



2021
Residential
College
Commencement
Ceremony
in the Age of COVID-19

Saturday, May 1, 2021
2:00 p.m.
The Virtual Keene Theater

Even if we are occupied with important things and even if we attain honor or fall into misfortune, still let us remember how good it once was here, when we were all together, united by a good and a kind feeling which made us perhaps better than we are.

- Fyodor Dostoyevsky, *The Brothers Karamazov*

Why We Pipe

If you listen carefully, you'll hear it: it happens every year.

Just before the RC Commencement Ceremony begins, after all the guests are seated and comfortable in the auditorium, issuing from somewhere in the hallway: the drones and chanter of a bagpipe; then a sudden, loud cheer from the graduating students. The staff and faculty of the RC, who have navigated many Commencements together, wait for that call and response as a kind of Invocation to the Event: l'invitation au voyage.

But why do we pipe? How did this ancient instrument become an integral part of the Residential College's yearly ritual of honoring its Graduates? Like most traditions, it began by chance. Some two decades ago, when the RC was only 25, the late Janet Albert, a staff member who was instrumental in establishing the RC art gallery, mentioned to Director Herb Eagle that her husband was a piper. As often happens in the RC, a casual conversation led to an inspiration: our commencement had outgrown the RC Auditorium and we needed to find another venue; we also needed to find a way to shepherd students and their families back to East Quad for the post-ceremony reception.

Herman Steinman, our original piper, first sounded his four reeds at that year's Commencement Ceremony, which was held in Hale auditorium at the U-M Business School. Several years later, under Director Tom Weisskopf, we moved to the main lecture hall in the Chemistry building, where, in 2006, Herm was conferred with an Honorary RC Degree by Director Charlie Bright.

The bagpipe is as much a part of Commencement - and of the "Heart of the RC" - as the presentations by each Graduate. After today's ceremonies, please join us for our virtual e-afterglow to celebrate the graduates. If we were together in the flesh, we'd follow the bagpiper to East Quad as is the tradition. This year, you'll just go from one computer window to another and join our Zoom rooms to see your beloved fellow students, faculty and staff.

John Russell, our bagpiper for today's commencement, has long-standing connections with the RC: his daughter Whitney Russell graduated from the RC in 2008 with a major in Social Science, and his daughter Shauna Russell is an RC Alumna of 2010, with a major in Linguistics. "I always enjoyed hearing the bagpipes and thought it would be fun to become a piper. After pipers performed at our daughter's RC graduation in 2008, I asked the lead piper, Herm Steinman, if he would teach me to play. Herm introduced me to piping, and after a few years Herm retired and I became the RC bagpiper, a gig that I look forward to every year."

A new musical contribution this year is the original song by RC student Madison Krumins in the class of 2022, "Me, Myself, & I", shared as a tribute to the RC 2021 graduates.

Cover art by: Rod Miller, RC alumnus

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Opening Procession
Bagpiping by John Russell

Remarks for the Graduates

Catherine Badgley
Director, Residential College

Commencement Speakers

The Residential College Class of 2021
via video submission by the graduates

Closing Remarks

Charlie Murphy
Director, RC Academic Services

Closing Musical Selection

Original song "Me, Myself, & I" by Madison Krumins, RC Class of 2022

Be sure to post a selfie in your graduation garb using
#RCGrad2021 on Instagram!

Residential College Graduates

Bachelor of Arts

Grace K. Baker
Zane Leonardo Baylon
Anneke Benison
Lena Marie Benjakul
Sydney H. Bentley*
Davis Boos
Kaitlyn Mary Brannigan*
Kaleb Andreall Brown*
Madelyn Brunvand
Camryn Mae Bullock
Mark Castañeda
Breanna L. Cross
Phoebe Eleanor Danaher
Joshua Emmanuel Degraff*
Jillian Skye Drzinski
Julia Marie Ebben
Danielle Jude Falling*
Brigid Fitzpatrick
Centraya Forbes
Ariel H. Friedlander
Antonio Gaeta, Jr.
Sarah Kathryn Green
Shayna Shari Friedman Greenley
Margaret Ellen Greer
Nicholas Robert Hill
Julian Ho
Emilia Jonic
Briayna Marcia Jordan
Louis Kaplan*
Ellie Nicole Katz
Alyssa Knight
Andrew LaPorte*
Aabi Laal
Maria Louise LoCicero*
Jillian Louise Luciw
Madeleine Alberts Mozina
Aviva S. Nemeth
Katrina Padron

Rachel Faye Paroff
Bridgette Pollaski
Alana Ann Porter
Gabriella Francisca Rathmann
Samantha Redlich
Lucas Lemos Renno
Brenna Noelle Ringwelski*
Olivia Erin Robinson
Rebeka Jeanette Rooks
Miriam Saperstein
Clara Louise Scott*
Olivia Signe Sedlacek
Olivia L. Sevcik*
Gregory Robert Severin
Julia Sage Sherman Silverman
Emily Simroth*
Benjamin Tolgahan Solberg
Emmanuel Solis
Michael H. Thomas
Martina V. Villalobos
Alexander Charles Wagner*
Andrew Nicholas Warrick*
Elana Weberman*
Danielle E. Williams
Evelyn Lucille Winter
Hayley Yu*
Isabel Beatriz Zúñiga Matos

* indicates that the student completed an RC major

Residential College Graduates

Bachelor of Science

Madeline Miller Bacolor
Allegra Faith Baird
Zeke Bass
Zoe Catherine Bultman
Dalia Harris
Amber Danielle Hooks
Claire Huber
Zekun Jia
Luc Thomas LePottier
Shuangzhe Lin
Marya Rose Matlin-Wainer
Jennifer Moreno
Jiankai Pu
Nicole Mary Rhoads
Tiger Dingming Shi
John Frederick Verch

LSA Graduates with Residential College Majors

Creative Writing and Literature

Adam Taher-Saleh Abbas
Zoey Violet Angers
Sebastien Butler
Emily Elysse Goff
Kennedi Jade Killips
Anne Klusendorf
Annie Ning
Holly Marie Price
Sofia Spencer
Duncan Watson
Corissa Mattson

Arts and Ideas in the Humanities

Monet J. Hunt

Drama

Bryce Foley
Alana Jean Reinert
Riley Russell

Social Theory and Practice

Lindsay Calka
Sophie Curhan
Isabella Diblassio
Nando M Felten
Zoey Horowitz
Madison Murdoch
Miryea Sturdivant
Kimberly Swinehart
Raquel Wolens