

Commencement

December 2024



BETHEL
UNIVERSITY



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

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

Friday, December 20, 2024

5 p.m. | Benson Great Hall

Presiding

Ross Allen, B.A., President

PROCESSIONAL

“March No. 1” from *Pomp and Circumstance Marches*, Edward Elgar

Cindy Reents, B.A., Organist

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

Nikki L. Weber Daniels, M.A., Associate Professor of Organizational Leadership Emerita

GRADUATE REFLECTIONS

Elijah Hess, Class of 2024, College of Arts and Sciences

Rashane Bryant, Class of 2024, College of Adult & Professional Studies

Patrick Mengelkoch, Class of 2024, 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

Joel Fredrickson, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology

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

Tracy Reimer, Ph.D., Professor of Education; Program Director for Doctor of Education Leadership in K-12 Administration

Nicholas Zeimet, M.S.W., Assistant Professor of Social Work; Director of Field Education

BENEDICTION

Scott Winter, Ph.D., Professor of Journalism

RECESSIONAL

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

Cindy Reents

Please remain at your seats until after the recessional.

The ewer and laver—in common vernacular, the pitcher and basin—are the academic symbols that lead Bethel University’s formal processions to represent the university’s commitment to cultivating selfless service, humility, and sacrificial love as stated in John 13:14 (NIV): “Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet.”

Our laver and ewer bearers are:
Peg McCormick, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Special Education | Ewer
Catherine Wright, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biblical and Theological Studies | Laver

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

Our marshals are:
Anna Fischer, Class of 2026
David Vieceli, Class of 2025

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.

Members of the National Association of Social Workers of Minnesota, a global organization that advocates for social workers, wear teal cords.

Graduates in Bethel’s Pietas Honors Program wear a medallion on a blue ribbon.

Members of The 25, a leadership cohort, wear white and gold cords

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 Act Six, an academic society committed to servant leadership on campus and throughout the Twin Cities, wear golden medallions.

Members of Lambda Pi Eta, a communication honor society, wear crimson and silver cords.

Members of Phi Alpha, a social work honor society, wear blue and gold 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 until 6:30 p.m..

If you need assistance, please ask event staff.

Candidates for Graduation

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

ASSOCIATE OF ARTS

Eli Michael McCoy
A.A. Associate of Arts

APPLIED HEALTH SCIENCES

Jacob Andre Bernards
B.S. Biokinetics

Isaac Michael Call
B.S. Biokinetics
cum laude

Christopher Marcus Chapin
B.S. Rehabilitation and
Movement Science
magna cum laude

Isaac Michael Kaucki
B.S. Human Bioenergetics

Jamie Marie Alejandra Meier
B.S. Exercise Science

Rebekah Rose Robinson
B.S. Biokinetics
summa cum laude

Gabe Donald Siler
B.S. Biokinetics
summa cum laude

ART AND DESIGN

David Philip Kolonight
B.A. Art

Katherine Jean Elizabeth Storlie
B.A. Graphic Design
Honors Program

BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

Levi Harley Case
B.A. Biblical and Theological Studies

Elias Daniel Friese
B.A. Missional Ministries

Primeau Vaughn Hill
B.A. Missional Ministries

Madilyn Mae Kurth-Meeker
B.A. Missional Ministries
summa cum laude

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Alex Thomas Domeyer
B.S. Biology
magna cum laude

Kate-Elizabeth Nettie Green
B.S. Biology
summa cum laude

Elijah Harley Hess
B.S. Biology
summa cum laude

Serena Danielle Hodge
B.A. Biology

Brookelyn Kay Huisenga
B.S. Biology

Emma June Moen
B.A. Biology
cum laude

Katrina Marie Olson
B.S. Biology
summa cum laude
Honors Program

Hunter Austyn Pratt
B.S. Biology

Renee Ahna Virtue
B.S. Biology
summa cum laude

BUSINESS

Alia Carolyn Anderson
B.A. Business
Spanish
magna cum laude

Bethany Emebet Brocker
B.A. Business

Grace Elizabeth Collins
B.A. Business
cum laude

Kendal Lynn Cox
B.A. Business
magna cum laude

Ethan Michael Dillner
B.A. Business
cum laude

Jack Steven Drobinski
B.A. Business
magna cum laude

Drew J. Dunnwald
B.A. Business

Brock Kranz Gratz
B.A. Business

Christopher Gordon Hall
B.A. Business

Daniel Joseph Herzog
B.A. Business

Jacob Charles Holmen
B.A. Business
magna cum laude

Lauren Paige Houn
B.A. Business

Lauren Mary Johnson
B.A. Business

Arina Lazareva
B.S. Accounting and Finance
summa cum laude

Jedrek Paul Marchiniak
B.A. Business

Carson Daniel McCalvy
B.A. Business

Micah John Niewald
B.A. Business
cum laude

Gael Ramirez
B.A. Business

Sydney Marie Shull
B.A. Business
cum laude

Matthew Edward Spelbring
B.A. Business

Ellyse Grace Tyberg
B.A. Business
magna cum laude

Olivia Kaylee Williams
B.A. Business
summa cum laude

CHEMISTRY

Elayna Marie Kawlewski
B.S. Biochemistry and
Molecular Biology
cum laude

Erin Colleen O'Neal
B.S. Biochemistry and
Molecular Biology

COMMUNICATION STUDIES

Erik Paul Brecheisen
B.A. Organizational Communication
Communication Studies

Aglaya Lubov Hovey
B.A. Media Production

EDUCATION

Lily Rose Canfield
B.A. Elementary Education,
Grades K-6

Hanna Beth Elliott
B.A. Special Education

Jonah Philip Elliott
B.A. Elementary Education,
Grades K-6
summa cum laude

Karin Hannah Golay
B.A. Elementary Education,
Grades K-6

Sarah Estelle Green
B.A. Elementary Education,
Grades K-6
cum laude

Jolene Rae Huonder
B.A. Elementary Education,
Grades K-6

Alexandria Colleen Jensen
B.A. Elementary Education,
Grades K-6

Louden Charles Johnson-Rusco
B.A. Elementary Education,
Grades K-6

Kaia Grace Kennedy
B.A. Elementary Education,
Grades K-6
magna cum laude

Megan Joy Nelson
B.A. Elementary Education,
Grades K-6
and Teaching English as a Second
Language, Grades K-12
summa cum laude

Sophia Marie Pixley
B.A. Elementary Education,
Grades K-6
summa cum laude

Hannah Nicole Weber
B.A. Elementary Education,
Grades K-6

Brandt Caleb Botterill
B.A. Communication Arts and
Literacy Education, Grades 5-12

ENGLISH AND JOURNALISM

Molly Kay McFadden
B.A. English
summa cum laude

Sebastian Isaiah Studier
B.A. Communication Arts and
Literacy Education, Grades 5-12
summa cum laude

HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

Anna Michelle Olson
B.A. Business and Political Science
summa cum laude
Honors Program

Aireia Clarita Parker
B.A. Political Science
Psychology

Cael Solomon Sams
B.A. Business and Political Science

Sydney Kae Tiffany
B.A. Political Science
History
summa cum laude

Ian Estel Young
B.A. Political Science
magna cum laude

LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

Reid Anderson Stauffer
B.A. Spanish
magna cum laude

MATH AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

Matthew John Gravermoen
B.S. Computer Science

Zachary William Owen
B.A. Mathematics

John Edward Stromberg
B.S. Computer Science
summa cum laude

PHYSICS AND ENGINEERING

Kolin John Baier
B.S. Mechanical Engineering
B.A. Physics
cum laude

PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Katherine Sophia Broersma
B.A. Psychology
magna cum laude

Emmaree Elvera May Lauritsen
B.A. Psychology

Alyssa Kjirstina Malyon
B.A. Psychology
cum laude

Audrey Marie Mulcahy
B.A. Psychology

Jasmyn Melissa Sibell
B.A. Psychology

PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY HEALTH

Jill Ellen Erickson
B.A. Community Health
summa cum laude

Annie Elizabeth Fenner
B.A. Community Health

Chri Moo
B.A. Community Health

College of Adult & Professional Studies Associate's and Bachelor's Degrees

ASSOCIATE'S DEGREES

Jeremy Cain
in absentia
A.S. Business and Leadership

Krystin Marilyn Adamson
in absentia
A.A. Social Work

CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

Ka Yang
B.A. Christian Ministries
with honors

HUMAN SERVICES

Johnathon Bergwick
in absentia
B.A. Human Services

Marissa Marie Johnson
in absentia
B.A. Human Services

ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Rashane D. Bryant
B.A. Organizational Leadership

Anthony Lund
B.A. Organizational Leadership

Vivian Devone Mite
B.A. Organizational Leadership
with honors

PSYCHOLOGY

Milca Monserrat Dominguez del Rey
in absentia
B.A. Psychology

Shameka M. Lowe
B.A. Psychology

Coral Joy Wymer
B.A. Psychology

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

Rebecca Goolsby
B.S. Business Management
with honors

Meng Herr
B.S. Business Management

Ryan Kampfer
in absentia
B.S. Business Management
with honors

NURSING

Emily Grace Anderson
in absentia
B.S.N. Nursing
with honors

Melissa Anderson
in absentia
B.S.N. RN to B.S.N. Nursing
with honors

Elliot Isaac Bach
in absentia
B.S.N. Nursing

Bridget Leslie Barnett
in absentia
B.S.N. Nursing

Kulle Eskandar Basha
in absentia
B.S.N. Nursing

Emma Rose Berg
in absentia
B.S.N. Nursing

Lauren Tressa Berns
in absentia
B.S.N. Nursing
with honors

Abigail Marica Goetzman
in absentia
B.S.N. Nursing

Sydney Gordon
in absentia
B.S.N. Nursing
with honors

Breann Elizabeth Gritz
in absentia
B.S.N. Nursing

Rachel LeeAnn Highley
in absentia
B.S.N. Nursing

Makenzie Swan Huppert
in absentia
B.S.N. Nursing

Nichole Therese Johnson
in absentia
B.S.N. Nursing
with honors

Hanan Ali Karia
in absentia
B.S.N. Nursing

Julia Faith Ketola
in absentia
B.S.N. Nursing

Eunsun Kim
in absentia
B.S.N. Nursing

Grace Soohyun Kim
in absentia
B.S.N. Nursing

Zamzam Jama Kite
in absentia
B.S.N. Nursing

Jordyn Lynn McAlpine
in absentia
B.S.N. Nursing
with honors

Keegan Michael Mellema
in absentia
B.S.N. Nursing

Philip Norris
in absentia
B.S.N. Nursing

Debrah Nyamokami Orengue
B.S.N. RN to B.S.N. Nursing

Grace Palmitessa
in absentia
B.S.N. Nursing

Deqa Dalmar Said
in absentia
B.S.N. Nursing

Julia Rae Tanzer
in absentia
B.S.N. Nursing
with honors

Kaylie Marie Toleno
in absentia
B.S.N. Nursing

Djalna Hamissa Twaha
in absentia
B.S.N. Nursing

Tangerine Vang
in absentia
B.S.N. Nursing

Tonia Camille Watne
in absentia
B.S.N. Nursing
with honors

Catalina P. Xiong
in absentia
B.S.N. Nursing

Grace Kashia Yang
in absentia
B.S.N. Nursing

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Anthony James Knott
B.A. Special Education

Sheila Diane Shambley
in absentia
B.A. Special Education

SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDIES

Faith Ann Boone
B.A. Special Education Studies
with honors

Graduate School Master's Degrees

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Vidal Baez Fortunato
MBA Business Administration

Aimee Michele Bush
MBA Business Administration

Hsin Yu Chang
in absentia
MBA Business Administration

Jason Dickinson
MBA Business Administration

Samuel Perez Driz
in absentia
MBA Business Administration

Katherine Dunham
MBA Business Administration

Matthew Flynn
MBA Business Administration

Hannah Marie Fox
MBA Business Administration

Holly Maria Haugen
MBA Business Administration

Melissa DeJesus Hernandez
in absentia
MBA Business Administration

Dustie J. Hoff
in absentia
MBA Business Administration

Grant E. Johnson
in absentia
MBA Business Administration

Nicolas Lysdahl
in absentia
MBA Business Administration

Amanda McCulloch
MBA Business Administration

Ryan Austin McKimens
MBA Business Administration

Matthew Eklof Pearson
MBA Business Administration

Steven Bryant Van Meter
in absentia
MBA Business Administration

Kristen Kay Vigoren
MBA Business Administration

Kara Marie Wielinski
MBA Business Administration

EDUCATION

Amanda Basara
M.A. Education K-12

Kacie Marie Coe
in absentia
M.A. Education K-12

Nicole Suzanne Eldred
M.A. Education K-12

Teresa Faith Depuydt
M.A. Education K-12

Chelsey Grace Ferguson
in absentia
M.A. Education K-12

Lauren Marie Hughes
in absentia
M.A. Education K-12

Amanda Nicolette Koop
M.A. Education K-12

Nicole Mancuso
in absentia
M.A. Education K-12

Madisen Paulseth
M.A. Education K-12

Elizabeth Kathryn Steinbock
in absentia
M.A. Education K-12

Xiaojing Zhou
in absentia
M.A. Education K-12

MEDICAL SCIENCES

Nasteha Hassan Abdi
in absentia
M.S. Medical Sciences

Victoria M. Barger
M.S. Medical Sciences

Taryn Quinn Christensen
M.S. Medical Sciences

Luis Adolfo Dubon Gonzalez
M.S. Medical Sciences

Chingla Xiong
M.S. Medical Sciences

PHYSICIANS ASSISTANT

Rachel Elizabeth Barta
in absentia
M.S. Physician Assistant

Marshall Owen Breneman
in absentia
M.S. Physician Assistant

Kyndal Elaine Brening
in absentia
M.S. Physician Assistant

Damien Michael Cruz
in absentia
M.S. Physician Assistant

Matthew Michael Donovan
in absentia
M.S. Physician Assistant

Margaret Delores Enebak
in absentia
M.S. Physician Assistant

Devon Michael Fisher
in absentia
M.S. Physician Assistant

Jillian Marie Frantz
in absentia
M.S. Physician Assistant

Alexandra Leslie Gebhardt
in absentia
M.S. Physician Assistant

Ashlyn Kay Gilbertson
in absentia
M.S. Physician Assistant

Sidney Victoria Gordon
in absentia
M.S. Physician Assistant

Chase A. Hemme
in absentia
M.S. Physician Assistant

John Thomas Henke
in absentia
M.S. Physician Assistant

Allison Israel
in absentia
M.S. Physician Assistant

Halley Elizabeth Jones
in absentia
M.S. Physician Assistant

Elizabeth Marie Kelzer
in absentia
M.S. Physician Assistant

Anna Mae Mackenthun
in absentia
M.S. Physician Assistant

Ivana Marchenko
in absentia
M.S. Physician Assistant

Shannon Christine McKnight
in absentia
M.S. Physician Assistant

Elizabeth Ann Olson
in absentia
M.S. Physician Assistant

Rachel Ann Paryzek
in absentia
M.S. Physician Assistant

Jonathan Samuel Patterson
in absentia
M.S. Physician Assistant

Taylor Paulsen
in absentia
M.S. Physician Assistant

Emma Jayne Reiss
in absentia
M.S. Physician Assistant

Nolan Benjamin Rohrer
in absentia
M.S. Physician Assistant

Rachel Elizabeth Louisa Rolf
in absentia
M.S. Physician Assistant

Zachary James Sagstetter
in absentia
M.S. Physician Assistant

Alicia Isabel Shamdas
in absentia
M.S. Physician Assistant

Hannah Rose Tima
in absentia
M.S. Physician Assistant

Nkiru Amailo Umekwe
in absentia
M.S. Physician Assistant

Graham Tyler Virtue
in absentia
M.S. Physician Assistant

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Edward John Barron
in absentia
M.A. Special Education

Danielle Nicole Boisvert
M.A. Special Education

Molly Kathleen Boss
in absentia
M.A. Special Education

Lisa Cantwell
in absentia
M.A. Special Education

Angela Rose Cope
M.A. Special Education

Harland Blake Field Eichmann
in absentia
M.A. Special Education

Mackinzee Ann Hayes
in absentia
M.A. Special Education

Jennifer Lynn Case Johnson
M.A. Special Education

Susan Michelle Lehman
M.A. Special Education

Philip McBride
M.A. Special Education

Katherine McGill
M.A. Special Education

Shelley Elizabeth Moses
M.A. Special Education

Christopher Lane Pomeroy
in absentia
M.A. Special Education

Megan Marie Rinerson
M.A. Special Education

Karen Latifa Rowan
in absentia
M.A. Special Education

Amanda Jo Sanz
in absentia
M.A. Special Education

Charlotte Simmons
M.A. Special Education

Channing Jerome Smith
in absentia
M.A. Special Education

Simonne Starr
M.A. Special Education

STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP

Amy Michelle Goossen
in absentia
M.A. Strategic Leadership

Jared Mondlock
M.A. Strategic Leadership

Albert Lee Smith
M.A. Strategic Leadership

Clinton Thomas Young
M.A. Strategic Leadership

TEACHING

Jacob A. Anderson
in absentia
M.A. Teaching

Erin Ann Burch
in absentia
M.A. Teaching

Ashley Elizabeth Grittner
M.A. Teaching

Jack Kevin Hageman
in absentia
M.A. Teaching

Sophie Anne Koloski
M.A. Teaching

Patrick Charles Mengelkoch
M.A. Teaching

Ryan Joseph Oden
M.A. Teaching

Chad Michael Schlosser
M.A. Teaching

Carlyn Amy Shanley
M.A. Teaching

Luke John Starr
M.A. Teaching

Graduate School Doctoral Degrees

DOCTOR OF EDUCATION

Anthony Carroll Alberts
Ed.D. Leadership in K-12
Administration
Dissertation: *The Association
Between Organizational Factors and
Teachers' Burnout and Attrition*
B.A., University of Northwestern
M.A., Bethel University

Erica Michelle Boettcher
Ed.D. Leadership in Higher
Education
Dissertation: *Investigating the
Relationship Between Emotional
Intelligence and Burnout Among
Special Education Teachers in Iowa*
B.A., Buena Vista University
M.A., Morningside University

Tamara Dobbins
Ed.D. Leadership in K-12
Administration
Dissertation: *The Impact of a Label:
The Relationship Between
Perception of Care and Outlook of
Future Aspirations as Influences of
Identity for Students Who Receive
Special Education Services*
B.S., St. Catherine University
M.A., St. Mary's University
Minnesota

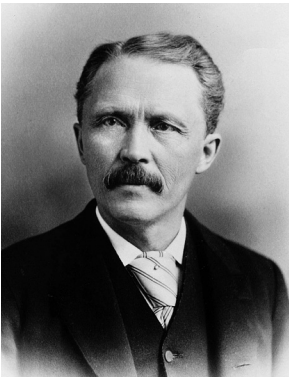
Dominique Isa Dynes
Ed.D. Leadership in K-12
Administration
Dissertation: *More Mirrors in
Leadership for Latina Students:
A Quantitative Study on the
Retention and Attrition of K-12
Latina Principals in the
United States*
B.A., Bethel University
M.A., Framingham University

Jason Robert Menth
Ed.D. Leadership in K-12
Administration
Dissertation: *Teachers' Attrition:
Relationship Between Principals'
Communication and Teachers'
Job Satisfaction*
B.A., University of Minnesota Duluth
M.A., St. Mary's University
Minnesota

Dharmisha Tailor Narayanan
Ed.D. Leadership in K-12
Administration
Dissertation: *Understanding The
Lived Experiences of Special
Education Teachers Tasked with
Ensuring Parental Involvement in
Special Education Processes*
B.A., UCLA
Ed.S., Baylor University

Jodi Michelle Wolkerstorfer
Ed.D. Leadership in Higher
Education
Dissertation: *College Students
Formerly in Foster Care and Basic
Needs Insecurity*
B.A., Bethel University
M.A., Bethel University

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 19th 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 4,400 students from all 44 states and 17 countries in undergraduate, graduate, seminary, and adult undergraduate programs. Based in St. Paul, Minnesota, Bethel University offers rigorous majors and programs in more than 81 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 12th 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 12th and 13th 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.