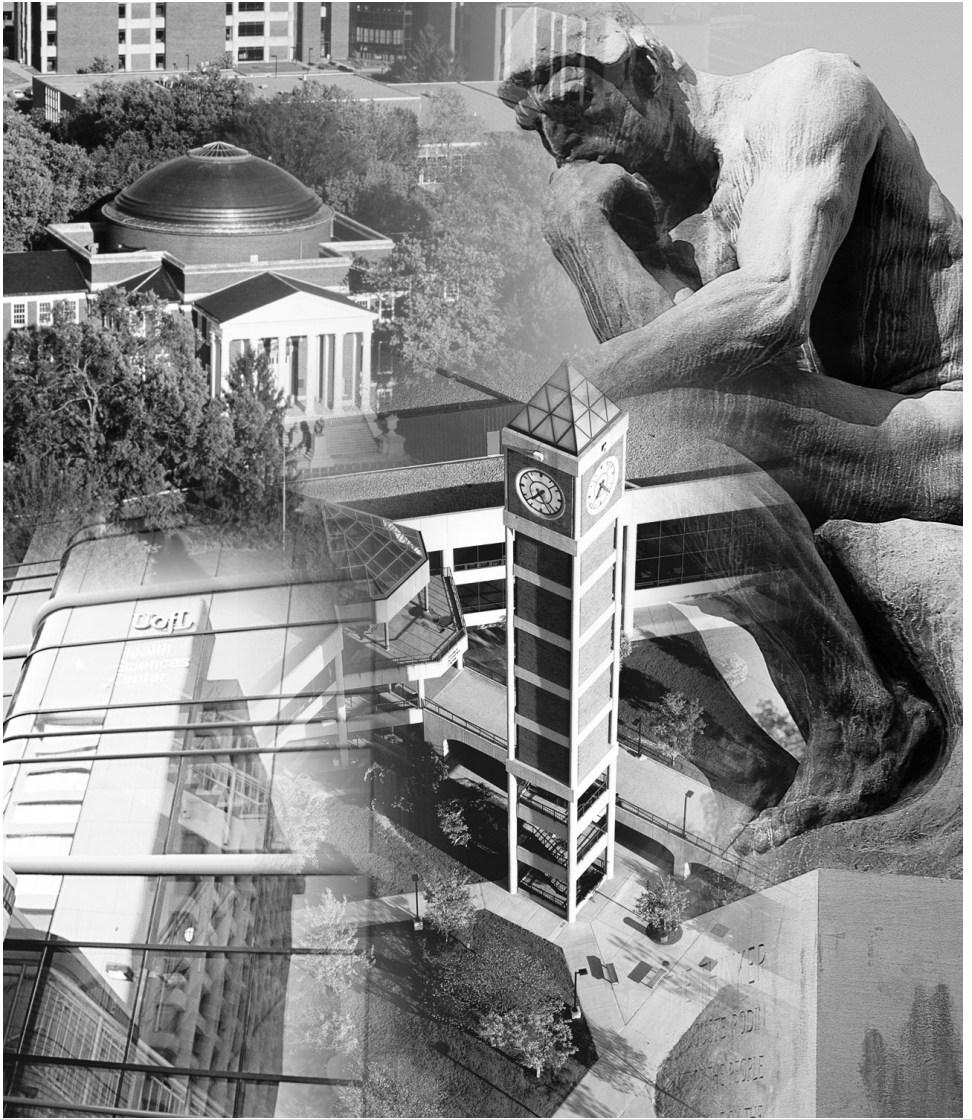




DOCTORAL HOODING & GRADUATION CEREMONY

May 12, 2023

UNIVERSITY OF
LOUISVILLE



Spring 2023 Celebration

May 12, 2023

UNIVERSITY OF
LOUISVILLE
GRADUATE SCHOOL

The Academic Regalia

The tradition of gowns and hoods being worn as academic regalia at graduation ceremonies stems from a distinctive style of academic dress that emerged in the first universities in Europe in the twelfth century. The style was influenced by the fact that masters and scholars at that time were usually members of the clergy. For example, in 1222 at the Council of Oxford, the Archbishop of Canterbury ordered English clerics to wear the *cappa clausa* — a closed, flowing gown based on a lay fashion of the period. As a result, this garment came to be regarded as academic dress for university masters who, as clerics, wore it. Later, when the clergy neglected the rule in general, the garment was recognized as an exclusively academic one.

The *pileus*, a common headdress of medieval laymen, was adopted by the Church at the Synod of Bergamo (1311) and became typical headwear at the universities. The caps and tams worn by faculty are a direct descendant of the *pileus*. The *pileus quadratus*, or square cap, is today's mortarboard worn by most graduates.

The hood as an academic vestment originated from the cowl worn by monks in the Middle Ages as protection against inclement European weather. It was worn over a short cape known as a *tippet*, and had a tail, known as a *liripipe*, which was used to pull the hood over the head and then was wrapped around the throat to keep the hood in place. Today the *tippet* remains as part of the hood and, although the hood is never worn on the head, the *liripipe* is retained as the funnel-shaped hood.

The tradition of wearing the hood hanging down the back is said to be derived from the practice of medieval monks, many of whom were solicitors in the King's Court, who used the bag-like hanging hood as a "contribution bowl" for clients and well-wishers. Early scholars used the hood to collect the fees for lectures.

Colors have long been significant in denoting different academic disciplines and, more recently, levels of scholastic achievement. Standard gowns of different shape, length and sleeve design indicate the degrees of Bachelor, Master and Doctorate. The robes of the President, Provost, Chair of the Board of Trustees, and Grand Marshal represent the office, not the degree.

In the hoods of the faculty, the color of the border indicates the type of degree, while the lining of the hood shows colors of the university that bestowed the degree.

Hoods and Tassels

The distinctive colors in the hoods and the tassels of the caps accord with the following:

Audiology.....	Spruce Green
Business	Drab
Dentistry	Lilac
Education	Light Blue
Engineering	Orange
Information Sciences	Gold
Law	Purple
Liberal Arts	White
Library Science.....	Lemon
Medicine.....	Kelly Green
Music.....	Pink
Nursing	Apricot
Philosophy	Dark Blue
Public Administration	Peacock Blue
Public Health.....	Salmon Pink
Science	Gold
Social Work	Citron

The Guy Stevenson Award for Excellence in Graduate Studies

Sarah LeAnn Price

Ph.D. Microbiology and Immunology

Mentor: Associate Professor Matthew Lawrenz

The Guy Stevenson Award for Excellence in Graduate Studies honors a former dean of the Graduate School and is presented to an outstanding doctoral degree recipient who has demonstrated excellence in both scholarship and leadership within the discipline and has made significant contributions to teaching and/or service. Sarah LeAnn Price is the recipient of this year's Stevenson award and, as such, serves as the Graduate School's outstanding student, carries our banner for the Hooding and Commencement ceremonies, and delivers the student speech for the Hooding ceremony.

During her childhood in rural Tennessee, Sarah Price's initial love for science was driven by calculating race car velocities at the NASCAR track and completing simple experiments in her garden with plants. For her undergraduate studies, Sarah attended the University of Tennessee, where she received her bachelor's degree in Microbiology and her first research experience. After graduation, Sarah worked as a research technician at John's Hopkins School of Medicine before beginning her graduate school training at the University of Louisville in 2016. Shortly after, Sarah joined Matt Lawrenz' lab in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology.

Early in her graduate career, Sarah was awarded an NIH T32 training award to support her research. In 2019, Sarah successfully competed for her own funding through an NIH F31 fellowship, the second such fellowship received by a UofL student. This fellowship funded her research to study a conceptionally novel mechanism for *Yersinia pestis*, the bacteria responsible for the disease known as plague, to acquire zinc. Sarah's research has led to significant discoveries that have impacted the field of microbial pathogenesis and furthered our knowledge of how microbes compete for nutrients within the host. Sarah has contributed to six publications, with three first author publications, and she has been invited to present at six regional and international conferences.

During her time as a graduate student, Sarah has excelled not only as a researcher, but also as a mentor and leader in the science community. In 2018, Sarah took over the leadership of Louisville Science Pathways (LSP), a science outreach program that provides summer research opportunities to Jefferson County high school students. Sarah worked directly with JCPS to learn how LSP could support JCPS students, and she initiated a partnership with a local foundation,

SummerWorks, to integrate LSP into their active portfolio of programs that provide Louisville area youth new career opportunities. Through these partnerships, Sarah crafted a program to align with the needs of JCPS students. More recently, Sarah developed a seminar series for high school students to learn about applying to college, applying to medical school, and scientific careers. Overall, Sarah's work with LSP has generated a self-supported summer research opportunity for JCPS students, which will foster the next generation of scientists here at UofL and beyond.

Sarah's experiences have led her to aspire to lead her own research program at an academic institution; she will continue her training as a postdoctoral researcher at Vanderbilt University and will continue to use her education and experiences to promote equity in STEM to ensure opportunities for science education are accessible to all students.

The John Richard Binford Memorial Award

Kylea Rose Garces

Ph.D. Biology

Mentor: Professor Sarah Emery

Kylea Rose Garces is the recipient of the John Richard Binford Memorial Award, which honors a former chairman of the Department of Psychology. This award recognizes a doctoral degree recipient who excels in scholarship and has contributed to other areas within the discipline such as leadership, teaching, or service.

As a first-generation college student whose parents are farmers and Filipino immigrants, becoming a scientist was not an obvious career trajectory for Kylea. She began her academic career at her local community college in Santa Rosa, California and later transferred to the University of Oregon, where she earned her B.S. Kylea began her Ph.D. at the University of Louisville with Dr. Sarah Emery, researching fungal responses to global change within the sand dunes of Lake Michigan. She has secured \$150,000 funding for research and professional development while at UofL, and her research was instrumental in obtaining a recently awarded National Science Foundation grant to collaborators and mentors Dr. Sarah Emery and Dr. Natalie Christian for over \$1,000,000.

Kylea has worked diligently to be an excellent teacher, researcher, and mentor. Within her first years, she received a “faculty-favorite” nomination, the Furnish Teaching Award in Biology, and a grant to create new labs at UofL. Through these early teaching experiences as well as a fellowship to the Climate Engagement Program at the University of California, Santa Cruz, she realized the importance of strong science communication skills. Kylea continued pursuing science communication experiences, she published a news article titled, “Journalists and researchers share challenge of spotlighting connections between health and racism”. She also has co-authored an article with the Ecological Society of America’s Inclusive Ecology Section, highlighting the importance of equity and how to make the future of ecology a more just space. Kylea used the difficulties of virtual teaching during Covid as a springboard to conduct research to best inform future pedagogy. Her research on student engagement with different modalities won multiple awards, including best graduate student education research at the National Association of Biology Teachers Conference.

Her philosophy centers education as a form of empowerment and the classroom as a space for excitement. Kylea’s overarching goal is to be a representative for others and shift the narrative around what a scientist looks like.

The John M. Houchens Prize for Outstanding Dissertation

Mohamed Tarek Mohamed Ali
Ph.D. Interdisciplinary Studies,
specialization in Translational Bioengineering

Mentor: Professor Ayman El-Baz

Mohamed Tarek Ali completed his MSc. in Systems and Biomedical Engineering at Cairo University in 2017. After graduation Mohamed cofounded and worked as an R&D engineer at DilenyTech LLC, earning recognition for outstanding performance and a U.S. patent. His dissertation focuses on developing a computer aided framework for the diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) using brain imaging. He integrated multimodal neuroimaging data—structural MRI, resting state function MRI, and behavioral data in order to develop biomarkers for subcategories (endophenotypes) of ASD, resulting in a comprehensive computer assisted diagnostic (CAD) system that characterizes ASD multifactorially, rather than along a one-dimensional spectrum. Over the course of his PhD work, Mohamed has helped many students learn how to apply machine learning techniques in biomedical imaging, as well as principles of medical image computing. In 2022, Mohamed had his internship at Cognex Corporation, where he assisted in building cutting-edge technologies by developing sandbox software using C++, Python, OpenCV to provide an easier way to test different algorithms in less time. Mohamed has six published journal articles in addition to four conference papers, two book chapters and a patent application, and his research has received several awards while in graduate school.

The John M. Houchens Prize for Outstanding Dissertation

Emily Michelle Kempfer
Ph.D. Chemistry

Mentor: Assistant Professor Lee Thompson

Emily Michelle Kempfer is the winner of the John M. Houchens Prize, which honors a former registrar of the university and is awarded to the doctoral student who presents the most meritorious dissertation for the current commencement

Dr. Emily M. Kempfer (aka Kempfer-Robertson) received her B.S. in Chemistry in 2017 from Missouri State University in Springfield, Missouri. She joined the lab of Professor Lee Thompson at the University of Louisville in August, 2018 and completed her Ph.D. in Chemistry by successfully defending her dissertation in Spring of 2023. For her doctoral research she worked on the development and application of new excited state methodologies for studying multistate systems. While each chapter of her dissertation has significant impact, her mentor notes that the broader impacts of the work are that it will enable faster and more accurate quantum mechanical simulations, and therefore improve fundamental knowledge in any field in which electronic structure governs the observed behavior – biology, chemistry, materials, medicine to name just a few.

During her Ph.D. studies she has been published as first author five times and has a total of seven publications. She has also been an excellent mentor to five undergraduate students during her time as a graduate student at University of Louisville, and all five undergraduates have been featured on at least one publication. During her graduate career, she has received several awards, including the University Fellowship (2018), Arno Spatola Fellowship (2022), and Student Champion (2022). She also has served as Vice-President for the Chemistry Graduate Student Association (2021-2022) and as a regular volunteer at the St. Joseph's Childrens home on Wednesdays during art night (2019-2022).

Her nominator ends his letter this way: "I hope I have sufficiently articulated above, not only the significance and impact of her thesis work, but also the immense intellectual creativity and drive required to execute the projects. Emily's ability is further emphasized by the fact that she had postdoctoral research offers from groups at Rice University, Michigan Institute of Technology, University of Sydney, and Oak Ridge National Laboratory, but has opted to continue her career at the Max Planck Institute with Frank Neese, who is a leading researcher in the field."

The Alice Eaves Barns Award for Outstanding Achievement in Master's Program

Randall Eric Cole
M.S.S.W. Social Work

Co-Mentors: Professor Anita Barbee and Lecturer Lori Paris

The Alice Eaves Barns Award is named in honor of a Graduate School staff member's many years of outstanding service as a staff member of the Graduate School. This award recognizes a student who has displayed tenacity in the face of adversity while attaining excellence in both the classroom and outside endeavors and is given in recognition of outstanding achievement in a master's program. Randall Eric Cole is one of this year's recipients of the Barns award.

Randall Cole is in his final semester of the M.S.S.W. program at the Raymond A. Kent School of Social Work and Family Science at the University of Louisville.

During his time at the Kent School, he completed a double practicum with the Council on Developmental Disabilities where he began a successful after-school communication and social skills-building program for neurodiverse youth, with a particular outreach to BIPOC adolescents on the autism spectrum and their families. Randall recently helped write a successful grant application which will bring in \$100,000 to the Council to continue and expand the program.

According to one of his mentors, Randall has maintained a high GPA and served as an advocate for those with developmental disabilities and mental health challenges, all the while being a single father to two sons who have such challenges. She notes, "he has a high GPA and has made a profound impact on his fellow students and the faculty who taught him. I will always remember Randall as a leader, a social justice warrior, and a fiercely loving parent who is a role model for managing adversity while also grappling with academic material and applying it to his practice in the field of social work."

Randall was a first-generation college student in his extended family. In 1992, he received his bachelor's degree, graduating magna cum laude from Wabash College, which included a year abroad program at the University of Dakar in Senegal, West Africa. After receiving his degree, Randall lived and worked in Germany for three years before relocating to New York to begin his career in public relations. Prior to moving to Louisville in 2020, Randall spent more than 20 years as a public relations professional in New York, San Francisco, and London.

He will graduate tomorrow from the Kent School with his MSSW, after which time he intends to sit for his CSW exam and pursue a career working with and on behalf of neurodiverse individuals and their families.

He currently lives in Louisville with his partner Wyatt, their sons Benjamin and Samuel, and their beloved dogs Popcorn and Tater tot.

Graduate School' Outstanding Faculty Mentors

Outstanding Faculty Mentor of Doctoral Students

Robert Buchanan, Ph.D.

Department of Chemistry

Dr. Robert Buchanan is a Professor in the Department of Chemistry at the University of Louisville, where he began his career as an Assistant Professor in 1982. Prior to joining UofL, he earned his BA from Western Maryland College, his MS from West Virginia University, and his PhD from the University of Colorado at Boulder, all in Chemistry; he also completed two post-doctoral positions, one at the University of Colorado and one at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. While at the University of Louisville, Dr. Buchanan rose through the ranks to become a full Professor of Chemistry, and he has served the College of Arts and Sciences as both an Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and as the long-term (2006-2020) Associate Dean for Research. Throughout his career, he has mentored the research of both graduate and undergraduate students and has taught at all levels including freshman lecture and laboratory courses, senior laboratory courses, and graduate courses. He has also contributed to numerous grant applications to upgrade instructional laboratory instrumentation, as well as submitting successful grant applications to support his own research and that of his students. While at UofL, he has mentored 6 post-doctoral students, 28 graduate students, and 37 undergraduates in various research projects related to clean energy and healthcare. His nominator, a former student, writes that Professor Buchanan has "demonstrated a deep commitment to supporting his doctoral students in all aspects of their academic and professional development. Beyond his technical expertise, he is a model of professionalism, kindness, and generosity. He is always willing to go above and beyond to support his students, whether it's through helping us navigate the complexities of the academic system, providing us with networking opportunities, or offering emotional support during difficult times."

Outstanding Faculty Mentor of Doctoral Students

David Roelfs, Ph.D.

Department of Sociology

Dr. David Roelfs began working at the University of Louisville in Fall 2011, directly after earning his PhD in Sociology from Stony Brook University. His appointment is with the Department of Sociology, where he is currently Associate Professor and Department Chair (following a three-year term as the department's Director of Graduate Studies). He maintains an active research agenda, examining possible explanations for the "Immigrant Mortality Advantage/Paradox," and teaches two core statistics courses for the department (Introduction to Social Statistics at the undergraduate level and Statistics II [Generalized Linear Regression Modeling] at the graduate level); he also periodically teaches courses in Organizational Sociology (graduate level) and Economic Sociology (undergraduate level). At UofL, Dr. Roelfs has served on over 43 different graduate student committees, and he has coauthored and presented research papers with numerous graduate students. While serving as Department Chair, he chaired or co-chaired six student projects and served as a committee member for an additional four students. Lastly, he funds research collaborations with graduate students through external grants, and he has spearheaded many initiatives to support and enhance professional development and research opportunities for graduate students. Eight students co-authored the letter of nomination for Dr. Roelfs, calling him "an exceptional leader, mentor, and faculty member who exemplifies the qualities this award was designed to recognize....He has had a profound impact on our success and that of other graduate students...due to his hard work, dedication, and extraordinary support of graduate students."

Provost's Award for an Exemplary Director of Graduate Studies

Monica Gentili, Ph.D.

Department of Industrial Engineering

Dr. Gentili joined University of Louisville in January 2016, where she is currently an associate professor in the Department of Industrial Engineering, Director of the PhD program, and Co-Director of the Logistics and Distribution Institute. From October 2013 to October 2015, she was a Visiting Assistant Professor at the Institute for People and Technology at the Georgia Institute of Technology. Prior to that, she was Assistant professor at the University of Salerno in Italy. She got her BS and MS degree in Statistics and her PhD in Operations Research from the University of Rome "La Sapienza." At the University of Louisville, Dr. Gentili's research interests include data analysis and optimization models and algorithms as they are applied in health care, transportation, location, and logistics, and she regularly teaches DSS for Excel, Probability and Statistics for Engineers, and Data Management and Spreadsheet Modeling. Dr. Gentili has served as the Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) for Industrial Engineering for just two years, but she has been instrumental in improving the student experience, from recruitment to graduation. She has made the process of earning a graduate degree more efficient and more transparent by streamlining processes and documents, created new doctoral student awards in teaching, research, and service, launched a career planning seminar series, and revamped the PhD program curriculum. Many of these innovations were in response to student requests, as this student writes: "Dr. Gentili has been assertive in seeking to understand our needs and creating responses to help address them, from the Life in Academia series to an annual PhD research competition....There are many other things that Dr. Gentili has done to promote our success, especially through quiet one-on-one meetings. She is my advisor and I have benefited greatly from her humble mentorship, and she is absolutely committed to the success of each and every student in her care."

Degrees - May 2023

Master of Fine Arts and Their Faculty Mentors

Hannah Dewitt

Studio Art and Design

Professor Tiffany Calvert

Thesis: *Someone, Stop Her! The Musical (The Gallery Show): The Thesis Document*

Sarah Chen Elston

Theatre Arts

Assistant Professor Rachel Carter

Thesis: *Regeneration: Restorative Theatre Practice in Theatre Education*

Alicia Barnes Fireel

Theatre Arts

Assistant Professor J. Ariadne Calvano

Thesis: *"The Urgent Necessity for More Original Creative Works by Transgender and Gender Expansive Artists" is not the Title of My Thesis*

Katelyn L. Gabbard

Studio Art and Design

Associate Professor Scott Massey

Thesis: *"Spirits in My Studio"*

Sa'ld Amar Kelly

Theatre Arts

Assistant Professor J. Adriane Calvano

Thesis: *Working for Yourself: A Guide for Performers with Learning Difference*

Linda O'Brien Korte

Studio Art and Design

Associate Professor Mitch Eckert

Thesis: *Impressions of Place*

Shachaf Polakow

Studio Art and Design

Professor Mary Carothers

Thesis: *The Landscape Does Not Care it is a Landscape: A Utopian Pessimist Journey in Kentucky*

Doctor of Audiology and Their Faculty Mentors

Victoria Elizabeth Bohrer

Audiology

Assistant Professor Shae Morgan

Project: Recognizing Auditory Processing Disorder in School Age Children

Externship: Robley Rex VA Medical Center, Louisville, Kentucky

Logan Bowen

Audiology

Associate Professor Lynzee Cornell

Project: Survey of University of Louisville's Counselors'/Advisors' Awareness of the Audiology Profession

Externship: Advanced ENT and Allergy, Louisville, Kentucky

Tiffany Joann Brewer

Audiology

Assistant Professor Shae Morgan

Project: Auditory Emotion Recognition: Test Parameters and Stimuli Optimization

Externship: Advanced ENT and Allergy, New Albany, Indiana

Hannah Decker Davidson

Audiology

Associate Professor Lynzee Cornell

Project: Survey of Audiology Programs Regarding Their Provision of Services for Adults with Intellectual and Development Delays (IDD)

Externship: Eastpoint Audiology, Louisville, Kentucky

Meredith Del Castillo

Audiology

Assistant Professor Laura Galloway

Project: Efforts to Increase Awareness of Careers in CSD through Local Community Outreach

Externship: FPG-Silverstein Institute, Sarasota, Florida

Stacy Jane Garrard

Audiology

Associate Professor Lynzee Cornell

Project: Cerumen Impaction in Individuals with Disabilities Due to Limited Jaw Movement

Externship: Alaska Hearing and Tinnitus Center, Anchorage, Alaska

Michaela Jiunta
Audiology
Associate Professor Lynzee Cornell
Project: Red Bird Mission Project – Virtual Training on Hearing Loss and Hearing Aid Knowledge
Externship: Bluegrass Hearing Clinic, Lexington, Kentucky

Elizabeth Bridgette Medlock
Audiology
Assistant Professor Laura Galloway
Project: Graduate Student Involvement in State-Level Audiology Organizations in Kentucky
Externship: Southeast Kentucky Audiology, Corbin, Kentucky

Averi Karsin Spinks
Audiology
Assistant Professor Laura Galloway
Project: Digital Marketing and the Uptake of a Decision Coaching Guide for Adults with Unaddressed Hearing Loss
Externship: The American Institute of Balance, Largo, Florida

Eleni Anne Zarvos
Audiology
Associate Professor Lynzee Cornell
Project: Medical Provider Gaps in Knowledge Regarding Newborn Hearing Screening Protocols
Externship: Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, Missouri

Doctor of Education and Their Faculty Mentors

Natasha Darlene Lanham
Educational Leadership and Organizational Development
Professor Kyle Ingle
Dissertation: *Administrative Evaluation of Teachers in Tested and Non-Tested Subjects*

Adrienne Beth Usher
Educational Leadership and Organizational Development
Assistant Professor Deborah Powers
Dissertation: *Women in Executive Level Education Leadership Positions: Perceptions, Challenges, and Supports*

Doctor of Philosophy and Their Faculty Mentors

College of Arts and Sciences

Safia Abdullah R. Alharbi

Physics

Professor Ming Yu

Dissertation: *First Principles Study of 2D Lateral and Vertical Heterostructures Built by 2D Polar Binary compounds: SiC, GeC, and SiGe*

Jimmy Earl Butts

Pan-African Studies

Associate Professor Michael Brandon McCormack

Dissertation: *To Hell with 'That' Religion: Malcolm X and an Africana Critical Theory of Religion*

Lindsey Connors

Urban and Public Affairs

Associate Professor Margath Walker

Dissertation: *Land Tenure and the Urban Institutional Politics of Sustainability: How Sustainability "Lands" in the Relationships Between Global North and South Contexts*

Cooper Phillip Day

English/Rhetoric and Composition

Associate Professor Stephen Schneider

Dissertation: *The Forest for the Trees: How a Local Arboretum Shapes Rhetoric and Discourse Surrounding Environmentalism*

Emily Hunter Denton

Humanities

Professor Deborah Lutz

Dissertation: *The Red Deeps*

Caroline Marie Driscoll-Braden

Biology

Professor Lee Dugatkin

Dissertation: *The Evolution of Empathy: Through the Lens of a Rodent Model*

Clint Nathaniel Evrard

Chemistry

Assistant Professor Lee Thompson

Dissertation: *Mechanism and Kinetics of Photocatalytic Partial Oxidation of Methane on Single Site MO_x Reaction Centers*

Chandana Chathurangi Wijayasiri Kananke Gamage
Chemistry
Associate Professor Farshid Ramezanipour
Dissertation: *Structural, Magnetic, Electrical, Pseudocapacitive, and Electrochemical Properties of Bilayered Ruddlesden-Popper Oxides*

Kylea Rose Garces
Biology
Professor Sarah Emery
Dissertation: *Understanding the Impacts of Global Change: From Students to Microbes*

Cody Dillon Gault
Humanities
Professor John Gibson
Dissertation: *The Well-Tempered Android: Philosophical Posthumanism in Science Fiction Camera*

Eduard B. Ghita
Humanities
Professor John Gibson
Dissertation: *Art and Nature in Eighteenth-Century British Aesthetics*

Robert Allan Jones
Humanities
Professor Delin Lai
Dissertation: *The Conceptual Collapse of Space and Time as Intimated in the Depiction of the Horse in China, Circa 1250 BCE-CE 400*

Emily Michelle Kempfer
Chemistry
Assistant Professor Lee Thompson
Dissertation: *Development of Nonorthogonal Wavefunction Theories and Application to Multistate Processes*

Susannah Carol Kilbourne
English/Rhetoric and Composition
Professor Bronwyn Williams
Dissertation: *Author(iz)ing Literacy: A Rhetorical/Historical Analysis of Literacy for College Readiness from KERA to the Common Core (and Beyond)*

David Yong Kim
Criminal Justice
Associate Professor Viviana Andreescu
Dissertation: *Media Consumption Effects on College Students' Perceived Risk of Victimization and Fear of Crime: Does the Usage of Social Media Police Scanners Alter Public Perceptions of Safety?*

Kimberly Anne Koenig
Biology
Professor Sarah Emery
Dissertation: *Biotic and Abiotic Factors Contributing to the Invasion Success of Microstegium Vimineum in Eastern Deciduous Forests*

Milinda Bharatha Brito Adikaram Kalutara Koralalage
Physics
Professor Gamini Sumanasekera
Dissertation: *Super P-Sulfur Cathodes for Quasi-Solid-State Lithium-Sulfur Batteries*

Tobias Christopher Lee
English/Rhetoric and Composition
Professor Bruce Horner
Dissertation: *Rainforests of the Mind: Conceiving Transnational Composition from a Mobilities Perspective on Knowledge*

Jacob Robert Mace
Urban and Public Affairs
Associate Professor Margath Walker
Dissertation: *Still Got the Blues – No Time but Here, No Place but Now: Geographies of Arts & Activism in the Work of Clyde Woods*

Camella-Rosa Camille Nasr
Physics
Co-Mentors Professor Tim Dowling and Associate Professor Beth Bradley
Dissertation: *Mach and Froude Numbers on Mars*

Megan Nicole Norris
Experimental Psychology
Associate Professor Nicholas Noles
Dissertation: *Children's Beliefs about Hierarchical Relationships and Structures*

Nathan R. Steffens
Biology
Professor Paul Ewald
Dissertation: *Transmission Characteristics Explain the Disease Manifestation of Chlamydia Trachomatis, SARS-COV-2, and Plasmodium Infections*

Nancy McDaniel Steinmetz
Applied Sociology
Co-Mentor Professor Mark Austin and Associate Professor David Roelfs
Dissertation: *Fear of Becoming a Victim of Crime on a College Campus: A Visual and Factorial Experimental Design Survey Analysis of Location and Demographic Factors*

College of Education and Human Development

Bridget Virginia Kearney

Curriculum and Instruction

Professor Mary Brydon-Miller

Dissertation: *"Our House There is Ugly but Still We Happy, I Don't Know Why": An Ethnographic Study with Three Women Navigating Displacement and Resettlement*

Melisaa Kempf Taylor

Educational Leadership and Organizational Development

Co-Chairs Associate Professor Ann Herd and Professor Jason Immekus

Dissertation: *Microgenerations: Bridging the Generation Gap in Workplace Values*

Erica Beth McClure

Curriculum and Instruction

Professor Tim Landrum

Dissertation: *Effects of Pyramidical Behavior Skills Training on the Procedural Integrity of School Staff when Delivering Functional Communication Training to Students*

Sarah Cecilia Nunez

Counseling and Personnel Services

Associate Professor Susan Longerbeam

Dissertation: *Uncovering Testimonios of Traditional Healing Practices Among Latinx College Students in El Nuevo Sur*

Dana Elaine Page

Curriculum and Instruction

Co-Mentors Professor Tim Landrum and Professor Jeff Valentine

Dissertation: *A Meta-Analysis of the Academic Achievement of Students with Emotional/Behavioral Disorders in Traditional Public Schools in the United States*

Pilar S. Prather

Educational Leadership and Organizational Development

Associate Professor Jacob Gross

Dissertation: *Perceptions of Student Loan Debt: A Phenomenological Study Exploring Black Undergraduate Students' Experiences*

Thomas John Reece

Counseling and Personnel Services

Professor Jeffrey Valentine

Dissertation: *Meta-Analysis of Therapeutic Interventions for the Treatment of Test Anxiety*

Serena Justine Wheeler
Curriculum and Instruction
Co-Chairs Professor Scott Tomchek and Professor Ginevra Courtade
Dissertation: *Evidence-Informed In-Service Professional Development to Support KEIS Providers' Sustained Fidelity to Caregiver Coaching*

Interdisciplinary Studies

Nicholas Craig Allen
Interdisciplinary Studies, specialization in Translational Bioengineering
Associate Professor Martin O'Toole
Dissertation: *Tumor Targeting Gold Nanoparticles for Delivery of RNA and DNA Oligonucleotide Therapies for Glioblastoma*

Mohamed Tarek Mohamed Ali
Interdisciplinary Studies, specialization in Translational Bioengineering
Professor Ayman El-Baz
Dissertation: *Interrogating Autism from a Multidimensional Perspective: An Integrative Framework*

Aryan Neupane
Interdisciplinary Studies, specialization in Bioinformatics
Professor Eric Rouchka
Dissertation: *Clustering and Analysis of G Quadruplex Sequences*

School of Public Health and Information Sciences

Jason Allen Deakings
Public Health Sciences
Assistant Professor Susan Buchino
Dissertation: *Our Story, Our Song: Assessing and Addressing Black Women's Healthcare Experiences*

Shakeyrah Elmore
Public Health Sciences
Assistant Professor Aishia Brown
Dissertation: *Postpartum Depression in Jamaica: Exploring the Lived Experiences*

Picandra Elzie
Public Health Sciences
Co-Mentors Associate Professor Lee Bewley and
Associate Professor J'Aime Jennings
Dissertation: *An Analysis of the Effects of Certified Electronic Health Records on Organizations and Patients*

Emmanuel U. Ezekekwu
Public Health Sciences
Professor Christopher E. Johnson
Dissertation: *The Association of Long Working Hours and the Use of Prescription Sedatives Among U.S. Workers*

Imisha Gurung
Public Health Sciences
Associate Professor Muriel Harris
Dissertation: *Menstruation Stigma: A Qualitative Exploratory Study of the Lived Experiences of Nepali Women*

Kendria Delaine Kelly-Taylor
Public Health Sciences
Associate Professor Anne Wallis
Dissertation: *Adverse Birth Outcomes: Investigating the Role of Nativity and Perceived Racial Discrimination Among Black Mothers Enrolled in Des Moines, Iowa Healthy Start*

Brian William McRoberts
Public Health Sciences
Professor Bert Little
Dissertation: *The Impact of Kentucky's Medicaid Expansion on Adult Coverage and Diagnosis of Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus and Diabetic Peripheral Neuropathy, the Use of Anthihyperglycemics and the Role of Social Determinants of Health*

Roy D. Olpin
Public Health Sciences
Professor Christopher Johnson
Dissertation: *An Analysis of the Effects of Certified Electronic Health Records on Organizations and Patients*

Sonali Sachin Salunkhe
Public Health Sciences
Associate Professor Liza Creel
Dissertation: *Inpatient Department Hospital Utilization Among Pregnant Women with Spinal Cord Injury or Paralysis in the United States*

Scott Skinner
Public Health Sciences
Professor Christopher E. Johnson
Dissertation: *An Evaluation of Hospital-Based Health Technology Assessment Processes in the United States*

Raymond A. Kent School of Social Work and Family Science

Lisa Marie Purdy

Social Work

Professor Anita Barbee

Dissertation: *Impact of the Dyadic Relationship of Employee-Supervisor Attachment Styles on the Prevalence and Symptomatic Expression of Secondary Traumatic Stress in Public Child Welfare Workers*

School of Medicine

Luis R. Alvarado

Anatomical Sciences and Neurobiology

Professor Andrea Behrman

Dissertation: *Supraspinal Reorganization After Pediatric-Onset Spinal Cord Injury*

Emily Carol Crouse

Anatomical Sciences and Neurobiology

Associate Professor Aaron McGee

Dissertation: *Perineuronal Nets are not Required to Close the Critical Period OD Plasticity*

Kelly Elizabeth Fredericksen

Anatomical Sciences and Neurobiology

Assistant Professor Chad Samuelsen

Dissertation: *Chemosensory Processing by the Mediodorsal Thalamus*

V. Douglas Landers

Microbiology and Immunology

Associate Professor Kevin Sokoloski

Dissertation: *The Aalphaviral Capsid Protein Inhibits IRAK1-Dependent TLR Signaling to Promote Pathogenesis*

Andrew Joseph Orwick

Pharmacology and Toxicology

Professor Leah Siskind

Dissertation: *Lung Cancer-Kidney Crosstalk Enhances Cisplatin-Induced Nephrotoxicity*

Sarah LeAnn Price
Microbiology and Immunology
Associate Professor Matthew Lawrenz
Dissertation: *Identification of a Role Beyond Iron Acquisition for Yersiniabactin During Yersinia Pestis Infection*

Micaela Anne Reeves
Pharmacology and Toxicology
Professor Nobuyuki Matoba
Dissertation: *EPICERTIN: Preclinical Development of a Novel Mucosal Healing Agent for Ulcerative Colitis*

Jeffrey Barr Warner
Pharmacology and Toxicology
Associate Professor Irina Kirpich
Dissertation: *Soluble Epoxide Hydrolase Inhibition: A Novel Therapeutic Strategy for Alcohol-Associated Liver Disease*

Zachary David Whiddon
Anatomical Sciences and Neurobiology
Co-Chair Professor Robin Krimm and Associate Professor
Dissertation: *Rapid Structural Remodeling of Peripheral Taste Axons is Independent of Taste Cell Turnover*

Kyle Lewis Whyland
Anatomical Sciences and Neurobiology
Professor Martha Bickford
Dissertation: *Synaptic Properties of Parabigeminal Circuits*

Matthew R. Woeste
Microbiology and Immunology
Professor Jun Yan
Dissertation: *Irreversible Electroporation Potentiates Beta Glucan Induced Trained Innate Immunity: A Novel Combination Treatment for Pancreatic Adenocarcinoma*

Megan Lee Zipperer
Anatomical Sciences and Neurobiology
Associate Professor Bart Borghuis
Dissertation: *Toward a Comprehensive Account of Orientation Selectivity in the Retina*

School of Nursing

Kofi Amoh-Mensah

Nursing

Professor Frances Harding-Fanning

Dissertation: *Barriers and Facilitators of Dairy Consumption Among Individuals with Metabolic Syndrome*

Jeanne Marie Ward

Nursing

Professor Frances Hardin-Fanning

Dissertation: *Factors Associated with Skin Cancer Prevention: Primary and Secondary Behaviors*

J. B. Speed School of Engineering

Usman Onuminya Abu

Chemical Engineering

Associate Professor Gautam Gupta

Dissertation: *Synthesis, Property Tuning and Degradation Studies of Phophorene-Based Materials*

Abdelhamid Bouzid

Computer Science and Engineering

Professor Adel Elmaghraby

Dissertation: *Dynamic Scene Understanding: Pedestrian Tracking from Aerial Devices*

Saumya Gulati

Chemical Engineering

Co-Chair Professor Mahendra Sunkara and Dr. Joshua Spurgeon

Dissertation: *Investigation of Light Management Strategies and Photochemistry of Si/TiO₂ Tandem Microwire Slurries for Solar Hydrogen Generation*

Sujoy Halder

Chemical Engineering

Professor Xiao-An Fu

Dissertation: *Novel Microdevices to Analyze Toxic Volatile Organic Compounds*

Ahmed Nazrul Islam

Mechanical Engineering

Professor Yongsheng Lian

Dissertation: *Drop Impact on Dry and Liquid Infused Substrates with Micro-Wells*

Huan Jiang
Mechanica Engineering
Assistant Professor Yanyu Chen
Dissertation: *Engineering 3D Architected Metamaterials for Enhanced Mechanical Properties and Functionalities*

Fadoua Khmaissia
Computer Science and Engineering
Professor Hichem Frigui
Dissertation: *Guided Data Augmentation for Improved Semi-Supervised Image Classification in Low Data Regime*

Patrick Douglas Kroeger
Chemical Engineering
Professor Gerold Willing
Dissertation: *Chloramine Devulcanization of Waste Rubber*

Blake E. Martin
Chemical Engineering
Associate Professor Gautam Gupta
Dissertation: *Compositional Engineering of Precursor Inks for Intense Pulsed Light Compatible Deposition of Perovskite Solar Cells*

Zhong Yang
Electrical Engineering
Professor Dan Popa
Dissertation: *Modeling, Simulation and Control of Microrobots for the Microfactory*

The Graduate Dean's Citations

Mohamed Tarek Mohamed Ali
Ph.D. Interdisciplinary Studies,
specialization in Translational
Bioengineering
Mentor: Professor Ayman El-Baz

Marissa Lee Barton
M.S.S.W. Social Work
M.S. Couple and Family Therapy
Mentor: Lecturer Lori Paris

Randall Eric Cole
M.S.S.W. Social Work
Mentors: Professor Anita Barbee
and Lecturer Lori Paris

Jennifer Ann Coulter
M.S.S.W. Social Work
Mentor: Assistant Professor
Justin Romney

Iliana Vanessa De Hoyos Zarate
M.S.S.W. Social Work
Mentor: Lecturer Dru Kemp

Emily Hunter Denton
Ph.D. Humanities
Mentor: Professor Deborah Lutz

Natie Renee Evanow
M.S. Interdisciplinary Studies:
Concentration in Healthcare
Ethics
Mentor: Professor Lauren
Freeman

Ellen Elizabeth Findley
M.S. Interdisciplinary Studies:
Concentration in Healthcare
Ethics
Mentor: Professor Lauren
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Chandana Chathurangi
Wijayaskiri Kananke Gamage
Ph.D. Chemistry
Mentor: Associate Professor
Farshid Ramezani-pour

Kylea Rose Garces
Ph.D. Biology
Mentor: Professor Sarah Emery

Elijah Percy Jerome Gardner
M.A. Anthropology
Mentor: Associate Professor
Fabian Crespo

Eduard B. Ghita
Ph.D. Humanities
Mentor: Professor John Gibson

Chelsea Marie Giovacchino
M.A. Humanities
Mentor: Associate Professor
Natalie Polzer

Andrew August Givens
M.S. Interdisciplinary Studies:
Concentration in Healthcare
Ethics
Mentor: Professor Lauren
Freeman

Sujoy Halder
Ph.D. Chemical Engineering
Mentor: Professor Xiao-An Fu

La'Daiza Jordyn Hall
M.S.S.W. Social Work
Mentor: Lecturer Jennifer
Foreman

Samantha Leigh Hughes
M.S.S.W. Social Work
Mentor: Lecturer Lori Paris

Tia Humphrey
M.S.S.W. Social Work
Mentor: Professor Anita Barbee

Jamieca A. Jones
M.S.S.W. Social Work
Mentor: Associate Professor
Jennifer Middleton

Emily Michelle Kempfer
Ph.D. Chemistry
Mentor: Assistant Professor
Lee Thompson

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Mentor: Assistant Professor
Shawnise Miller

V. Douglas Landers
Ph.D. Microbiology and
Immunology
Mentor: Associate Professor
Kevin Sokoloski

Tobias Christopher Lee
Ph.D. English/Rhetoric and
Composition
Mentor: Professor Bruce Horner

Joseph Anthony Leites
M.M. Music
Mentor: Professor Fred Speck

Blake E. Martin
Ph.D. Chemical Engineering
Mentor: Associate Professor
Gautam Gupta

Hailey Marie Mattingly
M.A. Political Science
Mentor: Associate Professor
Melissa Merry

Lucas James Mouton
M.S.S.W. Social Work
Mentor: Professor Anita Barbee

Megan Nicole Norris
Ph.D. Experimental Psychology
Mentor: Associate Professor
Nicholaus Noles

Khushboo Samirbhai Patel
M.S. Experimental Psychology
Mentor: Professor Judith
Danovitch

Steven D. Phelps
M.S. Couple and Family Therapy
Mentor: Assistant Professor
Justin Romney

Sarah LeAnn Price
Ph.D. Microbiology and
Immunology
Mentor: Associate Professor
Matthew Lawrenz

Lisa Marie Purdy
Ph.D. Social Work
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Ph.D. Pharmacology and
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Concentration in Healthcare
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Jamica L. Solomon
M.A. Political Science
Mentor: Assistant Professor
Siddhant Issar

Aimee Wendling
M.S.S.W. Social Work
Mentor: Assistant Professor
Shawnise Miller

Matthew R. Woeste
Ph.D. Microbiology
and Immunology
Mentor: Professor Jun Yuan

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Dean of the Graduate School

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Natalie DuPre, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology and Population Health, School of Public Health and Information Sciences

Monica Gentili, Associate Professor in Industrial Engineering, J.B. Speed School of Engineering

Diamond Gill, Professor of Oral Biology, School of Dentistry

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Frances Hardin-Fanning, Professor of Nursing, School of Nursing

Mary Hums, Professor of Health Promotion, Physical Education and Sport Studies, College of Education and Human Development

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Kelli Peck-Parrott, Clinical Professor of Educational Leadership, Evaluation, & Organizational Development, College of Education and Human Development

Meghan Pifer, Associate Professor of Higher Education Administration, College of Education and Human Development

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Tamara Sluss, Associate Professor of Urban and Public Affairs, College of Arts and Sciences

Patricia Soucy, Associate Professor of Bioengineering, J. B. Speed School Engineering

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