



ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-SIXTH COMMENCEMENT
MAY 25, 2024

2024 COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM

Prelude	White Chapel Brass
Academic Procession	Erik Z. Hayes, BS, MS <i>Grand Marshal, Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students</i>
Introduction	Luanne F. Tilstra, BA, PhD <i>Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry</i>
Processional	The Rose-Hulman Joint Service ROTC Color Guard and Indianapolis Public Safety Pipes and Drums
National Anthem	Performing Arts Ensemble
Welcome	Courtney Valmore <i>Past President, Student Government Association</i>
President's Remarks	Robert A. Coons, BS, MBA <i>President</i>
Comments from Senior Class	Hannah Richardsen <i>President, Senior Class</i>
Awarding of Heminway Medal	Richard E. Stamper, BS, MS, PhD, PE <i>Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and Professor of Mechanical Engineering</i>
John T. Royse Award	Erik Z. Hayes
Herman A. Moench Distinguished Senior Commendation	Thomas M. Adams, BS, MS, PhD <i>Herman A. Moench Distinguished Professor and Professor of Mechanical Engineering</i>
Recognition of the Special Award Recipients	Richard E. Stamper
Awarding of Honorary Degree to John Swearingen	Kimberly Henthorn, BS, PhD <i>Department Head of Chemical Engineering and Associate Professor</i>
Introduction of Honorary Degree Recipient and Commencement Speaker Mae Jemison	Linda E. White, BS, MBA <i>Board of Trustees Vice Chair</i>
Awarding of Honorary Degree	Robert A. Coons
Commencement Address	Mae C. Jemison, BA, BS, MD <i>Physician, Engineer, Scientist, and Astronaut</i>
Conferring of Undergraduate Degrees and Recognition of Students Anticipating Degrees	Robert A. Coons
Turning of the Tassels	Erik Z. Hayes
Conferring of Master's Degrees	Robert A. Coons
Greeting from Alumni	Nellie Hohne, BS, MS <i>President, Alumni Advisory Board</i>
Farewell	Sean Hyacinthe <i>President, National Society of Black Engineers</i>
Closing Comments	Robert A. Coons
"Dear Old Rose"	White Chapel Brass
Recessional	White Chapel Brass

Alma Mater

Music by Raymond Mech

Lyrics by Andrew Mech, PhD, Emeritus Professor of Mechanical Engineering

Here in central Indiana
is the school we know is best.
Rose-Hulman, Yes, our Alma Mater
far surpasses all the rest.
Sing her glories and her praises
in every way she does excel.
Rose-Hulman, you're our Alma Mater
our Alma Mater loved so well.

Rose did more than set foundations
for the work that was to come.
The people here became as family;
Rose became another home.
Though we live at quite a distance
and time has passed since our farewell,
Rose-Hulman you have grown yet dearer
our Alma Mater loved so well.

Dear Old Rose **The School Fight Song**

Words and Music by Malcolm C. Scott, Class of 1922

Dear Old Rose
The sweetest flower that grows
Here's to your colors rose and white
Here's to the ones who've kept them bright.
Colors true for those who honor you
Here's to everything you've done,
Here's to every fight you've won.
Dear Old Rose.



HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT

John S. Swearingen

Retired Executive Vice President, Logistics and Storage
Marathon Petroleum Corporation

Alumnus John S. Swearingen and his wife, Anne, believe deeply in giving back and reaping what has been sown. In John's case, skills learned while earning a chemical engineering degree in 1981 provided a pathway for a successful career in the petroleum industry. He retired in 2020 as executive vice president of logistics and storage after a 39-year career with Marathon Petroleum Corporation.

The couple has been faithful supporters of Rose-Hulman. Their philanthropic efforts have included a \$2 million donation to establish the Department of Chemical Engineering's first endowed faculty professorship, along with supporting laboratory and technology modifications for the department and developing a new campus student leadership series that's encouraging future leaders in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) to solve complex problems. The couple's previous donations have provided scholarships supporting students in achieving their career goals in STEM.

In recognition of the Swearingens' generosity and loyalty, Rose-Hulman named the Chemical Engineering's High Bay Laboratory of Olin Hall in the couple's honor.

"Rose-Hulman laid a solid foundation for my professional success and our journey over the decades. We've been incredibly blessed and believe this is a way for us to give back to a place that is so special," said John. "Rose-Hulman's commitment to excellence has been hallmark of the college. We're so proud to help the college maintain that strong commitment in helping students succeed in their careers and life."

Department of Chemical Engineering Head Kimberly Henthorn, PhD, recalled meeting John Swearingen when both were members of the department's advisory board, providing valuable feedback about current industry standards and keeping students on the cutting edge of advancing technology.

"John always impressed me with his sincere love for the chemical engineering department and the gratitude he had for his Rose-Hulman education," said Henthorn, a 1999 chemical engineering alumna. "Always humble and kind, John is an advocate for our students and a strong supporter of our unit operations laboratory. His guidance, encouragement, and practical advice helped to shape our department into what it is today. It is so perfect that our students will associate his name with our top teacher/scholars and our laboratory long into the future."

Chemical engineering students use the John and Anne Swearingen High Bay Laboratory throughout their undergraduate careers to learn about chemical engineering processes. Located in the center of Olin Hall, the spacious laboratory has 20 different learning units that replicate real-world industry operations involving distillation, gas absorption, liquid extraction, drying, filtration, microfiltration, and membrane separations. This equipment has been supported by Endress+Hauser, Eli Lilly, Procter & Gamble, and other donors.

Meanwhile, the John and Anne Swearingen Endowed Professorship recognizes faculty who are committed to excellence and innovation in their fields and in educational pursuits. Professors receive funding to continue to excel in their specialized areas, lead conversations with other educators in their fields, and create opportunities for students and colleagues. As the inaugural Swearingen Endowed Professor, Sharon Dutrow, PhD, is expanding and enhancing process safety knowledge and application for Rose-Hulman students and faculty.

The Swearingen Leadership Series brought inspiring STEM education advocates Kate Maxwell and Hank Green to campus this school year. Maxwell currently leads technology and industry strategy as general manager for worldwide education with Microsoft. Green is a social media and internet personality whose writings, blog posts, videos, and entrepreneurial and philanthropic enterprises have helped inspire people's interests in STEM.

Lessons that John Swearingen learned at Rose-Hulman in the late 1970s and early 1980s were applied to a variety of positions within Marathon Petroleum. After starting as a process engineer, he worked through a series of operational and technical leadership roles, including leading the plant in Robinson, Illinois, from 2001-08 where he initially started. Later, Swearingen was president of Marathon Pipe Line LLC (2009-11), corporate vice president for health, environment, safety and security (2011-15), and senior vice president for transportation and logistics (2015-2017) before retiring in 2020 as executive vice president for logistics and storage for Marathon Petroleum's master limited partnership.

"The outstanding educational lessons that Rose-Hulman instills on its students have stood the test of time," said John. "I am among the many thousands of alumni who have been very fortunate to reap the benefits of the lessons of hard work, resiliency, teamwork, and problem-solving, while being within a caring campus community. Anne and I are truly honored to be able to help maintain the high standards of Rose-Hulman and its Department of Chemical Engineering."

John and Anne are enjoying retirement while living in Loudon, Tennessee.



COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER & HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT

Mae Jemison, M.D.

First Woman of Color to Go into Space

The Jemison Group, Inc. Founder/100 Year Starship Leader

Entrepreneur, engineer, physician, former NASA astronaut, educator, and humanitarian, Mae Jemison, M.D., is at the forefront of integrating the physical and social sciences with art and culture to solve problems and foster innovation.

Dr. Jemison leads 100 Year Starship (100YSS), a non-profit global initiative to assure that capabilities for human travel beyond our solar system to another star happens within the next 100 years, while transforming life on Earth. 100YSS celebrated its 10th anniversary this year with Nexus Nairobi-When SPACE, PURPOSE & CULTURE Collide, within the cradle of humans. Started through a competitive seed-funding grant from the U.S. government's Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, 100YSS pushes radical leaps in knowledge, technology, and human systems.

Dr. Jemison served six years as a NASA astronaut and was the first woman of color in the world to go into space aboard a joint space shuttle mission with the Japanese space agency.

Trained as an engineer, social scientist and dancer, Dr. Jemison, a medical doctor, was the Area Peace Corps Medical Officer for Sierra Leone and Liberia.

Dr. Jemison has founded several technology organizations, including The Jemison Group, Inc., a technology consulting firm integrating critical socio-cultural issues into the design of engineering and science projects.

As an environmental studies professor at Dartmouth College, Dr. Jemison focused on designing sustainability into technologies for both the industrialized and developing worlds.

In 1994, Dr. Jemison founded the international science camp The Earth We Share, which designs and implements science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education experiences impacting thousands of students and hundreds of teachers worldwide and is a program of the non-profit Dorothy Jemison Foundation for Excellence.

LOOK UP One Skyä, led by Dr. Jemison, developed the "Skyfie" App that connects people on a single day worldwide to weave a global tapestry of what people individually see, feel, think, love, fear, offer, need, and hope as they look up at the sky.

A member of the National Academy of Medicine, Dr. Jemison is Chair of the NASA Innovative Advanced Concepts External Council and is on the Board of Directors with Kimberly-Clark and the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards. Dr. Jemison has led the Texas State Product Development and Small Business Incubator Boards, among other national, state, and city projects for business incubators and small business investment, infrastructure, disaster response, and development of advanced industries. She has served on the Boards of Directors within multiple Fortune 500 companies.

Dr. Jemison has received numerous awards, honors, and honorary degrees. This list includes being an inductee in the National Women's Hall of Fame, National Medical Association Hall of Fame, Texas Science Hall of Fame, and International Space Hall of Fame. She also has been the recipient of the African Union Ambassador's Mickey Leland Award, the U.S. Military Academy's Sylvanus Thayer Award, The Common Wealth Award of Distinguished Service, the National Organization for Women's Intrepid Award, and the Kilby Science Award.

Dr. Jemison produces "Find Where the Wind Goes: Moments from My Life" for teenagers and the Scholastic True Books' 100 Year Starship series on space exploration.

Dr. Jemison was the first real astronaut to appear in the Star Trek television series and was a LEGO mini figurine in the Women of NASA kit. She also appeared as Astronaut Mae on the Sesame Street TV show and was the voice and inspiration of the "Skipster" device in Marvel's "Moon Girl and the Devil Dinosaur." Dr. Jemison hosts the National Geographic's "One Strange Rock" series and is the space operations advisor for the organization's "Mars" global miniseries.

Dr. Jemison graduated from Stanford University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering and a Bachelor of Arts degree in African and Afro-American Studies. She received a Medical Doctorate from Cornell University Medical College.



THE ACADEMIC PROCESSION

In today's academic procession, the gown and hood indicate the degree held by the wearer. The hood is lined with the official color or colors of the college or university conferring the degree. Graduates of certain institutions wear gowns in the color of the university, faced down the front with velvet panels and with velvet crossbars on each sleeve. The velvet may be black or may be the color representing the field in which the degree was conferred.

ROSE-HULMAN BACHELOR'S DEGREE ATTIRE

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology bachelor's degree holders or candidates wear a black gown and a black mortarboard with a red and white tassel. Students graduating cum laude, magna cum laude, or summa cum laude wear gold honor cords.

ROSE-HULMAN MASTER'S DEGREE ATTIRE

Master's degree hoods for Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology are black, lined with rose red satin and white satin chevrons, and edged in golden yellow velvet. With the gown and hood, a black mortarboard and red and white tassel are worn.

CURRENT AND PAST TRUSTEES CHAIR

Black gown with red chevrons bordered in gold piping, and red front panels.

TRUSTEES

Black gown with black chevrons bordered with gold piping.

PRESIDENT

Red gown with black chevron bordered with gold piping. The front panels on the gown include the official school seal. The colors inside the hoods for the trustees and president represent the official school colors of old rose red and white.

ETA KAPPA NU

Scarlet and navy cords signify membership in Eta Kappa Nu, the national electrical and computer engineering honor fraternity.

PI MU EPSILON

Violet, lavender, and gold cords signify membership in Pi Mu Epsilon, the national mathematics honor society.

UPSILON PI EPSILON

Maroon and white cords signify membership in Upsilon Pi Epsilon, the international honor society for the computing and information disciplines.

PRESIDENTIAL MEDALLION

The gold-plated Rose-Hulman Presidential Medallion carries the school seal on one side. The other side portrays a rendering of the Flame of the Millennium sculpture bordered by the phrase "Continuing Our Legacy of Excellence."

SCHOLARSHIP HONORS

Students graduating with a scholarship index of 3.90 or higher will be graduated summa cum laude; those with a scholarship index between 3.60 and 3.90 will be graduated magna cum laude; and those with a scholarship index between 3.30 and 3.60 will be graduated cum laude. These honors are recognized by the display of gold honor cords at the commencement ceremonies and in appropriate fashion on the diplomas.

* Cum Laude
** Magna Cum Laude
*** Summa Cum Laude

† Honors Anticipated for Summer or Fall Completion candidates

Other Program Designations

A U.S. Army Commission
AF U.S. Air Force Commission

Graduation Date Designations

Special codes indicate students who completed their degree requirements prior to May 25, 2024.

Those designations are:

a August 26, 2023
n November 20, 2023
f February 26, 2024

Master Thesis or Engineering Management Project indicated in *italics*

THE HEMINWAY GOLD MEDAL

This award, established by the late Mrs. Sarah A. Heminway, is awarded to the graduating undergraduate student with the highest grade-point average. In the event of a tie, duplicate awards are given.

THE JOHN T. ROYSE AWARD

The John Tuller Royse Award was inaugurated at Rose-Hulman to honor Mr. Royse in perpetuity for his many years of service to the college as a member of our board. The Royse tradition on the board continues today with John N. Royse an emeritus member.

The award consists of a bronze medal and cash honorarium to be made at commencement each year to the graduating senior who, in the opinion of the faculty and administrative staff, is considered to be our most outstanding graduate based on academic achievement, student leadership, participation in co-curricular activities, and general campus citizenship. The recipient must be nominated by a classmate, a member of the faculty, or administrative staff.

THE MOENCH COMMENDATION

Herman A. Moench graduated from our school in 1929. He served as associate vice president and professor of electrical engineering for more than five decades. Moench helped shape the Rose-Hulman values that we all cherish today, including putting the student first, remaining humble while striving for excellence, and encouraging close student-teacher relationships.

In 1980, the first Moench Commendation was awarded. This is a person who is "not just a good student in the upper half of their class, but also has demonstrated exemplary character in the eyes of their peers and teachers; a person who has been influential in making Rose-Hulman a better place." The recipient is selected by a vote of faculty and administrative staff.



A BRIEF HISTORY OF ROSE-HULMAN

As it celebrates its 150-year sesquicentennial in 2024, Rose-Hulman proudly looks back on its history and ahead to its future. Rose Polytechnic Institute welcomed an inaugural class of just 25 students in 1883 inside a towering, gothic structure at 13th and Locust streets in Terre Haute. The school was the brainchild of entrepreneur and philanthropist Chauncey Rose, who dreamed of creating an institute of higher learning “for the intellectual and practical education of young men.”

The institute’s heritage of educational excellence dates back to its earliest days, when the Board of Managers and a few other prominent community leaders, coaxed Charles O. Thompson, then-president of the prestigious Worcester Free Institute of Industrial Science, to take the leadership post at Rose. Under his guidance, the academic bar was set very high and has remained that way ever since.

The camaraderie and campus traditions that have long defined the student experience at Rose also started in its earliest days. By 1920, Rose freshmen were wearing “R” beanies to denote their newbie status and Rosie the elephant was established as the school’s mascot. Those and other traditions would survive a move to the country in 1922 when the campus transferred to its current location, where even more traditions were born, such as the annual Homecoming bonfire and voluntary (and sometimes involuntary) dips in Speed Lake.

Student enrollment began to accelerate on the new campus and would top 1,000 in 1969 under the leadership of then-President John Logan. The face of the campus also began to rapidly change, especially in the last quarter of the 20th century, when Cook Stadium, Hadley Hall, Oakley Observatory, Myers Center for Technical Research with Industry, Olin Advanced Learning Center and Olin Hall were all constructed. The institute took another major step in 1995 when the first female students were admitted under the leadership of President Sam Hulbert. Its physical infrastructure continues to grow and improve today under the leadership of President Robert A. Coons, with the recent addition of a state-of-the-art new academic building, the Kremer Innovation Center, the Pi-Vilion and the fully renovated Mussallem Union.

With growing student diversity and the addition of 1,100 acres of new property south of campus, the institute continues to build on the strong foundation laid by its visionary leaders, dedicated educators and hard-working students. With 25-consecutive years of No. 1 rankings from U.S. News & World Report and other recognitions, the institute, now with an enrollment of approximately 2,250 undergraduates and graduate students, remains firmly established among the leading engineering, math, and science colleges anywhere in the world.

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

2023-24 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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