

LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY

Appleton, Wisconsin

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For immediate release

328 to graduate from Lawrence University on Sunday; Mackie to be commencement speaker

APPLETON – Lawrence University will hold a commencement ceremony at 10 a.m. June 12, with 328 graduates being awarded degrees.

The outdoor ceremony returns to its traditional location on the university's Main Hall Green after two years of being uprooted due to pandemic protocols.

Anthony Mackie, the actor who has taken on the role of Marvel's Captain America, will be on campus as the 2022 commencement speaker. He is an accomplished actor who is set to star in and executive produce the Peacock series, *Twisted Metal*, based on the popular Sony PlayStation game. In addition to the Marvel films, his film credits include *8 Mile*, *Million Dollar Baby*, *The Hurt Locker*, *Brother to Brother*, and *Notorious*. He also has an impressive history of philanthropy and community engagement in his hometown of New Orleans.

"I am honored and excited to address the graduates of Lawrence on this monumental day on their journey to becoming their best selves," Mackie said.

Of the 328 graduates set to walk the stage, 269 will be receiving a bachelor of arts (B.A.) degree, 39 a bachelor of music (B.Mus.) degree, 18 a B.A. and B.Mus. dual degree, and two a bachelor of musical arts (B.M.A.) degree.

Jessica Toncler will serve as the senior class speaker. She is a dual degree student in international relations and music performance (violin) from Columbia Station, Ohio.

The ceremony also will honor five long-serving faculty members who are retiring at the close of the academic year. They include Paul Cohen (history), Jeff Collett (physics), Peter Gilbert (Mudd Library), Eilene Hoft-March (French and Francophone Studies), and Brent Peterson (German).

Mackie will receive an honorary doctorate degree as part of the ceremony.

About Anthony Mackie: Mackie comes to Lawrence via a personal connection with President Laurie A. Carter, who served as a mentor to Mackie while she was on the leadership team at The Juilliard School in New York and he was a student. He graduated from the performing arts school in 2001 and the two have maintained a friendship as he has grown into a sought-after Hollywood actor and she has ascended to the top levels of university leadership, becoming Lawrence's 17th president last July.

Carter called Mackie a thoughtful, talented actor who has realized the brilliant promise he showed while at Juilliard.

“I knew from the time he was a student at Juilliard that Anthony had big things ahead of him,” Carter said. “It’s been a pleasure to watch his career blossom, and I am thrilled that he has agreed to honor us at Lawrence to celebrate our 2022 graduates.”

Mackie’s notoriety went to another level eight years ago when he joined the Marvel family as Sam Wilson (The Falcon), becoming a beloved sidekick of Chris Evans’ Captain America. Mackie’s Sam Wilson has taken the shield following the death of Evans’ Captain America, his story playing out on the Disney+ original series, *The Falcon and the Winter Soldier*. It’s all leading to Marvel’s *Captain America 4*, expected to start filming soon with Mackie in the lead role.

Mackie is currently working on *Twisted Metal*, a series based on the Sony PlayStation video game franchise that is expected to debut on Peacock in 2023. It’s a project from Sony Pictures TV and PlayStation Productions, and Mackie is both starring in the show and serving as its executive producer.

Lawrence University is celebrating the 175th anniversary of its founding in 1847, honoring a history of brilliance in the liberal arts and sciences and pointing toward a future bright with possibilities. When founded on January 15, 1847, along the banks of the Fox River in what is now known as Appleton, Wisconsin, Lawrence became one of the first co-educational institutions of higher learning in the country. It continues to build on the vision of its founders, focused on excellence while embracing a liberal arts approach to undergraduate education. With about 1,500 students drawn from nearly every state and more than 40 countries, Lawrence features a college of arts and sciences and a conservatory of music, both annually ranked among the best in the nation. See more at go.lawrence.edu/lu175