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Contact

Melissa Weber, Director of Communications
Phone: 320-589-6414, weberm@morris.umn.edu

Jenna Ray, Editor/Writer
Phone: 320-589-6068, jrray@morris.umn.edu

Commencement ceremony is on the Campus Mall

Summary: The 44th annual Commencement ceremony at the University of Minnesota, Morris will begin at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, May 12, on the Campus Mall. The event will culminate the UMM experience for over 300 seniors who will receive bachelor's degrees this year.

(May 3, 2007)-The 44th annual Commencement ceremony at the University of Minnesota, Morris will begin at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, May 12, on the Campus Mall. The event will culminate the UMM experience for over 300 seniors who will receive bachelor's degrees this year. [In the event of inclement weather, the ceremony will be held in the UMM P.E. Center gymnasium.]

The UMM Symphonic Winds, under the direction of Martin H. Seggelke, assistant professor of music, will provide the pre-commencement concert, as well as music for the Commencement processional, the recessional and throughout the ceremony. The UMM Concert Choir, under the direction of Kenneth Hodgson, associate professor of music, will also provide musical selections. Kathleen M. Rogers, UMM senior from Rochester, will lead the singing of the national anthem.

"The Honor Song," in recognition of the campus' origin as an American Indian Boarding School and to pay tribute to the achievements of UMM's scholars, will be performed by Oyate Teca

Student Color Guards will be Ryan Kalmoe, St. Croix Falls, Wis., and Claire Stover, Columbus, Wis. Mace Bearer will be Andy Lopez, professor of computer science. Eagan Heath, Idaho Falls, Idaho, and Melinda Kernik, White Bear Lake, as Student Marshals, will lead the graduates. Faculty Marshall will be Dian Lopez, professor of computer science.

UMM's fifth chancellor, Jacqueline R. Johnson, will provide the welcome and recognize special guests. The Honorable University of Minnesota Regent John Frobenius will provide remarks. Senior Alyssa M. Herzog, Montgomery, as recipient of the Curtis H. Larson Award, will speak on behalf of the students. The award honors Curtis Larson, UMM's first class speaker in 1964, who lost his life in an accident while serving with the Peace Corps in Ecuador following his graduation. Associate Justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court and UMM alumna Lorie Gildea will give the graduation address.

Judith Kuechle, interim vice chancellor for academic affairs and dean, will present the graduating class. Regent Frobenius will confer the degrees. Juli Wagner '92, president of the UMM Alumni Association, will provide a welcome on behalf of the Association.

A reception will be held in Oyate Hall in the UMM Student Center following the Commencement ceremony. Graduates, families and friends are cordially invited to attend.

The Humanities Fine Arts Gallery features the 2007 Senior Student Exhibition and is open to visitors before and after Commencement.

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.