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**Nearly 370 students to receive bachelor's degrees during 41st Commencement**

*Summary:*

(April 26, 2004)-Actor, author and activist Peter Coyote will give the graduation address and UMM Chancellor Sam Schuman will preside during the annual Commencement ceremony, to be held at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, May 8, on the mall of the University of Minnesota, Morris. Rain site for the event will be in the gymnasium of the Physical Education Center.

Nearly 370 students will receive their bachelor of arts degrees from UMM this year. The ceremony will mark UMM's 41st Commencement.

The UMM Concert Band, under the direction of Dr. John Stanley Ross, assistant professor of music, will perform a pre-Commencement concert.

Students will process, led by Student Color Guards Nathan Hilfiker '06, Northfield, and David Robbin '05, Hutchinson. Mace Bearer will be Jon Anderson, associate professor of mathematics. Student Marshals will be Sara Kloek '05, Stillwater, and Sarah Lofgren '06, Marshall. Leading the faculty procession will be Faculty Marshal Jessica Larson, assistant professor of studio art. The "Star Spangled Banner" will be led by graduating senior and music major Tara Salyards, Winona.

Chancellor Schuman will provide the welcome, followed by remarks from The Honorable University of Minnesota Regent John Frobenius. Amelia Chouravong, graduating senior from Brooklyn Park and recipient of the Curtis H. Larson Award, will speak on behalf of the graduating class.

The graduation address will be given by Peter Coyote. Well known for roles in "Erin Brockovich," "Patch Adams," and "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial," Coyote is an actor, author and activist. He received a bachelor of arts in English literature from Grinnell College and pursued a master of arts in creative writing from San Francisco State University. His memoir, *Sleeping Where I Fall*, received the 1993-94 Pushcart Prize, a national award for writing excellence. Coyote served as California State Arts Council chair and as a member of the board of directors for Baykeepers, a proactive organization with a mission to preserve, protect, and enhance the health of San Francisco Bay ecosystems and communities. An avid outdoorsman, amateur photographer, and passionate songwriter and guitarist, Coyote makes his home in Northern California.

The Iron Bull Singers will present an Honor Song. Honor Songs are played to recognize and pay tribute to special achievements. The drum group selects the song it feels is appropriate, which may be based on a vision, past experiences, or a particular occasion. This Honor Song is dedicated to the Class of 2004. No photographs may be taken during this presentation the audience stands, men with bared heads.

John F. Schwaller, vice chancellor for academic affairs and dean, will present the graduating class. The Honorable

University of Minnesota Regent John Frobenius will confer the degrees.

The UMM Concert Choir, under the direction of Ken Hodgson, associate professor of music, will perform the musical selection, "Ezekiel Saw De Wheel." Carol Eckersen '80, president of the UMM Alumni Association will bring greetings and welcome from the UMM Alumni Association.

A reception, hosted by Chancellor Sam Schuman, will be held in Oyate Hall in the Student Center following the commencement ceremony. Graduates, their families and friends are cordially invited to stay and enjoy the fellowship of this special occasion.

The Humanities Fine Arts Gallery features the 2004 Senior Student Exhibition, and is open to visitors before and after the commencement ceremony.

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](http://morris.umn.edu) or call 888-866-3382.