



COMMENCEMENT

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-WHITEWATER AT ROCK COUNTY

TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2025, AT 6:30 P.M.



University of Wisconsin
Whitewater

Rock
County

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER



JANE BLAIN GILBERTSON

Jane Blain Gilbertson is executive chair and sole owner of the 45 Blain's Farm & Fleet stores throughout Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa, and Michigan and Blain Supply, Inc., headquartered in Janesville, Wisconsin. The family-owned companies were founded in 1955 and currently employ 5,500 associates.

Jane is a Janesville resident who received her Bachelor of Science in Retailing from Miami University (Miami of Ohio). Upon graduation, she joined Macy's as a buyer.

Jane returned to Blain's in 1985 as a buyer for the company. After the passing of the company's founders, her uncle Claude Blain in 1988 and her father Bert Blain in 1993, Jane and her brother Robert purchased the remaining portion of the company from Claude's family and became the sole owners in 1998.

In 2014, Jane purchased her brother's half of the business and became CEO, president, and sole owner. In September 2024, Jane named Mark Hasting as the CEO and president, and she became executive chair of the board.

She has been married to Mick Gilbertson, an architect, for nearly 39 years, and both of their children, Sarah and Nicole, work for the family business as well.

Jane serves as vice chair of Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce's Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce and is board member of the Wisconsin Women's Health Foundation, Janesville Performing Arts Center, and Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce. In the past she was community board president of St. Mary's Hospital in Janesville, director of the Rock County 5.0 Economic Development Organization, and community board director of Johnson Bank, Bank One, Blackhawk Technical College Foundation and the Rock County Habitat for Humanity, among others.

Her recognitions include Forward Janesville's Lifetime Achievement Award, Rock County Historical Society Phoenix Award, BizTime's "Wisconsin 275" in 2022 and 2024, Forward Janesville's Athena Award, and YWCA Rock County's Woman of Distinction and Corporate Citizen Awards. She was the inaugural awardee of both Craig High School graduates' Honor Wall of Fame and the Janesville Gazette's "50 Who Matter." ❖

STUDENT SPEAKER



GLORIA LARA

Gloria Lara is a returning student passionately pursuing a path to become a licensed clinician. She is interested in developing a nonprofit community-based program to support first-generation daughters of immigrants. A proud mother of three girls, Gloria enjoys spending her free time playing pickleball, hiking, biking, and diving into a good book, especially theological works and historical fiction. Born and raised in Orange County, California, she graduated from high school in Dallas and began her higher education journey at UW-Whitewater at Rock County. She currently lives in Delavan but is preparing to relocate to Katy, Texas, to complete her BSW at the University of Houston–Clear Lake, with plans to pursue a dual Master of Social Work/Master of Public Health degree in the future.❖

BACHELOR'S DEGREE RECIPIENTS

The College of Integrated Studies is proud to recognize the following UW-Whitewater at Rock County alumni and students who are earning collaborative degrees on other campuses.

BACHELOR OF APPLIED OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-WHITEWATER

Heather Gray

Deshay Henry

Maria De Los Angeles Marquez

Abbie Mauro

Sharriea Mcatee

Bethany Rae Michaelis

Julie A. Morris

Dillon Sean Sorenson

Katelyn Ann Vaughan

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

EDGEWOOD COLLEGE

Hannah Andrews

Evelina Coulthard

Addison Kooyman

Bryn McBride

Brooklyn Mosley

Tristen Peters

Jadyn Schumacher

Karlye Smrecek

Betsy Stanek

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ENGINEERING

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-PLATTEVILLE

Timothy Jensen

Allen Terry

OUTSTANDING ALUMNI AWARD



AIMEE THURNER

Aimee Thurner, who attended URock in 1998, is the president and CEO of the Greater Beloit Chamber of Commerce, where she has worked for 22 years. Aimee is passionate about serving her community as a member of numerous boards and committees including the Board of Directors for Visit Beloit and the Greater Beloit Economic Development Corporation. She has also served on the Rock County Leadership Development Academy and United Way Blackhawk Region board of directors and on advisory boards for Careertek, Blackhawk Technical College and the UW-Whitewater at Rock County Dean's Advisory Board.

A Janesville resident, Aimee lives with her husband Nathan and three children: Emma, William, and Lillian.

Aimee embodies what it means to be an outstanding alumnus with her commitment to make Rock County a better place to live, work, and play!❖



COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM

TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2025

PROCESSIONAL AND RECESSIONAL

Anna Schuette-Reid, piano

WELCOME

Tricia Clasen, Ph.D.

Assistant Vice Chancellor of the Rock County Campus and
Dean of the College of Integrated Studies

READING OF THE NATIVE LANDS RECOGNITION STATEMENT

Robin K. Fox, Ph.D.

Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs,
UW-Whitewater

OUTSTANDING ALUMNI AWARD

Introduced by Tricia Clasen

Aimee Thurner

President and CEO of the Beloit Chamber of Commerce

PRESENTATION OF THE EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARDS

Introduced by Tricia Clasen

George H. Jones, Ph.D.

Professor of Economics

Anna Moisiadis-Duran, MFA

Lecturer of Art

STUDENT SPEAKER

Introduced by Kelly Jensen, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Communication

Gloria Lara, AAS

Liberal Studies

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

Introduced by Corey A. King, Ed.D.

UW-Whitewater Chancellor

Jane Blain Gilbertson

Owner and executive chair, Blain's Farm & Fleet

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

Robin K. Fox

CONFERRING OF DEGREES

Corey A. King

Names read by David McKay, Ph.D.

Senior Lecturer of History and TRIO Advisor

COLLEGE OF INTEGRATED STUDIES

• • • ASSOCIATE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES • • •

Michelle Abarca ^H	Whitewater	Paige Marie Letcher	Janesville
Hannah Ahrens	Walworth	Deon L. Lewis	Glenwood, Illinois
Aram Hisham Al-harashsheh ^H	Janesville	Ashley F. Linn	Janesville
Jaida Abigail Arellano ^H	Darien	Jazmyn Mader	Evansville
Tyler Ward Asberry ^H	Clinton	Julia G. Mahoney ^H	Evansville
Noemi Batista	Beloit	Yasmin Martinez	Beloit
Jose Alejandro Bernal	Janesville	Alayna Jo Mata ^H	Brodhead
Alexander Boettcher	Janesville	Kailey M. McGinley	Janesville
Roy Scott Buri ^H	Edgerton	Besnik Mecollari	Janesville
Margaret Kathleen Bush	Elkhorn	Albuna Mehmeti ^H	Janesville
Adilene Cabrera ^H	Janesville	Angelica Monat	Beloit
Caelyn Louise Caputo ^H	Delavan	Emmanuel Maurice Mungon	Milwaukee
Gwendolyn Carroll ^H	Janesville	Jean Joanna Muñoz	Beloit
Tayler Carter	Beloit	Jonathan Muraki	Janesville
Rocio Castaneda-Hernandez ^H	Beloit	Kentarrian Myles	Janesville
Wendy Castaneda-Hernandez	Beloit	Brooke Najdowski	Beloit
Calista LeeAnn Castellanos ^H	Beloit	Nicholas M. Neuman	Hartford
Hailey Christiansen	Milwaukee	Dejrianna Lataya Newton	Saint Paul, Minnesota
Isabelle Jade Clowes ^H	Rockton, Illinois	Darla Parlin ^H	Janesville
Audrey Anna Cook ^H	Janesville	Ian Paul ^H	Whitewater
Allison Cotgrove	Milton	Malachi Payne	Janesville
Clara May Crivello ^H	Waterford	Parker Peabody	Janesville
Aster Chance Daniel Cross ^H	Edgerton	Vivian Peklo	Walworth
Molly Jane Cullum ^H	Janesville	Alexis Peralta-Ruiz ^H	Janesville
Garrett David DeVoll	Janesville	Enrique Perez-Zarate ^H	Janesville
Braden Dodd	Janesville	Haley Noelle Phillips	Janesville
Valerie Ann Doering	South Milwaukee	Michael J. Pipitone	Merrimac
Hailey Dubey	Coloma	Rebecca Ragan ^H	Janesville
Lindsay Emmel	Janesville	Danielle Marie Raiche	Janesville
Jameson Flanagan ^H	Beloit	Marcela Ramirez-Rojas ^H	Beloit
Alayna Lea Gibson ^H	Brodhead	James Colton Rasnake ^H	Beloit
Kristopher Gillespie H	Brodhead	Sabestian Richardt ^H	Janesville
Jose Gomez-Soto	Janesville	Shaun Riles ^H	Beloit
Melanie Guadalupe Gonzalez	Chicago, Illinois	Isabella Catherine Robb ^H	Beloit
Isaac Goodmanson ^H	Janesville	Robert Ryan ^H	Burlington
Bleron Grajceveci	Janesville	Brenda Schanhofer	Appleton
Michael Zachary Guetschow ^H	Cambridge	Kealand Christopher Sausser	Janesville
Chase B. Hamby	Beloit	Justin Henry Scherdin	Janesville
Madeline Hartline	Evanston, Illinois	Alex Severt ^H	Janesville
Mars Henne	Mazomanie	Megan Anne Shaw ^H	Janesville
Andrew Hermanson	Janesville	Sherif Sherif	Milton
Hannah Grace Hernandez ^H	Delavan	Trenton Allen Smith	East Troy
Cole Ivan Holder ^H	Janesville	Devon Tyler Spohn ★	Janesville
Danielle Hornik	Janesville	Gabrielle Stoner	Beloit
Hannah Rose Hulina	Janesville	Daytona Chance Swenson	Clinton
Nicholas Craig Indermuehle	Waupun	Ariana Tinder ^H	Beloit
Arlene Rose Iverson	Janesville	Jack Toberman	Janesville
Johnathan Joseph Jones	Delavan	Ismael Torres	Beloit
Emma Marion Kaphingst ^H	Watertown	Chloe T. Uchida	Janesville
Trent Talon-Doiel Kassner ^H	Janesville	Jason Upham ^H	Janesville
Sarah Lynn Kirkpatrick ^H	Darien	Caden James Washburn	Darien
Madalynn Joy Knoke	Janesville	Auston Joshua Wells ^H	Beloit
Kassandra Knueppel ^H	Clinton	Abram Westrick ^H ★	Fort Atkinson
Devon Kruchten	Madison	Cecelia Susan Westrick ^H	Fort Atkinson
Jayce Kurth	Beloit	Marissa Rose Whaley ^H	Janesville
Gloria Lara ^H	Delavan	Kenneth E. Zavala Ortiz	Janesville

^H HONORS GRADUATE

★ VETERAN

UW-WHITewater AT ROCK COUNTY

UW-Whitewater at Rock County is part of a leading comprehensive university that serves almost 12,000 students. The Rock County campus offers a general studies associate degree, a Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences, a collaborative nursing bachelor's degree and a collaborative engineering bachelor's degree.

The Whitewater campus offers bachelor's degrees with more than 60 majors, 22 master's degrees, and one doctoral degree. The Rock County campus houses the College of Integrated Studies; other colleges at UW-Whitewater are Arts and Communication, Business and Economics, Education and Professional Studies, Letters and Sciences, and the School of Graduate Studies. ❖

ACADEMIC AND STUDENT REGALIA

Gowns and robes represent the principal levels of academic achievement. The associate and bachelor's gown have long, open sleeves. The UW-Whitewater chancellor wears a medallion that signifies the history and aspirations of the university. The medallion is cast and constructed in sterling silver and gold plate.

Stoles and cords worn by students may represent students' ethnic background, country of origin, academic achievement, or membership in a student organization:

- ❖ Green and gold cords signify membership in Sigma Kappa Delta, the English honor society for two-year colleges.
- ❖ Purple and white cords signify honor students based on cumulative grade-point average.
- ❖ Red, white, and blue cords indicate a veteran or military student.
- ❖ Blue and yellow cords indicate Phi Theta Kappa, the English Honor Society.
- ❖ Red and gold cords indicate the Spanish Honor Society.
- ❖ Red cords indicate the TRIO program.
- ❖ Many-colored stoles indicate membership in Latinos Unidos.

SPECIAL THANKS

The Rock County Campus Commencement Committee, Anna Schuette-Reid, Trevor Rees, student marshals Andy Holmbeck and Abi Leon, Hawksquad and staff volunteers, and the Rock County custodial and campus maintenance staff.



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Whitewater

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