

SUMMER 2026

Commencement



Greetings from the President

Congratulations, University of Florida Doctoral Graduates of 2026.

Your path to reach this day required sustained effort, sacrifice and an uncommon willingness to spend years wrestling with difficult and complex problems. Today, I join you in celebrating the result of your commitment.

You leave UF not just with expertise, but with the education and the tools to create new knowledge. This is a privilege and a responsibility. I encourage you to lead by following the evidence, and to direct your talents to the challenges that matter most to humanity and the planet. The world needs leaders who know enough to be humble - yet have the rigor and the drive to be great.

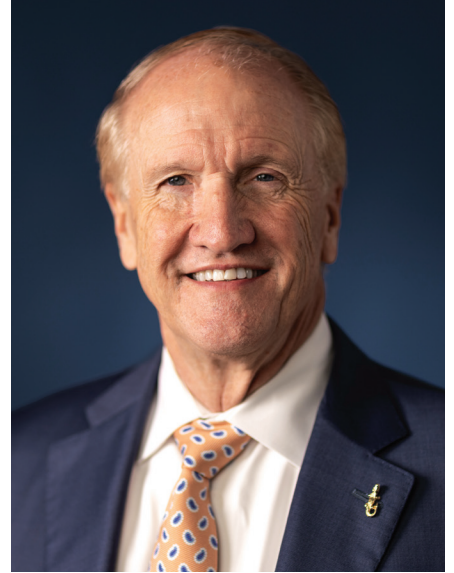
As I celebrate you, I also thank your faculty advisors, mentors, fellow students and family and friends who have supported you. You will make a lasting impact not only with your own success, but by supporting the work and lives of others.

I am grateful for the many ways you and your work here have contributed to UF. Please stay connected. We are better and stronger because of you. We believe in the future you will shape.

Congratulations. Go Gators!



Stuart R. Bell



University of Florida President

Dr. Stuart R. Bell is the 14th president of the University of Florida.

Prior to his tenure as president of the University of Alabama from 2015 to 2025, Dr. Bell served as provost and professor of engineering at Louisiana State University and as dean of the School of Engineering and professor of mechanical engineering at the University of Kansas. He is also widely recognized for his research and publications on natural gas and combustion engines and was inducted into the State of Alabama Engineering Hall of Fame in 2023.

Dr. Bell earned his Ph.D. in mechanical engineering and his B.S. in nuclear engineering from Texas A&M University. He has been elected to membership in the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the Society of Automotive Engineers and the National Society of Professional Engineers.

Among his leadership roles, Dr. Bell serves or has served on the Executive Committee for Academic Affairs of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, on the Board of Directors for the Center for Science Education at the University of Kansas, as the Chairman of the Academic Advisory Council for the NSF's Center for Remote Sensing of Ice Sheets based at the University of Kansas, and as a trustee of the ASME Foundation.

UF

2026 SUMMER

COMMENCEMENT

University of Florida Leadership

State Board of Education

Ryan Petty, *Chair*
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Layla Collins	Luis Fuste
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Timothy Cerio, *Vice Chair*

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Douglas Broxson	Charles Lydecker
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Aubrey Edge	Keith Perry
Carson Good	Ian Seibert
Edward Haddock	Nick Sinatra
Ken Jones	

Chancellor of the State University System of Florida

Ray Rodrigues

University of Florida Board of Trustees

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Rahul Patel, *Vice Chair*

David Brandon	R. Raymond Issa
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Jed Davis	Patrick Zalupski
James Heavener	

University President and Cabinet

Stuart R. Bell
President

Joseph Glover
Interim Provost and Executive Vice President - Academic Affairs

J. Scott Angle
Senior Vice President - Agriculture and Natural Resources

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Vice President - Government and Community Relations

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Vice President - Human Resources

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Vice President - Strategic Initiatives

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Senior Vice President and Chief Information Officer - Information Technology

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Vice President and General Counsel

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Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

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Vice President - Construction, Facilities, and Real Estate

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Vice President - Advancement

Stephen Motew
President and System Chief Executive Officer - UF Health

David Norton
Vice President - Research

Steve Orlando
Interim Vice President - Strategic Communications and Marketing

Mary Parker
Vice President and Chief Enrollment Strategist

Brandi Renton
Vice President - Business Affairs

Scott Stricklin
Director - Athletics

Heather White
Vice President - Student Life

Deans of the University

Chinemelu “Chimay” Anumba <i>College of Design, Construction and Planning</i>	Gary McGill <i>Interim - Warrington College of Business</i>
Hubert “Hub” Brown <i>College of Journalism and Communications</i>	Patrick Reakes <i>Interim - University Libraries</i>
A. Isabel Garcia <i>College of Dentistry</i>	Michael Reid <i>College of Health and Human Performance</i>
Robert Gilbert <i>IFAS Research and Executive Director for Academic Affairs</i>	Kevin Orr <i>College of the Arts</i>
Glenn Good <i>College of Education</i>	Nicole Stedman <i>The Graduate School</i>
Shakira Henderson <i>College of Nursing</i>	Christopher Summerlin <i>Dean of Students</i>
Brian Hoh <i>College of Medicine</i>	Peter Swaan <i>College of Pharmacy</i>
Kevin Ingersent <i>Interim - College of Liberal Arts and Sciences</i>	Mark Tehranipoor <i>Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering</i>
Andra Johnson <i>IFAS Extension</i>	Beth Virnig <i>College of Public Health and Health Professions</i>
Merritt McAlister <i>Interim - Fredric G. Levin College of Law</i>	Marta Wayne <i>International Center</i>
Kati Migliaccio <i>College of Agricultural and Life Sciences</i>	Dana Zimmel <i>College of Veterinary Medicine</i>

DOCTORAL COMMENCEMENT AGENDA

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 2:00 P.M.

Presiding	Stuart R. Bell <i>President</i>
National Anthem	Anthony Offerle <i>Professor, School of Music</i> UF Commencement Band <i>Directed by Professor John J. Watkins</i>
Welcome	Stuart R. Bell
Opening Remarks and Introductions	Joseph Glover <i>Interim Provost and Executive Vice President, Academic Affairs</i>
Commencement Address	Matthew Disney <i>Professor and Chair, Department of Chemistry</i> The Herbert Wertheim UF Scripps Institute for Biomedical Research & Innovation
Presenting Candidates for Degrees	Joseph Glover
Conferring of Degrees	R. Raymond Issa <i>Member, UF Board of Trustees</i>
Recognition of Graduates	
Closing Remarks	Stuart R. Bell
Alma Mater	Anthony Offerle UF Commencement Band
Recessional	"I Won't Back Down" ©1989 Written by Tom Petty and Jeff Lynne Performed by Tom Petty Album: <i>Full Moon Fever</i>

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

Matthew David Disney, Ph.D.

*Professor and Chair, Department of Chemistry
The Herbert Wertheim UF Scripps Institute for
Biomedical Research and Innovation*

Matthew David Disney, Ph.D., is an institute professor and the chair of the Department of Chemistry at The Herbert Wertheim UF Scripps Institute for Biomedical Research & Innovation at the University of Florida. He is internationally recognized for pioneering the field of RNA-targeted small-molecule therapeutics, creating new approaches to drug discovery for diseases previously considered undruggable.

Disney's numerous honors have included the NIH Director's Pioneer Award, the ACS Nobel Laureate Signature Award, the Eli Lilly Award in Biological Chemistry, and the Sackler Prize. His research has led to multiple biotechnology companies and therapeutic programs advancing toward the clinic, with the goal of developing transformative medicines for patients with genetic and other serious diseases.



Beyond his scientific contributions, Disney is a dedicated educator, mentor, and entrepreneur whose trainees have gone on to leadership roles across academia, biotechnology, and the pharmaceutical industry. He is also an associate editor of the Journal of the American Chemical Society.

GRADUATE SCHOOL

NICOLE STEDMAN, PH.D., ASSOCIATE PROVOST AND DEAN OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Sofia Acevedo Rada

Major: *Nutritional Sciences*

Dissertation: Diet and Functional Food Approaches to Inflammation and Metabolic Health in Adults Undergoing Hemodialysis

Dissertation Chair: Jeanette Mary Andrade

Gabriela Acevedo Trebbau

Major: *Health and Human Performance—Biobehavioral Science*

Dissertation: Advancing Objective Assessment of Bradykinesia Using Video Derived Digital Measures in Parkinson's Disease

Dissertation Chair: Diego L. Guarín

Felipe Esteban Acosta-Muñoz

Major: *Anthropology*

Dissertation: Intercultural Bilingual Higher Education in the Age of Neoliberalist Indigenismo: A Case Study on the Educational Experiences of a Group of Students Enrolled in an Intercultural Bilingual Maya-Spanish Program in Yucatán, Mexico

Dissertation Chair: George Aaron Broadwell

Oluwafemi Adegbemigun

Major: *Rehabilitation Science—Neuromuscular Plasticity*

Dissertation: Anticipatory Postural Adjustments During Forward and Backward Gait Initiation in Neurotypical Adults and Individuals Post-Stroke

Dissertation Chair: Dorian K. Rose

Rabeya Zinnat Adury

Major: *Health and Human Performance—Biobehavioral Science*

Dissertation: Functional Network Alterations and Therapeutic Brain Adaptation in Genetic and Idiopathic Dystonia

Dissertation Chair: David E. Vaillancourt

Sharmagh Aghabeigi

Major: *Psychology—Clinical and Health Psychology*

Dissertation: The Association Between Pain Catastrophizing and Alcohol Demand in Veterans With Chronic Pain

Dissertation Chair: Kimberly Ann Driscoll

Dissertation Co-chair: Meredith S. Berry

Laura Carolina Ahumada Hernández

Major: *Psychology*

Dissertation: Learning in the Cerebral Cortex: Temporal and Spatial Dynamics of Visual Experience-Dependent Plasticity

Dissertation Chair: Andreas Keil

Rachael Oluwafunmilayo Ajiboye

Major: *Nursing Sciences*

Dissertation: Pain Phenotypes and Quality of Life Across Seasons Among Adults With Sickle Cell Disease

Dissertation Chair: Diana Wilkie

Seun Mauton Ajoseh

Major: *Sociology*

Dissertation: Doula Support and the US Maternal Healthcare System: Insights Into Public Discourse, Finances, and Access and Utilization

Dissertation Chair: Charles W. Peek IV

Syarifah Ismailiyah Al Athas

Major: *Design, Construction and Planning—Architecture*

Dissertation: Small Language Modelling – Building Information Modelling (SLM-BIM) Framework for Sustainable Construction: A Case Study on Medium-Scale Public Buildings

Dissertation Chair: Nawari Nawari

Nashmin Alam

Major: *Electrical and Computer Engineering*

Dissertation: From SoCs to SiPs: AI-Driven Frameworks for Hardware Threat Assessment and Pre-Silicon Security Verification

Dissertation Chair: Farimah Farahmandi

Hissah Alatawi

Major: *Medical Sciences—Molecular Cell Biology*

Dissertation: CerS2 as a Therapeutic Target for Breast Cancer

Dissertation Chair: Satya Narayan

Alaa Mohammed Albukhari

Major: *Mechanical Engineering*

Dissertation: Thermodynamic Analysis of Counterflow Reactor Design and System Integration for Solar Thermochemical Hydrogen Production

Dissertation Chair: Jonathan Scheffe

Zoë Zi Chen Alfonso

Major: *School Psychology*

Dissertation: Understanding Therapist Self-Efficacy of Practitioners and Trainees Implementing Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT): A Measurement Study

Dissertation Chair: Joni Williams Splett

Ayman Fawzi A. Alghamdi

Major: *Mechanical Engineering*

Dissertation: Development of Printable Microorganism-Laden Gelatin Composite Bioinks for Biomineralization Applications

Dissertation Chair: Yong Huang

Dissertation Co-chair: Hitomi Yamaguchi Greenslet

Qasim Ali

Major: *Agronomy*

Dissertation: Precision Gene Editing and Transcriptional Regulation in Sugarcane

Dissertation Chair: Fredy Altpeter

Diba Allameh Zadeh

Major: *Chemistry*

Dissertation: Lanthanide-Doped Nanoparticles for the Development of Advanced MRI Contrast Agents

Dissertation Chair: Gail E. Fanucci

Hope Allegra Allchin

Major: *Higher Education Administration—Educational Policy*

Dissertation: Targeted Tuition Waivers: An Opportunity to Increase Indigenous Student College Access?

Dissertation Chair: Justin C. Ortagus

Yasmin Mousa Alnefaie

Major: *Nursing Sciences*

Dissertation: Reproductive-Associated Risk Factors and Incident Coronary Heart Disease in Women

Dissertation Chair: Jennifer Rene Dungan

Nadine Hani Sa'da Alshakhshir

Major: *Pharmaceutical Sciences—Pharmacodynamics*

Dissertation: Mechanisms Governing Dendritic Release of Oxytocin in the Central Nervous System

Dissertation Chair: Charles Jason Frazier

Adaeze Vivian Anamege-Agwubuo

Major: *Epidemiology*

Dissertation: The Intersection of Cannabis and Female Reproductive Health Across the Life Course

Dissertation Chair: Catalina Lopez-Quintero

Dissertation Co-chair: Deepthi Satheesa Varma

Emma G. Andrews

Major: *Computer Science*

Dissertation: Trustworthy and Verifiable Quantum AI

Dissertation Chair: Prabhat Mishra

Fabio Augusto Antunes de Oliveira

Major: *Agricultural and Biological Engineering*

Dissertation: Next Generation of Crop Simulation Models for the Decision Support System for Agrotechnology Transfer (DSSAT)

Dissertation Chair: Gerrit Hoogenboom

Juan David Arboleda

Major: *Genetics and Genomics*

Dissertation: Unraveling Central Nervous System Dysfunction in Myotonic Dystrophy: New Insights From Mouse Models

Dissertation Chair: Eric Wang

Andre Chance Archer

Major: *Mechanical Engineering*

Dissertation: Modeling Shock Wave Induced Damage in Aluminum via Atomistic Simulations

Dissertation Chair: Douglas Edward Spearot

Jerry Armah

Major: *Nursing Sciences—Clinical and Translational Science*

Dissertation: Examining How Physical Activity and Diet Modulate Cancer-Related Symptoms Through the Gut Microbiome: Insights From a Bayesian Simulation Model

Dissertation Chair: Debra Lyon

Dissertation Co-chair: Qinglin Pei

Pratiksha Pranil Awale

Major: *Rehabilitation Science—Neuromuscular Plasticity*

Dissertation: Insights Into Dystrophinopathies Using Non-Invasive ³¹Phosphorus Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy (³¹P-MRS) and Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)

Dissertation Chair: Sean Charles Forbes

Koree Simmone Badio

Major: *Counseling Psychology*

Dissertation: *The MATRIARCH Model: A Gender-Responsive and Culturally Grounded Model of Reconciliation and Psychopolitical Well-Being Envisioned by U.S.-Based Liberian Women Peacemakers*

Dissertation Chair: Roberto L. Abreu

Omar Abdulhameed Bagasi

Major: *Design, Construction and Planning—Architecture*

Dissertation: Pre-Design Stage: Computerizing Architect-Client Communication Using an Artificial Intelligence Framework

Dissertation Chair: Nawari Nawari

Jordan Thomas Bajema

Major: *Interdisciplinary Ecology—Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences*

Dissertation: The Arrival, Survival, and Persistence of a Range-Expanding Species, Common Snook (*Centropomus undecimalis*), in Florida's Nature Coast

Dissertation Chair: William Frank Patterson III

Dissertation Co-chair: Micheal S. Allen

Michelle Leigh Baker

Major: *Mathematics*

Dissertation: Applying Acceleration to Krylov Subspace Eigenvalue Solver

Dissertation Chair: Sara Pollock

Chloe Elyssa Baratta

Major: *Biomedical Engineering*

Dissertation: Beyond a Rigid Fibula: Musculoskeletal Models of Healthy and Pathologic Syndesmosis Biomechanics

Dissertation Chair: Jennifer A. Nichols

Jackson Robert Barratt Heitmann

Major: *Wildlife Ecology and Conservation*

Dissertation: Analysis of Bird Biodiversity Within and Among Isolated Wetlands Across Space and Time

Dissertation Chair: Corey T. Callaghan

Dissertation Co-chair: Kathryn E. Sieving

Amadou Barrow

Major: *Epidemiology*

Dissertation: Multilevel Determinants of HIV Care Engagement in the Gambia: From Epidemiological Patterns to Psychosocial Factors Influencing Treatment Outcomes

Dissertation Chair: Yan Wang

Noor Ul Basar

Major: *Soil, Water, and Ecosystem Sciences*

Dissertation: Evaluation of the Effects of Irrigation and Nitrogen Management on Growth, Yield, and Fruit Quality of Sweet Orange and Satsuma Mandarin

Dissertation Chair: Davie Mayeso Kadyampakeni

Dissertation Co-chair: Muhammad A. Shahid

Florence Jean Bason

Major: *Special Education*

Dissertation: From Policy Adoption to Reading Outcomes: A Longitudinal Analysis of Science of Reading-Aligned Reforms and NAEP Grade 4 Reading Achievement

Dissertation Chair: Holly Lane

Dissertation Co-chair: Christopher Redding

Carson T. Beattie

Major: *Geology*

Dissertation: The Origin of the LLSVPs, and Their Impact on Elastic and Rotational Behavior of Earth's Mantle

Dissertation Chair: Raymond M. Russo

Joshua Mwendwa Benjamin

Major: *Zoology—Wetland Sciences*

Dissertation: Effects of Land-Use Change on Aquatic Communities and Food Webs Along a Longitudinal Gradient in an Afrotropical River

Dissertation Chair: Amanda L. Subalusky

Amanda Bennett

Major: *Psychology—Clinical and Health Psychology*

Dissertation: Development and Feasibility Testing of MyWeb: A Social Support Digital Mapping Tool for Youth in Foster Care

Dissertation Chair: Joy Gabrielli

Nathaniel Ray Bennett

Major: *Computer Science*

Dissertation: Leveraging Input and Feedback Constraints to Augment Network Fuzzing and Detection

Dissertation Chair: Patrick Traynor

Dissertation Co-chair: Kevin Butler

Cristina Isabel Besosa Gomez

Major: *Medical Sciences—Neuroscience*

Dissertation: Bridging the Translational Gap: Multiscale Circuit Dynamics During Paired Associates Learning in Rats

Dissertation Chair: Andrew P. Maurer

Dissertation Co-chair: Sara Nicole Burke

Somnath Bhadra

Major: *Statistics*

Dissertation: Some Contributions to Variational Bayes and Truncation Approximation for Enriched Dirichlet Process and Change Point Detection in Dynamic Network Models

Dissertation Chair: Michael Joseph Daniels

Dissertation Co-chair: Sayar Karmakar

Kamal Bhatt

Major: *Chemistry*

Dissertation: Synthetic Access to sp^3 Rich Azacycles and Carbocycles

Dissertation Chair: Daniel Seidel

Ejlal Abdullah Bin Mulayh

Major: *Rehabilitation Science—Neuromuscular Plasticity*

Dissertation: Dynamic Stability During Turning and Gait Termination in Older Adults With Mobility Limitations: Associations With Plantar Somatosensory and Cognitive Function

Dissertation Chair: David J. Clark



Bernard Wiafe Biney

Major: *Chemical Engineering*

Dissertation: Electrochemical Impedance Spectroscopy of Neural Ultramicroelectrodes

Dissertation Chair: Mark E. Orazem

James Andrew Biondi

Major: *Political Science*

Dissertation: Investigating the Disconnection Between Epistemology, Theory, and Praxis in Liberal Intervention

Dissertation Chair: Badredine Arfi

Stefano Biondi

Major: *Coastal and Oceanographic Engineering*

Dissertation: Hydrodynamics and Water Quality of Coastal and Built Environments

Dissertation Chair: Alberto Canestrelli

Heather Anne Blackwell

Major: *Biomedical Engineering*

Dissertation: Advancing the Biomanufacturing Process of Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplant and Cellular Therapies to Improve the Outcomes for Blood Cancer Patients

Dissertation Chair: Jason M. Butler

Dellena Evelyn Bloom

Major: *Environmental Engineering Sciences*

Dissertation: Incorporating Pyrogenic Carbon Mechanisms in Process-Explicit Carbon Models and Generating Applicable Data

Dissertation Chair: Kathe Todd-Brown

Anjelica Loren Body

Major: *Psychology—Clinical and Health Psychology*

Dissertation: Feasibility of Routine Electronic Psychosocial Assessments for Glioblastomas in a Clinical Setting

Dissertation Chair: Deidre B. Pereira

Derek N. Boetcher

Major: *History*

Dissertation: The Long, Changing Lives of British Imperial Monuments: Making and Remaking the Commemorative Landscapes of Ireland and Canada, 1701–Present

Dissertation Chair: Jessica Leigh Harland-Jacobs

Monique Bohora Schlickmann

Major: *Forest Resources and Conservation*

Dissertation: LiDAR Applications in Forestry: From Canopy Cover Mapping to Fire Simulations and Tree Physiological Responses

Dissertation Chair: Carlos Alberto Silva

Clémence Boivin-Champeaux

Major: *Pharmaceutical Sciences—Pharmaceutics*

Dissertation: Model-Informed Drug Development (MIDD) for Optimized Hepatitis B Treatment Strategies

Dissertation Chair: Stephan Schmidt

Dissertation Co-chair: Francine Johansson Azeredo

Fernando Jose Brito Gonzalez

Major: *Food and Resource Economics*

Dissertation: Artificial Intelligence (AI), Technology, and Labor in U.S. Agriculture

Dissertation Chair: Gulcan Onel

Dissertation Co-chair: Jared E. Gars

Daniel C. Brotherton

Major: *Physics*

Dissertation: Data Analysis for the ALPS II Experiment's First Science Run and Commissioning for Future Runs

Dissertation Chair: Guido Mueller

Josie Lucretia Bryan

Major: *Youth Development and Family Sciences*

Dissertation: Navigating Adolescence: The Role of Mattering and Digital Media in Depression

Dissertation Chair: Sarah Delphia Lynne

Ta-Tyonna Delecia Buck

Major: *Biomedical Engineering*

Dissertation: Primed for Reactivity: Exploring How APOE4 Influences the Longitudinal Dynamics of Glial and Structural Changes following Traumatic Brain Injury

Dissertation Chair: Lakiesha N. Williams

Jami Gaff Bueker

Major: *Youth Development and Family Sciences*

Dissertation: Characteristics of Collaboration Between UF/IFAS Extension and Nonprofit Organizations in Northeast Florida: An Exploratory Convergent Mixed Methods Study

Dissertation Chair: Muthusami Kumaran

Dissertation Co-chair: Angela B. Lindsey

Qian Cai

Major: *Electrical and Computer Engineering*

Dissertation: Design, Modeling, and Characterization of Integrated Photonic and Emerging-Material Devices

Dissertation Chair: Elham Heidari

Suyang Cai

Major: *Physics*

Dissertation: Fabrication and Characterization of Low-Dimensional Quantum Transport Devices for Probing Electron-Electron Interactions

Dissertation Chair: Dominique Laroche

Rodrigo Luis Calvo

Major: *Human-Centered Computing*

Dissertation: Understanding How to Design Companion Virtual Agents for Meaningful and Reciprocal Social Interactions

Dissertation Chair: Jaime Ruiz

Alejandro Camazon Pinilla

Major: *Astronomy*

Dissertation: Constraining the Unknown: A Study of the Dark Universe

Dissertation Chair: Rafael Guzman

Allison Ann Campbell

Major: *Biomedical Engineering*

Dissertation: Impacts of Immune Modulating Therapies and Dynamic Extracellular Matrix Changes in Spinal Cord Injury Progression

Dissertation Chair: Christine E. Schmidt

Roberto Javier Cardenas Retamal

Major: *Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences*

Dissertation: Incentives and Product Attributes in Seafood Markets

Dissertation Chair: Frank Asche

Dissertation Co-chair: Di Fang

Brinden Carlson

Major: *Physics*

Dissertation: Double Differential Cross Section Measurement of the ν_μ CC Inclusive Interaction Channel for SBND

Dissertation Chair: Heather Ray

Allison Nova Carrier

Major: *Public Health—Health Services Research*

Dissertation: Health Services Utilization, Pharmacological Care, and Perceived Material Challenges Among Menopausal American Women

Dissertation Chair: Molly Jacobs

Gonzalo Ignacio Casorzo Prieto

Major: *Plant Breeding*

Dissertation: Optimizing Strategies for Breeding Southern Highbush Blueberries With Improved Postharvest and Organoleptic Quality

Dissertation Chair: Patricio Ricardo Muñoz del Valle

Jared Lee Cathey

Major: *Astronomy*

Dissertation: Characterization of the Near Field Environments and Kinematics of Gravitationally Lensed Extremely Luminous Dusty Star-Forming Galaxies

Dissertation Chair: Anthony Gonzalez

José D. D. Cediél-Becerra

Major: *Microbiology and Cell Science*

Dissertation: Integrating Targeted Genome Mining, Molecular Docking, and Molecular Dynamics Simulations for Natural Product Discovery

Dissertation Chair: Raquel Dias

Allison Reanne Cerlanek

Major: *Environmental Engineering Sciences*

Dissertation: Characterization of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Occurrence, Mobility, and Fate From Impacted Concrete Pavement

Dissertation Chair: Timothy G. Townsend

Shiwei Chai

Major: *Business Administration—Information Systems and Operations Management*

Dissertation: Stochastic Modeling, Control, and Incentives in Emerging Operations Management Problems

Dissertation Chair: Anand Abraham Paul

Sayantika Chakraborty

Major: *English*

Dissertation: Displacement and Emplacement: Climate Migration Stories by Indigenous and Marginalized Women From India

Dissertation Chair: Sid Dobrin

Elizabeth Ann Chapman

Major: *Medical Sciences—Neuroscience*

Dissertation: The Impact of Cathepsin B Deficiency on Lysosome Function and Alpha-Synuclein Toxicity

Dissertation Chair: Matthew J. LaVoie

Amanda Renee Chappel

Major: *Environmental Engineering Sciences*

Dissertation: Sedimentation Dynamics and Ecosystem Responses to Cultural Eutrophication in the Tampa Bay Estuary

Dissertation Chair: Elise S. Morrison

Angel M. Charles

Major: *Medical Sciences—Immunology and Microbiology*

Dissertation: Microbial Signaling, Immunometabolism, and Epigenetic Remodeling in Innate Immune Dysfunction After Critical Illness

Dissertation Chair: Rob Maile

Anwasha Chattopadhyay

Major: *English*

Dissertation: Postcolonial Subversion of Language Learning Technologies

Dissertation Chair: Victor Del Hierro

Sisi Chen

Major: *Plant Breeding*

Dissertation: Germplasm Evaluation and Genomic Resource Development of Tropical Hibiscus (*Hibiscus rosa-sinensis* L.)

Dissertation Chair: Xingbo Wu

Wei-Han Chen

Major: *Pharmaceutical Sciences—Pharmaceutical Outcomes and Policy*

Dissertation: Towards Better Care for Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia: A Dual Lens on Outcome Prediction and Control

Dissertation Chair: Serena Jingchuan Guo

Dissertation Co-chair: Steven M. Smith

Hee Jun Cheong

Major: *Geology*

Dissertation: Ecological Changes Across the Cretaceous-Paleogene Boundary—Geochronology, Magnetostratigraphy, Climate Modeling Approach

Dissertation Chair: David A. Foster

Dissertation Co-chair: Courtney Jean Sprain

Xiaofei Chi

Major: *Biostatistics*

Dissertation: Robust Survival Analysis for Modern Clinical Trials: Exact and AI-Based Methods

Dissertation Chair: Qing Lu

Dissertation Co-chair: Samuel Shangwu Wu

Younghoo Cho

Major: *Agricultural and Biological Engineering*

Dissertation: Verifiable Provenance for Trustworthy Sharing of Agricultural Data: A Blockchain Infrastructure for Inspecting Data Origin and Declared Transformations

Dissertation Chair: Ziwen Yu

Dissertation Co-chair: Yiannis Ampatzidis

Cametreus Jaylen Clardy

Major: *Special Education*

Dissertation: "A Why That Isn't Mine": How Formal and Informal Supports Shape Black Male Special Education Teachers' Professional Identity

Dissertation Chair: Erica D. McCray

Cherita Antonia Clendinen

Major: *Psychology*

Dissertation: Discrimination and Socioeconomic Disadvantage in Adolescence: Family Contexts and Biological Embedding Among Mexican-Origin Youth

Dissertation Chair: Natalie C. Ebner

Giovanni Coelho Ladeira

Major: *Animal Sciences—Domestic Animal Genomics*

Dissertation: Copy Number Variation in Holsteins: From Mapping to Breeding Value Estimation for Uterine Health and Fertility Traits

Dissertation Chair: Fernanda Marcondes de Rezende

Benjamin Lyons Colburn

Major: *Electrical and Computer Engineering*

Dissertation: A Closed-Form Solution for Kernel Adaptive Filtering in Data-Dependent Reproducing Kernel Hilbert Spaces

Dissertation Chair: José C. Principe

Judy Lynn Colindres

Major: *English*

Dissertation: Reading Through Rap: Teaching Women Writers of Color in the Undergraduate Classroom Through Music Multiliteracies Pedagogy

Dissertation Chair: Victor Del Hierro

Jessica Braun Cornman

Major: *Rehabilitation Science—Neuromuscular Plasticity*

Dissertation: Respiratory Muscle Strength and Function in Pediatric Congenital Heart Disease: Clinical Characteristics and Rehabilitation Implications

Dissertation Chair: Barbara K. Smith

Jennifer Cieliesz Cremer

Major: *Computer Science*

Dissertation: Volumetric Medical Data: Visualization, Curation, and Modeling With Virtual Reality

Dissertation Chair: Jorg Peters

Dissertation Co-chair: Eric Ragan

Noah Neil Cyr

Major: *Chemistry*

Dissertation: Photoiniferter Polymerization for Advanced Material Synthesis and Enhancement

Dissertation Chair: Brent S. Sumerlin

Kleydson Diego da Rocha

Major: *Forest Resources and Conservation*

Dissertation: Understanding Forest Condition Through Structure, Sublethal Stress, and Spatial Dynamics

Dissertation Chair: Daniel J. Johnson

Kendra Anne-Masako Dagg

Major: *Entomology and Nematology*

Dissertation: The Relationship Between Pyrethroid Knockdown Resistance and Thermal Response and Toxicity in Yellow Fever Mosquito *Aedes aegypti*

Dissertation Chair: Edwin R. Burgess

Doory Dan

Major: *Chemistry*

Dissertation: Molecular Models of Homo- and Heterometallic Cerium Dioxide Nanoparticles and Its Applications

Dissertation Chair: George Christou

Ankita Datta

Major: *Interdisciplinary Ecology—Soil and Water Sciences*

Dissertation: Evaluating Nutrient Dynamics, Water Quality and Ecosystem Service Valuation in the Everglades

Dissertation Chair: Patrick W. Inglett

Alexander Michael Davies

Major: *Aerospace Engineering*

Dissertation: Computational Methods for Optimal Control Problems Constrained by Parabolic Partial Differential Equations

Dissertation Chair: Anil V. Rao

Robert Joseph Dawson

Major: *Medical Sciences—Medical Physics*

Dissertation: Advancements in Mesh-Based Computational Phantom Modeling and Dosimetry

Dissertation Chair: Wesley Bolch

Vinicius de Souza Izquierdo

Major: *Animal Sciences*

Dissertation: Gestational and Post-Weaning Heat Stress Mitigation in *Bos indicus*-influenced Beef Females

Dissertation Chair: Philipe Moriel

Rashelle H. Deak

Major: *Forest Resources and Conservation*

Dissertation: Conservation Biology in the North American Coastal Plain

Dissertation Chair: Raelene M. Crandall

Bornita Deb

Major: *Chemical Engineering*

Dissertation: Designing Signal Responsive Recombinant Protein Assemblies With Embedded Sensing and Dynamic Organization Toward Artificial Cell Development

Dissertation Chair: Yeongseon Jang

Dissertation Co-chair: Carl Andre Denard

Jason Stephen DeFelice

Major: *Psychology—Clinical and Health Psychology*

Dissertation: The Role of Cannabis Use in Attention, Episodic Memory, and Microbiome Dynamics Among People With and Without HIV

Dissertation Chair: Eric S. Porges

Dissertation Co-chair: Ronald A. Cohen

Adriana Del Pino Herrera

Major: *Biomedical Engineering*

Dissertation: Delaying the Onset of Treatment Resistance With Patient-Informed Mathematical Models in Ovarian Cancer

Dissertation Chair: Meghan C. Ferrall-Fairbanks

Ruben A. Del Rio

Major: *Curriculum and Instruction*

Dissertation: Teaching Under Pressure: A Self-Study of Political Mandates and Instructional Decision-Making in an Introductory Education Course

Dissertation Chair: Vicki A. Vescio

Dissertation Co-chair: Blake Mickle Beckett

Aria Crysta Deluna

Major: *Entomology and Nematology*

Dissertation: Microbiome Dynamics of Chironomid Larvae and Genomic Signatures of *V. cholerae* in Specific Phylogenetic Clades

Dissertation Chair: Chun Nin Wong

Aritram Dhar

Major: *Mathematics*

Dissertation: Partition Identities and Inequalities

Dissertation Chair: Alexander Berkovich

Upuli A. Dissanayake

Major: *Epidemiology*

Dissertation: Exploring Human Gut Microbiota: Associations With Antibiotic Exposure, Mediterranean Diet, and Parkinson's Disease

Dissertation Chair: Volker Mai

Matthew E. Dittrich

Major: *Physics*

Dissertation: A Search for WWZ Production in the Four-Lepton Final State and Particle Tracking for the High-Luminosity LHC

Dissertation Chair: Philip Chang

Joshua Robert Doby

Major: *Zoology*

Dissertation: Leaves to Landscapes and Preserved Specimens to Plots: Understanding Diversity and Distribution of Nitrogen-Fixing Plants

Dissertation Chair: Robert Guralnick

Gengfu Dong

Major: *Health and Human Performance—Exercise Physiology*

Dissertation: Targeting Mitochondria to Improve Limb Function in Peripheral Artery Disease

Dissertation Chair: Terence E. Ryan

Rafael dos Santos Abdalla

Major: *Music—Composition*

Dissertation: Odd Meters as Identity: Rhythmic Transformations of Samba in Contemporary Brazilian Popular Instrumental Music After Hermeto Pascoal

Dissertation Chair: Scott F. Lee

Marie Cecile Euphrosine Dougé

Major: *School Psychology*

Dissertation: What Dominates: To What Extent Do Specific Math Skills Predict End-Of-Year Benchmarks?

Dissertation Chair: Kathrin Maki

Dinglin Duan

Major: *Food and Resource Economics*

Dissertation: Three Essays on Nutrition Information, Accessibility, and Consumer Choices in Online Grocery Shopping

Dissertation Chair: Zhifeng Gao

Cabell Bennett Eades

Major: *Chemistry*

Dissertation: Polymerization-Induced Self-Assembly Stratagems Toward Advanced Polymer Nanomaterials

Dissertation Chair: Brent S. Sumerlin

Sophia A. Eikenberry

Major: *Medical Sciences—Physiology and Functional Genomics*

Dissertation: The Sex-Dependent Role of Clock Protein PERIOD1 in Cardiovascular Physiology in Salt-Sensitive Hypertension

Dissertation Chair: Michelle L. Gumz

Omar Ibrahim Elashkar

Major: *Pharmaceutical Sciences—Pharmaceutics*

Dissertation: Towards Inter-Disciplinary Quantitative Pharmacology: Statistical and Computational Methods Linking Bioanalysis and Population Pharmacokinetics

Dissertation Chair: Abhisheak Sharma

Chady Elias

Major: *Design, Construction and Planning—Construction Management*

Dissertation: Context-Aware Operational Digital Twins for AI-Augmented Facility and Asset Management

Dissertation Chair: Raja Raymond Issa

Dissertation Co-chair: Chinemelu J. Anumba



Sheikh Jafar Emran

Major: *Food and Resource Economics*

Dissertation: Three Essays on Tariffs, Trade, and Welfare: Rethinking Tariffs in A Multifaceted Trade Environment

Dissertation Chair: Andrew Schmitz

Nina Isabel Erwin

Major: *Pharmaceutical Sciences—Pharmaceutics*

Dissertation: Enhanced Extracellular Vesicle Loading and Functionalization for Therapeutic Development

Dissertation Chair: Mei He

Anthony Paul Farace

Major: *Anthropology*

Dissertation: Linked *Chaînés*: Tracing Technological Connections Between the Central Mississippi River Valley and Cahokia

Dissertation Chair: Neill Jansen Wallis

Sara Fazeli

Major: *Music—Music History and Literature*

Dissertation: Feminist Embodiments and Sonic Agency in the Iranian Women, Life, Freedom Movement

Dissertation Chair: Imani Mosley

Jacob Andrew Fiala

Major: *Psychology—Clinical and Health Psychology*

Dissertation: Demographic Adjustment Is Not Demographic Correction: A Three-Study Investigation of the Validity of Neuropsychological Test Norming Practices

Dissertation Chair: Michael Marsiske

Keliy D. Fordham

Major: *Nursing Sciences—Clinical and Translational Science*

Dissertation: A Machine Learning Approach to Predicting Necrotizing Enterocolitis in Very Low Birth Weight Infants

Dissertation Chair: Leslie Ann Parker

Ivana Maria Frisa

Major: *Romance Languages—Spanish*

Dissertation: Paradoxes: New Approaches to the “Anti-Immigrant” Reading of *¿Inocentes o culpables?* (1884), *En la sangre* (1887), and *Marco Severi’s* (1907) Socialist Proposal

Dissertation Chair: Martin Sorbille

Pratiksha Balasaheb Gaikwad

Major: *Chemistry*

Dissertation: Developing Novel *Ab Initio* Methods for Strongly Correlated Systems

Dissertation Chair: Ramón Alain Miranda Quintana

Priyadharshini Ganapathy Prasad

Major: *Curriculum and Instruction—Educational Technology*

Dissertation: Diagnosing Students’ Overall Conceptual Understanding of Classes and Objects in Object-Oriented Programming Language Using a Two-Tier Diagnostic Tool Approach

Dissertation Chair: Albert D. Ritzhaupt

Kelsey Morgan Garrison

Major: *Health and Human Performance—Sport Management*

Dissertation: An Examination of Cisgender Attitudes Towards the Inclusion of Trans Athletes in Sports: A Foucauldian Discourse Analysis Using Knowledgeable Confrontations

Dissertation Chair: Christopher M. McLeod

Ge Ge

Major: *Special Education*

Dissertation: Exploring Preschool Teachers’ Beliefs and Practices: The Intersection of Play-Based Learning and Pedagogical Documentation

Dissertation Chair: Melinda Leko

Natalie Enid Geigel

Major: *Biomedical Engineering*

Dissertation: Thalamocortical Network Dynamics of Sleep in Essential Tremor and Modulation With Deep Brain Stimulation

Dissertation Chair: Aysegul Gunduz

Naqash Gerard

Major: *Engineering Education*

Dissertation: Measuring the Cognitive Load and Cognitive Fatigue of Engineering Students During Laboratory Training

Dissertation Chair: Idalis Villanueva

Joshua Harris Gertler

Major: *Psychology—Clinical and Health Psychology*

Dissertation: Neuroimaging of Affective Bodily Sound Processing in Misophonia

Dissertation Chair: Dawn Bowers

Suvendu Ghatak

Major: *English*

Dissertation: Morbidopolitics: Malaria, Colonial Disease Ecologies, and the Medical Imaginaries of Modernity

Dissertation Chair: Pamela K. Gilbert

Yeonseo Jo Gittelmacher

Major: *Health and Human Performance—Tourism, Hospitality, and Event Management*

Dissertation: AI Small Talk as a Stable Relational Signal Across Service and Workplace Contexts

Dissertation Chair: Svetlana Stepchenkova

Laura Regina Gómez Jara

Major: *Special Education—Early Childhood Studies*

Dissertation: Development and Validation of the Culturally Responsive Practice and Training Survey for Early Intervention

Providers Serving Latine Children With Autism and Their Families

Dissertation Chair: Melinda Leko

Dissertation Co-chair: Nelson Carl Brunsting

Hannah Michelle Gottesman

Major: *Interdisciplinary Ecology—Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences*

Dissertation: Population Structure and Connectivity of a Protogynous Grouper With a Sexually Dimorphic Spatial Life Cycle, Gag (*Mycteroperca microlepis*), on the West Florida Shelf

Dissertation Chair: Susan K. Lowerre-Barbieri

Dissertation Co-chair: William Frank Patterson III

Bryce William Grame

Major: *Civil Engineering*

Dissertation: Predicting the Safety Impacts of Transit Automation Through Traffic Microsimulation, Artificial Intelligence, and Eye-Tracking

Dissertation Chair: Siva Srinivasan

Allison Kaye Greene

Major: *School Psychology*

Dissertation: Perfectly Engaged: Examining the Indirect Effect of School-Engagement on the Perfectionism-Achievement Relationship

Dissertation Chair: Christopher James Anthony

Christina Marie Grinstead

Major: *Nursing Sciences*

Dissertation: The Geriatric Nutritional Risk Index (GNRI) and Patient-Specific Nutritional and Clinical Factors From Diagnosis and Beyond to Predict Survival in Pancreatic Cancer

Dissertation Chair: Saun-Joo Yoon

Laurie Charisse Groshon

Major: *Psychology—Clinical and Health Psychology*

Dissertation: Physical, Psychological, and Sociocultural Contributors to Internalized Weight Stigma and Their Interactions With Age and Gender Among Individuals With Obesity

Dissertation Chair: Rebecca L. Pearl

Tingting Gu

Major: *Food Science*

Dissertation: Biointerface-Mediated Investigation of Foodborne Pathogen Persistence and Biofouling

Dissertation Chair: Boce Zhang

Xiaoyu Guan

Major: *Materials Science and Engineering*

Dissertation: Optimizing the Performance of Semiconductor Device Under Ionizing Radiation

Dissertation Chair: Michael Tonks

Yingchan Guo

Major: *Chemistry*

Dissertation: Strategies for Deconvolutional Imaging Mass Spectrometry Data of Lipids Using Gas-Phase Charge Inversion Ion/Ion Reactions

Dissertation Chair: Boone M. Prentice

Ziyi Guo

Major: *Design, Construction and Planning—Urban and Regional Planning*

Dissertation: Spatial Planning for Social Infrastructure Resilience to Environmental Shocks: Measurement and Solutions for Community-Based Small Businesses

Dissertation Chair: Yan Wang

Prajakta Rajeev Gupte

Major: *Political Science*

Dissertation: Privatizing Military Businesses: Military's Economic Exit and Persistence Under Democracies

Dissertation Chair: Ben Smith

Dissertation Co-chair: Sebastian Elischer

Suraj Gurung

Major: *Food and Resource Economics*

Dissertation: Three Essays on Consumer Behavior and Food Safety: Experimental, Structural, and Causal Evidence

Dissertation Chair: Angelia Chen

Dissertation Co-chair: Zhifeng Gao

Lucas J. Guttieres

Major: *Zoology—Animal Molecular and Cellular Biology*

Dissertation: The Ancestral Role of β -Catenin in Metazoan Evolution Through the Lens of Embryogenesis in the Ctenophore *Mnemiopsis leidyi*

Dissertation Chair: Mark Q. Martindale

Dissertation Co-chair: Elaine Seaver

Kathryn E. Hartikka

Major: *Sociology*

Dissertation: Caregiving Pathways to Wisdom and Life Satisfaction Among Aging Boomer Women: A Feminist Life Course Approach

Dissertation Chair: Monika Ardelt

Benjamin Taylor Heggie

Major: *Medical Sciences—Medical Physics*

Dissertation: Quality Control & Characterization Techniques for 3D Printing Multi-Energy Computed Tomography Phantom Materials

Dissertation Chair: Stephanie Marie Leon

Dissertation Co-chair: Izabella L. Barreto

David Farag Sadek Henis

Major: *Physics*

Dissertation: Pulse Shape Modeling and Characterization of the SuperCDMS sub-GeV Dark Matter Athermal Phonon Mediated Detectors

Dissertation Chair: Tarek Saab

Byron Hernandez

Major: *Agricultural and Biological Engineering*

Dissertation: Vision-Based Multi-Camera Multi-Target Tracking in Agriculture

Dissertation Chair: Henry Medeiros

Jacob Esh Herschberger

Major: *Entomology and Nematology*

Dissertation: The Influence of Herbivory and Productivity on a Suite of *Solanum carolinense* Defense Traits Originating From Across a Latitudinal Gradient

Dissertation Chair: Phil Hahn

Kyle Robert Hewit

Major: *Criminology, Law, and Society*

Dissertation: Family, Friends, and Fairness: The Role of Emotional Context in Jurors' Perceptions of Alibi Believability

Dissertation Chair: Lora M. Levett

LeeAnn Alyssia Hewitt

Major: *Medical Sciences—Immunology and Microbiology*

Dissertation: Maternal Milk-Driven Immune and Metabolic Programming Reveals a Novel Strategy for Type 1 Diabetes Prevention

Dissertation Chair: Clive H. Wasserfall

Dissertation Co-chair: Mark A. Atkinson

Ryan E. Higginbotham

Major: *Psychology*

Dissertation: Exploration of Delay Discounting With the Evolutionary Theory of Behavior Dynamics

Dissertation Chair: Jesse Dallery

Alexandra Caballero Himelhoch

Major: *Psychology—Clinical and Health Psychology*

Dissertation: From Home to Health: Exploring Neighborhood Opportunity and Healthcare Stigma Among Youth With Sickle Cell Disease

Dissertation Chair: David M. Janicke

Donald Russell Honeycutt

Major: *Computer Science*

Dissertation: The Effects of Providing Interactive Feedback on User Perception in Contexts With Varying Subjectivity

Dissertation Chair: Eric Ragan

Yu Hong

Major: *Computer Science*

Dissertation: Scalable Compression and Fast Indexing Algorithms for Large Repetitive Genomic Sequences

Dissertation Chair: Christina A. Boucher

Mary Elizabeth Hood

Major: *Classical Studies*

Dissertation: Agriculture in the Limes: Environmental Impact of Roman Occupation

Dissertation Chair: Konstantinos Kapparis

Kelsey Horace-Herron

Major: *Electrical and Computer Engineering*

Dissertation: Portable Spectroscopic Methods for Non-Destructive Material Authentication and Substance Detection

Dissertation Chair: Sandip Ray

Rui Hu

Major: *Design, Construction and Planning—Landscape Architecture*

Dissertation: Enhancing the Well-Being of the Aging Population: Insights Into Outdoor Environment Design

Dissertation Chair: Yi Luo

Wenxi Huang

Major: *Pharmaceutical Sciences—Pharmaceutical Outcomes and Policy*

Dissertation: The Impact of Glucagon-like Peptide-1 Receptor Agonists on Aging Populations

Dissertation Chair: Serena Jingchuan Guo

Dissertation Co-chair: Steven M. Smith

Yin Huang

Major: *Electrical and Computer Engineering*

Dissertation: Robust and Resource-Aware Online Learning for Collaborative Edge Intelligence

Dissertation Chair: Jie Xu

Zhuochao Huang

Major: *Statistics*

Dissertation: Robust Inference on Non-Standard Causal Estimands

Dissertation Chair: Joseph L. Antonelli

Maxine Ruth Floyd Hunter

Major: *Entomology and Nematology*

Dissertation: Effects of Water Quality on the Development and Survivorship of *Chironomus decorus* Group

Dissertation Chair: Rebecca W. Baldwin



Khondokar Nowshin Islam

Major: *Microbiology and Cell Science*

Dissertation: Biochemical and Structural Regulation of Carbon Flux Through the RuBP Regeneration Phase of the Calvin-Benson-Bassham Cycle

Dissertation Chair: Xin Wang

Opeoluwa Favour Iwaloye

Major: *Medical Sciences—Immunology and Microbiology*

Dissertation: MDA5 Regulates Inflammatory Response in Macrophages

Dissertation Chair: Clayton Mathews

Amanda Marie Jackson

Major: *Medical Sciences—Medical Physics*

Dissertation: Mixed Reality Applications in Radiation Oncology

Dissertation Chair: Perry B. Johnson

Dissertation Co-chair: Manuel Munoz Arreola

Chathuri Malsha Jayaweera Jayaweera Arachchilage

Major: *Computer Science*

Dissertation: Context-Led Elucidation and Ambiguity Resolution for NLI (CLEAR-NLI)

Dissertation Chair: Bonnie J. Dorr

Lucas Adam Jennings

Major: *Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences*

Dissertation: Nemertean (Nemertea: Carcinonemertidae) Egg Parasities: Ecology, Evolution and Species Discovery

Dissertation Chair: Donald C. Behringer Jr.

Jirui Jin

Major: *Chemistry*

Dissertation: Machine Learning for Accelerated Chemical Space Exploration: Deep Learning Frameworks for Property Prediction and Generative Design

Dissertation Chair: Mingjie Liu

Titto Sunil John

Major: *Chemistry*

Dissertation: Designed Diiron Clusters for Carbon Monoxide and Isocyanide Activation

Dissertation Chair: Leslie Justin Murray

Ashley Elizabeth Bennett Johnson

Major: *Agricultural Education and Communication*

Dissertation: Equine-Assisted Learning Leadership Education Programs: A Comparative Case Study of Program Design and Practice

Dissertation Chair: Matthew J. Sowcik

Nicholas Andrew Johnson

Major: *Physics*

Dissertation: Advances in Laser and Faraday Isolator Technology for Gravitational Wave Detectors

Dissertation Chair: David B. Tanner

Timothy Robert Johnson

Major: *Microbiology and Cell Science*

Dissertation: Microbiome-Mediated Suppression of Rice Blast Disease: From Community Dynamics to Biological Control

Dissertation Chair: Jessie Fernandez Garcia

Gabriel O. Johnston

Major: *Geology*

Dissertation: Reconciling Hotspot Geochemistry With Mantle Dynamics Through Particle Tracking

Dissertation Chair: Alessandro Forte

Grant Jones

Major: *Sociology*

Dissertation: "Sometimes in Life...You Just Kind of Need a Win": The Perceived Effects of Casual and Non-Casual Video Gaming on Stress, Anxiety, and Depression

Dissertation Chair: Charles F. Gattone

Jacqueline Nicole Jones

Major: *Rehabilitation Science—Disability, Health, and Participation*

Dissertation: Beyond Companionship: A Multi-Method Investigation of Pet Ownership and Health Outcomes Among Community-Dwelling Older Adults

Dissertation Chair: Jamie L. Pomeranz

Dissertation Co-chair: Jennifer W. Applebaum

Jeffrey Chisnell Jones

Major: *History*

Dissertation: Ancient Obligations: Repertoires of British Imperial Practice and Resistance in Belize and the Miskito Coast, 1730s–1880s

Dissertation Chair: Jessica Leigh Harland-Jacobs

Troy V. Jones

Major: *Music Education*

Dissertation: The Relationship Between Band Directors' Use of Learner-Centered Instruction and Demographic, Programmatic, and Contextual Factors

Dissertation Chair: William I. Bauer

Arati Joshi

Major: *Agricultural Education and Communication*

Dissertation: Exploring the Organizational Culture for Program Evaluation in Florida Cooperative Extension

Dissertation Chair: Sebastian Galindo

Jiwoo Jung

Major: *Health and Human Performance—Tourism, Hospitality, and Event Management*

Dissertation: Climate Hazards and Tourism Industry: Spatial and Behavioral Economics Approach

Dissertation Chair: Jin Won Kim

Dharmendra Kalauni

Major: *Agricultural Education and Communication*

Dissertation: Assessment and Validation of Evaluation Capacity Building Model in Cooperative Extension

Dissertation Chair: Laura Anne Sanagorski-Warner

Rohan Reddy Kalavakonda

Major: *Electrical and Computer Engineering*

Dissertation: Intelligent Wearables and Biohybrid Systems for Public Health and Ecological Monitoring

Dissertation Chair: Swarup Bhunia

Rachel Elizabeth Kalicharan

Major: *Microbiology and Cell Science*

Dissertation: Dissecting Molecular Mechanisms of Virulence in Plant-Pathogenic Fungi: Effector Function, ADP-Ribosylation, and Fungal Physiology

Dissertation Chair: Jessie Fernandez Garcia

Elena Aleksandra Kalina

Major: *Health and Human Performance—Health Behavior*

Dissertation: An Ecological Momentary Assessment Investigation of Impaired Control Over Alcohol Among College Students Who Drink Heavily

Dissertation Chair: Nichole M. Scaglione

Karun Katoch

Major: *Soil, Water, and Ecosystem Sciences*

Dissertation: Nutrient Management in Corn-Cover Crop Production Systems

Dissertation Chair: Lakesh K. Sharma

Dissertation Co-chair: Hardeep Singh

Ali Katooziani

Major: *Design, Construction and Planning—Construction Management*

Dissertation: VirtAI-Safe: GPT-Enabled Personalized Situated Learning in Virtual Reality for Safety Education

Dissertation Chair: Idris Jeelani

Dissertation Co-chair: Masoud Gheisari

Liam Michael Kehoe

Major: *Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences*

Dissertation: Evaluating the Utility of Genetic Mark-Recapture Techniques to Estimate Population Dynamics

Dissertation Chair: David Chagaris

Dissertation Co-chair: William Frank Patterson III

Netanya Danielle Keil

Major: *Genetics and Genomics*

Dissertation: Alternative Splicing and Cellular Differentiation in KSHV-Infected Endothelial Cells

Dissertation Chair: Lauren Michaela McIntyre

Dissertation Co-chair: Rolf Renne

Hisham Mansour Khafaji

Major: *Design, Construction and Planning—Historic Preservation*

Dissertation: Modern Heritage in Riyadh City, Saudi Arabia: The Preservation of Modernist Heritage of the Oil Revolution 1952–1989

Dissertation Chair: Cleary Larkin

Dissertation Co-chair: Vandana Baweja

Jin-Su Kim

Major: *Health and Human Performance—Exercise Physiology*

Dissertation: Vascular Effects of Home-Based, Remotely Supervised High-Intensity Interval and Moderate-Intensity Continuous Training in Breast Cancer Survivors Post-Chemotherapy: A Pilot Randomized Controlled Trial

Dissertation Chair: Demetra D. Christou

Joongsuk Jonathan Kim

Major: *Health and Human Performance—Biobehavioral Science*

Dissertation: Motor Learning in Tremor-Related Movement Disorders

Dissertation Chair: Evangelos A. Christou

Junho Kim

Major: *Health and Human Performance—Sport Management*

Dissertation: Temporal Framing in Sport Marketing: Understanding How Time-Based Communication Shapes Sport Consumer Behavior

Dissertation Chair: Yong Jae Ko

Michael Keehan Kim

Major: *Statistics*

Dissertation: Bayesian Methods for Estimating Optimal Biomarker Composites to Quantify Progression in Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy

Dissertation Chair: Michael Joseph Daniels

Aaron Robert King

Major: *Geography*

Dissertation: Institutions, Authority, and Governance: Understanding Community-Based Natural Resource Management Performance in Southern Africa

Dissertation Chair: Brian Anthony Child

Dimuthu Nirmani Kodituwakku

Major: *Chemistry*

Dissertation: Hybrid Approaches: Combining Molecular Dynamics and Machine Learning for the Study of Molecules

Dissertation Chair: Adrian E. Roitberg

Evan Armstrong Koenig

Major: *Physics*

Dissertation: A Search for Higgs Boson Pair Production in the Four B Quark Final State in Proton-Proton Collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 13.6$ TeV

Dissertation Chair: Jacobo Konigsberg

Lingchen Kong

Major: *Research and Evaluation Methodology*

Dissertation: Explaining Automated Essay Scoring: A Representation-Level Analysis of a BERT-Based Model

Dissertation Chair: Jinnie Shin

Niki Maria Koukoulidis

Major: *Curriculum and Instruction—Science Education*

Dissertation: Leveraging Learners' Strengths in Biology Education: Instructional Elements and Their Connection to Science Practice Participation

Dissertation Chair: Julie C. Brown

Katie L. Kozlowski

Major: *School Psychology*

Dissertation: Eye-Opening Insights: Understanding Students' Attentional Processing on an Academic Rating Scale Using Eye Tracking

Dissertation Chair: Christopher James Anthony

Lisa Krause

Major: *History*

Dissertation: Between Solidarity and Surveillance: Cuban-East German Transnational Relations, 1959–1990

Dissertation Chair: Lillian Guerra

Remya Kunnath Ravindranunni

Major: *Rehabilitation Science—Neuromuscular Plasticity*

Dissertation: Magnetic Resonance-Based Biomarkers of Bone Quality in Corticosteroid Treated Boys With Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy

Dissertation Chair: Rebecca J. Willcocks

Dissertation Co-chair: Alison M. Barnard

Dhruv Singh Kushwaha

Major: *Electrical and Computer Engineering*

Dissertation: Safe Reinforcement Learning Using Lyapunov and Barrier Functions

Dissertation Chair: Zoleikha Biron

Beatrice Mulondo Kyasiimire

Major: *Interdisciplinary Ecology—Wildlife Ecology and Conservation*

Dissertation: Alternative Livelihoods, Enabling Conditions and Community Attitudes Towards Conservation: Insights From the Queen Elizabeth Conservation Area, Uganda

Dissertation Chair: Mark E. Hostetler

Antonios Kyriazis

Major: *Physics*

Dissertation: Topics in the Phenomenology of Axions: The Cases of Cosmic Strings and Superradiance

Dissertation Chair: Pierre Sikivie

Saneer Lamichhane

Major: *Interdisciplinary Ecology—Wildlife Ecology and Conservation*

Dissertation: Beyond Recovery: Demographic, Spatial, Ecological, and Socioecological Dimensions of Tiger Conservation in Nepal

Dissertation Chair: Madan Kumar Oli

Sree Laxmi

Major: *Chemical Engineering*

Dissertation: Understanding and Quantification of Molecular Transport in Novel Polymer-Based Membranes Using Pulsed Field Gradient NMR

Dissertation Chair: Sergey Vasenkov

Dissertation Co-chair: Joshua Moon

Cody A. Layne

Major: *Chemistry*

Dissertation: Novel, Sugar-Derived Heterocyclic Monomers for the Synthesis of Sustainable Polymers to Replace Commodity Plastics

Dissertation Chair: Stephen Albert Miller

John Leary

Major: *Biostatistics*

Dissertation: Interpretable and Scalable Statistical Models for the Analysis of Gene Expression Datasets

Dissertation Chair: Rhonda Bacher

Rachel Jessica Leder

Major: *Counseling Psychology*

Dissertation: Adjusting an Integrated Model of Body Image for Perceived Non-Idealized Body Types

Dissertation Chair: Anne Q. Zhou



Gijung Lee

Major: *Electrical and Computer Engineering*

Dissertation: Privacy-Preserving Hardware Assurance: From Vulnerability Analysis to Privacy and Security Guarantees

Dissertation Chair: Domenic J. Forte

Tae Hoon Lee

Major: *Health and Human Performance—Sport Management*

Dissertation: Examining the Impact of Automated Sport Officiating Technology

Dissertation Chair: Daniel P. Connaughton

Dissertation Co-chair: Yong Jae Ko

Yonguk Lee

Major: *Materials Science and Engineering*

Dissertation: Occurrence and Control of Heteroepitaxial Recrystallization in Two Phase Ni-Base Superalloys

Dissertation Chair: Victoria Mayne Miller

Seowung Leem

Major: *Biomedical Engineering*

Dissertation: Deep Learning Based Computational Framework for Understanding Human Emotion Perception, Learning, and Representations

Dissertation Chair: Ruogu Fang

Ye Lei

Major: *Health and Human Performance—Sport Management*

Dissertation: Warmth and Competence in WNBA and NBA: A Stereotype Content Model Examination of Consumer Discourse and Sponsorship Message

Dissertation Chair: Daniel P. Connaughton

Dissertation Co-chair: Yong Jae Ko

Hai Li

Major: *Curriculum and Instruction—Educational Technology*

Dissertation: Engaging the Mathematics Learner Through Teachable Agent: How Visual Backgrounds and Talking-Head Videos Shape Student Perceptions and Dialogue Behaviors

Dissertation Chair: Wanli Xing

Lechen Li

Major: *Higher Education Administration—Educational Policy*

Dissertation: Examining Individual and Contextual Influences on STEM Doctoral Graduates' Career Outcomes

Dissertation Chair: Jue Wu

Peixin Li

Major: *Business Administration—Finance*

Dissertation: Essays on Empirical Corporate Finance

Dissertation Chair: Christopher James

Abigail Ann Lilak

Major: *Public Health—One Health*

Dissertation: The Evolving Threat of Zoonotic Pathogens: Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever, Rift Valley Fever, and Tularemia at the Human-Animal Interface in Kenyan Pastoral Systems

Dissertation Chair: Michael Emery von Fricken

Qinyin Ling

Major: *Botany*

Dissertation: Comprehensive Analysis of Alternative Splicing in Plants

Dissertation Chair: William Bradley Barbazuk

Jinxu Liu

Major: *Special Education—Early Childhood Studies*

Dissertation: Parents' Practices and Perceptions of Shared Book Reading With Chinese-English Dual Language Learners With Disabilities: A Mixed Methods Study

Dissertation Chair: Melinda Leko

Junyan Liu

Major: *Chemistry*

Dissertation: Strain and Interfacial Coupling in Spin-Crossover/Two-Dimensional Semiconductor Heterostructures

Dissertation Chair: Daniel R. Talham

Qipeng Liu

Major: *Design, Construction and Planning—Construction Management*

Dissertation: Assessing Behavioral Response to Dynamic Indoor Evacuation Guidance: A Virtual Reality Study

Dissertation Chair: Rui Liu

Zifeng Liu

Major: *Curriculum and Instruction—Educational Technology*

Dissertation: Examining an Online Math-Integrated AI Curriculum: Student Motivation, AI Self-Efficacy, AI Literacy, and Learning Experiences

Dissertation Chair: Wanli Xing

Rachel Emily Liu-Galvin

Major: *Public Health—Health Services Research*

Dissertation: Undiagnosed Elevated Low-Density Lipoprotein Cholesterol in U.S. Adults: Screening Gaps, Potential Population-Level Impact of Increased Cholesterol Screening, and Development of a Non-Laboratory Risk Score

Dissertation Chair: Arch Mainous

Dissertation Co-chair: Santanu K. Datta

Rugwed Anil Lokhande

Major: *Chemistry*

Dissertation: Flexible Wavefunction Methods and Perturbation Theories in Quantum Chemistry

Dissertation Chair: Ramón Alain Miranda Quintana

Gerardo Alfonso Lopez Diaz

Major: *Research and Evaluation Methodology*

Dissertation: Exploring a Nonparametric Composite Group DIF Index by Using a Polytomous Items Approach

Dissertation Chair: Corinne Manley

Rigan Louis

Major: *Nursing Sciences*

Dissertation: Emergence and Endemicity of Arboviruses in Haiti, and Their Implications for Maternal, Fetal, and Infant Health

Dissertation Chair: Leslie Ann Parker

Xinlin Lu

Major: *Biostatistics*

Dissertation: Adaptive Sequential Parallel Comparison Designs to Improve Trial Efficiency

Dissertation Chair: Guogen Shan

Yuanming Lu

Major: *Zoology—Tropical Conservation and Development*

Dissertation: Why Individuals Matter: Spatially Explicit Models of Plant Invasion, Dispersal, and Biocontrol

Dissertation Chair: Robert D. Holt

Dissertation Co-chair: Jeremy Lichstein

Nicholas Joseph Lucarelli

Major: *Biomedical Engineering*

Dissertation: Bridging Pathology and Spatial Omics: AI-Enabled Large-Scale Annotation and Application in Histopathology

Dissertation Chair: Parisa Rashidi

Dissertation Co-chair: Pinaki Sarder

Anran Luo

Major: *Mass Communication*

Dissertation: Understanding User Value in AI Chatbot Search: A Qualitative Study of User Experience and Perception

Dissertation Chair: Jieun Shin

Duanya Lyu

Major: *Civil Engineering*

Dissertation: *Leveraging Novel Data to Evaluate Transit Service Performance and Identify Strategies to Boost Ridership*

Dissertation Chair: Xiang Jacob Yan

Jing Lyu

Major: *Curriculum and Instruction—Languages and Literacies in Education*

Dissertation: *Email Communication as a Social Literacy Practice: Navigating Academic Interactions of Chinese International Doctoral Students Under the American Education System*

Dissertation Chair: Angela Marie Kohnen

Gabriela Alejandra Macay Hernandez

Major: *Animal Molecular and Cellular Biology—Reproductive Biotechnology*

Dissertation: *Unraveling the Effects of Semen Components on the Endometrial Response and the Impacts on Fetal Development and Postnatal Offspring Performance*

Dissertation Chair: John Bromfield



Hima Varsha Madala

Major: *Agronomy*

Dissertation: Optimizing Sugarcane (*Saccharum* spp.) Tillering and Ratooning Potential in Florida: Integrating Molecular, Physiological, and Agronomic Practices

Dissertation Chair: Hardev Singh Sandhu

Grant Thomas Maddox

Major: *Biomedical Engineering*

Dissertation: Task Dependent Neuromuscular Control Across Diverse Walking Tasks in Older Adults

Dissertation Chair: Jessica L. Allen

Lindsey Sachi Maeshima

Major: *Counseling Psychology*

Dissertation: In Between Worlds: A Qualitative Study on Asian-White Multiracial Adults' Experiences With Navigating Identity and Belonging

Dissertation Chair: Anne Q. Zhou

Aditya Devidas Mahadevan

Major: *Medical Sciences—Physiology and Functional Genomics*

Dissertation: Clinical and Molecular Placental Dysfunction in Diabetic Pregnancies Complicated by Fetal Cardiac Malformations

Dissertation Chair: Helen Nichola Jones

MD Anik Mahmud

Major: *Soil, Water, and Ecosystem Sciences*

Dissertation: Decoding the Chemistry of Legacy Phosphorus Across Contrasting Soil Types to Support Sustainable Agroecosystems

Dissertation Chair: Jehangir Bhadha

Dissertation Co-chair: Jonathan Judy

Jordan Claire Warlick Major

Major: *Rehabilitation Science—Disability, Health, and Participation*

Dissertation: Characterizing Diabetes Distress in Pregnant and Nonpregnant Birthing Individuals With Type 1 Diabetes

Dissertation Chair: Stefanie C. Bodison

Hannah Celeste Manis

Major: *Psychology—Clinical and Health Psychology*

Dissertation: "I Wouldn't Be Me Without T1D": Medical Traumatic Stress, Illness Identity, and Posttraumatic Growth and Depreciation in Adolescents and Young Adults With Type 1 Diabetes

Dissertation Chair: Kimberly Ann Driscoll

Amogh Mannekote

Major: *Computer Science*

Dissertation: Neurosymbolic Authoring and Test-Time Compute Allocation for Generative Educational Simulations

Dissertation Chair: Kristy Boyer

Dissertation Co-chair: Bonnie Dorr

Morgan Marie Manning

Major: *Interdisciplinary Ecology—Wildlife Ecology and Conservation*

Dissertation: A Quantitative View of Global Change Issues With Pedagogical Applications

Dissertation Chair: Miguel A. Acevedo

Joshua David Marquez

Major: *Chemistry*

Dissertation: Harnessing Entanglements in Ultra-High Molecular Weight Polystyrenics Accessed by Photoiniferter Polymerization

Dissertation Chair: Austin Evans

Julio Antonio Martin

Major: *Counseling Psychology*

Dissertation: Depression and Anxiety in Caregivers of LGBTQ Youth: Race and Social Justice as Moderators

Dissertation Chair: Roberto L. Abreu

Natalie Martinez Lopez

Major: *Medical Sciences—Cancer Biology*

Dissertation: Defining Key Histological and Genetic Features of Malignancies Associated With Murine Gammaherpesvirus Infection

Dissertation Chair: Scott Tibbetts

Yisel Martinez Noa

Major: *Chemistry*

Dissertation: From Molecular Mechanics to Machine Learning: Computational Frameworks for Peptide Modeling and Design

Dissertation Chair: Alberto Perez Antonanzas

Parisa Mazdarani

Major: *Veterinary Medical Sciences*

Dissertation: Critical Evaluation of Diagnostic and Surgical Decision-Making in Cranial Cruciate Ligament Disease

Dissertation Chair: Stanley E. Kim

Sophia Taylor McDuffee

Major: *Plant Pathology*

Dissertation: Unraveling the Molecular Arsenal of *Xanthomonas* spp. in Bacterial Leaf Spot: From Resistance Strategies to Pathogen Dynamics

Dissertation Chair: Jeffrey B. Jones

Dissertation Co-chair: Erica M. Goss

Kristina L. McIntyre

Major: *Interdisciplinary Ecology—Soil and Water Sciences*

Dissertation: Assessing Human Landscaping Behaviors That Influence Urban Water Systems Using Behavioral Analysis and a Behavior-To-Impact (BTI) Quantification

Dissertation Chair: Laura Anne Sanagorski-Warner

Kayla V. McNeely

Major: *Epidemiology—Infectious Disease Epidemiology*

Dissertation: Examining the Association Between Behavioral Health Syndemics and Menopausal Symptoms in Women Living With and Without HIV

Dissertation Chair: Natalie E. Chichetto

Connor Christopher Meenan

Major: *Microbiology and Cell Science*

Dissertation: Exploring the Intersection Between Metabolism and *Staphylococcus aureus* Nitric Oxide Synthase Through Transcriptomic Profiling and Aminoglycoside Tolerance

Dissertation Chair: Kelly C. Rice

Suraj Melkani

Major: *Soil, Water, and Ecosystem Sciences*

Dissertation: Determining Soil Carbon Stability Patterns and Drivers in South Florida Histosols: An Integrated Approach Using Data-Driven Machine Learning Models and Spectroscopy

Dissertation Chair: Jehangir Bhadha

Arya Gayathri Memana

Major: *Mathematics*

Dissertation: Szegő-Type Limit Theorems in Analytic Function Spaces

Dissertation Chair: Michael T. Jury

Morgan Callise Metrailler

Major: *Geography—Geographic Information Systems*

Dissertation: Landscape Geography of Zoonotic and Environmental Pathogens: Ecological, Cultural, and Genetic Insights Into Pathogen Distribution and Bacterial Diversity

Dissertation Chair: Jason K. Blackburn

Rachel Victoria Meyer

Major: *Linguistics*

Dissertation: Computational Analysis of Variable Repair in Arabic Coda Clusters

Dissertation Chair: Ratree Wayland

Shane T. Michael

Major: *Agricultural Education and Communication*

Dissertation: Declining Enrollment in the Florida 4-H Horse Program: A Case Study of Motivations, Challenges, and Retention Strategies

Dissertation Chair: Sebastian Galindo

Mitchell Lee Mika

Major: *Nuclear Engineering Sciences*

Dissertation: Toward an Efficient Qualification of Metallic Nuclear Fuels Using Microscopy and Advanced Data Analysis

Dissertation Chair: Assel Aitkaliyeva

Audrey Nicole Milam

Major: *School Psychology*

Dissertation: “I Think Someone Would Love to Have a Friend Like Me”: Autistic Adolescents Making Sense of Social Reciprocity and Relationships

Dissertation Chair: Kathrin Maki

Dissertation Co-chair: Hannah M. Mathews

Angela Marie Miles

Major: *Rehabilitation Science—Disability, Health, and Participation*

Dissertation: Embodied Toxicity in Young Adults: Applying the Able Framework to Fluoride Exposure and Structural Vulnerability

Dissertation Chair: Jessica M. Kramer

Dissertation Co-chair: Ashley Malin

Tannaz Mirhosseini

Major: *Psychology—Clinical and Health Psychology*

Dissertation: Longitudinal Effects of Mental Health Symptoms and Self-Stigma on Adolescent Quality of Life

Dissertation Chair: Joseph Patrick Hill McNamara

Dissertation Co-chair: David M. Janicke

Concepción Moncada Cummings

Major: *Special Education*

Dissertation: The Role of Language Proficiency in Teacher-Reported Special Education Referral Decisions for Minority Multilingual Students

Dissertation Chair: Holly Lane

Ana Beatriz Montevecchio Bernardino

Major: *Veterinary Medical Sciences*

Dissertation: A Multi-Modal Assessment of a Transdermal Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drug Treatment on Inflammatory Response in Dairy Cows With *Escherichia coli*-Induced Mastitis

Dissertation Chair: Ricardo Carbonari Chebel

Jonel Raven Morris

Major: *Biomedical Engineering*

Dissertation: Electrocortical Dynamics of Visual Occlusions in Locomotion and Posture Control

Dissertation Chair: Daniel Perry Ferris

Diana Carolina Muller

Major: *Health and Human Performance—Exercise Physiology*

Dissertation: Chemokine-Mediated Regulation of Skeletal Muscle Function in Sepsis

Dissertation Chair: Orlando Laitano

Perseverança da Delfina Khossa Mungofa

Major: *Soil, Water, and Ecosystem Sciences—Geographic Information Systems*

Dissertation: Enhancing Agricultural and Environmental Sustainability: Leveraging Artificial Intelligence to Decipher Shallow and Deep Soil Properties

Dissertation Chair: Arnold Walter Schumann

Dissertation Co-chair: Sabine Grunwald

Iblin Edelweiss Murillo Lafuente

Major: *Sociology—Women's/Gender Studies*

Dissertation: Las FemiDiskas, Anti-Ableist Feminist Resistance

Dissertation Chair: Rebecca Hanson

Jesse James Murray

Major: *Plant Breeding*

Dissertation: Exploring the Phytochemical Content of Lettuce Associated With the Extension of Shelf-Life Throughout the Florida Growing Season

Dissertation Chair: German V. Sandoya Miranda

Dissertation Co-chair: Gilles J. Basset

Purity Kendi Muthomi

Major: *Entomology and Nematology*

Dissertation: Development and Application of Integrated Pest Management Strategies to Manage Chilli Thrips, *Scirtothrips dorsalis* in Southern Highbush Blueberries

Dissertation Chair: Oscar E. Liburd

Anuska Narayanan

Major: *Geography—Climate Science*

Dissertation: Who Suffers Most? Extreme Heat and Human Mortality in the United States

Dissertation Chair: David J. Keellings

Nicole Marie Nazario-Maldonado

Major: *Veterinary Medical Sciences*

Dissertation: Comparative Investigation of the Roles of Tissue Factor In Placental Malaria, Cerebral Malaria, and the Malaria-Associated Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome

Dissertation Chair: Julie M. Moore

Tiffany Schyler Nelson

Major: *Medical Sciences—Immunology and Microbiology*

Dissertation: STING-Driven Inhibition of Kaposi's Sarcoma-Associated Herpesvirus Pathogenesis

Dissertation Chair: Zhe Ma

Hoang Minh Ngo

Major: *Computer Science*

Dissertation: Learning-Based Optimization for NISQ Systems and Quantum Applications

Dissertation Chair: My Thai

Dissertation Co-chair: Tamer Kahveci

Xuce Niu

Major: *Physics*

Dissertation: Axion Cosmology: Inflation and Strings

Dissertation Chair: Wei Xue

Janet Northcote

Major: *Nursing Sciences*

Dissertation: Modeling Neonatal Risk Factors of Respiratory Morbidity: A Data-Driven Life Course Approach

Dissertation Chair: Lisiane Pruinelli

Sumaiya Fathima Nusrath

Major: *Counseling Psychology*

Dissertation: The Links of Intersectional Discrimination, Coping, and Womanist Attitudes With Women of Color's Experiences of Psychological Distress and Well-Being

Dissertation Chair: Banafsheh Moradi

Justina Awele Odogwu

Major: *Soil, Water, and Ecosystem Sciences*

Dissertation: Nutrient Leaching and Soil Health Responses to Reclaimed Water Irrigation

Dissertation Chair: Mary G. Lusk

Dissertation Co-chair: Davie Mayeso Kadyampakeni

Cassandra Anita O'Hara

Major: *Psychology*

Dissertation: Culturally Responsive Digital Contingency Management for Smoking Cessation Among LGBTQ+ People

Dissertation Chair: Corina Jimenez-Gomez

Alexandria Grace O'Neal

Major: *Psychology—Clinical and Health Psychology*

Dissertation: Neurophysiological Indicators of Chronic Stress and Brain Aging: Response to Paired Transcutaneous Vagus Nerve Stimulation (tVNS) and Cognitive Training in Older Adults

Dissertation Chair: John B. Williamson

Dissertation Co-chair: Ronald A. Cohen

Tala V. Ortiz

Major: *Medical Sciences—Neuroscience*

Dissertation: Vaccine Approach for C9orf72 Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis/Frontotemporal Dementia (C9-ALS/FTD)

Dissertation Chair: Laura Page Whitmore Ranum

Kelenna O. Osimiri

Major: *Microbiology and Cell Science*

Dissertation: Biofilms of the Upper Floridan Aquifer, U.S.A: Mineral Contributions to Microbial Diversity, Distribution, and Biogeochemical Activity in a Changing Climate

Dissertation Chair: Brent Craig Christner



Gentry Earle O'Steen

Major: *Special Education*

Dissertation: Evaluating Teachers' Corrective Feedback Implementation During UFLI Foundations Reading Instruction

Dissertation Chair: Holly Lane

James Donald Overmeyer Jr.

Major: *Electrical and Computer Engineering*

Dissertation: Phononically Enhanced Imager: High Performance Thermoelectric Infrared Imager Enabled by Phononic MEMS Technology

Dissertation Chair: Yong-Kyu Yoon

Tianyu Pan

Major: *Electrical and Computer Engineering*

Dissertation: Structured Representations and Stable Adaptation: Geometric and Control for Reliable AI

Dissertation Chair: Damon Lamar Woodard

Apekshya Parajuli

Major: *Plant Pathology*

Dissertation: Type III Effectors Allelic Diversity and Phylogenomic Classification of Global *Xanthomonas euvesicatoria* pv. *perforans* Populations, and CRISPR/Cas9-Mediated Editing of Candidate Bs6 and Bs8 Genes in Tomato

Dissertation Chair: Jeffrey B. Jones

Dissertation Co-chair: Vallad E. Gary

Sudipta Paria

Major: *Electrical and Computer Engineering*

Dissertation: Automating SoC Security: An End-to-End AI-Assisted Verification and Protection Framework

Dissertation Chair: Swarup Bhunia

Zachary Alexander Pasternak

Major: *Chemistry*

Dissertation: Characterization of Ketoreductases From *Saccharomyces* and Their Activity Towards Amino-Ketones Derived From Amino Acids and Their Use in a One-Pot Reaction

Dissertation Chair: Jon Dale Stewart

Andrew Kix Patterson

Major: *Mass Communication*

Dissertation: How We Report Today Is the Historical Representation of Tomorrow: A Past, Present and Future Look at LGBTQ+ Representation in News Photography, Historical Remembrance and Ethical Reporting

Dissertation Chair: Roxane Coche

Jarrad Mitchell Pazda

Major: *Chemistry*

Dissertation: Exploring the Catalytic Function of Two Alkene Reductases From the Old Yellow Enzyme Family

Dissertation Chair: Jon Dale Stewart

Marissa Nichole Pazik

Major: *Rehabilitation Science—Disability, Health, and Participation*

Dissertation: Beyond the Broken Bone: A Data-Driven Approach to Identifying Patients at Risk for Psychiatric Symptoms Following Traumatic Musculoskeletal Injury

Dissertation Chair: Marybeth Horodyski

Gianella Perez

Major: *Counseling Psychology*

Dissertation: Critical Action as a Social Determinant of Health: Mental, Physical, and Social Well-Being

Dissertation Chair: Ryan Duffy

Michael Francis Pérez

Major: *Computer Science*

Dissertation: Toward Deployable Online Action Detection for Real-Time Intelligent Systems: System Integration, Benchmarking, and Efficient Temporal Modeling

Dissertation Chair: Jaime Ruiz

Dissertation Co-chair: Zhe Wang

Juan Guillermo Pérez Carreño

Major: *Epidemiology*

Dissertation: Cannabis Use and Cardiovascular Outcomes: Risk, Severity, and Exposure Characterization in Real-World Data

Dissertation Chair: Catalina Lopez-Quintero

Dissertation Co-chair: Robert L. Cook

Ambar Raquel Perez Lao

Major: *Psychology—Clinical and Health Psychology*

Dissertation: A Meta-Analytic Exploration of Normative Data for Neuropsychological Tests in Spanish Speakers Across the Regions of the United States of America, Spain, Latin America, and the Caribbean

Dissertation Chair: Glenn E. Smith

Dissertation Co-chair: Shellie-Anne Levy

Vanisa Petriti

Major: *Pharmaceutical Sciences—Medicinal Chemistry*

Dissertation: Learning From and Leveraging Nature: Biosynthetic Insights and Enzymatic Cross-Coupling

Dissertation Chair: Yousong Ding

Dissertation Co-chair: Guangrong Zheng

Hoang Duc Pho

Major: *Music—Composition*

Dissertation: Communicating Multiple Equal Tuning Systems: A New Nomenclature Expressing Pitches and Intervals

Dissertation Chair: James Paul Sain

Aaron I. Plex Sulá

Major: *Plant Pathology*

Dissertation: From Research Collaboration Networks to Global Pathogen Diversity: Network-Based Approaches for Plant Pathology

Dissertation Chair: Karen Garrett

Jesse Lawrence Potts

Major: *Horticultural Sciences—Environmental Horticulture*

Dissertation: Viral Ecology, Susceptibility Gene Biology, and Host Factor-Based Resistance Engineering in *Vanilla planifolia*: An Integrated Approach From Metagenomics to Multiplex CRISPR/Cas9 Editing

Dissertation Chair: Xingbo Wu

Jourdan Joseph Pouliot

Major: *Psychology*

Dissertation: Generalization and Reversal of Conditioned Fear in Visuocortical and Autonomic Systems

Dissertation Chair: Andreas Keil

Dilip Vinodchandra Prajapati

Major: *Chemistry*

Dissertation: Uncovering Small Molecule Biosynthesis and Signaling in *Caenorhabditis elegans* Using Comparative Metabolomics

Dissertation Chair: Rebecca Ann Butcher

Aroon Pressram

Major: *Medical Sciences—Medical Physics*

Dissertation: Integration of Clinical Dual Energy Computed Tomography (DECT) in a Large Academic Healthcare Center

Dissertation Chair: Izabella L. Barreto

Shatabdi Deb Proma

Major: *Agronomy*

Dissertation: Implementing Genomic Selection in *Miscanthus* Multi-Environment Trials: Strategies, Metrics, and Outcomes

Dissertation Chair: Juan Diego Hernandez Jarquin

Joseph Michael Pruitt

Major: *Psychology*

Dissertation: Towards Complementarity in Human AI Teams: Improving Perceptual Decision-Making via Metacognitive Sensitivity and Transparency

Dissertation Chair: Brian Odegaard

Marianne Patricia Quijano

Major: *History*

Dissertation: *The Destinies of Your Republic: Crafting Sovereignties in Twentieth-Century Panama*

Dissertation Chair: Heather A. Vrana

Stephan Quintin

Major: *Medical Sciences—Neuroscience*

Dissertation: *C-Terminal Truncation of Alpha-Synuclein: Cellular Processing, Human Disease, and Experimental Models*

Dissertation Chair: Benoit Giasson

Mridha Md Mashahedur Rahman

Major: *Electrical and Computer Engineering*

Dissertation: *Advancing SoC Security: From Software Policies to Runtime Security Monitoring*

Dissertation Chair: Farimah Farahmandi

Abhishek Rajan

Major: *Food and Resource Economics*

Dissertation: *Three Essays on Economic Valuation of Water Quality: Preferences, Impact, and Policy*

Dissertation Chair: Olesya M. Savchenko

Albraa Abdulhameed Rajkhan

Major: *Industrial and Systems Engineering*

Dissertation: *From Experts to Users: A Framework for Evaluating the Criticality of Lacking ACC/ADAS Knowledge and Users' Needs for Consumer Education Content Design*

Dissertation Chair: Suman Chowdhury

Shyam Sundar Ramesh

Major: *Pharmaceutical Sciences—Pharmaceutics*

Dissertation: *Advancing Drug Development Through Clinical Trial Optimization in Autosomal Dominant Tubulointerstitial Kidney Disease and Translational Decision-Making in Tuberculosis*

Dissertation Chair: Sarah Kim

Shane M. Regoli

Major: *Political Science*

Dissertation: *Technological Evolution or Power Dynamics: Reconsidering Revolutions in Military Affairs Within the Context of Grand Strategy*

Dissertation Chair: Zachary Selden

Miranda Jane Reid

Major: *Medical Sciences—Health Outcomes and Implementation Science*

Dissertation: *Evaluating an Outreach Strategy to Improve the Uptake of Shared Decision Making for Lung Cancer Screening*

Dissertation Chair: Ramzi George Salloum

Weihang Ren

Major: *Industrial and Systems Engineering*

Dissertation: *Data-Driven Stochastic Optimization of Electricity Markets Under Partial Information*

Dissertation Chair: Yongpei Guan

Aracelee Marie Reveron Perez

Major: *Chemistry*

Dissertation: *The Breaking and Making of Silicon-Containing Polymers: Polysiloxanes, Polysilicon Acetals, and Poly(orthosilicate)s*

Dissertation Chair: Stephen Albert Miller

Cheyenne Marie Reynolds

Major: *Psychology—Clinical and Health Psychology*

Dissertation: *Examining Transition Questionnaires and Psychosocial Factors Associated With Healthcare Transition Outcomes in Emerging Adults With Type 1 Diabetes*

Dissertation Chair: Kimberly Ann Driscoll

Magali Rezende de Carvalho

Major: *Nursing Sciences*

Dissertation: Exploring the Association of Social Determinants of Health and Biological Markers in Healing Outcomes for Patients With Chronic Venous Leg Ulcers

Dissertation Chair: Debra Lyon

Mitchell S. Riegler

Major: *Geology*

Dissertation: Documenting Anatomy and Ecology of Extant Worm Lizards (Squamata, *Amphisbaenia*) Using CT, DiceCT, and Ecological Niche Modeling to Re-Evaluate the Fossil Record of North American *Amphisbaenia*

Dissertation Chair: Jonathan I. Bloch

Md Monjurul Islam Rifat

Major: *Zoology—Animal Molecular and Cellular Biology*

Dissertation: Evolution of the Mutational Process Across Experimental and Natural Populations in *Caenorhabditis* Nematodes

Dissertation Chair: Charles Baer

Alexis Riley-DiPaolo

Major: *Medical Sciences—Neuroscience*

Dissertation: Functional Implications of Alpha-Synuclein Accumulation in the Locus Coeruleus

Dissertation Chair: Adrienn Gabriella Varga

Gabriela Del Mar Rivera Marín

Major: *Romance Languages—Spanish*

Dissertation: Spanish in Color: A Mixed-Method Study of the Impact of Implicit Raciolinguistic Biases in the Spanish Language Classroom

Dissertation Chair: Diego Pascual Cabo

Dissertation Co-chair: Jorge Rodrigo Valdes Kroff

Logan Joseph Rodgers

Major: *Rehabilitation Science—Neuromuscular Plasticity*

Dissertation: Dry Needling Treatment Mechanisms in Chronic Low Back Pain: A Mediation Analysis

Dissertation Chair: Joel E. Bialosky

Alexandra Kelley Rodriguez

Major: *Public Health—Social and Behavioral Sciences*

Dissertation: Arts and Mental Health Policy: Cross-Sectoral Advocacy for Sustainable Practices in the United States

Dissertation Chair: George Hack

Md Roknuzzaman

Major: *Food and Resource Economics*

Dissertation: Three Essays on the Socio-Economic Consequences of Dollar Stores in the United States

Dissertation Chair: Conner Codling Mullally

Cesar Manuel Rosales

Major: *Linguistics*

Dissertation: Exploring the Emergence of Third Language Morphosyntax and Lexicon

Dissertation Chair: Eleonora Rossi

Aleyna Ross

Major: *Medical Sciences—Neuroscience*

Dissertation: Perirhinal Cortex Contributions to Cognitive Aging and Functional Brain Network Organization

Dissertation Chair: Sara Burke

Dissertation Co-chair: Nancy Padilla-Coreano

Michael Taylor Rua

Major: *Health and Human Performance—Exercise Physiology*

Dissertation: Mitochondrial Calcium Uniporter Downregulation and Concurrent Exercise Training Preserves Respiratory Muscle Function of SOD1^{G93A} ALS Mice

Dissertation Chair: Lan Wei-LaPierre

David Guy Russell Jr.

Major: *Geography*

Dissertation: Conflict Networks and the Spatial Diffusion of Political Violence in African Civil Wars

Dissertation Chair: Olivier Jean Walther

Jawata Afnan Saba

Major: *Geography—Climate Science*

Dissertation: Measuring Disaster Risk and Recovery: Computational and Deep Learning Approaches to Uncertainty, Social Vulnerability, and Long-Term Socioeconomic Change

Dissertation Chair: Kevin D. Ash

Prerna Sabharwal

Major: *Horticultural Sciences*

Dissertation: Genetic Mapping and Characterization of Resistance to Powdery Mildew in Squash

Dissertation Chair: Geoffrey Mugambi Meru

Ashish Kumar Sahoo

Major: *Psychology*

Dissertation: Rubicons of the Mind: How Environmental Boundaries Disrupt Spatial Cognition

Dissertation Chair: Andreas Keil

Adrian Khiem Bui Sakr

Major: *Environmental Engineering Sciences*

Dissertation: Changing Tides: Shaping the Future of Coastal Nature-Based Solutions

Dissertation Chair: Andrew Harlan Altieri

Jacqueline Marie Sanson

Major: *Genetics and Genomics*

Dissertation: The Effect of Testosterone on Female Genitourinary Health: The Female Urethra and Vagina

Dissertation Chair: Martin J. Cohn

Zaeem Sarwar

Major: *Animal Molecular and Cellular Biology*

Dissertation: Impact of Nutritional Interventions and Genetic Merit on Reproduction and Health in Dairy Cows

Dissertation Chair: José Eduardo Santos

Naoki Sawahashi

Major: *Electrical and Computer Engineering*

Dissertation: Cellular Automata for Ultra-Low-Power Machine Learning

Dissertation Chair: José C. Principe

Elizabeth Catherine Scherbatskoy

Major: *Veterinary Medical Sciences—Animal Molecular and Cellular Biology*

Dissertation: Renal Disease in Florida Manatees (*Trichechus manatus latirostris*): Assessing Prevalence and Health Significance via Statistical and Machine Learning-Based Approaches

Dissertation Chair: Iske V. Larkin

Dissertation Co-chair: Nicole Stacy

Martin Maria Schonk

Major: *Medical Sciences—Physiology and Functional Genomics*

Dissertation: Mechanisms of Skeletal Muscle Pathologies During Pancreatic Cancer Cachexia

Dissertation Chair: Andrew R. Judge

Russell Ludwig Telmanik Schwartz

Major: *Electrical and Computer Engineering*

Dissertation: Enhancing Photonic Machine Learning Architectures Through Scaling, Integration, & Design Implementation

Dissertation Chair: Volker Jendrik Sorger

Danielle Drew Sensabaugh

Major: *Art History*

Dissertation: The Virtues of Being a Girl: The Construction of Female Childhood and Adolescence in French Visual Culture, c. 1740–1815

Dissertation Chair: Melissa Hyde

Kariman Ayman Shama

Major: *Biomedical Engineering*

Dissertation: *Extracellular Vesicles in Tendon Biology: Investigating the Endogenous Role of Extracellular Vesicles in Tendon Homeostasis and Disease Using Biomimetic Tissue Models*

Dissertation Chair: Brittany Taylor

Chaitanya Sharma

Major: *Materials Science and Engineering*

Dissertation: *Operando Electrical Characterization of Semiconductor Devices Under Mixed Neutron and Gamma Irradiation*

Dissertation Chair: Juan Claudio Nino

Pooja Sharma

Major: *Public Health—Health Services Research*

Dissertation: *From Screening to Shared Care: A Mixed-Method Evaluation of Chronic Kidney Disease in Primary Care*

Dissertation Chair: Arch Mainous

Dissertation Co-chair: Ara Jo

Emma Nicole Shea

Major: *Medical Sciences—Genetics*

Dissertation: *RNA Processing and RNA-Targeted Therapeutics for Myotonic Dystrophy Type 1*

Dissertation Chair: Eric Wang



Shang Shi

Major: *Electrical and Computer Engineering*

Dissertation: Cross-Layer Security for Battery-Dependent Systems: Vulnerability Analysis and Defense From High-Level Synthesis to Li-ion BMS

Dissertation Chair: Mark Tehranipoor

Dissertation Co-chair: Farimah Farahmandi

Tierney Lee Shimansky

Major: *Geography—Tropical Conservation and Development*

Dissertation: Exploring the Intersection of People, Wildlife, and Governance: Insights From the Development and Implementation of a Household-Level Survey in Namibian Conservancies

Dissertation Chair: Brian Anthony Child

Alayna Esther Shoenfelt

Major: *Psychology*

Dissertation: The Role of Social Signal Perception in Trust-Related Decision Making in Aging

Dissertation Chair: Natalie C. Ebner

Dissertation Co-chair: Andreas Keil

Muhammad Sohail Siddique

Major: *Animal Molecular and Cellular Biology*

Dissertation: Impacts of Tributyltin Chloride and Delta-9 Tetrahydrocannabinol on Post-Ejaculatory Sperm Function

Dissertation Chair: Bradford William Daigneault

Larissa Oriana Silva

Major: *Chemistry*

Dissertation: Sequence and Ensemble Determinants of Environment-Dependent Helicity in the Intrinsically Disordered Inhibitor IA3

Dissertation Chair: Gail E. Fanucci

Shane Shiva Singh

Major: *Electrical and Computer Engineering*

Dissertation: Electrical Blood Impedance at Variable Temperature, Flow, and Oxygen Exposure

Dissertation Chair: Bill Eisenstadt

John Siu

Major: *Aerospace Engineering*

Dissertation: Accelerometer Mode and Charge Measurements of a New Space Inertial Sensor for Earth Geodesy

Dissertation Chair: John Conklin

Nanyangwe Dainess Siuluta

Major: *Epidemiology—Psychiatric Epidemiology*

Dissertation: Association Between a History of Sexual Abuse and Cervical Cancer Prevention Utilization Among Women With HIV in the Southeastern United States

Dissertation Chair: Robert L. Cook

Dissertation Co-chair: Shantrel S. Canidate

Audrey Culver Smith

Major: *Geography—Tropical Conservation and Development*

Dissertation: Ethiopia's Evolving Landscapes: Regional Dynamics of Forest Loss, Biodiversity, Rural Livelihoods, and Urban Expansion

Dissertation Chair: Jane Southworth

Sarah Elizabeth Sniffen

Major: *Medical Sciences—Neuroscience*

Dissertation: Neural Circuit Mechanisms Directing Learned and Unlearned Emotional Responses to Odors

Dissertation Chair: Dan Wesson

Jusuk Song

Major: *Counseling and Counselor Education—School Counseling and Guidance*

Dissertation: Identifying Core Program Components of School-Based Bullying Prevention Programs for Students in Grade K-2: A Delphi Study

Dissertation Chair: Sondra Lori Smith

Alexander David Stant

Major: *Chemistry*

Dissertation: Synthesis of Rare Earth and Actinide Catalysts by Surface Organometallic Chemistry and Reactivity Towards Olefins and Arenes

Dissertation Chair: Keith Searles

Elyse Stoddard

Major: *Medical Sciences—Medical Physics*

Dissertation: Development and Clinical Implementation of Tools for CT Protocol Standardization, Optimization, and Image Quality Evaluation

Dissertation Chair: Izabella L. Barreto

Ariana Elena Stratton

Major: *Chemistry*

Dissertation: Investigating the Role of N-glycans in the Complement Activation Cascade Utilizing Imaging Mass Spectrometry

Dissertation Chair: Boone M. Prentice

Zachary Cole Strickland

Major: *Medical Sciences—Neuroscience*

Dissertation: Towards Regenerative Models of Tauopathy: The Axolotl Tau Protein Is a Highly Efficient, Aggregation-Resistant Microtubule Binding Protein

Dissertation Chair: Jada Lewis

Yunmeng Su

Major: *Music—Composition*

Dissertation: Post-Spectral Thinking: Multidimensional Space and Gradual Process in Kaija Saariaho's *Verblendungen*

Dissertation Chair: Scott F. Lee

Joseph Peter Sullivan

Major: *Microbiology and Cell Science*

Dissertation: The Significance of Differing Lipid Profiles in Extracellular Vesicles of *Bacteroides thetaiotaomicron* and the Role of Bacterial Sphingolipids in the Induction of Antiviral Responses During Murine Norovirus Infection

Dissertation Chair: Melissa Kolsch Jones

Myles William Sullivan

Major: *Anthropology*

Dissertation: The Consumption of British Colonialisms: Comparative Material Culture of St. Augustine, Florida, and Charleston, South Carolina, in the Eighteenth-Century Atlantic

Dissertation Chair: James Davidson

Chengkun Sun

Major: *Medical Sciences—Biomedical Informatics*

Dissertation: A Segmentation-Guided Framework for Discovery and Clinical Validation of Deep Radiomic Signatures in Renal Cancer

Dissertation Chair: Jie Xu

Jiaqi Sun

Major: *Mechanical Engineering*

Dissertation: Concurrent Atomistic-Continuum Study of Phonon-Dislocation Interactions at Finite Temperature

Dissertation Chair: Youping Chen

Na Sun

Major: *Veterinary Medical Sciences*

Dissertation: Tfam-Mediated Metabolic Perturbation in RORyt⁺ Lymphocytes Impacts Intestinal Tissue Homeostasis and Promotes GATA3⁺RORyt⁺ Innate Lymphoid Cells

Dissertation Chair: Liang Zhou

Taylor Nicole Swanson

Major: *Psychology—Clinical and Health Psychology*

Dissertation: Understanding the Roles of Sleep Duration, Caloric Intake, and Physical Activity in Long-Term Weight Loss Maintenance

Dissertation Chair: Kathryn Marie Ross

Yongchen Tai

Major: *Mechanical Engineering*

Dissertation: *Ultrasensitive Continuous Biosensor Development*

Dissertation Chair: *Jing Pan*

Federico Tarnonsky

Major: *Animal Sciences*

Dissertation: *Interventions for Health, Productivity, and Efficiency Improvement of Beef Calves*

Dissertation Chair: *Nicolas DiLorenzo*

Kara Jean Marie Taylor

Major: *Zoology*

Dissertation: *An Analysis of Socio-Spatial Processes Driving Community Assembly in Host-Associated Microbial Metacommunities of Varying Complexity*

Dissertation Chair: *Mathew Leibold*

Furtuna Girmay Tewolde

Major: *Psychology—Clinical and Health Psychology*

Dissertation: *Examining Measurement of Clinical Outcomes in Severe Traumatic Brain Injury: Analysis Approaches for the GOS-E, DRS, and Mortality*

Dissertation Chair: *Shelley C. Heaton*

Dissertation Co-chair: *Michael Marsiske*

Dharti Thakulla

Major: *Horticultural Sciences—Environmental Horticulture*

Dissertation: *Cold Plasma and Ozone Technologies for Irrigation Water Treatment*

Dissertation Chair: *Paul Fisher*



Jiayuan Tian

Major: *Business Administration—Information Systems and Operations Management*

Dissertation: Three Essays on Societal and Economic Impacts of Emerging Technology and Its Regulation

Dissertation Chair: Liangfei Qiu

Zibo Tian

Major: *Biostatistics*

Dissertation: Semi-Parametric Modeling of Longitudinal Data and Dynamic Risk Monitoring of Multiple Interconnected Diseases

Dissertation Chair: Peihua Qiu

Lori A. Turner

Major: *Educational Leadership*

Dissertation: Principal Longevity

Dissertation Chair: Chris Curran

Amina Angella Twaibu

Major: *Entomology and Nematology*

Dissertation: Insecticide Susceptibility and Migration Dynamics of *Helicoverpa zea* (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) on a Continental Scale in the United States

Dissertation Chair: Isaac Esquivel

Martha Guadalupe del Consuelo Ulloa Calzonzin

Major: *Physics*

Dissertation: Baryogenesis and Dark Sector Dynamics in the Early Universe

Dissertation Chair: Rachel Houtz

Yogendra Raj Upadhyaya

Major: *Agronomy*

Dissertation: Optimizing Cotton Yield and Quality: The Role of Cover Crop Decomposition Dynamics, Nitrogen Management, and Weed Control Strategies

Dissertation Chair: Hardeep Singh

Dissertation Co-chair: Michael J. Mulvaney

Thanakon UThai

Major: *Civil Engineering*

Dissertation: Multi-Modal Feedback for Human-To-Robot Learning in Soft Object Manipulation

Dissertation Chair: Eric Du

Berk Uzun

Major: *Health and Human Performance—Sport Management*

Dissertation: Sport, Space, and Human Activity: A Sport Ecological Approach to Examine People's Activity During Sport Events

Dissertation Chair: Kyriaki Kaplanidou

Hanna Elizabeth Vance

Major: *Psychology*

Dissertation: An Exploratory Questionnaire and Content Analysis on Culturally Responsive Supervision in Behavior Analysis

Dissertation Chair: Corina Jimenez-Gomez

Owen Carson Visser

Major: *Biostatistics*

Dissertation: Contributions to Biostatistics and Data Science: scRNA-seq Cluster Validation, AMR Prediction, Sentiment Analysis, and Oral Health Data

Dissertation Chair: Somnath Datta

Anna Volter

Major: *Biomedical Engineering*

Dissertation: Therapeutic Biomanufacturing in Non-Model Organisms for Long-Duration Space Missions

Dissertation Chair: Amor Menezes

Abdul Waheed

Major: *Animal Molecular and Cellular Biology*

Dissertation: Molecular Regulation of Uterine Function and Fertility in Beef Cattle

Dissertation Chair: Mario Binelli

Chase Ethan Walker

Major: *Electrical and Computer Engineering*

Dissertation: Towards Trustworthy AI: Methods and Metrics for Explaining AI Decision Making Using Attributions

Dissertation Chair: Rickard Ewetz

Chun-Hsiang Wang

Major: *Plant Pathology*

Dissertation: Integrated Disease Management in Florida Carrot Production: Evaluating Pathogen Diversity, Control Practice, and Sustainable Farming Systems

Dissertation Chair: Mathews L. Paret

Dissertation Co-chair: Jeffrey A. Rollins

Pinyi Wang

Major: *Educational Leadership—Educational Policy*

Dissertation: Strengthening Teacher Retention and Well-Beings: Perspectives of K-12 Educators in Small to Mid-Size California Public School Districts

Dissertation Chair: Chris Curran

Qili Wang

Major: *Business Administration—Information Systems and Operations Management*

Dissertation: Artificial Intelligence in Digital Platforms

Dissertation Chair: Liangfei Qiu

Xiaoshan Wang

Major: *Electrical and Computer Engineering*

Dissertation: Privacy Preservation in Distributed Learning Systems

Dissertation Chair: Tan F. Wong

Dissertation Co-chair: John M. Shea

Yanning Wang

Major: *Pharmaceutical Sciences—Pharmaceutical Outcomes and Policy*

Dissertation: Optimizing Antihypertensive Treatment Strategies for Pregnant Women With Chronic Hypertension

Dissertation Chair: Almut G. Winterstein

Yehua Wang

Major: *Pharmaceutical Sciences—Pharmaceutical Outcomes and Policy*

Dissertation: Pleiotropic Properties of Ticagrelor Among Patients With Acute Coronary Syndrome

Dissertation Chair: Almut G. Winterstein

Yichun Wang

Major: *Plant Molecular and Cellular Biology*

Dissertation: Integrating Multi-Omics Approaches for Breeding Disease-Resistant Blueberries

Dissertation Chair: Patricio Ricardo Muñoz del Valle

Katherine Rose Weber

Major: *Microbiology and Cell Science*

Dissertation: Post-Translational Regulation of Redox Active Proteins in *Haloferax volcanii*

Dissertation Chair: Julie A. Maupin

Xiaofan Wei

Major: *Mass Communication*

Dissertation: Reimagining the Role of Generative AI in Brand Communication and Consumer Decision-Making: Recommender, Facilitator, and Beyond

Dissertation Chair: Huan Chen

Emory Howe Wellman

Major: *Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences*

Dissertation: Ecosystem Condition Mediates Impacts of Anthropogenic and Ambient Stressors on Intertidal Foundation Species

Dissertation Chair: Anna E. Braswell

Jiawen Wen

Major: *Plant Pathology*

Dissertation: Integrating Comparative Genomics and AI-Based Approaches to Elucidate Citrus-*Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus* Interactions and Huanglongbing Resistance

Dissertation Chair: Nian Wang

Deana B. West

Major: *Special Education*

Dissertation: Handwriting Instruction in Teacher Education Programs

Dissertation Chair: Holly Lane

Meghann Wheeler

Major: *Epidemiology*

Dissertation: Comorbidity Phenotypes and Their Association With Surveillance Patterns and Survival in Early-Stage Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer

Dissertation Chair: Dejana Braithwaite

Todd Earl Williams

Major: *Rehabilitation Science—Neuromuscular Plasticity*

Dissertation: Harnessing Spinal Plasticity: Neuromodulation Strategies to Improve Motor Output in People With Spinal Cord Injury

Dissertation Chair: Emily J. Fox

Minxuan Wu

Major: *Statistics*

Dissertation: Statistical Methodology in Functional Regression and Causal Inference

Dissertation Chair: Joseph L. Antonelli

Xue Wu

Major: *Public Health—Environmental Health*

Dissertation: Pharmacometrics Modeling Approaches for Predicting Drug Residue Depletion in Food Animals and Supporting Dose Regimen Optimization

Dissertation Chair: Zhoumeng Lin

Jessica Xhumari

Major: *Microbiology and Cell Science*

Dissertation: Mucus Barrier Dysfunction and the Role of Epithelial-Microbial Separation in Colitis

Dissertation Chair: Luiz Fernando Roesch

Jinyi Xia

Major: *Forest Resources and Conservation*

Dissertation: Advancing Ground-Based LiDAR Approaches for Structural Phenotyping of Southern Pine Trees: From Whole-Tree Segmentation to Branch Architecture

Dissertation Chair: Carlos Alberto Silva

Long Xiao

Major: *Political Science*

Dissertation: Securitizing China: Exploring the Construction of Threat Perception in U.S.-China Relations

Dissertation Chair: Zachary Selden

Qing Xu

Major: *Mass Communication*

Dissertation: From Stereotypes to Moral Judgment: How Warmth, Competence, and Mind Perception Shape Responses to Victims of Deepfake and Revenge Pornography

Dissertation Chair: Yu-Hao Lee

Zijing Xu

Major: *Pharmaceutical Sciences—Pharmaceutics*

Dissertation: Engineering the Nano-Bio Interface of Lipid Nanoparticles for Tissue-Selective mRNA Delivery

Dissertation Chair: Fan Zhang

Priscila Akemi Yamamoto

Major: *Pharmaceutical Sciences—Pharmaceutics*

Dissertation: Model-Informed Strategies for Drug Dosing Optimization in Specific Patient Populations: Bridging Population-Level Insights and Individualized Therapy

Dissertation Chair: Natália Valadares de Moraes

Dissertation Co-chair: Stephan Schmidt

Bingkun Yang

Major: *Civil Engineering*

Dissertation: Drilled Shaft Imaging With 2D and 3D Ultrasonic Waveform Tomography

Dissertation Chair: Khiem T. Tran

Jinying Yang

Major: *Nutritional Sciences*

Dissertation: The Role of Iron in Adipose Biology and Metabolic Health

Dissertation Chair: Zhiyong Cheng

Junhui Yang

Major: *Business Administration—Management*

Dissertation: When One Rises: How Spousal Promotions Shape Career Development

Dissertation Chair: Brian W. Swider

Qingyuan Yang

Major: *Mass Communication*

Dissertation: The Tension Between Human Agency and Machine Agency: Exploring Perceived Automated Choice in Social Media Personalized Feed

Dissertation Chair: Benjamin K. Johnson

Ziqian Yang

Major: *Statistics*

Dissertation: Adaptive Bayesian High-Dimensional Regression and Semi-Parametric Approaches for Second-Price Auctions

Dissertation Chair: Kshitij Khare

Bhagawat Baanav Yedla Ravi

Major: *Electrical and Computer Engineering*

Dissertation: Exploration Platforms for Automotive Security

Dissertation Chair: Sandip Ray

Gelan Ying

Major: *Psychology—Clinical and Health Psychology*

Dissertation: Multimodal Cognitive and Behavioral Intervention for Persons With Mild Cognitive Impairment: Optimal Combination for PwMCI Impairment, PwMCI Adjustment, and Partner Adjustment

Dissertation Chair: Glenn E. Smith

Michayla Lauren Yost

Major: *School Psychology*

Dissertation: Examining the Validity Evidence of the SSIS SEL Brief Scales in Greece and Romania

Dissertation Chair: Christopher James Anthony

Sangpil Youm

Major: *Computer Science*

Dissertation: REFLECT: Role-Aware Extraction of Forms of Linguistic Expressions for Communication Tracking

Dissertation Chair: Bonnie J. Dorr

Ece Yüksel

Major: *Psychology*

Dissertation: Age-Related Differences in Spatial Navigation Across Real and Virtual Worlds: A Mixed-Methods Approach

Dissertation Chair: Brian Odegaard

Sabrina Zequeira

Major: *Medical Sciences—Neuroscience*

Dissertation: *Mechanisms and Therapeutic Potential of Cannabinoids for Age-Related Cognitive Decline*

Dissertation Chair: Jennifer Lynn Bizon

Dissertation Co-chair: Barry Setlow

Fan Zhang

Major: *Curriculum and Instruction—Educational Technology*

Dissertation: *Cognitive-Affective-Knowledge Fusion for Predicting Learning Experience and Knowledge Tracing in AI-Assisted Mathematics Learning*

Dissertation Chair: Wanli Xing

Yilin Zhang

Major: *Mechanical Engineering*

Dissertation: *AI-Enhanced Peer Mentoring in Engineering Education: Development, Validation, and Implementation of the Peer Helper Framework*

Dissertation Chair: Bruce Carroll

Yuan Zhang

Major: *Religion*

Dissertation: *Contemplation of Food and Eating Rituals in Medieval Chinese Buddhism*

Dissertation Chair: Mario Poceski

Yuzhao Zhang

Major: *Pharmaceutical Sciences—Medicinal Chemistry*

Dissertation: *Computationally Guided Discovery of Heparanase Small-Molecule Binders*

Dissertation Chair: Lina Cui



Fengdi Zhao

Major: *Biostatistics*

Dissertation: Novel Bayesian Methods for Analyzing Single-Cell Multiome Data

Dissertation Chair: Li Chen

Vincent Ruidong Zhao

Major: *Business Administration—Information Systems and Operations Management*

Dissertation: Three Essays in AI and Business Decision Making

Dissertation Chair: Jingchuan Pu

Mingyang Zheng

Major: *Physics*

Dissertation: Reciprocal and Nonreciprocal Coulomb Drag in Coupled One-Dimensional Systems

Dissertation Chair: Dominique Laroche

Yu Zheng

Major: *Statistics*

Dissertation: Harnessing Structural Dependence in High-Dimensional Statistics and Bayesian Inference

Dissertation Chair: Leo Li Duan

Yuan Zhou

Major: *Biostatistics*

Dissertation: Interpretable Functional Deep Learning Methods of Genetic and Omics Data Analysis

Dissertation Chair: Qing Lu

Zhaohan Zhu

Major: *Biostatistics*

Dissertation: Statistical Modeling and Analysis of Pooled and Single-Cell CRISPR Perturbation Screens

Dissertation Chair: Rhonda Bacher

Selia Reide Zimmermann

Major: *Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences*

Dissertation: Evaluating Discard Mortality Across Reef Fish Species and Management Strategies

Dissertation Chair: Zachary Siders

DOCTOR OF EDUCATION

David Michael Adams

Major: *Higher Education Administration*

Dissertation: Exploring the Motivations of Social Sciences' Faculty Members for Involvement in Undergraduate Students' Career Development

Dissertation Chair: Cliff Haynes

Natalia Y. Albul

Major: *Higher Education Administration*

Dissertation: Faculty Experiences in Active Learning Classrooms: A Qualitative Case Study at a High Enrollment Florida State College

Dissertation Chair: Cliff Haynes

Morgan Paige Anderson

Major: *Special Education*

Dissertation: Mentorship in Special Education: The Perspective of Teachers

Dissertation Chair: Nelson Carl Brunsting

Jessica Louise Ayer

Major: *Curriculum and Instruction—Teachers, Schools, & Society*

Dissertation: Akwaba: Creation and Implementation of an Anti-Oppressive Content-Based Instructional Unit on the Côte d'Ivoire With Intermediate French Students

Dissertation Chair: Elyse Hambacher

Heather Elaine Franks

Major: *Curriculum and Instruction—Teachers, Schools, & Society*

Dissertation: *In Their Own Words: Black Boys' Journey to Academic Success in High School*

Dissertation Chair: Timothy Matthew Vetere-Earley

Regina Ann Fugate

Major: *Curriculum and Instruction—Computer Science Education*

Dissertation: *Barriers and Breakthroughs: Empowering Voices on Accessibility, Identity, and Equity in K-12 Computer Science*

Dissertation Chair: Maya Israel

Jaya Grace Punitha Jesudoss

Major: *Curriculum and Instruction—Teachers, Schools, & Society*

Dissertation: *Addressing Post Absence Learning Gap Through Strategic Intervention: Facilitating Title I High School Science Students' Academic Success With Student-Selected Recovery Options*

Dissertation Chair: Blake Mickle Beckett

Lindsey R. Johns

Major: *Higher Education Administration*

Dissertation: *Understanding Influences of Students' Pursuit of or Persistence in Student Organization Leadership Roles*

Dissertation Chair: Cliff Haynes

Antonia Francesca Johnson

Major: *Curriculum and Instruction—Teachers, Schools, & Society*

Dissertation: *"It's Magic": Amplifying Family Perceptions of Kindergarten Literacy Skill Progress*

Dissertation Chair: Taryn Brown

Jacob Benjamin Kahn

Major: *Special Education*

Dissertation: *General Education Teachers' Knowledge of, Beliefs in, and Implementation of Behavior Management Strategies for Children With Emotional and Behavioral Disorders*

Dissertation Chair: Nelson Carl Brunsting

Sara Jane Kenney

Major: *Special Education*

Dissertation: *The Teacher Experience of Professional Development on IEP-Driven Augmentative and Alternative Communication Systems: A Multiple-Case Study*

Dissertation Chair: Kristi Cheyney-Collante

Susan Birungi Lukowe

Major: *Higher Education Administration*

Dissertation: *Beyond Access: Understanding Study Abroad Decision-Making Among Male Undergraduate Students*

Dissertation Chair: Cliff Haynes

Carolina Elizabeth Madans-Perez

Major: *Curriculum and Instruction—Educational Technology*

Dissertation: *Investigating Workplace Instructional Designers' Perceptions of AI Ethics and Its Impact on Their Use of Generative AI Tools*

Dissertation Chair: Swapna Kumar

Marguerite W. Matics

Major: *Special Education*

Dissertation: *Support for Chronic Struggling Readers*

Dissertation Chair: Matthew Kevin Burns

Dissertation Co-chair: Kristi Cheyney-Collante

Reshandia W. McIntyre

Major: *Curriculum and Instruction—Teachers, Schools, & Society*

Dissertation: *Exploring New Faculty Mentoring in Higher Education: A Study of Experienced Mentors in the Academy Contexts*

Dissertation Chair: Nancy L. Dana

Hazel Miller

Major: *Special Education*

Dissertation: Understanding How School Psychologists Interpret the Evaluation of English Language Learners for Special Education Services: An Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis

Dissertation Chair: Kristi Cheyney-Collante

Josephine Moretti

Major: *Special Education*

Dissertation: Perspectives on Motivation and Engagement in Virtual Writing Instruction for Adolescents With Learning Differences: A Case Study

Dissertation Chair: Vivian E. Gonsalves

Olabisi Rashied-Walker

Major: *Special Education*

Dissertation: School-Based African American Occupational Therapists' Experiences With Identity and Collaboration

Dissertation Chair: Hannah M. Mathews

Joshua Jay Schulte

Major: *Higher Education Administration*

Dissertation: Pathways in Practice: Examining the Implementation of Guided Pathways at a Florida Community College

Dissertation Chair: Lindsay Byron



Devon Singh

Major: *Curriculum and Instruction—Educational Technology*
Dissertation: Validation of the System Learnability Scale
Dissertation Chair: Pavlo Antonenko

Steven Nikolaus Stallis

Major: *Curriculum and Instruction—Computer Science Education*
Dissertation: Stakeholder Perceptions of a Potential High School Computer Science Graduation Requirement: An Embedded Single-Case Study
Dissertation Chair: Albert D. Ritzhaupt

Lorraine Bustamante Torres

Major: *Curriculum and Instruction—Computer Science Education*
Dissertation: Integrating Computational Thinking Into Middle School Mathematics: A Mixed Methods Action Research Study of a Social Constructivist Intervention Supporting Students' Self-Efficacy in Solving Mathematical Story Problems
Dissertation Chair: Albert D. Ritzhaupt

Arlene Elizabeth Ventimiglia

Major: *Curriculum and Instruction—Teachers, Schools, & Society*
Dissertation: Teaching on the Move: Professional Agency in the Experiences of Military Spouse Educators
Dissertation Chair: Vicki A. Vescio
Dissertation Co-chair: Timothy Matthew Vetere-Earley

Lori D. Whited

Major: *Educational Leadership*
Dissertation: How Early Career Elementary Teachers in One Small Rural Florida District Understand the Role of Their New Teacher Induction Program Relative to Their Retention Decision: A Generic Qualitative Study
Dissertation Chair: Christopher Redding

Haley Winner

Major: *Special Education*
Dissertation: Perspectives on Coaching in the Dyslexia Certificate Practicum: A Case Study
Dissertation Chair: Vivian E. Gonsalves
Dissertation Co-chair: Hannah M. Mathews

DOCTOR OF PLANT MEDICINE

Michael Lucas Goodnight

PROFESSIONAL DEGREES

THE WARRINGTON COLLEGE OF BUSINESS THE HOUGH GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Interim Dean Gary McGill

DOCTOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

David Anton Adamec
Elena Celisa Alvarado-Peters
Jane Cash Amaba
Gary Walter Andresen
Aakash Andrews
Christopher Arns
Brian Douglas Bailey
Cameron Wayne Blackhurst

Crystal Carlson-Myer
Branden Cobb
Winifred Daniels
Walter Bush Doggett III
John Michael Engel
Mahdi Eshaghian
Ashish N. Karvé
Trimeasha S. Lanier

Ian Donald Mitchell
Benjamin Buxton Morris
Sean Collins ODonnell
Robert Carlton Palmer
Joseph A. Stout
Astin Thomas
Nichole R. Wiley-Marks
Dong Yao

THE COLLEGE OF NURSING

Dean Shakira Henderson

DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE

Audrey C. Anglon
Daniella Renée Arrogante
Bryan Dennis Austin
Karina Maria Bailey
Jessica M. Baker
Rachel C. Barlow
Natalie Gina Beemer
Breanna Pauline Borchardt
Joel Allan Brier
Siera Shante' Butler
Jasmine Marinna Cabrera
Asa Kathryn Cooley
Lorena Cornavaca
Kendelyn Michele Cronk
Sarah Ann Weaver Davis
Karen DeRogatis

Carolyn Anne Degon
Kervie Pierre Dorval
Miia Annikki Forte
Jessica Ann Guerrero de Ferrer
Alexis K. Hall
Graycen Mary Holmes
Lynn Ann Howard
Crystal Starr Jefferson
Shaquitia Jones
Mark D. Kinkel
Tressie C. Landreth
Rita Lynn Lawton
Courtney Marie Lemons
Kayla Kimberly Marshall
Alexis A. Mendes

Sarah Lauren Milano
Timothy Allen Nicastro Jr.
Michael Eugene O'Sullivan
Madison Mae Parks
Mikaelyn Bree Pavlisin
Jasmine Marie Rojas
Angela Maria Rossi
Ricardo Ruiz Jr.
Lindsay Elizabeth Salafrio
Nicole Rose Sant'Elia
Melissa Anne Scothorn
Erik D. Soderstrom
Danae Tarragona
Constance Marie Turner
Katherine L. Westman

THE COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Dean Beth Virnig

DOCTOR OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Jordyn Emily Adler
Megan Ashley Alvenus
Amy Gianella Cabanillas Mills
Laura Leigh Cash
Laura Sofia Castillo Rodriguez
Jensen Rose Clark
Agustin David Cousin
Carolina Rosa Cuomo
Mackenzie Kelly Dam
Brianna Hope DeWilde-Mitchell
Kiersten Marie Edlund
Nicole Elizabeth Gilley
Emily Beth Gomez
Jacqueline Marcella Gratsch
Samantha Gutierrez
Maha Kashif Hannani
Samantha Tobie Haydu
Kimberly Grace Herrin
Nick Jeune

Arianna Marie Johnston
Julia Anne Jones
Brooke Kelleher
Danny Minyong Kim
Ashley Louise Kupferman
Erin Margaret Lebesch
Sophia Janet Lee
Hallie Fudeyun Littleton
Victoria Michelle Lutz
Katie Laura McCormack
Araya Sunshine Meredith
Sarah Joelle Moloney
Tinsley Wagner Moorefield
Carisa Marie Navarre
Shynelis Nieves
Omara Karen Obas
Cristina Nicole Palma
Michael Tam Phan
Grace Youngblood Plevak

Rachel Joy Pyros
Faith Ina Ramirez
Xavier Ramos
Myah Taylor Rhines
Gillian Rose Sacher-Brown
Macy Alexandra Sawicki
Sydney Teresa Schmidt
Jilian Knight Schulte
Emma Charlotte Smith
Madelyn Rene Stewart
Lindsay Nicole Tanis
Tara Tori Townsend
Emily Marie Trebilcock
Olivia Jane Turull
Gabriella Alexandria Ulloa
Lily Elizabeth Umansky
Gabriella Lexi Volpacchio
Hannah Sweeney Wycoff

DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

Mary Mileo

Shawn Alexander Stone

Diplomas

Diplomas will be mailed to the graduates' diploma mailing address beginning in October of 2026.



Chain of Office

This custom-made ornament is worn with the president's regalia, symbolizing the authority and responsibilities of the office. The chain is engraved with the names and service years of the university presidents. The medallion's centerpiece is a 1.3-carat diamond.

Academic Mace

Dating back to the Middle Ages, the mace symbolizes strength and authority. The UF ceremonial mace was created for the university's sesquicentennial celebration in 2003. The 70-inch staff features an

alligator sitting atop a globe. The four pillars supporting the globe represent the four original colleges: Agriculture, Engineering, Law, and Liberal Arts. The staff is carved from cherry wood. The university's chief marshal, who leads all academic processions, carries the mace.



Caps and Gowns, An Explanation

The academic regalia worn by graduating students and faculty in this era evolved from a style of dress worn by members of guilds and religious orders in medieval times. The academic gown is worn by individuals who have earned a degree in higher education. In addition, hoods are worn by graduate degree candidates but not by undergraduate degree candidates.

At the University of Florida, the lining of the hood has a blue chevron on an orange background to represent the university colors. University faculty members who hold degrees from another college or university wear the colors of their alma mater.

The velvet edging on the academic hood is the color that represents the particular degree held by the wearer. Agricultural and Life Sciences and Forest Resources and Conservation share maize edging; Design, Construction and Planning and Building Construction are lilac; Audiology degrees have colonial blue edging; Business Administration and Accounting are the color drab; Dentistry is lilac; Education is light blue; Engineering degrees are represented by orange edging; Fine Arts degrees have brown edging; Health and Human Performance is sage green; Journalism and Communications is garnet; Law is purple; Liberal Arts is white, and Liberal Sciences is gold yellow; Medicine is green; Music is pink; Natural Resources and Environment is antique gold; Nursing is apricot; Doctor of Occupational Therapy is slate blue; Doctor of Pharmacy is olive; Philosophy is royal blue; Public Health degrees have salmon pink edging; Rehabilitation Counseling degrees have Nile green edging; and Veterinary Medicine is gray.

Distinctions among sleeves indicate the type of degree held by the wearer. A long, pointed sleeve indicates a bachelor's degree, while a long, closed sleeve with a slit near the upper part of the arm designates a master's degree. A round, open sleeve identifies a doctoral degree.

The blue doctoral regalia also has velvet running on the rest of the gown, including crossbars on the sleeve. Colored tassels on the degree candidates' caps indicate a candidate's school or college.

