Fall 2022 Celebration

December 16, 2022
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

Claire Elizabeth Westcott
Ph.D. Microbiology and Immunology
Mentor: Associate Professor Kevin Sokoloski

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. Claire Westcott 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.

Born in rural southeast Missouri, an area with limited access to science education, Claire Westcott has always had a passion for science literacy and outreach. She received her bachelor’s degree in biology from the University of Missouri, where she worked in multiple microbiology labs. In 2016, Claire moved to Louisville where she became a technician for Dr. Kevin Sokoloski, later joining the lab as a PhD student focused on RNA protein interactions with alphaviruses. Claire jumped headfirst into volunteering her extra time with the Science Policy and Outreach Group (SPOG) at the University of Louisville and the Louisville Regional Science and Engineering Fair (LRSEF). During her time in SPOG, Claire took on a variety of leadership opportunities as Policy Coordinator, Louisville Science Pathways Director, and Director of SPOG. Under her direction, Claire implemented and expanded several programs that focused on opening doors for future scientists and improving inclusivity within the science community. Claire was instrumental in establishing the partnership between Louisville Science Pathways (LSP) and Kentuckiana Works, an organization that supports the Louisville community by making job seeking more equitable. This partnership helped make Louisville Science Pathways a fully funded research internship, which allowed the program to reach more members of underserved populations. She continued to serve LSP as a director for two more years.

Claire also served as a board member to the Louisville Regional Science and Engineering Fair, where she pioneered programming to promote equity and engagement within the fair and founded STEM Ambassadors. This program recruits scientists in the Louisville community to participate in LRSEF, build relationships with young scientists, and promote excitement for different scientific fields.
Claire was also a leader in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at the University of Louisville. Claire served as president of the Microbiology and Immunology Student Organization, where she built a community among graduate students. She also served as the student representative to the M&I Admissions Committee and department orientation where she provided a welcoming space for prospective and new students.

Claire’s passion for science communication is also prominent in her written work, as she has several first author publications that include her dissertation work about viral RNA and protein interactions and the local SARS-CoV-2 Wastewater Surveillance program. Upon graduation and throughout her career, she plans to continue to focus on science communication and outreach.
The John Richard Binford Memorial Award

Kyle Levi Fulghum
Ph.D. Physiology and Biophysics
Mentor: Professor Bradford Hill

Kyle Fulghum 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.

Kyle Fulghum earned a Bachelor’s degree (summa cum laude) in Biological Chemistry from Evangel University and a Master’s degree in Cell and Molecular Biology from Missouri State University. Prior to starting his doctoral studies at the University of Louisville, Kyle worked in clinical and basic lab research settings where he focused on projects related to physical activity, airborne toxins, and human health. While pursuing his PhD at UofL, Kyle’s work on cardiac metabolism resulted in 9 peer-reviewed publications, 11 presentations at national conferences, and the awarding of an international Early Investigator Award from the Society for Heart and Vascular Metabolism.

Currently, Kyle’s research is funded by the National Institute of Health and investigates how aerobic exercise training promotes physiological remodeling of the heart. One of his overarching goals is to understand how exercise can be optimized to improve health and reduce the risks of complex diseases. Some of his work has been highlighted in a co-authored textbook chapter for the American Physiological Society and in several peer-reviewed journals, including the Journal of Molecular and Cellular Cardiology, Journal of Sport and Health Sciences, and the American Journal of Physiology.

Kyle’s passion for human health and performance began with his participation in athletics at an early age, which he continued throughout his life. As a doctoral student, Kyle continued his involvement in athletics, participating as a weightlifting athlete in regional and national events, which included winning a Kentucky State Championship. He further established himself as a leader in the field of exercise sciences by holding active memberships with organizations such as the American Heart Association, American College of Sports Medicine, and USA Weightlifting. While at UofL, Kyle served on additional training committees, represented the Department of Physiology in the Graduate Student Council, and helped mentor several students with research projects.
After graduation, Kyle plans to continue his work examining the connections between exercise, metabolism, and human health. He would like to incorporate the use of innovative technologies to develop strategies for personalized healthcare and the optimization of exercise training protocols.
The John M. Houchens Prize for Outstanding Dissertation

Mohamed Nazih Mohamed Shehata
Ph.D. Computer Science and Engineering
Co-Mentors: Professors Adel Elmaghraby and Ayman El-Baz

Mohamed Nazih Mohamed Shehata 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.

Mohamed Shehata, PhD (Member, IEEE) received his B.Sc. degree in Computer Engineering and Control Systems from Mansoura University, Egypt, 2009. In 2014, he joined the BioImaging Lab at the University of Louisville. In 2016, Mohamed was awarded his M.Sc. degree from the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department at the University of Louisville, and directly enrolled in his Ph.D. program in the Computer Engineering and Computer Science Department. Mohamed successfully defended his PhD in Summer 2022. His dissertation focuses on machine and deep learning for medical imaging analysis, specifically, on the design of computer-aided diagnostic (CAD) systems for detection/classification of kidney diseases such as acute renal transplant rejection from diffusion-weighted and BOLD-MRIs and renal cancer from contrast-enhanced computed tomography images. In addition, he is working on developing new techniques for the early diagnosis, detection, and prediction of different types of cancers such as liver cancer, spine cancer, breast cancer, prostate cancer, Wilms tumors, and so on. Mohamed authored more than 60 technical peer reviewed publications, and he has also received more than 20 international and local prestigious awards, including the MIT technology review Award for innovators under 35 years old in 2021, Doctoral Dissertation completion award in 2021, Research of Louisville in 2021, EPIC innovator award in 2019 and 2020, Exemplary research scholarship award (2019-2022). Mohamed is currently serving as a Guest-Editor for three prestigious journals, Frontiers in Medicine, Sensors, and Electronics, and he serves as a Review-Editor in Frontiers in Neuroimaging and Frontiers in Medicine as well.
The Virginia “Jenny” Madden Award for Graduate Student Leadership and Service

Jose M. Najera
M.S. Human Resources and Organization Development
Mentor: Associate Professor Ann Herd

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’s degree recipient who exhibits leadership through service to the recipient’s program, college, discipline, the University as a whole, and/or the community. Jose M. Najera is this year’s recipient of the Madden award.

Jose’s dedication to helping others reach their fullest potential and build bright, equitable futures is evident in all that he does. Jose M Najera is a graduating student from the University of Louisville Master of Science in Human Resources and Organization Development. Born in Guatemala and raised in Los Angeles, California, he now calls Louisville home.

During his studies, Jose gained knowledge in human resource and organizational development leadership, adult and organization learning, and talent management, which he applied when reestablishing the University of Louisville’s Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) Student Chapter. Serving as Chapter President, Jose was responsible for coordinating numerous educational events and student-led activities, as well as being the liaison between local and state SHRM chapters and various schools and departments. Jose helped create a space for students to learn, collaborate, and lead.

As a former senior military leader with 20 years of service, Jose has a keen understanding of the importance of communication, building relationships, and commitment to serving. This, along with his academic experience, and work in the public and private sectors, has allowed Jose to develop a broad perspective of how people and organizations can help elevate marginalized communities by creating opportunities. Now, as a Training Specialist at the Digital Transformation Center at the University of Louisville, and the Health-Equity Innovation Hub, he is charged with building a regional talent pipeline through upskilling and reskilling digital and analytics competencies to create family-sustaining careers for community members. Jose’s commitment and the Digital Transformation Center’s mission are helping to create a better future for everyone in the Louisville community.
The Alice Eaves Barns Award for Outstanding Achievement in Master’s Program

Dustin Ray Smith  
M.A. Anthropology  
Mentor: Assistant Professor Thomas Jennings

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 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. Dustin Smith is one of this year’s recipients of the Barns award, and he tells his own story in his words here:

Most folks in my small town did not aspire to go to college. Personally, my family did not put much importance on education. Grades were not something that I had to worry about. There were no consequences for not doing homework, or for bringing home a failing grade. I didn’t graduate from high school. As the years went by, I found myself wanting more. I longed for more financial stability, and as someone part of the LGBTQ+ community who was living in a small southern town, I didn’t feel as safe or as understood as I would like. At the age of 24 I got my driver’s license and started studying for the GED. After I aced the practice test the first time out, I was advised to take the actual test and passed on the first try.

These accomplishments gave me the encouragement that I needed, and I decided to go to my local community college. After completing my work there, I enrolled in the anthropology program at Western Kentucky University and excelled, graduating magna cum laude and winning an award for outstanding undergraduate in cultural resource management. My first semester in UofL’s graduate program in Anthropology was tough. As someone from a small town who had always struggled with anxiety, being in a much larger city was a very hard adjustment. I had a number of personal losses, which led me to take a break from school. Some time away from school seemed to do the trick and I was able to return the following semester and finish my incomplete work.

The following semester things seemed to be improving. My coursework was going well, and I was offered a position as a TA (one of my proudest achievements). However, 2019 was another tough year for my partner and family. My partner was having a difficult time with his mental health, and his drinking increased. He bounced around between several jobs. During this time, my mother was diagnosed with having blood clots and cancer, and then rapidly progressing dementia. My mental health took a turn. I found it difficult to take care of everything
that I needed to take care of. My family wanted me to move back home, but I knew that if I did that there was a chance that I wouldn’t finish school. I was one of the first people in my family to go to college. If I stopped then, I knew that I would regret it forever.

The desire to finish my degree is what has kept me in Louisville. Although I have sometimes struggled with my coursework at UofL, I have also learned about perseverance. In fact, I have actually drawn strength and inspiration from my coursework. Much of the subject matter in the courses that I have taken centers around groups of people who have dealt with things that I cannot even imagine. I remember thinking, if they can survive all they did, I can make it through school! As an outsider, I could identify with the people I read about, and I believe that it gave me strength. Although I definitely still struggle with my mental health, upon looking back, I am glad that I have persisted and have not given up on my education. As I finish my last semester, I must say that I am proud of myself. My final project consists of creating an exhibit around the servants who lived and worked in the Conrad-Caldwell House. Not only were most of the servants from marginalized groups, but they have also largely been neglected when the history of the house is presented. It is my sincere hope that I do justice to those who have largely been ignored by history. I hope to make the invisible now visible. I’m so glad I did not give up on school and that I now have the opportunity to do this work.
The Alice Eaves Barns Award for Outstanding Achievement in Master’s Program

Bolaji Michael Ogbulu
M.U.P. Urban Planning/ M.P.A. Public Administration

Co-Mentors: Associate Professors Aaron Rollins and Sumei Zhang

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 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. The award is given in recognition of outstanding achievement in a master’s program. Bolaji Ogbulu is one of this year’s recipients of the Barns award, and he tells his own story in his words here:

In March of 2020, just before the COVID-19 pandemic engulfed our lives, my mother, Robin Ogbulu, was diagnosed with a rare, but manageable form of cancer called Multiple Myeloma. My parents were divorced, and I am the oldest of three children so took charge of everything. My mother had a few surgeries after the diagnosis and was not well enough to manage everything, so I became the power of attorney, managed her finances, and consulted with her doctors. During the summer of 2020, prior to my enrollment in my program, my mom lived with my wife and I and we cared for her in the second bedroom of our apartment. COVID-19 made everything more difficult. Due to the extreme risk to those in skilled nursing facilities, no long-term facilities were taking patients. I questioned whether I should defer graduate school to focus on her care. By early August just before the semester was set to begin, my mother’s health seemed to be steadily improving and we were lucky to find a nursing facility that could admit her. With that weight off my shoulders, I felt comfortable enough to start school that fall semester.

Everything was going well. I was enjoying my classes and I checked in on my mom every day and she was doing pretty well – until she wasn’t. In late September, her health took a sudden turn for the worst, and she was hospitalized at UofL. Again, as a result of COVID-19 precautions, there was trouble scheduling regular appointments with doctors and getting consistent treatment. She also wasn’t healing like the doctors expected her to.

Her health spiraled quickly and her once positive prognosis turned for the worst. Since I was the power of attorney, I communicated with her doctors and managed her care while in school full time. It was a lot to manage, and I fell behind some, but I caught back up quickly and I was able to take an incomplete in one of my four classes so that I could ease up for a bit. Within a week of her hospitalization, in the midst of midterms, and a week after her 54th birthday, my mother passed away.
It was a very tough time. Thankfully, my mom’s side of the family is large and not too far away. They were a great comfort to my siblings and me. A week later, we planned the funeral and laid my mom to rest back in our hometown of Lexington.

Education meant a lot to my mom. She never got to finish her education the way that she wanted to so she inspired me and my siblings to learn and make the most of the opportunities that we had. I think that is what drove me to continue through that semester after her passing and it still drives me today. My mom also instilled a desire to serve others and my community. There is not a single day that I don’t think about her and how she put aside her educational and career goals to raise me and put me in the position that I am in today. I intend to carry on her legacy after I graduate and into my future of public service.
Degrees - August and December 2022

Doctor of Audiology and Their Faculty Mentors

Margaret J. Spiegel
Audiology
Professor Lynzee Cornell
Project: Review of Data Regarding Harassment and Micro Aggressions from Patient Toward Providers on University of Louisville’s Health Science Campus

Doctor of Nursing Practice and Their Faculty Mentors

Courtney Alicia Albers
Nursing
Assistant Professor Sarah Schirmer
Project: Improving Trauma-Informed Education and Parenting for Resource Parents at a Foster Care Agency

Tracey Brink
Nursing
Assistant Professor Leann Baker
Project: Development of a Project to Improve Prenatal Education at a Rural Medically Assisted Treatment Center Focused on Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome and Parenting Skills

Anna Louise Davidson
Nursing
Associate Professor Mary-Beth Coty
Project: Reducing Weekly Screen Time Use in College Students

Connor A. Epperson
Nursing
Dr. Kimberly Meyer
Project: Quality Improvement for Timely Extubation in an Urban Community ICU
Hope Kathryn Eppley  
Nursing  
Assistant Professor Candace Harrington  
Project: Quality Improvement DNP Project Proposal for the Prevention of ICU Delirium

Logan Marie Griffith  
Nursing  
Assistant Professor Shannon Shumaker  
Project: Impact of Palliative Care Screening Process Implementation Among Intensive Care Unit Registered Nurses

Kelley Joan James  
Nursing  
Assistant Professor Beverly Williams-Coleman  
Project: Multicomponent Approach to Delirium Prevention in the Acute Care Setting: An Evidence-Based Quality Improvement Project

Christopher George Jenkins  
Nursing  
Assistant Professor Candace Harrington  
Project: Comprehensive Pain Assessment

Paula Johnson  
Nursing  
Assistant Professor Lynette Galloway  
Project: School Nurses’ Participation in Accommodations for Children with Epilepsy: A Quality Improvement Project

Channing Jane Kay  
Nursing  
Assistant Professor Sarah Schirmer  
Project: Trauma-Informed Schools: A Quality Improvement Project for a Rural Public School System

Kimberly M. Knott  
Nursing  
Assistant Professor Paul Clark  
Project: Implementation of Scripted Debriefings Following Neonatal Delivery Room Resuscitations

Ashley Dru Larson  
Nursing  
Associate Professor Mary-Beth Cody  
Project: Retrospective Evaluation of Depression Screening Process Among Older Patients in Primary Care for Quality Improvement
Anna M. Marks  
Nursing  
Associate Professor Elisabeth Volpert  
Project: Implementing a Diabetes Risk Screening Protocol in the Primary Care Setting

Anna M. Moore  
Nursing  
Assistant Professor Katharine Adelstein  
Project: Improving Confidence and Job Satisfaction in Emergency Nurses through TeamSTEPPS

Nicole Moseley Jaeger  
Nursing  
Assistant Professor Leann Baker  
Project: Neonatal Developmental Care Makes SENSE: Implementation of an Evidence-Based Guideline for Developmentally Appropriate Multi-Modal Positive Sensory Exposures

Philip E. Pippen  
Nursing  
Associate Professor Mary-Beth Coty  
Project: Reducing the No-show Rate at a Community Mental Health Organization

Bailee Elizabeth Pope  
Nursing  
Professor Frances Hardin-Fanning  
Project: Feasibility of An Emergency Department Fall Screening Tool and Intervention Bundle Checklist on Nursing Fall Prevention Documentation: A Quality Improvement Project

Jessica Marie Rivera  
Nursing  
Assistant Professor Lynette Galloway  
Project: Implementation and Evaluation of Mental Health Referral Pathway for School Nurses

Sarah Elizabeth Schaefer  
Nursing  
Dr. Kimberly Meyer  
Project: Reducing Rates of Contrast-Induced Nephropathy in the Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory: A Program Evaluation

Erin Shaye Semeyn  
Nursing  
Assistant Professor Emily McRae  
Project: Piloting a Pediatric Obesity Prevention Screening Tool and Intervention in a Family Practice Setting
Emily Christine Storms  
Nursing  
Professor Frances Hardin-Fanning  
Project: It Takes Heart: Cardiovascular Disease Risk Reduction in the Underserved and Underinsured Population of Louisville, Kentucky

Michael Stefan Swift  
Nursing  
Associate Professor Whitney Nash  
Project: Implementation and Evaluation of Asthma Education Cell Phone Application: ASTHMAXcel, Within an Allergy and Asthma Specialty Practice

Maggie Marie Wiser  
Nursing  
Associate Professor Sara Robertson  
Project: A Policy Project: Implementing Safe Firearm Storage Legislation in Kentucky

Shelby Madalyn Young  
Nursing  
Associate Professor Sara Robertson  
Project: Implementation of a Maternal Hypertension Bundle: A Program Evaluation

**Doctor of Education and Their Faculty Mentors**

Rachelle Jean Bramlage-Schomburg  
Educational Leadership and Organizational Development  
Professor William Kyle Ingle  
Dissertation: Teachers’ Perceptions of Professional Development and Pedagogical Practice: A Study of Kentucky Suburban School District
Doctor of Philosophy and Their Faculty Mentors

College of Arts and Sciences

Ciana M. Applegate
Applied and Industrial Mathematics
Assistant Professor Dan Han
Dissertation: A New Sir Model with Mobility

Holley Pitts Arnold
Experimental Psychology
Professor Carolyn Mervis
Dissertation: Self-Regulation in Young School-Aged Children with Williams Syndrome

Kritika Bajaj
Chemistry
Co-Mentors Professors Craig Grapperhaus and Robert Buchanan
Dissertation: Alkythiocarbamate Metal Complexes with Antiproliferation Activity

Ivan Benitez
Criminal Justice
Associate Professor Bradley Campbell
Dissertation: SRO Roles and Teacher Behavioral Intervention Strategies: An Analysis on Behavioral Approaches and Student Suspensions

Diptaparna Biswas
Physics
Associate Professor Swagato Banerjee
Dissertation: Search for a Dark Leptophilic Scalar Produced in Association with Taupair in Electron-Position Annihilation at Center-of-Mass Energies Near 10.58 GeV

Tiffany Jo Brandt
Biology
Associate Professor Deborah Yoder-Himes
Dissertation: Death of a Bacterium: Exploring the Inhibition of Staphylococcus Aureus by Burkholderia Cenocepacia

Leigh Cara Brosof
Clinical Psychology
Associate Professor Cheri Levinson
Dissertation: Investigating the Shared and Unique Mechanisms of the Development of Comorbid Eating Disorder Anxiety Symptoms During Adolescence
Natalie Kaylyn Burke
Clinical Psychology
Professor Richard Lewine
Dissertation: Investigating the Income Academic Achievement Gap: An Exploration of the Roles of Mindfulness and Self-Concept Clarity in Low-Income College Students

Derek A. Carpenter
Humanities
Professor John Gibson
Dissertation: Cultivating the Human Narrative: On Nietzsche, Science Fiction, and the Aesthetics of Life

John Yu-Choh Chang
English/Rhetoric and Composition
Associate Professor Frank Kelderman
Dissertation: Taiwanese Indigenous Representation, Heteroglossia and Rhetorics of Resistance in Warriors of the Rainbow, Seediq Bale

James Gregory Clark
Humanities
Professor Julie Peteet
Dissertation: Reaching Syrians in Need: An Analysis of Humanitarian Aid in the 21st Century

Israel Ricardo Curbelo
Applied and Industrial Mathematics
Associate Professor Csaba Biro
Dissertation: The On-Line Width of Various Classes of Posets

Kathryn Lafferty Danner
Humanities
Professor Ranen Omer-Sherman
Dissertation: The A-Word: Destigmatizing Abortion in American Culture

Jacinta Parthenia Dickens
Clinical Psychology
Professor Anita Barbee
Dissertation: Quality of Life and End-of-Life Plans: The Inclusion of Sexual Health

Lauren Brooke Flaherty
Clinical Psychology
Professor Benjamin Mast
Dissertation: The Effects of Stigman on Quality of Life and Psychological Outcomes in Participants with Varying Reports of Subjective Cognitive Decline
Dalton Seth Gannon
Applied and Industrial Mathematics
Professor Hamid Kulosman
Dissertation: *Properties and Classifications of Certain LCD Codes*

Leon Sergio Garduno Villa
Criminal Justice
Co-Mentors Professor Deborah Keeling and
Associate Professor Kristin Swartz
Dissertation: *The Effects of Gang Membership and Transitions in a Gang on Within-Individual Changes in Offending*

Christina Han
Applied and Industrial Mathematics
Professor Ryan Gill
Dissertation: *Cross-Validation for Autoregressive Models*

Diana Therese DiGasbarro Hedrick
Clinical Psychology
Professor Benjamin Mast
Dissertation: *Changing Public Perception of Dementia: The Effect and Credibility of Three Informational Models*

Hyun Jin Jung
Biology
Professor Mark Running
Dissertation: *Determination of the Functional Rose of RAB-GGT in Physcomitrium Patens*

Anna Maureen Kelley
Experimental Psychology
Co-Mentors Assistant Professor Campbell Bego
and Associate Professor Marci DeCaro
Dissertation: *Effects of Top-down Attention and Individual Differences on Recognition Memory and Recollective Experience*

Wing Yee Jackie Ma
Clinical Psychology
Associate Professor Paul Salmon
Dissertation: *The Combined Benefits of Dispositional Mindfulness and Trait Self-Compassion as Potential Buffers of the Effects of Perceived Stress on Sleep Quality in College-Aged Young Adults*

Michael David Martin
Physics
Professor David Brown
Dissertation: *A Computational Model of the Line-1 Retrotransposon Life Cycle and Visualization of Metabolic Networks in 3-Dimensions*
Suzanne Marie Overstreet  
Criminal Justice  
Co-Mentors Professors George Higgins and Gennaro Vito  
Dissertation: *Understanding Racial Disparate Treatment of Juvenile Interpersonal Violent Offenders in The Juvenile Justice System Using Focal Concerns Theory*

Eve J. Carlisle Polley  
Humanities  
Professor D. A. Masolo  
Dissertation: *Unraveling DNA and Identity: A Humanistic Perspective on Epistemologies and Ethics of Genetic Ancestry Testing*

Christopher Ritter Rickels  
Humanities  
Professor Guy Dove  
Dissertation: *A New Direction for Public Understanding of Science: Toward a Participant-Centered Model of Science Engagement*

Sait Sarr  
Urban and Public Affairs  
Associate Professor Matthew Ruther  
Dissertation: *Barriers and Opportunities to Sustainable Urban Agriculture: The Case of Louisville, Kentucky*

Sarah Kelly Shryock  
Clinical Psychology  
Professor Suzanne Meeks  
Dissertation: *Age-Related Differences in the Relationship Between Activity Familiarity and Well-Being*

Saurin Rahul Sutaria  
Chemistry  
Professor Michael Nantz  
Dissertation: *α, β-Unsaturated Aldehydes: The Underrepresented Markers of Disease*

Ming-Chang Tsai  
Biology  
Professor Michael Perlin  
Dissertation: *Characterization of Microbotryum Lychnidis-Dioicae Secreted Effector Proteins that Manipulate Its Host Plant, Silene Latifolia*

Sida Wan  
Applied and Industrial Mathematics  
Associate Professor Csaba Biro  
Dissertation: *Dimension and Ramsey Results in Partially Ordered Sets*
Alex Jordan Way  
English/Rhetoric and Composition  
Professor Bruce Horner  
Dissertation: *Rewriting Writing as Transmodal and Translingual: Transcribing Japanese*

**College of Business**

Malcolm Armani Muhammad  
Entrepreneurship  
Professor Robert Garrett  
Dissertation: *Ideas in Communities: A Micro-Perspective on Entrepreneurial Ecosystems*

**College of Education and Human Development**

Katrina Ellen Elliott  
Counseling and Personnel Services  
Associate Professor Susan Longerbeam  
Dissertation: *Academic Achievement and Degree Attainment Among Students with Children*

Maame-Safowaa Geary  
Counseling and Personnel Services  
Associate Professor Laurie McCubbin  
Dissertation: *Not Only Black or Only a Woman, a Black Woman: Gendered Racial Microaggressions, Colorism and Hair on Trauma Symptoms*

Ehren Reagor Green  
Educational Leadership and Organizational Development  
Associate Professor Meg Hancock  
Dissertation: *The Person Behind the Team: A Phenomenological Exploration of the Role of the Sport Supervisor in NCAA Division I Intercollegiate Athletics*

Achyut Kulkarni  
Educational Leadership and Organizational Development  
Associate Professor Evan Frederick  
Dissertation: *The Influence of Sponsorship Engagement on Brand Loyalty: An Analysis of On-Site and Social Media Activational Communications*

Timothy Schaun Lau  
Counseling and Personnel Services  
Professor Jeff Valentine  
Dissertation: *The Effect of Typewriting vs Handwriting Lecture Notes on Learning: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis*
Stephen Michael Leach
Counseling and Personnel Services
Co-Mentors Professors Jeffrey Valentine and Jason Immekus
Dissertation: A Psychometric Analysis of the Comprehensive School Survey (CSS) Middle School Version

Edwin Carl Pavy Jr.
Educational Leadership and Organizational Development
Professor Mary Brydon-Miller
Dissertation: “I am Who I am”: LGBTQ+ Student Experiences at a Baptist Liberal Arts University

Jennifer Mary Pollard
Curriculum and Instruction
Professor Ginevra Courtade
Dissertation: Increasing Self-Determination Skills through Behavioral Skills Training for Individuals with Extensive Support Needs to Examine Reversible Contraceptive Choices

Yohimar Andreina Sivira Gonzalez
Curriculum and Instruction
Co-Mentors Associate Professor James Chisholm and Professor Michele Foster
Dissertation: Language Ideologies and Racialization of Language: Multilingual Learners Experiences in the First Year in a Community College

Adam Cory Stieglitz
Educational Leadership and Organizational Development
Professor Mary Brydon-Miller
Dissertation: Voices of the “Served”: Community Resident Perspectives on International Service-Learning in Peru

Katalina Guadalupe Traxler
Counseling and Personnel Services
Associate Professor Susan Longerbeam
Dissertation: Mejorar La Raza: Measuring the Implicit Anti-Black Racial Bias of Multiracial Individuals

Matthew David Trzaskus
Curriculum and Instruction
Co-Mentors Professor Thomas Tretter and Associate Professor Justin McFadden
Dissertation: An Analysis of Public Comments on the Implementation of the NGSS in Kentucky
Tianhong Yao  
Counseling and Personnel Services  
Associate Professor Laurie McCubbin  
Dissertation: *Internalized Racism Mediating the Effects of Ethnic-Racial Socialization on Self-Esteem and Psychological Distress Among Asians and Asian Americans in the United States*

**Interdisciplinary Studies**

Hisham Abouelseoud Elsayem Abdeltawab  
Interdisciplinary Studies, specialization in Translational Bioengineering  
Professor Ayman El-Baz  
Dissertation: *Role of Deep Learning Techniques in Non-Invasive Diagnosis of Human Diseases*

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

Yaser Abdelrahman ElNakieb  
Interdisciplinary Studies, specialization in Translational Bioengineering  
Professor Ayman El-Baz  
Dissertation: *The Role of MRI in Diagnosing Autism: a Machine Learning Perspective*

Jessica Marie Miller  
Interdisciplinary Studies, specialization in Translational Bioengineering  
Co-Mentors Professor Guruprasad Giridharan and Associate Professor Tamer M. Mohamed  
Dissertation: *Re-engineering Cardio-oncology Testing using Biomimetic Heart Slice Cultures*

Ahmed Mosaad EIsaid Mohamed Naglah  
Interdisciplinary Studies, specialization in Translational Bioengineering  
Professor Ayman El-Baz  
Dissertation: *The Role of Generative Adversarial Networks in Bioimage Analysis and Computational Diagnostics*

**School of Public Health and Information Sciences**

Sahal Abdulrahman Alzahrani  
Public Health Sciences  
Professor Chris Johnson  
Dissertation: *Rehabilitation Length of Stay in Individuals with Spinal Cord Injury Paraplegia*
Sagnik K. Bhadury
Biostatistics
Co-Mentors Associate Professor Jeremy Gaskins
and Associate Professor Riten Mitra
Dissertation:  *Bayesian Methods for Graphical Models with Neighborhood Selection*

Sara Atherton Choate
Public Health Sciences
Associate Professor Liza Creel
Dissertation:  *Meeting the Mental Health Needs of College-Aged Young Adults: Evaluating the Value and Impact of Digital Mental Health Interventions*

Siddhesh Shripad Kulkarni
Biostatistics
Associate Professor James Gaskins
Dissertation:  *Bayesian Methodologies for Constrained Spaces*

Daniel Riggs
Public Health Sciences
Professor Kathy Baumgartner
Dissertation:  *Ecological Differences in the Associations Between Air Pollution, Greenness, and Risk of Stroke: The Regards Study*

Don Ramesh Dinendra Sudaraka Tholkage
Biostatistics
Co-Mentors Associate Professor Qi Zheng and Professor K.B. Kulasekera
Dissertation:  *Statistical Methods for Personalized Treatment Selection and Survival Data Analysis Based on Observational Data with High-Dimensional Covariates*

Madeline May Tomlinson
Public Health Sciences
Associate Professor Anne Baber Wallis
Dissertation:  *A Mixed Methods Assessment of Menstrual Hygiene Management and School Attendance Among School Girls in Edo State, Nigeria*

Monique Williams
Public Health Sciences
Professor Monica Wendel
Dissertation:  *“...You Can’t Unknow It, It’s a New Reality”: A Case Study Exploring a Social Justice Public Health Intervention’s Impact on Critical Consciousness Development in Youth*
Lindsey Adelle Wood
Public Health Sciences
Assistant Professor Natalie DuPré
Dissertation: *Environmental Noise Exposure and its Association with Elementary Standardized Testing Scores and Adult Mental Ill-Health in Louisville, Kentucky*

Yuanbao Zhang
Public Health Sciences
Professor Qunwei Zhang
Dissertation: *The Role of MMP-3 in Copper Oxide Nanoparticle-Induced Pulmonary Inflammation and Fibrosis*

**Raymond A. Kent School of Social Work and Family Science**

Katherine Cameron
Social Work
Professor Seana Golder
Dissertation: *Using the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System to Evaluate Realized, Effective, and Equitable Healthcare Access in the Census Bureau’s Region 3, Division 7*

Alyssa Ashlyn Middleton
Social Work
Co-Mentors Professors Karlynn BrintzenhofeSzoc and Karen Kayser
Dissertation: *Pediatric Oncology Social Work Job Analysis*

Sara M. Williams
Social Work
Associate Professor Laura Frey
Dissertation: *Stigma Described by Attempt Survivors with Divers Gender and Sexual Identities in Their Suicide Stories: A Hermeneutic Phenomenological Dissertation*

**School of Medicine**

Alyssa Sue Aebersold
Pharmacology and Toxicology
Professor Zhao-Hui Song
Dissertation: *Application of Cannabidiol to Ocular Pharmacokinetics and Pharmacodynamics*
Mark Vincent Carreon dela Cerna
Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics
Co-Mentors Assistant Professor T. Michael Sabo
and Associate Professor Brian Clem
Dissertation: Applications of Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy: From Drug Discovery to Protein Structure and Dynamics

Greta Marie Cesarz
Physiology and Biophysics
Professor David Magnuson
Dissertation: Defining the Impact of Clinically Modeled Hindlimb Stretching, Exercise, & Inactivity on Functional Recovery after Spinal Cord Injury

Benjamin Tyler Charpentier
Anatomical Sciences and Neurobiology
Professor Scott Whittemore
Dissertation: Targeting Pathological Changes in the Gut Protects the CNS from Neuropathology

Nagwa A. ElBaz
Pharmacology and Toxicology
Associate Professor Martin O’Toole
Dissertation: The Impact of PEGylation on Cellular Uptake and in Vivo Biodistribution of Gold Nanoparticle MRI Contrast Agents

Kyle Levi Fulghum
Physiology and Biophysics
Professor Bradford Hill
Dissertation: Metabolic Foundations of Exercise Induced Cardiac Growth

Mariam Refaat Zaky Habil
Pharmacology and Toxicology
Professor David Hein
Dissertation: Investigation of Human N-acetyltransferases (NAT1 and NAT2) Genetic Polymorphisms in Susceptibility to Aromatic Amine and Alkylaniline Genotoxicity

Haiyan Lu
Pharmacology and Toxicology
Professor John P Wise, Sr.
Dissertation: Translating Particulate Hexavalent Chromium-Induced Chromosome Instability from Human Lung Cells to Experimental Animals, Human Lung Tumors and Whale Cells
Sean M. Raph
Pharmacology and Toxicology
Associate Professor Matthew Nystoriak
Dissertation: Voltage Gated Potassium Channel Dependent Mechanisms of Cardiovascular Adaptation to Chronic Exercise

Andre Dwyane Richardson
Pharmacology and Toxicology
Professor Daniel Conklin
Dissertation: Tobacco-Derived Aldehydes, Platelets, and Thrombogenicity: Role of Transient Receptor Potential Ankyrin-1

Rejeena Shrestha
Microbiology and Immunology
Co-Mentors Professors Jun Yan and Haribabu Bodduluri
Dissertation: Induction of Trained Immunity by Particulate β-Glucan Controls Cancer Metastasis Through the Sphingolipids-Mediated Mitochondrial Fission Pathway

Gregory James Russo States
Anatomical Sciences and Neurobiology
Professor David Magnuson
Dissertation: Cadence and Range of Motion Modulate Pedal Force in a Rat Model of Motorized Cycling after Spinal Cord Injury

Kate Elise Tarvestad
Pharmacology and Toxicology
Professor Brian Ceresa
Dissertation: HGF-Mediated c-MET Signaling in Human Corneal Epithelial Cells

Jennifer Haruka Toyoda
Pharmacology and Toxicology
Professor John Wise
Dissertation: Molecular Mechanisms of Hexavalent Chromium-Induced Centrosome Amplification

Evan Paul Tracy
Physiology and Biophysics
Associate Professor Amanda LeBlanc
Dissertation: Stromal Vascular Fraction Restores Vasodilatory Function by Reversing Mitochondrial Dysfunction and Oxidative Stress in Aging-Induced Coronary Microvascular Disease

Claire Elizabeth Westcott
Microbiology and Immunology
Associate Professor Kevin Sokoloski
Dissertation: Defining the Importance of the HNRNP I Interaction to the Sindbis Subgenomic Viral RNA Using an Innovative Tethering Approach
J. B. Speed School of Engineering

William Richard Arnold
Mechanical Engineering
Associate Professor Hui Wang

Asma Baccouche
Computer Science and Engineering
Professor Adel Elmaghraby
Dissertation: *Computer Aided Diagnosis System for Breast Cancer Using Deep Learning*

Bhagyashri Aditya Bhagwat
Electrical Engineering
Associate Professor Michael McIntyre
Dissertation: *Nonlinear Observers for Burning Zone Temperatures and Torque Estimation of the Rotary Kiln*

Sonia Juliana Calero-Barney
Chemical Engineering
Professor Mahendra Sunkara
Dissertation: *Dilute Anion Alloying of III-V Semiconductors for Water Splitting*

Sagarkumar Dhirubhai Hirpara
Industrial Engineering
Professor Pratik Parikh
Dissertation: *Models and Algorithms for Trauma Network Design*

Hanqing Hu
Computer Science and Engineering
Professor Mehmed Kantardzic
Dissertation: *Solving the Challenges of Concept Drift in Data Stream Classification*

Muting Ma
Civil Engineering
Associate Professor Zhixia Li
Dissertation: *Optimal Scheduling of Connected and Autonomous Vehicles at Reservation-Based Intersection*

Mohamed Nazih Mohamed Shehata
Computer Science and Engineering
Co-Mentors Professors Adel Elmaghraby and Ayman El-Baz
Dissertation: *Voices of the “Served”: Community Resident Perspectives on International Service-Learning in Peru*
Muhammad Zaigham Abbas Shah Syed
Computer Science and Engineering
Professor Adel Elmaghraby
Dissertation: *IoT In Smart Communities, Technologies and Applications*

Danming Wei
Electrical Engineering
Professor Dan Popa
The Graduate Dean's Citations

Hisham Abouelseoud
Elsayem Abdeltawab
Ph.D. Interdisciplinary Studies, specialization in Translational Bioengineering
Mentor: Professor Ayman El-Baz

Courtney Alicia Albers
D.N.P. Nursing
Mentor: Associate Professor Sara Robertson

Kritika Bajaj
Ph.D. Chemistry
Co-Mentors: Professors Craig Grapperhaus and Robert Buchanan

Tiffany Jo Brandt
Ph.D. Biology
Mentor: Associate Professor Deborah Yoder-Himes

Nagwa A. ElBaz
Ph.D. Pharmacology and Toxicology
Mentor: Associate Professor Martin O'Toole

Kyle Levi Fulghum
Ph.D. Physiology and Biophysics
Mentor: Professor Bradford Hill

Kendall Leigh Griffin
M.S. Sport Administration
Mentor: Assistant Professor Adam Cocco

Mariam Refaat Zaky Habil
Ph.D. Pharmacology and Toxicology
Mentor: Professor David Hein

Hanqing Hu
Ph.D. Computer Science and Engineering
Mentor: Professor Mehmed Kantardzic

Ahmed Mosaad Elsaid
Mohamed Naglah
Ph.D. Interdisciplinary Studies, specialization in Translational Bioengineering
Mentor: Professor Ayman El-Baz

Jose M. Najera
M.S. Human Resources and Organization Development
Mentor: Associate Professor Ann Herd

Bolaji Michael Ogbulu
M.U.P. Urban Planning/M.P.A. Public Administration
Co-Mentors: Associate Professors Aaron Rollins and Sumei Zhang

Mohamed Nazih
Mohamed Shehata
Ph.D. Computer Science and Engineering
Co-Mentors: Professors Adel Elmaghraby and Ayman El-Baz

Rejeena Shrestha
Ph.D. Microbiology and Immunology
Co-Mentors: Professors Jun Yan and Haribabu Bodduluri

Kayla Jo Simpson
M.S. Health Administration
Mentor: Associate Professor Lee Bewley
Dustin Ray Smith  
M.A. Anthropology  
Mentor: Assistant Professor Thomas Jennings

Claire Elizabeth Westcott  
Ph.D. Microbiology and Immunology  
Mentor: Associate Professor Kevin Sokoloski
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Graduate Council

Anita Barbee, Professor of Social Work, Kent School of Social Work and Family Science
Daniel Bennett, Assistant Professor of Management and Entrepreneurship, College of Business
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Meghan Pifer, Associate Professor of Higher Education Administration, College of Education and Human Development
Michele Pisano, Professor of Oral Biology, School of Dentistry
Christopher J. Ryan, Assistant Professor of Law, Law School
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
Joseph Steffen, Professor of Biology, College of Arts and Sciences
Allie Underwood, Graduate Student Council, Graduate Student in Social Work, Kent School of Social Work and Family Science
Monica Wendel, Professor of Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences, School of Public Health and Information Sciences
Gerold Willing, Associate Professor of Chemical Engineering, J.B. Speed School of Engineering