

Celebration of Excellence



MUSKINGUM

U N I V E R S I T Y

Brown Chapel

Friday, April 10, 2026

3:30 p.m.

Celebration of Excellence

Processional

Prelude Music Kaleigh Simmons, *Accompanist*

Welcome Dr. Susan S. Hasseler
President

Invocation Rev. Derek Wadlington
University Chaplain

Anthem

“God of Wisdom, Truth, and Beauty” by Jane Parker Huber
Concert Choir
Dr. Daniel Strychacz, *Conductor*
Kaleigh Simmons, *Collaborative Accompanist*

Hymn: “God of Wisdom, Truth and Beauty”

God of wisdom, truth and beauty, God of spirit, fire and soul;
God of order, love and duty, God of purpose, plan, and goal:
Grant us visions ever growing. Breath of life, eternal strength,
Mystic spirit, moving, flowing. Filling height and depth and length.
God of drama, music, dancing, God of story, sculpture, art,
God of wit, all life enchanting, God of every yearning heart;
Challenge us with quests of spirit, Truth revealed in myriad ways,
Word or song for hearts that hear it, Sketch and model forms of praise.
God of atom’s smallest feature, God of galaxies in space,
God of every living creature, God of all the human race:
May our knowledge be extended, For the whole creation’s good,
Hunger banished, warfare ended, All the earth a neighborhood.
God of science, history, teaching, God of futures yet unknown,
God of holding, God of reaching, God of power beyond each throne:
Take the fragments of our living, Fit us to your finest scheme,
Now forgiven and forgiving, Make us free to dare and dream.

Introduction Dr. Dinah Meyer
Chair of Division of Business, Education, and Social Sciences

Address Dr. Jason Kehrberg
Assistant Professor of Political Science

Musical Reflection

“Pure Imagination” arr. Matthew D. Nielsen
Concert Choir
Kaleigh Simmons, *Collaborative Accompanist*

Presentation of Faculty Awards.....Dr. Jennifer Dugan
Provost

Presentation of Co-Valedictorians President Hasseler

Presentation of Senior Fellows..... Provost Dugan

Presentation of Academic Department Awards

Dr. Alistair Hattingh*Division of Arts and Humanities*
Dr. Matt Davis*Division of Natural, Applied, and Health Sciences*
Dr. Dinah Meyer*Division of Business, Education, and Social Sciences*

Presentation of Academic Honors President Hasseler

Closing President Hasseler

Recessional

Postlude Music Kaleigh Simmons, *Accompanist*

Faculty Awards

William Oxley Thompson Award for Excellence in Teaching

This award is named for a Muskingum graduate of the Class of 1878. Dr. Thompson was one of the most renowned educators of his time and served for nearly three decades as a transformational President of The Ohio State University.

William Rainey Harper Award for Outstanding Scholarship

This award is named for a Muskingum graduate of the Class of 1870. Dr. Harper was a leading scholar and educator of his time and became the first President of the University of Chicago.

Cora I. Orr Faculty Service Award

This award honors the expansive service to Muskingum by Professor Orr as an instructor, counselor, and Dean of Women. The award embodies Professor Orr’s influence on campus programs, impact on students, and contributions to the community.

Co-Valedictorians

Kylie Andres

Kizzy Hourd

Alyssa Derry

Trent Lewis

Kayden Ellis

Alizabeth Lude *

Eva Finni *

Josecler Powell *

Rachel Gill *

Albreah Triplett

Mikayla Habrun

* Graduated in December 2025

Fellows Programs

The Summer Muskie Fellows have completed a summer research project under the direction of a faculty advisor.

Summer Muskie Fellows

The program provides an opportunity for students to work closely with faculty members as mentored research partners, gaining knowledge and skills in the discipline while developing a first-hand understanding of research practice and applications within the field.

Amanda Charness Sarah Lute
Heather Dawson Jasmine Matthews

The graduating seniors have completed academic study, field experiences, and individually designed projects building their leadership, communication, and problem-solving skills.

John and Annie Glenn Public Service Fellows

The goal for the JAG Public Service Fellows Program is to transform participants into active citizens and public servants.

Kylie Andres Rebecca Iser
Alyssa Derry Trey Kirssin

Otto and Fran Walter Humanitarian Fellows

The Otto and Fran Walter Humanitarian Fellows program looks to expand students' understanding of local and global peace and justice initiatives and develop their ability to serve as leaders of social change.

Maria Decaminada Miu Kumagai
Eva Finni * Evan Lin

Academic Department Awards

Arts and Humanities

Joyce Alesandrini Award for Exemplary Leadership

Awarded to a graduating senior whose contributions to the Music Department include musical excellence, outstanding service, and a spirit of selflessness to the Department's students, faculty, and staff.

Heather Dawson

Amos Family Awards

Awarded to superior sophomore or junior students who major in Communication, Media, Theatre, and English.

Taylor Crooks
Gracie Ehrick

Doris Anderson Memorial Award in Humanities and Language

Awarded to students who exhibit interest in and devotion to the study of the classics in memory of the former Muskingum University Classics professor.

Albreah Triplett

Matilda Bailey Award in English

Awarded to students majoring in English who demonstrate academic merit and high moral character, with preference given to prospective teachers.

Ethan Bush Dalton Phillips
Jessica Dotson Rachelle Shwartz
William House Andrew Wade

Beulah Brooks Brown Creative Writing Award

Awarded by the English Department to upper-class students majoring in English who exhibit outstanding talent in the area of creative writing.

Augustus Niner
Ella Vannatter
Qwen Wagstaff

Joe L. Dubbert Award in History

Awarded to junior History students in memory of the late Muskingum University History professor.

Ty Bronner Nathaniel Romano
Owen Buxton Amanda Spillman

William L. Fisk Endowed Scholarship Fund

Awarded by the History or Political Science Department to a rising senior who intends to pursue a graduate education.

Amanda Spillman, *History*

Gleason Memorial Award

Awarded by the Communication, Media, and Theatre Department to an outstanding Theatre student in memory of Nancy and Marilyn Gleason, former Muskingum University students.

Katelinn Kinsey

Layton Memorial Scholarship Fund

Awarded by the Communication, Media, and Theatre Department to outstanding students in memory of Charles and Ferne Layton, former Muskingum University professors.

Alex Dillon

John McCance Scholarship in Broadcast Media

Awarded to a student interested in radio technology and engineering. The scholarship was established by Grant Hafley in memory of John McCance, a well-known area broadcast engineer who served many years as the Chief Engineer for AVC Communications. Mr. McCance was also instrumental in developing radio broadcasting facilities at Muskingum University.

Madelynn Moore

Agnes Moorehead Scholarship in Theatre

Awarded to outstanding junior Theatre students in memory of the late actress who was a Muskingum alumna.

Augustus Niner

H.P. Mount Scholarship

Awarded to a student pursuing studies in the field of theology.

Chris Burdiss

Prout Family Creative Award in Visual Arts

Awarded by the Art Department to students who have produced an outstanding work of art.

Ryleigh Lawhorne

Amelia Shaffstall

Prout Family Creative Writing Award in Literary Arts

Awarded by the English Department to students who have produced an outstanding written work.

Katelyn Lindsey

Amanda Spillman

H.P. Mount Scholarship

Awarded to a senior for four years of outstanding contributions to the Music Department.

Heather Dawson

Rivingston Vocal Scholarship

Awarded by the Music Department to assist two qualified and deserving students studying voice at Muskingum University.

Megan Hill

Macy Morgan

George and Jean Schooley Phi Alpha Theta Prize in History

Awarded to outstanding senior History students in recognition of the Muskingum alumnus and longtime area high school History teacher.

Kylie Andres

Cohen Cabot

Kayden Ellis

Mary Sharp Award in Spanish

Awarded by the World Languages Department to outstanding students of Spanish in memory of the former language professor.

Candace Doubet

The Emily Wasserman Music Scholarship

Established by the family and friends of Emily Wasserman, Muskingum Class of 1998, to be awarded to a deserving Music major from a small rural Ohio high school.

Keeley Carter

Sara P. Wilhelm Award in English

Awarded to a student who shows unusual promise in English, Journalism, or Speech Communication in memory of the former Muskingum University professor.

Ryleigh Lawhorne

Ashwan Khanna Award for Journalism

Awarded to the Editor-in-Chief of the Black and Magenta.

Katelyn Lindsey

Academic Department Awards

Natural, Applied, and Health Sciences

American Chemical Society Award

Awarded by the Columbus section of the ACS to an outstanding junior and an outstanding senior Chemistry student.

Reno Yurco, *Senior*

Braylon Buchanan, *Junior*

General Chemistry Achievement Award

Awarded to outstanding General Chemistry students.

Aubrie Barr

Andrea Moreno Navarro

Owen Kirkland

Cuylee Troyer

Caleb Lauvray

Charles B. and Alice V. Moody Healthcare Scholarship

This scholarship fund was created by Mrs. Moody as a memorial for her beloved husband Charles. Funds are used to provide scholarships for students pursuing healthcare degrees at Muskingum University, where she was a graduate.

Ashley Barton

Savannah Rexroad

Computer Science Award

Awarded to an outstanding Computer Science student.

Caleb Simpson

Clement E. Dasch Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement

Awarded annually to an outstanding sophomore or junior life-science major based on excellence in academic or research performance.

Ruby Sierer

E.R. "Rudy" Gerlach Chemistry Award

Awarded to individuals majoring in Chemistry who demonstrate departmental involvement in and dedication to their education.

Kapil Thapli

A. Bruce Gill and Mabel Woodrow Gill Scholarship Fund

Awarded to an outstanding student majoring in Biology, Chemistry, or Physics who is pursuing a degree in a medical field.

Ruby Sierer

Genesis Healthcare System Ronnica Dodson Scholarship in Nursing

The Ronnica Dodson Scholarship was established in 2001 in memory of Ronnica Dodson, former Bethesda Hospital Foundation Director of Development. This scholarship was created and funded by volunteers at Genesis Bethesda Hospital. The scholarship provides funds for students pursuing a degree in Nursing from Muskingum University or Ohio University – Zanesville or a degree in Allied Health from Zane State College.

Sydnee Blackledge

Mollee Jarrett

Stacey Chesnick

Isabella Jerrells

Kendall Dye

Elizabeth Johnson

Lydia Gross

Christina Littick

Camryn Hughes

Chelsey Pattison

Health Professions Award

Awarded to Chemistry majors pursuing a career in the medical field and who maintain a GPA of 3.5 or above.

Claire McGowan

L. Coleman Knight Award in Mathematics

Awarded to an outstanding freshman in memory of the former Muskingum University professor.

Olivia Drabik

Hugh Kuhn Award in Biology

Awarded annually to a senior life-science student exemplifying excellence in academic performance or research.

Matthew Vascura

Mathematics Award

Awarded to an outstanding senior Mathematics student.

Adam Johnson

Award for Performance in Organic Chemistry

Awarded to students who earned a grade of A in both semesters of Organic Chemistry.

Calvin Bartolin
Mackenzie Krous

ACS Award in Physical Chemistry

Awarded to a student who displayed outstanding performance in Physical Chemistry.

Braylon Buchanan

Vishnu P. and Sudha S. Saksena Award in Conservation Science

Awarded to juniors majoring in Conservation Science who exhibit outstanding accomplishments in the area of research and scholarship. This special award was endowed by Dr. Vishnu P. and Dr. Sudha S. Saksena.

Sarah Lute

Vishnu P. Saksena Beta Beta Beta Award for Outstanding Service

Awarded to a student for outstanding service as a member of the Muskingum University Beta Beta Beta Biology Honorary Society.

Abigail Derry

Vishnu P. and Sudha S. Saksena Award in Nursing

Awarded to a student for outstanding academic achievement and patient care as set forth in the department's mission statement.

Sydnee Blackledge

James L. Smith Awards in Mathematics

Awarded to an outstanding sophomore and junior in recognition of the Muskingum University emeritus professor.

Haylee Kinsey, *Junior*
Madeleine Slosar, *Sophomore*

Robert Ellis Smith Scholarship in Physics and Engineering

Endowed by a distinguished Muskingum University alumnus, Robert Ellis Smith Scholarships are awarded to outstanding students who major or minor in Physics or General Engineering.

Trent Lewis
Lucas Parsons
Madeleine Slosar

Alice and Si Vellenga Award

Awarded to outstanding sophomore Chemistry majors who display the Christian principles of Dr. and Mrs. Si and Alice Vellenga.

Isabella Henderson

William J. Wallace Award in Chemistry

Awarded to an outstanding junior or senior Chemistry major.

Reno Yurco, *Senior* Kapil Thapli, *Junior*
Gracyn Armstrong, *Junior* Matt Vascura, *Junior*
Braylon Buchanan, *Junior*

Outstanding Achievement in Exercise Science Award

This award recognizes dedicated students who have demonstrated exceptional knowledge, skills, and passion in the field of Exercise Science through academic excellence, practical applications, and commitment to promoting health and wellness through exercise science.

John Jacobs
Rosemary Stephens

Health and Fitness Leadership Award

This award celebrates students who have shown exemplary leadership and dedication in the field of Health and Fitness. Recognizing outstanding academic performance and the embodiment of health and fitness promotion and excellence.

Aaliyah Bates
Laurell Brown

ACS Award in Biochemistry

Awarded to a senior student who displays an aptitude in the field of Biochemistry.

Reno Yurco

ACS Award in Organic Chemistry

Awarded to a senior student who displays an aptitude in the field of Organic Chemistry.

Reno Yurco

Academic Department Awards

Business, Education and Social Sciences

Miriam S. Allison Award in Education

Awarded to an outstanding student who will be entering a career in teaching.

Ella Jefferis

John Anthony Brown Scholarship in Political Science

Awarded in memory of Muskingum University's seventeenth president to Political Science students who exemplify Dr. Brown's commitment to academic excellence and intellectual integrity.

Mattie Bailey

Makenna Staker

Criminal Justice Top Scholar Senior Award

Awarded to graduating seniors in Criminal Justice who have demonstrated high interest, commitment, and achievement throughout the students' course of undergraduate study.

Sam Bolen

Tyson Lewis

Criminal Justice Top Scholar Junior Award

Awarded to juniors majoring in Criminal Justice who have demonstrated high interest, commitment, and achievement throughout the students' course of undergraduate study.

Jordan Heiser

Phillip Lashley

Mark Euken Award in Psychology

Awarded to a student who shows exemplary independent scholarship in psychological studies.

Kayden Ellis

Andrew Frese Award

Awarded by the Education Studies Department to an Adolescent Young Adult or Multi-Age (K-12) candidate who has demonstrated exceptional ability in building rapport with students.

Natalie Long

Gary and Paula Golden Award

Awarded to seniors majoring in Business Management or Marketing who have demonstrated persistence and the ability to achieve academic success at Muskingum University. This award was established by friends and family of Professor Golden, who was gifted at recognizing and developing unrealized potential in students.

Nicholas Cannon

Ava Flynn

David Westrick

Bill and Ruth McCauley Scholarship

Awarded by Muskingum University's Department of Education Studies to an outstanding upper-class Education major.

Jade Drabik

Miller Family Award in Education

Awarded to outstanding students pursuing a career in the teaching profession in memory of three members of the Miller family, all teachers and Muskingum University alumni.

Caden Kenworthy

Cora I. Orr Award

Given by the Psychology Department in recognition of the awardee's academic excellence and service in the department. This award is given in memory of the former Muskingum professor.

Rebecca Iser

Political Science Top Scholar Award

Awarded to a graduating senior Political Science major who has demonstrated high interest, commitment, and achievement throughout the student's course of undergraduate study.

Kylie Andres

Tyson Lewis

Ty Bronner

Alexandria Marsh

M. Wesley Roper Scholarship in Sociology

Awarded to outstanding Sociology students in memory of the former Muskingum University professor.

Miu Kumagai

William Trumpeter Award in Psychology

Awarded to a senior Psychology major judged most likely to contribute to the profession.

Karisa Bowers

Dorothy D. Vellenga Award in Sociology

Awarded to an outstanding junior student in memory of the former Muskingum University professor.

Robin Matthews

William L. Fisk Endowed Scholarship Fund

Awarded by the History or Political Science Department to a rising senior who intends to pursue a graduate education.

Phillip Lashley

Jason E. Kehrberg

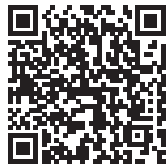
Jason Kehrberg is an Assistant Professor of Political Science. He earned his Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Kentucky. In 2010, he joined the Muskingum University faculty, where he teaches courses in statistics, American politics, and research methods.

His research primarily focuses on American politics, studying the inclusion and exclusion of immigrants in state-level policies and public opinion. His most recent publications examine Latino public opinion on immigration and towards law enforcement.

Jason also received a master’s degree from the University of Iowa, a bachelor’s degree from Central College, and an associate’s degree from Barstow College.

Academic Honors List

To view the Fall 2025 President’s, Dean’s, and Academic Merit list scan the QR code to be directed to our website.



<https://www.muskingum.edu/administration/academic-affairs/academic-honors-lists>

Recordings of the ceremony can be retrieved from the Celebration of Excellence webpage at www.muskingum.edu/coe