

**Minnesota State University, Mankato**  
**University Archives**  
**Commencement. Collection, 1870-Ongoing.**  
**MSU Archives Collection 46.**

**Commencement. Collection, 1870-Ongoing. MSU Archives Collection 46. 4 Archives Boxes, 1 Hollinger Box, 3 Oversized Boxes, 1 Small Box. 8.5 Cubic Feet.**

**ABSTRACT:**

The Commencement collection is a chronological sequence of graduation ceremonies which started in the 1870. This collection is comprised of graduation programs, newspaper articles, banners, and audio and video recordings.

**HISTORICAL NOTE:**

Minnesota State University, Mankato began as the State Normal School in 1868. The first graduation ceremony took place on June 29, 1870. During the first ceremony only ten people graduated, eight men and two women. To compare how much the University has changed over the years, the Fall 2004 graduating class was comprised of 1,617 students.

At Minnesota State Teachers College, during the mid-twentieth century, Graduation was more than just the commencement ceremony. The ceremonies usually began about one week before the actual commencement ceremony. In 1939 the Baccalaureate service began, which was a religious music service. Also, Minnesota State Teachers College had plays and dramas that were held a few days prior to the commencement ceremony. The plays and dramas ended in the 1960s.

Many influential people have spoken at graduation ceremonies over the years. In 1967 U.S. Vice-President Hubert H. Humphrey spoke at MSU for the Commencement ceremony. He also spoke at commencement in 1983 when he was Attorney General for Minnesota. Many Minnesota Governors spoke at MSU Commencement ceremonies as well. In 1962 Governor Elmer Anderson gave the Commencement speech, and in 1964 Governor Karl Rolvaag gave the Commencement speech. Minnesota politicians have also given the Commencement speech at MSU. In 1966 U. S. Senator Walter Mondale gave the Commencement speech.

The MSU Commencement website: <http://www.mnsu.edu/graduation/>.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT:**

The Commencement Collection covers graduation ceremonies from the founding of the State Normal School to the present. This Collection is arranged chronologically. It is further arranged into five series: Graduation Programs, Graduation Banners, Audio Recordings, Commencement Videos and Miscellaneous.

**Graduation Programs:**

This series covers all graduation ceremonies from 1870-present. Early commencements documentation are newspaper announcements, not programs. Some years include Baccalaureate service programs and documentation of plays and dramas that were held a few days prior to the commencement ceremony. The Programs are from the day of the commencements, and there are three copies of each program where available. Video footage of commencement ceremonies can be found in the Video Services collection.

**Graduation Banners:**

Items in this series consist of banners that were carried during the commencement exercise by various colleges from 1970-Present.

**Audio Recordings:**

This series consists of commencement speeches that were recorded onto cassette tapes and reel-to-reel tapes. The dated of this series range from 1967-1994.

**Commencement Videos:**

This series contains the DVD copies of commencement, beginning in Fall, 2006. Prior Commencement Videos can be found in the Video Services Collection 110.

**Miscellaneous:**

This series encompasses the other material related to commencement including a sample diploma and speeches given at commencement.

**RESTRICTIONS:**

It has been determined that there are no restrictions on this collection. The researcher assumes full responsibility for observing all copyright, property and libel laws as they apply.

**COLLECTION CITATION:**

This collection should be cited as:

Commencement. Collection, 1870-Ongoing. MSU Archives Collection 46, University Archives, Memorial Library, Minnesota State University, Mankato.

**RELATED COLLECTIONS:**

It has been determined that there are similar collections. They are:

Video Services. Collection, 1985-ongoing. MSU Archives Collection 110, University Archives, Memorial Library, Minnesota State University, Mankato.

**PROCESSED BY:**

This collection was processed by Brandon Rykhus in Spring 2007.

Heather Harren processed addition in November, 2010.

Mee Xiong made additions to the collection in June 2015 and October 2017.

Adam Smith made additions to the collection in March 2018 and June 2021.

**LCSH SUBHEADING:**

State Normal School

Mankato State Teachers College

Mankato State University

Minnesota State University, Mankato

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Commencement, 2021, Spring (2)	8	48
Commencement, 2021, Fall (2)	8	49
Commencement, 2022, Spring (1)	8	50
List of General Speakers, 1946-1957	1	1
Graduation Banners, 1970-Ongoing	Box	Tube
College of Natural Science, Mathematics, and Economics, 1970	4	
College of Nursing, 1970	4	
College of Physics, Engineering, and Technology, 1970	4	
College of Health and Human Performance, 1970	4	
College of Business, Undated	5	
College of Arts and Humanities, Undated	5	
HREP, Undated	5	
College of Natural Science, Math and Home Economics, Undated	5	
College of Nursing, Undated	5	
College of Social and Behavioral Science, Undated	5	
College of Education, Undated	5	
College of Graduate Studies, Undated	5	
Graduate Studies, College of Allied Health and Nursing, 2004		1
Arts and Humanities, Science and Engineering, 2004		2
Social and Behavioral Sciences, Education and Business, 2004		3
Audio Recordings, 1967-1994		
Cassette Tape, Commencement Speech, Fall 1981	6	
Cassette Tape, Commencement Speech, Fall 1983	6	
Cassette Tape, Commencement Speech, Fall 1984	6	
Cassette Tape, Commencement Speech, Fall 1985	6	
Cassette Tape, Commencement Speech, Fall 1986	6	
Cassette Tape, Commencement Speech, Fall 1988	6	
Cassette Tape, Commencement Speech, Fall 1991	6	
Cassette Tape, Commencement Speech, Fall 1992	6	
Cassette Tape, Commencement Speech, Fall 1993	6	
Cassette Tape, Commencement Speech, Hubert Humphrey, 1967	6	
Cassette Tape, Commencement Speech, Summer 1985	6	
Cassette Tape, Commencement Speech, Summer 1986	6	
Cassette Tape, Commencement Speech, Summer 1986	6	
Cassette Tape, Commencement Speech, Summer 1987	6	
Cassette Tape, Commencement Speech, Summer 1988	6	
Cassette Tape, Commencement Speech, Summer 1989	6	
Cassette Tape, Commencement Speech, Summer 1992	6	
Cassette Tape, Commencement Speech, Summer 1993	6	
Cassette Tape, Commencement Speech, Summer Session 1990	6	
Cassette Tape, Commencement Speech, Summer Session 1991	6	

Cassette Tape, Commencement Speech, Summer Session II 1981	6	
Cassette Tape, Commencement Speech, Winter 1984	6	
Cassette Tape, Commencement Speech, Winter 1986	6	
Cassette Tape, Commencement Speech, Winter 1987	6	
Cassette Tape, Commencement Speech, Winter 1988	6	
Cassette Tape, Commencement Speech, Winter 1992	6	
Cassette Tape, Commencement Speech, Winter 1993	6	
Cassette Tape, Commencement Speech, Winter 1994	6	
Cassette Tape, Community Relations, 1981	6	
Cassette Tape, Convocation Speech, Fall 1980	6	
Cassette Tape, Convocation Speech, Fall 1991	6	
Cassette Tape, Convocation Speech, Fall 1991	6	
Reel-to-Reel Tape, Commencement Speech, 1985	6	
Reel-to-Reel Tape, Commencement Speech, Hubert Humphrey, 1967	6	
Reel-to-Reel Tape, Commencement Speech, Hubert Humphrey, 1967	6	
Reel-to-Reel Tape, Commencement Speech, Hubert Humphrey, 1970	6	
<b>Commencement Video (DVD)</b>		
2005, Fall, 9am, 12 pm	7	30
2006, Spring, 9 am, 12 pm, 3 pm	7	31
2006, Fall, 9 am Ceremony	7	1
2006, Fall, 12 pm Ceremony	7	2
2007, Spring, 9 am Ceremony	7	3
2007, Spring, 12 pm Ceremony	7	4
2007, Fall, 9 am Ceremony	7	5
2007, Fall, 12 pm Ceremony	7	6
2008, Spring, 9 am Ceremony	7	7
2008, Spring, 12 pm Ceremony	7	8
2008, Spring, 3 pm Ceremony	7	9
2008, Fall, 9 am Ceremony	7	10
2008, Fall, 12 pm Ceremony	7	11
2009, Spring, 9 am Ceremony	7	12
2009, Spring, 12 pm Ceremony	7	13
2009, Spring, 3 pm Ceremony	7	14
2009, Fall, 9 am Ceremony	7	15
2009, Fall, 12 pm Ceremony	7	16
2010, Spring, 9 am Ceremony	7	17
2010, Spring, 12 pm Ceremony	7	18
2010, Spring, 3 pm Ceremony	7	19
2010, Fall, 9 am Ceremony	7	20
2010, Fall, 12 pm Ceremony	7	21
2011, Spring, 9 am Ceremony	7	22
2011, Spring, 12 pm Ceremony	7	23

2011, Spring, 3 pm Ceremony	7	24
2011, Fall, 9 am Ceremony	7	25
2011, Fall, 12 pm Ceremony	7	26
2012, Spring, 9 am Ceremony	7	27
2012, Spring, 12 pm Ceremony	7	28
2012, Spring, 3 pm Ceremony	7	29
<b>Miscellaneous</b>		
Commencement in a Box, 2020, Spring	11	1
Commencement in a Box, 2020, Fall	11	2
Commencement in a Box, 2021, Spring	11	3
Commencement Speeches, 1964, June (Governor Rolvaag)	1	112
Commencement Speeches, 1986, March	2	61
Commencement Speeches, 1990, March	2	79
Commencement Speeches, 2007, Spring (9A, 12P, 3P)	3	36
Commencement Speeches, 2007, Fall (9A, 12P)	3	38
Commencement Speeches, 2008, Spring (9A, 12P, 3P)	3	40
Commencement Speeches, 2008, Fall (9A, 12P)	8	2
Commencement Speeches, 2009, Spring (9A, 12P, 3P)	8	4
Commencement Speeches, 2009, Fall (9A, 12P)	8	6
Commencement Speeches, 2010, Spring (9A, 12P, 3P)	8	8
Commencement Speeches, 2010, Fall (9A, 12P)	8	10
Commencement Speeches, 2011, Spring (9A, 12P, 3P)	8	12
Commencement Speeches, 2011, Fall (9A, 12P)	8	14
Commencement Speeches, 2012, Spring (9A, 12P, 3P)	8	16
Commencement Speeches, 2013, Spring (9A, 12P, 3P)	8	36
Commencement Speeches, 2013, Fall (9A, 12P)	8	20
Commencement Speeches, 2014, Fall (9A, 12P)	8	23
Commencement Speeches, 2015, Spring (9A, 12P, 3P)	8	31
Commencement Speeches, 2015, Fall (9A, 12P)	8	32
Commencement Speeches, 2016, Spring (9A, 12P, 3P)	8	33
Commencement Speeches, 2016, Fall (9A, 12P)	8	34
Commencement Speeches, 2017, Fall (9A, 12P)	8	37
Commencement Speeches, 2018, Spring (9A, 12P, 3P)	8	40
Commencement Speeches, 2018, Fall (9A, 12P)	8	42
Commencement Speeches, 2019, Spring (9A, 12P, 3P)	8	47
International Stole Ceremony program, 2016	8	35
Mankato State University Sample Diploma, Late 1990s (2)	8	24
Mankato State University Diploma Holder, undated (2)	8	25
Minnesota State University, Mankato Diploma Holder, 2014-2016?	11	4



**DO NOT PRINT**

**Digitization note:**

All 3<sup>rd</sup> copies of commencement programs have been pulled into box 10.

October 17, 2017