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# 2021 UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA MORRIS COMMENCEMENT

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THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA MORRIS'S  
FIFTY-EIGHTH COMMENCEMENT  
SATURDAY, MAY 15, 2021



## UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Kendall J. Powell, Chair, Golden Valley

Steven A. Sviggum, Vice Chair, Kenyon

Mary A. Davenport, Mankato

James T. Farnsworth, Saint Paul

Kao Ly Ilean Her, Maplewood

Douglas A. Huebsch, Perham

Ruth E. Johnson, Rochester

Mike O. Kenyanya, Maple Grove

Janie S. Mayeron, Minneapolis

David J. McMillan, Duluth

Darrin M. Roshia, Independence

Kodi J. Verhalen, Elk River

## UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA PRESIDENT

Joan T.A. Gabel

## UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA MORRIS ADMINISTRATION

Michelle Behr, Chancellor

Melissa Bert, Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management

Janet Schrunk Ericksen, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Dean

Bryan Herrmann, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Facilities

Sandra K. Olson-Loy, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

Michelle Page, Chair, Division of Education

Stacey Aronson, Chair, Division of the Humanities

Peh Ng, Chair, Division of Science and Mathematics

Jennifer Deane, Chair, Division of the Social Sciences

The Board of Regents adopted the Regents Seal, shown above, in 1939 as the corporate seal of the University of Minnesota. The Latin motto, “Commune Vinculum Omnibus Artibus,” means “a common bond for all the arts.” The lamp represents the metaphysical sciences. The telescope represents the physical sciences. The plow represents the industrial arts, and the palette and brushes represent the fine arts.

**Dear Graduates and Families,**

We are so glad you are able to join us on this important day. Our entire University community shares your joy in honoring this outstanding class of graduates, and I am so pleased we are able to celebrate our amazing students today.

I always look forward to this time of year at the University of Minnesota Morris. This is a very special institution with a strong and clear set of values: a commitment to access, appreciation for diversity in all its forms, and belief in the power of education for societal good. The UMN Morris Class of 2021, with its collective achievements and its resilience, demonstrates the power of these values.

As one of the country's top public liberal arts colleges, UMN Morris provides talented students access to life-changing educational experiences. Our students strive to strengthen their communities, and this year's graduates are no exception. They have studied abroad, led student organizations, taken part in athletic competitions and musical, theatre, and dance performances. They have served the region and participated in creative and scholarly activities alongside award-winning teacher-scholars. And they have overcome unprecedented challenges to completing their degrees. These graduates exemplify our mission, serving as models of institutional values such as reasoned discourse, discovery, intellectual growth, and civic responsibility. They are prepared to continue their lives as engaged and committed global citizens. We are immensely proud of them—all they have accomplished and all they will accomplish.

Today we celebrate not only these outstanding graduates, but also each and every one of you who has stood by them: a powerful network of family and friends that made it possible for these students to succeed. I wish you a memorable and gratifying day as we celebrate together this landmark moment in our graduates' lifelong journeys of growth and learning.

**Chancellor Michelle Behr**

# 2021 COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM

Chancellor Michelle Behr presiding

Processional (please remain seated) ..... *Pomp and Circumstance* ..... Edward Elgar  
Recorded by the Minnesota Orchestra, and used with permission.

Mace Bearer: Chair of the Division of Science and Mathematics Peh Ng  
Faculty Marshals: Chair of the Division of the Humanities Stacey Aronson,  
Chair of the Division of the Social Sciences Jennifer Deane

*The Star Spangled Banner* (if able, please rise) ..... Francis Scott Key  
Matthew J. DeSmith '21, Jeffrey John Langman '21, Justin Martin '21, Aaron Otten '21

Welcome, Land Acknowledgment, and Guest Recognition ..... Chancellor Michelle Behr

Introduction of Curtis H. Larson Award Recipient ..... Chancellor Michelle Behr

Student Speaker, Curtis H. Larson Award Recipient ..... Samuel James Rosemark '21

Introduction of Speaker ..... Chancellor Michelle Behr

Commencement Address ..... Minnesota Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan

Introduction of the Honor Song ..... Chancellor Michelle Behr

Honor Song ..... Northern Wind Singers

A Native American Honor Song is performed to recognize and pay tribute to the achievements of our scholars. Please show respect by standing, men with bared heads. No photographs may be taken at this time. The Honor Song is dedicated to the Class of 2021. Gabe Desrosiers '05, Anishinaabe, is the lead singer and composer for the Northern Wind Singers (Woodland Ojibwe) and the keeper of the drum.

Presentation of Candidates ..... Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Dean  
Janet Schrunk Ericksen,  
Chair of the Division of Science and Mathematics Peh Ng

Conferring of Degrees ..... University of Minnesota Regent Mike O. Kenyanya

Welcome from the University of Minnesota Morris Alumni Association ..... Jon Dalager '79, president

Closing Remarks ..... Chancellor Michelle Behr

Recessional ..... *Pomp and Circumstance* ..... Edward Elgar

The audience will be dismissed by row after all graduates have recessed.

#### LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The University of Minnesota Morris is located on land that has been cared for and called home by the Dakota people, and later the Ojibwe people and other Native peoples from time immemorial. By offering this land acknowledgment, we affirm tribal sovereignty and express respect for Native peoples and nations.

#### COVID-19 MITIGATION REQUIREMENTS

All University of Minnesota faculty, staff, students, and visitors are required to use a face covering to cover both the nose and mouth at all times when in any enclosed or indoor space on University campuses and properties. We are required to maintain physical distancing of six feet or more from others who are not members of our household indoors and outdoors on campus. When physical distancing of six feet outdoors cannot be maintained, a face covering is required.

#### ALTERNATE VIEWING LOCATION

The commencement ceremony video will be streamed live to Edson Auditorium, Edward J. and Helen Jane Morrison Performing Arts Center, Student Center.

#### SPECIAL THANK YOU

With appreciation, we acknowledge the contribution of American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter Taften Bilbaugh, NIC Master. A special thank you is extended to all the volunteer greeters and ushers, representing students, faculty, staff, and members of the University of Minnesota Morris Retirees Association, who assisted with commencement.

#### ASSISTED LISTENING DEVICES

Assisted listening devices are available upon request at the Information Center in the Student Center.

# CANDIDATES FOR BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREES

## A

Evan Aanerud, theatre arts, area of concentration: arts management, with distinction, with honors

Layla Akapo, biology

Madelyn Yonari Aleman, Luverne, economics, management: financial and organizational management, with high distinction

Aiden Allen, communication, media, and rhetoric

Cameron James Anderson, French, medieval studies

Justice M. Anderson, Ramsey, studio art

Marie Elizabeth Anderson, Maynard, communication, media, and rhetoric

Tyler L. Artmann, Saint Peter, biology

## B

Allison F. Bastyr, Blaine, biology

Katie Ann Beuning, Saint Martin, political science

Adrianna F. Bibeau, Malta, Montana, area of concentration: exercise science

Justina Marie Bingham, Waubay, South Dakota, human services: general

Carmen S. Bistrup, Saint Peter, biology

Maya Mae Bledsoe, French, political science, area of concentration: African and Black American studies,

Jessica Lynn Bliese, Osakis, elementary education

Joop Bollen, management: financial and organizational management

Josie Borchardt, Mankato, psychology, with distinction

Alexander James Boyd, Grand Rapids, human services: criminal justice, philosophy

Andre Deyon Brown, statistics

Collin R. Brunette, Coon Rapids, management: financial and organizational management

Delaney Budge, human services: general, psychology, with distinction

Jack G. Burchard, Saint Paul, human services: general, psychology

Hannah M. Buisse, Minneota, English, social science: history, with distinction

## C

Taylor Matthew Carrington, Morris, computer science, political science

Alex Carroll, Saint Paul, biology, environmental science, with high distinction, with honors

Eddie George Cease, Grand Rapids, elementary education

Jiabao Cheng, economics, management: global business

Yiwen Chu, economics, management: financial and organizational management

Mikayla Cook, English: creative writing

Aaron Mitchell Corpstein, Arden Hills, computer science

Michelle Susan Cuno, Euclid, psychology

## D

Kira N. Dahle, Litchfield, biology, environmental science

Joseph Allen Deglman, Princeton, computer science, mathematics, area of concentration: world languages and linguistics

Matthew J. DeSmith, Worthington, chemistry, with distinction

Kari Elizabeth Didier, Osakis, elementary education

Ellie Rose Dixon, human services: general

Summer L. Dobratz, Parkers Prairie, elementary education

Nerissa Ann Dolney, Waubay, South Dakota, Native American and Indigenous studies, psychology, with high distinction, with honors

Joshua Christian Doss, Pillager, psychology

Breanna N. Dragseth, Melrose, biology, with high distinction

Catherine R. Drake, Lindenhurst, Illinois, biology, with high distinction

Elias Alexander Droessler, Saint Paul, anthropology

## E

Quinten Eberhardy, management: global business

Cassidy Alex Elhard, Grand Rapids, German studies, area of concentration: exercise science

Megan Ruth Ellingboe, biology

Alice Ellstrom, computer science, psychology

Renee R. Ely, Monticello, elementary education

Trinity Joy Erickson, Kimball, management: financial and organizational management, area of concentration: marketing

Victoria Rose Everson, Willmar, management: financial and organizational management

## F

Adam Farag, sport management

Jesse Fast Wolf, human services: general, psychology

Thad Femrite, human services: criminal justice, psychology

Madalynn Paige Fenske, Cottonwood, human services: general

Jackson James Flicker, Big Lake, political science, sport management

Melissa Rae Foell, studio art

Vincent John Fontana III, North Pole, Alaska, philosophy, psychology

Andre F. Fortin, Mankato, communication, media, and rhetoric

Abigail M. Fountain, Savage, biology, statistics

Madeline Fragale-Patraw, Anoka, human services: general, psychology, with distinction

Gabrielle Hope Fredrickson, Fergus Falls, elementary education,  
with high distinction  
Mia G. Frick, Wayzata, anthropology, history  
Paige Friedrich, biology  
Clara Claudia Fuentes Cervantes, Worthington, biology

## G

Felicia Galvan, Mounds View, anthropology, Spanish,  
with distinction  
Yue Gao, economics  
Victoria Z. Garvey, French, medieval studies  
Sydney Marie Gates, mathematics, with honors  
Ryan James Gatzemeyer, New London, English  
Jacob George, political science  
Vanessa Gerzin, elementary education  
Christina Gilbert, Brooklyn Center, biology, environmental  
science  
Lily L. Gladis, Tracy, anthropology  
Andrea Rose Glynn, Shakopee, English, psychology,  
secondary education  
Owen Tanner Gonzalez, political science  
Carolyn Grace Gausam, Minneapolis, psychology  
Elizabeth Rose Graves, Minneapolis, Native American and  
Indigenous studies, psychology  
Nathan Kriefall Greer, Northfield, statistics, with distinction  
Madison J. Grimsbo, Hermantown, history, theatre arts  
Angela Marie Gudahl, Pequot Lakes, anthropology, psychology

## H

Kylee Joy Hansen, Evansville, biology  
Gwyneth Belle Hanson, biology, with distinction  
Madelyn Grace Happ, Brighton, Colorado, political science,  
with distinction  
Elijah Harveaux, biology  
Kyle Matthew Hastings, Circle Pines, sport management,  
secondary education  
Blake E. Haugen, Circle Pines, biology  
Zachary Heck, sport management  
Jacob Michael Heid, Glenwood, elementary education  
Trey Michael Heinsius, elementary education  
Kedrick James Hill, computer science  
Desmond Graham Homann, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, English  
Tzu Han Huang, Taichung, Taiwan, chemistry: biochemistry, with  
high distinction  
Yangjin Huang, management: financial and organizational  
management  
Shelby Kerriann Hudson, Shawnee, Kansas,  
environmental science

## I

Dakota R. Ironheart, Granite Falls, psychology

## J

Adrianna Danielle Jackson, Cloquet, biology, Native American  
and Indigenous studies  
Preston Jackson, geology  
Aliyah Jelle, anthropology, Native American and Indigenous  
studies  
Samantha Marie Johnson, Shakopee, human services:  
criminal justice  
Vanessa Juárez-Pérez, South Sioux City, Nebraska, chemistry  
Helen Juarez, elementary education, Spanish  
Matthew Justin, psychology

## K

Taylor L. Kalthoff, Sartell, art history, studio art  
Melissa Rae Kamrowski, physics  
Brandon H. Karstens, New Ulm, biology  
Fiona Clare Kaster, Saint Louis Park, biology  
Tyler Donnell Kelly, Saint Joseph, biology, psychology, with  
high distinction  
Hanna Kennedy, chemistry  
Danielle R. Kenyon, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, history, Native  
American and Indigenous studies, with distinction  
Ana Gabriela Kircher, human services: human development  
Jackson Douglas Kliwer, Elk River, geology  
April Klimek, Raymond, psychology  
Rheanne Faith Kline, Worthington, Ohio, Spanish, statistics  
Brandi R. Kloss, Royalton, Latin American area studies, Spanish,  
with distinction  
Rachael Terese Miriam Knafla, Saint Cloud, communication,  
media, and rhetoric, psychology, with high distinction  
Madison F. Kugler-Hoekstra, Underwood, history, secondary  
education, social science: history  
Utkarsh Kumar, computer science  
Cora Rae Kuras, Silver Lake, elementary education, psychology  
Grace Nicole Kvidera, psychology

## L

Jeffrey John Langman, Lowry, music, secondary education,  
with distinction  
Claire Elizabeth Larson, Mora, English, psychology  
LaKeisha M. LaRue, psychology, studio art  
Matthew B. Laur, Moundsview, human services: criminal justice  
Renee M. Leeson, Forest Lake, psychology  
Jackson Lennox, Mora, mathematics, physics  
Mitakamizi Theo F. Liberty, Cass Lake, biology  
Hannah Michelle Lindl, Saint Francis, psychology, sociology



Sydney Allison Loechler, Saint Charles, biology, gender, women,  
and sexuality studies

Taryn D. Longshore, Faribault, psychology

Sheng Lu, management: global business

David Lee Lucht-Escudero, computer science

Marley Ann Lund, Bloomington, statistics

Nora Lund, English, sport management

Ryan David Lusby, communication, media, and rhetoric

## M

Michael C. Madsen, English

Lydia S. Mann, Fergus Falls, anthropology, history

Justin Martin, Rogers, music, with high distinction

Blake Martinz, sport management

Justin Michael Masloski, management: financial and  
organizational management

Matias Ignacio Matamoros, biology

Morgan Rachel Mathews, Glencoe, biology

Corbin Josiah McCall, Saint Paul, biology

Kiana McClung, biology

Samantha Jo McDowell, Minneapolis, human services: criminal  
justice, psychology

Jeffrey Micah McEarchern, Rochester, elementary education

Molly Belle Melduskova, Atlantic City, New Jersey, psychology

Elizabeth Ann Melssen, Richfield, chemistry: biochemistry,  
with distinction

Eleanor Kay Melton, Alexandria, music, with high distinction

Abraham Mendez Robles, South Saint Paul, area of concentration:  
exercise science

Sarah A. Messer, anthropology, German studies

Keely Miller, human services: criminal justice, political  
science, psychology

Makayla Marie Moate, political science

Rhys Morris, elementary education

Karlye Christene Musick, Topeka, Kansas, anthropology

## N

Talitha Katelin Neitzell, management: global business

Amelia Marie Nelson, anthropology, biology,  
environmental studies

Derek James Nicholas, Brookfield, Wisconsin, management:  
global business

Griff Northrop, environmental science, environmental studies

Jonah Northwood, computer science

## O

John T. O'Dougherty, geology

Bailey Oelfke, human services: human development

Natalie Ogaro, biology

Connor Joseph Oldenburg, communication, media, and rhetoric,  
political science, social science: history, with distinction

Emily Nicole Olson, Bluffton, South Carolina, biology

Kiley Lauren Aurora Ortiz, Houston, Texas, chemistry

Molly Otremba, art history, studio art

Aaron Otten, theatre arts

## P

Gianna Paige Pankow, Isanti, psychology

Shelby Noel Pankow, Blaine, biology

Kiona Skye Paske, Native American and Indigenous studies,  
psychology, social science: psychology

Calvin Pearce, Alpine, Texas, communication, media, and rhetoric

Justin M. Pearson, Elk River, psychology

Carma Joy Pederson, Geneva, English

James Pendleton, management: financial and organizational  
management

Jacob Peterson, computer science

Nicholas Dale Peterson, Saint Anthony, area of concentration:  
exercise science

Owen Christian Peterson, Inver Grove Heights, economics,  
management: financial and organizational management

Paige Marie Petty, Isle, biology

Jordan Kiley Philippi, Cold Spring, biology

Sophie Ann Polski, Stillwater, management: financial and  
organizational management

Anna-Helena Preugschas, biology, with high distinction,  
with honors

Jasmine Pryor, environmental studies

## Q

Megan Danielle Quast, York, Nebraska, biology

## R

Aaron Ramirez, biology

Grace Virginia Randolph, psychology

Hailey Ann Remme, Luverne, area of concentration: sport and  
exercise psychology

Connor Rentz, Duluth, chemistry, philosophy

Jon Reuvers, computer science

Hannah Rhodes, psychology

Kayla Marie Robertson, communication, media, and rhetoric

Nicolas Sean Robertson, Rochester, computer science

Sarah Roering, English, with distinction

Morgan Rose Rohloff, Morris, elementary education

Samuel James Rosemark, Oakdale, economics, political science

## S

Kathryn Rebecca Sager, Mora, psychology, with distinction

Justin A. Sagerhorn, Battle Lake, secondary education, social  
science: history

Isaac S. Sanchez, Worthington, chemistry

Kallan Sandahl, environmental science

Alexi K. Sandberg, English  
 Mitchell J. Scanlan, Lindström, chemistry, with high distinction  
 Margaret R. Schauff, Minneapolis, Spanish, with distinction  
 Ashley Schmitt, biology  
 Adam L. Schneider, Shakopee, environmental studies,  
 political science  
 Isabelle Guenivere Schomberg, Duluth, sociology, Spanish,  
 with high distinction  
 Victoria Lynn Schons, Tracy, biology, with distinction  
 Cassandra Mary Schultz, Hudson, computer science  
 Islam I. Shariff, Minneapolis, biology  
 Huijun JS She, statistics  
 Andrew Jay Sheets, history, secondary education  
 Hideyoshi Shiraki, Dazaifu, Japan, management: global business  
 Nasir Siddiqui, physics  
 Keeli Jo Siyaka, Bdeóta, Mnísoṭa Mákhoče, environmental studies  
 Jaydon Alex Smith, computer science  
 Gabrielle Lee Smoger, Wheaton, human services: general,  
 sociology  
 Kexin Song, management: global business  
 Trygg Cole Sponheim, Shoreview, environmental studies  
 Ryan S. Spry, Tampa, Florida, biology  
 Vidhurba Srihari, biology  
 Paige Berens Stearns, elementary education  
 Zachary M. Steen, Windom, psychology  
 Eleanor R. K. Sternberg, Duluth, chemistry, with honors  
 Hailey Elizabeth Stobb, Milaca, anthropology, theatre arts  
 Ryan Michael Stout, Brainerd, English, secondary education  
 Vaughn R. Strenke, Center City, management: financial and  
 organizational management, psychology  
 Seraphim R. Surprenant, Sleepy Eye, English, secondary  
 education, theatre arts  
 Courtney XiuYan Swanson, Arden Hills, mathematics, statistics

## T

Samantha K. Tate, Covington, Washington, English, secondary  
 education, with distinction  
 Anneliese Janet Tatham, West Saint Paul, environmental science,  
 environmental studies  
 Ananya Teklu, computer science  
 Brenna Tinjum, human services: criminal justice, psychology  
 Kylie Toso, economics  
 Peter James Truckenmiller, communication, media, and rhetoric  
 Bailey Jean Tschida, Maple Grove, biology, psychology  
 Megan T. Tschida, Baxter, management: financial and  
 organizational management, sport management

## V

Makenzie L. Vorderbruggen, biology, with high distinction

## W

Tehya Wachuta, Plymouth, Wisconsin, English, with distinction,  
 with honors  
 Sierra Walker, chemistry  
 Aaron J. Walter, computer science, mathematics, with  
 high distinction  
 Carter James Wattenhofer, Litchfield, management: financial and  
 organizational management, statistics  
 Renna J. Weas, chemistry  
 Ryan Mitchell Weber, biology  
 Joseph Robert Wees, Eden Prairie, biology, with distinction,  
 with honors  
 Joe Wehr, area of concentration: exercise science  
 Kayleen Rose Whipple, Valentine, Nebraska, management:  
 financial and organizational management  
 Alison White, psychology  
 Bryant T. White, biology  
 Rylee Noelle Whiteside, Shakopee, biology, psychology  
 Brevin D. Williams, Watertown, sport management  
 Velora Rose Wilson, Saint Paul, studio art, theatre arts  
 Emily L. Wittkop, La Crosse, Wisconsin, chemistry  
 Zac Paul Sager Wright, Minneapolis, history

## X

Pa Houa Xiong, sociology  
 Bill Xu, chemistry

## Y

Chaoxing Yang, management: financial and organizational  
 management  
 Zahng Yang, Coon Rapids, management: financial and  
 organizational management  
 Luwei Ye, economics, management: global business  
 Alexa F. Yeager, Monticello, elementary education  
 Danya Grace Yoch, anthropology

## Z

Ke Zhang, management: financial and organizational management  
 Xinyue Zhang, psychology, statistics  
 Alex Zuk, Native American and Indigenous studies, psychology  
 Violet R. Zupon, Forest Lake, human services: general

## CURRICULUM, DISTINCTION, AND HONORS REQUIREMENTS

Degrees will be conferred as indicated on the students listed in this program subject to completion of all curriculum requirements. Candidates graduating “with high distinction” earned a University of Minnesota grade point average (GPA) of 3.90 or higher; those graduating “with distinction” earned a GPA from 3.75 to 3.89.

The UMN 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.

## ACADEMIC REGALIA

American academic regalia—robes, caps, insignia, and emblems used by colleges and universities to identify themselves—indicate the academic rank of wearers. The custom began in Great Britain where robes and hoods designed for warmth were common clothing at the earliest universities. In 1895 the Academic Costume Code standardized American academic regalia, specifying style and usage of caps, gowns, hoods, and colors to represent degrees.

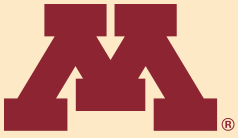
The fields of learning colors are as follows: white for arts, letters, humanities; khaki for business, accounting, commerce; copper for economics; light blue for education; brown for fine arts and architecture; silver for oratory and speech; crimson for journalism; purple for law; lemon for library science; pink for music; dark blue for philosophy; sage green for physical education; gold for psychology; peacock blue for public administration; salmon pink for public health; golden yellow for science; citron for social work; scarlet for theology; orange for engineering.

Masters, specialists, and doctors wear hoods lined with the official colors of the university from which the degree is granted. Tassel colors indicate the academic program area. Gown sleeves distinguish educational levels: bachelor, pointed; master, oblong; and doctor and specialist, bell-shaped.

## MACE

Once a medieval symbol of war, the mace has emerged from its history to become a symbol of peaceful leadership. As an emblem of order and authority, the ceremonial staff is carried by a senior faculty at the head of official processions, inciting the pomp and pageantry of university ceremonial occasions.

CONGRATULATIONS TO  
ALL GRADUATES!



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
**MORRIS**

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600 East Fourth Street  
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This publication is available in alternative formats upon request. Direct requests to Kari Adams, Office of Communications and Marketing, [urel@morris.umn.edu](mailto:urel@morris.umn.edu), 320-589-6219.