

## HONORS BANQUET

FRIDAY, MAY 2, 2025

CLARKE UNIVERSITY



**INVOCATION** 

**BANQUET** 

**ACADEMIC HONORS** 

**INSTALLATION** 

TORCH PASSING

FINAL BLESSING

The Honors Banquet is a Clarke University tradition recognizing students from all classes for their academic, leadership, and service achievements.

## ACADEMIC AWARDS

## CLASS VALEDICTORIAN

Class valedictorian is the highest academic award Clarke University confers each year on its undergraduate students. This title is conferred on one or two individuals who have achieved the highest level of academic performance in their class. The student speaks at the Commencement ceremony. The valedictorian for the class of 2025 is:

Hailey Huckstorf

#### ACADEMIC HONORS AT COMMENCEMENT

Academic honors at commencement are awarded to candidates for baccalaureate degrees who have earned a cumulative G.P.A. of at least 3.5 on Clarke University coursework. Candidates must have completed a minimum of 45 graded credit hours at Clarke University by their degree completion date.

#### SUMMA CUM LAUDE - 3.80-4.0 G.P.A.

Abraham Agundez	McKenzie Johns	Christian Prull
Emma Breitbach	Maci Kuchta	Lindsay Quam
Pete Carlson	Jake Layman	Kate Quick
Melissa Carstensen	Melinda Leasman	Kara Rogers
Morgan Catchur	Natalie Mitchell	Jacob Schemmel
Christina Davisdon	Jacob Monday	Taylar Simmons
Jenna Fiedler	Brittney Mundell	Lisa Smith
Jesse Frye	Naomi Noel	Alysse Steve
Kainoa Gerard	Artur Nones	Jennifer Swedlund
Richard Giambruno II	Jaycee Page	Haddon Thompson
Emma Grant	David Palma	Emily Trinkle
Arianna Hacke	Tyler Poland	Lucas van Loon
Alicia Herring	Carson Possehl	Jaden Voshell
Hailey Huckstorf	Sarah Pratt	Bailey Wiemann

#### MAGNA CUM LAUDE - 3.65-3.79 G.P.A.

Mannix Amos	Nicole Curoe	McKenzie Nodolf
Zachary Barr	Drew Fox	Dean Ormonde
Marlie Beauchem	Rachel Haubert	Madelyn Patten
Faith Bower	Kole Haverly	Abigail Rhoades
Alicia Casas	Enrique Horna	Jan Wadsack
Mitchel Coffey	Emily Manemann	Sam Wright
Taylor Cota		

#### CUM LAUDE - 3.50-3.64 G.P.A.

Jennifer Bardon	Adeline Hickey	Andrew Richards
Natalie Berning	Montana Lafrenz	Erick Rojas
Taylor Blahunka	Gracelynn Lange	Joshua Roman
Olivia Bowman	Rachel Maxwell	Nathan Roman
Emma Coulthard	Melissa Myers	Juanita Tibocha
Jose dos Santos	Tommy Rea	Kellie Wills
Brooke Douglas	Joshua Reddy	Kalei Zimmer
Kendell Esser	•	

## SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The Scholars Program is an outgrowth of both Clarke's robust liberal arts/general education philosophy and the institution's commitment to career-ready and lifeready learners. The program serves as a unique, innovative, and flexible platform from which exceptional students can prepare for their futures even as they explore their potential in the present. They do this by challenging themselves and each other intellectually, developing formative academic and professional relationships, and actively engaging with the larger community.

The following graduating seniors have completed the Scholars Program this year:

Morgan CatchurHailey HuckstorfAbigail RhoadesJesse FryeMcKenzie NodolfNathan RomanKainoa GerardChristian PrullEmily Trinkle

## ACCEPTANCE TO GRADUATE STUDY AT CLARKE UNIVERSITY

## DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

Brok Determan Rachel Haubert Meghan Osterberger
Brody Deitering Isabelle Matthews Drew Pate

Ricardo Diaz Taryn Nolting Payge Pyszka

## MASTER OF ARTS IN EDUCATION

Melissa CarstensenArianna HackeKate QuickEmma CoulthardAlicia HerringLily SchillingChris DavisdonMontana La FrenzLisa SmithKainoa GerardGracelynn LangeAlysse SteveSydney HaasMelinda LeasmanJaden Voshell

#### MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Quinnlyn BakerDakota LandryJosh PoteAlicia CasasJake LaymanVince RichardsonJenna FiedlerCarson LindauerKara RogersJordan GorgasTanner MayJosh Roman

Emeralda Kajtazovic

## ACCEPTANCE TO GRADUATE STUDY AT OTHER INSTITUTIONS

Hailey Huckstorf: Doctor of Pharmacy Program, Medical College of Wisconsin

Aidan Lessnau: Doctor of Chiropractic Program, Palmer College of Chiropractic

Sarah Pratt: Medical Laboratory Science Program, Mercy College of Health Sciences

Taylar Simmons: Ph.D. program in Genetics, University of Iowa

Kalei Zimmer: Ball State University Master of Arts in Applied Behavior Analysis

## OTHER HONORS

Malia Beich: Internship at UW Health University Hospital Madison

Jennifer Dehahn: Internship at Freeport Health Network (FHN) in Freeport Illinois

Alec dos Santos: 2024-25 Dubuque American Advertising Federation (AAF) Judge's Choice Award; Skate Deck Art Show, Dubuque Area Arts Collective, January 2025

Steele Fredricks '26, Cody Leon '26, Cassandra Scheper'26, and Sammie Miller '26: Clarke University Celebration of Scholarship Research Award: Exploring Effects of Vitamin D in Drosophila

Emma Grant: Art Haus Decorah, 2025 Emerging Artist Exhibition, two entries accepted; Awarded future Solo Exhibition, Dubuque Area Arts Collective

Michael Pettke: 2024-25 Dubuque American Advertising Federation (AAF) Judge's Choice Award

Addison Roberts: 2024-25 Dubuque American Advertising Federation (AAF) Scholarship

Destiny Roig: Internship at UW Health- East Madison Hospital- 3rd floor Pre-Anesthesia Clinic

Kaedynce Stevens: Clarke University Celebration of Scholarship Presentation Steve Kapelke Award: Flute As You Don't Usually Hear It!

Jessica Stewart-Wagner: 2024-25 Dubuque American Advertising Federation (AAF) Gold ADDY Award

Katey Theis: Dubuque Chorale Children's Choir, Dubuque: Teaching Internship

Alyssa VanderHeiden: 7-Hills Brewing Next-Generation Beverage Packaging Competition Winner

Sophia Wilson: Virginia Venteicher Lynch Scholarship

#### SPECIAL FIELD AWARDS

## GLORIA WEIR MELGAARD ART AWARD

Art award established in 1997 by Robert Melgaard in tribute to his wife, Gloria Weir Melgaard '78. It recognizes a senior who, in the opinion of the art faculty, has produced exceptional art works and demonstrated artistic growth and professional development. Awarded to a student who has contributed to the department through generosity of time and energy, supportive presence, and creative activity. This award is funded by the Helen and Melvin Hack Award.

TYLER POLAND

## ART + DESIGN PROGRAM FACULTY AWARD

Awarded to an outstanding sophomore or junior art major who contributes to the creative atmosphere of the department and who demonstrates the potential for highly creative, professional artistic performance.

ABIGAIL PIERCE

#### VASARI ART HISTORY AWARD

Established in 1986 by the Gilbert Redelman family, of Chicago, in honor of Renaissance art historian Giorgio Vasari. Awarded to a student who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in the field of art history.

PETE CARLSON

## WALTER AND KATHRYN DUNHAM FINE ARTS AWARD

Established in 1995 by Meneve Dunham '53, in tribute to her parents. Awarded to a senior majoring in art, music, drama, or music theatre who, in the judgment of the fine arts division faculty and on the basis of demonstrated record, shows the potential for advancement as a professional in an artistic field. This award is funded by the Helen and Melvin Hack Award.

PETE CARLSON NAOMI NOEL

## MARY IGNACIO WALSH, BVM, BIOLOGY AWARD

Established by a friend of Sister Mary Ignacio Walsh. Awarded to a senior who shows promise for further achievement in biology. Nominated and elected by biology majors. This award is funded by the Helen and Melvin Hack Award.

**JOSLYN POTTS** 

## MARY AND HATTIE RAWLS GUEST BIOLOGY AWARD

Established by Mary F. and M. I. Guest in memory of their mother. It was renamed in 2001 to honor the memory of Mary F. Guest, biology department faculty member, 1972-1992. The award is presented annually to an upper-division biology major who has achieved a minimum 3.0 average in biology, who has participated in extracurricular activities in the biology department, and who has given service within Clarke University or the Dubuque community.

TAYLAR SIMMONS

#### BARBARA BEN BONAVENTURA BIOLOGY AWARD

Established by the Class of 1967 and Dr. Leo Bonaventura in memory of his wife, Barbara Bonaventura '67. It is awarded annually to a biology major selected by the students and faculty in the biology department. This award is partially funded by the Helen and Melvin Hack Award.

MACI KUCHTA

## ANN PAULINE BRASSER, BVM SCIENCE AWARD

Established in 1990 by Katherine Au-Young Lam '57, this award pays tribute to former Biology professor Sister Mary Ann Pauline Brasser, BVM. The award is presented annually to an incoming senior majoring in biology, chemistry or nursing who has achieved a minimum of 3.0 average in his or her field and who has contributed to the university community through extracurricular activities or volunteer services to the Dubuque area non-profit organizations. This award is partially funded by the Helen and Melvin Hack Award.

DAVID GUEVARA

## MARGUERITE NEUMANN, BVM, CHEMISTRY AWARD

Established by chemistry department alumni to honor Sister Marguerite Neumann, BVM. The award is given annually to a chemistry major on the basis of a demonstrated record of leadership, service, scholastic achievement, and potential for advancement of the chemical profession. This award is partially funded by the Helen and Melvin Hack Award.

HAILEY HUCKSTORF

## McDONALD BUSINESS AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Established in 1975 by R. D. McDonald, Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer of A.Y. McDonald Manufacturing Company. Awarded to a senior major who, on the basis of academic excellence and community service, is judged by departmental faculty to be outstanding in the field of business. This award is funded by the Helen and Melvin Hack Award.

**EMILY TRINKLE** 

## THE FLYNN FAMILY AWARD IN BUSINESS

Established by Sister Mary Michael Flynn, BVM, in honor of the Flynn family sisters. Awarded to a sophomore or junior majoring in accounting or business administration who has demonstrated leadership, service, scholarship, and potential for professional achievement. The recipient is selected by faculty and students in the accounting and business department. This award is partially funded by the Helen and Melvin Hack Award.

ALEX AINSWORTH

## AULEEN EBERHARDT JOURNALISM AWARD

Established in 1995 by Alan and Bette Eberhardt. Awarded to a senior in communication who, in the judgment of the communication department, shows potential for excellence, professionalism, and community service. This award is funded by the Helen and Melvin Hack Award.

MADELYN PATTEN

#### POWERS COMPUTER SCIENCE AWARD

Established by the Powers family in honor of Dave Powers '85, computer science graduate and faculty from 1987 to 2000. Presented annually to a graduating senior in the computer science department whose achievement has been noteworthy. This award is partially funded by the Helen and Melvin Hack Award.

RICHARD GIAMBRUNO

## JOHN AND PEARL VOSS EDUCATION AWARD

Established by Susan Voss Webb '62 in honor of her parents in recognition of their lives as educators. Awarded to a junior education major who demonstrates outstanding scholarship with a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher in the major and overall, with priority given to someone in the honors program. This award is partially funded by the Helen and Melvin Hack Award.

SOPHIA WILSON

## RENATA KORONA DIPASQUALE EDUCATION AWARD

Established in 1994 by Aimee Pacholski Goldsmith, Donna Peppers Rhodes, and Anne Casey Stanfa in memory of Renata Korona DiPasquale, all of the Class of 1979. The award is presented annually to a Clarke University senior education major who, according to the education faculty, has demonstrated an inspirational attitude toward the vocation of teaching while maintaining an above-average academic record. This award is partially funded by the Helen and Melvin Hack Award.

**BRITTNEY MUNDELL** 

## MARY FRANCES CLARKE, BVM, EDUCATION AWARD

Established in 1976 by friends of the Clarke education department. Presented to a senior who, in the judgment of the education department faculty, gives promise of becoming an outstanding member of the teaching profession, as evidenced by academic excellence, superior performance in teaching, as well as professional and/or community involvement during the student's program at Clarke. This award is partially funded by the Helen and Melvin Hack Award.

NAOMI NOEL

## EUGENE H. GEISLER HISTORY AWARD

Established in 1991 in memory of Eugene H. Geisler by his wife, Bernadine Hingtgen Ament Geisler '43. It is awarded to an outstanding sophomore or junior history major. This award is partially funded by the Helen and Melvin Hack Award.

ZACH RINEHART

## JOHN F. AND CATHARINE MORAN O'MALLEY AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Established by Catharine M. O'Malley, St. Joseph Academy '25, in memory of her husband. It is awarded to a second-semester sophomore in Spanish on the basis of academic excellence in foreign languages.

NATALIE COYLE

## VERA CLARKE, BVM AWARD

Initiated by Mary Lane Neubauer Blomquist '72 and established in 1992 by Clarke alumni in memory of Mary Vera Clarke, BVM, Mathematics Department faculty member, 1957-1975. Awarded to a graduating senior majoring in mathematics whose achievement has been noteworthy. This award is partially funded by the Helen and Melvin Hack Award.

SARAH PRATT

## VIRGINIA GAUME, BVM, MUSIC AWARD

Established in 1979 in recognition of Sister Virginia's years of dedicated service to excellence in the Music Department.

SOPHIA WILSON

## ELIZA KELLY, BVM, MUSIC AWARD FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Established in 1984 by the music faculty in honor of the 150th anniversary of the Sisters of Charity, BVM. It is awarded to a student who, in the judgment of the Clarke music faculty, excels in scholarship. This award is partially funded by the Helen and Melvin Hack Award.

LAUREN SCHMITT

## CATHERINE DUNN, BVM, EXCELLENCE IN NURSING AWARD

Established in 1994 by the Board of Trustees, this award pays tribute to a decade of extraordinary leadership provided by former President Catherine Dunn, BVM. It is presented annually to a nursing student whose academic record and community service have demonstrated excellence. This award is partially funded by the Helen and Melvin Hack Award.

DEREK GASCON

## NICOLE THING NURSING AWARD

Established in 2015 by Anne Thing, in memory of her daughter, Nicole Thing, who was an outstanding second-year nursing student at Clarke University when she passed away suddenly. Nicole had a passion for helping people, a passion that lives through her organ donation. The Nicole Thing Award is given to an outstanding first-year nursing student who is encouraging, supportive, giving, willing to go the extra mile, and a team player, characteristics that describe Nicole's generous personality.

HALLE FOECKING ALEXA MCDANIEL

## NURSING AND HEALTH LEADERSHIP AWARD

Established in 1999 by the faculty of the nursing department. This award honors a student who has a consistent record of exceptional leadership in community endeavors.

BEATRICE ATIENZA

## MARY ANTONIA DURKIN, BVM, PHILOSOPHY AWARD

Established in 2001 by Norm Freund and Kent Anderson in memory of Antonia Durkin, BVM, who successfully lobbied to open the doors of Catholic higher education for herself and other religious women. The award honors her pioneering spirit, dedication to the liberal arts, and many years of service to Clarke. It is presented annually to the student in the introductory philosophy course who has demonstrated the most outstanding course work and dedication to the discipline of philosophy.

CADENCE MIKESELL RACHEL LIND

## SOCRATES AWARD

Established in 1990 by Norm Freund and Kent Anderson to recognize excellence in philosophy. It is awarded annually to a student in an upper-division philosophy course who demonstrates outstanding performance in course work and dedication to the discipline of philosophy.

NATHAN ROMAN HILDE LOHRMAN

## BENEDICT PHELAN, BVM, PSYCHOLOGY AWARD

Established in 1969 by the Clarke Development Council to honor Sister Mary Benedict Phelan, BVM, former Clarke president. Awarded to the psychology major who, in the judgment of the psychology department faculty, shows the greatest promise of contributing to the field of psychology. This award is partially funded by the Helen and Melvin Hack Award.

JUANITA TIBOCHA

## DEE LEOW-SCHREINER AWARD

Established by her family and friends in 1997, this award pays tribute to Dee Leow-Schreiner in recognition and gratitude for the profound influence Clarke had in her life. Presented annually to a student who has gained and demonstrated personal spiritual growth while at Clarke University. This award is funded by the Helen and Melvin Hack Award.

ALEC DOS SANTOS

#### FLORETTA MILLER CALMEYN RELIGIOUS STUDIES AWARD

Established by Mary Kennedy Dandurand and members of the class of 1964. The Floretta Miller Calmeyn Religious Studies Award pays tribute to their classmate, who lived life fully as a mother, wife, friend, and parish spiritual director. The award is given to a student who has demonstrated excellence in religious studies coursework.

MEGHAN OSTERBERGER

## MARY ELLEN CALDWELL, BVM, RELIGIOUS STUDIES AWARD

Established by Janet and Michael O'Meara, this award honors Sister Mary Ellen Caldwell, BVM, assistant professor emerita and religious studies faculty member, 1962-1987. It is presented annually to a student who demonstrates the pursuit of excellence in religious studies and a commitment to social justice. This award is funded by the Helen and Melvin Hack Award.

ABIGAIL PIERCE

## MARY J. McCORMICK SOCIAL WORK AWARD

Established in 1979 to recognize the life and work of Dr. Mary J. McCormick, a 1924 graduate of Clarke College (Mount St. Joseph College at the time), who was a leader in both social work education and international social work. This award is presented to a senior social work major who, in the judgment of the seniors and faculty in the department, has demonstrated academic achievement in the field of social work and gives promise of becoming an outstanding member of the profession. This award is funded by the Helen and Melvin Hack Award.

**JAYCEE PAGE** 

## OUTSTANDING SPORT MANAGEMENT STUDENT AWARD

Established in 2023 by the Sport Management faculty to recognize a senior Sport Management major who demonstrates academic achievement, service, and potential for professional success.

LUCAS VAN LOON

## MARIANNE JOY, BVM, AWARD

Established in 1983 by family and friends of Sister Marianne Joy, BVM, in memory of her significant contributions to Clarke and her unique commitment, care, concern, and love for the residence life program. This award is presented to a resident assistant who has demonstrated significant service to the university residential community for at least one year.

**JADEN VOSHELL** 

#### CLARKE STUDENT ASSOCIATION AWARD

Established in 2007 by the Clarke Student Association, this award is given in recognition of outstanding participation in student government. The award recipient is a non-graduating Clarke University student who has exhibited outstanding participation in the Clarke Student Association and the Clarke University community.

## HOWARD AND GERTRUDE THOMPSON AWARD

Established in 1981, this award recognizes the achievement of an outstanding non-traditional age student. Eligible non-traditional age students must have completed 30 semester hours at Clarke University and attained a 3.0 cumulative grade-point-average or above.

#### ATHLETICS NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Established in 2009, this award recognizes an outstanding male student athlete and an outstanding female student athlete who are in their first year of competition at Clarke University.

## ED COLBERT ATHLETICS CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Established in 1993 in honor of Coach Ed Colbert's contributions to the Clarke athletic program. The award is presented annually to a senior male student and a senior female student in recognition of their outstanding career achievements in Clarke University athletics.

## JOHN AND MARY MILES COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Established by Mary J. Miles in 1977 as the John A. Miles Service Award, enlarged and revised by the Miles Family after Mary's death in 2013, the John and Mary Miles Community Service Award is presented each year to a full-time second-year student who has demonstrated energetic volunteer service to the Clarke University and the community. In the spring semester sophomore students, faculty and administration may nominate for the award; sophomores and faculty vote for the award. The recipient of the award is announced annually at the spring Honors Banquet. This award is partially funded by the Helen and Melvin Hack Award.

## MABEL ROONEY HOFFMAN AWARD

Established in 1969 by the late Alois Hoffman in honor of his wife, this award is presented each year to the junior who, by nomination and vote of the faculty and members of the junior class, has exhibited evidence of academic interest and effort, and an outstanding response to the opportunities to serve others in the university community and society. This award is partially funded by the Helen and Melvin Hack Award.

## FRANCIS J. O'CONNOR MEMORIAL AWARD

Since 1935 the O'Connor Award has been recognized as the most prestigious honor bestowed upon a Clarke University graduating senior. Criteria for the award include demonstrated leadership, cooperation, generosity, kindness, and academic achievement. Originally, the Mary Agnes O'Connor Award was established by the late Frank A. O'Connor in memory of his wife. In 1991 it was renamed the award the Francis J. O'Connor Memorial Award to honor the late Francis J. O'Connor, son of Frank and Mary Agnes O'Connor, and longtime Clarke trustee. The award recipient is selected by vote of the senior class, faculty and staff. The presentation of the award is made at commencement exercises.

# INSTALLATION OF CLARKE STUDENT ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

## TORCH PASSING

The concept of torch passing originated with the ancient Greek Olympics over 2,700 years ago. During the earliest athletic competitions, relays of runners carried a sacred flame lit from the fire burning before the altar of Zeus to the location of the games.

Similarly, the Clarke Torch Passing Ceremony, initiated in 1935, recognizes the continuity in the transition of student officers, with the flame being passed from those who have served the university community for the past year to those elected to serve during the coming year.

## Thank you to our 2024-2025 CSA Executive Board and Senate!

#### **Executive Board**

Sydney Herzmann, '25, President McKenzie Nodolf, '25, Vice President Paulo Simon, '27, Secretary Morgan Catchur, '25, Treasurer

#### Class of 2025 Senators

Rachel Haubert Deirdre Martin Joshua Reddy

#### Class of 2026 Senators

Marcela Fajardo Steele Fredricks Laryssa Pritchard Abigail Prunty

#### Class of 2027 Senators

Kendall Kasput Kelsey NeCollins Benjamin Reiser Teal Transburg

#### Class of 2028 Senators

Lio Aguirre Jazz Daughtry (fall) Dianna Ekchan Jenna Ulin



# 181st Commencement

Saturday, May 10, 2025  $\cdot$  2 p.m. Robert and Ruth Kehl Center, Clarke University

A reception for graduates and guests will immediately follow commencement in the R.C. and Celeste Wahlert Atrium.