



MARIAN UNIVERSITY®

COMMENCEMENT 2025

The 88th Annual Commencement of Marian University

May 2, 2025

5 p.m.

Ancilla Domini Chapel

Plymouth, Indiana



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Marian University grew out of the dedication and vision of Sister Theresa Hackelmeier and the Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg, Indiana, who established a school in Oldenburg, Indiana, in 1851.

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UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP

Daniel J. Elsener, *President*

Kenith C. Britt, Ph.D., *Chancellor and Chief Operating Officer*

Binh Q. Tran, Ph.D., *Chief Academic Officer*

ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP

Jeffrey Carvell, Ph.D., *Dean of the E. S. Witchger School of Engineering (interim)*

Christopher Nicholson, Ph.D., *Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences (interim)*

Greg Rawski, Ph.D., *Dean of the School of Business*

Bessie Rigakos, Ph.D., *Dean and Vice President of Marian University Saint Joseph's College*

Natalie Tucker, Ph.D., *Dean and Vice President of Marian University's Ancilla College*

LaTonya Turner, Ph.D., *Dean of the Fred S. Klipsch Educators College*

Amanda Wright, DO, *Dean of the Tom and Julie Wood College of Osteopathic Medicine*

REGISTRAR

Jennifer Schwartz, M.S., *Executive Director of Academic Operations and Registrar*

2025 COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY



Kenith C. Britt, Ph.D., Chancellor and Chief Operating Officer, *Presiding*

PROCESSIONAL

WELCOME

Kenith C. Britt, Ph.D., *Chancellor and Chief Operating Officer*

INVOCATION

Stacia M. Bolakowski, M.Ed, *University Minister, Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ Associate*

NATIONAL ANTHEM

OPENING REMARKS

Natalie Tucker, Ph.D., *Dean and Vice President*

STUDENT SPEAKER

Calleen Eberly '25

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Suzanne Light

CONFERRING OF HONORARY DEGREES

Suzanne Light

Doctor of Public Service

Anthony Ross (posthumously)

Doctor of Communication

CONFERRING OF DEGREES

Names of graduates read by

Neal Knapp, Ph.D., *Department Head*

BLESSING, COMMISSIONING OF GRADUATES, and BENEDICTION

Sister Mary Beth Gianoli, OSF '78, *Vice President for Mission Integration*

FANFARE AND RECESSIONAL

Organ music by Andrew Jennings



Marian University's Ancilla College Board of Visitors

William Davis
Stan Blenke
Sr. Nkechi Iwuoha, Ph.D.
Brad Serf, CPCU, ARM, MBA
Regina Emberton, CECd, SIOR, CCIM
Gary Neidig
Greg Hildebrand
Bill McDonough

Board of Trustees

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Tobin McClamroch, Chair
Sister Maureen Irvin, OSF '70, Vice-Chair

Daniel J. Elsener
Michael Becher, *Chairman Emeritus*
Fernanda Beraldi
Edward Bonach
Scott Bruns '96
Philip Carson '81
Sister Jean Marie Cleveland, OSF '64
William P. Eckman '74,
Chairman Emeritus
Adam Ehret '08
Denise B. Feser '77, *Chair Emerita*
Sister Christa Franzer, OSF '70
Fritz French
Anne M. Frye
Adairius J. Gardner '02
Theaodis Gary Jr.
Sister Annette Grisley, OSF '74
Stephen J. Hackman
David Haire '71
Jeffrey A. Harrison
John J. Hart '86
Linda M. Hicks
Sister Joetta Huelsmann, PHJC

Jerry Jones
Fred S. Klipsch
Rebecca Kubacki
Alan E. Leighton '62
James M. Meer '92
Sister Joan Miller, OSF '73
Michael F. Petrie
Sister Susan Marie Pleiss, OSF
Marianne Price
John F. Ramsey Sr.
Eddie L. Rivers, Jr.
Rachel Shockley, DO
Kevin P. Speer
Michele Steele '91
Sister Bernice Stenger, OSF '77
Robyn R. Werner
William Witchger II
Fr. Tim Wyciskalla '10
Ramarao Yeleti, M.D.
Richard Andrew Young
Scott Young '98

Trustees Emeriti:
John T. Cardis '63
Joseph Doyle
William V. Drew '65
Bain J. Farris '72
John H. Grogan
Eugene Henn
Sister Margaret Horney, OSF '75
S. Michael Hudson
William Kelsey '61
Joseph Kuzmitz '75
James F. Matthews
Charles O'Drobinak
Monsignor Joseph F. Schaedel,
M.S., M.Div. '70
Joseph L. Smith Sr. '71
D. Anthony Watt '69,
Chairman Emeritus
Mary L. Welch '68
Raul E. Zavaleta
Gerald S. Zore '63

Honorary Degrees

Suzanne Light

Commencement Speaker

Doctor of Public Service



Suzanne M. Light, a visionary leader and dedicated community advocate, is the chief executive officer of Suzanne Light Consulting L.L.C., leveraging her experience to guide and empower organizations. Before this, Light served with remarkable distinction as the chief executive officer of the Kosciusko County Community Foundation, where her strategic leadership propelled the foundation's assets from \$400,000 to an impressive \$56 million, leaving an enduring influence on the region's philanthropic landscape.

Light's commitment to higher education is evident through her service on the Board of Trustees of Ancilla College from 2008 to 2016 and her engagement on the boards of Indiana Humanities, OrthoWorx, and the Orthopedic Capital Foundation.

Civic engagement and public service have been consistently important throughout Light's career. She was honored as Woman of the Year by the Kosciusko Chamber of Commerce in 2000, received the prestigious Sagamore of the Wabash award from Governor Eric Holcomb in 2018, and was recognized as the 2024 Community Catalyst Award recipient by the Kosciusko Economic Development Corporation.

Her academic achievements exemplify Light's dedication to lifelong learning. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Organizational Leadership from Goshen College in 2013 and a Master of Science in Leadership with a Nonprofit Leadership concentration from Trine University in 2016.

Today, Suzanne celebrates receiving an honorary degree from Marian University's Ancilla College alongside her husband of 50 years, Steve, their children, Kara and Matthew, and several of her sisters.

Tony Ross

Doctor of Communication



Anthony Martin Ross, affectionately known as “Tony The Boss Ross,” served as an esteemed on-air personality and sports director for Kankakee Valley Broadcasting, WKVI K99.3 FM/MAX98.3 FM, serving the communities of Knox and Plymouth, Indiana.

A proud alumnus of Ancilla College, Tony held a deep and abiding connection to Marian University’s Ancilla College. He championed the institution through his work, providing invaluable airtime to faculty and staff through insightful interviews and engaging commercials. His enthusiastic play-by-play announcing of men’s and women’s Chargers basketball games brought the excitement of the court to countless listeners, solidifying his role as a vital voice for the community.

Tony’s commitment to excellence in broadcasting was recognized with the Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) Distinguished Media Service Award in 2006 and the Griddy Award for Excellence in Football Media in 2023. His academic achievements further underscored his dedication, earning an Associate of Business degree from Ancilla College and a Bachelor of Science in Communications degree from Purdue University.

Today, we honor Tony’s memory and celebrate his contributions. This honorary degree distinction is celebrated by his former wife, Jennifer Arvesen; his brother and brother-in-law, Chris Ross and Brian Beahan; his stepdaughters, Hannah and Lauren DeMont, and soon- to-be son-in-law, Joey Markiewicz; his parents-in-law, Bob and Rhonda Arvesen; and his cherished friends, Jim and Viola Collins, and Lenny Dessauer.

Candidates in a baccalaureate program who have earned at least 60 credit hours of graded coursework at Marian University and who have achieved a grade point average of 3.50 or above are awarded Latin Honors as follows:

- cum laude – grade point average of 3.50
- magna cum laude – grade point average of 3.70
- summa cum laude – grade point average of 3.80

In this program Latin Honors are based on March 18, 2025, academic status. Diplomas are awarded subject to satisfactory completion of requirements.

Phi Theta Kappa recognizes the academic achievement of students. Students who earn a 3.5 cumulative grade point average are invited to join Phi Theta Kappa. Members must maintain a 3.3 cumulative grade point average to remain active members. Candidates in the associate program are recognized as a member of Phi Theta Kappa by the golden stoles worn during commencement.

Candidates in the associate program who are active or veteran members of the United States Military are recognized by the cords worn during commencement.

Associate in Applied Science

Veterinary Nursing

Katherine M. Buckland

Ariannah R. Gramza

Alexis Danielle King

Abigayle Rose Montgomery

Keely Renee Qualkenbush

Sophia Willey

Jenna Kay Yazel

Destiny Marie Young

Associate in Arts

Education – Elementary Education

Trinity Rena Beaugard

Mia Belle Hiatt

Exode Kota Minga

Emily Hannah Raines

Liberal Arts – Communication and English

Kaiya Anneyne Raby

De'Mour Watson

Liberal Arts - Organizations and Society

Abelardo Rebollo

Darion Hyab Whitt

Liberal Arts – Social Sciences

Nasiya Gause

Kylee Linnea Heard

Abigail Marie Witt

Associate in Science

AgriBusiness

Alexis Danielle King

Joshua Kling

Animal Science

Yasmin Lee Crouse

Adoracion Rodriguez Dvorak

Emilee Necole Kay Marzean

Daniela Ruiz Baca

Sarah Michele Tepp

(second specialization, AgriBusiness)

Xavier Leslie Zimmerman

Business – General Business

Katelyn Diana Bryan

Jaden L Franceschina

Jacob Andrew Hobbs

Samantha Lynn Hoffman

Elizabeth Mahan

John Morgan

Ashton Oviedo

Samantha Lou Perry

Kanye Roberson

Blaze Landon Schultz

Christopher Vargas III

Dennis Weston

(second specialization, Sport Management)

Business – Sales and Supply Chain Management

Cooper Roman Gorgievski

Beauti Herma Jean Santiago

David Wayne Schadek

Business – Sports Management

Tyrie Gregory

Sean Pierre Kimble

Santiago Andres Morales

Gbolahon Olatoye

Tolulope Stephen Oluwafemi

Dante Porch

Jayden Xavier Sanders

Traevyn Shoaf

Isaiah John Steinhilber

Exercise Science - Exercise Science

Brooklynn Nicole Cooper

Nico Joseph Galea

Brooke Schroeder

Exercise Science – Nutrition, Fitness, & Wellness

Abigail Marie Heaston

Trenton Edward Platz

Exercise Science – Sports Performance

Marcellous Antjaun Boyd

Sofie Rene Francis

Moises Franco

Autumn Chantell Garling

Javier Alejandro Guerra

Derran Lamar Isom Jr.

Alan Vidal Peña-Anguiano

Marek Declan Robinson

Abigail Marie Witt

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Niyoka Latrice Ashford

Amy Theresa Bales

Iyana Butler

Calleen Hazel Eberly

Katherine N Ford

Erica Lorraine Roberts

Erin Marie Stacy

cum laude



THE BLESSING OF SAINT CLARE

May almighty God Bless you

May he look upon you with the eyes of great mercy and give you much peace

May God pour forth all graces on you abundantly

And in Heaven may God place you among the Saints

VISION

To provide an education distinguished in its ability to prepare transformative leaders for service to the world.

MISSION

To be a great Catholic university dedicated to achieving excellence in learning, which is achieved through teaching, research, and scholarly activities in the Franciscan and liberal arts tradition.

VALUES

To reflect prayerfully on the Gospels in an unflagging commitment to advance the dignity of the individual, peace and justice, reconciliation, and responsible stewardship.

MARIAN UNIVERSITY

Ancilla College

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marian.edu/ancilla



Marian University is sponsored by the Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg, Indiana.