



*Sixty-fourth  
Commencement*

*Mount Vernon  
Nazarene University*

*Spring 2024*



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# MOUNT VERNON

NAZARENE UNIVERSITY

## **UNIVERSITY MISSION**

Mount Vernon Nazarene University exists to shape lives through educating the whole person and cultivating Christ-likeness for lifelong learning and service.

## **UNIVERSITY MISSION CONTEXT**

Mount Vernon Nazarene University, established by the Church of the Nazarene, opened its doors in 1968 and serves the denomination's East Central Region. The University offers liberal arts, professional, and graduate programs at its main campus in Mount Vernon, Ohio, downtown Mount Vernon, and online.

MVNU's educational philosophy and purpose are shaped by its Wesleyan-Holiness theological roots, informed by the Bible, focused on Christ-likeness in every aspect of life, and defined by an emphasis on loving God with all of one's heart, mind, soul, and strength, as well as one's neighbor as one's self. Students are nurtured and empowered through caring relationships with faculty, staff, and administrators; challenged to be devoted disciples of Christ; drawn toward discovery of wisdom and truth in every discipline of study; prepared for leadership in various professions; equipped to be lifelong learners; and sent into the world to live out their faith by offering their hearts and lives in service to God and others.

The University is characterized by an engaging environment where diversity is celebrated and differences in ethnicity, denomination, gender, economic level, and stage of spiritual development are embraced. A spirit of worship unifies the academic, social, and spiritual life of the student body; and the community is shaped through shared commitments, values, and experiences that provide the context for transformation in Christ, individually and collectively. Excellence in vocational pursuits and in character development are viewed as an expression of faithful stewardship, and a lifestyle of compassion is demonstrated as the most effective witness to others of God's love. As students become graduates, the character of Mount Vernon Nazarene University continues to identify them as devoted disciples, servant leaders, learning professionals, and loyal alumni.

## **UNIVERSITY MOTTO**

To Seek to Learn is to Seek to Serve

## **UNIVERSITY VISION**

To Change the World with the Love of Christ

**Rev. Andrew J. Monnin, B.A.**  
**Northwestern Ohio District Superintendent**  
**Church of the Nazarene**



Rev. Monnin was elected to the role of District Superintendent in June 2023. His focus is *resourcing and inspiring local churches to build up leaders who will plant, revitalize, and create all kinds of churches to reach all kinds of people.*

Rev. Monnin began preparing for pastoral ministry in 1996, enrolling at Nazarene Bible College and completing a BA in Pastoral Ministry in May 2003. He was ordained in 2004. Before he answered the call to pastoral ministry, Andy worked twelve and a half years for an Industrial Manufacturer, primarily in Technical Sales & Marketing. He also served 12 years in the Army National Guard, ending that chapter as a Platoon Sergeant in an M1 tank company.

Prior to becoming the District Superintendent, Andy and his family were part of the launch team of The Valley Church when it was planted in 1994, a church that grew to three campuses and over 1200 people. Andy joined the staff full-time in 2001 and served in various pastoral roles, most recently as Lead Pastor from 2012 to 2023.

Rev. Monnin is a certified Master Assessment Director for Church Planting Assessment Centers and helped form a six-district regional church planting assessment center in NWO which is the largest in the US. He is certified to teach Evangelism and Multiplication Training (EMT) and instructs classes for Churches Planting Churches (CPC).

Rev. Monnin's greatest passion is helping people become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ, developing them as leaders to make an impact in our world for Jesus, and then sending them out to start new churches that reach unchurched people. His greatest joys include witnessing the changed lives he's gotten to be part of and the leaders he's been able to develop and send out.

Rev. Monnin and his wife Paula have three children: Kristen (Ryne) Davis, Daniel and Nathan (Kelsey), and three grandchildren, Olivia, Carter, and Luke.

# TRADITIONAL UNDERGRADUATE COMMENCEMENT CONVOCATION

SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2024, 10:00 A.M.  
R. R. HODGES CHAPEL/AUDITORIUM  
PRESIDENT CARSON CASTLEMAN, PH.D., PRESIDING

## PRELUDE

Rebecca L. Abbott, D.W.S.  
*Organist*

Brass Choir  
John E. Packard, D.A.  
*Professor of Music, Director*

## \*PROCESSIONAL

Brass Choir

*Trumpet Voluntary*, John Stanley  
*Trumpet Voluntary*, Jeremiah Clarke

## \*ACADEMIC PROCESSION

Flag Bearers: Delaney Brinkman; Tyler Maddux; Emma More  
Academic Marshals: Carrie D. Beal, Ph.D.; Colleen S. Bryan, Ph.D.; James D. Dalton, Ed.D.;  
Stephen P. Metcalfe, Ph.D.; John T. Noonan, Ph.D.

University Marshals: Erin King; Corey McCarty

## \*WELCOME

Carson Castleman, Ph.D.  
*President and Chief Executive Officer*

## \*INVOCATION

REV. DAVID MILLS, M. B. A.  
*Vice President for Spiritual Life  
and Church Relations*

## \*UNIVERSITY HYMN

Robert D. Tocheff, Ph.D.  
*Professor of Music*

*Be Thou My Vision*, Traditional Irish Melody

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art  
Thou my best Thought, by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word;  
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;  
Thou my great Father, thine own may I be;  
Thou in me dwelling, and I one with Thee.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,  
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:  
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,  
High King of heaven, my Treasure Thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,  
May I reach heaven's joys, Bright heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

---

*\*Audience stands*

**\*UNIVERSITY SCRIPTURE**  
II Corinthians 5:14-21 NRSV

Kaley Englund  
*Student Government Association  
Senior Class Chaplain  
Bachelor of Science in Nursing – Spring 2024*

**AWARDING OF HONORARY DEGREE**  
Rev. J. Kevin Dennis, MCM  
*District Superintendent, West Virginia North*

Carson Castleman, Ph.D.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE SPEAKER**

Carson Castleman, Ph.D.

**COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS**

Rev. Andrew J. Monnin, B.A.  
*Northwestern Ohio District Superintendent  
Church of the Nazarene*

**PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES**

Amy A. Kovach, Ph.D.  
*Vice President for Academic Affairs  
and Chief Academic Officer*

**CONFERRING OF DEGREES**

Carson Castleman, Ph.D.

THE CLASS OF 2024  
Associate of Arts  
Bachelor of Arts  
Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science  
Bachelor of Science  
Bachelor of Science in Nursing  
Bachelor of Social Work  
Bachelor of Social Work/Bachelor of Arts

Joseph D. Rinehart, M.A.  
*Assistant Professor of Communication,  
Director of Broadcasting*

**ALUMNI RELATIONS WELCOME**

Rev. Mike Cheek, M.Min.  
*Executive Director of Alumni Relations  
and Advancement*

**EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD**

Amy A. Kovach, Ph.D.

**SERVICE ABOVE SELF AWARD**

Rev. David Mills, M.Div.

**\*ALMA MATER**

Robert D. Tocheff, Ph.D.

**\*BENEDICTION**

Rev. Robert E. Stanley  
*Special Assistant to the President for  
Strategic Initiatives and Innovative Partnerships*

**\*RECESSIONAL**

Brass Choir

*Fanfare from Orfeo, Claudio Monteverdi  
Trumpet Tune and Air, Henry Purcell*

**RINGING OF THE SHAW BELL**

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*\*Audience stands*

## TRADITIONAL UNDERGRADUATE CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES ~ SPRING 2024

### ASSOCIATE OF ARTS

SARAH BETH SANDERS  
General Studies  
*Summa Cum Laude*

### BACHELOR OF ARTS

ALEXANDER RAYMOND ADAMS  
Integrated Language Arts Education  
*Magna Cum Laude*

CADE SAMUEL ADAMS  
Business Administration

GABRIEL MORGAN ARMSTRONG  
Business Administration

COLIN EVERETT ASHWORTH  
Communication and Media ◇

LANCE TYLER BALDWIN  
Business Administration  
*Magna Cum Laude*

LISA BROOKLYNN BALLENGER  
Christian Ministry

ZACHARY MASON BALLENGER  
Religion  
*Summa Cum Laude*

KALYSTA JOLENE BARND  
Christian Ministry  
*Magna Cum Laude*

REBECCA ANNE BASH  
Middle Childhood Education  
*Summa Cum Laude*

BROOKSTYN TAYLOR BLACK  
Intercultural Studies  
*Summa Cum Laude*

MIKE OWEN PATRICK BASKO  
Communication and Media  
*Summa Cum Laude*

ZACHARY JOSEPH BAUR  
Communication and Media

LYDIA JEAN BOLDEN  
Psychology  
*Magna Cum Laude*

CARMEN RENE BOLINGER  
Christian Ministry

LUKE IRVIN BORTNER  
Graphic Design

ZOE ELIZABETH MARIA BRICKER  
Communication and Media

CHASE ALLEN BROWN  
History  
*Summa Cum Laude* †

EMMA GRACE BROWN  
Art

JUSTIN LEE BROWN  
Music

RILEY JAMES BROWN  
Christian Ministry

COLBY R. CAMPBELL  
Psychology

EDEN TAYLOR CARPENTER  
Elementary Education/  
Elementary Intervention (P-5)  
*Cum Laude* ◇

CAMERON PAUL CEARNS  
Graphic Design

GRACE MICHELE CHESSEY  
Middle Childhood Education

ALEXES N. CHURCH  
Christian Ministry  
*Cum Laude*

KAITLYN ANN CLIFFORD  
ELEMENTARY EDUCATION/  
ELEMENTARY INTERVENTION (P-5)  
*Summa Cum Laude*\*\*

TERESA MERRELL CLIFTON  
Middle Childhood Education

BAILEY THOMAS CONRAD  
Business Administration  
*Magna Cum Laude*

AUBREY ELIZABETH CRAWFORD  
Elementary Education/  
Elementary Intervention (P-5)  
*Cum Laude*

MICHAEL JASON CROUSE  
Christian Ministry

ISAAC MARTIN CURTIS  
Communication and Media  
*Magna Cum Laude* ◇

BRYNNE NICHOLE DAVIS  
Elementary Education/  
Elementary Intervention (P-5)  
*Cum Laude*

KAYLA MCKENZIE DAVIS  
Worship Arts

PEYTON PARSONS DAVIS  
Mathematics  
*Magna Cum Laude*

STEVIN PAUL DAVIS  
Business Administration

MORGAN MARIE DELPOSEN  
ELEMENTARY EDUCATION/  
ELEMENTARY INTERVENTION (P-5)  
*Summa Cum Laude*

LAURYN AMBER DEWEESE  
Elementary Education/  
Elementary Intervention (P-5)  
*Summa Cum Laude*

BRETT JACOB DILLINGER  
Christian Ministry & Psychology  
*Magna Cum Laude*

ANNA ELYSE DUDGEON  
Art  
*Cum Laude*

ALLISON ELIZABETH DURST  
Graphic Design  
*Magna Cum Laude*

HANNAH JOSEFINE EDMONDS  
Elementary Education/  
Elementary Intervention (P-5)  
*Cum Laude*

BRANDON MICHAEL EHRENBERG  
Communication and Media  
*Cum Laude*

APRIL RIANN EICKHOFF  
Elementary Education/  
Elementary Intervention (P-5)  
*Summa Cum Laude*\*\*

DYLAN JOSEPH ELLIOTT  
Communication and Media  
*Cum Laude*

LANDON SHANE EWERS  
Sports Management

AUSTIN KYLE FAUCETT  
Business Administration

CHLOE MAE FELIX  
Psychology & Criminal Justice

LOGAN ALLEN FOX  
Business Administration

EMMA CORINNE GAHAGAN  
Psychology  
*Cum Laude*

LEXI JO GAMMELLO  
Psychology  
*Cum Laude*

JACOB TYLER GESSNER  
Psychology  
*Summa Cum Laude*\*\*

RICHARD A. GEYER JR.  
Communication and Media

ALEXIS LAURINE GRAY  
Art & Psychology  
*Cum Laude*

JOHN RICHARD GRUMNEY  
Emergency Management and  
Homeland Security ◇

ELLIE G. HAGY  
Middle Childhood Education  
*Summa Cum Laude*\*\*

JORDAN ANGEL HALL  
Graphic Design  
*Magna Cum Laude*

ETHAN MARTIN HAMBRICK  
Christian Ministry  
*Magna Cum Laude*

MACKENZIE ANNE HANCOCK  
Physical Education/Health Education  
*Magna Cum Laude*

† Honors Scholar

\*\* Alpha Chi

◇ Nease Scholar

★ Military



MAYLEEA Y. HANSEN Graphic Design <i>Magna Cum Laude</i> ◇	MADLINE JOY KITCHEN Christian Ministry <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	ALLISON RENEE PROUTY Communication and Media & Business Administration <i>Cum Laude</i>
JACOB DOUGLAS HANZIE Physical Education/Health Education <i>Cum Laude</i>	KASSANDRA RENE KNECHT Criminal Justice & Psychology	BRYCE CAMERON QUEARY Business Administration <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>
ABIGAIL MAUREEN HARLOW Criminal Justice <i>Cum Laude</i>	JACOB ALLEN LAFEVOR Music Education <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	KAITLIN REBECCA REESE Criminal Justice
EMMA GRACE HARVILLE Elementary Education/ Elementary Intervention (P-5) <i>Cum Laude</i>	JONATHON DAVID LANGDON Communication and Media	EMMA KATHERINE REUSS Communication and Media
HOGAN J. HECK Business Administration	TYLER KEITH MACKIE Christian Ministry	RACHEL JOY RISSE Elementary Education/ Elementary Intervention (P-5) ◇
ELIZABETH GRACE HEIMBACH Christian Ministry <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	CADEN PETER MASSEY History †	ZANE C. RISSE Christian Ministry
CALLIE DE-ANN HENRY Psychology & Criminal Justice <i>Summa Cum Laude**</i>	JOHN MATTHEW MAZZA Sports Management	BRITNEY KAE ROBB WHITEMAN Intercultural Studies <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>
LOGAN ROGER HINES Christian Ministry	CHLOE MCAULEY Elementary Education/ Elementary Intervention (P-5) <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	ABIGAIL NICOLE ROBERTS Elementary Education/ Elementary Intervention (P-5) <i>Summa Cum Laude**</i>
ANDREA DAWN HOAGLAND Art	KELLY ANN McDONOUGH Business Administration	BROOKLYNN M. ROCKWELL Graphic Design
FREDRICK RUSSEL LOUIS HOAGLAND English	CALEB TROY MCNICHOLS Integrated Social Studies Education & History <i>Cum Laude</i>	RACHEL LYNNE ROOT Art <i>Cum Laude</i>
RACHAEL DAWN HOBBS Psychology <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	MIKALA ROSE MINERD Elementary Education/ Elementary Intervention (P-5) <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	JESSICA H. RUMMEL Graphic Design & Art <i>Cum Laude</i>
NATHANIEL RAYMOND HUTSELL Business Administration	LUKE D. MOHNASKY Christian Ministry <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	ZANE MICHAEL SANDERS Christian Ministry
RILEY RENEE JARRETT Elementary Education/ Elementary Intervention (P-5) <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	RANDY D. MOON Sports Management ◇	KELLY MARIE SAPP Business Administration & Emergency Management and Homeland Security <i>Summa Cum Laude**</i>
JACK CONNOR KAHOUN Criminal Justice <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	NOELLE FRANCIA MORRIS Elementary Education/ Elementary Intervention (P-5) <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	ZOE ILENE SCHAUM Graphic Design <i>Summa Cum Laude</i> †
REBEKAH MARIE KALAS Middle Childhood Education <i>Cum Laude</i>	TAYLOR NICOLE NAZECK Graphic Design <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	MAKAYLA L. SCHOUTEN Music
CASEY JOHN KALMAN Sports Management <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	NATHAN RICHARD PARKER Emergency Management and Homeland Security <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	HALEY ELIZABETH SCHREINER Christian Ministry
LOGAN ANDREW KAZELMAN Elementary Education/ Elementary Intervention (P-5) <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	CHLOE MAE CATHERINE PETERS Elementary Education/ Elementary Intervention (P-5) <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	JOSIAH DAVID SIDLE Communication and Media
DONALD LAWRENCE KEHL Psychology	CARTER JACK PLINE Psychology	MACYN KAY SIEGENTHALER Christian Ministry <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>
BENJAMIN M. KINDBERG Graphic Design	JOSEPH BRYAN POREMSKY Sports Management	BENJAMIN AARON SLATER Christian Ministry <i>Magna Cum Laude</i> †
KAYLA ELIZABETH KIRK History	LEAH MCKENZIE POTTER Elementary Education/ Elementary Intervention (P-5) <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	ABIGAIL GRACE OLIVER Graphic Design <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>
ELAINE LAURA KIRKBRIDE Business Administration <i>Cum Laude</i>	LUCY FAITH PROSEK Psychology	MARGARET JORDAN SNYDER Integrated Language Arts Education

† Honors Scholar

\*\* Alpha Chi

◇ Nease Scholar

★ Military

MALLORY NICOLE SPANGLER  
Elementary Education/  
Elementary Intervention (P-5)  
*Magna Cum Laude*

SPENCER WARD STANLEY  
Emergency Management and  
Homeland Security

DALLAS BRAEDEN STONE  
Communication and Media  
*Magna Cum Laude*

LYNSEY MICHELLE STONEBRAKER  
Psychology & History

ALEXANDRA ALYS STONER  
Business Administration

HOPE JOY MARIE STRAIGHT  
Sports Management ★

PARKER DEAN SUGGS  
Integrated Social Studies Education

SHERIDAN NICHOLE SULLIVAN  
Elementary Education/  
Elementary Intervention (P-5)  
*Magna Cum Laude*

RAYNA L. TACKETT  
Middle Childhood Education  
*Magna Cum Laude*

KAITLYN ROSE TODD  
Music

JOCI LAINE TOTTEN  
Business Administration  
*Cum Laude*

JULIA ROSE TROTTI  
Christian Ministry  
*Summa Cum Laude* †

NOAH ASHTON TUCKER  
Communication and Media

MACY STARR VARNER  
Art  
*Cum Laude* †

RYAN THOMAS VETTERS  
Integrated Social Studies Education  
*Magna Cum Laude*

RACHEL ELIZABETH WAGNER  
Psychology

SAMANTHA GAIL WEAVER  
Elementary Education/  
Elementary Intervention (P-5)  
*Summa Cum Laude*

THADDAEUS RONALD WEAVER  
Physical Education/Health Education

CODY K. WEST  
Graphic Design

ANNIKAH MARLENE WHITE  
Middle Childhood Education ◇

SKYLER GREYSON LOUIS WIGGAND  
Emergency Management and  
Homeland Security  
*Cum Laude*

RILEY MITCHELL WIKE  
Christian Ministry ◇

BRYCE ALEXANDER WILES  
Sports Management

TAYLOR EVAN WILLIS  
Worship Arts  
*Cum Laude*

LEYTHON ALLEN WIRICK  
Physical Education/Health Education

SADIE MARIE WOODWARD-PAGE  
Psychology & Criminal Justice  
*Magna Cum Laude*

**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE**

AVERY GRACE ADKINS  
Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology  
*Magna Cum Laude*

EMILY NICOLE ALLISON  
Marketing  
*Summa Cum Laude*

CLAYTON CARL AMBURGY  
Health Sciences

JEREMIAH WESLEY ARCHER  
Biology

SARA SOFIA AUGUSTUS  
Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology  
*Summa Cum Laude*

JOHN BACKUS  
Mathematics  
*Magna Cum Laude* †

LUCAS JAMES BAILEY  
Mathematics

KAITLYN KRISTINE BALS  
Biology  
*Summa Cum Laude*

PRESTON NATHANIEL BARNES  
Marketing

RILEY KALEIKAUMAKA BARRETTO  
Exercise Science

COLLIN ROBERT BARTEAU  
Management

LUCY CHRISTINE BEAULIEU  
Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology  
*Summa Cum Laude* †

HUNTER REESE BILLMAN  
Finance  
*Summa Cum Laude*

JESSICA LEE BOCK  
Marketing  
*Magna Cum Laude*

ELLIE ELIZABETH BRILLHART  
Management

ISAAC CHRISTOPHER BROWNING  
Engineering  
*Cum Laude*

MACKENZIE FAYE CARTER  
Biology  
*Summa Cum Laude*

OLIVIA NICOLE CASTLE  
Exercise Science  
*Magna Cum Laude*

CALLIE ASHLYN CLINE  
Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology  
*Magna Cum Laude*

CAYDEN WILLIAM COFFMAN  
Exercise Science

MADLINE SCOTT CRITZER  
Finance & Marketing  
*Summa Cum Laude*\*\*

MEGAN LYNN DANISON  
Biology  
*Summa Cum Laude*

MIKAJA MORITA DART  
Exercise Science

EMILY SUSANNE DEPOLO  
Exercise Science

NATHANIEL THOMAS DERSOM  
Engineering  
*Cum Laude*

DYLAN LEE ERRINGTON  
Marketing

ABBIGAIL NICOLE EUSEY  
Exercise Science

LUKE M. DAVID FUNTE  
Exercise Science ◇

TYLER THOMAS GREGORY  
Engineering

ELIZABETH KAY HARTZLER  
Exercise Science  
*Summa Cum Laude*

JAXON TODD HENTHORN  
Marketing

SAMUEL OWEN HERSHEY  
Accounting & Finance  
*Magna Cum Laude*

KYLE ARTHUR HEUSSLER  
Accounting

BRYAN LEE HOCKENBERRY  
Exercise Science

HANNAH ABIGAIL HOLTZ  
Biology

ADRIANNA NICOLE HUFF  
Biology  
*Magna Cum Laude*

NOAH BRIAN HUMPHREY  
Biology  
*Summa Cum Laude*

BROOKE MADISON HURST  
Finance  
*Magna Cum Laude*

MADISON ELAYNE HECK  
Exercise Science

BLAINE TERRY KEENER  
Management  
*Magna Cum Laude*

HUNTER CHARLES KELLER  
Accounting  
*Summa Cum Laude*\*\*

† Honors Scholar

\*\* Alpha Chi

◇ Nease Scholar

★ Military

JOSHUA DANIEL KNAPP  
Mathematics

DAISY JUNE LATHAM  
Computer Science

GAVIN DALE MATTIX  
Finance & Accounting  
*Magna Cum Laude\*\**

NATHAN ROGER MCCLOUD  
Accounting  
*Cum Laude*

CRUZ RYAN MCFADDEN  
Management  
*Cum Laude*

SPENCER JAMES MILLS  
Finance  
*Summa Cum Laude\*\**

LUKE JOSEPH MODESTO  
Accounting  
*Magna Cum Laude*

JEAN MARIE MOORE  
Health Sciences  
*Magna Cum Laude*

AUBRIE GRACE PERRY  
Exercise Science

ANDREW OSGOOD PFAU  
Biology  
*Summa Cum Laude*

CARTER JACK PLINE  
Exercise Science

SETH ALLEN POTTS  
Finance  
*Magna Cum Laude*

MATTHEW HARRISON QUIRE  
Accounting  
*Magna Cum Laude*

KALLIE RENEE REGULA  
Exercise Science  
*Cum Laude*

BETHANY LYNN RIDER  
Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology  
*Summa Cum Laude*

SAMUEL D. RIFFLE  
Computer Science  
*Magna Cum Laude*

KADE ANDREW RUEGSEGGER  
Accounting & Finance  
*Magna Cum Laude*

BENJAMIN THOMAS RUTHERFORD  
Biology

ISAIAH TRENTON SAVAGE  
Computer Science  
*Summa Cum Laude †*

COLE THOMAS RAY SCHRECK  
Management

COLTON GEORGE SISLER  
Biology  
*Summa Cum Laude †*

JEAUSTIN SOLIS  
Management

KATIE RENE SPRANG  
Finance  
*Summa Cum Laude*

PARKER GREGORY STIGALL  
Biology

CAITLYN SUZANNE STIMSON  
Biology  
*Summa Cum Laude †*

EMMA JUNE STRAUSBAUGH  
Exercise Science

CALEB D. SYLER  
Engineering

GREG A. THOMPSON  
Management ◇

KAELIN CHRISTOPHER VAN TRAN  
Health Sciences

BRANDON W. TROXELL  
Marketing

MICAH ALLEN TUGGLE  
Exercise Science  
*Cum Laude*

CLAIRE ELISE VOGELMANN  
Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology  
*Summa Cum Laude †*

MEGAN ELAINE VOLLRATH  
Exercise Science  
*Summa Cum Laude*

CHYANN ROSE WELCH  
Chemistry ◇

NATHAN ALAN WHITNEY  
Engineering

ZACHARY DANIEL WIGTON  
Biology  
*Magna Cum Laude*

BRYCE ALEXANDER WILES  
Exercise Science

AARON MICHAEL WOODS  
Management

### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

MORGAN ELIZABETH AMENT  
Nursing

PAIGE OLIVIA BEMILLER  
Nursing

RAEGAN O. CRAIG  
Nursing

FRANCESCA RENEE CUTRUPPI  
Nursing

ALLEE ESTHER DUTT  
Nursing  
*Magna Cum Laude*

HALEY JOY EBERHARD  
Nursing  
*Cum Laude*

KALEY FAY ENGLUND  
Nursing ◇

DONALD CHASE FINCH  
Nursing

OLIVIA MACKENZIE GATES  
Nursing ◇

LAVONNA ALICE HAIGHT  
Nursing

KATHYRN DANIELLE HELPHREY  
Nursing

MALLORY GRACE HOLCOMB  
Nursing  
*Summa Cum Laude*

MOLLY MARIE KICHLINE  
Nursing  
*Cum Laude †*

BETHANY K. KUHN  
Nursing

SETH LEVI LAPP  
Nursing

LILLY T. LITTERAL  
Nursing

MASON LEWIS MAURER  
Nursing  
*Magna Cum Laude*

MEGAN LEA MORAGHAN  
Nursing

MAKAYLA JEWEL ROBERTS  
Nursing  
*Cum Laude*

SOPHIA ELIZABETH ROLON  
Nursing

REBECCA E. ROOD  
Nursing

HALEY NECOLE VASEY  
Nursing  
*Cum Laude*

HONG SHENG WANG  
Nursing  
*Magna Cum Laude*

### BACHELOR OF SOCIAL WORK

GLORIANA ELIZABETH ADAMS  
Social Work ◇

BROOKSTYN TAYLOR BLACK  
Social Work  
*Summa Cum Laude*

KIMBERLY ELIZABETH COMPARETTE  
Social Work  
*Magna Cum Laude †*

SAMANTHA JO EDLER  
Social Work  
*Cum Laude*

HANNAH LOUISE GOINES  
Social Work

NATALIE ELIZABETH HAINES  
Social Work

KARLEY N. HALLORAN  
Social Work  
*Magna Cum Laude*

† Honors Scholar

\*\* Alpha Chi

◇ Nease Scholar

★ Military

TRESSA RUTH HINDENLANG  
Social Work  
*Magna Cum Laude*

MORGAN CASSIDY HOMMAN  
Social Work

CASSIDY JADE MARQUIS  
Social Work  
*Summa Cum Laude*

ABIGAIL LYNN MORRIS  
Social Work

KEATON PAIGE MOSSMAN  
Social Work  
*Summa Cum Laude*

HANNAH LYNN NEFF  
Social Work  
*Cum Laude*

BRITNEY KAE ROBB WHITEMAN  
Social Work  
*Magna Cum Laude*

HANNAH MICHELLE SCHAFFNIT  
Social Work  
*Summa Cum Laude*

BRITTANY LYNN TAYLOR  
Social Work

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**FLAG BEARERS:**

Delaney Brinkman, Student Government Association Administrative Chairperson, 2023-2024  
Tyler Maddux, Junior Class President, 2024-2025  
Emma More, Student Government Association Vice President of Social Life, 2024-2025

**UNIVERSITY MARSHALS:**

Corey McCarty, Student Government Association Vice President for Community Life, 2024-2025  
Erin King, Student Government Association Vice President for Academic Life, 2024-2025

† Honors Scholar

\*\* Alpha Chi

◇ Nease Scholar

★ Military

# GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES COMMENCEMENT CONVOCATION

SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2024, 2:00 P.M.  
R. R. HODGES CHAPEL/AUDITORIUM  
PRESIDENT CARSON CASTLEMAN, PH.D., PRESIDING

## PRELUDE

Rebecca L. Abbott, D.W.S.  
*Organist*

Brass Choir  
John E. Packard, D.A.  
*Professor of Music, Director*

## \*PROCESSIONAL

Brass Choir

*Trumpet Voluntary*, John Stanley  
*Trumpet Voluntary*, Jeremiah Clarke

## \*ACADEMIC PROCESSION

Flag Bearers: Delaney Brinkman; Tyler Maddux; Emma More  
Academic Marshals: Carrie D. Beal, Ph.D.; Colleen S. Bryan, Ph.D.; James D. Dalton, Ed.D.;  
Stephen P. Metcalfe, Ph.D.; John T. Noonan, Ph.D.  
University Marshals: Erin King; Corey McCarty

## \*WELCOME

Carson Castleman, Ph.D.  
*President and Chief Executive Officer*

## \*INVOCATION

Rev. David Mills, M.B.A.  
*Vice President for Spiritual Life  
and Church Relations*

## \*UNIVERSITY HYMN

Robert D. Tocheff, Ph.D.  
*Professor of Music*

*Be Thou My Vision*, Traditional Irish Melody

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art  
Thou my best Thought, by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word;  
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;  
Thou my great Father, thine own may I be;  
Thou in me dwelling, and I one with Thee.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,  
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:  
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,  
High King of heaven, my Treasure Thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,  
May I reach heaven's joys, Bright heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

---

*\*Audience stands*

**\*UNIVERSITY SCRIPTURE**  
II Corinthians 5:14-21 NRSV

Bailey Alexander  
*Bachelor of Arts in Christian Ministry*  
*Spring 2024*

**INTRODUCTION OF THE SPEAKER**

Carson Castleman, Ph.D.

**COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS**

Rev. Andrew J. Monnin, B.A.  
*Northwestern Ohio District Superintendent*  
*Church of the Nazarene*

**PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES**

Amy A. Kovach, Ph.D.  
*Vice President for Academic Affairs*  
*and Chief Academic Officer*

**CONFERRING OF DEGREES**

Carson Castleman, Ph.D.

THE CLASS OF 2024

Joseph D. Rinehart, M.A.  
*Assistant Professor of Communication,*  
*Director of Broadcasting*

Associate of Arts  
Bachelor of Arts  
Bachelor of Business Administration  
Bachelor of Science in Nursing  
Bachelor of Social Work  
Master of Arts in Education  
Master of Business Administration  
Master of Business Administration/Master of Ministry (Dual Degree)  
Master of Ministry  
Master of Science in Management

**ALUMNI RELATIONS WELCOME**

Rev. Mike Cheek, M.Min  
*Executive Director of Alumni Relations*  
*and Advancement*

**\*ALMA MATER**

Robert D. Tocheff, Ph.D.

**\*BENEDICTION**

Rev. Robert E. Stanley  
*Special Assistant to the President for*  
*Strategic Initiatives and Innovative Partnerships*

**\*RECESSIONAL**

Brass Choir

*Fanfare from Orfeo, Claudio Monteverdi*  
*Trumpet Tune and Air, Henry Purcell*

**RINGING OF THE SHAW BELL**

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*\*Audience stands*

## GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES ~ SPRING 2024

### ASSOCIATE OF ARTS

KATHRYN ANN ADAMS  
General Studies  
*Cum Laude*

GAMEL S. BRIMAH  
General Studies★

SHANNEN NICOLE CARUSO  
General Studies  
*Magna Cum Laude*

JOBY JAMES HENRY  
General Studies

JENNICA RAY MASSEY  
General Studies

SHAUNE PERRY SIMONSON  
General Studies★

STEPHANIE ANN MARIE STACKLIN  
General Studies

LAUREN R. TIPPLE  
General Studies  
*Summa Cum Laude*

### BACHELOR OF ARTS

JAMES DOUGLAS ADKINS  
Public Administration

BAILEY STEPHEN ALEXANDER  
Christian Ministry  
*Summa Cum Laude*

MICHELLE L. BARNETT  
Leadership  
*Cum Laude*

HAILEY MARIE BARNHART  
Elementary Education (P-5)  
*Summa Cum Laude*

AMY L. BAILEY-BILS  
Public Administration  
*Magna Cum Laude*

RYAN MARCUS BYERS  
Christian Ministry  
*Summa Cum Laude*

TERRY L. CARPENTER  
Christian Ministry

KAREN M. COWAN  
Leadership  
*Cum Laude*

JANELLE M. CREELEY  
Elementary Education (P-5)  
*Summa Cum Laude*

RYAN ANTHONY DAVENPORT  
Public Administration  
*Cum Laude*\*

TIFFANY GRACE DUGGER  
Christian Ministry

MICHELLE F. EDWARDS  
Educational Studies  
*Magna Cum Laude*

ANDREW JACKSON JASON FETTER  
Christian Ministry

STEPHANIE A. GUILLIAMS  
Elementary Education (P-5)

LINDSEY DELAINE HEMMELGARN  
Elementary Education (P-5)  
*Summa Cum Laude*

RAYMOND A. HERNANDEZ  
Leadership  
*Cum Laude*\*

STACIA MAE LYNN HUFF  
Elementary Education (P-5)

DUWAYNE JOE LONEY  
Christian Ministry  
*Magna Cum Laude*

AUBREY JANE MCCOY  
Elementary Education (P-5)  
*Summa Cum Laude*

MICHAEL W. MCKENZIE  
Christian Ministry  
*Magna Cum Laude*

JORDAN W. MOORE  
Christian Ministry  
*Magna Cum Laude*

JESSICA LOUISE OLIVER  
Elementary Education (P-5)  
*Magna Cum Laude*

KYLIE RENEE PATTERSON  
Elementary Education (P-5)

KIMBERLY J. RICE  
Emergency Management & Homeland Security

ELIZA DAMARIS RODRIGUEZ-STEVENS  
Elementary Education (P-5)

JACOB T. ROSS  
Elementary Education (P-5)  
*Magna Cum Laude*

KRISTEN PAIGE SIX  
Elementary Education (P-5)

ASHLEY L. SMITH  
Elementary Education (P-5)  
*Magna Cum Laude*\*\*

CAROL SUE SMITH  
Elementary Education (P-5)  
*Magna Cum Laude*

CHRISTOPHER SHERIDAN STEVENS  
Christian Ministry  
*Cum Laude*

SARA JANE STOVER  
Elementary Education (P-5)  
*Summa Cum Laude*

BRETT WESLEY WARKENTINE  
Christian Ministry

CRAIG ALLEN WEHR  
Emergency Management & Homeland Security  
*Magna Cum Laude*

ALLEN RAY WILLIAMSON, JR.  
Leadership  
*Summa Cum Laude*\*\*

### BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

JOSEPH BOUSQUET  
Management  
*Cum Laude*

JEREMY ALAN BRAGG  
Business Administration

HOLLY JANE BUSH  
Business Administration  
*Magna Cum Laude*

BRIANNA SUE CELESCHI  
Business Administration  
*Magna Cum Laude*

ELIZABETH THERESE CLARK  
Human Resource Management  
*Cum Laude*

HEATHER M. CUTLER  
Business Administration

BETHANY A. DISS  
Business Administration  
*Magna Cum Laude*

BRADLEY N. EDENS  
Management  
*Cum Laude*

GRANT STEVEN EDGELL  
Business Administration

VICTORIA S. EMERINE  
Project Management

SARA TERESA ENGLT  
Human Resource Management  
*Summa Cum Laude*

CHANDLER DAVID ERIKSEN  
Management  
*Magna Cum Laude*

SHELBI LYNN EVANS  
Business Administration  
*Summa Cum Laude*

DANIEL J. FANELLO  
Finance  
*Cum Laude*

ZACHARY M. HAJJAR  
Management  
*Cum Laude*

AUSTIN R. JAGGERS  
Management

HANNA LYNN KIGHT  
Human Resource Management

ANGELA RENEE KNOTTS  
Business Administration

ARMAND NICHOLAS MASSARY, IV  
Business Administration  
*Summa Cum Laude*\*

CARSON DEREK BRIAN O'NEIL  
Management  
*Magna Cum Laude*

★ Military

\*\* Alpha Chi

JACOB KENNETH POLLARD  
Human Resource Management  
*Summa Cum Laude*

REMY TRENT RHODES  
Business Administration

COLIN MICHAEL ROSS  
Management  
*Cum Laude*

SAVANNAH RAE RUCK  
Human Resource Management  
*Summa Cum Laude*

TINA A. SMYTHE  
Marketing

CHRISTI L. SPENCER  
Business Administration

EMILY ANN TRAINER  
Business Administration  
*Summa Cum Laude*

JACQUELINE S. WATERS  
Business Administration

JAMES WELLS  
Business Administration  
*Cum Laude*

### **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING**

MADISON M. KEATON  
Nursing  
*Cum Laude*

MANDY L. RICE  
Nursing  
*Magna Cum Laude*

### **BACHELOR OF SOCIAL WORK**

ASHLEY ELISABETH BARR  
Social Work  
*Summa Cum Laude*

BROOKE ADEAN DEEMER  
Social Work  
*Magna Cum Laude*

SAVANNA D. DIXON  
Social Work  
*Summa Cum Laude*

WARREN LEE FITZPATRICK  
Social Work  
*Summa Cum Laude\*\**

JALEA VICTORIA FRANCIS  
Social Work  
*Magna Cum Laude\**

CHEYENNE MARIE HOWELL  
Social Work  
*Magna Cum Laude*

KELLY ANN KNOX  
Social Work

ELISABETH LEA LEDBETTER  
Social Work  
*Summa Cum Laude*

SHELLY RHEA MABREY  
Social Work  
*Summa Cum Laude\*\**

ALLYSON K. MCGEORGE  
Social Work  
*Summa Cum Laude*

BETHANY ANN MCGOWAN  
Social Work  
*Summa Cum Laude*

COURTNEY ELAINE MEDLIN  
Social Work  
*Magna Cum Laude*

LAZAE D. MERRELL  
Social Work

BOBBIE KAY NEFF  
Social Work  
*Summa Cum Laude*

KELCIANNE MARIE PARKER  
Social Work  
*Summa Cum Laude*

CARLA RENEE ROGERS  
Social Work

CORI A. SANZONE  
Social Work  
*Cum Laude*

SIERRAH N. TASKA  
Social Work  
*Cum Laude*

CONNIE J. WEATHERHOLT  
Social Work  
*Cum Laude*

APRIL R. WILLIAMS  
Social Work

MICAYLA L. WILSON  
Social Work  
*Cum Laude*

TASHI C. WINDHAM  
Social Work

BROOKE WOODRUM  
Social Work  
*Magna Cum Laude*

CHRISTINA JO ZIEGLER  
Social Work

DREW ZWIESLER  
Social Work  
*Cum Laude*

### **MASTER OF ARTS IN EDUCATION**

MAKENZIE ELIZABETH ARNOLD  
Intervention Specialist

MICHELLE ELIZABETH BAKER  
Intervention Specialist

LESLIE S. BEEMER  
Professional Educator Licensure

HALEY JANE CLEVELAND BULL  
Professional Educator Licensure

SIDNEY JANE BURKHART  
Intervention Specialist

NEELY NICOLE BURKHOLDER  
Intervention Specialist

JACOB RYAN BURLEY  
Professional Educator Licensure

KAYLA R. DAVISON  
Professional Educator Licensure

ANNA DEETER  
Intervention Specialist

JAMES CHRISTOPHER DOUTT  
Intervention Specialist\*

LEAH L. FISHER  
Professional Educator Licensure

OWEN V. GRAMOY  
Intervention Specialist

JUSTIN JULIEN HAGGARD  
Professional Educator Licensure

KRISTINA MAI HEINLEN  
Professional Educator Licensure

HEATHER LYNN KERNS  
Professional Educator Licensure

EMILY JORDAN KETELSEN  
Professional Educator Licensure

HUNTER JAMES KLICKMAN  
Professional Educator Licensure

ANGELA GRACE LASHLEY  
Professional Educator Licensure

LYNETTE ROSE LOVELACE  
Intervention Specialist

KRISTINE L. MILLINER  
Professional Educator Licensure

AVERY ELYSE MULLINS  
Intervention Specialist

SARA NEARGARDER  
Intervention Specialist

LAUREN A. PAHL  
Intervention Specialist

REILLY MAY PARKER  
Intervention Specialist

CHRISTINA LEE PATTERSON  
Professional Educator Licensure

JUSTINE MO'NEY RICE  
Intervention Specialist

TYLER M. ROSSHIRT  
Professional Educator Licensure

AMBER N. ROWE  
Professional Educator Licensure

BREANNA IRENE RUSCHMAN  
Professional Educator Licensure

EMILY ANNE SYROWSKI  
Intervention Specialist

NOAH KEEGAN TAYLOR  
Professional Educator Licensure

CARLY CHRISTINE THESING  
Intervention Specialist

BRITTANY RENEE WHIMS  
Intervention Specialist

### **MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

TAKANG NCHACHA ABUNAW  
Health Care Administration

BRYCE R. BACON  
Business Administration

HANNAH SIMONE BARCO  
Business Administration

☆ Military

\*\* Alpha Chi



JESSICA A. BENDER  
Business Administration

STEPHANIE R. BLAIR  
Business Administration

STEPHIE N. BRATTON  
Business Administration

ASHLEY MARIE BROWN  
Business Administration

JAMES M. BULLOCK, III  
Health Care Administration

SHELBY R. BURNS  
Business Administration

BRANDI LOUISE CHAMBERLAIN-GLANTON  
Business Administration

CHERYL ANN CRAWFORD  
Business Administration

ELIZABETH PATRICIA ELGIN  
Business Administration

DAVID FLOYD FISSELL  
Business Administration

GRANT RAYMOND FORD  
Business Administration

MOLLY ANN GALASZEWSKI  
Business Administration

SARITA G. GALE  
Business Administration

GARRETT R. GEMMAKA  
Business Administration

JARED MICHAEL GLEASON  
Business Administration

MONISOLA IMANI GLEICH  
Business Administration

ANTHONI MICHAEL GOBLE  
Business Administration ★

CHRISTIAN HENRY GRABER  
Business Administration

BAYLOR L. GREEN  
Business Administration

KAYLA ANN GREEN  
Business Administration

MICHAEL J. HAHN  
Business Administration

SANDRA JESSICA HONG  
Health Care Administration

STACEY LEE HURLOW  
Business Administration

NICOLE E. HUSTON  
Health Care Administration

BENJAMIN JACOBS  
Health Care Administration

ZACHARY TYLER JOHNSON  
Business Administration

ADDISON BOYD KARGER  
Business Administration

SARAH NICHOLE KLOTZ  
Health Care Administration

TYLER G. LILLY  
Business Administration

SALVATORE LOPICCOLO  
Business Administration

ROBERT BEAU LUDWICK  
Business Administration

REAGAN RAQUEL MARSHALL  
Business Administration

KAITLIN JOY MEADE  
Business Administration

JOHN DAVID METZGER  
Business Administration

SARAH KATHERINE MOWRY  
Business Administration

LIAM R. NEAR  
Health Care Administration

JENNIFER LYNN NELSON  
Business Administration

KEVIN M. NEYLAND  
Business Administration ★

AMBER RAE NTAMACK  
Business Administration

MATTHEW BRAD PFAU  
Business Administration

PAIGE RYANNA PRICE  
Business Administration

MARIA LAURA PUSNIK  
Health Care Administration

ISAAC LEROY RAMSEYER  
Business Administration

SHELBY G. REED  
Business Administration

MICAH GERALD REX  
Business Administration

CAMERON KENNEDY ROMO  
Health Care Administration

HANNAH JOY ROSTORFER  
Business Administration

MICHAEL ROBERT RUDY  
Business Administration

BROOKELYNN FAITH SEMMELROTH  
Business Administration

AUTUMN ELIZABETH SNIDER  
Health Care Administration

BRETT ALLEN TOWNSEND  
Business Administration

HANNAH J. VAUGHN  
Business Administration

ANDREA MARIE VON DER VELLEN  
Health Care Administration

RYAN DANIEL WALTERS  
Business Administration

CONNOR S. WILLIAMS  
Business Administration

JENNILLE CHRISTINE ZABIEREK  
Health Care Administration

NICHOLAS ZACCONE  
Business Administration

### **MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION/ MASTER OF MINISTRY (DUAL DEGREE)**

ELIJAH WILLIAM ARNS  
Business Administration & Practical Theology

KAYODE MICHAEL AYODELE  
Business Administration & Practical Theology

CHANKA LASHEE INGRAM  
Business Administration & Practical Theology

KELSEY LEA MACFARLANE  
Business Administration & Practical Theology

JEREMY M. VARNER  
Business Administration & Practical Theology

ERIC PHILLIP WARD  
Business Administration & Practical Theology

### **MASTER OF MINISTRY**

MARK OWEN BROWN  
Practical Theology

DAVID MICHAEL FISER  
Practical Theology

ERICA L. GRIMES  
Practical Theology

LEVI WEAVER  
Practical Theology

### **MASTER OF SCIENCE IN MANAGEMENT**

JOSHUA MICHAEL JEROME  
Management

BECKY JEAN LEIJA  
Management

DONNA MONTOKA  
Management

KARA MARIE SCHMID  
Management

PIERRETTE AKAKI UMBE  
Management

LYNSEY MARIE YARGER  
Management

★ Military

\*\* Alpha Chi

# UNIVERSITY SCRIPTURE PASSAGE AND HYMN

## INTRODUCTION

The Mount Vernon Nazarene University community extends around the globe into classrooms, pulpits, hospitals, places of business, and human service organizations. Wherever the influence of MVNU extends, our vision persists – *To Change the World with the Love of Christ*. This is possible because we draw from the deep wells of Israel and Jesus Christ as expressed in the mission of the Church. When the University gathers to celebrate, mourn, and dream, we do so in the power of the Holy Spirit to offer a doxology of invitation and praise. While MVNU is a young institution, its roots go to the very creation of the world. The Board of Trustees upon recommendation of the Senior Leadership Team intends to call attention to the deep wells of the Christian tradition by designating a University Scripture passage and a University hymn. Both will frame Baccalaureate, Commencement, and other University events. The Scripture passage and hymn offer testimony to the faith which runs from the heart of God to our calling to Holiness Higher Education.

## UNIVERSITY SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

The Scripture passage of II Corinthians 5:14-21 comes from the ministry of Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God. While Paul clearly addresses the “church of God which is at Corinth”, he also addresses the Church of our time. According to Paul, “the love of Christ controls us because we are convinced that one has died for all . . . (v14a). The power of the resurrection makes it possible to live for something bigger than our own agenda. This passage reminds us that the MVNU community is a new creation. We do not wander amid the ashes of civilization; rather we look to the newness of the resurrection. Because of this, MVNU lives toward reconciliation, and just for this reason, we are ambassadors for Christ to a broken world. While sin, death, and evil surround this campus, during dark days and good days Christ calls us to a ministry of reconciliation. In fact, MVNU believes God makes his appeal through us. The appeal of the everlastingly triune God, as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is reconciliation borne of righteousness. The promise of the passage is lived out through the vision to change the world through the love of Christ. John Wesley writes, “This is the word of reconciliation which we preach. This is the foundation which never can be moved. By faith we are built upon this foundation; and this faith also is the gift of God” [*Wesley’s Works*, 1: 119].

The University Scripture Passage calls attention to the Wesleyan-Holiness tradition of MVNU. The Church of the Nazarene believes with Paul that righteousness comes through Christ in order to enable us to be ambassadors of heart holiness. Therefore, the ever-flowing love of God embraces the struggles with sin and in the power of the Spirit replaces fear and failure with the peace which passes all understanding. As for Paul, so with us, we reach toward a life characterized by reconciling holiness.

## UNIVERSITY HYMN

As we gather for various important events on campus, music and singing carry great significance in the life of the community. In those moments we will sing *Be Thou My Vision*. The very vision of a God who became like us so that we might become like him helps to frame our understanding. The Christ who hangs on the cross between earth and heaven utters words of hope, forgiveness, and reconciliation. We become ambassadors of this message through Christ. The hymn also affirms “Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise . . . High King of heaven, my Treasure Thou art.” This hymn addresses God who is Wisdom, Word, Shield, Sword, Dignity, Shelter, and Tower. The humble babe in a manger suffers death on a cross to rise victoriously. Paul proclaims, “Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Phil. 2: 9-11). The University Hymn reminds our community that our vision of a Christ-formed God expresses the fullness of what we intend to be in faithfulness to our mission. MVNU reaches toward a broken world with the prayer, “Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.”

The Christian tradition is populated by men and women who wrote, served, preached, and sang the vision of God. The thread of holy diligence blesses the church toward the mission of evangelism, worship, and education. What the church believes, teaches, and confesses compels this institution to sing the praises of God. MVNU exists in the vision of a holy God who loves everlastingly. Nothing we will ever do can rise higher than the God who is “heart of [our] own heart.”

The words of *Be Thou My Vision* dating to the eighth century if not the fourth century, express a deep faith. The words of the hymn express a deep desire to share the good news of the gospel by Irish missionaries and indeed the entire church. Singing *Be Thou My Vision* causes the lives of this community to be intertwined with the richness of our common and historic faith. When this hymn is sung, it effectively links passionate faith with the mind illuminated by the vision of God.

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Memory and Mission define the sentiments of the University Scripture passage and University Hymn. The purpose of both is to frame the good work of MVNU to engage the mind and heart in the grand purpose of education in the Wesleyan-Holiness tradition.

Adopted March 4, 2011  
Board of Trustees



## PRESIDENT'S FAREWELL TO THE GRADUATES

As your time at Mount Vernon Nazarene University ends, I wanted to take a moment to congratulate you on this incredible milestone in your life. Graduating from college is a significant achievement, and I want you to know how proud we all are of your hard work, dedication, and perseverance.

But beyond the academic accomplishments, there is something even more remarkable about your journey at Mount Vernon Nazarene University. We trust that through the classroom and extracurricular activities, you have witnessed our commitment to your spiritual growth and desire to see you succeed at every level in your college experience.

In a world that often challenges and questions faith, we encourage you to stand firm in your beliefs. Our prayer is that you have deepened your understanding of God's word, cultivated a personal relationship with Him, and seek to live out your faith in practical ways.

As you step into the next chapter of your life, remember the importance of your faith. Your time at Mount Vernon Nazarene University has equipped you with knowledge, skills, and experiences, but it is your faith that will sustain you through the ups and downs that lie ahead. Embrace the challenges, celebrate the victories, and trust in God's guidance every step of the way.

As you enter the professional world or pursue further education, let your faith shine brightly. Be a light in the darkness, a beacon of hope, and a source of encouragement to those you encounter. Let your actions reflect your faith, and your words be filled with grace and love.

Know that you are not alone on this journey. The Mount Vernon Nazarene University community is here to support you, to pray for you, and to cheer you on from afar. Stay connected with your alma mater, for you will always be a cherished part of the MVNU family.

Congratulations once again, dear graduates. May God's blessings be upon you as you confidently step into the future, knowing that your faith will guide you every step of the way. May you lean into Colossians 3:23-24, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."

In His Service,

Carson Castleman, Ph.D.  
President

## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION WELCOME

Congratulations on your graduation! What an exciting day for you and your family. Completing a degree is a testimony of fortitude, sacrifice, and significance. Well done!

The time has come in your life to begin a fresh chapter with your acquired knowledge, passion, and purpose. As you leave the experiences and memories of MVNU, go in peace, live with purpose, and engage the world with the love of Christ. And always remember and embrace our motto, *To Seek to Learn is to Seek to Serve*.

We welcome you into the MVNU Alumni family. It is our hope to stay connected with you in the years to come. Connect with other alums and our University. Attend events, share updates, and engage in the life of this very special place. God bless you richly.

Mike Cheek  
Executive Director of Alumni Relations and Advancement

## DIGITAL PROGRAMS AND MORE INFORMATION

Please scan the QR code below to link to a special webpage that includes supplemental commencement information including our traditions, faculty, leadership teams, Board of Trustees, as well as MVNU Emeriti members.

A digital version of our Baccalaureate and Commencement programs are also available on this page.



[mvnu.edu/commencement](https://mvnu.edu/commencement)

# Mount Vernon Nazarene University ALMA MATER

Words by Arthur Seamans, 1971  
Revised by Bruce and Peggy Oldham, 2002

Music by Virginia Cameron, 1971  
Revised by Virginia Cameron and B. David Liles, 2002

1. From hills of green and skies of blue, Com - mit - ted, called in all we do to  
2. To seek to learn and serve that we may then de - vo - ted ser - vants be. We're

5

hon - or Christ, be strong and true, We pledge our faith, M - V - N - U. Fond  
shaped to lead as Christ would do, We pledge our best, M - V - N - U. Our

9

mem - or - ies of work and play, The fa - cul - ty who showed the way, With  
Chris - tian U - ni - ver - si - ty has formed us in - to fam - i - ly. To

13

friend - ships made our lives re - newed, We pledge our love M - V - N - U.  
Christ our Lord, be - cause of you, We pledge our lives, M - V - N - U.

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