

2023

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA MORRIS

HONORS AND AWARDS

RECOGNIZING STUDENTS WHO DEMONSTRATE ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND ENRICH CAMPUS LIFE



EDSON AUDITORIUM
EDWARD J. AND HELEN JANE
MORRISON PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
STUDENT CENTER
FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2023, 6 P.M.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

By offering this land acknowledgment, we affirm tribal sovereignty, express respect for Native peoples and nations, encourage understanding of our tuition waiver, and invite others to do the same. The University of Minnesota Morris is located along the river called *Owobošte Wakpa* by the Dakota people—a place from which Dakota turnips have been dug river—and *Opinikani Žibi* by the Anishinaabe—the place of wild potatoes river. These lands on the edge of *mashkode akiing*—prairie land—have been cared for and called home by the Dakota people, and later the Ojibwe people and other Native peoples, from time immemorial. Our state’s name, Minnesota, comes from the Dakota name for this region, *Mni Sota Makoce*—the land where the waters reflect the skies.

Before there was a University of Minnesota presence here, the site housed an American Indian boarding school established in 1887 by the Sisters of Mercy community of the Catholic Church under contract with the United States government. The United States government began directly operating the Morris Industrial School for Indians on this site in 1897; one building from the school remains on campus. Sixteen American Indian boarding schools in Minnesota and hundreds across the country separated children from their families and attempted to eliminate Native languages and cultures, with intergenerational impacts still felt across Indian Country. UMN Morris has joined the National Boarding School Healing Coalition and sought Dakota and Anishinaabe leaders’ guidance to bring greater truth telling, understanding, change, and healing regarding this history and the boarding school era.

In 1909, the federal government closed the school, transferring the campus and buildings to the State of Minnesota. The federal legislation and corresponding state statute stipulated that American Indian students be admitted to future educational institutions on the site “on terms of equality” with other students and “free of charge for tuition.” This federal mandate has its roots in treaty law and has been UMN Morris policy since our establishment as the University’s public liberal arts campus in 1960.

Acknowledging the land and our history in this place is an offering of solidarity with and respect for Native nations and peoples. In doing so, we reaffirm our commitment to our responsibilities rooted in this place and in the history of our campus site as a Native American boarding school, our distinctive mission as a public liberal arts college within Minnesota’s land-grant university, and our federal recognition as a Native American-Serving Nontribal Institution—the only four-year NASNTI university in the Upper Midwest.

Today, this region’s Dakota, Ojibwe, and other Native peoples are recognized as leaders in rebuilding Native Nations and reclaiming Indigenous lifeways. More than 300 Native American students from 70 tribal nations live and learn at UMN Morris.

We are committed to creating a university where Native American students can increasingly share, connect with, and deepen their knowledge of Indigenous peoples, nations, tribes, languages, sovereignty, and lifeways; where Native cultures are more present and reflected in campus life; and where all members of our community benefit from greater knowledge and understanding regarding our shared histories and the people indigenous to this place.

2023 HONORS AND AWARDS

RECOGNIZING STUDENTS WHO DEMONSTRATE ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND ENRICH CAMPUS LIFE

WELCOME AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Peh Ng, acting vice chancellor for academic affairs and dean

OPENING ADDRESS

2023 University of Minnesota Morris Alumni Association Teaching Award Recipient

introduction by Peh Ng, acting vice chancellor for academic affairs and dean

remarks by Randy Koopman '78, president of the alumni association

The professor recognized for outstanding contributions to undergraduate education through teaching, research and artistic activities, advising, academic program development, and educational leadership is invited to give the opening address.

Jennifer Goodnough, associate professor of chemistry

CHANCELLOR'S AWARD

presented by Janet Schrunk Ericksen, chancellor

Presented annually to an outstanding senior on the basis of academic excellence and contribution to campus life, the chancellor of the University of Minnesota Morris makes the Chancellor's Award selection after consulting with various campus groups.

Ella Christine VanKempen '23

CURTIS H. LARSON AWARD

presented by Janet Schrunk Ericksen, chancellor

The Curtis H. Larson Award is conferred upon the graduate chosen as senior class speaker. The selection is made by faculty and graduating seniors. The award was established in memory of the late Curtis Larson, the University of Minnesota Morris's first class speaker in 1964.

Dylan Joseph Sage Young '23

KATHERINE E. SULLIVAN SCHOLARSHIP

recognized by Janet Schrunk Ericksen, chancellor

Awarded by the University of Minnesota Office of International Programs, the all-University Katherine E. Sullivan Scholarship honors high-achieving University seniors with financial support for a fifth year of undergraduate study in another country.

Constance Elizabeth Liker '23

MORRIS STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY LEADER AWARD

presented by Janet Schrunk Ericksen, chancellor

This award recognizes students who have displayed exemplary service to advance campus sustainability conversations and initiatives. The efforts of these student leaders have helped to create positive change with leadership that has been a model to others. Sustainability is a big idea that connects with our liberal arts leadership. These students have asked “big questions” and have worked to find solutions.

Noelle Magdalena Muzzy '23

Dylan Joseph Sage Young'23

ALLEN W. EDSON AWARD

presented by Sandra K. Olson Loy, vice chancellor for student affairs

Presented annually in recognition of contribution to campus life, the Allen W. Edson Award's recipient is nominated by the student body, faculty, and staff, and chosen by the Student Affairs Committee. The award honors Allen Edson, superintendent of the University of Minnesota West Central School of Agriculture (WCSA) and Experiment Station on the Morris campus from 1947 to 1958.

Joselin Marina Gonzales Mejia '23

MARY MARTELLE MEMORIAL AWARD

presented by Sandra K. Olson Loy, vice chancellor for student affairs

Presented annually to a student and to a staff member deemed to have made outstanding contributions to the quality of Morris campus life, the Mary Martelle Memorial Award perpetuates the memory of Mary Martelle, senior secretary in the Office of Student Activities from 1965 until her death in 1976.

Mariah Hailey Thesing '23

MUSICAL SELECTION

SCHOLAR OF THE COLLEGE AWARD

presented by Peh Ng, acting vice chancellor for academic affairs and dean

Scholar of the College Awards are presented annually to students who demonstrate distinguished contributions to scholarship in one or more of the academic disciplines

Jessica Marie Beaudoin '23

Bethanie Belisle '24

Briana Dokken '24

Joshua James Eklund '23

Jaeger Gerold '23

Ben Giese '24

Henry Walto Hubred '23

Audrey Le Meur '22

Richard Lussier '23

Shelby Orell Maloney '23

Emily Miller '23

Trinity Milne '24

Erik Rauer '23

Melanie Rittenhouse '24

Dean Lee Schmit '23

Emma Seurer '23

Ruby Rosella Wittmayer '23

Natasha Alexis Zebrev '22

Bryan J Zepeda '23

EDITH RODGERS FARRELL MEMORIAL AWARD FOR UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

presented by Stacey Parker Aronson, professor, chair, Division of the Humanities

Established by the family, students, and friends of Edith Rogers Farrell, late professor of French and undergraduate research advocate, the annual award is granted to a graduating senior whose research is judged by a jury of faculty to be excellent.

Ava Radeke Allroggen '23

Zoe Kramin '23

BILL AND IDA STEWART AWARD FOR RACIAL JUSTICE ADVOCACY

presented by Heather Peters, associate professor of psychology
and Equity and Diversity Committee chair

This award recognizes students who have displayed exemplary service on our campus in support of promoting ethnic diversity and a supportive climate for all people. Bill Stewart touched the lives of thousands of UMN Morris students and championed the concerns, needs, and accomplishments of students of color. Under his leadership, the Multi-Ethnic Student Program provided academic assistance, financial aid, and student support services to improve opportunities for underrepresented students. Ida Stewart served as a faculty member, education coordinator, and academic advisor and established World Touch Cultural Heritage Week and the Women of Color Association.

Joselin Marina Gonzales Mejia '23

Ashley M Johnson '23

Paisley Sierra '24

HONORS PROGRAM RECOGNITION

presented by Athena Kildegaard, teaching specialist, English,
and director of the Honors Program

The Morris Honors Program focuses on providing opportunities for curious, creative, and intellectually ambitious students to practice interdisciplinary thinking. All courses in the program are interdisciplinary and are frequently taught by two professors. Students complete the program with an interdisciplinary capstone project and defense, and have an overall grade point average of 3.5 or higher at graduation.

Abigail Joan Burquest '23

Gillian Leigh Orth '23

Jocelyn Samani Filiyaro '22

Megan Kay Saboo '23

Stewart T Lindstrom '23

Dean Lee Schmit '23

Morgan A Mithun '23

Deanna C Small '23

MUSICAL SELECTION

ATHLETIC AWARDS

Presented by Matthew Johnson '03, director, Intercollegiate Athletics

ARNOLD HENJUM SCHOLAR-ATHLETE AWARD

Presented to a senior male athlete on the basis of athletic excellence and integrity, the award honors Arnold Henjum, professor of education from 1964 to 1992, who made innumerable contributions to Minnesota public education. Recipients must earn a minimum 3.0 overall grade point average.

Cody Nye '24

WILLIS KELLY AWARD

Presented to a senior female athlete who exemplifies the spirit of competition at UMN Morris in women's athletics, the award is in memory of Willis Kelly, physical education coach and athletic director at UMN Morris for more than 20 years. She was the first director of women's athletics in 1975 and served as director of men's and women's athletics from 1982 until her retirement in 1987. Recipients must earn a minimum 3.0 overall grade point average.

Alyssa Ukestad '22

HONOR ATHLETE AWARDS

Selected by a committee of coaches on the basis of academic and athletic achievement, recipients of the Men's and Women's Honor Athlete Awards have earned a grade point average of 3.0 or higher.

Carson T Friestad '23

McKenna F Langerud '23

COUGAR EXCELLENCE AWARDS

The Cougar Excellence Awards are awarded each year to fourth-year student-athletes who represent the best of Cougar Athletics: passion, dedication, athletic competitiveness, and academic engagement. Recipients have competed at the University of Minnesota Morris for a minimum of two years.

Alex A Baumann '23

Monica Janelle Calderon '23

EDUCATION AWARD

Presented by Michelle Page, professor, chair, Division of Education

WILLIAM R. SCARBOROUGH MEMORIAL AWARD

Presented annually to a senior in elementary or secondary education, the William R. Scarborough Memorial Award recognizes demonstrated competence and potential for becoming an outstanding member of the teaching profession. The award honors the memory of William Scarborough, former Division of Education chair, who joined the faculty in 1966 and made many contributions to the Morris campus and to public education in Minnesota.

Sarah Jean Curtiss '23

HUMANITIES AWARDS

Presented by Stacey Parker Aronson, professor, chair, Division of the Humanities

ART HISTORY BOOK AWARD

Awarded to graduating art history majors, this award recognizes academic excellence and potential for further achievement in the arts.

Charlotte R Dery '23

ALUMNI AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ENGLISH MAJOR

This award is presented to English majors whose performances in English classes have been consistently superior and who have made positive contributions to the discipline or major in and beyond the classroom.

Stewart T Lindstrom '23

Destiny A Lopez '23

KEITH CARLSON MEMORIAL JAZZ AWARD

Presented annually to the most outstanding jazz musicians at UMN Morris, this award is given in memory of Keith Carlson by Jack and Ethel Carlson.

Joshua Brian Engelkes '23

BRION DALAGER MEMORIAL AWARD

Established by the family and friends of the late Brion Dalager, University of Minnesota Morris music student from 1969 to 1972, this scholarship is awarded annually to students who have demonstrated outstanding ability on a band instrument.

Jaclyn Rae Hawkins '23

NATALIE BENOIT MEMORIAL AWARD

Presented to a junior or senior who demonstrates ability and shows promise as a serious art student. Given by George and Joan Benoit, former Morris residents, in memory of their daughter who was an art major studying at Penn State when an accident took her life.

Gillian Leigh Orth '23

LOIS P. HODGELL PRINTMAKING AWARD

This award honors the late Lois P. Hodgell, professor of art from 1962 until her retirement in 1993. The recipient must show outstanding achievement in printmaking. Presented annually to a student who demonstrates creative potential in the field and technical understanding of a variety of print processes.

Paulina Augusta Bekkum '23

RAY AND DOLORES LAMMERS AWARD IN THE LANGUAGE ARTS

Established in memory of the late Raymond J. Lammers, professor of theatre, and his late wife Dolores, this award is presented to seniors majoring in and demonstrating outstanding undergraduate careers in one of the following disciplines: theatre, English, foreign language, or communication, media, and rhetoric. Professor Lammers was one of the first UMN Morris faculty members and figured prominently in the creation of the theatre major and theatre program.

Ruby Rosella Wittmayer '23 Joselin Marina Gonzales Mejia '23

Olivia Jesse Kingston '23 Kiley Rodarmel '24

SCIENCE & MATHEMATICS AWARDS

Presented by Rachel Johnson, associate professor, acting chair, Division of Science and Mathematics

ABBOTT AWARD IN PHYSICS

Presented to a graduating senior physics major with the greatest potential of achieving a professional career in physics or a physics-related field, the award was established by the late Robinson Abbott, professor of biology from 1961 to 1991, and his wife, Rose Marie, who taught UMN Morris biology courses, to recognize the importance UMN Morris played in their lives. All four Abbott children graduated from UMN Morris, three with physics majors.

John Larson '22

JAY Y. ROSHAL AWARD

Presented to a senior student majoring in biology who demonstrates the most promise and interest in a career in the biological sciences, the award is in honor of the late Jay Roshal, professor of biology from 1960 to 1983 and the first University of Minnesota Morris Division of Science and Mathematics chair.

Julia Irene Neuharth '23

JIM WINTER ECOLOGY AWARD

Established by Jim Winter, a native of Morris who earned a BA in biology in 1968 from UMN Morris and graduate degrees from the University of Minnesota, this award provides financial support to juniors and seniors who are interested in attending graduate school to study ecology or in working in the field of ecology and have a background with demonstrated academic success in ecology. Award preference is for students who have conducted undergraduate research, worked and/or volunteered on science projects, or presented a paper at a science conference.

Richard A Diedrich '23

spdf CHEMISTRY AWARD

The annual spdf Award is given to a senior chemistry major demonstrating outstanding scholarship, potential, and service in chemistry. Chemistry students know that the letters s,p,d,f refer to the internal structure of the atom as determined by experiment and theory. Historically, the letters were nothing but labels for colors of light emitted or absorbed by atoms when the internal structure was unknown.

Jessica Marie Beaudoin '23

SOCIAL SCIENCES AWARDS

Presented by Jennifer Deane, professor, chair, Division of the Social Sciences

ANTHROPOLOGY RESEARCH AWARD

The Anthropology Research Award is given to an anthropology major who has shown exceptional ability for independent research. The award is given to a student with fewer than 90 credits toward graduation and includes monetary support for conducting research or presenting research at a professional meeting.

Ella Kauffman '26

CHRIS BERG MEMORIAL AWARD

Presented annually to an outstanding senior economics major demonstrating academic excellence in that field, this award is presented by the University of Minnesota Morris economics/management faculty in memory of their colleague, Chris Berg, one of UMN Morris's early economics faculty.

Shelby Orell Maloney '23

UMM MANAGEMENT/ECONOMICS ALUMNI AWARD

This award is presented to a graduating discipline senior who has achieved academic excellence and has provided service to the discipline and the Morris campus. It is funded through collective alumni gifts to the management/economics discipline.

Signy KH Mastel '23

TED AND JUDITH UNDERWOOD AWARD IN HISTORY

Presented to a graduating senior with a major or minor in history or a history concentration in the social science major who has demonstrated distinguished academic performance in history, the award is named for Dr. Ted L. and Judith Underwood. Ted served the University of Minnesota Morris as an outstanding scholar, teacher, and administrator from 1967 until his retirement in 1999. Judith completed a degree in education at University of Minnesota Morris in 1971 and pursued a successful career in education in the Minneapolis area from 1973 to 1999.

Dean Lee Schmit '23

MIMI FRENIER AWARD IN GENDER, WOMEN, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES

This award was established by colleagues, students, alumni, friends, and the University of Minnesota Morris Commission on Women and Gender Equity in recognition of Professor Emeritus of History Mariam Frenier's dedication to UMN Morris and in appreciation for her contributions to the development of the gender, women, and sexuality studies major. It is annually granted to a junior or senior majoring in gender, women, and sexuality studies in recognition of high academic achievement and social, political, and civic activism.

Dean Lee Schmit '23

GIESKE ACADEMIC AWARD

Offered annually to outstanding political science majors in their senior year, this award is given to students who have exceptional records of accomplishment at the University of Minnesota Morris as well as strong prospects for success after graduation. The award is in memory of Millard Gieske who was a professor in political science for more than 15 years. He served as acting chair of the Division of the Social Sciences, was a respected leader in many professional organizations, and authored many political works.

Shelby Orell Maloney '23

OUTSTANDING GRADUATE IN PSYCHOLOGY AWARD

The Outstanding Graduate in Psychology Award is given annually to seniors graduating with psychology majors. Recipients who receive this award have excelled in the following areas: scholarship, research experience, and participation in the psychology discipline.

Ava Radeke Allroggen '23

SOCIOLOGY BOOK AWARD

Awarded to outstanding sociology students, this honor recognizes academic excellence and active engagement in the field of sociology.

Ashley M Johnson '23

CLOSING REMARKS

Peh Ng, acting vice chancellor for academic affairs and dean

ADDITIONAL HONORS

DURING THE 2022–23 ACADEMIC YEAR

AFRICAN AND BLACK AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARD

This award is presented to the student who has contributed most to the African and Black American studies program and has achieved a high level of academic excellence.

Finn D Kane '23

AMERICAN INDIAN SALT SPRINGS AWARDS

The American Indian Salt Springs Awards are presented on the basis of academic excellence and contribution to the Indian and campus community to outstanding American Indian students who will return to the Morris campus next year.

American Indian Salt Springs Cultural Award Scholarship

Bailee Bad Heart Bull '25

Hayley Brunette '25

Noelle Bad Heart Bull '25

Tessa Scheler '24

American Indian Salt Springs Teacher Scholarship

Gabriel Long '25

Alexander Happ '24

BOS UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AWARDS

The Bos Research Fund was established in honor of Angela Bos '01 to enhance the successful undergraduate research experience of UMN Morris students. Funds are made available to cover expenses for travel, conference registration, and other costs associated with the pursuit of the undergraduate research opportunities. All students are eligible to participate.

Jaeger Gerold '23

Emily Miller '23

Ben Giese '24

Harper Ray Toward '23

Adrienne Kanihan '24

BRIDGFORD SUMMER SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Established by Betty Bridgford Orvis and Robert E. Orvis Sr. in memory of Betty's father, Roy Bridgford, agronomist at the West Central School of Agriculture and the Experiment Station from 1918 until his retirement in 1956. Professor Bridgford taught classes in crops, soils, and plant diseases and had charge of all crop research. He was known not only throughout Minnesota, but also throughout the Upper Midwest for his experimental and research work with crops. The program supports a summer research and internship experience for one or more students who are interested in expanding their knowledge and experience in relation to agriculture, food, and crop production at UMN Morris.

Joey Beck '26

CHEMISTRY UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AWARD

The Chemistry Undergraduate Research Fund (CURF) provides support for students who are majoring in chemistry/biochemistry and have an interest in carrying out research in chemistry/biochemistry of a closely related field. The awardees have demonstrated outstanding aptitude for research in the chemistry discipline's Introduction to Research course and the potential for continued success.

Adrienne Kanihan '24

CHI ALPHA SIGMA

Chi Alpha Sigma, the National College Athlete Honor Society, recognizes high academic achievements of student athletes at the collegiate level. Student athletes who contribute significantly to at least one intercollegiate sport while maintaining a 3.4 or higher cumulative GPA throughout their junior and senior years are eligible for membership in Chi Alpha Sigma. The University of Minnesota Morris chapter, established in 2006, is the only chapter in Minnesota.

Malory Anderson '24	Zachary John Froman '23	Lydia Nash '24
Miriam Anderson '24	Carver Hammond '24	Marshall O'Meara '24
Megan Marie Arens '23	Alexander Happ '24	Brady W. Raph '23
Anna Baumman '24	Chloe Haven '24	Kiley Rodarmel '24
Evan Michael Benson '23	Noah Kannegiesser '23	Tyler Anton Scheler '23
Sarah Renee Best '23	Jarrett Kujava '23	Kassidy Seidow '24
Abigail Joan Burquest '23	Koleman Lind '24	Grant Strukel '24
Justin Day '24	Amelia Rowe Kamman Lund '23	Brian Joseph Vanyo '23
Christian Diederich '24	Brenna Rose Mahoney '23	
Sydney Eckhoff '24	Caden Cale McNabb '23	

DAVID MINGE INTERNSHIP AWARD

The Minge Internship Award supports students seeking Washington, DC, internships, educational opportunities that former Congressman David Minge values as important and insightful components in learning about public policy process at the federal level. Preference is given to internship participants who integrate the study of peace, justice, conservation, the environment, rural affairs, or similar issues.

Muthu Meenakshisundaram '26

DIK MUNSON ART AWARD

Presented to outstanding first- and second-year studio art students demonstrating creative potential in future discipline coursework. This award is intended for purchase of materials and supplies for the recipient's artwork and experimentation with new media.

Sierra Kallio '26

Jacob Tripp '26

GIESKE INTERNSHIP AWARD

The Gieske Internship Award honors the memory of Millard Gieske, University of Minnesota Morris professor of political science. The award supports political science students who pursue legislative internships in Washington, DC, or the Minnesota state capitol.

Bethanie Belisle '24

JOHN BRIAN BECKER '97 MEMORIAL STUDENT ACTIVIST AWARD

Established by friends of the late John Becker '97, this award is meant to honor and to thank a student identified as being a progressive-thinking individual whose activism has made an impact on campus or beyond by raising public awareness and promoting social change. John majored in English and theatre arts while at UMN Morris and was actively involved in the Student DFL, KUMM, and Women's Resource Center.

Kara Joan Black '23

MATTHEW IAN HELGESEN MEMORIAL AWARD

Established by Tim and Jean Helgesen in memory of their son, Matthew '06, this award is given to the captain of the Bad Movie Club. Matt was one of the first students to start the club during his freshman year at UMN Morris. The award honors the values of UMN Morris and reflects student initiative in creativity in leadership and serves to encourage the captain to keep the club going by doing "all the extras that always need to be done."

Gray Kruse '24

MINNESOTA CAMPUS COMPACT STUDENT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AWARD

The Minnesota Campus Compact Award recognizes students who have contributed meaningfully to university-community partnerships.

Samantha Clear '25

MORRIS ACADEMIC PARTNER (MAP) PROGRAM

In recognition of the value of academic employment to the intellectual development of students, and for the opportunity to assist faculty members in their work, this program awards stipends to academically talented students. These students undertake assignments that enhance their intellectual competence and increase their interest in graduate or professional study. Students were paired with faculty as indicated below:

Joshua James Eklund '23	Ezekiel Y Krug '23	Emma Seurer '23
Alayna Fjelstad '24	Zerui (Harry) Lyu '23	Rosa Siquina '24
Lydia Hurst '24	Malena Mahoney '26	Morgan Tyykila '24
Sam Jordan '23	Marshall O'Meara '24	Ava Weber '25
Olivia Jesse Kingston '23	Elizabeth Richards '24	Yifei Yu '24
Joel M Knopp '23	Kiley Rodarmel '24	Natasha Alexis Zebrev '22

OWEN W. AND FRANCES A. TATE MEMORIAL AWARD FOR STUDENT LEARNING

Established by the Tate family to honor the memories of Owen and Frances Tate, lifelong residents of Big Stone County, and to support student learning activities that do not have other funding sources available, the award provides matching dollars to cover travel expenses for students presenting scholarly work at symposia and professional meetings, engaging in artistic activities, conducting research projects, or performing outside of the campus community, all of which are activities that showcase the University of Minnesota Morris to a broader learning community.

Henry Walto Hubred '23

Shelby Orell Maloney '23

Gillian Leigh Orth '23

PI DELTA PHI

Students who are eligible for Pi Delta Phi, the French National Honor Society, have taken at least one advanced course in French, maintain at least a 3.3 GPA in French courses and overall, and rank in the top 35% of their class.

Elizabeth Davis '25

Mason Eischens '24

Olivia Jesse Kingston '23

PI SIGMA ALPHA

Founded in 2010, UMN Morris's Alpha Zeta Eta chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the first in the University of Minnesota System, is a national political science honor society. Its goal is to stimulate scholarship and intelligent interest in political science. The Morris chapter aims to encourage development and dissemination of independent research; initiate and participate in community and service activities; and expose members and the University community to the study of government and issues of public concern. Members are juniors or seniors who have completed at least 10 semester credits in political science, including at least one upper division course, and earned an average grade of B or higher in those courses. Overall, members have achieved a GPA of 3.4 or higher.

Henry Walto Hubred '23

Ryan M Rysdahl '23

Shelby Orell Maloney '23

Dylan Joseph Sage Young '23

Caden Cale McNabb '23

RICK JAUERT '78 MEMORIAL AWARD

The Rick Jauert Memorial Award honors the memory of Rick Jauert '78. Originally from Luverne, Rick spent his entire 36-year career working for members of Congress, including seven from Minnesota, two from New York, and one from California, in various capacities including chief of staff and press secretary. The award supports students seeking Washington, DC, internships. Rick was committed to public service, to Minnesota, and to progressive-thinking politics, and the award will be given to a student who shares these attributes.

Bethanie Belisle '24

SCHNEIDER NATIONAL AWARD

Presented to an economics or management student who has demonstrated academic excellence, outstanding research abilities, and success in industry-oriented studies, the award is funded by Schneider National, Incorporated.

Monica Janelle Calderon '23

SIGMA DELTA PI

Sigma Delta Pi National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society members are junior or seniors with a minimum 3.0 GPA who have completed at least three years of college-level Spanish, including at least three semester hours in Hispanic literature or culture and civilization. Active members of UMN Morris's Omega Omicron chapter, founded in the spring of 2013, participate in at least 10 hours of community service activities per semester, including the Bilingual Literacy Project carried out in conjunction with the Morris Public Library.

Madison Carrington '24

Kiley Rodarmel '24

Grace Meierhofer '25

Riley Tollefsrud '25

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM

This competitive program supports student research, scholarly, or creative projects undertaken in partnership with a faculty or staff member. Students develop and discuss an idea with a mentor, write a proposal, complete the work, and present the project to a wide audience.

Spring 2023

Arianna Cheyenne Gregg '23

Henry Walto Hubred '23

Zoe Kramin '23

Richard Lussier '23

Gregory Peterson '24

Gavin Zempel '24

Fall 2022

Sanjana Kidambi '24

Stewart T Lindstrom '23

Ella Christine VanKempen '23

WAWOKIYA AWARD FOR SERVICE

The Wawokiya (Lakota for “one who helps”) Award is awarded annually to outstanding senior psychology majors. Recipients have strong records of accomplishment at UMN Morris and sincere interest in helping others.

Megan Kay Saboo '23

Abigail E Thompson '23

2023 SCHOLAR OF THE COLLEGE BIOGRAPHIES

Jessica Marie Beaudoin

Jessica Marie Beaudoin '23, chemistry: biochemistry, engaged in undergraduate research with Bryan Nell to investigate the use of indigenous plants of Minnesota to isolate, purify, and investigate the influence of the active compounds on cellular function. They presented their findings at the 2022 American Chemical Society National Conference. Other work done by Beaudoin has included beginning a student-led demonstration of chemistry topics to general chemistry students and research with Danielle Bolland. They also obtained a spot in a prestigious Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities, where they presented their research at the 2022 Summer Undergraduate Research Expo. This work, under Boya Xiong, was focused on developing antimicrobial nanocrystalline cellulose filters to help remove pathogens from drinking water. Beaudoin has also been part of the swimming and diving team at UMN Morris and was elected captain for the 2022–23 season.

Bethanie Belisle

Bethanie Belisle '24, political science, art history, and medieval and ancient studies, worked with Assistant Professor Tim Lindberg as a McNair summer scholar in 2022 on a project on Confederate monuments in the wake of recent racial justice protests. This project was presented at the 2023 Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) conference in Chicago, Illinois, with the title “Erasing or Creating History: The Causes of Confederate Statue Removal.” It was also presented at the 2023 National Conference for McNair Scholars and Undergraduate Research. Belisle’s research has also reflected her interest in art. She served as a social media leader on campus for the past two years, worked as an intern in the Medici Archive Project in 2022, and as a Morris Student Administrative Fellow (MSAF) in 2021–22, where she worked on photography of the art work in the Humanities and Science buildings on campus.

Briana Dokken

Briana Dokken '24, physics, completed a research project at a National Science Foundation-funded Research Experience for Undergraduate Students at the department for physics and astronomy at the University of Toledo. She annealed and analyzed a

particular type of thin-film solar cells to improve their efficiency. While her experimental project was concluded by the end of the summer, she maintained contact with her advisers Rijal, Song, and Yan at the University of Toledo. She presented her work at the Conference for Undergraduate Women in Physics in Iowa City in January 2023.

Joshua James Eklund

Joshua James Eklund '23, computer science and statistics, worked with Associate Professor of Computer Science K.K. Lamberty on educational technology to support the story creation activities of emergent readers. In this work, he contributed to the development of software for children to be able to write stories and for adults to manage lists of words to make available to the children or view learner data. Eklund is a co-author on a publication about this work, “Story Builder: Emergent Readers’ Story Creation and Text Exploration with Computational Manipulatives,” that has been submitted to Interaction Design and Children (IDC) 2023, an international conference to be held in Evanston, Illinois in June 2023.

Jaeger Gerold

Jaeger Gerold '23, chemistry and biology, conducted research on the synthesis of unsymmetrical bidentate phosphine oxides, which was funded by the alumni-supported Chemistry Undergraduate Research Fund (CURF). This air sensitive reaction was done in a glove box under nitrogen and characterized via Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR). This research was supervised by Bryan Nell and was presented at the American Chemical Society National meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana. Gerold is also a standout student athlete as a member of the University of Minnesota Morris football team and has made the dean’s list several times.

Ben Giese

Ben Giese '24, chemistry and secondary education, worked with Kara Nell investigating advances in carbon dioxide adsorption through amino-functionalized silica. He presented his findings at the 2022 American Chemical Society (ACS) National Conference. He has also worked with Bryan Nell to investigate the separation of enantiomers. Giese’s

research conducted with Sarah McFall-Boegeman was presented at the 2023 ACS National Conference, where he shared his findings on the increased corrosion resistance of sealed sulfuric acid anodized aluminum alloys. Giese served as the Chemistry Club treasurer from 2019–23 and president from 2022–23. Giese has been lead trumpet in the Jazz Ensemble/Big Band since 2019. He served on the Jazz Council, has helped organize Jazz Fest since 2019, and created the Fat Tuesday Celebration of Noise concert in 2023. Giese not only was involved on campus, but he also organized free movies at the Morris Movie Theatre for the community for Halloween and Christmas.

Henry Walto Hubred

Henry Walto Hubred '23, political science, presented his work “Internet Political Content Creators and the Use of Polarizing Language” at the 2023 Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Conference in Chicago, Illinois. This work comes from an Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP) he completed with Associate Professor Roger Rose. Hubred also served as a student researcher assisting Assistant Professor Tim Lindberg with recruitment for a rural political behavior survey at two county fairs during the summer of 2022. In addition, Hubred was a teaching assistant for Rose in his American government course.

Audrey Le Meur

Audrey Le Meur '22, computer science, worked with Associate Professor of Computer Science K.K. Lamberty on educational materials for a project funded by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR). In this work, she contributed to the development and study of an augmented reality participatory simulation that allows for either in-person or remote learning for children to help them understand more about native bees and flowers in west central Minnesota. Le Meur is a co-author on a publication about this work, “Pandemic Pivot: Designing a Participatory Simulation to Support Social Distancing and Remote Learning,” that was presented at Interaction Design and Children (IDC) 2021, an international conference, which was held virtually in 2021.

Richard Lussier

Richard Lussier '23, computer science, worked for two years (2021–23) on a research project in the field of evolutionary computation, resulting in the paper “The Impact of Step Limits on Generalization & Stability in PushGP,” co-authored with his faculty adviser Nic McPhee. This paper was submitted to the Genetic and Evolutionary Computation Conference (GECCO), a premier international conference in the field. Lussier’s work examines the impact of step limits, a common tool used in the evolution of computer programs to handle the common problem of evolution leading to programs with infinite loops. While this has been a typical practice for decades, no one has ever explored the impact of these limits. This research has shown that these limits have substantial and complex implications for the evolutionary process and results, and will almost certainly affect the way that future research in the field is done.

Shelby Orell Maloney

Shelby Orell Maloney '23, political science and economics, has completed several research projects. Her final project in POL 3251: American Democracy in Action was accepted for presentation at the 2023 Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Conference in Chicago, Illinois. The project, titled “Abortion Position and Party ID: Are Beliefs Divided Symmetrically or Asymmetrically Across Religion and Ideology?,” examines the question whether abortion attitudes are driven by religious views or ideology within each major political party in the United States. Maloney also worked, in 2020–21, with Professor Bart Finzel on a Morris Academic Partnership where she gathered data to create a map of all of the cooperatives in Minnesota. She is currently a Campus Assembly representative sitting on Steering Committee for the Morris Campus Student Association, the president of Pi Sigma Alpha/Political Science Club, and has been captain of the UMN Morris women’s golf team for two years.

Emily Miller

Emily Miller '23, chemistry (biology and Spanish minors), worked with Bryan Nell, where she focused on the synthesis of unsymmetrical bidentate phosphine oxides to be used as ligands to produce chiral-at-metal complexes for use in future asymmetric catalysis. This research was presented at the American Chemical Society National Conference

in 2023. She has also conducted undergraduate research with Sarah McFall-Boegeman to determine an electrochemical detection method for metals and pesticides in our natural waterways and drinking water. She presented this work at the 2023 Undergraduate Research Symposium in Morris. Miller served as a teaching assistant and student laboratory prep person for the general chemistry and analytical laboratory courses, respectively. Miller continued to support her classmates by serving as the 2023 student representative to the chemistry discipline and was a member of the ACS Student Affiliates (Chemistry Club) on campus.

Trinity Milne

Trinity Milne '24, chemistry, is a McNair Scholar who conducted research on unsymmetrical bidentate phosphine oxides which are reduced and used as ligands to produce chiral-at-metal complexes. This work was funded by the alumni-supported Chemistry Undergraduate Research Fund (CURF). This air sensitive reaction was done in a glove box under nitrogen and characterized via nuclear magnetic resonance. This research was supervised by Bryan Nell and was presented at the American Chemical Society National meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana. Milne has made the dean's list several times. She has also played baritone saxophone in one of the jazz ensembles and participated as the student representative on multiple faculty search committees.

Erik Rauer

Erik Rauer '23, mathematics and computer science, completed several undergraduate research projects in mathematics and computer science with Peh Ng and Nic McPhee as faculty collaborators. He has also completed a summer research project supported by the national Collaborative Mathematical Research Program for Undergraduates. Rauer has presented results of his research at several conferences, including his most recent work on "Small Ramsey Numbers using Gluing Methods," at the American Mathematical Society Joint Meeting in Boston in January 2023. Rauer has also given two presentations, "Pseudo Euler Tours and Trails in a 3-Directed Hypergraph" and "Generating Training Cases for Evolutionary Computation Using QuickCheck," at the UMN Morris Undergraduate Research Symposiums in 2021 and 2022, respectively. He has also co-presented with Nic McPhee at the Genetic Programming Theory

and Practice XVIII virtual conference in 2021 on their project "Dynamically Generating GP Training Cases Using QuickCheck."

Melanie Rittenhouse

Melanie Rittenhouse '24, mathematics and physics, has worked on the simulation of optical effects in clouds on Mars since her freshmen year. She focused on carbon dioxide particles as well as water ice particles in the Martian atmosphere, which would scatter light into halo effects captured by the cameras of one of the Mars rovers. Rittenhouse worked on this project with her mentor Sylke Boyd throughout, mostly working over Zoom. She developed crystal files for carbon dioxide to use in the HaloSim model and a system of feature classifications for the data analysis. This project culminated in her poster presentation at a national conference, as well as at the UMN Morris Undergraduate Research Symposium. Since fall 2022, Rittenhouse has been working with Steven Collazos on a new project in computational neuroscience.

Dean Lee Schmit

Dean Lee Schmit '23, gender, women, and sexuality studies and history, presented research on the 1980s farm crisis at UMN Morris's Undergraduate Research Symposium in 2022. While scholars have examined the farm crisis using the tools of social history, Schmit used gender analysis to argue that men and women experienced farm closures in much different ways: women turned toward religion far more often than men, and men emphasized the suppression of emotion far more than women. Bringing together interviews, newspaper articles, scholarly writing on the farm crisis, and their own family's history, Schmit argued that these gendered patterns of behavior could be found across the political spectrum in both left-wing and right-wing responses to farm closures. Additionally, at the 2023 Undergraduate Research Symposium in Morris, Schmit presented their research on how Paul Bunyan stories uphold specific ideas about gender and ethnicity.

Emma Seurer

Emma Seurer '23, chemistry: biochemistry, participated in research with Alyssa Pirinelli-Deslauriers on coupling carbohydrates with aromatic alcohols and presented this research at the Undergraduate Research Symposium at UMN Morris. The research was supported by ItR in spring 2022

and by a Morris Academic Partnership in fall 2022 and spring 2023. She also participated in research at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities during the summer of 2022 and presented a poster titled “Evaluation of the Sight OLO hematology analyzer for point-of-care testing in nonhuman primates” at the University of Minnesota Department of Surgery Research Symposium in October 2022.

Ruby Rosella Wittmayer

Ruby Rosella Wittmayer '23, theatre arts, was actively involved in theatre. Her regional work includes assistant costumer and stage manager for *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Morningside University in Iowa, lead costume designer for *Hamlette: The Conscience of a Queen*, and designer for Siouxland Christian Schools *Newsies*. As a student at UMN Morris, Wittmayer was a costume designer for *Charlotte's Web*. This show demanded a blending of contemporary costumes with fantastical animals. The additional challenge Wittmayer faced in the design process was that the director's concept was to design using clothes from our current costume stock. She also designed *Hunting and Gathering; Alone, Together* and *The Seed*; and *Romeo and Juliet* for the theatre arts discipline and *If It Don't Hurt, It Ain't Love; Almost Maine*; and *Sure Thing* for UMN Morris's student-run theatre organization. *Alone, Together* was one of twelve shows in our region invited to the first-ever virtual American College Theatre Region Five Conference.

Natasha Alexis Zebrev

Natasha Alexis Zebrev '22, computer science, worked with Associate Professor of Computer Science K.K. Lamberty on educational technology to support the story creation activities of emergent readers. In this work, she contributed to the development of software for children to be able to write stories and for adults to manage lists of words to make available to the children or view learner data. Zebrev is a co-author on a publication about this work, “Story Builder: Emergent Readers' Story Creation and Text Exploration with Computational Manipulatives,” that has been submitted to Interaction Design and Children (IDC) 2023, an international conference to be held in Evanston, Illinois, in June 2023.

Bryan J Zepeda

Bryan J Zepeda '23, chemistry: biochemistry, worked with Alyssa Pirinelli-Deslauriers during the 2022–23 academic year on research isolating medicinal compounds from local plants. The project was funded through the Chemistry Undergraduate Research Fund (CURF). He has also participated in research at the University of Colorado, studying zebrafish development. He gave a presentation at the end of his internship and presented his senior seminar on this research, entitled “Roles of Mmp17b and Filopodia on Neural Crest Cell Migration.” He is also a four-year member of the UMN Morris track and field team as a thrower and is part of the TRIO program at UMN Morris.



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