded in its Lasallian Catholic identity, Saint Mary's University of Minnesota is a nationally ranked transformational and innovative university with a global footprint. Saint Mary's graduates gain the advanced knowledge, skills, and critical-thinking abilities necessary to be lifelong learners, successful workers, good neighbors, and ethical citizens that ensure Saint Mary's standing as a well-known top-tier national university preparing tomorrow's leaders.

## ACADEMIC DRESS

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The academic costume worn today originated in the Middle Ages when gowns and hoods kept scholars and clerics warm. The distinctive gown served to set the student apart from fellow citizens, giving birth to the expression "town and gown."

Until after the Civil War, students at most American universities wore caps and gowns daily. They varied in design, and while an attempt was made in 1894 by the American Intercollegiate Commission to standardize the color of robes, distinctive colors continue to be used by institutions, usually at the doctoral level.

Academic gowns tell the observer the degree which the wearer has earned: bachelor's gowns have pointed sleeves; master's gowns have long, closed sleeves; doctoral gowns are made with full, longer sleeves and faced with velvet from hem to neck and back. Doctoral gowns also carry three velvet bands around each sleeve above the elbow.

The Saint Mary's University of Minnesota distinctive doctoral gown is worn by the graduates and regents. It is blue in honor of the university's patroness. The logo is placed over the heart.

The light blue velvet on the hood represents education, while the red and white colors in the lining of the hood are the school colors.

Hoods vary in length with the degree. The lining of the hood identifies the university by its colors. The border of the hood indicates the academic discipline in which the degree is earned:

**White:** arts and letters, journalism

**Scarlet:** theology

**Purple:** law

**Green:** medicine

**Dark blue:** philosophy

**Yellow:** science

**Brown:** architecture, fine arts

**Pink:** music

**Lilac:** dentistry

**Orange:** engineering

**Olive:** pharmacy

**Light brown:** business

**Lemon yellow:** library science

**Light blue:** education

**Peacock blue:** international affairs

**Citron yellow:** social work

**Salmon pink:** public health

**Apricot:** nursing

## SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Jill Reilly, Ed.D.

Keith Ryskoski

Tim Weir

Kathy R. Wilde M'92

## NATIONAL ANTHEM

Words by Francis Scott Key

Oh, say can you see by the dawn's early light  
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?  
Whose broad stripes and bright stars thru the perilous fight,  
O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming?  
And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air,  
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.  
Oh, say does that star-spangled banner yet wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

## ALMA MATER

*For the community of Saint Mary's University past, present, and future*  
Words and music by Patrick M. O'Shea, D.M.A.

Hail Saint Ma - ry's, Al - ma Ma - ter!  
Hail, Saint Ma - ry's, fount of wis - dom,  
Hail, Saint Ma - ry's, shin - ing bea - con

Hail Saint Ma - ry's, Mo - ther true,  
Nur - tur - er of heart and mind,  
of La - Salle's com - mu - ni - ty,

Ev - 'ry faith - ful son and daugh - ter  
Strength - en us in thought and spir - it,  
Send us out for - ev - er teach - ing

lifts this an - them now to you:  
That in seek - ing we may find.  
Love and faith and u - ni - ty.

*(Refrain - all verses)*

A - - ve, a - - ve,  
a - - ve Ma - ri - a!



