



## 193<sup>rd</sup> Commencement

Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
The Monument Summit Arena



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

DR. BRIAN TANDE

To the Class of 2026:

Congratulations on reaching this extraordinary milestone! Today marks the culmination of years of hard work and determination. As you walk across the stage, you join a legacy of South Dakota Mines alumni who have gone on to lead, innovate, and make a meaningful difference in the world.

Your journeys reflect the very best of what it means to be a Hardrocker. You've faced challenges head-on, formed lifelong friendships, and achieved something truly remarkable.

As your names are cemented in their rightful spot on M Hill, remember that you will always have a place here. Mines is more than a university—it's a community that will continue to support you, celebrate you, and cheer you on as you take on the next chapter.

Thank you for the passion, curiosity, and energy you've brought to our campus. I can't wait to see what you accomplish next.

With pride and warmest congratulations,

Brian Tande, PhD  
President





## HISTORY OF SOUTH DAKOTA MINES

Founded in 1885—four years before South Dakota achieved statehood—South Dakota Mines has been at the forefront of science, engineering, and innovation for nearly 140 years. What began as the Dakota School of Mines quickly became a cornerstone for technical education in the Black Hills region. The first class was held in 1887, and the institution was soon renamed the South Dakota School of Mines following statehood in 1889. The first graduating class, consisting of Benjamin Poznansky, Caroline Feigel, and Eva Robinson, received Bachelor of Science degrees on May 29, 1890.

Mines is home to some of South Dakota’s most cherished traditions, including M Day, first celebrated in 1912 with the construction of the iconic “M” on M Hill. Over the decades, the university grew in both size and reputation, adding new programs and facilities to meet the evolving needs of science and engineering education; in 1943, the state legislature officially added “and Technology” to the university’s name to signify this growth. During both World Wars, Mines supported the nation by training soldiers on campus, and the post-war period saw major expansions in academic offerings, research, and infrastructure.

Throughout the 20th and 21st centuries, Mines has continued to lead in STEM fields and continued to expand research funding, industry partnerships, and student achievements. Today, South Dakota Mines is recognized as a leader in engineering and science education, known for producing hardworking, innovative graduates who are ready to tackle the world’s most pressing challenges. It’s also consistently ranked as one of the best returns on investment for college graduates nationwide. With each graduating class, the legacy of Mines continues to grow, etched into M Hill and carried forward by generations of proud Hardrockers.

# ORDER OF CEREMONY

## **Master of Ceremonies**

Dr. Lance Roberts

## **Processional (Stand)**

*Pomp and Circumstance by Edward Elgar,  
arranged by Larry Clarke*

Graduation Band

## **Presentation of Colors**

Army ROTC Color Guard

## **National Anthem**

Ms. Emma Carlsgaard

## **President's Message**

Dr. Brian Tande

## **Recognition of the 50 Year Graduates**

Dr. Lance Roberts

## **Senior Class Representative's Message**

Mr. Linus Uy

## **Message from the Board of Regents**

Mr. Randy Rasmussen

## **Presentation of Honorary Degrees**

Dr. Brian Tande

## **Commencement Address**

Mr. Steve Vanderboom

## **Conferral of Degrees**

Dr. Brian Tande

## **Presentation of Degree Candidates**

Dr. Joseph Dlugos

## **Alumni Welcome**

Ms. Sharon Chontos

## **Retirement of Colors**

Army ROTC Color Guard

## **Recessional (Stand)**

*Flourishes! by William Owens*

Graduation Band



## **50-YEAR GRADUATES CLASS OF 1976**

263 total graduates  
203 BS degrees, 60 MS degrees

*Only those attending today's Commencement are listed below.*

Mark Anderson, Physics, Golden, CO  
John Begeman, Mining Engineering, Rapid City, SD  
Mary (Rausch) Brass, Civil Engineering, Lennox, SD  
Roger Bridgman, Metallurgical Engineering, Salt Lake City, UT  
Nicholas Buechler, Civil Engineering, Colorado Springs, CO  
Karla Callahan, Chemistry, Oceanside, CA  
Julie Dahl, Math, Rapid City, SD  
Greg Deis, Chemical Engineering, Destrehan, LA  
James Dunn, Electrical Engineering, Buda, TX  
Ken Erickson, Chemical Engineering, Rapid City, SD  
Dale Farmen, Mining Engineering, Katy, TX  
Anita Freeman, Electrical Engineering, Dublin, CA  
Dennis Howe, Metallurgical Engineering, Sioux Falls, SD  
Rodney Jerger, Chemical Engineering, Mesa, AZ  
Robert Kabrich, Civil Engineering, Scottsdale, AZ  
Wayne Larsen, Geological Engineering, Sioux Falls, SD  
Denise (Barton) Miller, Chemistry, Nemo, SD  
Jerry Neal, Civil Engineering, Eagle, ID  
Rita (Johns) Neff, Electrical Engineering, Bartlesville, OK  
Mary (Trenerry) Pederson, Chemical Engineering,  
Bardstown, KY  
Les Siewert, Metallurgical Engineering, McIntosh, SD  
Patrick Smith, Civil Engineering, Pittsboro, NC  
John Zoss, Civil Engineering, West Lafayette, IN

## **50-YEAR GRADUATES CLASS OF 1970**

*These alumni were unable to attend their 50-year reunion  
in 2020, so we are recognizing them today.*

Dennis Bryan, Geological Engineering, Reno, NV  
Donald Meisel, Civil Engineering, Magnolia, TX  
Ronald Revell, Mechanical Engineering, Cedar Park, TX  
Bernerd Tompkins, Electrical Engineering, Greenville, SC



## **SENIOR CLASS REPRESENTATIVE**

**Mr. Linus Uy**

Linus Uy came to South Dakota Mines from Bellingham, Washington, where he lives with his parents and five siblings. His brother Clive is also graduating today.

During his time on campus, Linus has served as a peer mentor for incoming students, a math tutor with the Slide Rule, treasurer of Chi Sigma Pi (Christian STEM Professionals), and a member of the President's Leadership Academy. He received first place in the 2025 Howard Wells Public Speaking Competition, the Outstanding Civil Engineering Junior and Senior awards, the Academic Achievement Award, and the 2024 RESPEC STEM scholarship. He has conducted research in drone photogrammetry and completed internships in land development and project engineering. In his spare time, he enjoys swing dancing and hiking around the Black Hills.

He will graduate today with a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering, with minors in environmental engineering and construction engineering. After graduation, he will do summer research at the University of Hong Kong before beginning an MPhil in energy technologies at the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom.



## **HONORARY DOCTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE**

**Mr. Steve A. Vanderboom**

Steve Vanderboom graduated from Mines in 1974 with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering and a master's degree in environmental engineering from the University of Minnesota. He possesses over 46 years of experience in the analytical services industry, specifically in the areas of environmental testing, pharmaceutical and medical device testing, field services, and environmental engineering consulting.

In 1978, he founded Pace Analytical in Minneapolis, serving as CEO for 41 years, then as executive chairman. Pace is the largest privately held environmental and pharmaceutical testing business in the nation with over 80 laboratories around the US and in Puerto Rico. Its laboratories provide comprehensive testing services and project support for consulting, engineering, manufacturing, pharmaceutical, energy, medical device, transportation and utility companies, municipalities, industry and government professionals worldwide. After majority ownership was transitioned in 2016 to a private equity company, he continued his leadership role until he retired from Pace and its board in 2022.

Vanderboom received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Environmental Business Journal in 2019 and a South Dakota Mines Distinguished Alumni Award in 2021. On the Mines campus, the Vanderboom Office of Student Success and the Vanderboom Laboratory for Entrepreneurial Research are named in honor of Steve and Julie's generous philanthropic support of the university.



# GRADUATE DESIGNATIONS

†Army ROTC Cadet being commissioned as Second Lieutenant

¥ August 2026 Graduate

‡ December 2025 Graduate

## BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE

*	Cum Laude	White Tassels	3.50 - 3.69 GPA
**	Magna Cum Laude	Red Tassels	3.70 - 3.89 GPA
***	Summa Cum Laude	Gold Tassels	3.90 - 4.00 GPA

## ASSOCIATE OF ARTS DEGREE

•	Honors	3.50 – 3.69 GPA
••	High Honors	3.70 – 3.89 GPA
•••	Highest Honors	3.90 – 4.00 GPA



# DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY DEGREE CANDIDATES

## **BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING**

**Amelia Pearl Huffer**

Dissertation Title: *The Mechanobiology of Diabetic Fibropathy: Regulation of Fibroblast by Matrix Stiffness*

## **CHEMICAL & BIOLOGICAL ENGINEERING**

**Shyanne Dee Lambrecht**

Dissertation Title: *Using Mixed Microbial Communities to Produce Caproic Acid from Food Waste: The Roles of Agitation and Microbial Symbiosis*

**Wageesha Sharma ‡**

Dissertation Title: *Designing a Methane-to-PHA Bioprocess Using Pseudomonas citronellolis: Beyond Conventional Methanotrophs*

## **CIVIL & ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING**

**Hesam Parsaeian**

Dissertation Title: *Beyond the Farm Gate: Exploring BioWRAP's Potential through a Cross-Boundary Life Cycle Assessment*

**Damodar Poudyal ‡**

Dissertation Title: *Characterization, Assessment, and Removal of Pollutants from Contaminated Surface Water*

## **ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING**

**Kristophor Ray Jensen**

Dissertation Title: *Machine Learning Methods for DC Arc Fault Detection*

## **GEOLOGY, GEOLOGICAL ENGINEERING, & MINING ENGINEERING**

**John Emerson Gallucci**

Dissertation Title: *Ecomorphology of North American mammals during the Oligocene and Early Miocene*

**Kristin Rebecca Guerin-Davey**

Dissertation Title: *Incorporating Orepass Design Elements into the Underground Mine Schedule Optimization Model with Geotechnical Constraints*

**Olivia Grace Maltos-Daynes**

Dissertation Title: *The Variability of Magmatic Processes Occurring at Depth Across the Global Mid-Ocean Ridge System*

**Darren Asamoah Osei**

Dissertation Title: *Incorporating Machine Learning-Based Overbreak and Underbreak Predictions into Optimized Underground Mine Production Scheduling*

**Patrick John Wilson**

Dissertation Title: *A Multi-proxy Approach for Assessing Feeding Ecology of Miocene Equini and Hipparionini Using Stable Isotopes, Dental Microwear, and Dental Mesowear*

**MATERIALS ENGINEERING & SCIENCE**

**Nana Ansah Adoo**

Dissertation Title: *Understanding the Behaviour of Metamagnetic FeMnGa and NiCoMnTi SMAs in Cold Environments*

**NANOSCIENCE & NANOENGINEERING**

**Hosein Mirazi**

Dissertation Title: *A Microfluidic Osteoarthritis-on-a-Chip System for Studying Human Joint Inflammation and Drug Response*

**PHYSICS**

**Khimananda Acharya**

Dissertation Title: *Electronic, Magnetic, and Transport Properties of Two-Dimensional Materials for Quantum Tunneling and Spintronic Applications*

# MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE CANDIDATES

## **ATMOSPHERIC & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES**

Jackson P. Ezzell

Jenny Marie Kozak ¥

Andrew Thomas Piispanen

Markus Ron Sonnenfeld

## **BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING**

Cruz Micheal Franich

Abby Raelynn Krumpus

Riley Payton Laible

Hosein Mirazi

Whitney Ann Ponwith

## **CHEMICAL & BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES**

Venera Alimova

Aisling Amara Hall

Eli Warren Huot

Jasmeet Kaur

Ilya Mikhailov

## **CHEMICAL ENGINEERING**

Jacob David James Jorgenson

Md Nahid Sarker

Kelly Marie Sutko

Daniel Tobias Soria

Brandilyn Megan Ukena ¥

## **CIVIL & ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING**

Eli Wyatt Bowman

Ethan Russell Brown

Stella Glover-Simmons

Benjamin James Haug

## **COMPUTER SCIENCE & ENGINEERING**

Jakob Allen Callenius

Benjamin Raphael Catalano

John Alexander Miller ¥

Hunter Reece Paxton

Martin Poznanovic

## **CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING & MANAGEMENT**

Lance Doenges

Isaiah Kole Kammerer

Kate Louise Leeuwenburg

David N. Meraz

Cornelio Adrian Perez

Esther Susa ‡

Orlando Jovan Westbrook

## **ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING**

Wei-Yi Chang  
Braydon Lee Jones  
Benjamin Meidinger  
Hari Priya Telidevara

## **ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT**

Garrett W. Ames  
Katherine A. Ames  
Rylie Nicole Andrews  
Piper Ann Bauer  
Kaedyn Wesley Hanson  
Dillon James Muntefering  
Joel S. Nelson, Jr.  
Lora Lee Ortega  
Clay Benjamin Sabrowski  
Adeline Clare Wilson

## **GEOLOGY & GEOLOGICAL ENGINEERING**

Henry Lawrence Aas  
Rebecca Lynne Braun  
Zachary Stanton Lamsey  
Jacob Phillip Sanders

## **GREEN & SUSTAINABLE CHEMISTRY**

Phillip Daniel Hauck  
Xiaoyu Zhang

## **MATERIALS ENGINEERING & SCIENCE**

Elyse Sylvan Jensen  
Sean Alexander McQueen  
Kyrian Chigozie Odo  
Thad B. Saylor  
Cambell Henry Thompson

## **MECHANICAL ENGINEERING**

Jaden E. Dougal  
Steven T. Duong  
Brady James Mills  
Lucas Ian Pierce  
Clara E. Robinson  
Jace Jeffrey Ruud  
Haiden Aaron Studer  
Paul Swartz

## **MINING ENGINEERING & MANAGEMENT**

Kenneth Asiedu  
Faith Marie Loera  
Suraj Priyadarshi  
Sumanth Sura

**PALEONTOLOGY**

Ethan Stewart Bailey

Zachariah Alfred Hentschel

Michael D. Jone

Jeremy A. Miller

Claire Grace Wolfe

**PHYSICS**

Hafizul Islam

Logan Patrick Molchany

# **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE CANDIDATES**

## **BIOLOGY**

David Matthew Bauer  
Devyn W. Born  
Bo Gabriella Cheetham \*  
Isaiah Curtis Hansen ¥  
Madeline Grace Hasse  
Eli Warren Huot  
Grace Catherine Jager \*  
Farynn Comberland Rose Knutson  
Shelley Ann Kruse  
William John Lester  
Talon James Tippmann

## **BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING**

Alexis C. Backhaus \*\*  
Gus N. Bishop  
Jacob William Blackmore \*\*\*  
Robert Devin Erskin \*  
Caleb J. Franklin  
Gabe Charles Frerichs  
Elli Catherine Hollenbeck  
Isabella Grace Holmbo  
Amanda Rose Klabunde \*\*  
Zachary Thomas Koegl  
Grant Ludwig Lewis  
Joshua Graham Marquardt  
Emma DeAnne Osborn  
Maxemus Lee Record  
Austin Benton Sands \*  
Madelyn Nan Siekmann \*\*  
Christopher D. Tuckerman \*  
Drake Alexander Van Steenwyk \*\*  
Trey Michael Wood \*

## **BUSINESS MANAGEMENT IN TECHNOLOGY**

Ryan William Bruegger  
Eduarmar R. Flores \*  
Paisley Mae Gibson  
Logean Edward Hansen  
Shane Warren Henderson  
Nathan Robert Kneubuhler  
Joshua Jakob Speidel II  
Kolton Jacob Westergaard

## **CHEMICAL ENGINEERING**

Megan Grace Alexander  
Cole R. Ballagh  
Sean Connor Bernard  
Alex D. Buchen  
Ethan John Clarke  
Miles Coakley  
Bailey Joy Finck  
Antonia Rose Gibbs  
Dylan Woodfield Gibbs  
Isaiah Curtis Hansen ¥  
Kael Casey Hottman

Alana Joann Howard \*\*\*  
Grant Michael Kuharski  
Nicholas Mark Lockwood \*\*\*  
Zachery D. Loest  
Zander E. Meister  
Kaisa May Mortensen \*\*  
Emily A. Randolph \*\*\*  
Nolan Joseph Rodgers  
Seth C. Roemen  
Adisyn Helen Schenck \*\*\*  
Austin James Skaare  
Nikolas Viktor Slead  
Charles Stoeckel \*\*\*  
Taylor Rain Ullen  
Kade Ryan VanDusseldorp  
Jacob Allen Vostad

### **CHEMISTRY**

Steven K. Aldrich  
Chase Allan Bradley  
Alexander John Haffner  
Nicholas Mark Lockwood \*\*\*  
Erika Jean Symens  
Kelly Ann VanDamme  
Ciera Anne Wierenga \*\*\*  
Elsa Maria Kay Wren

### **CIVIL ENGINEERING**

Max Michael Amicarelli  
Grace Elizabeth Belcher \*\*\*  
Konner Gerald Berndt  
Grant Jeffrey Brehmer  
Ethan Russell Brown  
Shawn Cedric Clemmons II  
Connor William Comer \*\*  
Anne Lorrane Caixeta Dossantos  
Alexander Ray Edelman ¥  
Rylan Jay Engelkes \*  
Thomas Fields  
Ella F. Froning  
Jeffrey Scott Gillam  
Jace Michael Heimerman  
Colton Ryan Henderson  
Jackson Thomas Henrich  
Grant Riley Hevlin  
Abel Burrell Hutchinson \*\*  
Heather Rose Jiricek  
Isaiah Kole Kammerer  
William Joseph Kuhl, IV \*  
Jordan Robert Levesque \*\*  
Ethan James Lohan  
Emily Jean Maile \*  
Kaidin Paul Milo Mondle  
Cai M. Nelson \*\*  
Narria I. Neubert  
Benjamin Patten \*  
Samantha Rae Peppel \*\*\*  
Dean Ryan Perrott  
Duncan James Pilling

Jack Tracy Ping \*\*  
Natalie Gabrielle Pinske  
Lucas Allen Ransen  
Hayden Ray Shawcroft \*  
Sven Daniel Stenberg  
Linus A. Uy \*\*\*  
Luke Anthony Venner  
Matthew Donald Wilgers  
Joshua Hulac Wolfer \*

## **COMPUTER ENGINEERING**

Andrew J. Bahm  
Ella Ruth Cutler \*\*  
Alexis Leigh Englund  
Justin Lee Hassebroek  
Zackery R. Holloway  
Joran Matthew Lamoreaux \*  
Henry Aaron London  
Aidan Louis Rivers \*\*  
Eric Eldon Whites

## **COMPUTER SCIENCE**

Matthew Robert Beck  
Arabella Blom  
Angelo William Cosato  
Steve Nathan de Sa \*\*\*  
Jacen Dekker  
Victor Enweremchukwu Donatus ¥  
Dylan J. Enger  
Jeremy Edward Friedrichsen  
Jonathan Wyatt Gibbs  
William G. Girnus \*\*  
Maxwell Z. Ivanov  
Spencer Edward Johns  
Samuel Anthony Knowles  
Jordan I. Lannerd  
Jacob Daniel Miklas  
Augustus Scott Miller \*\*\*  
Samarth Santosh Naik  
Tammy Dinh Nguyen \*\*\*  
Aryan Shankar Raval \*\*\*  
Parker Mitchell Robinson  
Everett M. Sandbo \*\*  
Benjamin Ethan Shklyar  
Dallis J. Trego  
Jace William West

## **ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING**

Josiah David Baumeister  
Colin Nicholas Beck  
Dennis Patrick Bergren  
Joshua Keith Brockschmidt \*\*  
Caleigh Copenhaver  
Tristan Lincoln Crandall \*\*  
Daniel J. Freitas \*\*  
Nicholas Frisch  
Keira J. Gillespie \*  
Micah J. Greenfield \*\*  
Blake A. Hovaldt  
Ryan Jeffrey Jochim

Brit C. Johnson  
Tre Dion Kleinschmit  
Logan Bradley Larsen  
Roberto Manuel Perez Torres  
Sierra Rodewald  
Ryan Douglas Ruffedt \*\*  
Rayaan Noah Shaw  
Madje Tobi Marc'Avent Tchona  
Kaylee Updegraff \*\*\*  
Zane M. Wittrock

### **GEOLOGICAL ENGINEERING**

Brandon G. Armstrong  
Elianna M. Bender ¥  
Braden Jon Buettner ¥  
Matthew J. Guenther  
Rahul Mohanram ¥  
Joseph William Moulton  
Nathaniel Pfiefer ¥  
Kelli Jeanne Siemieniak

### **GEOLOGY**

Joseph Edward Batman  
Chase Allan Bradley  
Quinton Jacob Carr  
Ian J. Christiansen \*\*  
Deacon Scott Dahlberg  
Kaitlyn Rose Hillberg ¥  
Piper Grace Kocina  
Riley Allan Kortenbusch \*\*  
Austin Kuhn  
Addison L. Medlin  
Lucy La Mattino Palmer \*\*  
Andrew James Sansness \*  
Morgan Lynn Saylor \*  
Elizabeth Gayle Secrest  
Alexandra Paige Simonson  
Maximus Dimitri Terra \*

### **INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING & ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT**

Ashlyn N. Adams  
Bain Kenneth Ballagh ‡  
Ellie Jo Breidenbach  
Alayna G. Dressler \*  
Ryan Kenneth Graham  
Avery Marie Harmon  
Kelsie Sue Harter  
Lauren Emily Herman  
Alvin H. Kelly, Jr.  
Emma Grace Martin \*  
Erick Daniel Robinson  
Grace Elizabeth Schildhauer  
Edison Smith Sierra Delgadillo  
Joshua Calvin Strong  
Lane Steven Thomas  
Ashley Renee Tobiasson  
Chase Jonathan Toms  
Rylan Joseph Walter

## **MATHEMATICS**

Connor James McCollar  
Tyler Joseph Mullert  
Everett M. Sandbo \*\*

## **MECHANICAL ENGINEERING**

Charles Lee Alberts, Jr.  
Robert Allman  
Gavin James Anderson  
Henry Joseph Anderson  
Pari Elizabeth Bailey  
Luke Andrew Baron  
Laurelle Baybridge  
Ava McKayla Beck  
Tanner Lee Becker  
Hannah Lauren Benes  
Matthew Charles Berg \*\*  
Thomas Anthony Berg \*  
Cole Brason Biberdorf  
Cody Matthew Birk  
William Andrew Black \*\*\*  
Cody Edward Booth  
Noah Charles Borchard  
Lucas M. Broberg  
Benjamin Campbell  
Timothy Zuriel Chandler \*\*  
Charles Arthur Christensen \*  
Andrew Dean Clark  
Dominik Compton  
Matthew C. Cuny \*\*  
Bridger Joren Damgaard  
Bryson Dean Darveau  
Logan James Decker \*\*  
David Levi Dickerson  
Preston John Drew  
Thomas Joseph Dudgeon  
Riley Richard Erkens \*  
Alejandro Escamilla, Jr.  
Megan Christine Eskam  
Paul Wayne Felix  
Joao Pedro Figueiredo Barbosa  
Devin Andrew Filter  
Aaron J. Fischer  
Dawson T. Ford \*\*  
Elizabeth Rose Fox  
Nicholas Daniel Franz  
Ian Burk Galloway  
Mason S. Gansebom \*  
Allan Dade Gomez \*  
Caleb Stephen Gray \*\*  
Gage Elias Guenther  
Joshua Harold Guernsey  
Samuel Gutierrez  
Gavin D. Haggerty  
David Anders Hansen  
Conner Lee Harbarth  
Zachary Harris \*  
Hunter Christopher Harrison  
Henry Thomas Herndon  
Kaylee Nicole Herndon

Blaine Robert Hill  
Quincy Carter Hobbs  
Liam Jacob Hoefler  
Raymond Benjamin Hoffman  
Cody Duane Homan  
Kyle Willam Houchin  
Jordan Daniel Howard  
Laura Elizabeth Hubbs  
Lawrence Daniel Indgjer II  
Samuel Jacob Irwin  
Kole Thomas Jackson  
Todd Austin Jiskoot  
Corrigan Charles Johnke  
Jordan Alexander Kalbach  
Kaden Lawrie Kelderman \*\*  
Duram Carter Kelly \*\*  
Benjamin T. Kepley  
Perry J. Ketelsen \*  
Storm Jayden King  
Trenton Charles Kivett Jobman  
Zachary James Lemmon  
Portia Elise Lenczowski  
Connor Braden Libberton  
Andrew Keith Lindgren \*\*  
Thaddeus Andrew Malsam  
Raleigh T Martinez  
Tristyn Presley May  
Miles Cooper McDaniels \*  
John McGinness, Jr.  
Robert Ray Mejias  
Seth Eugene Mendel  
Guillermo Mendez  
Austin Lamoin Meyer  
Ethan Anthony Miller \*  
Matthew James Mitzel \*  
Brayden Michael Moore  
Adan Domingo Roberto Moreland  
Chris Maynard Lauron Nebrida  
Gretchen Eva Noble \*\*\*  
Evan Joseph Norenberg  
Caleb Paul Oien  
Hunter David Olson  
Noah James Olund  
Eve Peasley  
Payton Hughes Peery  
Alex Ray Pekelder  
Isaac Axel Peterson  
Wyatt H. Peterson  
Treavor Michael Proctor  
Mark Bradley Quiring  
Tristan W. Redman  
Dylan Heath Reeck  
Alison Elizabeth Reeves  
Evan D. Reise \*  
Gavin Gregory Richards  
Skyler E. Richardson  
Joseph Thomas Romero  
Karlee Ann Schenk \*  
Kade Evan Schroeder \*  
Erick D. Sickau  
Cade A. Skradski

Alex H. Smisek \*  
Drew D. Solinsky  
Cole A. Stanek  
Chase Elliott Stohlmann \*  
Devin James Strutt \*  
Henry Paul Stuart  
Aaron H. Sturtevant \*\*\*  
Jasper D. Sullivan  
Charles P. Swanson  
Anna Rose-Linn Tamm  
Benjamin Campbell Tibbetts  
Clive Uy \*\*\*  
Corbin G. Van Zee  
Hailey G. Vogl  
Stirling C. Wallace  
Tyler Paul Wardner  
Gerald Gage Waterhouse \*  
Derek Michael Willems  
Eugene Williams  
Jesse Even Wilson  
Paul Charles Winker  
Aaron Michael Wirtz  
Timothy Wolfe \*\*  
John Novotny Wonka  
Pierson Q. Worley

## **METALLURGICAL ENGINEERING**

Eleanor Daniel Hester  
McKenzie Kangas  
Bayler James Larson \*\*  
Colby John Malsam  
Mya Gross Maxwell  
Trevor Lee Racine \*  
Gabriel Joseph Ripperda  
Micah H. Seagrist  
Brandon Charles Stuber  
Joseph David Thompson  
Charles H. Veith  
Daniel Oleh Vitkovitsky

## **MINING ENGINEERING**

Brandon G. Armstrong  
Antonio Alejandro Assante Reyes  
Nathaniel Brown  
John Joseph Cernicky \*\*\*  
Ethan Kaya Cox  
Jackson Riley Tag  
Andrew Daniel Wipf

## **PHYSICS**

Arabella Blom  
Christopher Logan Butsavage  
Ryan Patrick Cantz  
Michael J. DuBray  
Guillem Garcia Riera \*\*  
Tobias Joseph Kehrwald \*  
Hannah Renee Lias \*  
Connor James McCollar

**PRE-PROFESSIONAL  
HEALTH SCIENCES**

Morgan Rose Daugherty

Grace Catherine Jager \*

Savea R. Mansfield \*\*

Ava Loren Sparks

Morning Grace Spotted Bear

Kiera Talane Walsh

Allison Reann Woidtke

**SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY,  
& SOCIETY**

Paul Frank Roques, IV

Anthony Dewayne Wright, Jr.

**ASSOCIATE OF ARTS  
DEGREE CANDIDATES**

**GENERAL STUDIES**

Ian Corey Hammond



## COMMENCEMENT COMMITTEE

Dr. Haley Armstrong, Co-chair  
Dr. Jade Herman, Co-chair  
Mr. Jason Cautrell  
Dr. Saurabh Dhiman  
Dr. Joseph Dlugos  
Ms. Diana Eastman  
Mr. Dane Finnesand  
Ms. Gina Fiorello  
Ms. Leslie Hill  
Ms. Rachel Howard  
Mr. Jennifer Bauer  
Ms. Jadya Moriarty  
Mr. Jason Pritchard  
Ms. Rachel Skea  
Mr. Chase Stohlmann  
Mr. Jacob Vostad

## SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Mr. Jeff Partridge, *President*  
Mr. Randy Frederick, *Vice President*  
Mr. Miles Beacom, *Secretary*  
Mr. Nathan Lukkes, *Executive Director*  
Dr. Judy Dittman  
Mr. James Lochner  
Mr. Griffin Petersen  
Mr. Randy Rasmussen  
Mr. Tim Rave  
Ms. Pam Roberts

## SOUTH DAKOTA MINES GRADUATION BAND

Dr. Haley Armstrong, *Director*  
Brandon Armstrong, *Horn*  
Angelina Benda, *Clarinet*  
Chase Bradley, *Horn*  
John Brickey, *Trumpet*  
Maddox Bundy, *Bari Sax*  
Nicholas Chuplis, *Trumpet*  
Thomas Colgan, *Alto Sax*  
Ian Galloway, *Percussion*  
Alex Haffner, *Clarinet*  
Corrigan Johnke, *Percussion*  
Duram Kelly, *Clarinet*  
Gideon King, *Alto Sax*  
Jordan Lannerd, *Flute*  
Henry London, *Trumpet*  
Emily Maile, *Trumpet*  
Baker Mitchell, *Percussion*  
John Papiernik, *Euphonium*  
Lucas Pierce, *Trumpet*  
Roxanne Raml, *Alto Sax*  
Harrison Regensburger, *Trumpet*  
Dakota Remington, *Tuba*  
Kendra Rounds, *Flute*  
Jace Rudd, *Percussion*  
Parker Smith, *Percussion*  
Megan Stefanik, *Percussion*  
Aidan Stietz, *Tuba*  
Brandilyn Ukena, *Flute*  
Zach Wilson, *Alto Sax*  
Aaron Wirtz, *Trombone*

# 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.

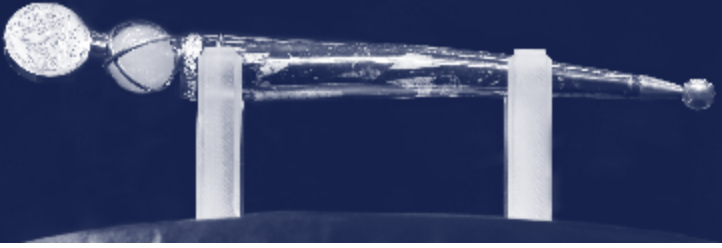
## ACADEMIC ATTIRE

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 indicates 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 university 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, an integrated manufacturing specialist for CAMP.



## ALUMNI PINS

On behalf of South Dakota Mines Center for Alumni Relations and Advancement, each graduate is gifted with an alumni pin, presented by Honorary Alumni President Sharon Chontos. The pin serves as a reminder that once a Hardrocker, always a Hardrocker and the hope is graduates will wear it proudly as they go forth in their careers.





### **PHOTOGRAPHY SERVICES**

The Grad Team will be providing photography services to the graduates. Photos will be available online at [TheGradTeam.com/events](https://TheGradTeam.com/events) approximately one week after the ceremony.

### **CUSTOM GRADUATION VIDEO**

Celebrate with your free graduation gift. Download your StageClip personalized graduation video, featuring just your special moment on stage. Find your clip after graduation at [sdsmt.stageclip.com](https://sdsmt.stageclip.com).

*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.*



**SOUTH DAKOTA MINES**  
An engineering, science and technology university