In 1819, the Reverend Luther Rice, Obadiah B. Brown, Spencer H. Cone, and Enoch Reynolds (all Baptist ministers) set in motion the reality of a college in the District. These men raised the needed funds to purchase land in the nation’s capital, petitioned the Congress for a charter, and began organizing a college.

On February 9, 1821, President James Monroe signed the Act of Congress which created the College. By design of the Congress, a special provision was included which required that “persons of every religious denomination shall be capable of being elected Trustees; nor shall any person, either as President, Professor, Tutor or pupil, be refused admittance, or denied any of the privileges, immunities, or advantages thereof, for or on account of his sentiments in matters of religion.”

The original seal was designed by James Peale in 1821, at the time of the founding of the Columbian College. This is the seal that the graduates are wearing today as medals. The seal features a Biblical lion lying down with a lamb and Greek text in an open book. The Greek translates to “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God.”

In 1873, the name Columbian College was changed to Columbian University and the seal was changed slightly to reflect this. The Latin text around the outside was changed from “Columbiani Collegii” to “Universitatis Columbianae Sigillim.” In addition, some text was added to fill up the rest of the open book, since the Greek phrase only took up part of one page. In 1905, after the name changed to the George Washington University, the old seal was replaced by a completely new one.

The original Columbian College seal is currently on display in the Memorabilia Room of Gelman Library.
Dear Graduates,

Today marks the commencement of a journey filled with promise and endless possibilities. Your graduation from the George Washington University Columbian College of Arts & Sciences marks a new beginning, one in which you carry invaluable skills that will empower you to be informed and impactful global citizens. I urge you to leverage your academic accomplishments as a springboard for enriching your communities and effecting positive change in your chosen paths.

As a student of the liberal arts and sciences, you engaged in the pursuit of new ideas, embraced broad and agile thinking, nurtured creativity and innovation, and worked with faculty to help tackle today’s most challenging issues. You melded scholarly rigor with a spirit of exploration and adventure, thereby fostering not only intellectual but also personal growth, amplified by the university’s distinctive research and networking connections spanning the nation’s capital and beyond.

It is my hope that the bonds you forged here will remain strong and extend far beyond our campus borders. Wherever your paths lead, wear your identity as a George Washington University graduate with pride. You are part of an esteemed cohort that will enrich your life both personally and professionally.

And please know that our university community stands open to you, welcoming your continued engagement in whatever form it may take. I encourage you to maintain connections and stay abreast of our ongoing progress—and your enduring impact—in our alumni publications. And when the opportunity arises, I hope you will return to Foggy Bottom to participate in events, engage in campus dialogues, or reconnect with faculty members.

Congratulations on this momentous achievement and accept my heartfelt best wishes as you embark on a future brimming with boundless opportunities!

Warm regards,

Paul J. Wahlbeck
Dean
Columbian College of Arts and Sciences
ORDER OF EXERCISES

Prelude .................................................................................................................. Corcoran Brass

Academic Processions ............................................................................................ Deans, Faculty and Students

Welcome ................................................................................................................ Chad Heap  
Associate Dean for Graduate Studies

Award for Excellence in the Mentoring of Doctoral Students  
Presented by Kavita Daiya  
Associate Dean for Academic Innovation

Doctoral Mentor Awardee .................................................................................. Ellen Yeung  
Assistant Professor of Applied Social Psychology

Charge to Doctoral Candidates ......................................................................... Paul J. Wahlbeck  
Dean

Hooding of the Doctoral Candidates ................................................................ Dean and Faculty Advocates

Alma Mater .......................................................................................................... Millicent Scarlett  
Adjunct Professor of Music

Recessional .......................................................................................................... Corcoran Brass

The hooding program is meant to be a guide to the ceremony.  
Although every effort has been made to ensure its accuracy, the program is not an official record of an individual's degree.
## AWARDS AND PRIZES

### Anthropology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award Type</th>
<th>Recipients</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship</td>
<td>Matthew J. DeMaio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dean's Dissertation Completion Fellowship</td>
<td>Scott A. Ross, Víctor E. Salazar-Chávez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dean's Graduate Instructorship</td>
<td>Matthew J. DeMaio, Scott Ross, Víctor E. Salazar-Chávez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Science Foundation (NSF) Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Award</td>
<td>Karleen C. Ronsairo, Víctor E. Salazar-Chávez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palestinian American Research Center (PARC) Research Fellowship</td>
<td>Matthew J. DeMaio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peace Scholar Award</td>
<td>Scott A. Ross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Sciences Research Council (SSRC) International Dissertation Research Fellowship</td>
<td>Scott A. Ross</td>
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### Applied Social Psychology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award Type</th>
<th>Recipients</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dean's Graduate Instructorship</td>
<td>Katarina E. AuBuchon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard W alk Dissertation Award</td>
<td>Rebecca K. Hoffman</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Biological Sciences

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<th>Award Type</th>
<th>Recipients</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dean's Dissertation Completion Fellowship</td>
<td>Nicolas A. Hazzi-Campo, Justus G. Jobe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edward Alexander Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductee</td>
<td>Justus G. Jobe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship Program</td>
<td>Justus G. Jobe</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Chemistry

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award Type</th>
<th>Recipients</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Institute of Chemists Prize</td>
<td>Rebekah N. Brucato</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benjamin D. Van Evera Memorial Prize - Effective Graduate Teaching Assistants</td>
<td>Sara K. Mattson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dean's Dissertation Completion Fellowship</td>
<td>Marjan Dolatmoradi</td>
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</table>

### Clinical Psychology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award Type</th>
<th>Recipients</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dean's Graduate Instructorship</td>
<td>Sharanya Rao</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard W alk Dissertation Award</td>
<td>Sharanya Rao, Mary Mbaba</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Cognitive Neuroscience

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award Type</th>
<th>Recipients</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Three Minute Thesis Competition - Second Place and People's Choice Winner</td>
<td>Prachi Mahableshwarkar</td>
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</table>

### English

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award Type</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dean's Dissertation Completion Fellowship</td>
<td>Joanna S. Falk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dean's Graduate Instructorship</td>
<td>Jaime Campomar</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
AWARDS AND PRIZES

Human Paleobiology
Edward Alexander Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductee ......................................................... Axelle Kamanzi Shimwa
Wenner-Gren Foundation Wadsworth International Fellowship ......................................................... Joanne U. Munga

Mathematics
National Science Foundation (NSF)
Graduate Research Fellowship Program .......................................................................................... Dario Verta

Political Science
Boren Fellowship Award .................................................................................................................. Rosalie D. Rubio
Dean’s Dissertation Completion Fellowship ..................................................................................... Adam C. Lenton
Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation Fellowship ........................................................................ Josiah C. Augustine
National Science Foundation (NSF)
Graduate Research Fellowship Program ......................................................................................... Elizabeth A. Meehan
USC Korean Studies Institute US-Asia
Grand Strategy Predoctoral Fellowship ......................................................................................... Amoz J. Y. Hor
ZEIT-Stiftung Dissertation Scholarship .......................................................................................... Sultan S. Alamer

Public Policy and Administration
Dean’s Dissertation Completion Fellowship .................................................................................... Jae Y. Yu

Statistics
Minna Mirin Kullback Memorial Prize .............................................................................................. Zhou Yang
The Award for Excellence in the Mentoring of Doctoral Students is given to a faculty member nominated by students in the Ph.D. and Psy.D. programs of the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences. Mentoring and advising are crucial to the intellectual life and career trajectories of doctoral students across the arts, sciences, and professions. A good mentor is a source of wisdom and expertise, an inspiring role model, a compassionate critic, a sounding board, an advocate, and a career counselor. The 2023-2024 Award for Excellence in the Mentoring of Doctoral Students is presented to Ellen Yeung, Assistant Professor of Applied Social Psychology.

**Ellen Yeung**  
*Assistant Professor of Applied Social Psychology*

Ellen Yeung joined the faculty of the George Washington University in 2019. Her research focuses on understanding the influences of genetics and social environment on the link between addiction and chronic pain using a lifespan developmental approach. Her research aims to serve people living with substance use disorders, chronic pain, and/or HIV/AIDS. Her external sponsored projects are funded by the National Institutes of Health and the District of Columbia Center for AIDS Research. She has published widely in scholarly journals, including *Psychoneuroendocrinology*, *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, and *Development and Psychopathology*.

Students in the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences praise Dr. Yeung for fostering an environment of “growth and achievement.” They admire the “eagerness and passion” that she displays in her work, noting that she “gives her heart and soul” to her students. She “goes out of her way not only to assist you with whatever questions you have,” one student remarked, “but also to help you learn the skills needed to address [those questions] alone in the future.”

Dr. Yeung “brings an energy and kindness [to her teaching and research] that is contagious.” While her courses are notably challenging, students report that “the joy, positivity, and passion she brought to the classroom made it so everyone felt invigorated to learn.” When students “have felt discouraged or overwhelmed,” one advisee observed, it was Dr. Yeung’s “kindness and understanding that kept [them] going.” She “is always visiting our desks to check in and offer a hug to anyone who needs it,” and she finds time in her busy schedule to share her expertise in statistics and data analysis with any student who requests her assistance. “The joy she expresses when discussing her students’ work inspires and motivates those students in a way that is truly unique,” one advisee recalled. “Dr. Yeung is truly a one-of-a-kind mentor and person.”
Kara M. Adams*  
*Advocate: helen DeVinney, Adjunct Professor of Clinical Psychology  
**Major Area Paper:** The Distance Between Us: Race, Religiosity, and the Potential for Over-Pathologization  
**Graduation Term:** Summer 2024

Guinnevere B. Baranowski*  
*Advocate: James Sexton, Assistant Professor of Professional Psychology  
**Major Area Paper:** The Impact of Interpreters on Therapeutic Alliance in a Pediatric Oncology Setting  
**Graduation Term:** Summer 2024

Eliana Chapman*  
*Advocate: Sarah L. Hedlund, Clinical Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychology  
**Major Area Paper:** Beyond Echo and Narcissus: The Development of Mutuality in the Therapeutic Relationship  
**Graduation Term:** Summer 2024

Ciara A. Crighton*  
*Advocate: Loring Ingraham, Program Director and Professor of Clinical Psychology  
**Major Area Paper:** It’s About the Relationship: The Therapeutic Advantages of Transference Focused Psychotherapy in Borderline Personality Disorder Treatment  
**Graduation Term:** Summer 2024

Xinwei Dong*  
*Co-Advocate: Sarah L. Hedlund, Clinical Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychology  
*Co-Advocate: Karen L. Weise, Adjunct Professor of Clinical Psychology  
**Major Area Paper:** How Self Psychology Helps Understand Complex Trauma and in What Ways it Falls Short  
**Graduation Term:** Summer 2024

Claudia R. Downey*  
*Co-Advocate: Lara Sheehi, Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychology  
*Co-Advocate: helen DeVinney, Adjunct Professor of Clinical Psychology  
**Major Area Paper:** Dissociation and Dysphoria: How the Experience of Gender and Pressures of Societal Gender Norms Amplify Dissociative Processes  
**Graduation Term:** Summer 2024

Wafae Driwech*  
*Advocate: Sarah L. Hedlund, Clinical Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychology  
**Major Area Paper:** The Intersection of Religion and Psychosis: Exploring the Manifestation of Religion Resembling Psychosis and Its Therapeutic Applications When Working with Individuals Who Have Experienced Significant Trauma During Their Upbringing  
**Graduation Term:** Summer 2024

Ehsan E. Falasiri*  
*Advocate: Sarah L. Hedlund, Clinical Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychology  
**Major Area Paper:** Healing Ancestral Trauma: Discovering Sameness Through the Unknown  
**Graduation Term:** Summer 2024

Alya E. Gaspard*  
*Advocate: James Sexton, Assistant Professor of Professional Psychology  
**Major Area Paper:** Deciphering Psychological Functioning, and Countertransference and Transference Patterns with a Covert Narcissistic Patient and a First-Time Clinician  
**Graduation Term:** Summer 2024

Emily V. Ho*  
*Advocate: helen DeVinney, Adjunct Professor of Clinical Psychology  
**Major Area Paper:** Splitting Off Affect to Mitigate Threats to Identity Amidst the Covid-19 Pandemic: A Case Study of a White Patient and Asian-American Therapist  
**Graduation Term:** Summer 2024

Lauren Noel Horton*  
*Advocate: Loring Ingraham, Program Director and Professor of Clinical Psychology  
**Major Area Paper:** What’s Going On? Examining Erotic Transference-Countertransference Between a Male Client and Female Therapist-in-Training  
**Graduation Term:** Summer 2024
Jane T. Howitt*
**Advocate:** Sarah L. Hedlund, Clinical Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychology
**Major Area Paper:** Man in the Image of God, or God in the Image of Man?
**Graduation Term:** Summer 2024

Yewon Kim*
**Co-Advocate:** Lara Sheehi, Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychology
**Co-Advocate:** helen Devinney, Adjunct Professor of Clinical Psychology
**Major Area Paper:** Understanding Complex Trauma: The Limits of Object Relations Theory in Conceptualizing Clients with Multiple Caregivers due to Political Unrest
**Graduation Term:** Summer 2024

Danielle I. Ledesma*
**Co-Advocate:** Lara Sheehi, Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychology
**Co-Advocate:** helen Devinney, Adjunct Professor of Clinical Psychology
**Major Area Paper:** Adoption: A Primal and Colonial Wound
**Graduation Term:** Summer 2024

Miral Malik*
**Advocate:** Paul Gedo, Emeritus Associate Professor of Clinical Psychology
**Major Area Paper:** Navigating Imposter Syndrome with a Narcissistic Patient: A South Asian Trainee’s Perspective
**Graduation Term:** Summer 2024

Michelle L. Morel*
**Co-Advocate:** Cheri Marmarosh, Associate Professor of Clinical Psychology
**Co-Advocate:** Loring Ingraham, Program Director and Professor of Clinical Psychology
**Major Area Paper:** Children of Narcissistic Parents: The Development of Schizoid Functioning In Adulthood
**Graduation Term:** Summer 2024

Razzan Quran*
**Co-Advocate:** Lara Sheehi, Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychology
**Co-Advocate:** helen Devinney, Adjunct Professor of Clinical Psychology
**Major Area Paper:** (De)Generative Conflict: A Case in Couple’s Therapy
**Graduation Term:** Summer 2024

Armahn Rassuli*
**Co-Advocate:** James Sexton, Assistant Professor of Professional Psychology
**Co-Advocate:** helen Devinney, Adjunct Professor of Clinical Psychology
**Major Area Paper:** The Role of Commercial Video Games In Psychodynamic Psychotherapy
**Graduation Term:** Summer 2024

Alicia C. Solorio*
**Co-Advocate:** Cheri Marmarosh, Associate Professor of Clinical Psychology
**Co-Advocate:** Karen L. Weise, Adjunct Professor of Clinical Psychology
**Major Area Paper:** The Parentified Child: How Early Experiences Shape One’s View of Self and Others
**Graduation Term:** Summer 2024

Jayoti Soor*
**Advocate:** helen Devinney, Adjunct Professor of Clinical Psychology
**Major Area Paper:** Confronting Whiteness Inside Out: How Therapist of Color Confronting Their Internalized Whiteness Frees Them to Confront the Whiteness in Patient?
**Graduation Term:** Summer 2024

Emily K. Stephen*
**Advocate:** Karen L. Weise, Adjunct Professor of Clinical Psychology
**Major Area Paper:** Transference in the Male Patient, Female Therapist Dyad: An Exploration of Masculinity, Power, and Vulnerability
**Graduation Term:** Summer 2024
DOCTOR OF PSYCHOLOGY

Feng Xing*
Co-Advocate: James Sexton, Assistant Professor of Professional Psychology
Co-Advocate: Sarah L. Hedlund, Clinical Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychology
Major Area Paper: Understanding D.W. Winnicott’s False Self in the Context of Complex Trauma
Graduation Term: Summer 2024

Hannah S. Young*
Advocate: Helen DeVinney, Adjunct Professor of Clinical Psychology
Major Area Paper: No More Masks! No More Mythology! Individuation, Difference, and Gender Transition in Couples Therapy
Graduation Term: Summer 2024

The doctoral internship in Clinical Psychology is a year-long intensive clinical training experience required for licensure as a clinical psychologist. Students apply in a highly competitive nationwide match process to secure a position congruent with their training needs and career aspirations. The following sites are the locations where this year’s graduating class has trained.

American University
Barrow Neurological Institute/Phoenix Children’s Hospital
Baylor College of Medicine - Menninger Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences
The Behavioral Wellness Center at Girard
Broughton Hospital
Catholic University of America Counseling Center
Center for Multicultural Training in Psych, Boston University
Duke University - Counseling
Federal Bureau of Prisons - FCI/FDC Tallahassee
Florida International University

George Mason University
Mt. Sinai Services/Elmhurst Hospital
Pace University Counseling Center
RAMS, Inc.
Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility
Saint Elizabeth’s Hospital
Stanford University
The Psychiatric Institute of Washington
University of California - Los Angeles, Counseling
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill - Counseling
WellSpan Philhaven CBT

*Students indicated as earning their degree in summer 2024 must complete their internship before the degree is awarded.
Sultan S. Alamer
Political Science
Advocate: Nathan J. Brown, Professor of Political Science and International Affairs
Dissertation: Minorities Without Majorities: The Politics of Nation-Building in Sub-Nation States in the Middle East
Graduation Term: Fall 2023

Katarina E. AuBuchon
Applied Social Psychology
Advocate: Michelle L. Stock, Associate Professor of Psychology
Dissertation: The Physiological and Psychological Pain of Racial Discrimination and Potential Pain-mitigating Effects of Acknowledgement from an Ally
Graduation Term: Summer 2023

Josiah C. Augustine
Political Science
Advocate: Henry Hale, Professor of Political Science and International Affairs
Dissertation: Like a Root Out of Dry Ground: Small Business Support for Non-Systemic Opposition Under Electoral Authoritarianism
Graduation Term: Fall 2023

Kristin E. Blagg
Public Policy and Public Administration
Advocate: Stephanie R. Cellini, Professor of Public Policy and Public Administration, and of Economics
Dissertation: Three Papers on Public Libraries and K12 Education
Graduation Term: Spring 2024

Rebekah N. Brucato
Chemistry
Advocate: Adelina Voutchkova-Kostal, Associate Professor of Chemistry
Dissertation: Safe and Functional Ionic Liquid Systems For Solubilization and Depolymerization Processes
Graduation Term: Summer 2023

Jaime Campomar
English
Advocate: Christopher Sten, Emeritus Professor of English
Dissertation: Ekphrastic Anxieties: Revising Disability, Masculinity, and Race in Warner Brothers’ Moby Dick (1956)
Graduation Term: Summer 2023

Minh Nguyen Cao
Clinical Psychology
Advocate: Jody M. Ganiban, Professor of Psychology
Dissertation: A Developmental Model of Early Childhood Intra- and Interpersonal Contributions to Adolescent Life Satisfaction
Graduation Term: Summer 2023

Xinxin Cao
Economics
Advocate: Arun S. Malik, Professor of Economics
Dissertation: Essays on Transportation and Environmental Economics
Graduation Term: Summer 2023

Eric G. Cheuk
American Studies
Advocate: Gayle Wald, Professor of English and American Studies
Dissertation: History Without Time: Thinking Race and Blackness After Civil Rights and in the Long Downturn
Graduation Term: Fall 2023

Nicholas J. Chong
Public Policy and Public Administration
Advocate: Avi Dor, Professor of Health Policy and Management
Dissertation: Essays on Examining Health Workforce Policies Using an Equity Framework
Graduation Term: Fall 2023

Blake Cooper
Pharmacology and Physiology
Co-Advocate: Nikki G. Posnack, Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Associate Professor of Pharmacology and Physiology
Co-Advocate: David Mendelowitz, Professor of Pharmacology and Physiology
Dissertation: Cardiac Consequences of Xenoestrogen Exposure: Interaction Between Bisphenol Chemicals and the Myocardium
Graduation Term: Fall 2023

Madeline E. Dahut
Microbiology and Immunology
Co-Advocate: Claudia Palena, Senior Investigator, Head, Tumor Immunoregulation Section, Center for Immuno-Oncology, Center for Cancer Research, National Cancer Institute
Co-Advocate: David Leitenberg, Associate Professor of Microbiology, Immunology and Tropical Medicine
Dissertation: Mechanisms of Immune Resistance in Advanced Prostate Cancer
Graduation Term: Summer 2023
Matthew J. DeMaio
Anthropology
Advocate: Ilana Feldman, Professor of Anthropology, History, and International Affairs
Dissertation: Made to Move: Placemaking and Accumulated Attachments among Palestinian Refugees from Syria
Graduation Term: Spring 2024

Peter A. Devine
Economics
Advocate: Sumit Joshi, Professor of Economics
Dissertation: Essays on the Economics of Networked Competition and Conflict
Graduation Term: Fall 2023

Rhys J. Dickhudt
Chemistry
Advocate: Stephen G. Boyes, Professor of Chemistry
Dissertation: New Methods in Chain-Growth Condensation Polymerization for Functional Aromatic Polyamides
Graduation Term: Spring 2024

Marjan Dolatmoradi
Chemistry
Advocate: Akos Vertes, Professor of Chemistry
Dissertation: High-Throughput Single Cell Analysis and Molecular Imaging by Laser Ablation Electrospray Ionization Mass Spectrometry with Ion Mobility Separation
Graduation Term: Spring 2024

Sara Maria El Oud
Physics
Advocate: Neil Johnson, Professor of Physics
Dissertation: Aggregation Dynamics of Heterogeneous Systems
Graduation Term: Summer 2023

Joanna S. Falk
English
Advocate: Robert McRuer, Professor of English
Dissertation: Mere (Major) Notes: Paratextual Guise in Twentieth and Twenty-First Century Literature
Graduation Term: Fall 2023

Brady J. Forrest
English
Advocate: Robert McRuer, Professor of English
Dissertation: A Sensuous Melancholia: A Structured Feeling
Graduation Term: Fall 2023

Samuel P. Frantz
Political Science
Advocate: Emmanuel J. Teitelbaum, Associate Professor of Political Science and International Affairs
Dissertation: Essays on the Origins and Consequences of Mandatory Corporate Social Responsibility in India
Graduation Term: Spring 2024

Andrew A. Gepty
Clinical Psychology
Advocate: Sharon Lambert, Professor of Clinical/Community Psychology
Dissertation: The Daily Role of Activity Spaces and Social Interactions for Depressive Symptoms among Urban-dwelling Black Emerging Adults
Graduation Term: Summer 2023

Ali Hassan
Economics
Advocate: Anthony Yezer, Professor of Economics
Dissertation: A New Perspective on the Effects of Regulation and Public Investment
Graduation Term: Summer 2023

Nicolas A. Hazzi-Campo
Biological Sciences
Advocate: Gustavo Hormiga, Ruth Weintraub Professor of Biology
Dissertation: Systematics, Ecomorphological Evolution and Biogeography of the Tropical Wandering Spiders (Araneae, Ctenidae)
Graduation Term: Summer 2023

Christa V. Heryanto
Biological Sciences
Advocate: Arnaud Martin, Associate Professor of Biological Sciences
Dissertation: Development of Molecular Tools for Lepidopteran Functional Genomics in the Plodia Pantry Moth
Graduation Term: Spring 2024

Rebecca K. Hoffman
Applied Social Psychology
Advocate: Tonya Dodge, Associate Professor of Psychology
Dissertation: Testing Cognitive Dissonance as a Mechanism Behind Compensatory Behaviors in the Context of Heavy College Drinking
Graduation Term: Summer 2023
Amoz J.Y. Hor
Political Science
Advocate: Eric Grynaviski, Associate Professor of Political Science
Dissertation: Making the World Safe for White Democracy: Racialized Liberalism and the Post-War International Order
Graduation Term: Summer 2023

Muhammad R. H. Hossainey
Biological Sciences
Co-Advocate: Leon Grayfer, Associate Professor of Biology
Co-Advocate: Ioannis Eleftherianos, Professor of Biology
Dissertation: Amphibian (Xenopus laevis) Macrophage Development and Functionality
Graduation Term: Spring 2024

Jacqueline N. Howard
Microbiology and Immunology
Advocate: Alberto Bosque-Pardo, Associate Professor of Microbiology, Immunology, and Tropical Medicine
Dissertation: Harnessing the IL-15 Signaling Pathway for HIV Cure Approaches
Graduation Term: Fall 2023

Justus G. Jobe
Biological Sciences
Advocate: Keryn B. Gedan, Associate Professor of Biology
Dissertation: Leaf Bites to Landscapes: Scaling the Effects of Ecologically Significant Herbivores
Graduation Term: Spring 2024

Melissa Julian
Clinical Psychology
Advocate: Huynh-Nhu Le, Professor of Clinical/Community Psychology
Dissertation: Development and Evaluation of the Heart2Heart Psychological Intervention for Pregnant Individuals Carrying a Fetus Diagnosed with Congenital Heart Disease
Graduation Term: Summer 2023

Axelle Kamanzi Shimwa
Human Paleobiology
Advocate: Shannon F. McFarlin, Associate Professor of Anthropology
Dissertation: Variation in the Acquisition of Dietary Independence in Wild Virunga Mountain Gorillas
Graduation Term: Summer 2023

Tomas F. Kanholm
Genomics and Bioinformatics
Co-Advocate: Katherine B. Chiappinelli, Assistant Professor of Microbiology, Immunology, and Tropical Medicine
Co-Advocate: Keith A. Crandall, Professor of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics
Dissertation: Transposable Elements in Oncogenic Transformation
Graduation Term: Summer 2023

Barunie Kim
Clinical Psychology
Advocate: Christina B. Gee, Associate Professor of Psychology
Dissertation: Experiences of Coparenting Among Low-Income, Black and Latino Parents in Heterosexual Dyads
Graduation Term: Summer 2023

Kylie I. Krohmaly
Microbiology and Immunology
Co-Advocate: Robert J. Freishtat, Professor of Pediatrics
Co-Advocate: Ljubica Caldovic, Associate Professor of Genomics and Precision Medicine, and of Pediatrics (Secondary)
Dissertation: Bacterial Small RNAs in Bronchiolitis
Graduation Term: Spring 2024

Andrea Langeland
Biological Sciences
Co-Advocate: Damien M. O’Halloran, Associate Professor of Biology
Co-Advocate: John M. Hawdon, Associate Professor of Microbiology, Immunology and Tropical Medicine
Dissertation: Towards a Molecular Understanding of Host Specificity in Hookworm Infections
Graduation Term: Spring 2024

Adam C. Lenton
Political Science
Advocate: Henry Hale, Professor of Political Science and International Affairs
Dissertation: Echoes of Empire: Subnationalism and Political Development in the Russian Federation
Graduation Term: Summer 2023

Rujia Li
Economics
Advocate: Paul Carrillo, Professor of Economics and International Affairs
Graduation Term: Fall 2023
Chuanhao Lin
Economics
Advocate: Anthony Yezer, Professor of Economics
Dissertation: New Results on the Effects of Regulation: Gun Control and Land Use Planning
Graduation Term: Summer 2023

Bozhen Liu
Economics
Co-Advocate: Bryan A. Stuart, Economic Advisor and Economist
Co-Advocate: Stephen Smith, Professor of Economics and International Affairs
Dissertation: Essays on Housing Market Transaction Taxes and Migration in China
Graduation Term: Summer 2023

Yunsheng Ma
Economics
Advocate: Tomás Williams, Associate Professor of Economics
Dissertation: Essays on International Economics
Graduation Term: Fall 2023

James R. Macdonald
Public Policy and Public Administration
Advocate: Mary B. Tschirhart, Stephen Joel Trachtenberg Professor in Public Service
Dissertation: Three Essays on Active Definition in Government Contracting
Graduation Term: Spring 2024

Prachi Mahableshwarkar
Cognitive Neuroscience
Co-Advocate: John W. Philbeck, Professor of Psychological and Brain Sciences
Co-Advocate: Dwight Kravitz, Associate Professor of Cognitive Neuroscience
Dissertation: Natural Scene Perception: Interactions between Semantics and Space
Graduation Term: Spring 2024

Kassandra Martinchek
Public Policy and Public Administration
Advocate: Kathryn Newcomer, Professor of Public Policy and Public Administration
Dissertation: Young Adults’ Use of Debt and Credit During the COVID-19 Pandemic
Graduation Term: Spring 2024

Sara K. Mattson
Chemistry
Advocate: Erik A. Rodriguez, Assistant Professor of Chemistry
Dissertation: A Multi-Method Directed Evolution to Create Improved Far-Red Fluorescent Proteins
Graduation Term: Spring 2024

Mary V. Mbaba
Applied Social Psychology
Advocate: Lisa Bowleg, Professor of Applied Social Psychology
Dissertation: The Stereotypical Yogi(ni): Exploring the Effects of Prototype Similarity and Racial Centrality on Black Adult Women’s Willingness to Practice Yoga
Graduation Term: Spring 2024

Ryan T. McRae
Human Paleobiology
Advocate: Bernard A. Wood, University Professor of Human Origins
Dissertation: An Inventory and Assessment of the Early African Hominin Fossil Record Prior to the Emergence of Homo erectus
Graduation Term: Summer 2023

Jacob A. Medina
Cancer Biology
Co-Advocate: Rohan Fernandes, Associate Professor of Medicine
Co-Advocate: Norman Lee, Professor of Pharmacology and Physiology
Dissertation: Combination Photothermal Therapy and αCD137 Agonistic Co-stimulation as a Therapy for SM1 Melanoma
Graduation Term: Fall 2023

Elizabeth A. Meehan
Political Science
Advocate: Stephen Kaplan, Associate Professor of Political Science and International Affairs
Graduation Term: Summer 2023

Ahleah F. Miles
Industrial and Organizational Sciences
Co-Advocate: David P. Costanza, Associate Professor of Psychology and of Organizational Sciences
Co-Advocate: Tara S. Behrend, John Richard Butler II Endowed Professor Human Resources and Labor Relations
Dissertation: Career Assessment Feedback Specificity and Students’ Academic and Career Outcomes
Graduation Term: Spring 2024
Djordje X. Modrakovic  
Clinical Psychology  
Advocate: Sarah K. Calabrese, Associate Professor of Clinical Psychology  
Dissertation: The Implications of HIV Biomedical Prevention for Perceived HIV Risk and Psychosexual Health Among US Sexual Minority Men  
Graduation Term: Fall 2023

Michael J. Moss III  
Physics  
Advocate: Sylvain Guiriec, Associate Professor of Physics  
Dissertation: Modeling and Analysis of Gamma-Ray Burst Dynamics and Emission  
Graduation Term: Summer 2023

Joanne U. Munga  
Human Paleobiology  
Co-Advocate: David R. Braun, Professor of Anthropology  
Co-Advocate: Alison S. Brooks, Professor of Anthropology  
Dissertation: Effects on Precision During Flake Production: Interaction between Knapper Skill and Raw Material Properties  
Graduation Term: Fall 2023

Samoni Nag  
Cognitive Neuroscience  
Co-Advocate: Stephen R. Mitroff, Professor of Cognitive Neuroscience  
Co-Advocate: Dwight Kravitz, Associate Professor of Cognitive Neuroscience  
Dissertation: An Investigation Into the Prolonged Consequences of Response Inhibition  
Graduation Term: Fall 2023

Brendan M. O’Connor  
Physics  
Co-Advocate: Chryssa Kouveliotou, Professor of Physics  
Co-Advocate: Eleonora Troja, Associate Professor of Physics, University of Rome  
Co-Advocate: S. Bradly Cenko, Adjunct Assistant Professor, University of Maryland, College Park  
Dissertation: The Transient Universe: Compact Objects Near and Far  
Graduation Term: Summer 2023

Jennifer E. Perez  
Industrial and Organizational Sciences  
Advocate: Tiffany Bisbey, Assistant Professor of Industrial/Organizational Psychology  
Dissertation: Leading with Vulnerability: Exploring the Effects on Perceptions of Psychological Safety and Leader Competence  
Graduation Term: Spring 2024

Sharanya Rao  
Clinical Psychology  
Advocate: Sarah K. Calabrese, Associate Professor of Clinical Psychology  
Graduation Term: Summer 2024

Zara Richter  
English  
Advocate: Robert McRuer, Professor of English  
Dissertation: Minor Beat Affects  
Graduation Term: Summer 2023

Ellie Robbins  
Cognitive Neuroscience  
Advocate: Sarah Shomstein, Professor of Psychological and Brain Sciences  
Dissertation: Context Matters: Semantic and Perceptual Influences on Object Attention  
Graduation Term: Summer 2023

Karleen C. Rosairo  
Anthropology  
Advocate: Jeffrey P. Blomster, Professor of Anthropology  
Dissertation: Crafting an Urban Society: A Study of Raw Material Procurement for Pottery Production at Yucuita and Etlatongo in the Mixteca Alta of Oaxaca, Mexico  
Graduation Term: Spring 2024

Scott A. Ross  
Anthropology  
Advocate: Sarah E. Wagner, Professor of Anthropology  
Dissertation: Networks of Protection: Infrastructures of Intervention in Northeastern Democratic Republic of the Congo  
Graduation Term: Summer 2023

Charlotte A. Rossetter  
Industrial and Organizational Sciences  
Advocate: David P. Costanza, Associate Professor of Psychology and of Organizational Sciences  
Dissertation: Understanding the Role and Impact of Organizational Culture: An Exploration of Adaptive and Family-Owned Business Culture Characteristics  
Graduation Term: Summer 2024
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<td>Doctor of Philosophy</td>
<td>Political Science</td>
<td>Henry Hale, Professor of Political Science and International Affairs</td>
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<td>Universalism: How It Affects States' Behavior, and How It Drove the US Into a New Cold War With Russia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rosalie D. Rubio</td>
<td>Doctor of Philosophy</td>
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<td>Nathan J. Brown, Professor of Political Science</td>
<td>Michelle Allendoerfer, Senior Director of Teaching and Learning, American Political Science Association</td>
<td>From Guardianship to Governance: Assessing the Institutional Development and Autonomy of the Jordanian General Intelligence Directorate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abbey L. Salvas</td>
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<td>Industrial and Organizational Sciences</td>
<td>Tiffany Bisbey, Assistant Professor of Industrial/Organizational Psychology</td>
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<td>Where Can I be Me? The Role of Social Support in Authentic Identity Expression for TNB Employees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jakob T. Samsel</td>
<td>Doctor of Philosophy</td>
<td>Microbiology and Immunology</td>
<td>Richard A. Koup, Deputy Director, Vaccine Research Center Chief, Immunology Laboratory and Immunology Section, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health</td>
<td>Rebecca M. Lynch, Assistant Professor of Microbiology, Immunology, and Tropical Medicine</td>
<td>Characterization of HIV-1 Neutralizing Antibody Responses in Rhesus Macaques</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jessica K. Schenck</td>
<td>Doctor of Philosophy</td>
<td>Neuroscience</td>
<td>Michael Bukrinsky, Professor of Microbiology, Immunology, and Tropical Medicine and Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Medicine</td>
<td>Robert H. Miller, Professor of Anatomy and Cell Biology and Vivian Gill Distinguished Research Professor</td>
<td>HIV-1 Nef Contributes to Myelin Impairment and Neuroinflammation in the Murine Central Nervous System</td>
<td>Spring 2024</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hannah C. Smith</td>
<td>Doctor of Philosophy</td>
<td>Neuroscience</td>
<td>Paul J. Marvar, Associate Professor of Pharmacology and Physiology and Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences</td>
<td></td>
<td>Evaluating Angiotensin Type 2 Receptors in the Medial Prefrontal Cortex: Implications for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Associated Cardiovascular Disease</td>
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<td>Danielle K. Sohai</td>
<td>Doctor of Philosophy</td>
<td>Cancer Biology</td>
<td>Catherine M. Bollard, Professor of Pediatrics, and of Microbiology, Immunology, and Tropical Medicine</td>
<td>Alberto Bosque-Pardo, Associate Professor of Microbiology, Immunology, and Tropical Medicine</td>
<td>Interrogating Strategies to Enhance Cell-Based Therapies for the Treatment of HIV and HIV-Associated Cancers</td>
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<td>Peter G. Solazzo</td>
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<td>William Briscoe, Professor Emeritus of Physics</td>
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<td>Measurement of the $\Sigma$ Beam Asymmetry of the $\gamma p \rightarrow \phi(980)$ Reaction at $E\gamma = 9$ GeV in the GlueX Experiment</td>
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<td>Joshua H. Sparks</td>
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<td>Srinivasan Balaji, Assistant Professor of Statistics</td>
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Dickson B. Su
Political Science
Advocate: Christopher Warshaw, Professor of Political Science
Dissertation: Policy Change in the American States
Graduation Term: Summer 2023

Kan Sun
Economics
Advocate: James Foster, Oliver T. Carr Professor of International Affairs and Professor of Economics
Dissertation: Essays on Measuring Poverty and Mobility
Graduation Term: Spring 2024

Amruta A. Tendolkar
Biological Sciences
Advocate: Arnaud Martin, Associate Professor of Biology
Dissertation: The Regulation and Role of the Hox Gene Ultrabithorax in Hindwing Identity in Lepidoptera
Graduation Term: Summer 2023

Alexis S. Uluutku
Human Paleobiology
Advocate: Bernard A. Wood, University Professor of Human Origins
Dissertation: The Role of Character Displacement and Ecological Niche Incumbency in Hominin Evolution
Graduation Term: Spring 2024

Neerja N. Vashist
Genomics and Bioinformatics
Co-Advocate: Eric Vilain, Adjunct Professor of Genomics & Precision Medicine
Co-Advocate: Robert Freishtat, Professor of Pediatrics
Dissertation: Investigating the Role of the Gut Microbiome in Modulating the Development of Konzo
Graduation Term: Summer 2023

Dario Verta
Mathematics
Advocate: Valentina Harizanov, Professor of Mathematics
Dissertation: Computability-theoretic complexity of computable magmas
Graduation Term: Summer 2023

Mansi Wadhwa
Public Policy and Public Administration
Advocate: Burt Barnow, Amsterdam Professor of Public Service and Economics
Dissertation: Bridging the Gender Gaps in Labor Markets and in Caregiving: Empirical Evidence from Two Family Leave Programs
Graduation Term: Fall 2023

Benjamin W. Walusiak
Physics
Advocate: Christopher L. Cahill, Professor of Chemistry
Dissertation: Assembly and Structure-Property Relationships of Perovskite Derivatives and Lanthanide Hybrid Materials
Graduation Term: Fall 2023

Ziyuan Wang
Public Policy and Public Administration
Advocate: Joseph Cordes, Professor of Economics, Public Policy & Public Administration, and of International Affairs
Dissertation: State Financial Incentives and Solar Energy Adoption in the United States
Graduation Term: Fall 2023

Michael D. Womble
Chemistry
Advocate: Michael J. Wagner, Associate Professor of Chemistry
Dissertation: The Application and Performance of Carbon Nanochain Cathodes and Highly Concentrated Electrolytes in Li-O2 Batteries
Graduation Term: Spring 2024

Xiaoying Yang
Economics
Advocate: Arun S. Malik, Professor of Economics
Dissertation: Essays on Transportation and Environmental Regulations
Graduation Term: Summer 2023

Zheyu Yang
Economics
Advocate: Graciela L. Kaminsky, Professor of Economics and International Affairs
Graduation Term: Spring 2024
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Zhou Yang
Statistics
Advocate: Fang Jin, Assistant Professor of Statistics
Dissertation: Explainable Learning with Meaningful Perturbations
Graduation Term: Summer 2023

Yat To Yeung
Political Science
Advocate: Daniel Hayes, Professor of Political Science
Dissertation: The Role of Ethnic Origin in Asian American Politics
Graduation Term: Spring 2024

Jae Y. Yu
Public Policy and Public Administration
Co-Advocate: Sanjay K. Pandey, Shapiro Professor of Public Policy and Public Administration
Co-Advocate: Burt Barnow, Amsterdam Professor of Public Service and Economics
Dissertation: The Bamboo Veil in the U.S. Army: Cultural Conflict and Asian American Leadership
Graduation Term: Spring 2024

Yuhao Zhang
Statistics
Co-Advocate: Adam Ciarleglio, Assistant Professor of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics
Co-Advocate: Huixia Judy Wang, Professor of Statistics
Dissertation: Missing Data in Classification and Functional Data Analysis
Graduation Term: Summer 2023

Marko Zilovic
Political Science
Advocate: Kimberly Morgan, Professor of Political Science
Dissertation: Three Essays on the Mainstream Right in Post-Communist Central and Southeast Europe
Graduation Term: Fall 2023
Dear Graduate:

On behalf of the Columbian College National Council for the Arts and Sciences, I offer my congratulations on your significant achievement and welcome you to the George Washington University alumni community. Do not underestimate your accomplishment and the opportunities that await you!

As an alumna of this historic institution, I fully appreciate the excitement of this very special moment in your life and remember that feeling well. You are now a member of a select group of individuals, bonded by a college for which you will forever be proudly associated. I encourage you to remain involved and, more importantly, engaged with the university as you enter this next phase of your life.

Your opportunities to make a difference are endless—from mentoring a student, to becoming an active member of the Alumni Association organizing regional and local alumni events, offering services as a career advisor or being a guest lecturer, and providing philanthropic support. Each of these types of engagement offers unique and wonderful opportunities to continue showing support and your pride in the university. And, of course, passing on that GW spirit!

My work as a volunteer on the National Council—which is comprised of alumni, parents, and friends who advise the dean of the Columbian College—has been an incredibly rewarding experience for me. I hope you find similar avenues of engagement and find opportunities to advance GW’s promise and potential.

Finally, it is not lost on anyone that your time here has required significant personal dedication and financial commitment. We are grateful for your investment and hopeful that your degree will lay the groundwork for future success in whatever career you choose.

Again, congratulations! It is both an honor and a pleasure to welcome you as a graduate of the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, and I hope to see you at a GW event soon.

Raise High!

Elizabeth Craig, MPA ’83
Chair, CCAS National Council for the Arts and Sciences
Hail alma mater, to thy spirit guiding,
Knowledge thy closest friend in its strength abiding,
Pledge we fidelity ne'er its place resigning,
Hail thee George Washington.
SHARE YOUR DAY
#GWCommencement
#CCASOnward

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