Spring 2020 Celebration
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
Graduate School’s Outstanding Students

The Guy Stevenson Award for Excellence in Graduate Studies

Dylan M. Johnson
Ph.D. Microbiology and Immunology
Mentor: Professor Igor Lukashevich

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. Dylan M. Johnson is the recipient of this year’s Stevenson award and as such, serves as the Graduate School’s outstanding student and carries the banner at the main commencement ceremony to represent all doctoral graduates.

Dylan M Johnson earned a Bachelor’s of Science degree in Microbiology at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa. While studying in Hawaii, he researched host interactions with the malarial parasite Plasmodium falciparum. He earned a M.S. degree in Biology (immunology concentration) from Indiana State University studying phytol based oil-in-water vaccine adjuvants under the mentorship Swapan K. Ghosh, Ph.D. His work at ISU focused on using microemulsion adjuvants to enhance host responses to experimental Staphlococcus aureus and Influenza virus vaccines.

Dylan’s doctoral research focuses on vaccine development for two emerging infectious diseases, Lassa Fever and Venezuelan Equine Encephalitis. His work characterized how defective virus produced during persistent infection could be used to enhance the ML29 Lassa virus vaccine candidate. He also contributed to efficacy testing in a small animal model for an experimental VEE vaccine candidate, V4020. He continued by characterizing the attenuation of neurovirulence for V4020, and examining the potential for the emergence of pathogenic reversions from this live attenuated vaccine. His work has led to three first author publications as well as multiple presentations at national and international scientific conferences. His 2019 paper in Pathogens magazine “Attenuated Replication of Lassa Virus Vaccine Candidate ML29 in STAT1 / Mice” was included in the top 5 publications of the year. Much of Dylan’s work at UofL has utilized the unique resources available through the Center for Predictive Medicine for Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Disease, including use of the high-containment, selectagent facilities. He completed a collaborative study with the CPM director, Kenneth Palmer, Ph.D., to test the efficacy of an investigational antiviral compound, Griffithsin, in a small animal model of arenavirus infection.
During his time at UofL, Dylan has demonstrated a strong commitment to outreach and service. Dylan is a director of the Louisville Science Pathway program, which places high school students into UofL research labs for summer internships. During his directorship, the program has received funding to provide paid internships, including $100,000 in financial support over the past two years. Dylan is also the only graduate student serving on the Institutional Biosafety Committee, which oversees the safety and security of work with pathogenic microorganisms. He represents graduate students at the School of Medicine Faculty Forum, and serves at the UofL Graduate Student Council. He is active in the Microbiology & Immunology student organization where he has been an elected officer for the past three years.

Following graduation, Dylan will be starting a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, TX, under the mentorship of Dr. Thomas Geisbert. He will train to study vaccine and antiviral therapy development for emerging RNA viruses (including Ebola, Lassa, Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever, and Nipah) that require maximum biological containment for handling.
Irina Miralda 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.

Irina received a B.S. and M.S. degree from the University of Louisville. As an undergraduate she participated in the University of Louisville Undergraduate Summer Research Opportunity Program (SROP) and after her summer internship decided to continue the work for her Honors Thesis project. In 2015, Irina started the doctoral program in Microbiology and Immunology with the goal to pursue studies related to host-microbe interactions, with special focus on neutrophil responses to pathogenic bacteria. Her dissertation work helped define the evasion strategy used by an emerging oral pathogen, Filifactor alocis, to hijack neutrophil antimicrobial mechanisms. This work was supported, in part, by a two-year NIH Diversity supplement fellowship. Irina’s work has resulted in two first author research publications, one scientific review and one book chapter, as well as co-author on four original research publications and two scientific reviews.

Irina is recognized for her leadership and service activities. She has been instrumental in building a graduate student community in the Microbiology & Immunology department as president of the Microbiology and Immunology Student Organization at UofL. In this capacity she helped increase engagement and inclusivity for all students. Irina is a founding member of the first Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) chapter in the state of Kentucky. SACNAS is an organization that fosters the success of underrepresented groups in advanced degrees, careers, and positions of leadership in STEM. In her role as vice-president for the chapter, Irina organized an interactive learning activity for 100+ girls in grades 3--12 called, “A Closer Look: Bacteria & Blood Cells” for the Girls Rule! STEM-H Summit. Irina’s service roles have also extended into community outreach where she participated the Science Policy and Outreach Group (SPOG), and the Organization Assisting and Serving International Students (OASIS), an organization that forms a welcoming environment for international students and encourages cross-cultural exchange and understanding, and served as a Science Ambassador for the Louisville Regional Science & Engineering Fair. She served as the Junior Editor for the newsletter of Society for Leukocyte Biology and mentored high school, undergraduate and graduate students in the lab.
As the child of immigrant parents, Irina shares the following poem by Rupi Kaur and words: “I stand on the sacrifices of a million women before me, thinking what can I do to make this mountain taller so the women after me can see farther.” The sacrifices of my parents allowed me to pursue graduate school, where I will become the first of my family to get a doctorate.

Next, I will pursue my dream of becoming a principal investigator that teaches and mentors minority undergraduate and graduate students to increase diversity in academia and STEM fields as my contribution to “making the mountain taller”. Irina plans to complete post-doctoral studies to further her research training in host-microbe interactions.
The John M. Houchens Prize
for Outstanding Dissertation

Fatemeh Karami
Ph.D. Industrial Engineering
Mentor: Associate Professor Monica Gentili

Fatemeh Karami is the winner of this commencement’s John M. Houchens Prize, which honors a former registrar of the university. The Houchens Prize is awarded to the doctoral student who submits the most meritorious dissertation with the potential for significant impact on a field dissertation.

Fatemeh received her B.S. and M.S. in Industrial Engineering respectively from Khajeh Nasir Toosi University of Technology and Iran University of Science and Technology in Tehran, Iran. Her doctoral research at University of Louisville focused on improving access to organ transplants in the United States by studying the organ shortage and geographic disparity in access to transplants. She worked during summer and fall 2019 as a researcher at the Epidemiology Research Group in Organ Transplantation at The Johns Hopkins University Medical School where she applied her research to address geographic disparity in access to kidney transplants in the United States. Fatemeh is first author on one publication, with one under review, and a book chapter. She is recognized for her work through several awards including the 2020 Distinguished Poster Award from American Society of Transplant Surgeons at the 20th Annual State of the Art Winter Symposium, Miami FL, and the 2019 Women in Operation Research & Management Science (WORMS) Doctoral Student Colloquium Scholarship. In addition to research, Fatemeh was a graduate teaching assistant for Operations Research, Stochastic Operations Research and Experimental Design.

The Houchens Prize recognizes the potential impact of Fatemeh’s dissertation, titled “Optimization and Simulation Models to Improve Access to Organ Transplantation in the United States”. Her analysis of organ utilization rate and the insights gained shed an important light on the need for better utilization of organs and for a more streamlined allocation process. Similar analysis can be applied for other types of organs and might be paramount for decision makers involved in the allocation process on how to determine when an offered organ should be discarded or not. Finally, the heart allocation simulation model that Fatemeh developed is flexible enough to be adapted for the simulation of the allocation process for different organs as well. Flexibility of the model is critical for the evaluation of alternative allocation policies which are in great demand, given the urgency and importance of addressing disparity in access to organ transplant. The results of Fatemeh’s work have the potential to hugely impact society by improving access to transplants and saving thousands of lives, as well as to support the
Fatemeh’s research interests include the applications of operations research to healthcare operations and policy. Her plans are to pursue a career in Operations Research/ Data Science. She wants to apply her academic training in Statistics and Optimization Modeling in real world problems that directly affect people’s lives.
The Virginia “Jenny” Madden Award for Graduate Student Leadership and Service

Ashlee Van Schyndel
M.P.H. Public Health
Mentor: Assistant Professor Liza Creel

The Virginia “Jenny” Madden Award for Graduate Student Leadership and Service is named in honor of Virginia “Jenny” Madden for her many years of service to the Graduate School, the Staff Senate, and the University of Louisville community. The award recognizes a master degree recipient who exhibits leadership through service to the recipient’s program, college, discipline, the University as a whole, and/or the community. Ashlee Van Schyndel is this year’s recipient of the Madden award.

Ashlee Van Schyndel is a graduating with a Master of Public Health with a focus in Health Policy and certificate in LGBT+ Health. A former primatologist, she pivoted to public health after several health experiences and working in health insurance. Currently, she is an Americorps VISTA for the local public health and arts nonprofit, IDEAS xLab, where she creates capacity in the community through grant writing and community development. As a MPH student, she is a Graduate Research Assistant on a legal epidemiology research project with Dr. Liza Creel and Dr. Marissa Yingling studying state variation in early intervention programs.

In addition to her graduate work, Ashlee serves as a Legislative Fellow for Planned Parenthood of Indiana and Kentucky. As a Legislative Fellow, Ashlee helped research bills limiting access to sexual and reproductive health for Kentuckians as well as organized within the community, trained volunteers to become advocates, and advocated for sexual and reproductive health care in the Commonwealth. During her time as a Legislative Fellow, she has advocated legislators at the state and federal level through her experiences and sharing her story, as well as working with several groups to try and establish a legislative response to the shortage of Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs) in Kentucky.

As a result of her work, she is a member and the secretary of the Planned Parenthood Political Action Committee of Kentucky and is named as a National Storyteller for the Planned Parenthood Federation of America. Her dedication to public health is also seen in several national leadership titles she holds among the American Public Health Association (APHA), where she is the Governing Councilor of the Student Assembly (which is composed of over 8,000 students nationwide), as well as the American Journal of Public Health Editorial Board Representative. Formerly, she was the APHA Student Assembly Membership Co-Chair where she oversaw a committee of 20+ students in welcoming new members and addressing any issues with membership, including recruitment and retention. In the organization AcademyHealth, she is the student representative of the Women and Gender Health Interest Group.
After graduating, Ashlee will be pursuing a PhD in Maternal and Child Health, where she intends to examine the maternal mortality crisis through a legal epidemiology perspective by focusing on laws around working conditions for pregnant workers. Her goal after graduating is to establish the evidence part to create evidence-based policies and continue to bridge both research and activism, working towards creating better sexual and reproductive health outcomes for all.
Outstanding Faculty Mentor of Master’s Students

Devin Burke, Ph.D.
Department of Music History

Dr. Devin Burke is this year’s recipient of the Outstanding Mentor of a Master’s Student. This award honors a faculty member who mentors students to the completion of a Master’s degree through direction of their thesis, supervision of research, oversight of a student’s publications, awards or an internship or professional paper.

Dr. Burke joined the music history faculty at the University of Louisville in 2015. His research centers on early modern music with areas of interest that include political theater, discourses of music and sculpture, and the relationship between science, natural philosophy, and music. His current book project, Music and Idolatry in the Age of Absolutism, examines representations of idolatry in operatic spectacles of the early modern period, showing how musical theater functioned as a space for politicizing and mediating such fraught imagery. His work on intertextualities in Italian and English madrigals includes a forthcoming edition.

Dr. Burke also has long been engaged with the field of music and disability studies, beginning with a collaborative project that brought together musicians and members of the Deaf community. His research on Civil war era popular songs that portray and sentimentalize disabled veterans appears in the Oxford Handbook of Music and Disability Studies (2015).

Dr. Burke received his Ph.D. in musicology from Case Western Reserve University. He has presented talks at national and international conferences, and his work has been supported by the Society for Eighteenth-Century Music and research fellowships from Case Western Reserve University. Dr. Burke also holds degrees in Anthropology and in Music Theory/Composition, and is an active composer.

Dr. Burke is being recognized for being a thesis research advisor and mentor for a Master’s student. The nomination letter states, “Dr. Burke has provided outstanding individual support to me that would surpass the expectations of what “above and beyond” typically means. He exhibits kindness about the little things…he has taught me how to be a scholar and a thinker, and, perhaps more poignantly, he has modeled for me how to be a wonderful educator and person behind that title.” Dr. Burke also serves as a committee member for many of the graduate composition, theory and music history major final theses, offering unending support, resources and suggestions necessary for their successful completion of a Master of Music degree. “He challenges each student to develop every idea in a unique and perceptive way, allowing a student’s own writing to grow and mature into an artistic and professional style.”
Outstanding Faculty Mentor of Doctoral Students

Monica Wendel, Ph.D.
Department of Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences

Dr. Monica Wendel is this year’s recipient of the Outstanding Mentor of a Doctoral Student. This award honors one-on-one mentoring of a doctoral student through direction of a dissertation, supervision of a student’s lab research, or oversight of a student’s internship or final professional paper.

Dr. Monica Wendel has been a faculty member at the University of Louisville School of Public Health & Information Sciences since 2014. She is currently professor and chair of the Department of Health Promotion & Behavioral Sciences, as well as Associate Dean for Public Health Practice, and co-director of the Commonwealth Institute of Kentucky. She maintains an active research portfolio, as Principal Investigator of the Youth Violence Prevention Research Center funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, where she employs a number of students. Dr. Wendel teaches courses in the department at the undergraduate, masters, and doctoral level, and considers teaching and mentoring students one of the most fulfilling parts of her job. Since coming to UofL, she has mentored six students to the successful completion of their PhD and served as a committee member for several other students. Prior to coming to UofL, she was on the faculty at the Texas A&M School of Public Health, where she also earned her DrPH degree in 2009. There, she taught graduate courses and directed the Center for Community Health Development.

Dr. Wendel’s nomination letter highlights her ability to bring together “teams of faculty, students, and community members, who worked together to: 1) champion racial equity within the School of Public Health; 2) support equitable partnerships that center Louisville communities, and 3) prepare graduate students to forge paths toward greater health equity in Louisville and beyond. When Dr. Wendel became chair of the Health Promotion department in 2018, she further concretized the above efforts by inviting students to help develop new curricula and core outcomes. These changes to graduate programming are not only advancing field-wide health equity efforts, but also greatly increasing prospective student interest in the Department of Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences. Dr. Wendel is deeply committed to student involvement and leadership; to her commitment, she brings an extraordinary ability to recognize students’ strengths and passions, develop these into relevant projects and trajectories, and step away just enough to generate supported opportunities for students to lead and grow.”
Degrees - May 2020

Master of Fine Arts and Their Faculty Mentors

Mutiyat Adetokunbo Ade-Salu
Theatre Arts
Professor Russell Vandenbroucke
Thesis: An Actor’s Process in Bridging the Gap Between First-Generation and Multi-Generational African-American Identities

Shae Taylor Goodlett
Studio Art Design
Assistant Professor Tiffany Calvert
Thesis: Invocation

Xavier Mikal Harris
Theatre Arts
Professor Baron Kelly
Thesis: A King’s Royal Scars

Kala Ross
Theatre Arts
Professor Johnny Jones
Thesis: Good Grief: An Analysis of the Character Development of Tonya in August Wilson’s King Hedley II through the Lens of “The Five Stages of Grief”

Zahid Saeed
Studio Art Design
Professor Mary Carothers
Thesis: American Nocturne

Manuel Francisco Viveros
Theatre Arts
Assistant Professor Sidney Monroe
Thesis: Hotel De Vagabundos: Reviewing African American Theatre Journey

Doctor of Audiology and Their Faculty Mentors
Doctor of Audiology and Their Faculty Mentors

Rebecca Smith Burden
Audiology
Professor Jill Preminger
Project: Applying Principles of Participatory Design to Create iManage (My Hearing Loss)
Externship: Mayo Clinic, Jacksonville, Florida

Casandra Leigh Conlee
Audiology
Associate Professor Lynzee Cornell
Project: Creating an Employee Training Program on the Importance of Hearing Aid Care
Externship: St. Cloud ENT, St. Cloud, MN

Brooke Nicole Dillard
Audiology
Associate Professor Pavel Zahorik
Project: SSQ Confirms Self-reported Hearing Difficulties for Listeners with Normal Audiograms
Externship: Charlotte Eye Ear Nose & Throat Associates, Charlotte, North Carolina

Emily Kate Feibelman
Audiology
Associate Professor Lynzee Cornell
Project: Creating an Ototoxic Monitoring Protocol for Adult Head and Neck Cancer Patients
Externship: Atlanta VA Health Care Center, Atlanta, Georgia

Caitlin Marie Holliday
Audiology
Associate Professor Lynzee Cornell
Project: The Effect of Personality Temperament on the Acceptable Noise Level
Externship: University of Virginia Health System, Charlottesville, Virginia

Sarah Elizabeth Irvin
Audiology
Associate Professor Lynzee Cornell
Project: Audiology Orientation for Incoming ENT Residents
Externship: Bay Pines VA Healthcare System, Bay Pines, FL
Souraya Lorenz
Audiology
Associate Professor Pavel Zahorik
Project: Measures in Cognitive Ability in Listeners with Self-Reported Hearing Difficulties but Normal Audiograms
Externship: Arizona Balance and Hearing Aids, Phoenix, AZ

Rebecca Lynn Vajda
Audiology
Associate Professor Pavel Zahorik
Project: Spatial Hearing Deficits in Normal-Hearing Listeners that Self-report Hearing Difficulties
Externship: Eastpoint Audiology, Louisville, Kentucky

Louisa Ellis Woodson
Audiology
Associate Professor Lynzee Cornell
Project: Put Your Best Ears Forward: Audiology, Cancer Treatment, and Communication Strategies for Everybody
Externship: Robley Rex VA Medical Center, Louisville, Kentucky

Doctor of Philosophy and Their Faculty Mentors

College of Arts and Sciences

Abdullah Al Mamun
Chemistry
Professor Pawel M. Kozlowski
Dissertation: Computational Modelling of Photolysis and Catalysis Reactions in Vitamin B12-Dependent Enzymes

Binod Basyal
Biology
Associate Professor Sarah Emery
Dissertation: Aboveground-Belowground Interactions: Roles of Soil Biotic and Abiotic Factors on Switchgrass’s (Panicum Virgatum) Growth, Defense Against Herbivory and Cell Wall Chemistry

Adarsh Gopinath
Biology
Associate Professor Micah Worley
Dissertation: Development of In Vitro Models to Study the Rapid Extraintestinal Dissemination of Salmonella

Emily Ann Hayden
Criminal Justice
Professor George Higgins
Dissertation: Predictors of Binge Drinking Among Military Veterans: A General Strain Theory Approach
Emily Margaret Homer
Criminal Justice
Professor George Higgins
Dissertation: Examining Corporate Blameworthiness in Relation to Federal Organizational Sentencing for Probation and Corporate Monitors

Caroline Isabelle Jalain
Criminal Justice
Professor George Higgins

Darrell Allen Johnson
Humanities
Associate Professor Simona Bertacco
Dissertation: White Moves First: Unearthing White Privilege in the Modern Board Game

GlyptusAnn Grider Jones
Urban and Public Affairs
Professor David Imbroscio

Abhinav Kumar Maurya
Biology
Associate Professor Sarah Emery
Dissertation: Role of Plant Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) in Seed Priming and Plant-Herbivore Interactions

Cheikh Ahmadou Bamba Ndiaye
Humanities
Professor Dismas Masolo

Tirtha Raj Sibakoti
Chemistry
Co-Chairs Professor Michael Nantz and Professor Francis Zamborini
Dissertation: Aminooxy-Functionalized Monolayer Protected Clusters (MPCs): Synthesis and Applications

Jacob Michael Strain
Chemistry
Professor Francis P. Zamborini
Dissertation: Electrochemical Reduction of Carbon Dioxide and Carbon Monoxide for the Production of Green Fuels and Chemicals
Denise Vulhop Watkins
Humanities
Professor Cate Fosl
Dissertation: *The Long Journey Down Market Street: An Oral History Based Biography of Mary B. Craik*

Jamar M. Wheeler
Applied Sociology
Associate Professor Latricia E. Best
Dissertation: *Black Middle-Class Neighborhoods in Louisville through Multiple Lenses*

**College of Education and Human Development**

Joshua David Anna
Educational Leadership and Organizational Development
Associate Professor Meera Alagaraja
Dissertation: *The Making of a Whole Person: The Relationship of Job Crafting and Leisure Crafting on Work Engagement, Occupational Role Salience, Job Performance and Psychological Well-Being*

Stacy Crawford Bewley
Curriculum and Instruction
Professor Amy Lingo
Dissertation: *The Effects of Self-Regulated Strategy Development Instruction on Argument Writing Skills of Adolescents with Mild Disabilities*

Brigitte Maria Burpo
Educational Leadership and Organizational Development
Associate Professor Meg Hancock
Dissertation: *“It’s Personal”: A Case Study Analysis of the Strategic Management of Resources in a Historically Black University Athletic Department*

Shawna Marie Clark
Counseling and Personnel Services
Assistant Professor Amy Hirschy
Dissertation: *Short-Term Financial Confidence as a Predictor of Academic Achievement and Six-Year Graduation Success of First-Year Students*

Adam Renner Cocco
Educational Leadership and Organizational Development
Associate Professor Marion E. Hambrick
Dissertation: *Fandom from Afar: Identification, Attachment, and Consumption Behaviors Among United States Based Fans of English Premier League Soccer Clubs*
Allison Paige Fowler  
Counseling and Personnel Services  
Professor Jeffrey Valentine  
Dissertation:  *We’ve Got the ‘Hots’ for Changing Teacher Misconceptions of Learning Styles: A Mixed-Methods Approach*

Seonghun Lee  
Educational Leadership and Organizational Development  
Professor Mary Hums  
Dissertation:  *Promoting Healthy Aging: An Investigation of the Relationships Among Sport Satisfaction, Sport Identity, and Sport Commitment in the Well-Being of Older Adults*

**School of Public Health and Information Sciences**

T’shura S.A. Ali  
Public Health Science  
Associate Professor Kira Taylor  
Dissertation:  *Tobacco Smoke Exposure and Fertility-Related Outcomes Among Females Seeking Fertility Care, and Interaction with N-Acetyltransferase 2 (NAT2)*

Turky Jamil M. Arbaein  
Public Health Science  
Professor Bert Little  
Dissertation:  *Preventable Hospitalization Among Type 2 Diabetes Patients in Kentucky Before and After Medicaid Expansion 2010-2017*

Suur Debrah Ayangeakaa  
Public Health Science  
Assistant Professor Jelani Kerr  
Dissertation:  *A Novel Approach to HIV Prevention: Understanding Multi-Level Influences on HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) Uptake and Outreach Among African Americans*

Arinjita Bhattacharyya  
Biostatistics  
Professor Shesh Rai  
Dissertation:  *Novel Inference Methods for Generalized Linear Models Using Shrinkage Priors and Data Augmentation*

Stacey L. Konkle  
Public Health Science  
Associate Professor Kristina Zierold  
Dissertation:  *Volatile Organic Compound Exposure and Cardiometabolic Syndrome Risk in a Nationally Representative Cohort*
Whitney Thomas Rogers
Public Health Science
Associate Professor Scott LaJoie
Dissertation: Converting Threats Into Opportunities Predicting Medical Error Reporting Behavior

Michael N. Sekula
Biostatistics
Associate Professor Jeremy Gaskins
Dissertation: Novel Bayesian Methodology for the Analysis of Single-Cell RNA Sequencing Data

Giang Truong Vu
Public Health Science
Professor Bert Little
Dissertation: Oral Health-Related Quality of Life in U.S. Adults with Type 2 Diabetes

Interdisciplinary Studies

Lindsay K. Knight
Interdisciplinary Studies: Specialization in Translational Neuroscience Assistant Professor Brendan Depue
Dissertation: Anxiety and How to Control It: The Functional Role of the Bed Nucleus of the Stria Terminalis

Courtney Therese Shepard
Interdisciplinary Studies: Specialization in Translational Neuroscience Co-Chairs Professor Scott Whittemore and Professor David Magnuson
Dissertation: The Role of Inter-Enlargement Propriospinal Neurons in Locomotion Following Spinal Cord Injury

Raymond A. Kent School of Social Work

Monica Michelle Adams
Social Work
Associate Professor Emma Sterrett-Hong
Dissertation: Identifying Protective Factors Against Overweight and Obesity within the Social Environment of Women with Low Incomes

Jennifer Lynn Ballard-King
Social Work
Associate Professor Adrian Archuleta
Dissertation: Development and Validation of the Measure of Perceived Safety in the College Classroom: A Mixed Methods Phenomenological Research Study
Daniel Agyei Boamah
Social Work
Co-Chairs Professor Anita Barbee and Professor Crystal Collins-Camargo
Dissertation: *Risks of Indirect Trauma Among Direct Support Professionals Who Work with Adults with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities: Impact on Organizational, Staff and Client Outcomes*

Shannon M. Mount
Social Work
Professor Armon Perry
Dissertation: *Coparenting and School Success: Perspective of Fathers*

**School of Medicine**

Adrienne Marie Bushau-Sprinkle
Pharmacology and Toxicology
Professor Eleanor Lederer
Dissertation: *Mechanistic Insight of the Role of NHERF1 in Cisplatin-induced Acute Kidney Injury*

Peter Whitney Campbell
Anatomical Sciences and Neurobiology
Professor William Guido
Dissertation: *Formation, Organization, and Synaptic Properties of Circuits Between Thalamic Reticular Nucleus and Dorsal Lateral Geniculate Nucleus*

Lindsey Reynolds Conroy
Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics
Associate Professor Brian Clem
Dissertation: *The Retinoblastoma Protein Mediates Metabolic Reprogramming in Lung Cancer*

Lexiao Jin
Pharmacology and Toxicology
Professor Daniel Conklin
Dissertation: *The Cardiovascular Effects of Tobacco Product-Derived Aldehydes: Contribution of Transient Receptor Potential Ankyrin-1*

Dylan MacGregor Johnson
Microbiology and Immunology
Professor Igor Lukashevich
Dissertation: *Development of Rationally Designed Live Attenuated Vaccines for LASSA Fever and Venezuelan Equine Encephalitis*
Fengyuan Li  
Pharmacology and Toxicology  
Associate Professor Wenke Feng  
Dissertation: The Role of Antimicrobial Peptide Cathelicidin in Alcohol-Related Liver Diseases

Yihong Li  
Pharmacology and Toxicology  
Professor Shao-yu Chen  
Dissertation: Sulforaphane Protects Against Ethanol-Induced Apoptosis and Teratogenesis through Epigenetic Modulation of Anti-Apoptotic Genes

Jordan Bailey Lynch  
Pharmacology and Toxicology  
Professor Daniel Conklin  
Dissertation: Tobacco Product-Derived Aldehydes: Effects on Circulating Angiogenic Cells & Implications for Cardiovascular Disease

Shuhan Meng  
Pharmacology and Toxicology  
Assistant Professor Chi Li  
Dissertation: Exosomes from Embryonic Stem Cells as a Prophylactic Vaccine Against Lung Cancer

Irina Miralda Molina  
Microbiology and Immunology  
Co-Chairs Associate Professor Silvia M. Uriarte and Associate Professor Matt Lawrenz  
Dissertation: The Emerging Oral Pathogen, Filifactor Alocis, Disrupts Neutrophil Functions to Enhance Survival and Dysregulate Inflammation

Amanda Rose Pulsifer  
Microbiology and Immunology  
Associate Professor Matthew Lawrenz  
Dissertation: Modulation of Host Innate Immune Cells by Yersinia Pestis to Create a Permissive Environment for Replication

Pradeep Shrestha  
Microbiology and Immunology  
Professor Haval Shirwan  
Dissertation: Transient Display of Chimeric Proteins on Biological Surfaces as an Effective Strategy for Modulation of Innate and Adaptive Immune Responses
Yuxuan Zheng
Pharmacology and Toxicology
Associate Professor Walter Watson
Dissertation: The Role of SLC7A11 as a Controller of Extracellular and Intracellular Redox Environments of Fibroblasts and a Target for Interventions of Susceptibility of Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis

J. B. Speed School of Engineering

Omar Dekhil
Computer Science and Engineering
Professor Adel Elmaghraby
Dissertation: Computational Techniques in Medical Image Analysis: Application for White Blood Cells Classification

Gang Hao
Industrial Engineering
Professor Kevin Gue
Dissertation: GridHub: A Grid-Based, High-Density Material Handling System

Fatemeh Karami
Industrial Engineering
Associate Professor Monica Gentili
Dissertation: Optimization and Simulation Models to Improve Access to Organ Transplantation in the United States

Niknam Momenzadeh
Mechanical Engineering
Associate Professor Thomas Berfield
Dissertation: Influences of Material Extrusion Additive Manufacturing (MEAM) Parameters and Additives on Polyvinylidene Fluoride (PVDF) Properties

Fereshteh Noorbakhsh
Civil Engineering
Professor Arthur. Parola
Dissertation: Susceptibility Assessment of Bank and Floodplain Erosion in Stream Restoration Using a Two-dimensional Hydrodynamic Model

Michael Goodman Schroeder
Mechanical Engineering
Associate Professor Ellen Brehob
Dissertation: Impact of Magnetocaloric Material Properties on Performance of a Magnetocaloric Heat Pump
Paramjot Singh
Mechanical Engineering
Assistant Professor Kunal Kate
Dissertation: Materials-Processing Relationships for Metal Fused Filament Fabrication of Ti-6Al-4V Alloy

Jie Zhang
Industrial Engineering
Associate Professor Lihui Bai
Dissertation: Joint Location and Inventory Models and Algorithms for Deployment of Hybrid Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

Ruoshi Zhang
Electrical Engineering
Professor Dan Popa
Dissertation: Microrobots for Wafer Scale Microfactory: Design, Fabrication, Integration and Control
The Graduate Dean’s Citations

Monica Michelle Adams  
Ph.D. Social Work  
Mentor: Associate Professor Emma Sterrett-Hong

T’shura S.A. Ali  
Ph.D. Public Health Science  
Mentor: Associate Professor Kira Taylor

Emily Anderson  
M.S.S.W. Social Work  
Mentor: Professor Andy Frey

Joshua Paul Baerwald  
M.M. Music  
Mentor: Professor Steve Rouse

Jennifer Lynn Ballard-Kang  
Ph.D. Social Work  
Mentor: Associate Professor Adrian Archuleta

Binod Basyal  
Ph.D. Biology  
Mentor: Professor Sarah Emery

Arinjita Bhattacharyya  
Ph.D. Biostatistics  
Mentor: Professor Shesh Rai

Daniel Boamah  
Ph.D. Social Work  
Co-Mentors Professor Anita Barbee and Professor Crystal Collins-Carmago

Christian Alexander Brawner  
M.A. Anthropology  
Mentor: Professor Julie Peteet

Rebecca Smith Burden  
Au.D. Audiology  
Mentor: Professor Jill Preminger

Brigitte Maria Burpo  
Ph.D. Educational Leadership and Organizational Development  
Mentor: Associate Professor Meg Hancock

Adam Renner Cocco  
Ph.D. Educational Leadership and Organizational Development  
Mentors: Associate Professor Marion Hambrick

Carrie Lee Cole  
M.S.S.W. Social Work  
Mentor: Instructor Larry Michalczyk

Lindsey Reynolds Conroy  
Ph.D. Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics  
Mentor: Associate Professor Brian Clem

Andrew Richard Cook  
M.S.S.W. Social Work  
Mentor: Professor Becky Antle

Holden Chase Dillman  
M.S.S.W Social Work  
Mentor: Professor Becky Antle

Amanda Hall  
M.S.S.W Social Work  
Mentor: Instructor Larry Michalczyk

Wendy Ann Highbarger  
M.S.S.W. Social Work  
Mentor: Instructor Sharon Sanders

Clea Janelle Grubb  
M.S.S.W Social Work  
Mentor: Professor Andy Frey
Joseph Lee Holland  
M.S. Health Administration  
Co-Mentors: Assistant Professor Alex Kerns and Associate Professor Lee Bewley

Caitlin Marie Holliday  
Au.D. Audiology  
Mentor: Assistant Professor Lynzee Cornell

Angelique Elene Johnson  
M.S.S.W. Social Work  
Mentor: Instructor Sharon Sander

Dylan MacGregor Johnson  
Ph.D. Microbiology and Immunology  
Mentor: Professor Igor Lukashevich

Christina Valeria Jones  
M.S.S.W. Social Work  
Mentor: Professor Anna Faul

Fatemeh Karami  
Ph.D. Industrial Engineering  
Mentor: Associate Professor Monica Gentili

Stacey L. Konkle  
Ph.D. Public Health Science  
Co-Mentors: Associate Professors Kira Taylor and Associate Professor Kristina Zierold

Kaylee Ann Korfhage  
M.S.S.W. Social Work  
Mentor: Instructor Sharon Sanders

Payton Elizabeth Kruer  
M.S.S.W Social Work  
Mentor: Instructor Larry Michalczyk

Ashley Rose Logsdon  
M.S.S.W. Social Work  
Mentor: Professor Becky Antle

Shawnnesha Nicole Mahoney  
M.S.S.W. Social Work  
Mentor: Lecturer Lori Paris

Abhinav Kumar Maurya  
Ph.D. Biology  
Mentor: Professor Sarah Emery

Frances Lee Mican  
M.S.S.W. Social Work  
Mentor: Instructor Larry Michalczyk

Irina Miralda Molina  
Ph.D. Microbiology and Immunology  
Co-Mentors: Associate Professor Silvia Uriarte and Associate Professor Matt Lawrenz

Shannon M. Mount  
Ph.D. Social Work  
Mentor: Professor Armon Perry

Howard Lucas Muncy  
M.A. History  
Mentor: Professor Thomas Mackey

Cheikh Ahmadou Bamba Ndiaye  
Ph.D. Pan- African Studies  
Mentor: Professor Dismas Masolo

Elizabeth Featherston Odom  
M.S.S.W. Social Work  
Mentor: Professor Becky Antle

Taylor Diane Ohlmann  
M.A. Spanish  
Mentor: Associate Professor Gregory Hutchenson

Amanda Rose Pulsifer  
Ph.D. Microbiology and Immunology  
Mentor: Associate Professor Matt Lawrenz
Tabitha Renee Ramos
M.S.S.W. Social Work
Mentor: Lecturer Lori Paris

Taylor Jean Rengers
M.S. Sport Administration
Mentor: Assistant Professor Megan Shreffler

Whitney Thomas Rogers
Ph.D. Public Health Science
Mentor: Associate Professor A. Scott LaJoie

Michael N. Sekula
Ph.D. Biostatistics
Mentor: Associate Professor Jeremy Gaskins

Valerie Ann Sessler
M.S.S.W. Social Work
Mentor: Lecturer Lori Paris

Morohunfolu Jimade Seton
M.A. Communication
Mentor: Associate Professor Siobhan Smith-Jones

Pradeep Shrestha
Ph.D. Microbiology and Immunology
Mentor: Professor Haval Shirwan

Dylan Parker Teel
M.M. Music
Mentor: Professor Frederick Speck

Ashlee Ann Van Schyndel
M.P.H. Public Health
Mentor: Assistant Professor Liza Creel

Giang Truong Vu
Ph.D. Public Health Science
Mentor: Professor Bertis Little
Graduate Student Leadership

Mutiya Adetokunbo Ade-Salu  
MFA, Theatre Arts  
MAGS Vice President 2019-2020

Brigitte Marie Burpo  
Ph.D., Educational Leadership and Organizational Development  
MAGS Vice President 2018-2019  
MAGS Secretary, 2019  
Graduate Student Ambassador 2018-2020

Rubens Petit Homme  
M.S. Physiology and Biophysics  
GSC Director of Outreach 2018-2019

Samantha LaMar  
M.Ed, College Student Personnel  
Graduate Student Ambassador 2019-2020

University of Louisville Chief Administrative Officers

Neeli Bendapudi, President
Beth A. Boehm, Executive Vice President and University Provost
Kevin Gardner, Executive Vice President for Research and Innovation
Ralph Fitzpatrick, Vice President for Community Engagement
Brad Shafer, Vice President for University Advancement
Vincent Tyra, Vice President for Athletics
Sandy Russell, Vice President for Enterprise Risk Management and Compliance
Thomas Hoy, Vice President for Strategy and General Counsel
Dan Durbin, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

Administrative Officers of the Graduate School

Paul J. DeMarco  
Acting Vice Provost for Graduate Affairs,  
Acting Dean of the Graduate School

Barbara Clark  
Acting Associate Dean of the Graduate School
Deans
Craig H. Blakely, School of Public Health and Information Sciences
T. Gerald Bradley, School of Dentistry
Emmanuel Collins, J. B. Speed School of Engineering
Colin Crawford, Brandeis School of Law
Paul J. DeMarco, Acting, Graduate School
Robert Fox, University Libraries
Toni Ganzel, School of Medicine
Sonya Hardin, School of Nursing
David Jenkins, Kent School of Social Work
David Owen, Interim, College of Arts and Sciences
Amy Lingo, Interim, College of Education and Human Development
James Michael Mardis, Dean of Students, Vice Provost for Student Affairs
Todd Mooradian, College of Business
Teresa Reed, School of Music

Graduate Council
Gina Bertocci, Professor of Bioengineering, J. B. Speed School of Social Work
Stephanie Boone, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology and Population Health, School of Public Health and Information Sciences
Cara Cashon, Associate Professor, College of Arts and Sciences
Becky Christian, Professor of Nursing Education, School of Nursing
Geoffrey Clark, Associate Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology, School of Medicine
Brittney Corniel, Graduate Student Council Representative, Graduate Student in Nursing, School of Nursing
Christopher Davis, Professor of Physics, College of Arts and Sciences
Lindsay Della, Associate Professor of Communication, College of Arts and Sciences
Sarah Drerup, Instructor of Library Reference Assistance, University Libraries
Bobby Garrett, Associate Professor of Entrepreneurship, College of Business
Jacob Gross, Associate Professor of Educational Leadership and Organizational Leadership, College of Education and Human Development
Bakeerathan Gunaratnam, Assistant Professor of Bioinformatics and Biostatistics, School of Public Health and Information Sciences

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

Karen Kopelson, Associate Professor of English, College of Arts and Sciences

Michele Kosiewicz, Associate Professor of Microbiology and Immunology, School of Medicine

Alexa Melvin, Graduate Student Council President, Graduate Student in Interdisciplinary Studies: Specialization in Translational Bioengineering, Graduate School

Matthew Nelson, Associate Professor of Performance Studies, School of Music

Dan Popa, Professor in Electrical Engineering, J. B. Speed School of Engineering

Patrick Pössel, Professor of Education Counseling and Psychology, College of Education and Human Development

Mark Running, Associate Professor of Biology, College of Arts and Sciences

Bibhuti Sar, Professor of Social Work, Raymond A. Kent School of Social Work

Dale Schuschke, Professor of Physiology, School of Medicine

David Scott, Professor of Oral Health and Rehabilitation, School of Dentistry

JoAnne Sweeny, Associate Professor of Law Instruction, Law School

Gerold Willing, Associate Professor of Chemical Engineering, J.B. Speed School of Engineering

Elaine Wise, Assistant Professor of English, College of Arts and Sciences