Fall 2020 Celebration

December 12, 2020

University of Louisville
Graduate School
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UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE
GRADUATE SCHOOL
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 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. Jamie Young is the recipient of this year’s Stevenson award and as such, serves as the Graduate School’s outstanding student and will deliver a speech for the virtual Hooding and Commencement ceremonies.

Jamie Young earned a Master’s degree with a Dean’s Citation from the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology at the University of Louisville and Bachelor’s degree (cum laude), from the University of Maine at Farmington. Jamie earned her Master’s degree for her work on developing a model of the effects of whole life exposers to environmental contaminants (arsenic and cadmium) on the development of adult diseases. Her doctoral work continued under the mentorship of Dr. Lu Cai and focuses on how cadmium exacerbates high fat diet induced liver disease and the potential therapeutic role of dietary zinc. During her tenure as a doctoral student in Pharmacology and Toxicology, she served as the student representative for the Ohio Valley Society of Toxicology, and is the most recent recipient of the K.C. Huang Outstanding Graduate Student award.

Beyond the academic and research success, Jamie provides exceptional teaching and service to her field. While the Pharmacology and Toxicology program at the University of Louisville does not require teaching, Jamie seized on the available opportunities for teaching in the Department’s Dental Hygiene Pharmacology course, and provided peer-to-peer mentoring whenever possible.

For service opportunities, Jamie is active in a number of professional societies. For the Society of Toxicology, the biggest and preeminent Toxicology society in the world, she served as the student representative to the Metals Specialty Section, the Chair for the
society’s Graduate Student Leadership Committee programming sub-committee, and the society’s Graduate Student Leadership Committee Chair. Her leadership efforts in these roles led to follow-on service opportunities in student-run efforts in the Environmental Mutagenesis and Genomics Society and NIEHS’s Superfund Research Program Conference. Jamie also extensively volunteered as a field research assistant for numerous expeditions with the Wise Laboratory of Environmental and Genetic Toxicology, Ocean Alliance, the Channel Islands Marine & Wildlife Institute, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

Jamie has not had an easy path to her extraordinary success. She was the first in her family to earn an undergraduate degree, and she pressed on to earn a Master’s, and soon a doctoral degree, overcoming challenges and interruptions along the way. Jamie is committed to excellence in research, service and teaching in her pursuit to combat global challenges in environmental health and disease.

Following graduation, Jamie will pursue a career as an independent researcher and plans to apply for a NIH Director’s Early Independence Award (DP5 mechanism) and earn a subsequent faculty position (hopefully at the University of Louisville).
Justin Smith 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.

Hailing from Tonganoxie, KS, Justin attended the University of Kansas on a National Merit Scholarship. Drawn to the creative potential in chemistry, he was selected for the EU Atlantis Program, a year-long, chemistry-specific study abroad program split between Dublin City University and the University of Regensburg. He conducted research at each university, ultimately earning a German minor from KU and a dual B.S. in chemistry from UR (where he completed 29 credit hours of German, graduate-level chemistry, and research in one semester). Back at KU, he expanded his research experience in a chemical engineering lab; post-graduation, he worked as program assistant in KU’s Office for Diversity in Science Training (ODST coordinates NIH programs increasing underrepresented-community participation in science), which included instructing a course on critical evaluation of scientific literature at Haskell Indian Nations University.

Justin began graduate studies at UC Santa Barbara working alongside then-postdoc Sachin Handa and followed him to UofL as his first graduate student. Early research explored aqueous micelles (formed from Handa Lab surfactant PS-750-M) as a green reaction medium. Organic solvents often are hazardous and responsible for most waste generated in a chemical process, whereas aqueous PS-750-M is mostly water, and PS-750-M is made from benign, sustainable building blocks. Publications in Green Chemistry (on polyfluoroarene sulfonylation) and ACS Catalysis (on nitroalkane arylation) helped establish PS-750-M as an alternative to problematic solvents which are challenging to replace. Throughout his graduate education, Justin was an active mentor for four undergraduates on new research projects (completely separate from his own research activities). He coauthored two reviews, and two additional reviews are currently being adapted from his Original Research Proposal and his dissertation’s introductory chapter. Following his third year, he received the Department of Chemistry’s Dorothy Gibson Memorial Fellowship.

Justin was afforded greater independence on later projects, three of which contained innovations of sufficient novelty and value to warrant internal disclosure for UofL patent consideration. One, published in Nature Communications and selected for Editor’s highlight, involved a new type of polymeric photocatalyst. Justin persistently optimized polymerization conditions until the photocatalyst could be applied as
a coating on reaction vessels. These coated vessels were found to be suitable for “backside irradiation,” a process with the potential to solve industrial scale-up, recyclability, and mixture opacity problems typical of photoredox catalysis. Another, which awaits publication, leveraged a new interpretation of longstanding literature to advance the concept and methodology of “sustainable halosequestration,” which has the potential to make a variety of reactions greener, cheaper, and faster; halosequestrative conditions required one tenth as much catalyst, material cost, and time compared to earlier micellar conditions for nitroalkane arylation. The third project was reduced to practice but interrupted by COVID-19; in response, he began to independently develop COVID-19 therapeutic concepts, which he will publish prior to pursuing a postdoc and career in materials chemistry research.
Robert C. Monsen 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.

Robert is from Henderson, Kentucky. There he graduated high school and enrolled as a pre-medicine biology student at the University of Southern Indiana at Evansville. After graduating with a B.S. in biochemistry, Robert was employed in the polymer industry. There he gained a strong interest in becoming an independent scientist after he experienced the interesting challenges and responsibilities faced by senior scientists working in research and development. This observation prompted his desire to obtain further training in science and his application to the graduate program in the department of Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics at the University of Louisville.

Robert's dissertation work was in an area of drug discovery and structural biology. He trained under the mentorship of Drs. John Trent and J. Brad Chaires. A major result of his dissertation research is the characterization of the DNA secondary structure at the human telomerase reverse transcriptase (hTERT) core promoter. The hTERT core promoter is a major regulator of telomerase expression. Telomerase, the hTERT gene product, is an enzyme that is re-expressed in more than 85% of cancers and imbues cancer cells with immortality. His results showed that this core promoter region forms a stack of three non-B DNA structures known as a G-quadruplexes. He subsequently demonstrated, using computational drug discovery methods and lab experiments, that it was possible to develop selective small molecules capable of stabilizing the hTERT G-quadruplex. Robert took his work further to show that these small molecules could down-regulate hTERT in breast cancer cell lines. In recognition of his work on the hTERT core promoter system, Robert received the Arno Spatola Endowment Graduate Research Fellowship from the Institute for Molecular Diversity & Drug Design (IMD3). Robert’s work characterizing additional non-B DNA G-quadruplex structures with small-angle X-ray scattering has been recognized by the Argonne National Laboratory’s Advanced Photon Source Group, which has allotted him more than $20,000 worth of X-ray beam time for his proposed research. The Houchens Prize recognizes the potential impact of Robert’s research on the field of cancer drug discovery. Robert’s work characterizing unique DNA structures as drug targets has expanded our arsenal of tools for selectively killing cancer cells. Robert’s work also benefits the broader research community by describing methods that others can apply to their own disease of interest in order to develop new drugs.
Robert is also invested in fostering the research curiosity of others. Robert enjoys mentoring younger students in science. He has been involved in judging science fairs, from the elementary to graduate school level, over the past five years. He has also mentored multiple graduate, undergraduate, and high school students, one of which won second prize for a subsequent poster presentation.

Robert plans to continue his research to further characterize higher-order, non-B DNA structures using the integrative structural biology platform he developed. He also plans to continue developing small molecules that were identified during his PhD dissertation research. Following postdoctoral training, he plans to establish himself as an independent researcher at an academic institution.
The Alice Eaves Barns Award for Outstanding Achievement in Master’s Program

Sashauni Johnson
M.S.S.W. Social Work
Mentor: Assistant Professor Heather Storer

The Alice Eaves Barns Award is named in honor of Mrs. Alice Eaves Barns for her many years of outstanding service as a staff member of the former Graduate School, School of Interdisciplinary and Graduate Studies at the University of Louisville. This award recognizes a student who has displayed tenacity in the face of adversity while attaining excellence in both the classroom and outside endeavors. The award is given in recognition of outstanding achievement in a Master’s Program. Sashauni Johnson is this year’s recipient of the Barns award.

Sashauni Johnson was born in St. Catherine, Jamaica and migrated to the United States at the age of seven in pursuit of the American Dream. She is an alum of the University of Louisville and was enrolled in the 30-hour Advanced Standing MSSW program where she graduated in December 2020.

Sashauni has worked in the Social Work field for the entirety of her professional career, and has enjoyed working to meet the needs of her clients by connecting her clients with community resources that aim to increase their overall wellbeing and health. She was inspired to work in the social work field to be for others what she would have liked someone to have been for her.

In October 2020 Sashauni founded The Pretty Girl Foundation, which is a nonprofit organization that serves survivors of domestic abuse and intimate partner violence, a cause that is near and dear to her heart. In addition to being the director of this foundation, Sashauni works as an independent contractor in the city of Louisville. In this role, she serves children, families, and adults with open CPS cases.

After graduation, Sashauni plans to take the necessary steps to become a licensed therapist, and after licensure, will begin to provide mental health services to children, families, and adults who have experienced extreme trauma and childhood adverse experiences. It is Sashauni’s hope that with her personal and professional experiences, she will be able to help her future clients attain a better standard of living by guiding them through the sometimes-difficult journey of healing.
Degrees - August and December 2020

Doctor of Nursing Practice and Their Faculty Mentors

Ruby M. Aebersold
Nursing
Associate Professor Mary DeLetter
Project: Evaluating Family Satisfaction on an Advanced Certification Palliative Care Unit

Katherine Barker
Nursing
Professor Whitney Nash
Project: Hepatitis A Educational Program in Food Service Workers

Elizabeth Ann Blandford
Nursing
Professor Becky Christian
Project: Modifying the Visitation Policy within Adult Intensive Care Units to Improve Patient, Family and Nurse Satisfaction

Katelyn Lee Brandel
Nursing
Assistant Professor Lynette Galloway
Project: Strategies to Increase HPV Vaccine Uptake in Primary Care

Patrick Scott Bucayu
Nursing
Assistant Professor Kimberly Meyer
Project: The Revision and Education of the Traumatic Brain Injury Ventilation Protocol

Madeleine Antoinette Chesney
Nursing
Assistant Professor Beverly Williams Coleman
Project: Implementation of a Wellness Program for Emergency Department Medical Professionals

Jessica Layne Duffy
Nursing
Assistant Professor Paul Clark
Project: Family Presence During Resuscitation: Nurses’ Perceptions of Their Self-Confidence
Brittany Lauren Durbin
Nursing
Professor Whitney Nash
Project: Preoperative Opioid Education: Total Knee and Hip Arthroplasty

Harold Anthony Flood
Nursing
Assistant Professor Candace Harrington
Project: Implementation of a Central Line Bundle in the Adult Long-Term Care Setting: A Quality Improvement Initiative

Andrea Lee Gibson
Nursing
Professor Frances Hardin-Fanning
Project: Expansion of a Food Insecurity Scale in Primary Care

Niah Ann Gilmore
Nursing
Associate Professor Said Absusalem
Project: Improving Patient Safety: Implementing the Chiulli, Thompson, & Reguin-Hartman Acuity Tool (CTRAT) on a Neuroscience Unit

Sara Elizabeth Henderson
Nursing
Assistant Professor Luz Huntington-Moskos
Project: Breathing Easier: Indoor Air Quality Education Program

Jonathon Blake Hicks
Nursing
Associate Professor Mary-Beth Coty
Project: Education Module for Serotonin Syndrome with 24-Hour Dose Monitoring Intervention

Kevin Luke Houser
Nursing
Associate Professor Mary-Beth Coty
Project: Implementation of a Safety Planning Intervention on an Inpatient Psychiatric Unit

Sable Ciara Iglesias
Nursing
Assistant Professor Lynette Galloway
Project: Nursing and Caregiver Satisfaction and the Implementation of a Discharge Education Roadmap for Newly-Diagnosed Pediatric Oncology Patients
Adrianne Marie Warren Johnson  
Nursing  
Associate Professor Muna Hammash  
Project: HIV/HCV Screening Protocols in the Emergency Department

Vanessa Lynn Johnson  
Nursing  
Assistant Professor Kimberly Meyer  
Project: The Impact of Estimated Weight vs. Accurate Weight on Ischemic Stroke Patients with tPA Intervention

Miranda Renee Jones  
Nursing  
Assistant Professor Lynn Roser  
Project: Improving Peripheral Intravenous Maintenance Compliance to Decrease Intravenous Infiltration in a Pediatric ICU

Cassandra Jane Lee  
Nursing  
Associate Professor Sara Robertson  
Project: Feasibility of Implementation of Evidence-Based Trained Service Dog Provider

Mohammed Azam Mohiuddin  
Nursing  
Assistant Professor Elisabeth Volpert  
Project: Implementation of CCM Check Box in EHR

Tiffanie Diane Mueller  
Nursing  
Assistant Professor Debra Anderson  
Project: An Educational Intervention on Nurse Provided Spiritual Care

Casey Nicole Prestigiacomo  
Nursing  
Professor Frances Hardin-Fanning  
Project: The Effect of a Blood Pressure Education Intervention on the Knowledge and Self-Efficacy in Patient Care Associates

Kiersten Anne Proctor  
Nursing  
Assistant Professor Cynethia Bethel-Jaiteh  
Project: Breastfeeding Education in the Postpartum Period
Taylor Lorraine Purnsley  
Nursing  
Assistant Professor Kimberly Meyer  
Project: *Early Initiation of Therapeutic Hypothermia in the Emergency Department*

Christopher Lee Reynolds  
Nursing  
Assistant Professor Paul Clark  
Project: *Reducing Nurse Burnout in the Acute Care Setting*

Ashley Ann Ricketts  
Nursing  
Assistant Professor Catherine Batscha  
Project: *Impact of a Single Mindfulness Education Session on Teachers’ Perceived Stress Levels*

Ardis Meredith Roederer  
Nursing  
Assistant Professor Candace Harrington  
Project: *Improving Delirium Management and Compliance on a Trauma/Surgical Universal Unit*

Rachel Lauren Schollaert-Culwell  
Nursing  
Assistant Professor Kimberly Meyer  
Project: *Education and Implementation of the Clinical Opiate Withdrawal Scale (COWS) in the Acute Care Setting for Care Providers*

Erika Lyn Shell  
Nursing  
Assistant Professor Angie Malone  
Project: *The Implementation of a Pediatric Bone Marrow Transplant Nurse Orientation: A Quality Improvement Initiative*

Kelly Rae Smith  
Nursing  
Assistant Professor Beverly Williams Coleman  
Project: *The Effect of Palliative and Hospice Care Nursing Education to Improve Knowledge Among Nurses in Long-term Care*

Abigail Hagan Southall  
Nursing  
Associate Professor Sara Robertson  
Project: *The Implementation of an Evidence Based Decision Aid to Improve Self-Efficacy of Critical Care Nurses in the Recognition of Need for Palliative Care in ICU Patients*
Megan McCleese Vitellaro  
Nursing  
Professor Whitney Nash  
Project: *Improving the Rates of Smoking History Documentations in the Electronic Medical Record*

Nancy Lynn Wilding  
Nursing  
Associate Professor Sara Robertson  
Project: *Emergency Nurse Practitioner Post-Graduation Certification*

Shannon Lee Williams  
Nursing  
Assistant Professor Catherine Batscha  
Project: *A Quality Improvement Project to Determine the Impact of Education and Resources on Postpartum Depression Screening and Referral in Pediatric Primary Care*

**Degree Awarded Posthumously**

Kacy Lee Johnson  
Nursing  

**Doctor of Education and Their Faculty Mentors**

Kristy Marie Field  
Educational Leadership and Organizational Development  
Co-Chairs: Professor Kyle Ingle and Assistant Professor Deborah Powers  
Dissertation: *Teacher Perceptions of Collegial Collaboration in an Academy Structure*

Nicole Michelle Fields  
Educational Leadership and Organizational Development  
Professor Mary Brydon-Miller  
Dissertation: *The Many Facets of Trauma - High Need Index School Principals’ Perspectives on Trauma-Informed Care*

Shawn Timothy Hinds, Jr.  
Educational Leadership and Organizational Development  
Professor Kyle Ingle  
Dissertation: *Capacity Building: A Study of Career Academies and Student Career Self-Efficacy*

Kathryn Merges House  
Educational Leadership and Organizational Development  
Professor Kyle Ingle  
Dissertation: *Student Perceptions of Personalized Learning in a Rural School District*
Faneshia McPherson Jones  
Educational Leadership and Organizational Development  
Co-Chairs: Associate Professor Jason Immekus and Professor Kyle Ingle  
Dissertation: *Kindergarten Readiness and Grade 1 Mathematics Achievement*  

Rajwinder Kaur  
Educational Leadership and Organizational Development  
Professor Mary Brydon-Miller  
Dissertation: *Fostering African American Female Students’ Sense of Belonging: A Digital Storytelling Participatory Action Research Approach*  

Devon Mariah Woodlee  
Educational Leadership and Organizational Development  
Professor Kyle Ingle  
Dissertation: *Inclusion of Classified Staff in the Implementation of Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports: A District Case Study*  

Adam Nelson Stephens  
Educational Leadership and Organizational Development  
Professor Mary Brydon-Miller  
Dissertation: *A Phenomenological Study of Kindergarten Teachers’ Perceptions of Their Students in the Age of Kindergarten Readiness*  

Doctor of Philosophy and Their Faculty Mentors  

**College of Arts and Sciences**  

Shadi Ahmad Mohammad Alnaanah  
Physics  
Co-Chairs: Associate Professor Serban Smadici and Professor Sergio Mendes  
Dissertation: *Development and Applications of Condensed Phase Cavity Ring-Down Spectroscopy for Studies of Electrochemical and Interfacial Processes*  

Alaa Mahmoud Alfailakawi  
Physics  
Co-Chairs: Associate Professor Serban Smadici and Professor Byron Freelon  
Dissertation: *A Structural Study of Correlated Materials: Incipient Mott Insulators and Low-Dimensional Systems*  

Andrew John Bates  
Urban and Public Affairs  
Associate Professor Matthew Ruther  
Dissertation: *Predictors of Urban Homeless Rates*
William Christopher Beckerson
Biology
Professor Michael Perlin
Dissertation: *Comparative Secretomics and Functional Analysis of Effectors Utilized by the Microbotryum Genus of Anther-Smut Fungal Pathogens, and Their role in Host-Specificity*

Saleema Mustafa Campbell
Pan-African Studies
Co-Chairs: Associate Professor Mawuena Kossi Logan and Professor Theresa Rajack-Talley
Dissertation: *Mitigating Black Claustrophobia: Space, Trauma, and Healing Modalities in the Postcolonial Narrative*

Ma. Faye Charmagne Aquino Carvajal
Chemistry
Professor Richard Wittebort
Dissertation: *Investigating the Disorder and Compaction of Designed Minielastins using Nuclear Magnetic Resonance*

Md Emtias Chowdhury
Chemistry
Co-Chairs: Associate Professor Martin O’Toole and Professor Craig Grapperhaus
Dissertation: *Design, Synthesis and Application of Janus Gold Nanoprisms for Directed Self-Assembly*

Grace Ellin Freundlich
Biology
Professor Sarah Emery
Dissertation: *Costs and Benefits of HIPV-mediated Eavesdropping under Field Conditions*

Jennifer Lee Hall
Applied Sociology
Professor Lauren Heberle
Dissertation: *The Sidewalk Less Traveled: Evaluating Changes in Community and Police Perception*

Amanda Gayle Harmon
Experimental Psychology
Professor Carolyn Mervis
Dissertation: *Language Ability and Concurrent Predictors of Pragmatic Communication in Children with Williams Syndrome or 7q11.23 Duplication Syndrome*
Jonathon Carl Holland  
Applied Sociology  
Associate Professor David Roelfs  
Dissertation: *The Norms are More Guidelines than Actual Rules: Applying Isomorphism to Disability Accommodations in the Catholic Church*

Ekramul Islam  
Urban and Public Affairs  
Associate Professor Margath Walker  
Dissertation: *Compassion or Neoliberal Governance: Critiquing the Discourse of Compassionate Louisville*

Eric Andrew Jordan  
Applied Sociology  
Co-Chairs: Assistant Professor Melanie Gast and Associate Professor Karen Christopher  
Dissertation: *Exploring Black “Saviors”: A Content Analysis of Black Characters and Racial Discourses in Obama-era Film*

Sunita Khanal  
Biology  
Professor Michael Perlin  
Dissertation: *Genes Involved in Nitrogen Assimilation in Ustilago Maydis*

Pom Lal Kharel  
Chemistry  
Professor Francis Zamborini  
Dissertation: *Photoelectrical and Photoelectrochemical Characterization of the Materials Used in Dye-Sensitized and Perovskite Solar Cells*

Katherine Elizabeth Ray King  
Biology  
Co-Chairs: Associate Professor Linda Fuselier and Professor Paul Ewald  
Dissertation: *On the Straight and Narrow: How Cultural Beliefs about Sex/Gender Manifest in College Science Learning Environments*

Kirsten Denise Leaberry  
Clinical Psychology  
Associate Professor Paul Rosen  
Dissertation: *Reactive and Regulative Temperament Dimensions, Emotion Regulation, and Concurrent Internalizing and Externalizing Pathology Among Youth with ADHD*

Theodore Christopher Malone  
Applied Sociology  
Professor Patricia Gagne  
Dissertation: *Getting Up: An Ethnography of Hip Hop Graffiti Writers, their Art, and Perceptions of Society’s Reactions*
Nicholas Courtney McLeod
Pan-African Studies
Co-Chairs: Professor Tyler Fleming and Professor Theresa Rajack-Talley
Dissertation: Practicing Pan-Africanism: West Indians and Governance in Kwame Nkrumah’s Ghana

Judy Mier-Chairez
Clinical Psychology
Co-Chairs: Professor Bernadette Walter and Professor Janet Woodruff-Borden
Dissertation: Fatalism as a Cultural Influence on Correlates of Anxiety and Worry in Latino/a Adolescents

Atanu Pathak
Physics
Assistant Professor Swagato Banerjee
Dissertation: Search for New Physics Using Lepton Flavor Violating Signatures in Modern Particle Colliders

Aymen Hasan Atallah Qatamin
Physics
Professor Sergio Mendes
Dissertation: Electrochemically-modulated Surface Plasmon Waves at the Nano-scale for Investigations and Applications of Redox Assemblies

Matthew Steven Reynolds
Applied and Industrial Mathematics
Professor David Swanson
Dissertation: Convolution Inequalities and Applications to Partial Differential Equations

Allison Mary Rodgers
Clinical Psychology
Associate Professor Paul Salmon
Dissertation: The Intersection of Mindfulness and Gratitude: Examining the Roles of Gratitude and Mindfulness Practices Within a 4-Week Mindfulness-Based Intervention on Depressive Symptoms in Undergraduates

Shawn Michael Rolfe
Criminal Justice
Co-Chairs: Professor Deborah Keeling and Associate Professor Viviana Andreescu
Dissertation: Peer Verbal Sexual Harassment in Early Adolescence: A Feminist and Sexual Scripts Theoretical Approach
Nina Saraei  
Chemistry  
Professor Craig Grapperhaus  

Christopher Allen Scheidler  
English Rhetoric and Composition  
Professor Bruce Horner  
Dissertation: Making Modality: Transmodal Composing in a Digital Media Studio

Katie Marie Seiter  
Biology  
Associate Professor Linda Fuselier  
Dissertation: Undergraduate Students Use Moral Reasoning and Belief in Genetic Determinism in Response to a CRISPR/CAS9 Socioscientific Issue

Brian Keith Simpkins  
Criminal Justice  
Assistant Professor Kristin Swartz  
Dissertation: Assaults on Law Enforcement Officers: A Spatial and Theoretical Analysis through Social Disorganization

Chelsea Jane Siwik  
Clinical Psychology  
Professor Sandra Sephton  
Dissertation: Depressive Symptoms and Survival Among Lung Cancer Patients; Biomarkers and Potential Benefits of an IPod- and Mindfulness-Based Intervention

Justin Douglas Smith  
Chemistry  
Assistant Professor Sachin Handa  
Dissertation: (Pseudo)Phase Tuning in the Service of Synthesis: Technologies for Sustainable Catalysis

Jacob Michael Strain  
Chemistry  
Professor Francis Zamborini  
Dissertation: Electrochemical Reduction of Carbon Dioxide and Carbon Monoxide for the Production of Green Fuels and Chemicals

Lokupatabendige Ashan Vitharana  
Physics  
Associate Professor Jian Du-Caines  
Dissertation: A Comprehensive Study of the Short-term Variability of the Migrating Diurnal Tide in the Mesosphere and Lower Thermosphere
Anqi Xu
Urban and Public Affairs
Associate Professor Matthew Ruther

College of Education and Human Development

Katherine Michelle Cooper
Curriculum and Instruction
Co-Chairs: Assistant Professor Thomas Simmons and Associate Professor Debra Bauder
Dissertation: Job Satisfaction for Individuals with Disabilities: Youth One Year Out

Kimberly Kaye Daugherty
Educational Leadership and Organizational Development
Associate Professor Jason Immekus
Dissertation: Investigating Consensus Regarding Development of Entry Level Pharmacy Roles with Competency/EPA Alignment and Levels of Entrustment

Karen Chinew Idigo
Counseling and Personnel Services
Associate Professor Laurie McCubbin

Angela Kaye Jorgensen
Educational Leadership and Organizational Development
Associate Professor Meera Alagaraja
Dissertation: Analyzing Human Resource Competency Development through the Lens of Adult Learning Theory: A Qualitative Case Study on Change Management Competency in a Global U.S.-Based Firm

Wei-Shao Lin
Educational Leadership and Organizational Development
Professor Namok Choi
Dissertation: Predicting Dental Student’s Performance on National Board Dental Examination (NBDE) Part I: Exploring Demographic Factors, Dental Admission Test (DAT) Factors, Pre-program Academic Factors, and Dental Program Academic Performance

Brent Anthony Luebcke
Counseling and Personnel Services
Professor Mark Leach
Dissertation: Therapeutic Rupture Repair in Treatment of Military Adolescents
Heidi A. Neal  
Educational Leadership and Organizational Development  
Assistant Professor Casey George  
Dissertation: College was a Slap in the Face: Examining the Transition of Kentucky Appalachian Students Studying STEM at an Urban Institution

Stephanie Thea O’Donnell  
Counseling and Personnel Services  
Assistant Professor Amy Hirschy  
Dissertation: The Ball is in Your Court: A Phenomenological Study Examining College Athletes with Learning Disabilities and/or ADHD on College Campuses

Dominic Gideon Karl Schmuck  
Counseling and Personnel Services  
Co-Chairs: Professor Mark Leach and Professor Anita Barbee  
Dissertation: The Influence of Self-forgiveness on Relationship Satisfaction Post-Infidelity

Nicholas Lamar Wright  
Counseling and Personnel Services  
Professor Susan Longerbeam  
Dissertation: Other Does Not Define Me: A Phenomenological Study Examining Multiracial Student Sense of Belonging in a Predominantly White Institution

College of Business

Alireza Aghaey  
Entrepreneurship  
Associate Professor Robert Garrett  
Dissertation: Differences in Opportunity Evaluation Between Corporate and Independent Entrepreneurs

Tommie Welcher  
Entrepreneurship  
Associate Professor Robert Garrett  
Dissertation: The Corporate Venture Dyad: A Study of the Impact of Cultural Distance on Venture Performance

Interdisciplinary Studies

Samarendra Das  
Interdisciplinary Studies  
Professor Shesh Rai  
Dissertation: Statistical Approaches of Gene Set Analysis with Quantitative Trait Loci for High-Throughput Genomic Studies
Zackary R. Fitzsimonds
Interdisciplinary Studies
Professor Richard Lamont
Dissertation: Epithelial Responses to Porphyromonas Gingivalis in the Community Context

Nathan Curtis Jones
Interdisciplinary Studies
Co-Chairs: Associate Professor Robert Carini and Associate Professor Daniel Krebs

Landon Heath Tompkins
Interdisciplinary Studies
Co-Chairs: Professor Steven Koenig and Assistant Professor Jonathan Kopechek
Dissertation: Development of a Pediatric Cardiac Assist Maglev Pump for Use with a Universal Driver System

School of Public Health and Information Sciences

Mohammad Yaser Anwar
Public Health Sciences
Associate Professor Kira Taylor
Dissertation: Characterization of Adiposity and Inflammation Genetic Pleiotropy Underlying Cardiovascular Risk Factors in Hispanics

John A. Craycroft
Biostatistics
Professor Maiying Kong
Dissertation: Aspects of Causal Inference

Mary Elizabeth Gregg
Biostatistics
Associate Professor Doug Lorenz
Dissertation: Marginal Methods and Software for Clustered Data with Cluster and Group-Size Informativeness

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Public Health Sciences
Professor Christopher E. Johnson
Dissertation: The Green House Nursing Home Model: The GH Elements and Their Impact on Quality of Care in Nursing Homes
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Biostatistics  
Co-Chairs: Professor Maiying Kong and Assistant Professor Subhadip Pal  
Dissertation: Modified-Half-Normal Distribution and Different Methods to Estimate Average Treatment Effect

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Social Work  
Associate Professor Lesley Harris  
Dissertation: Incarceration Experiences of Older African American Adults Living with HIV- A Constructivist Grounded Theory Study

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Social Work  
Professor Karen Kayser  

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School of Medicine

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