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Summary: The 45th annual Commencement ceremony at the University of Minnesota, Morris will culminate the UMM experience for over 350 seniors who will receive bachelor's degrees this year. Commencement will begin at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 17, on the Campus Mall.

(May 5, 2008)-The 45th annual Commencement ceremony at the University of Minnesota, Morris will culminate the UMM experience for over 350 seniors who will receive bachelor's degrees this year. Commencement will begin at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 17, on the Campus Mall.

The UMM Symphonic Winds, under the direction of Martin H. Seggelke, assistant professor of music, Rochelle Reiss '09, Maple Grove, and Jeffrey Wencel '09, Ham Lake, will provide the pre-commencement concert, as well as music for the Commencement processional and recessional and throughout the ceremony. The UMM Concert Choir, under the direction of Kenneth Hodgson, associate professor of music, will also provide musical selections. The Treble Makers—Julia Schmitt '08, Minnetonka Erin Hampton '08, Augusta, Wis. Sarah Vig '08, Rochester and Emily Carroll '08, St. Paul—will lead the singing of 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 Northern Wind Singers.

Student Color Guards will be Katie Barron, St. Paul, and Claire Stover, Columbus, Wis. Mace Bearer will be Stephen Burks, associate professor of economics and management. Ruth Hamberg, Oakdale, and Alex Murphy, Plymouth, as Student Marshals, will lead the graduates. Faculty Marshall Michelle Page, associate professor of education, will lead the faculty and staff procession.

The Honorable University of Minnesota Regent Maureen Cisneros and University of Minnesota Senior Vice President for System Administration Robert Jones will provide remarks. Alex Carlson ’08, Cottage Grove, 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. U.S. Representative Keith Ellison, Fifth Congressional District of Minnesota, will give the graduation address on the topic, "The Politics of Generosity, Inclusion and Courage."

Roland Guyotte, interim vice chancellor for academic affairs and dean, will present the graduating class. Regent Cisneros will confer the degrees. A representative of the UMM Alumni Association will welcome the graduates on behalf of the Association.

The Commencement ceremony will be Web Cast live. The Real Player download page for all computer platforms is located here: Real Player. (Minimum technical requirements: Computer running Windows 98/XP/Vista or Macintosh running system OS 10.3 or greater. Internet access of at least 512kb/sec.)
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 2008 Senior Student Exhibition and is open to visitors before and after the Commencement ceremony.

In the event of inclement weather, the ceremony will be held in the UMM P.E. Center gymnasium. Listen to KMRS/KKOK (1230 AM/95.7 FM) Morris radio stations or visit UMM for weather-related announcements.

Read more about University of Minnesota, Morris 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.