

CLASS OF 2020

Graduate Celebration

September 18, 2021



WISCONSIN
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



A MESSAGE FROM CHANCELLOR REBECCA BLANK

Dear Class of 2020,
Of all the difficult decisions I have had to make in this pandemic, the decision to move your commencement online was one of the hardest. I gave you my word that we would celebrate in person, and today it gives me great joy to be able to say:

Congratulations, graduates of the University of Wisconsin–Madison Class of 2020!

I want to thank you for the contributions you made to the university during your time here, and for the resilience, grace, and determination you showed in the face of upheaval and uncertainty. I also want to thank the family and friends whose love and support helped to carry you through.

Students come to UW–Madison because they want to be actively involved in understanding and solving complex problems, but it is rare for a graduating class to immediately confront problems that impact all of humanity. Your class faces the twin challenges of helping to build a future that strengthens us against future pandemics and rooting out systemic racism to put an end to inequity and injustice.

Your UW–Madison diploma tells the world that you are prepared to be a part of this vital work. Thank you for taking part in this big Badger celebration, and welcome to the worldwide family of Badger alumni.

Rebecca Blank

Congratulations and On, Wisconsin!

Chancellor Rebecca Blank

Chancellor Rebecca M. Blank

University of Wisconsin–Madison • Bascom Hall • 500 Lincoln Drive • Madison, Wisconsin 53706



CLASS OF 2020

Graduate Celebration

September 18, 2021

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

WELCOME

Lauren Sorensen '20

Dr. Katarina Nguyen MD '20

“Varsity” Performed by the UW MadHatters

PROCESSIONAL OF THE OFFICIAL PARTY

“Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1”

University Commencement Band

Mead Witter School of Music

ACADEMIC PROCESSION INTRODUCTIONS

Provost John Karl Scholz, PhD

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

Performed by Josephine Annelin '20

OPENING REMARKS

Chancellor Rebecca M. Blank, PhD

WELCOME ON BEHALF OF THE UW SYSTEM

BOARD OF REGENTS

Karen Walsh '81, '89

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Introduction by Chris Gitter '20

Charge to the Graduates, Pat Connaughton

CLASS OF 2020 ALUMNI SPEAKER

Introduction by Alyssa Birkeland '20

Remarks on Behalf of the Class of 2020,
CJ Zabab '20

CEREMONIAL RECOGNITION OF GRADUATES WITH HONORS AND DISTINCTION

CEREMONIAL RECOGNITION OF DEGREES

GRADUATE SCHOOL

Doctor of Philosophy

Doctor of Musical Arts

Master of Fine Arts

Dean William J. Karpus, PhD

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Doctor of Medicine

Doctor of Physical Therapy

Master of Genetic Counselor Studies

Master of Physician Assistant Studies

Master of Public Health

*Associate Dean for Students, Gwenevere C.
McIntosh, MD, MPH*

LAW SCHOOL

Doctor of Juridical Science

Juris Doctor (Doctor of Law)

Master of Laws

Dean Daniel P. Tokaji, JD

SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

Dean Mark D. Markel, DVM, PhD

SCHOOL OF NURSING

Doctor of Nursing Practice

Bachelor of Science–Nursing

*Dean Linda D. Scott, PhD, RN, NEA-BC,
FAAN*

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

Doctor of Pharmacy
Bachelor of Science–Pharmaceutical Sciences
Bachelor of Science–Pharmacology and
Toxicology
Dean Steven M. Swanson, PhD

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Doctor of Occupational Therapy
Bachelor of Fine Arts
Bachelor of Science–Art
Bachelor of Science–Art Education
Bachelor of Science–Athletic Training
Bachelor of Science–Dance
Bachelor of Science–Education
Bachelor of Science–Education Studies
Bachelor of Science–Health Promotion
and Health Equity
Bachelor of Science–Kinesiology
Bachelor of Science–Physical Education
Bachelor of Science–Rehabilitation
Psychology
Bachelor of Science–Theatre and Drama
Dean Diana Hess, PhD

COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE

Doctor of Audiology
Bachelor of Arts
Bachelor of Arts–Journalism
Bachelor of Landscape Architecture
Bachelor of Music
Bachelor of Science
Bachelor of Science–Applied Mathematics,
Engineering and Physics
Bachelor of Science–Journalism
Bachelor of Social Work
Dean Eric M. Wilcots, PhD

GRADUATE SCHOOL

Master of Accountancy
Master of Arts

Master of Business Administration
Master of Engineering
Master of International Public Affairs
Master of Music
Master of Professional French Studies
Master of Public Affairs
Master of Science
Master of Social Work
Dean William J. Karpus, PhD

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL AND LIFE SCIENCES

Bachelor of Science
Bachelor of Science–Agricultural Business
Management
Bachelor of Science–Biological Systems
Engineering
Bachelor of Science–Landscape Architecture
Bachelor of Science–Nutrition and Dietetics
Dean Kathryn A. VandenBosch, PhD

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Bachelor of Business Administration
Dean Vallabh Sambamurthy, PhD

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Bachelor of Naval Science
Bachelor of Science–Biomedical Engineering
Bachelor of Science–Chemical Engineering
Bachelor of Science–Civil Engineering
Bachelor of Science–Computer Engineering
Bachelor of Science–Electrical Engineering
Bachelor of Science–Engineering Mechanics
Bachelor of Science–Engineering Physics
Bachelor of Science–Geological Engineering
Bachelor of Science–Industrial Engineering
Bachelor of Science–Materials Science and
Engineering
Bachelor of Science–Mechanical Engineering
Bachelor of Science–Nuclear Engineering
Dean Ian M. Robertson, PhD

SCHOOL OF HUMAN ECOLOGY

Bachelor of Science–Community and
Nonprofit Leadership

Bachelor of Science–Human Development
and Family Studies

Bachelor of Science–Human Ecology

Bachelor of Science–Interior Architecture

Bachelor of Science–Personal Finance

Bachelor of Science–Retailing and
Consumer Behavior

Bachelor of Science–Textiles & Fashion Design

*Associate Dean for Undergraduate
Education Annette McDaniel, MS*

CEREMONIAL TURNING OF THE TASSEL

Chancellor Rebecca M. Blank

CLOSING REMARKS

Chancellor Rebecca M. Blank

VARSITY

University Commencement Band

Mead Witter School of Music

Varsity! Varsity! U rah rah! Wisconsin,

Praise to thee we sing!

Praise to thee our Alma Mater,

U rah rah! Wisconsin!

RECESSIONAL OF THE OFFICIAL PARTY

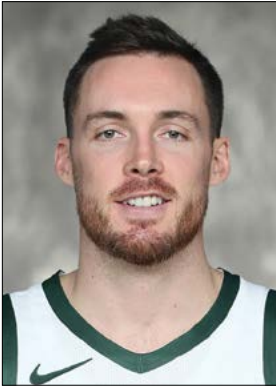
“Pomp and Circumstance March No. 4”

University Commencement Band

Mead Witter School of Music

Graduate names, listed by degree, are
available at go.wisc.edu/2020grad

**Badgers are social creatures.
Share your Class of 2020
Celebration memories with
#UWGRAD2020**



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Pat Connaughton

Every celebration needs a hero, and who better than a member of the 2021 NBA champion Milwaukee Bucks?

Shooting guard Pat Connaughton helped the Bucks beat the Phoenix Suns 4-2 in the NBA Finals, averaging 9.2 points and 5.8 rebounds per game. Tens of thousands of fans watched the clinching game on July 20 in Deer District, the outdoor plaza of Milwaukee's Fiserv Forum. The victory—the first title for the Bucks in 50 years—propelled Milwaukee into the national spotlight and set off an exuberant statewide celebration.

Connaughton, of Arlington, Massachusetts, was a two-sport star—basketball and baseball—at the University of Notre Dame, where he's remembered as one of the greatest leaders in the history of the men's basketball program. He was a two-time Notre Dame captain and played in more games (139) than any other Fighting Irish player. He started 123 career games to rank third all-time in that category, and he concluded his career as the eighth all-time Fighting Irish player with better than 1,400 points and 800 rebounds.

As a college baseball standout, Connaughton was drafted by the Baltimore Orioles in the 2014 Major League Baseball draft and played for a summer in the minor leagues before returning to the University of Notre Dame for his senior season. He graduated from Notre Dame in 2015 with a degree in business management. A second-round NBA draft pick, he played three seasons for the Portland Trail Blazers, then signed with the Milwaukee Bucks in 2018.

Off the court, Connaughton founded the With Us Foundation, which works to provide access to athletics for all kids through camps and clinics. He's also helping to grow the city of Milwaukee through his real estate development company, Three Leaf Development. One recent project replaced a dilapidated duplex near Fiserv Forum with a four-story apartment building.

CHANCELLOR

Rebecca Blank

Rebecca M. Blank became chancellor of the University of Wisconsin–Madison in July 2013. Since then, she has presided over a major effort to expand access and improve educational outcomes, making sure that students are prepared to succeed in a rapidly changing economy. Under her leadership, UW has improved graduation rates; reduced student debt levels; created the School of Computer, Data, and Information Science; expanded on-line learning; and launched Bucky’s Tuition Promise, assisting low-income students in Wisconsin to attend the state’s flagship university. At the same time, she has worked to maintain the university’s position as a global leader in innovation and research, nurturing entrepreneurship and driving economic development.

Blank is an internationally respected economist who worked in three different presidential administrations. Most recently, she served as Deputy Secretary and Acting Secretary of the US Department of Commerce under President Obama.

She also brings strong academic credentials to the position of chancellor. She served as dean and professor of public policy and economics in the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan from 1999 to 2008. Earlier in her career, she was a member of the faculty at Northwestern University and Princeton University.

A native Midwesterner, Blank earned an undergraduate degree in economics from the University of Minnesota and a doctoral degree in economics from MIT.

Blank is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and has received numerous awards, including the Daniel Patrick Moynihan Prize given by the American Academy of Political and Social Science to individuals who use social science research to inform public policy while also contributing to the public discourse on society’s most pressing issues.

Blank is a frequent speaker on the importance of public research universities. She has been part of a vital national conversation about how to keep these institutions financially stable and thriving.

Her leadership has burnished UW–Madison’s reputation as one of the world’s top universities—a center for education, discovery, and research, committed to sharing knowledge and innovation that improves lives in Wisconsin and around the globe.



UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS



PROVOST

John Karl Scholz

John Karl Scholz began serving as provost in August 2019 after six years as the dean of the College of Letters & Science at UW–Madison. Scholz is also the Nellie June Gray Professor of Economic Policy in the Department of Economics, which he joined in 1988.

From 1997 to 1998, Scholz was the deputy assistant secretary for tax analysis at the US Treasury Department, and from 1990 to 1991 he was a senior staff economist at the Council of Economic Advisors. Scholz directed the Institute for Research on Poverty at UW–Madison from 2000 to 2004.

Professor Scholz is an internationally respected economist whose work on household saving, low-wage labor markets, financial barriers to higher education, and bankruptcy has appeared in leading economics journals.

A native of Nebraska, Scholz graduated from Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota, and earned his doctorate from Stanford University.

BOARD OF REGENTS

Karen Walsh

Karen Walsh is director of the BerbeeWalsh Foundation, a family foundation dedicated to human and animal health and welfare. Since 2006, the foundation has awarded more than \$8 million dollars in grants in Wisconsin, including a gift to the University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics that created the BerbeeWalsh Department of Emergency Medicine. Walsh was a newscaster and reporter for news outlets including Wisconsin Public Radio prior to serving for 23 years in a variety of public information and communications positions at UW–Madison. She retired in 2005 as the assistant dean for external relations in the College of Engineering, directing alumni and donor communications, news media relations, and industry communications. Her honors include publications awards with the National Association of Government Communicators, the university’s Bollinger Academic Staff Achievement Award, and Philanthropist of the Year from the Dane County Humane Society. A native of Columbus, Wisconsin, Walsh holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees in journalism from UW–Madison. She serves on a number of nonprofit boards, including the Board of Visitors at the UW–Madison School of Veterinary Medicine, the Madison Cat Project, and the Access Community Health Centers Community Partners Board. She is also a past president of the Madison Opera Board of Trustees. She and her husband, Dr. James Berbee, live in Madison.





ALUMNI SPEAKER

CJ Zabat

Few people bring more Badger bona fides to the table than CJ Zabat, whose undergraduate years at UW–Madison included leadership roles in two prominent campus institutions: the UW Marching Band and the tour-guide program.

A native of suburban Chicago, Zabat successfully auditioned for the UW Marching Band drumline on cymbals as a freshman. Three years later, he was chosen drum major, becoming the face of the band and its top student leader.

His long association with Campus and Visitor Relations began when he became a campus tour guide his sophomore year. He continued in that role for three years, including summers. As a fifth-year senior, he served as a tour guide coordinator, scheduling tours, managing hiring processes, and helping to train new student guides.

During his time on campus, Zabat also worked in communications as an intern for two years with Wisconsin's Equity and Inclusion Laboratory, part of the Wisconsin Center for Education Research. He graduated in spring 2020 with a bachelor's degree in journalism and strategic communications and a certificate in Afro-American studies.

After graduation, Zabat spent a year as a “Hotdogger” and spokesperson for the famous Oscar Mayer Wienermobile. Despite the pandemic, he logged an average of 500 miles per week, visiting 25 states and dozens of cities. His Wienermobile nickname, which he still answers to, is “Chili Dog CJ.”

Now back on campus, Zabat started a new job in July as a communications specialist with the Department of Surgery at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health.

SENIOR CLASS OFFICERS

The Senior Class Officers comprise two elected officers, the President and Vice President, and three selected officers, the Communications, Events, and Philanthropy Directors. Elections and interviews took place in the spring semester prior to the beginning of their service in the fall of their senior year.

Part of the Division of Student Affairs, the officers also partner with the Wisconsin Foundation and Alumni Association (WFAA) and the Office of the Chancellor. The Senior Class Officers plan spring and winter commencement as well as senior social events and senior week events in cooperation with WFAA.

Lauren Sorensen, SENIOR CLASS PRESIDENT

Raised in West Bend, WI, Lauren graduated with honors with a double major in political science and French, and a certificate in African studies. She was awarded a prestigious Boren Scholarship during her junior year, which is offered to students interested in national security and critical regional languages. As part of this scholarship, Lauren spent the 2018–19 academic year studying international development, French, and Wolof in Senegal. While taking classes there, she completed internships with human rights organizations and conducted independent field research on the intersection of religion and politics. She used her research to complete her senior honors thesis, which was supported by a Hilldale Undergraduate Research Fellowship. Lauren was also awarded the 2020 College of Letters and Science Dean's Prize, given each year to the top three members of the L&S graduating class. Since our virtual commencement ceremony, Lauren worked for the Wisconsin Department of Justice Civil Litigation Unit before following fellow West Bender Alyssa to Washington, DC. She is now a Writer-Editor in the Executive Secretary's Office of the Department of Homeland Security. Lauren will definitely miss the ease of obtaining Spotted Cow as she applies to law school this fall.



UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS



Alyssa Birkeland,
SENIOR CLASS VICE PRESIDENT

Originally from West Bend, WI, Alyssa graduated from the Wisconsin School of Business with majors in management & human resources and political science, as well as a certificate in Spanish. On campus, she served on the board of the College Republicans and volunteered with the Wisconsin Admission Volunteers. Additionally, she spent the summer of 2019 studying abroad and traveling throughout Scandinavia with the Brittingham Viking Organization, of which she is still a proud member. Alyssa worked as a political advocacy intern at the Wisconsin Alumni Association for three years, where she made her abundant pride for the state and university apparent. After graduating, she worked for Rep. Bryan Steil's successful re-election campaign. She has since moved to Washington, DC, where she now works as a Regional Political Coordinator at the RNC. Most importantly, Alyssa's favorite flavor of Babcock ice cream is Orange Custard Chocolate Chip.



Sonam Dolma,
SENIOR CLASS PHILANTHROPY DIRECTOR

Born and raised in a Tibetan refugee settlement in Northern India, Sonam graduated with a bachelor of science degree in biochemistry with honors distinction, along with a certificate in South Asian studies. As a Biochemistry Scholar, she completed her senior honors thesis supported by the Hilldale Undergraduate Research Fellowship Award. During the academic years, Sonam worked as a house fellow for UW residence halls. During her summers, she completed several competitive pre-medical internships in Virginia and California. Sonam has been dedicated to serving and advocating for the Tibetan community and is working on piloting a mentorship guidance program for first-generation Tibetan high school students in the Madison area. After the virtual commencement ceremony of 2020, Sonam spent the year applying to medical schools and will be attending the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health this fall to pursue her medical degree.

Chris Gitter,
SENIOR CLASS EVENTS DIRECTOR

A graduate of Saint Thomas Academy in Mendota Heights, Minnesota, Chris majored in pharmacology and toxicology, with certificates in environmental studies and global health. His passion for connecting the environment and personal health was sparked as a member of the campus Greenhouse Learning Community. Outside the classroom, he stayed busy with field, laboratory, and clinical research, including traveling to the Tiptuni Biodiversity Station as a member of the Rainforest and Coral Reefs first-year interest group. He also studied the role of protein kinases in the Dai pharmaceutical sciences lab. Chris has completed clinical research internships with the Minnesota Urology Foundation and the Minneapolis Heart Institute Foundation. He served as the community events director on the Wisconsin Homecoming Committee and as a co-president of the UW–Madison chapter of Be the Match on Campus, a national bone marrow registry. After graduation, Chris continued clinical cardiology research with the Minneapolis Heart Institute Foundation. In August, he moved to Wauwatosa, WI, to attend the Medical College of Wisconsin.



UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

Kayla Huynh,
SENIOR CLASS COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

Kayla, of Bloomington-Normal, Illinois, graduated with honors in the liberal arts. She received a journalism degree in strategic communication and reporting, alongside a certificate in Asian American studies. Her favorite place on campus will always be Vilas Hall, where she recalls arriving late to classes, spending too much time in *The Daily Cardinal* office and serving as editor-in-chief of *Curb* student magazine. While Kayla later moved to Chicago to pursue a master's degree from Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, she quickly realized being a Badger beats being a Wildcat. She couldn't stay away from UW–Madison for too long, so she found a career that will let her stay on campus indefinitely. This September, Kayla began working as the higher education reporter for *The Capital Times*, Madison's weekly newspaper.



UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

The University of Wisconsin–Madison and its alumni have a rich tradition of national and international leadership in teaching, research, entrepreneurship, and public service. We regularly rank near the top in research dollars and are rated among the strongest in the world in international reputation. And, as any visitor can readily attest, our beautiful lakeshore campus is considered to be among the nation’s most picturesque.

This university has existed for as long as Wisconsin has been a state, tracing its roots to a clause in the Constitution of the State of Wisconsin decreeing that the young state should have a prominent public university. In 1848, legislators passed a bill that formally created the University of Wisconsin. Its first class, with 17 students, met in Madison on February 5, 1849.

From these humble beginnings, the university has grown into a large, diverse community with more than 45,589 students representing every county in Wisconsin, 50 states, and 123 countries.

Across campus, the words “sifting and winnowing” often appear when describing UW–Madison’s intellectual life. They date back to an 1894 Board of Regents statement on academic freedom:

“Whatever may be the limitations which trammel inquiry elsewhere, we believe that the great state University of Wisconsin should ever encourage that continual and fearless sifting and winnowing by which alone the truth can be found.”

Inspired by this spirit, scholarly inquiry has fed a steady stream of discoveries. From vitamins, agricultural techniques and wildlife ecology to stem cells, biofuels and economic well-being, the university continues to foster ideas and research that change lives.

UW–Madison is the oldest and largest campus in the University of Wisconsin System. Its mission is to provide “a learning environment in which faculty, staff, and students can discover, examine critically, preserve and transmit the knowledge, wisdom, and values that will help ensure the survival of this and future generations and improve the quality of life for all.”

The university strives to achieve these ends through the continual advancement of its teaching, research, and public service programs. Throughout its history, the university has sought to bring the power of learning into students’ daily lives through innovations such as residential learning communities and service learning courses.

We are motivated by the “Wisconsin Idea”—articulated a century ago as the principle that the university’s influence should benefit everyone in the state. Today, this principle has expanded to a global scale. The Wisconsin Idea continues to permeate everything we do, helping to forge close partnerships between faculty, staff, and students, and people, communities, and industries around the world.



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