One Hundred Eighty-Third Commencement

Saturday, May Eighth
Two Thousand and Twenty-One
Rushmore Plaza Civic Center Barnett Arena
ORDER OF CEREMONY

Master of Ceremonies
Dr. Lance Roberts

Processional (Stand)
South Dakota Mines Brass Choir

Intrada No. 7 by Melchoir and The Earle of Oxford’s Marche by William Bird

Presentation of Colors
Army ROTC Color Guard

President’s Message
Dr. Jim Rankin

Presentation of the Guy E. March Medals
Dr. Lance Roberts

Recognition of the 50 Year Graduates
Dr. Lance Roberts

Senior Class Representative’s Message
Ms. Rosalia Dawley

Awarding of Emeritus Status to Dean Mahon
Dr. Jim Rankin

Message from the Board of Regents
Ms. Pam Roberts

Presentation of Honorary & Posthumous Degrees
Dr. Jim Rankin

Conferral of Degrees
Dr. Jim Rankin

Presentation of Degree Candidates
Dr. Patricia Mahon

Retirement of Colors
Army ROTC Color Guard

Recessional (Stand)
South Dakota Mines Brass Choir

Day of Joy! by Antonin Dvorak

SOUTH DAKOTA MINES BRASS CHOIR

Dr. Haley Armstrong, Director

Kaden Adrian, Trumpet

Dillon Dahlke, Percussion

Sam Gusso, Percussion

Evan Heilman, Trumpet

Micah Hoylman, Trumpet

Garret Jankord, Trombone

Kenji Johnson, Trombone

Rebecca Johnson, Horn

Austin Kaul, Tuba

Samantha Kunkel, Horn

Thomas Mayfield, Euphonium

Ethan Parsons, Euphonium

Kole Pickner, Euphonium

Dustin Richards, Percussion

Madeline Vagts, Trumpet

Jayden Vollmouth, Horn

Derek Whitesides, Tuba

This program is not an official document. Due to strict requirements, it must be printed before the final list of degree candidates can be determined.
Dr. Scott Kenner graduated from South Dakota Mines with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering in 1977 and a master's degree in civil engineering in 1979. He received a PhD in environmental engineering sciences from the University of Florida in 1992. He joined the faculty at Mines in August 1993 as an associate professor of civil and environmental engineering. Over the first two years, he developed a curriculum for the water resources component that evolved into a sequence of four undergraduate and four graduate courses, which is still in place today. He has mentored more than 50 master's degree students and eight PhD students, and continues to support three master's and three PhD students through externally-funded research.

His teaching efforts were recognized in 2008 when he received the Bernard A. Ennenga Faculty Award for excellence in teaching and motivating students, and in 2018 when he received the Presidential Award for Outstanding Professor. He worked on development of the HONORS@mines program and supported the EPICS program through advising student project teams. He was appointed head of the civil and environmental engineering department in July 2016 after serving as interim head for one year. He retired in 2020.

He has conducted more than $4.5 million of research influencing water resources management for entities including the City of Rapid City; Pennington County; the South Dakota Department of Natural Resources; South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks; the US Army Corps of Engineers; and the Oglala Sioux Tribe. He has completed sabbaticals to New Zealand in 2006 and to Mongolia as a Fulbright Scholar in 2012-13. He is currently part of a research team studying and comparing riverine systems in the mountain step eco-region of the US and Mongolia; this project is a collaboration with five US universities and two Mongolian agencies.

He has been active in various organizations, including the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), the South Dakota Engineering Society, the ASCE Urban Water Resources Research Institute, the Rapid City Area Schools STEAM2 Task Force, the board of directors of the South Dakota Mines Center for Alumni Relations and Advancement, the South Dakota Mines Alumni Reunion Committee, the International Students Inc. House, and the South Dakota Presbytery.
Mr. Cliff & Mrs. Debra Bienert

Debra (Zapp) Bienert graduated from South Dakota Mines in 1978 with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. She was a member of Tau Beta Pi, Pi Mu Epsilon, and IEEE, serving as vice president of IEEE during her senior year. Debra participated in several intramural sports and acted as a practice partner for the men's tennis team.

Cliff Bienert graduated from Mines in 1979 with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering. He was a member of Tau Beta Pi and served as president of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Student Chapter. Cliff led the building of the first successful concrete canoe at Mines and constructed the base for the Tau Beta Pi bronze cast that still stands outside the library.

Cliff and Debra met on campus and were married in 1980.

After graduation, Debra worked for Trane Company in LaCrosse, WI, and relocated to Green Bay after she and Cliff were married. In Green Bay she worked for the local electric utility holding positions of planning engineer, senior operating engineer, and industrial marketing supervisor. Following their move from Green Bay in 1991, Debra discovered her affinity for teaching. For the last 27 years, Debra has taught math and sciences at various colleges and high schools.

After graduation, Cliff worked for Procter and Gamble in Green Bay in the paper industry, moving from there to lead tissue paper manufacturing operations, plants, and divisions in Canada, northern Wisconsin, New York, Massachusetts, and New Jersey. Cliff was vice president of operations for CityForest Corporation, Irving Tissue, and Schweitzer-Mauduit International.

Cliff and Debra retired and returned to Rapid City in November 2011. Looking to devote time to their alma mater, they returned to Mines to get their master's degrees and were subsequently hired to teach at Mines, Debra in the mathematics department and Cliff in civil and construction engineering. After eight years of sharing their knowledge and experience with students, they are retiring as of this date.

Both have been very active on campus and throughout the community serving together on the Newman Center Advisory Board in various roles, including president. Both are also faculty advisors for the Class Project Committee.

Additionally, Debra serves on the Admissions Committee, and organized and facilitated the West River Math Contest for the past six years. She received the 2019 Virginia Simpson Award for her work on this contest within the Rapid City community.

Cliff has been a South Dakota Mines CARA board member since 2012 and an active member of the Real Estate Committee for 10 years. He is also an active Hospital Eucharistic Minister.
50-YEAR GRADUATES

Class of 1970 – 305 graduates (242 BS degrees, 62 MS degrees, 1 PhD)
Class of 1971 – 300 graduates (237 BS degrees, 62 MS degrees, 1 PhD)

Only those attending today's Commencement are listed below.

Ken Ackerman, EE, Highlands Ranch, CO
Pam Ackerman, Math, Highlands Ranch, CO
Alan Anderson, ME, Rapid City, SD
Ray Atkins, MinE, Box Elder, SD
Ronnie Baruth, MinE, Alpena, SD
Curtis Belden, GeolE, Edinburg, TX
Bob Bickett, Math, Rapid City, SD
Pete Birrenkott, ME, Rapid City, SD
Rod Brady, EE, Rapid City, SD
Jerry Brown, MS CE, Rapid City, SD
Dennis Bryan, GeolE, Reno, NV
Carlos Calderon, MS MinE, North Miami, FL
Jim Cameron, ChE, Phoenix, AZ
Steve Danekas, ME, Naperville, IL
Randy Daughenbaugh, Chem, Rapid City, SD
John Davies, ChE, Rapid City, SD
Bob Deis, EE, Spearfish, SD
Harald Eriksen, CE, Glencoe, MN
Greg Farke, EE, Armour, SD
Ron Feldhaus, EE, Bloomington, MN
Leroy Foster, GeolE, Fort Pierre, SD
AO Freier, EE, Lead, SD
Karl Gerdes, ChE, Davis, CA
Wayne Greaves, GeolE, Rapid City, SD
Tom Hayes, Chem, Hudson, WI
Jim Hildebrand, ME, Sturgis, SD
Dianne Hinsch, Chem, Suwanee, GA
Dennis Horning, ME, Laramie, WY
Jim Hutchins, ChE, Prairieville, LA
Bill Jensen, EE, Indianapolis, IN
Jerome Johnson, EE, Brookings, SD
Ron Johnson, MS Phys, Black Hawk, SD
John Kelly, ChE, Cypress, TX
Glen Larson, ChE, Aberdeen, SD
Olav Maehle, ME, Oakdale, MN
Jim Martin, Geol, Sturgis, SD
Del McDonald, EE, Tucson, AZ
Kirby Mellegard, EE, Rapid City, SD
Ken Nelson, GeolE, Belle Fourche, SD
Randy Nelson, GeolE, Ovilla, TX
Steve Obenauer, EE, Fargo, ND
Doug Opp, EE, Yorktown, VA
Gene Quinn, CE, Rapid City, SD
Joe Ratigan, ME, Rapid City, SD
Ron Revell, ME, Cedar Park, TX
Frank Rubin, ME, Spearfish, SD
Craig Scott, Chem, Chesapeake, VA
Steve Sewell, ChE, Hot Springs, SD
Dave Shaddrick, MS Geol, Reno, NV
Grant Shelton, ME, Lakewood, CO
Ron Steelman, ChE, Woodbury, MN
Lyle Steffen, Geol, Nemo, SD
Dan Sueltz, ChE, Centennial, CO
Bernie Tompkins, EE, Greenville, SC
Jerry Wright, CE, Rapid City, SD
Gary Young, ME, Omaha, NE
Tom Zeller, ME, Rapid City, SD
Ms. Rosalia Dawley

Rosalia Dawley came to South Dakota Mines after graduating from West Marshall High School in State Center, IA. Her parents are John and Michele Dawley, and she has two siblings, Elaina and Will.

Dawley has been involved in various clubs and activities while at South Dakota Mines. She served on the Student Association Senate as student affairs chair and as vice president; as such, she represented the student body on the South Dakota Mines COVID task force, helped facilitate the creation of a hygiene bank in conjunction with the campus food shelf, and raised awareness of student mental health issues on campus. She is a member of the Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineers, previously serving as secretary and vice president. She was inducted into the Order of the Engineer and Alpha Pi Mu, the industrial engineering honor society. She was also an orientation leader.

After graduating with her Bachelor of Science degree in industrial engineering and engineering management, Dawley hopes to work in manufacturing or process engineering.
AWARDING OF EMERTIUS STATUS

Dr. Patricia Mahon

Dr. Patricia Mahon has served as vice president for student development and dean of students at South Dakota Mines since 2000. Her responsibilities include overseeing the offices of career and professional development, the Center for Inclusion, community standards/conduct, Counseling, Ivanhoe International Center, Residence Life, Student Engagement, Title IX, and the Veterans Resource Center. Under her leadership, the Student Development division members collaborate across campus and the broader community to provide students personal and professional development opportunities and services in a safe, healthy, and inclusive environment. In the past two decades, residence hall capacity doubled; new residence halls were built west of campus, which helped create a safer neighborhood. The Surbeck Center (student union) experienced two major renovations and an expansion is once again in the planning stages.

Prior to coming to South Dakota Mines, Mahon worked in student services at Fort Hays State University in Kansas and at Montana State University-Billings. She started her career as a secondary education teacher at Shelby High School in Shelby, Montana. Mahon earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Montana State University-Billings and her PhD from Kansas State University. She also participated in the Institute for Educational Management at Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Mahon is a member of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA). She served on the Feeding South Dakota Board of Directors, is a member of the Elevate Rapid City Workforce Development Committee, Kiwanis International, and the American Association of University Women (AAUW). She is an advisor to many student organizations, including Student Association Senate, Circle K International, and Order of Omega. On evenings and weekends, you will almost always find her supporting our Hardrocker scholar athletes or attending choir, band, and drama performances.

Mahon and her husband, Tom, will both retire this year from South Dakota Mines. They plan to move to her childhood home at the foot of the Big Horn Mountains near Sheridan, WY. They are proud to be a part of the Hardrocker community and will continue contributing through an endowed scholarship to support future students.
HONORARY DOCTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE

Mr. Patrick Burchill

Pat Burchill is a native of Pierre, SD. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in business and a Master of Business Administration from the University of South Dakota.

Burchill retired from US Bank in July of 2020 after a 43-year career, which was all spent in Rapid City. Positions he held throughout his long career included credit analyst, commercial loan officer, commercial team lead, senior vice president/project manager in wealth management, and regional president.

Burchill has served on numerous boards and committees in both Rapid City and across South Dakota over the last 40 years. His current board involvement includes chairman of the South Dakota Ellsworth Development Authority, Black Hills Area Community Foundation, chairman of the Monument Health Foundation, vice chairman of Monument Health System, Rapid City Diocese finance and investment committees, South Dakota Bankers Association Foundation, and the South Dakota Governor’s Office of Economic Development Board.

Burchill loves Rapid City, living in South Dakota, and being actively involved with his many boards and committees. He has been a long-standing friend and supporter of South Dakota Mines over the last 40 years. He has served on the Center for Alumni Relations and Advancement (formerly Foundation) Investment Committee, on the board for the Hardrock Club, and on two university president search committees.

As local president of US Bank, Burchill also participated in the corporate sponsorship of numerous campus events, both academic and athletic. He and his wife, Lucy, can often be seen at local sporting events with a special interest in the Hardrocker men and women basketball teams. As active personal boosters of Mines athletics, Burchill and his wife sponsor an annual women’s basketball scholarship.
Ms. Becky Hammon

Becky Hammon is in her seventh season as an assistant coach with the San Antonio Spurs, and previously served as the head coach of the Spurs Las Vegas Summer League in 2015, 2016 and 2019. She was the first-ever female head coach in the NBA's Summer League, and she led the Spurs to the Summer League title in 2015. On December 30, 2020, Hammon became the first female acting head coach in NBA history after Spurs' head coach Gregg Popovich was ejected during a game against the Los Angeles Lakers.

Prior to joining the Spurs, Hammon had a successful career in the WNBA. She retired following the 2014 season after 16 years in the league, where she played eight seasons for the San Antonio Stars (2007-14) and eight seasons for the New York Liberty (1999-2006). In WNBA history, Hammon ranks second free-throw percentage, fourth in three-point field goals made, fifth in assists, 12th in total points, 12th in games played, 15th in free throws made, 15th in total minutes and 19th in field goals made. She ended her career as the Stars' all-time leader in assists, points per game and three-point field goals made. She was selected as one of the WNBA's Top20@20, an honor given to the WNBA's 20 greatest and most influential players in the league's 20-year history. She was named one of the WNBA's Top 15 Players of all time in July 2011, voted twice to the All-WNBA First Team twice and to the All-WNBA Second Team, was a six-time WNBA All-Star, and was the top vote-getter for the Stars All-Decade Team in 2012. In 2008, Hammon led the Stars to their only WNBA Finals appearance in franchise history. She was inducted into the San Antonio Sports Hall of Fame in 2018, and was also inducted into the Ring of Honor by the New York Liberty in 2015.

Although Hammon is a natural-born citizen of the United States, she became a naturalized Russian citizen in 2008, and competed with the Russian women’s national basketball team at the 2008 and 2012 Olympics. She helped lead the Russian team to a bronze medal against China in 2008.

She played collegiately at Colorado State (1995-99) where she was a three-time All American, the 1999 Naismith Award winner, and was named Colorado Sportswoman of the Year. She led her team to a 33-3 record in the 1998-99 season and helped them advance to the NCAA Tournament's Sweet Sixteen. She was named the WAC Mountain Division player of the year for the 1998-99 season. Hammon set many Colorado State all-time records, including points (2740), points per game (21.92), field goals made (918), free throws made (539), three-point field goals made (365) and assists (538). Hammon was inducted into the Colorado State University Sports Hall of Fame in 2004, and her Colorado State jersey number (25) was retired at Moby Arena.

Hammon was born in Rapid City, SD. She played basketball at Stevens High School and graduated from there in 1995. She was named South Dakota Miss Basketball during her junior year and was voted the South Dakota Player of the Year during her senior year. She and her wife, Brenda, have two sons, Cayden and Samuel.
Mr. Tony Jensen

Tony Jensen retired in 2020 as president and chief executive officer of Royal Gold, Inc., the leading publicly traded precious metals royalty company. Jensen has more than 35 years of professional mining experience and has served in various domestic and international capacities.

Jensen joined Placer Amex, a predecessor US subsidiary of Placer Dome, in 1985. From 1986 to 1993, he held various engineering and management positions at the Golden Sunlight Mine in Montana and concurrently conducted engineering evaluations and exploration activities in Alaska. In 1993, Jensen was appointed assistant to the president for Placer Dome US in San Francisco, California, where he contributed to the growth of the region. Jensen was appointed assistant mine general manager of operations at the La Coipa mine, one of the world's largest silver mines at the time with significant gold production, near Copiapo, Chile, in 1996. In 1998, Jensen was appointed director, finance and strategic growth for Placer Dome Latin America in Santiago, Chile, where he pursued regional growth opportunities and rationalized assets.

Jensen returned to the United States to manage the Cortez Joint Venture in 1999, where he led this world-class operation in areas of safety, environmental excellence, and operational efficiency while growing the production, reserves profile and business opportunities of the operation. Exploration team efforts resulted in the discovery of the multi-million ounce Cortez Hills gold deposit in 2002. Cortez produced over one million ounces of gold each year under Jensen's tenure at one of the most attractive cost structures in the industry.

In 2003, Jensen accepted new challenges with Royal Gold, Inc. He assumed the responsibilities of president and chief operating officer with the principal goal of increasing shareholder value through accretive growth. In 2004, Jensen was elected to the board of directors of the company. In 2006, Jensen assumed the full responsibilities of the company as president and chief executive officer. After nearly 16 years with Royal Gold and 13 years as CEO, Jensen announced his intended retirement in 2020. During his tenure, he led the company to a 13-fold increase in market valuation as well as an 8.5 percent and 16.5 percent compounded annual growth rate in share price appreciation and dividends paid, respectively.

Jensen is a 1984 graduate of South Dakota Mines, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in mining engineering. He also holds a certificate of finance from Golden Gate University in San Francisco. In addition to his participation on the South Dakota Mines University Advisory Board, he holds board positions with Black Hills Corporation, Antofagasta PLC, and Antofagasta Minerals.
Mr. Houston Wagner

As a child, Houston Wagner read books about everything, and science was his favorite subject.

Wagner attended the International School in Bellevue, WA, at which students study seven subjects for seven years. He studied the German language and traveled to Germany twice. He won many awards in high school, including the President's Education Award for Outstanding Academic Excellence in German, an AP Scholar Award with Honor, AP Scholar Award with Distinction, and a varsity letter for academics. Wagner was voted speaker at the baccalaureate and gave a rousing speech that had his classmates standing and cheering.

When Wagner started looking at colleges, he wanted a small school with the same philosophy as his high school, and he ultimately chose to attend South Dakota Mines. While on campus, he earned several awards, including the Dean's List for spring 2014 and 2016, became a member of the Sigma Gamma Epsilon Honor's Society - Theta Nu Chapter, and served as the treasurer of the student chapter of Society of Economic Geologists.

In 2016 and 2017, Wagner worked for Fugro Geoservices, Inc., as a lidar editor. In 2018, he worked for Asarco, LLC, as a quality control lab intern and used statistical analysis to find a way to save the company $155,000 a year. While working on his thesis in 2019, he also worked for a company trying to reopen a gold mine in the Black Hills.

Wagner graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in geology from South Dakota Mines in May 2016. He went on to pursue his master's degree in geology and geological engineering, but passed away in November 2019. He is survived by his parents, Mike and Theresa Wagner, and brother Jacob.
Mr. Grayson Young

Grayson Young was born in Anchorage, AK, but grew up in Marshfield, MO. He came from a family of six children and was the middle son who had to compete with his two older brothers in almost everything from hand-me-downs to dirt bikes. He was always the fixer in the family and would often help his mother by repairing the gadgets around the house when his father worked out of town. His older brothers often hoodwinked him into fixing their stuff as well.

Young came from a homeschooling family that met regularly with the local homeschooling co-op to learn to play his viola. He was always the adventurous son and whatever he did, he did 200%. Being a mentor was a key character attribute of his, and he blended it well with love toward his family and friends. He was the perfect balance for his older brothers and his younger siblings, especially his sister Annamarie whom he affectionately called “Scooter.”

Upon his family moving to Wyoming, Young attended Casper College. As a homeschool graduate, at the age of 16, he was the youngest to attend Casper College at that time and graduated with an AAS degree in mechanical engineering. While at Casper College, he developed a close friendship with faculty member Ardell Knudson. Young had the opportunity to follow Knudson to South Dakota Mines where he also developed a friendship with Dr. Carter Kerk, who became a great mentor for Young.

He completed all his required courses and assignments a full month before he was to graduate with a Bachelor of Science in industrial engineering and engineering management, but was killed in a motorcycle accident on November 20, 2020. While attending South Dakota Mines, Young completed two summer internships with Nucor Steel and was offered a full-time position the same week of his passing.

Young loved the Lord and tried to put God first in all his life choices. If he were here today, he would humbly state that God is the one who made him into the man he was. He leaves behind his parents, Mike, and Angela; stepmother Krista; brothers Paul, Joshua, Noah, and Titus; and sister Annamarie.
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY DEGREE CANDIDATES

Biomedical Engineering
Virali Jayesh Parekh
Dissertation Title: Genome Instability Associated with G-quadruplex and Intramolecular Triplex DNA Structures Leading to Human Diseases

Chemical and Biological Engineering
Aditi David †
Dissertation Title: Traditional, Integrated and Rewired Thermophilic Anaerobic Digestion of Solid Organic Wastes

Geology and Geological Engineering
Jennifer Marie Bednar
Dissertation Title: Current Limitations, Variability, and Role of Topography in Stream Base Flow in the Northern Great Plains of the United States

Lilly Marie Jones
Dissertation Title: Assessing Aquifer Vulnerability to Contamination on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in Southwestern South Dakota

Geology, Geological Engineering, and Mining Engineering
Akshay Anand Chowdu †
Dissertation Title: Operations Research Applications in Underground Mine Production Scheduling

Materials Engineering and Science
Jack Yang †
Dissertation Title: A Novel Single-Phase to Three-Phase AC-AC Converter
Nanoscience & Nanoengineering
Anahita Haghizadeh †
Dissertation Title: Imaging Metal-Enhanced Upconversion Luminescence from NaYF4:Yb3+, Tm3+ Nanoparticles on Nanostructured Substrates and Laser Patterning of Semiconductor Nanostructures

Lin Kang †
Dissertation Title: Correlated Super-Resolution Fluorescence and Atomic Force Microscopy of Biomaterials

Divya Kota †
Dissertation Title: Intra- and Extra-cellular Force Transduction and Sensing in Single Mammalian Cells

Nikhil Pokharel
Dissertation Title: Epitaxial Integration of Al on III-V Semiconductors and Microstructure of ordered AlxIn1-xP Epilayers

Ishara Shavinda Ratnayake ††
Dissertation Title: Transmission Electron Microscopy-based Approaches to Gain Mechanistic Insights into the Roles of Notch Signaling in Mature Kidney Epithelium

Eric D. Schmid †
Dissertation Title: Fabrication and Characterization of Micro and Nano Channel Structures in Polymer Composites

Physics
Emily Alyn Dvorak †
Dissertation Title: Improving Event Reconstruction for More Accurate Cosmic Ray Energy and Composition Measurements in IceCube

Tyler Adam Liebsch †
Dissertation Title: Phase Coexistence, Interphase Boundaries, and Nucleation in Perovskite Ferroelectrics
MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE CANDIDATES

Atmospheric & Environmental Sciences
Lucas George Graunke

Biomedical Engineering
Taylor MacKenna Bright
Kaitlyn Aurelia Jing Dickinson ‡
Anna Grayce Haugen
Colin Thomas Jones ‡
Meerab Joseph †
Nhu Y. Mai ‡
Deborah Alex Rankin
Le Ba Nghia Thai ‡
Maxwell Thomas Veazey

Chemical Engineering
Christopher Sean Beal
Hannah Marie Dudak
David Robert Sutton

Civil and Environmental Engineering
Korder Ronald Cropsey
Kaleb Timothy Hedman
Hunter Brooks Kiewel
Joshua Benjamin Knock †
Devon Thomas Mollers
Ryan Conner Peyton
Rashed Rahman
Theron Lee Singleton
Trey Keenan Smith
Chase Scott Storgaard

Computational Sciences and Robotics
Logan Wade Lembke

Computer Science and Engineering
Rosemary Aladiada Akoh ‡
Alexander Johann Frye ‡
Construction Engineering and Management
Tyler Allen Kleinsasser
Westley Erik Siebdrath

Electrical Engineering
Sandesh Acharya ††
Ahsan Aqueeb
Nirajan Chhetri ††
Md Rahan Chowdhury
Shammi Akter Doly
Md Abir Hossen
Md Shamimul Islam
Ali Mohammed Jobayer
Kunal Khade †
Md Hafizur Rahman
Ronald Keith Ross
Thomas G. Walker

Engineering Management
Hanna Rae Bankers
Matthew Jacob Greenfield
Alexandra Veturia Kliche ‡
Jacob P. Sydow
Emily Marie Wegner

Geology and Geological Engineering
Jichao Bao
Brittany Sabrina Coupe
Devin Pesola Last
Carson Donald Reimers
Wyatt Scot Tatge

Materials Engineering and Science
Kevin Daniel Barz ‡
Logan Anthony Elers ‡
Runzhou Huang
Ana Carolina Sousa Ribeiro

Mechanical Engineering
Enis Sefa
Andrew Joseph Snyder
Mining Engineering and Management
Samuel William Fry Blakely
Michael Wilfred Dickson
Caren Allison Goodrich †
Safiatu Barrie Narteh
Ryan Patrick Turnwall
Christopher Earl Young

Nanoscience and Nanoengineering
Sindhu Sureshsingh †

Paleontology
Gavin Jeffrey Davidson
Grace Ann DeVault

Physics
Chamaka Sandeepa Senarath
Daniel Ralph Tronstad

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE CANDIDATES

Applied Biological Sciences
Olivia Hedy Briggs
Tana Lynn Dahlberg
Jordan Kay Fostvedt
Rebecca Lynn Johnson
Nicholas Ryan Massie
Michaela Marie Shaklee **

Applied & Computational Mathematics
Shaina Brook Colombe
Dirk Ambrose Dosch
Delaina Nicole Engle
Shashwati Shradha †***
Atmospheric & Environmental Sciences
Laramie Jaela Colvin
Austin Joseph Jerke **
Joseph Map Kragness

Biology
Kyle Jacob Bergevin *
Annie Evelyn Brinson
Daniel Carl Cerfus †
Mikayla Rose Hibbard *
Mikayla Marie Madden
Magan Demoyn Vaughn **
Sherif Amad Zineldine **

Biomedical Engineering
Jack Frederick Batho
Carol Colleen Page
Samantha Leigh Smith

Business Management in Technology
Ramtin Mashhadi Mohammad Ababaf
Austin Michael Hammer
Carlton Michael LaFrance ‡
Steven Nolasco
Michael Lawrence Retland
Aren Charles Wells
Allec Marc-Kristopher Williams

Chemical Engineering
Erin Breanne Afdahl **
Kirsten Mary Anderson
Anthony Robert Federick Best
Beth Ann Blake
Matthew Peter Braun †
Daniel Carl Cerfus
Lily Constance Cutler *
Jacob William Dempsey *
Enae Isabelle Dessler
Joseph Thomas Hilsendeger †
Erick William Hoon **
Zachary Ray Hoopman **
Jordan Alex Hoops †
Khang Trong Huynh *
Spencer John Kabran
Nikita Alexandrovich Nesterov
Dakin Matthew Nolan
Abisola Iyanuolu Ojoawo **
Gregory Warren Opdahl **
Emily Ann Rolfes
Megan Jacquelyn Snyder **
Landon Robert Sohler **
Jared John Wilson
Spencer Louis Zur *

Chemistry
Misti Adria Acevedo †
Kyle Jacob Bergevin *
Lily Constance Bergevin *
Mikayla Rose Hibbard *
Karen Ly *
Adam Mitchell Price
Collin David Rodmyre
Sherif Amad Zineldine **

Civil Engineering
Aimee Allcock †∗
Anna N. Allen
Faith Bottum
Justin Broekemeier †
Zachary Bunker *
Mark Alexander Cedar Face *
Evelyn Dalldorf *
Andrew James Ferris
Joshua William Fleming **
Enya Kathryn Guettler
Joel Daniel Haas **
Thayne Joarden Hage
Benjamin Jensen Hector
William Dale Hein
Christian James Heinrich *
Carson Daniel Hunt
Harrison Irwin †
Tanner Allen Jacobs **
Luke Michael Koski ***
Brandon Miles Kruse †
Colton Michael Levitt
Joseph Leonard Luebbers **
Stephen Cody MacLake
Jordan Duane Medlock ‡
Joseph Bryan Mulcahey ***
Ira Michael Pace Murphey **
Timothy R. Myers
Ryan James Nelson
Cornelio Adrian Perez *
Louis Arthur Ratcliffe *
Kate Leanne Schumann ***
Nicholas Laurence Sperry ***
Austin James Stahlke
Calvin David Tohm
Joshua Allen Trapp **

Computer Engineering
Nicholas Anthony Bennett **
Clayton J. Heeren **
Oliver John Kotalik
Jason Anthony Finch Mitchell *
Ryan Casson Shell
Computer Science
Timothy Alleyn Adcock
Riley Isaiah Campbell
Zackery Joseph Culberson
Ashlyn Therese Davie
William J. Doering
Ayden John Morgan Drabek
Joshua Duklet †**
Nathaniel Edward Fagrey **
Timothy William Ford
Vedang Deepak Gaonkar *
Logan Robert Grosz **
Lawrence Wayne Pike Hartnett
Gabriel Dean Hofer
Kenji Keith Johnson *
Gwyneth Storm Kardelis
Erica Lynn Keeble **
Matthew Krohn ‡
Jennifer Suzanne Kulich
Caden Patrick Lambert
Logan Lee Larson
Deborah Kaye Liknes
Haley Lynn Linnig
Keshav Manghat **
Sterling Robin McKenzie
Taylor James O'Brien
Terry Joseph Pallas
Manasi Paste †
Matthew Allen Reff *
Shashwati Shradha †***
Benjamin Carter Sjoberg **
Woodlin Glenn Smith *
Ethan Lee Steidl **
Philip Robert Telkamp
Daniel Ray Tesch
Kendric Alexander Thompson **
Morgan Vagts
Samantha Ranae Wolfe
Trey David Young

**Electrical Engineering**
Ian Anderson
Ellie Nicole Burczek **
Isaac Kortemeyer †
Kolton Kugler ***
Dalton Anthony Lund **
Vageesh Sandip Prabhu Tendulkar
Skye Itza-Chu Rutan-Bedard ***
Jacob Joseph Schmit
Ryan Chase Stremick
Mitchell Erik Olstad Sueker †**
Jacob Allen Whempner
Jacob Kyle Wicklund
Chase Randall Wiederhoeft
Grace Jovita Wilson †

**Geological Engineering**
Lindsey Carla Cederberg
Garrett Paul Hukill
Lucas Anthony Olvera
Ryan Conner Peyton †***
Hillary Rose Ping *
Kate Leanne Schumann ***
Liam James Ryan Smith

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Jessica Ann Fabin †
Garrett Michael Fedora
Anthony Edward Gordon **
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Gage Anders Koistinen
Patrick Cavanaugh Mulligan
Michael Lynn Nieland **
Gabriel Stephan Poteet †
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Benjamin Michael Stec
Adam G. Vantellingen

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Garrett Milton Bonzell †
Amelia Bea Bracewell **
Brayden Patrick Burg
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Ryan King Higginbotham
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THE TRADITION OF COMMENCEMENT

Dating back to the universities of thirteenth-century Europe, the conferring of degrees signified that faculty members had attained the guild status of a master. Originally, this “master's” degree was the only one offered; the baccalaureate was simply a stage towards mastership. During the ceremony, black robes were worn in imitation of the clergy, for at the time church and university were one. When the hood was placed over the candidate's head, the ceremony was consummated and mastership was achieved.

Over the centuries, graduation evolved to commemorate more than the end of an educational endeavor or the mastership of a craft. It became the start of a new adventure, a passage to professional status recognized by the community of scholars and the community at large.

Today, we call this ceremony commencement, a term defined as both an act of commencing and the ceremony for conferring degrees. In essence, it means a beginning within an end. A middle English term, commencement traces its roots to Anglo-French, Old French, and finally, the Latin word, *cominitiare*, a combination of the prefix *com* and *initiare*, meaning “together, begin,” a fitting origin for a word that evokes a graduate's first steps taken in fellowship and a poignant reminder that in each destination lies a new dawn.

ACADEMIC ATTIRE

The use of academic dress stems from costumes used in universities of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, particularly at Oxford and Cambridge in England. The dress has been used in the United States since colonial times and was standardized by an Intercollegiate Code in 1895.

The style of gown and hood designate the degree earned. The bachelor's gown is royal blue without a hood and the sleeves are pointed; the master's gown is black and has oblong sleeves; and the doctoral gown is trimmed with velvet, has three distinctive chevrons on each arm, and bell-shaped sleeves.

The two colors on the inside of the hood are traditionally the colors of the college granting the degree. The School of Mines colors are blue and gold; however, the hood for the School of Mines is gold and silver, symbolic of the university's connection to these precious metals. Caps are black mortar boards with the tassel worn over the left front quadrant.

As one may observe from the procession, the faculty wear hoods and gowns of varying styles and colors. The color of the tassel on the hat and the outside velvet trim of the hood indicate the field of study.
THE CEREMONIAL MACE

During today’s ceremony, the chair of the faculty will carry the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology’s ceremonial mace. The university mace is an academic tradition that dates back to medieval times. The mace has acquired the ceremonial function of “guarding” the president in the tradition of a medieval sergeant-at-arms.

The School of Mines mace was designed to represent the university’s many disciplines. The handle was crafted from a fossil and represents paleontology, while the pink quartz sphere, encased in the symbol of an atom, symbolizes both geology and physics. The silver and gold signify the institution’s rich mining tradition. The laurel leaf garland crown, fashioned from Black Hills Gold, represents a mark of honor, distinction, and success.

The mace was designed by Ms. Deborah Mitchell, former director of the Apex Gallery and associate professor in the Department of Humanities. The seal was engraved by Dr. Ryan Koontz, integrated manufacturing specialist for the Center of Excellence for Advanced Multidisciplinary Projects.

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PHOTOGRAPHY SERVICES

Lifetouch Photography will be providing photography services to the graduates. Photos will be available online at events.lifetouch.com approximately one week after the ceremony, and proofs will be mailed to the graduates approximately one week after placing an order.