

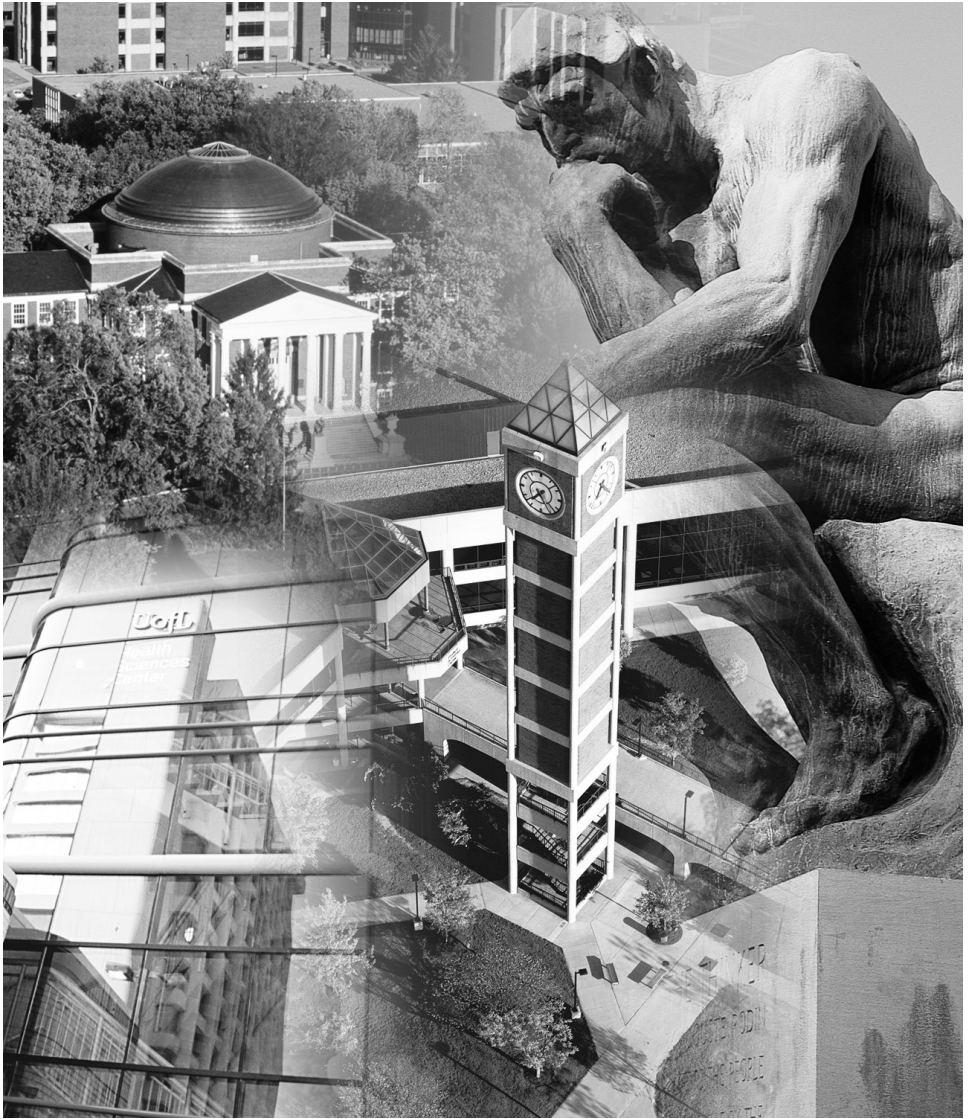
**GRADUATE  
SCHOOL**

**DOCTORAL HOODING &  
GRADUATION CEREMONY**

*December 17, 2021*

**UNIVERSITY OF  
LOUISVILLE**





## *Fall 2021 Celebration*

December 17, 2021

UNIVERSITY OF  
**LOUISVILLE**  
GRADUATE SCHOOL

# The Academic Regalia

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Hoods and Tassels

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

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

## ***The Guy Stevenson Award for Excellence in Graduate Studies***

Irina Alexandrovna Vanzhula

Ph.D. Clinical Psychology

Mentor: Associate Professor Cheri Levinson

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. Irina Vanzhula is the recipient of this year's Stevenson award and as such, serves as the Graduate School's outstanding student and will deliver a speech for the Hooding and Commencement ceremonies.

Irina Vanzhula has demonstrated exceptional skills and productivity throughout her time in the doctoral program in Clinical Psychology in the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences. Irina came to the United States to study psychology following a career as a journalist in her native St. Petersburg, Russia. Her first degree was in journalism, and she participated in a study abroad program as an undergraduate student at the University of Northern Iowa. She later permanently moved to the U.S. and obtained a second undergraduate degree in Psychology at the University of Illinois, receiving top awards for student research creativity. She was funded as a University Fellow at the University of Louisville and maintained a 4.0 GPA throughout her doctoral studies. Her research has integrated the study of mindfulness into the study of eating disorders, work which combines her clinical training and experience in mindfulness, under the supervision of Dr. Paul Salmon, with her clinical training and experience in eating disorder and cognitive behavior therapy interventions, under the supervision of Dr. Cheri Levinson. This integrative approach led her to develop an ambitious and novel dissertation project that was a randomized intervention study. This study is cutting edge and high-impact with important implications for public health, and it will be of great interest in the field of clinical psychology. This work is currently being prepared for publication.

Irina's ability to focus, her considerable writing skills and high level of organization have led to a high level of research productivity. She has expertise in complex statistical methods and has co-authored 23 peer reviewed journal articles. Irina completed a highly competitive predoctoral internship program at the University of Chicago School of Medicine, and she has been hired as a post-doctoral fellow in a prestigious eating disorder program at Johns Hopkins University. She is clearly an emerging leader in the field of eating disorders and clinical psychology at the national and international level.

## ***The John Richard Binford Memorial Award***

Victory Oseken Osezua

Ph.D. Public Health Sciences

Mentor: Associate Professor Muriel Harris

Victory Osezua 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.

Victory Osezua is a Ph.D. candidate at the Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences department in the School of Public Health and Information Sciences. She also received a Master of Public Health degree from University of Louisville and has a Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry from Covenant University, Nigeria. During her time at the University of Louisville, she exhibited excellence in academics, research, teaching, and service.

As an educator, Victory embraced the Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences Department's goal of strengthening students' understanding of health equity and social justice. She mentored students on navigating their academic paths to expand their knowledge, pursue their passion and discover their purpose regardless of their backgrounds. She is passionate about teaching and has served as a teaching assistant and co-instructor for both undergraduate and graduate courses in the University of Louisville.

Victory's research explores inequities that affect the well-being of underserved youth using qualitative and quantitative research methods. Her research focuses on social injustices, structural racism, post-secondary success, and HIV risks. Her research also examines the risk and protective factors of racial and ethnic minority groups' health from an ecological lens to promote public health prevention efforts. Her study with refugee and immigrant populations identified social exclusion as a significant barrier to post-secondary educational attainment for young African refugees. The findings from this study led to her dissertation study titled "Understanding the Meaning of Wellbeing in the African Great Lakes Region's Refugee Youth in Louisville, Kentucky." Through mentorship from University of Louisville faculty, Victory has published research papers in several peer-reviewed scientific journals.

Beyond the classroom, Victory is active in campus programs and serves on panels that promote equity, inclusion, and student success. She served as the president of the Multicultural Association of Graduate Students to advocate for graduate students who are ethnic/racial minorities at the University of Louisville.

Victory also volunteers with the West Louisville Outdoor Recreation Initiative to address systemic barriers that prevent African American children from spending time in nature. Additionally, Victory serves as the Secretary of the Lead to Empower Initiative, a refugee and immigrant community organization that promotes leadership and empowerment of young immigrants who are racial and ethnic minorities. Over the years, Victory's demonstrated excellence in scholarship and leadership within the field of public health has been awarded with special recognition within and outside the University of Louisville.



## ***The John M. Houchens Prize for Outstanding Dissertation***

Brett Robert Janis

Ph.D. Biology

Mentor: Professor Michael Menze

Brett Janis 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.

During his Bachelor of Arts in biology, molecular biology, and biochemistry at Cornell College (Mt. Vernon, IA), Brett Janis gained insight into the process of self-driven research and became fascinated with combining organic chemistry and physics principles to approach biological questions, which led him to work with Dr. Michael Menze at Eastern Illinois University (EIU). At EIU, he studied animals that survive desiccation in a phenomenon termed anhydrobiosis. Anhydrobiotic (life without water) animals express a specific class of polypeptides termed intrinsically disordered proteins (IDP). Anhydrobiotic animals become resilient to stress such as extreme temperatures, radiation, or even the vacuum of space. The IDPs Brett studies are termed Late Embryogenesis Abundant (LEA) proteins and occur in the cysts of the brine shrimp *Artemia franciscana*. The study of life without water poses unique biochemical and biophysical challenges. New ways to perform biochemical research approaches at minimal water contents had to be developed.

Dr. Menze and Brett transferred to the University of Louisville halfway through Brett's M.S. program, and he started his research as a Ph.D. in biology. Brett believes scientific discovery should be associated with some meaningful social impact whenever possible, so he adapted his research into anhydrobiosis to discover new ways to extend the shelf-life of biomedical materials like human red blood cells without refrigeration. He served as Co-PI on an NIH ExCITE grant, which funded his research into preserving cells for later medical use. This new research project combined his love for material chemistry with a passion for biomedical research and development. He began a fruitful collaboration with Dr. Jonathan Kopecheck at the Speed School of Bioengineering to develop a better way of cell storage through the National Science Foundation Innovation Corps program. Other parts of his work were possible through funding from the Department of Defense, the National Science Foundation, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

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

Ashley Renee Ezzo

M.A. Anthropology

Mentor: Assistant Professor Kathryn Marklein

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. Ashley Ezzo is this year's recipient of the Barns award, and she tells her own story in her words here:

In my hometown poverty, minimum wage, broken families, and limited career opportunities are common. Most opportunities are provided to students of prominent families in the community. My family, along with so many others, were not this fortunate. Therefore, I was primarily responsible for my education and future.

My first experience of (non-familial) genuine care and encouragement was at Eastern Kentucky University (EKU). However, in summer 2016, I was hospitalized for a week at UofL with traumatic injuries after a car wreck. These injuries included thirteen fractured ribs, two knee fractures (coupled with a torn ligament and meniscus), a spine fracture, a hematoma requiring surgery, and a severe concussion (creating short term memory loss and speech deficits). I continued online courses the following semester and physically attended EKU in spring 2017. My drive was to return to EKU, where I first felt autonomous. However, after a year of unemployment (and not receiving disability or unemployment funding), I was in considerable credit card debt and worked three jobs as a full-time student to support myself. Additionally, after multiple failing attempts to maintain a run-down vehicle, I resorted to taking out a loan for a replacement. The added monthly payment forced me to acquire food stamps, a decision I pridefully struggled with because many in my hometown generationally needed food stamps. After graduating with overwhelming personal debt, I moved back home. My independence was gone, resulting in both mental and emotional anguish. I later realized I was happiest in college, and if I wanted to leave the situation I was in, I would have to go back.

Though I was elated to start my master's degree, my financial situation was still daunting, and I could not move to Louisville. This resulted in an hour commute and working multiple jobs. The following year (2020) I reclaimed my financial situation. However, a month after my final car payment, I was t-boned by an inattentive driver, totaling my

vehicle. The hard work of those four years was gone within minutes. Shortly after this event I contracted COVID and was isolated during the holidays. While recovering, I was desperate to have positivity outside of class.

Though many students held off project presentations/submissions in 2020/21 due to the pandemic, I submitted an entry and was granted the Polizer Essay Contest Award through the American Association of Physical Anthropology (AAPA), an uncommon accomplishment for first time entries. Afterwards, I presented a portion of my research at the 2021 AAPA annual meeting with glowing reviews. Then, shortly before graduating, I was hired as a research technologist for the Kentucky Spinal Cord Injury Research Center. Though many within the center view this position as minimal skill level, it's almost unreachable in my hometown. I never thought someone from my background, let alone me, would have this opportunity. While mental, emotional, physical, and financial struggles have plagued my educational journey, my pride and resilience have always been there to stoke my determination and overcome adversity while achieving my goal to help others.

# Degrees - August and December 2021

## ***Master of Fine Arts and Their Faculty Mentors***

Paula Olivia Lockhart

Theatre Arts

Professor Johnny Jones

Thesis: *In Bloom: Nurturing the Liberation Process of Performer and Character as Rose in August Wilson's Fences*

Tyler Nettles Tate

Theatre Arts

Assistant Professor Janna Segal

Thesis: *GIT (Gender-Informed Trauma) in Black N Blue Boys / Broken Men: How Concepts of Gender Restrict the Black Male Actor's Creative Process and The Methods He Can Use for Creative Freedom*

## ***Juris Doctor and Their Faculty Mentors***

Brooklynn Alcorn

Law

Co-chairs: Professor Jamie Abrams and Assistant Professor Dan Canon

Chris Emerson

Law

Co-chairs: Professor Jamie Abrams and Assistant Professor Dan Canon

Honors: *cum laude*

Olivia Renee Hester

Law

Co-chairs: Professor Jamie Abrams and Assistant Professor Dan Canon

Honors: *cum laude*

Jessica Marie Moore

Law

Co-chairs: Professor Jamie Abrams and Assistant Professor Dan Canon

# ***Doctor of Nursing Practice and Their Faculty Mentors***

Andrew Kane Schroeder Aschbacher  
Nursing  
Assistant Professor Candace Harrington  
Project: *An Interprofessional Approach to Holistic End-of-Life Care in Long Term Care Facilities*

Yukishia Dantey Austin  
Nursing  
Assistant Professor Kimberly Meyer  
Project: *Protection Against Infection in Epidural Stimulation Implantation: A Program Evaluation*

Michelle Leann Baxter  
Nursing  
Professor Frances Hardin-Fanning  
Project: *Expediting Dental Treatment for Patients with Diabetes Mellitus in a University-Based Dental Clinic*

Megan Paige Bramlett  
Nursing  
Assistant Professor Kimberly Meyer  
Project: *A Quality Improvement Project for New Graduate Nurses to Improve Knowledge and Confidence in Recognizing Patient Deterioration*

Elizabeth Ann Buchanan  
Nursing  
Associate Professor Dedra Hayden  
Project: *Educating Primary Care Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN's) In the Use of Psychiatric Pharmacogenomic Testing To Guide Prescriptive Decision Making When Treating Depression*

Jillian Ashley Champion  
Nursing  
Assistant Professor Lynette Galloway  
Project: *Development and Implementation of a Staffing Acuity Model for School Nurses: A Policy Change Proposal*

Brittney Breanna Corniel  
Nursing  
Assistant Professor Cynethia Bethel-Jaiteh  
Project: *Integrating mHealth in a Virtual Prenatal Class to Promote Behavior Modification in Pregnant Women*

Ashley Rae DeJarnette  
Nursing  
Associate Professor Sara Robertson  
Project: *Hair Toxicology Testing Among Children Evaluated for Physical Abuse: Evaluation of a Practice Change*

Hannah Elizabeth English  
Nursing  
Assistant Professor Paul Clark  
Project: *Improving Patient Safety during the Emergency Department Discharge Process with the use of Two Patient Identifiers*

Carlatesha Ke'ann Flippin  
Nursing  
Assistant Professor Cynethia Bethel-Jaiteh  
Project: *Effectiveness of an Evidence Based Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Program (Creating Opportunities for Personal Empowerment [COPE]) to Improve Childhood Mental Health Outcomes in a Private School Setting*

Jennifer Goldman Fox  
Nursing  
Professor Whitney Nash  
Project: *Community-Based Wound Care Intervention Utilizing Non-Clinical Personnel in the Intravenous Drug Use Population*

Lisa Christine Gaines King  
Nursing  
Professor Whitney Nash  
Project: *Implementation of a Quality Improvement (QI) Project to Increase Influenza Vaccination Uptake in a Pediatric Primary Care Setting*

Lilly Giang  
Nursing  
Assistant Professor Shannon Shumaker  
Project: *Increasing Extubation Awareness During Interdisciplinary Rounds with a Rounding Tool in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU)*

Phoebe Morkos Girgis  
Nursing  
Associate Professor Mary-Beth Coty  
Project: *Improving Communication and Teamwork Among Emergency Department Nursing Staff*

Aminata Fatty Gueye  
Nursing  
Assistant Professor Elisabeth Volpert  
Project: *Program Evaluation: Assessing the Effectiveness of Diabetes Group Education Utilizing the Diabetes Knowledge Test*

Salma Erin Hegazi  
Nursing  
Professor Debra Anderson  
Project: *Improving Pneumonia Immunization Rates Among Adult Residents of a Long-Term Care Facility*

Kelsie Lynn Houchens  
Nursing  
Assistant Professor Lynn Roser  
Project: *Improving Pediatric Delirium Prevention to Decrease Pediatric Delirium Prevalence in the Pediatric Intensive Care Units*

Kimberly Danielle Johnson  
Nursing  
Assistant Professor Lela Baker  
Project: *Implementation of an Evidence Based Quality Improvement Project to Improve Bathing Practices in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit*

Nina L. Johnson  
Nursing  
Associate Professor Sara Robertson  
Project: *The Black Church, Social Media, and Vaccine Hesitancy: Program Evaluation of a virtual Town Hall Meeting Intended to Educate, Empower and Expedite COVID-19 Vaccine Uptake Intent Among Black Americans*

Erika Nichole Keithley  
Nursing  
Professor Mary DeLetter  
Project: *Using Simulation to Prepare Nursing Students to Care for COVID-19 Patients*

Shelia Jones Kingsley  
Nursing  
Assistant Professor Lela Baker  
Project: *Implementation of a Newborn Skin Care Routine to Decrease Diaper Dermatitis*

Ghulam Mustafa Mughal  
Nursing  
Assistant Professor Shannon Shumaker  
Project: *Implementation of a Risk Assessments Tool in Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory in Patients On DAPT Undergoing PCI: A Quality Improvement Project*

Emily Raisle Neal  
Nursing  
Associate Professor Sara Robertson  
Project: *Why Targeted Testing Matters: Evaluation of a Practice Change in Pediatric Ingestion Screening*

Molly Elizabeth Recktenwald  
Nursing  
Assistant Professor Lynette Galloway  
Project: *Incorporating a Caregiver Support Group for Parents of Children Diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus (T1DM)*

Christy Michelle Roe  
Nursing  
Assistant Professor Lela Baker  
Project: *The Effect of an Educational Intervention on Nurses' Knowledge and Skills Related to the T-Piece Resuscitator*

Madeline Anne Sass  
Nursing  
Assistant Professor Lynette Galloway  
Project: *The Implementation of a Standardized Car Safety Seat Discharge Teaching to Improve Self-Efficacy in Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Nurses*

Heather Denise Scott  
Nursing  
Associate Professor Mary-Beth Coty  
Project: *Implementation of Sensory Modulation for De-escalation on an Adolescent, Female Psychiatric Inpatient Unit*

Lauren Marie Topp  
Nursing  
Assistant Professor Beverly Williams-Coleman  
Project: *Evaluating Quality of Life and Participant Satisfaction in a Cancer Support Community Yoga Program*

Vickie Carolyn Paz Winner  
Nursing  
Assistant Professor Mollie Aleshire  
Project: *A Quality Improvement Project to Increase Tdap Vaccination Rates to Primary Caregivers in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit*

Holly Linnette Yahyaw  
Nursing  
Assistant Professor Mollie Aleshire  
Project: *Implementation and Evaluation of a Video Intervention to Increase Adherence at a Rural Phase II Cardiac Rehabilitation Program*



# ***Doctor of Education and Their Faculty Mentors***

Rachel Leanne Baker

Educational Leadership and Organizational Development

Co-chairs: Professor Kyle Ingle and Assistant Professor Deborah Powers

Dissertation: *Parent and Teachers' Perceptions of Employment Outcomes for Youth with Intellectual Disabilities Transitioning from the Public School Setting*

Julie Chancellor

Educational Leadership and Organizational Development

Co-Chairs Associate Professor Shelley Thomas

and Professor W. Kyle Ingle

Dissertation: *Urban Teachers' Perspectives on Teaching Diverse Students*

James Edward McMillin

Educational Leadership and Organizational Development

Co-chairs: Professor Kyle Ingle and Assistant Professor Deborah Powers

Dissertation: *Academy Student Ambassador Perceptions of the Academy Model: The Successes and Areas for Growth*

Kendra M. Nolan

Educational Leadership and Organizational Development

Professor Kyle Ingle

Dissertation: *Non-Traditional Instruction: Examining the Interaction Effect Between Student Characteristics and Perceived Sense of Connectedness in An Online Learning Environment*

Erin Leigh Seale

Educational Leadership and Organizational Development

Professor Mary Brydon-Miller

Dissertation: *A Phenomenological Study of the Perceptions of Co- Teaching through the Lens of Special Education and General Education Teachers*

# ***Doctor of Philosophy and Their Faculty Mentors***

## ***College of Arts and Sciences***

Jack Reginald Allen III

Applied Sociology

Co-chairs: Associate Professors Melanie Gast and Karen Christopher

Dissertation: *A Study of Arab and South Asian American Men with Immigrant-Family Origins in Two New Immigrant Destinations*

Steven William Bailey

Biology

Associate Professor James Alexander

Dissertation: *Community Structure and Dynamics of Benthic Macroinvertebrates in a Recreated Headwater Stream on a Valley Fill in Retrofitted Watershed Location in the Appalachian Coalfields of Southeastern Kentucky (U.S.A.)*

Clinton James Belott

Biology

Professor Michael Menze

Dissertation: *Visualizing Anhydrobiosis: Liquid-liquid Phase Separation, Membraneless Organelles, and Cellular Reorganization*

Edward Howard Byers

Criminal Justice

Professor Gennaro Vito

Dissertation: *A Qualitative Study of 129 Police Lethal Force Incidents in 2016 Examining Participant Behavior Relating to Mental Illness that Contributes to the Use of Lethal Force*

Caleb Aaron Calvary

Chemistry

Co-chairs: Professors Craig Grapperhaus and Robert Buchanan

Dissertation: *Synthesis, Characterization, and Catalytic Activity Of Functionalized Metal Bis(thiosemicarbazones)*

John Walter Chenault

Pan-African Studies

Co-chairs: Professor Theresa Rajack-Talley and

Associate Professor Tyler Fleming

Dissertation: *Western Christianity and the Origins of Antiracism, Eurocentrism, and White Supremacist Ideology*

Amanda N. Denton  
Urban and Public Affairs  
Professor Janet Kelly  
Dissertation: *The Impact of Criminal Justice Involvement: Examining Experiences in a Housing First Program*

Tiffany Dillard-Knox  
Pan-African Studies  
Professor Ricky Jones  
Dissertation: *Black Codes Re-envisioned: The Dred Scott Majority Opinion as an Antiblack Performative Speech Act*

Uyen Thi Duong  
Chemistry  
Associate Professor Sachin Handa  
Dissertation: *Micellar Nanocatalyst for Efficient Reactions*

Edward Alan English  
English Rhetoric and Composition  
Professor Bronwyn Williams  
Dissertation: *Imagination in Practice: Writing Studies and the Application of Hospitality*

Selorm Joy Fanah  
Chemistry  
Associate Professor Farshid Ramezanipour  
Dissertation: *Synthesis, Crystal Structure and Ionic Conductivity of Ruddlesden-Popper Oxide Materials: Effects of Ionic Radii and Defects on Lithium-Ionic Conductivity*

Arghya Pratim Ghosh  
Chemistry  
Professor Pawel M. Kozlowski  
Dissertation: *Theoretical Investigation of the Co-C Bond Activation in Methylcobalamin and Adenosylcobalamin-Dependent Systems: Mechanistic Insights*

Elizabeth Lane Glass  
Humanities  
Professor Paul Griner  
Dissertation: *Explosive Family Dinners: Bipolar Disorder, Temporal Lobe Epilepsy & Me*

Sahar Goharshenasanesfahani  
Physics  
Co-chairs: Associate Professor Serban Smadici and Professor Ming Yu  
Dissertation: *Ultrafast Magnetic Entropy Dynamics and Susceptibility Dynamics Measurements*

Leslie Ann Greenwell  
Criminal Justice  
Associate Professor Viviana Andreescu  
Dissertation: *General Strain Theory and Violent Behavior in a Military Sample*

Caroline Greiner de Magalhaes  
Experimental Psychology  
Professor Carolyn Mervis  
Dissertation: *Literacy Abilities of Children and Adolescents with Williams Syndrome*

Ulf Högnäs  
Applied and Industrial Mathematics  
Professor Robert Powers  
Dissertation: *Decisive Neutrality, Restricted Decisive Neutrality, and Split Decisive Neutrality on Median Semilattices and Median Graphs*

Faisal Ibrahim  
Chemistry  
Professor Michael Nantz  
Dissertation: *Micelles and Lipid Nanoparticles: Catalysis and Biomedical Application*

Abdelqader Mohammad Jamhawi  
Chemistry  
Associate Professor Jinjun Liu  
Dissertation: *Photophysics of Substituted [1,4]Benzodioxino[2,3-B]Oxanthrene Chromophores and their Macromolecules: A Spectroscopy And Density Functional Theory Study*

Nour Mohammad Hamed Jamhawi  
Chemistry  
Professor Richard Wittebort  
Dissertation: *Investigations of Elastin Recoil on molecular and Macroscopic levels*

Brett Robert Janis  
Biology  
Professor Michael Menze  
Dissertation: *Computational and Biochemical Characterizations of Anhydrobiosis-Related Intrinsically Disordered Proteins*

Daniel Ray Jude  
Criminal Justice  
Co-chairs: Professor George Higgins and  
Associate Professor Viviana Andreescu  
Dissertation: *Social Disorganization and Violent Crime  
Across Nonmetropolitan Areas of Kentucky*

Bhupendra Man Shing Karki  
Physics  
Co-chairs: Professors Gamini Sumanasekera and Byron Freelon  
Dissertation: *Structural, Vibrational and Transport  
Properties of Novel Complex Systems*

Megan Joy Toda Mackintosh  
Chemistry  
Professor Pawel Kozlowski  
Dissertation: *Computational Investigations of the Photochemical  
Properties of B12-Dependent Systems: From Solution to Enzymes*

Badri Prasad Mainali  
Chemistry  
Professor Frank Zamborini  
Dissertation: *Electrochemical Characterization of Surface-  
Immobilized Metal Nanostructures: Stability, Atomic  
Level Doping, Catalysis, and Sensing Applications*

Hector Eduardo Mendoza  
Biology  
Professor Michael Perlin  
Dissertation: *Investigation of Mitochondrial Inheritance  
in the Smut Fungus Sporisorium Reilianum*

Paige J. Monsen  
Chemistry  
Professor Frederick Luzzio  
Dissertation: *Recent Studies on the Synthesis of Medicinal Molecules*

Md Rajib Khan Musa  
Physics  
Professor Ming Yu  
Dissertation: *First Principle Studies of the Effects of Alkali-Metal  
Intercalation on the Structural Transition from Black to Blue  
Phosphorene and the Adsorption of N<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub> on WS<sub>2</sub> Layers*

Jessica S B Newman  
English Rhetoric and Composition  
Professor Bronwyn Williams  
Dissertation: *The Space Between: Listening with Difference in  
Writing Center Consultations*

Nonah Marie Olesen  
Experimental Psychology  
Associate Professor Cara Cashion  
Dissertation: *The Effect of Parent Interactions on Young Infants' Visual Attention in an Object-Manipulation Task*

Manthila Chathurange Rajapakse  
Physics  
Professor Gamini Sumanasekera  
Dissertation: *Intercalation and High Pressure Studies of Black Phosphorous - Pathways to Novel Materials and Physics*

Amanda M. Roberts  
Criminal Justice  
Associate Professor Kristin Swartz  
Dissertation: *Charting the Unknown: The Prevalence and Correlates of Secondary Traumatic Stress in Kentucky Probation and Parole Officers*

Shahbaz Shahbaz  
Urban and Public Affairs  
Professor Frank Goetzke  
Dissertation: *Sustainable Urban Groundwater Governance in Faisalabad, Pakistan: Challenges and Possibilities*

Kelly Elizabeth Slaughter  
Clinical Psychology  
Associate Professor Paul Rosen  
Dissertation: *Social Cognition, Impulsivity, and Emotion Regulation Factors in Aggressive Behavior Among Children with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder*

Irina Alexandrovna Vanzhula  
Clinical Psychology  
Associate Professor Cheri Levinson  
Dissertation: *Manipulating Mindful Breathing Versus Mindful Eating: Examining the Effect of Specific Mindfulness Mechanisms on Food Intake and Eating Disorder Symptoms*

Rachel LeAnn Wells  
Biology  
Professor Stephen Yanoviak  
Dissertation: *Distribution and Ecological Effects of Azteca Chartifex Trigona in the Barro Colorado Nature Monument*

Fang Yuan  
Chemistry  
Professor Xiang Zhang  
Dissertation: *Mass Spectrometry Based Metabolics and Lipidomics*

## **College of Education and Human Development**

Katie Jo Berghuis

Counseling and Personnel Services

Co-chairs: Professor Patrick Possel and

Assistant Professor Amanda Mitchell

Dissertation: *Concurrent Reporting of Adolescent Adverse Childhood Experiences Among Perspectives of Adolescents and Caregivers*

Shelby Madison Burton

Counseling and Personnel Services

Professor Patrick Possel

Dissertation: *A Social Learning Approach to the Examination of the Temporal Directionality Between Parenting Behavior and Early Adolescents' Affect*

Lauren Fletcher

Curriculum and Instruction

Professor Amy Seely Flint

Dissertation: *Manifestations of Students' Voices: Examining Shifts, Academic Demands, and Identity Work in How Students Make Themselves Understood*

Jeanne Toure Guerrero

Educational Leadership and Organizational Development

Associate Professor Jacob Gross

Dissertation: *The Influence of Dual Enrollment on Rural College Student Persistence*

John M. Hart

Counseling and Personnel Services

Professor Mark Leach

Dissertation: *Implicit Theories as a Moderator between Religious Commitment and Forgiveness among Muslims' Experiencing a Religious Identity Offense*

Lucas Tucker Huckaby

Counseling and Personnel Services

Professor Mark Leach

Dissertation: *Religiosity, Outgroup Contact, Postconventional Religious Reasoning, and their Associations with Christians' Prejudice Against Sexual and Gender Minorities*

Regina Chanel Johnson

Educational Leadership and Organizational Development

Professor Jeffrey Sun

Dissertation: *The Forgotten Ones: A Qualitative Study to Understand the Phenomena of Medically Disqualified Student-Athletes*

Brandon C. Joseph  
Counseling and Personnel Services  
Associate Professor Susan Longerbeam  
Dissertation: *The Journey Towards Critical Self-Authorship for Native Lacrosse Athletes at NCAA Division I Institutions*

Youngjik Philip Lee  
Educational Leadership and Organizational Development  
Professor Mary Hums  
Dissertation: *A Comparative Study on the Organizational Culture of a South Korean and US High School Athletic Department*

Stephanie Renae Mayberry  
Counseling and Personnel Services  
Associate Professor Susan Longerbeam  
Dissertation: *A Soft Place to Land: The Importance of Otherparenting at PWIs*

Shannon Reeves Putman  
Curriculum and Instruction  
Co-chairs: Associate Professor Justin Cooper  
and Professor Ginevra Courtade  
Dissertation: *Immersive Virtual Reality and Education: Utilizing IVR with Preservice Teachers*

Teresa Lee Tinnell  
Curriculum and Instruction  
Professor Thomas Tretter  
Dissertation: *Engineering Performance and Teamwork Perceptions Shaped by Structured Learning Experiences in a Makerspace*

Kaylyn Lee Watterson  
Counseling and Personnel Services  
Co-Chairs: Associate Professors Laurie McCubbin and Meera Alagaraja  
Dissertation: *Navigating Internalized Stigma and Identity Development in Bipolar I: A Grounded Theory Investigation*

Tytianna Nikia Maria Wells  
Curriculum and Instruction  
Professor Michele Foster  
Dissertation: *An Exploration of Afrocentric Features at a Black Homeschool Collective*



## ***Interdisciplinary Studies***

Kandauda Malinika Kalpani de Silva  
Interdisciplinary Studies, specialization in Bioinformatics  
Co-chairs: Associate Professor Theodore  
Kalbfleisch and Professor Eric Rouchka  
Dissertation: *A Method for Identifying Ancient  
Introgression between Caballine and Non-caballine Equids  
using Whole Genome High-Throughput Data*

Moustafa Hassan Meki  
Interdisciplinary Studies, specialization in Translational Bioengineering  
Professor Guruprasad Giridharan  
Dissertation: *Development and Applications of In-Vitro and  
In-Silico Models of the Cardiovascular System to Study  
the Effects of Mechanical Circulatory Support*

## ***School of Public Health and Information Sciences***

Indranil Ghosh  
Biostatistics  
Professor Maiying Kong  
Dissertation: *Estimating Treatment Effect on Medical Cost and Examining  
Medical Cost Trajectory using Splines and Change-point Techniques*

Rishtya Meena Kakar  
Public Health Sciences  
Assistant Professor Ryan Combs  
Dissertation: *Exploring Opportunities for Prevention of Child  
Sexual Abuse in Diverse American Muslim Community*

Joel Lanceta  
Public Health Sciences  
Professor Bert Little  
Dissertation: *The Impact of Statin Use on Outcomes of Diabetic  
Adult Patients Hospitalized for Community Acquired Pneumonia*

Sivarchana Mareedu  
Public Health Sciences  
Co-chairs: Associate Professor Torsten Hopp and Professor Gary Hoyle  
Dissertation: *Development and Validation of Biosafety Climate Scale  
and Survey-Based Analyses of Safety Perceptions in Biological  
Research and Teaching Laboratories at Public Universities in the USA*

Victory Oseken Osezua  
Public Health Sciences  
Associate Professor Muriel Harris  
Dissertation: *Understanding Wellbeing in Refugee Youth from the African Great Lakes Region in Louisville, KY*

Md Nazir Uddin  
Biostatistics  
Associate Professor Jeremy Gaskins  
Dissertation: *Bayesian Variable Selection Strategies in Longitudinal Mixture Models and Categorical Regression Problems*

Sarah Christena Van Heiden  
Public Health Sciences  
Assistant Professor Susan Buchino  
Dissertation: *Exploring the Contextual Factors and Decision-Making Process of Risky Sexual Behavior Among Homeless Older Adults in Louisville, KY*

Kelsey Blankenship White  
Public Health Sciences  
Associate Professor J'Aime Jennings  
Dissertation: *Hospital-based Professional Spiritual Care: Evaluating the Utilization, Availability, & Impact of Chaplains*

Diane M. Zero  
Public Health Sciences  
Associate Professor Scott LaJoie  
Dissertation: *"And the Next Day, You Are in Charge": Policy Recommendations Stemming from a Qualitative Investigation into the Professional Development of Early Career Peer Support Specialists in Kentucky*

## **Raymond A. Kent School of Social Work**

Rebecka Michelle Bloomer  
Social Work  
Associate Professor Lesley Harris  
Dissertation: *Exploring the Promotion of Youth Voice and Activism by Youth Development Workers in Community-Based Programs*

Tammi Alvey Thomas  
Social Work  
Professor Crystal Collins-Camargo  
Dissertation: *Exploring Service Provider Perspectives on Facilitators and Barriers to Needle Exchange Program Participation by Females Who Inject Drugs*

Richard Dana Weaver Jr.  
Social Work  
Associate Professor Adrian Archuleta  
Dissertation: *Evaluation of Risk and Protective Factors of Substance Use in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics*

## **School of Medicine**

Timothy Ndagi Audam  
Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics  
Professor Steven Jones  
Dissertation: *Impact of PANK1 Deletion on Mitochondrial Acetylation and Cardiac Function During Pressure Overload*

Matthew William Dent  
Pharmacology and Toxicology  
Professor Nobuyuki Matoba  
Dissertation: *Preclinical Development Of Avaren-Fc: A Novel Lectin-Fc Fusion Protein Targeting Cancer-Associated High-Mannose Glycans*

Marc Matthew Dwenger  
Pharmacology and Toxicology  
Assistant Professor Matthew Nystoriak  
Dissertation: *Pyridine Nucleotide Redox Potential In Coronary Smooth Muscle Couples Myocardial Blood Flow To Cardiac Metabolism*

Jason H. Gumbel  
Anatomical Sciences and Neurobiology  
Professor Charles Hubscher  
Dissertation: *Investigation of Potential Mechanisms Underlying Spinal Cord Injury-induced Polyuria*

Henry Nabeta  
Microbiology and Immunology  
Professor Kenneth Palmer  
Dissertation: *Q-Griffithsin Interactions and Utility for the Prevention and Treatment of Mucosal Infections*

Jordan Taylor Noe  
Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics  
Professor Robert Mitchell  
Dissertation: *Metabolic-Epigenetic Regulation of Macrophage Polarization*

Lisa Christina Ohman  
Anatomical Sciences and Neurobiology  
Professor Robin Krimm  
Dissertation: *An Analysis of Taste Neuron Morphological Variability: Influences of Neuron Type and Plasticity*

Sophia Marie Sears  
Pharmacology and Toxicology  
Professor Leah Siskind  
Dissertation: *Characterizing the Role of Macrophages in Cisplatin-Induced Kidney Injury and Progression to Chronic Kidney Disease*

Samiyyah Masina Sledge  
Physiology and Biophysics  
Professor Douglas Borchman  
Dissertation: *Role of Meibum and Tear Phospholipids in The Evaporative Water Loss Associated with Dry Eye*

George Z. Wei  
Pharmacology and Toxicology  
Professor Scott Whittemore  
Dissertation: *Oligodendrocyte and Dorsal Root Ganglion Responses After Spinal Cord Injury*

## ***School of Nursing***

Hedaya Rateb Hasan Hina  
Nursing  
Professor Lynne Hall  
Dissertation: *Perceived Social Support, Family Relationships, And Health-Related Quality Of Life Among Women With Breast Cancer In Jordan*

## ***J. B. Speed School of Engineering***

Shamsudeen Olawale Abubakar  
Electrical Engineering  
Professor Dan Popa  
Dissertation: *Collaborative Human-Machine Interfaces for Mobile Manipulators*

Islam Mohamed Ahmed Mohamed Mahmoud Alkabbany  
Electrical Engineering  
Co-Chairs Professor Aly Farag  
Dissertation: *Biometric Features Modeling to Measure Students Engagement*

Mohsen Asghari  
Computer Science and Engineering  
Professor Adel Elmaghraby  
Dissertation: *Linking Social Media, Medical Literature, and Clinical Notes Using Deep Learning*

Veerendra Atla  
Chemical Engineering  
Professor Mahendra Sunkara  
Dissertation: *Mixed Metal Oxide Nanowires via Solid State Alloying*

Amir Hossein Ghahremani  
Mechanical Engineering  
Researcher Thad Druffel  
Dissertation: *Rapid Annealing of Perovskite Solar Cell Thin Film Materials Through Intense Pulse Light*

Mohamad Ghanoum  
Electrical Engineering  
Professor Aly Farag  
Dissertation: *Passive Method for 3D Reconstruction of Human Jaw: Theory and Appliation*

Zabih Ghelichi  
Industrial Engineering  
Associate Professor Monica Gentili  
Dissertation: *Drone Location and Scheduling Problems in Humanitarian Logistics*

Pu Han  
Mechanical Engineering  
Associate Professor Keng Hsu  
Dissertation: *An Investigation Into Energy-Material Properties Interaction In Additive Manufacturing Of Polymers*

Samah Mansour  
Computer Science and Engineering  
Associate Professor Adrian Lauf  
Dissertation: *Lightweight Mutual Authentication and Privacy Preservation Schemes for IoT Systems*

Olusiji Oloruntobi Medaiyese  
Computer Science and Engineering  
Associate Professor Adrian Lauf  
Dissertation: *Signal Fingerprinting and Machine Learning Framework for UAV Detection and Identification*

Mohammadreza Mir Tamizdoust  
Civil Engineering  
Associate Professor Omid Ghasemi-Fare  
Dissertation: *Analyzing the Non-Isothermal Multiphasic Flow in Porous Media Through Strongly Coupled Thermo-Hydro-Mechanical Modeling*

Marzieh Moradi Zaniani  
Chemical Engineering  
Professor Gerold Willing  
Dissertation: *Aggregation Dynamics of Bulk Nanoparticle Haloing Systems and the Influence of Non-Ambient Temperatures*

Md Mahmudur Rahman  
Mechanical Engineering  
Associate Professor Stuart Williams  
Dissertation: *Towards Long Term Colloid Suspension in a Vertically Rotated System*

Christopher Kevin Robinson  
Electrical Engineering  
Professor Dan Popa  
Dissertation: *Variable Autonomy Assignment Algorithms for Human-Robot Interactions*

Wiem Safta  
Computer Science and Engineering  
Professor Hichem Frigui  
Dissertation: *Lung Nodules Identification in CT Scans using Multiple Instance Learning*

Pegah Sagheb Haghighi  
Computer Science and Engineering  
Professor Olfa Nasraoui  
Dissertation: *Cosine-based Explainable Matrix Factorization For Collaborative Filtering Recommendation*

Aliasghar Shahrjooihaghighi  
Computer Science and Engineering  
Professor Hichem Frigui  
Dissertation: *Local Feature Selection for Multiple Instance Learning with Applications*

Hong Shang  
Civil Engineering  
Professor Zhihui Sun  
Dissertation: *Develop a Multi-Functional Green Pervious Concrete (Mgpc) Pavement with Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (Pahs) Removal Function*

Parag Jafar Siddique  
Industrial Engineering  
Co-Chairs Professor Kevin Gue and Professor John Usher  
Dissertation: *High-Density Parking for Autonomous Vehicles*

Song Wang  
Civil Engineering  
Associate Professor Zhixia Li  
Dissertation: *Modeling Driver Distraction Mechanism and its Safety Impact in Connected, and Automated Vehicle Environment*

Jice Zeng  
Civil Engineering  
Associate Professor Young Hoon Kim  
Dissertation: *Hybrid Structural Health Monitoring Using Data-Driven Modal Analysis and Model-Based Bayesian Inference*

## ***The Graduate Dean's Citations***

Islam Mohamed Ahmed  
Mohamed Mahmoud Alkabbany  
Ph.D. Electrical Engineering  
Mentor: Professor Aly Farag

Timothy Ndagi Audam  
Ph.D. Biochemistry and  
Molecular Genetics  
Mentor: Professor Steven Jones

Zachary Eugene Boocher  
M.S. Sports Administration  
Mentor: Associate Professor  
Evan Frederick

Brittney Breanna Corniel  
D.N.P. Nursing  
Mentor: Assistant Professor  
Cynethia Bethel-Jaiteh

Ashley Renee Ezzo  
M.A. Anthropology  
Mentor: Assistant Professor  
Kathryn Marklein

Mohamad Ghanoum  
Ph.D. Electrical Engineering  
Mentor: Professor Aly Farag

Zabih Ghelichi  
Ph.D. Industrial Engineering  
Mentor: Associate Professor  
Monica Gentili

Lauren Girouard  
M.S. Experimental Psychology  
Mentor: Associate Professor  
Judith Danovitch

Jason H. Gumbel  
Ph.D. Anatomical Sciences  
and Neurobiology  
Co-chairs: Professors Robin  
Krimm and Charles Hubscher

Brett Robert Janis  
Ph.D. Biology  
Mentor: Professor Michael Menze

Rishtya Meena Kakar  
Ph.D. Public Health Sciences  
Mentor: Assistant  
Professor Ryan Combs

Mohammadreza Mir Tamizdoust  
Ph.D. Civil Engineering  
Mentor: Associate Professor  
Omid Ghasemi-Fare

Henry Nabeta  
Ph.D. Microbiology  
and Immunology  
Mentor: Professor Kenneth Palmer

Lisa Christina Ohman  
Ph.D. Anatomical Sciences  
and Neurobiology  
Mentor: Professor Robin Krimm

Nonah Marie Olesen  
Ph.D. Experimental Psychology  
Mentor: Associate  
Professor Cara Cashon

Victory Oseken Osezua  
Ph.D. Public Health Sciences  
Mentor: Associate  
Professor Muriel Harris

Kandauda Malinika  
Kalpani de Silva  
Ph.D. Interdisciplinary Studies,  
specialization in Bioinformatics  
Mentors: Associate Professor  
Theodore Kalbfleisch and  
Professor Eric Rouchka



Kelly Elizabeth Slaughter  
Ph.D. Clinical Psychology  
Mentor: Associate  
Professor Paul Rosen

Irina Alexandrovna Vanzhula  
Ph.D. Clinical Psychology  
Mentor: Associate Professor  
Cheri Levinson

Rachel LeAnn Wells  
Ph.D. Biology  
Mentor: Professor  
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