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49th Commencement on the campus mall this afternoon

Summary: To participate from afar, view the live web cast by visiting morris.umn.edu/events/commencement.

(May 12, 2012)-More than 300 seniors will receive their bachelor of arts degrees during the 49th Annual Commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 12, 2012 at the University of Minnesota, Morris. Commencement will take place on the campus mall at 1:30 p.m. University of Minnesota, Morris Media Services will live web cast Commencement. Begin watching live from the [Commencement website](#) at 1 p.m. The program begins at 1:30 p.m. An archived copy for viewing will be available following commencement.

Commencement Day will begin with a buffet lunch from 10 a.m. to noon in the Dining Hall. Division receptions will be held from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The Commencement ceremony will begin at 1:30 p.m. on the campus mall.

A pre-commencement concert and music during the ceremony will be performed by the Symphonic Winds, under the direction of Simon Tillier, teaching specialist of music, and the Concert Choir, under the direction of Ken Hodgson, associate professor of music. Additionally, Rachel Busko '12, Fergus Falls, accompanied by Symphonic Winds, will sing "The Star Spangled Banner."

Student Color Guards Abdala Bashir '14, St. Paul, and Winnie Lindstrom '13, White Earth, will lead the processional. Mace Bearer will be Paula O'Loughlin, professor of political science. Student Marshals for the ceremony are Jayna Flanders '13, Paynesville, and David Ruprecht '13, Paynesville. Faculty Marshal is Ted Pappenfus, associate professor of chemistry.

Chancellor Jacqueline R. Johnson will provide the welcome and recognition of special guests. University of Minnesota Regent Clyde Allen will give remarks. Graduating senior Manjari Govada, Shakopee, will speak on behalf of the graduates.

University of Minnesota President Eric Kaler will provide the graduation address. Kaler received his Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota Department of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science in 1982. He went on to become one of the nation's foremost experts on "complex fluids," which are used in many applications, including drug delivery, the biotech industry, food processing, and the manufacturing of coatings and paints. Only the second alumnus to have the position, Kaler became the 16th president of the University of Minnesota on July 1, 2011.

In recognition of the campus' origins as an American Indian boarding school, a Native American Honor Song will be performed by the Midnite Express Singers to recognize and pay tribute to the Class of 2012.

Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Dean Bart Finzel and Chair of the Division of Science and Mathematics, Peh Ng will present the class of 2012. Regent Allen will confer the degrees. University of Minnesota, Morris Alumni Association president Tony Schuster '02, will welcome the new graduates as the newest members of the alumni association.

Following the ceremony, a reception will be held in Oyate Hall in the Student Center. Commencement guests are invited to view the 2011 Senior Art Show in the Humanities Fine Arts Gallery before and after the ceremony.

Visit the [Commencement website](#) for a complete Commencement schedule, information, and updates.

Through personal and academic discovery, the University of Minnesota, Morris provides opportunities for students to grow intellectually, engage in community, experience environmental stewardship and celebrate diversity. A renewable and sustainable educational experience, Morris prepares graduates for careers, for advanced degrees, for lifelong learning, for work world flexibility in the future, and for global citizenship. Learn more about Morris at morris.umn.edu or call 888-866-3382.