SOCIAL MEDIA
Whether you are a #UFGrad or you are here to celebrate a #UFGrad, we invite you to join the commencement conversation on social media. Select tweets will be featured on the video boards prior to and after the ceremony.

PHOTOGRAPHS
The university requests that all commencement guests remain in their seats while taking photographs; no guests are permitted in the graduates’ seating area. Photographs of the graduates as they cross the stage are available through companies that have contracts with the university. Color photographs are available from University Photography, PO Box 2454, Tuscaloosa, AL 35403-2454, 205-391-9500.

COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM
Additional copies of this commencement program are available while supplies last at the UF Bookstore for a $1 donation to the Machen Florida Opportunity Scholars program, which helps fund a UF education for low-income students who are first in their family to attend college. The commencement program can be ordered online with an additional charge for shipping and handling.

THIS IS NOT AN OFFICIAL GRADUATION LIST
While every effort is made to ensure accuracy in this commencement program, printing deadlines may result in omission of some names and use of names of persons not completing graduation requirements as intended. This printed program, therefore, should not be used to determine a student’s academic or degree status. The university’s official registry for conferral of degrees is the student’s permanent academic record as reflected on the student’s transcript, maintained by the Office of the University Registrar.

HONOR DESIGNATIONS
Honors designations in this program are incomplete, tentative, may not properly represent a student’s academic accomplishment and are subject to change. Final honors designation will be represented on the official diploma and on the transcript.
Commencement
SPRING 2018
Greetings from the President

On behalf of the University of Florida and our administration, faculty and staff, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to you, the Class of 2018, and to your family and friends.

UF’s commencement ceremonies celebrate your considerable accomplishment in completing a degree program at one of the world’s great universities. I share your pride and excitement, and I am confident that your degree – and the skills and experience you acquired while at this university – will serve you well in your careers and lives.

It has been a privilege to have you as a part of our community, and the university is better for your time here. I hope you remain connected to UF as active alumni and members of The Gator Nation.

Good luck, best wishes, and Go Gators!

W. Kent Fuchs

University of Florida President

Dr. W. Kent Fuchs

Dr. Kent Fuchs became the 12th President of the University of Florida in January 2015. Building on many years of excellence and focused leadership, the university has reached its goal of joining the nation’s top-ten public research universities.

Dr. Fuchs has set UF on a path to joining the top-five public research universities and becoming the nation’s number one university for comprehensive excellence. UF is working toward those goals through the creation of 500 new faculty positions, the addition of advanced and beautiful university facilities and an ongoing $3 billion fundraising campaign.

Previous to the UF presidency, Dr. Fuchs was provost of Cornell University. He has served in academic leadership positions and as a faculty member of electrical and computer engineering at Cornell, Purdue and the University of Illinois.

He is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, and the Association for Computing Machinery, and has received numerous awards for teaching and research.

President Fuchs earned his doctorate in electrical and computer engineering from the University of Illinois, and a Master of Divinity from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. He credits divinity school with teaching him communication and community-building skills, and to balance his innately analytic perspective with a deep appreciation for human relationships. He also holds a Bachelor of Science in Engineering from Duke University.

Dr. Fuchs is married to Linda Moskeland Fuchs, an art historian whose scholarship centers on the sculpture of sarcophagi created in the first centuries of Christian art-making. Mrs. Fuchs has two master’s degrees in art history, from the University of Chicago and Cornell, and a third in Biblical studies, from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. The Fuchses have three sons, a daughter, and three grandchildren.

Born on an Oklahoma farm in 1954, President Fuchs spent much of his youth in Alaska before moving to Miami, where he graduated from Miami Killian Senior High School.
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Message from the Dean

Dr. R. Elaine Turner

Commencement is one of those rare moments in one’s life when time stands still. On this day, our graduates reflect and relive years of experiences, relationships and adventures while simultaneously anticipating a future of new encounters, challenges and opportunities. It is a time for thanking those who have supported and assisted along the way while realizing a new journey is about to begin.

In the University of Florida’s College of Agricultural and Life Sciences we educate more than 6,000 students each year across a wide range of disciplines and majors – and are proud that we do so one student at a time. Each of today’s graduates enters a world that needs their ideas and energy. We face many challenges – from feeding a growing global population to finding new ways to protect our precious natural resources and managing global economic systems driven by agriculture and energy. Because they are uniquely prepared to meet these challenges, CALS graduates are in high demand by business and industry, agencies and academia, government and non-profits. Whether moving into a new career or advancing on to the best graduate and professional schools in the nation, CALS graduates are prepared to confront real issues with the knowledge, experience and commitment to achieve great success. They enter the work world prepared to contribute and ready to lead.

A few years ago, the University of Florida chose today’s graduates to attend this great institution because of the promise and potential each one possessed. During their time here, that potential has been encouraged, challenged and tested. Now we hope that each of our graduates will continue to live by the ideals and values they have developed inside and outside the classroom – to pursue excellence in all endeavors and be in service to the world as a member of the Gator Nation and a graduate of CALS. We hope that each of you will continue to challenge yourselves and grow and learn throughout your lives.

On behalf of our faculty and staff, I congratulate each of our graduates upon receiving a degree from the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences at the University of Florida. This is an accomplishment and a distinct honor, one of which you deserve to be proud. It is an honor for me to welcome you to the alumni family of the University of Florida and CALS. I hope that you will stay in contact with your alma mater and continue to be a loyal supporter of the Gator Nation.

Congratulations!
College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

The College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS) administers the degree programs of the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS). IFAS is a federal, state and local government partnership dedicated to developing knowledge in agriculture, human and natural resources and the life sciences and to making the knowledge accessible to sustain and enhance the quality of human life. With 22 undergraduate majors, more than 50 areas of specialization and 22 graduate programs, CALS is an educational leader in the areas of food, agriculture, natural resources and life sciences.

Mission

The mission of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences is to deliver unsurpassed educational programs that prepare students to address the world’s critical challenges related to agriculture, food systems, human wellbeing, natural resources and sustainable communities.

The Land-Grant University System

The University of Florida is part of a network of universities across the country whose heritage extends back more than 150 years. Known as the land-grant universities, they were created by a historic piece of legislation, the Morrill Act, which was signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln on July 2, 1862.

The Morrill Act established a nationwide network of public universities with a new mission. They would not only offer traditional disciplines such as medicine, theology and law, they would also teach agricultural science, military tactics and engineering. Moreover, these institutions were created with federal financial support, designed to make higher education affordable to people from modest backgrounds. The term “land-grant” refers to grants in the form of federal lands given to each state for the establishment of a public institution.

In the decades that followed, the land-grant system revolutionized higher education and made it possible for millions of men and women to earn college degrees. As they joined the workforce, these individuals transformed myriad communities by using their knowledge and determination to create new products and services, and devise better ways to deliver existing ones.

In the agricultural and natural resource sciences, the land-grant system also gave rise to an agricultural experiment station (created by the Hatch Act in 1887) and a Cooperative Extension Service (created by the Smith-Lever Act in 1914) associated with each land-grant institution. With these tools, land-grant institutions deliver research-based education, and solutions to local, statewide, national and global challenges. Today, America’s land-grant universities continue to fulfill their mandate for openness, accessibility and service to people.
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Senior Vice President
Agriculture and Natural Resources

Jeanna M. Mastrodicasa
Associate Vice President
Agriculture and Natural Resources

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College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

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College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

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Heather J. M’Auslane
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College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

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John M. Davis
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Sherry L. Larkin
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Florida Agricultural Experiment Station

Nick T. Place
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Florida Cooperative Extension Service

Thomas A. Obreza
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Saqib Mukhtar
Associate Dean
Florida Cooperative Extension Service

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Environmental Horticulture

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Food Science and Human Nutrition

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Southwest Florida Research and Education Center

Edward A. Evans
Tropical Research and Education Center

Wes Wood
West Florida Research and Education Center

Eric C. Hellgren
Wildlife Ecology and Conservation
COMMENCEMENT AGENDA – SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 7:00 p.m.

Presiding
W. Kent Fuchs, President
University of Florida

Prelude and Student Processional
Gainesville Brass Quintet

Platform Processional
Holton's Highlanders

National Anthem
Ashley Hassan
Gainesville Brass Quintet

Welcome
W. Kent Fuchs

Introductions
R. Elaine Turner, Dean
College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

Presentation of College Awards
R. Elaine Turner

Alumni Association Remarks and Award Presentation
Karen Unger
President, UF Alumni Association, Inc.

Commissioning Recognition
R. Elaine Turner

Student Address
Abigail Schirmer

Commencement Address
W. Kent Fuchs

Presenting Candidates for Graduate Degrees
R. Elaine Turner

Conferring of Graduate Degrees
W. Kent Fuchs

Presenting Candidates for Undergraduate Degrees
R. Elaine Turner

Conferring of Undergraduate Degrees
W. Kent Fuchs

Closing Remarks
W. Kent Fuchs

Alma Mater
Ashley Hassan
Gainesville Brass Quintet

Recessional and Postlude
Gainesville Brass Quintet
Commencement Marshals

Chief Marshal
Ronald J. Spitznagel

CALS Marshals

Rob Ahrens
Forest Resources and Conservation

Evan Bean
Agricultural and Biological Engineering

Lyn Branch
Wildlife Ecology and Conservation

Kylie Brannen
College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

Emilio Bruna
Wildlife Ecology and Conservation

Cathy Carr
College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

Jose Chaparro
Horticultural Sciences

Carlene Chase
Horticultural Sciences

Jennifer Clark
Food and Resource Economics

Natalie Coers
College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

James Collins
Food Science and Human Nutrition

Case Emerson
College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

H. Charlotte Emerson
College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

John Erickson
Agronomy

Kate Fletcher
Family, Youth and Community Sciences

Zhifeng Gao
Food and Resource Economics

Stefan Gerber
Soil and Water Sciences

Corey Graf
Career Resource Center

Ian Granville
Biology

Phil Harmon
Plant Pathology

Amie Imler
Animal Sciences

Kathryn Ivey
Family, Youth and Community Sciences

Herschel Johnson
Food Science and Human Nutrition

Katie Lawson
Agricultural Education and Communication

Jim Maruniak
Entomology and Nematology

Jeanna Mastrodicasa
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

Anne Matthews
Food Science and Human Nutrition

Jorge Ruiz Menjivar
Family, Youth and Community Sciences

Heather McAuslane
College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

Zhonglin Mou
Microbiology and Cell Science

Britta Osborne
College of Agricultural and Life Sciences/Biology

John Peterson
Environmental Horticulture

Dale Pracht
Family, Youth and Community Sciences

Kelly Rice
Microbiology and Cell Science

Tony Romeo
Microbiology and Cell Science

Lorenzo Rossi
Horticultural Sciences

Anne Schwartz
College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

Misti Sharp
Food and Resource Economics

Saundra Tenbroeck
Animal Sciences

Marie Thomas
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

Kelsey Thornton
College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

Andrew Thoron
Agricultural Education and Communication

Laurie Trenholm
Environmental Horticulture

Amy Vasquez
Environmental Horticulture

Wilfred Vermerris
Microbiology and Cell Science

Jason Vogel
Forest Resources and Conservation

Kristina von Castel
Food Science and Human Nutrition

Adam Watson
Agricultural and Biological Engineering

Carissa Wickens
Animal Sciences

Adam Wong
Entomology and Nematology

Tom Yeager
Environmental Horticulture

Gordon Yoder
College of Agricultural and Life Sciences
CALS Teaching and Advising Award Recipients

Christine Miller
Undergraduate Teacher of the Year

Creativity and innovation are motivating forces behind Dr. Christine Miller’s teaching philosophy and student research experiences. As an associate professor in the Department of Entomology and Nematology, Dr. Miller teaches courses in introductory entomology. “Dr. Miller has an exceptional ability to connect with her students and bring out their very best,” said the department chair. “By connecting with her students and sharing her enthusiasm, she has an impressive capacity to instill in students this same passion for science and inquiry.”

The enthusiasm Dr. Miller’s students share for the subject is largely due to the novel Classroom Undergraduate Research Experience (CURE) courses she has developed. These courses stimulate interactions among undergraduate students, graduate students, and post-docs. Undergraduate students in these courses collect data, and results from their findings are published in peer-reviewed scientific publications. Due to the development of these CURE courses, Dr. Miller has taken a leadership role at UF in developing courses that provide undergraduates with meaningful research experiences. “Without a Miller Lab experience, I doubt that my formal coursework in ecology and evolution would have inspired me to pursue a graduate degree,” said a former student of Dr. Miller’s.

In addition to her innovative teaching methods, Dr. Miller is a devoted and talented mentor for students. Dr. Miller encourages her students to become authors on research papers, and mentors them through the process. She follows up with students on domestic and international research experiences that align with their academic interests. She advocates for her students to attend and present their research at conferences, and introduces students to researchers who share their interests. “Her involvement extends past when students are in her lab; after leaving Dr. Miller’s lab, she helped me to find opportunities for both work and graduate studies,” said a former student. Dr. Miller was recognized nationally as a recipient of the USDA “New Teacher Award” in November, 2017.

Steve Johnson
Undergraduate Teacher of the Year

Consistent themes students recognize in Dr. Steve Johnson’s teaching are his passion and enthusiasm, dynamic classroom experience, and straightforward, effective communication style. As an associate professor in the Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, Dr. Johnson considers teaching a privilege and aims to push his students to their fullest learning potential. His teaching philosophy is based upon the core values of being knowledgeable, creative, approachable, respectful, attentive, fair, and enthusiastic.

Students note the real-world applications of his courses as being particularly effective in their retention of information. One such lesson of Dr. Johnson’s made use of sound-bites for students to remember frog calls, which culminated in his conducting of the class in a frog chorus! “Innovative activities like group writing, hands-on learning, interactive field trips, compelling guest speaker schedules, engaging classroom discussions, and a lecture style that communicates information effectively to students of all knowledge levels, are just some of the many hallmarks of Dr. Johnson’s courses that make them exceptional,” said a former student. “I’ve not had another instructor since pull a van full of students off the road to turn a road-kill opossum into a species education moment!” said another.

Dr. Johnson has mentored dozens of undergraduates through research projects, guiding them on their path toward becoming scientists. He developed a volunteer undergraduate teaching assistant program for his Wildlife in Florida course that provides teaching experience and learning reinforcement for students formerly enrolled in that course. “Dr. Johnson’s record in undergraduate education speaks for itself,” said the department chair. “He is well-known in our department for his enthusiastic and entertaining teaching style, which motivates students to seek more knowledge and experience in the field of wildlife ecology.” Dr. Johnson understands students have different learning styles and tries to incorporate a diversity of teaching strategies and styles in the classroom, which has earned him the departmental undergraduate teacher of the year award three times in the past six years.
CALS Teaching and Advising Award Recipients

Kristina Haselier  
*Undergraduate Advisor of the Year*

When Kristina Haselier began working as an undergraduate academic advisor for the School of Forest Resources and Conservation seven years ago, she advised more than 130 students in three majors. Now, she serves nearly 320 students a year across four majors. This significant growth in the school has allowed her the opportunity to create easily accessible resources for her students. One such example is an online “Academic Hub” that includes frequently asked questions as well as how-to guides for campus resources, the process for adding a minor, selecting a faculty advisor, and creating an individualized curriculum plan.

With an advising philosophy that utilizes active listening techniques, Haselier has become a comforting shoulder for students to lean on in times of personal and academic anxiety. “I have never met a person or advisor like Ms. Haselier, one who listens and empathizes with her students and always goes that extra mile,” said a current student. “I feel like I am being heard when I explain my troubles or concerns, and she is always giving her time to others to ensure that they are comfortable as CALS students.” When problem-solving solutions to real or perceived issues students have, Haselier helps students plan steps toward an end goal as well as incorporate short-term, easily attainable wins along the way.

Students value Haselier’s individualized advising approach. To help students become successfully employed upon graduation, Haselier works with students to help them identify their goals and narrow their interests to assist in their selection of a faculty advisor. She has found that follow-up with her students is key to their students’ success. “She goes out of her way to identify students for specific job opportunities, assists students with special projects for classes, and works to make good students into outstanding alumni,” said Haselier’s supervisor.

Shirley Baker  
*Undergraduate Advisor of the Year*

As an associate professor and undergraduate advisor and mentor for those studying in the interdisciplinary studies – marine sciences major, Dr. Shirley Baker is known for always making time for undergraduate students and prospective students in the UF/IFAS School of Forest Resources and Conservation. Students mention Dr. Baker’s strength is her ability to listen. They are appreciative of Dr. Baker’s care and attentive attitude for their career goals and her desire to get to know them outside of academics. Within the last two years alone, Dr. Baker has mentored and advised more than 150 undergraduate students, alumni, and prospective students.

Instrumental to the growth and success of the marine sciences major, Dr. Baker worked one-on-one with students to discuss their academic, research, and career goals to then craft individualized curriculum plans unique to each student. This process has continued with its expansion to additional advisors due to the program’s increase in students. Dr. Baker provided the materials, workshops, and mentorship training support to these additional advisors. This individualized mentorship with advisors is a critical process in students’ development into skilled, well-informed, and employable graduates prepared for a wide-range of specializations within the field of marine sciences.

Dr. Baker’s advising and mentoring philosophy encompasses critical thinking, responsibility, and exploration. She feels she has succeeded as a mentor if her mentees graduate from the University of Florida with accountability for their career paths and with the capacity to think with a sense of curiosity and wonder. She has received positive feedback from prospective high school and transfer students who are grateful for the attention and tours of facilities she provides them. On April 11, Dr. Baker was named the UF Faculty Advisor/Mentor of the Year for 2017-2018.
Gail Kauwell  
*Graduate Teacher/Advisor of the Year*

Dr. Gail Kauwell is most often described as a selfless instructor and role model by her students. Colleagues remark how often they see her in the office on weekends providing copious notes and feedback on her students' assignments. “She is generous with her time both in and out of the classroom, incredibly kind in her communication and actions, and persistent in her attempts to push students to learn,” said one of Dr. Kauwell’s graduates. “She creates a unique, challenging learning plan that develops students into better versions of themselves.”

As the program director for the Master of Science – Dietetic Internship in the UF/IFAS Food Science and Human Nutrition Department, Dr. Kauwell teaches numerous courses as part of the program’s curriculum. She uses various tools in the classroom that promote critical thinking such as case studies, peer-reviewed journal articles, community service projects, and the opportunity for students to develop nutritional curricula for the public. Students consistently notice and appreciate Dr. Kauwell’s well-structured, organized class presentations that reflect the most current, evidence-based information available in the field. She has been recognized on campus and across the nation for her excellence in teaching.

According to her students, a defining characteristic of Dr. Kauwell is her ability to challenge students through rigorous assignments all the while comforting and cheering them on. Students mention that even after they graduate, they never forget her phrase, “Do you want to be good or do you want to be rock stars?” A former student said, “Dr. K made a point to prioritize my success, sometimes even more than I did.” This teaching and advising philosophy of Dr. Kauwell’s is based on the premise that learning and self-discovery occur best when students are actively engaged, feel supported and encouraged, and see a connection with their future.

Amanda Desormeaux  
*Jack L. Fry Award of Excellence in Teaching*

Amanda Desormeaux, a Ph.D. candidate studying interdisciplinary ecology, is this year’s recipient of the Jack L. Fry Excellence in Teaching award for a graduate student. The award is named for the former assistant dean for graduate programs in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences and honors an outstanding graduate student who has excelled in classroom or laboratory teaching.

Amanda has always had a passion for teaching. As a child, she saved class assignments she particularly enjoyed to use for lessons in her future teaching career. At UF, Amanda has taught four different undergraduate courses as either a teaching assistant or instructor of record. “Amanda brings to the students her empathy grounded in the hard work she has put in to develop expertise in this wide array of methodologies,” said her dissertation advisor Dr. James Jawitz. “These talents, combined with her open and supportive personality, have led to her record of success in forming strong connections with students.”

Amanda aims to provide quality learning experiences and opportunities for practice, discussion and reflection, and to support student motivation. An example of this teaching philosophy is a lesson Amanda teaches on sustainable design. Each student reads a blog post that covers an aspect of “green design” and presents a main point to the class before the students design a green neighborhood as a team. Amanda ends the class with a field trip to a local green neighborhood.

Reflecting upon her role in a student’s learning process, Amanda sees herself as a facilitator to support students along their journey to create new knowledge. One of Amanda’s former students remarked, “The best teachers do not just educate; they inspire. The experiences Amanda curated for our class, from learning GIS-mapping to learning about bees firsthand wearing beekeeper suits, continue to inspire me in my journey of environmental advocacy.”
Outstanding Students

Arun Jani
Jimmy G. Cheek Medal of Excellence

Agronomy Ph.D. candidate Arun Jani is this year’s recipient of the Jimmy G. Cheek Graduate Student Medal of Excellence. Named after a former dean of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences and former senior vice president for agriculture and natural resources, the award recognizes an outstanding graduate student who demonstrates high academic potential and achievement, leadership and community involvement, and commitment to and passion for his or her chosen field of study.

Growing up in the inner-city near Boston, Arun had little exposure to agriculture. After an introduction to broad academic disciplines spanning environmental science, international affairs, and natural resources, Arun became interested in agriculture and finding solutions to food security issues. After serving in the Peace Corps, Arun developed a curiosity for researching ways to improve nitrogen use efficiency to bridge the void between the needs of resource-limited farmers and those of large, mechanized agricultural systems. He has received numerous awards for his research posters and presentations. Additionally, Arun has been awarded more than $10,000 in scholarships and has secured more than $25,000 in grants to support his research.

Arun has a strong commitment to serving both domestic and developing world communities. He led several workshops and trained 250 farmer cooperative members on soil fertility management and water conservation in rural communities during his Peace Corps experiences in Nepal and Senegal. He currently serves as a youth mentor at Westside Recreational Center in Gainesville, and has mentored others through the Boys & Girls Club of Raleigh while he was a master’s student at North Carolina State University. In addition to these leadership roles, Arun is the vice president of the Agronomy Graduate Student Association and is the graduate student representative on the CALS Council for Teaching Enhancement and Innovation. Arun’s professors admire him for his “selflessness,” “can-do attitude,” “perseverance,” and “enthusiasm.”

Wallace Martin
Alumni & Friends Leadership Award

Wallace “Wally” Martin is honored today as the recipient of the CALS Alumni and Friends Leadership Award. This award recognizes an outstanding senior who exemplifies leadership, scholastic achievement and citizenship. The award is presented to a student who has a high degree of leadership in departmental or college organizations and supports the agriculture, natural resource and life science industries.

Wally is a food and resource economics major from Arcadia, Florida. He graduates today with minors in leadership and agricultural and natural resource law. Following graduation, Wally plans to pursue a career in finance related to agriculture.

During his time at UF, Wally has been engaged in key roles in the college as an undergraduate assistant in the Dean’s Office, CALS Ambassador, Collegiate Farm Bureau leader, and student director on the CALS Alumni and Friends Board. Wally is a member of Florida Blue Key and a brother in the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity. He has given back to the community through involvement with the Winn Dixie Hope Lodge, All Faiths Food Bank, and First Presbyterian Church of Gainesville.

“[Wally’s] greatest contribution is how he commits himself to work toward making every team and enterprise he joins to be a better unit,” said Dr. Spiro Stefanou, chair of the UF/IFAS Food and Resource Economics Department. “He is a young man who is poised to make a difference for agriculture, in Florida and beyond.”

Since 2015, Wally has served on the Student Advisory Council for Undergraduate Affairs (SACUA), where he represents the college’s students to university administrators. Because of his valuable contributions to SACUA, Wally was invited to serve on the UF Academic Honesty and the Timely Graduation Task Forces. “Wally represents CALS and UF in an exemplary manner,” said Associate Provost for Undergraduate Affairs, Angela Lindner. “He reflects the strong values that CALS lives out in its classrooms.”
Outstanding Students

Jonathan Novak  
Emelie L. Matthews Award of Excellence

Jonathan “Jon” Novak is honored today as the recipient of the Emelie L. Matthews Award of Excellence, presented to an outstanding senior in the college who came to UF as a transfer student. Jonathan graduates today with a degree in biology and is from Gainesville, Florida.

Prior to his studies at UF, Jonathan served four years in the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) of the U.S. Army. During his time in the military, Jon deployed three times on missions to Africa and Europe. Jon seeks to improve the successful re-integration of veterans into society, which is particularly evident in his involvement in the UF and Gainesville communities. He is an active member of the UF Collegiate Veterans Society, and tutors veterans in biomedical science, statistics, organic chemistry, and pre-calculus through both UF and Santa Fe College’s VetSuccess on Campus programs. Jon has worked on projects to gather and analyze data about veterans and veteran students to better help them align their skills obtained in the military with those required in academia as well as in the private and public sectors.

In addition to his work serving fellow veterans, Jon is a volunteer research assistant at the UF Honey Bee Research and Extension Lab. Jon has volunteered to help Dr. Jamie Ellis with the UF Bee College event in addition to various research projects through the 2017 season. This volunteer role led to a research internship in Dr. Ellis’ lab. “I find his candor refreshing, his critical thinking abilities refined, and his vision for his immediate and long-term future well-planned,” Dr. Ellis said. “I truly believe that Mr. Novak has all the qualities necessary to succeed in any field he chooses to pursue.”

After graduation, Jonathan hopes to earn his M.D.-Ph.D. to engage in gene therapy research to contribute to the fight against cancer.

Huda Aziz  
Larry J. Connor Medal of Excellence

Huda Aziz, a resident of Coral Springs, Florida, graduates today as a nutritional sciences major. She is honored as the recipient of the Larry J. Connor Medal of Excellence Award. Named after the late Dr. Larry J. Connor, a former dean of the college, this award recognizes an outstanding senior who has achieved a distinguished scholarship record, has demonstrated a high degree of leadership, and has contributed to and fostered diversity within the student body and society.

As a research assistant on Dr. Carolyn Tucker’s health psychology research team, Huda has conducted research on obesity and health disparities in minority communities. In addition to her work on this team, Huda has worked as a UF microbiology lab teaching assistant, medical assistant at a family medicine clinic, and student assistant in the UF Dean of Students Office Care Area.

“[Huda] has demonstrated leadership and dedication to advocating for equal and adequate healthcare for those in all social, economic and religious groups,” said Dr. Lauren Butler, a postdoctoral research associate with the UF Health Disparities Research and Intervention Program. In addition to her work on Dr. Tucker’s research team, Huda has been trained as a Health Empowerment Coach, and has assisted in recruiting and enrolling participants for the Health Smart Behavior Program at the Alachua County Health Department.

Huda’s passion for helping marginalized and underserved populations led her to found a chapter of “Project Downtown” in West Palm Beach, an organization serving weekly hot meals to homeless populations. In her spare time, she creates art projects to sell and raise funds for Project Downtown. On campus, Huda holds leadership roles in Muslim-based campus organizations and volunteers as a conversation partner through the UF English Language Institute. This fall, Huda will attend Florida International University to become a physician assistant.
Outstanding Students

Heather Ryan
J. Wayne Reitz Medal of Excellence

Heather Ryan, an agricultural education and communication major from Lakeland, Florida, is honored today as the recipient of the J. Wayne Reitz Medal of Excellence Award. The award is named after Dr. J. Wayne Reitz, a former UF provost for agriculture and past UF president. The award is bestowed upon an outstanding student who has achieved a distinguished scholarship record and demonstrated a high degree of leadership.

Promoting campus inclusivity has been Heather’s top priority since her freshman year. This dedication to providing an inclusive culture is exemplified through her translation of orientation materials into dual languages as a Preview Staffer and championing a free business clothes lending service through the Gator Career Closet. She earned the UF Presidential Service Award for volunteering more than 300 hours at the Boys & Girls Club of Alachua County and Florida YMCA Youth in Government programs.

Heather shares her heart for public service as a community engagement fellow with The Bob Graham Center Fellows. She was selected as one of four fellows to represent UF and serve the City of Gainesville in strategic planning projects. “Heather is a collaborative leader who is passionate about social justice, public service and enabling citizens to make a difference,” said Andres Lazo, director of Citizen-Centered Design.

Heather’s commitment to serving her community has extended globally through her involvement in Projects for Haiti and the UF/IFAS Challenge 2050 Project. At UF, Heather is a Florida Cicerone, Honors Ambassador, J. Wayne Reitz Scholar, and Florida Blue Key member. She graduates with minors in leadership and Spanish. “What makes Heather different in her pursuits is her innate desire to strengthen and transform the organizations that she is affiliated with on campus and in the community,” said Dr. Nicole Stedman, Heather’s advisor and UF/IFAS professor.

By pursuing a master’s degree in agricultural education and communication after graduation, Heather hopes to continue to bridge gaps to underserved communities and marginalized youth.

Brandon McKee
Outstanding Two-Year Scholar Award

Brandon McKee of Okeechobee, Florida, is honored today as an Outstanding Two-Year Scholar. This honor is awarded by the UF Alumni Association, Inc., and recognizes students with exceptional scholastic achievement who transferred to the university. He graduates today with a major in food and resource economics and a minor in leadership.

Growing up, Brandon’s mother would always say, “Do the best you can, then don’t worry about it.” This ideology serves as Brandon’s work ethic. He has excelled in academia due to devoting hours of hard work toward his education. This meant constant revisions to his papers, reading every section in the textbook, and never being too proud to ask for help.

Brandon found his work as a research assistant with the Center for Public Issues Education to provide valuable opportunities and mentorship that have defined his student experience. He completed a summer research experience through Kansas State University working with research on Brazilian sugarcane producers and completed an honors thesis on consumer willingness to pay for water. His research and an internship with the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Extension have resulted in three published journal articles and several presentations at conferences. In addition, Brandon has served the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences as an ambassador and the Gainesville community as a student mentor with Kanapaha Middle School and youth ministry leader through Greenhouse Church.

When asked why he thinks it is great to be a Florida Gator, Brandon said, “The University of Florida and the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences have given me moments that I will remember for a lifetime,” especially discussions with his mentors and advisors. In the immediate future, Brandon will marry his fiancée and begin a job near his hometown. He feels called to ministry with a long-term goal of becoming a pastor.
Abigail Schirmer

Commencement Speaker

Abigail Schirmer from Jupiter, Florida, will graduate today with dual degrees in nutritional sciences and microbiology and cell science. Abigail was selected to present the Commencement address to our graduating students.

Abigail is a member of the CALS Leadership Institute Cohort VIII, a former member of the UF Club Swim and TriGators, and a current U.S. Master Swim Team member. She volunteers at First Presbyterian Church of Gainesville and has given her time to organizations such as Malcom Randall VA Hospital, UF Department of Pediatrics, Ronald McDonald House, LifeSouth Blood Centers, and Thornwell Orphanage in South Carolina.

“Abigail represents CALS with utmost character, compassion, and integrity; her professional demeanor, positivity, and natural ability to connect with others equip her with the capacity to excel as she graduates and enters medical school,” said Dr. Natalie Coers, Program Coordinator for the CALS Leadership Institute. “One attribute of Abigail that has impressed me the most is her ambition. She is eager to learn and grow to be a better leader and better human being, ready to serve others, however she is able.”

Beginning as a high school student in the Student Science Training Program in 2012, Abigail has worked in UF research lab settings as a volunteer and a paid employee. Most notably, she has co-designed and completed research projects that she has presented at local, regional, and national conferences. Two of these projects have impacted UF Health/Shands policies, implementing effective Isolation Gowns in the operating rooms and ICUs, and implementing less contaminated computer keyboards in the newly opened UF Health/Shands facility. She has also completed two manuscript submissions as first author and has completed an honors thesis.

Abigail will begin medical school in August and anticipates continuing her research to better the lives of individuals and medicine as a whole.
THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

Henry T. Frierson, Dean

MASTER OF AGRIBUSINESS

Caroline A. Dailey
Samantha J. Dailey

MASTER OF FISHERIES AND AQUATIC SCIENCES

Lindsay Anne French
Michael A. Laguna
Rachael A. Griffiths
Benjamin Edward VanDine

MASTER OF FOREST RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

Joshua Castro

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Matilda C. Adamec
Microbiology and Cell Science

Ashley P. Baker
Microbiology and Cell Science

Alic R. Bandy
Forest Resources and Conservation

Peyton Nicole Beattie
Agricultural Education and Communication

Jesse B. Borden
Interdisciplinary Ecology

David M. Bostwick
Agronomy

Catalina Pardo Brasil
Microbiology and Cell Science

Brittani M. Brown
Microbiology and Cell Science

Harry Burman
Entomology and Nematology

Nathan Adam Burmester
Forest Resources and Conservation

Juan P. Cabrera Marcelo
Microbiology and Cell Science

Julio Cesar Cardoso Cruz
Food and Resource Economics

Ann Marie Carias
Entomology and Nematology

Chelsea Erin Carnes
Family, Youth and Community Sciences

Sherry Elizabeth Carpenter
Forest Resources and Conservation

Gabriel Castille
Microbiology and Cell Science

Tiffany Garris Cato
Microbiology and Cell Science

Bridgette E. Compton
Agricultural Education and Communication

Cheyenne Conrad
Family, Youth and Community Sciences

Jeremy I. Cooper
Forest Resources and Conservation

Monica Anne Cozad
Microbiology and Cell Science

Bethany Margaret Dado-Senn
Animal Molecular and Cellular Biology

Willy Avriely Daeli
Forest Resources and Conservation

Paul Harrison Decker
Forest Resources and Conservation

Stanley Willis Dezern
Agronomy

Kristi S. Dobra
Soil and Water Sciences

Megan Danielle Engel
Food Science and Human Nutrition

Jose Antonio Fernandez Abreu
Microbiology and Cell Science

Tayler-Shea Joyia Flotow
Microbiology and Cell Science

Brandy Elizabeth Sara Foley
Soil and Water Sciences

Nicole L. Garner
Family, Youth and Community Sciences

Jay C. Gilbert
Soil and Water Sciences

Benjamin Merritt Gillenwaters
Entomology and Nematology

Samantha N. Goldenberg
Family, Youth and Community Sciences
Yaslin Nicole Gonzalez  
Soil and Water Sciences

Emily Michelle Andrews Greene  
Microbiology and Cell Science

Jennifer Kaye Griffith  
Microbiology and Cell Science

Kathryn M. Harriger  
Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences

Jessica L. Harsh  
Agricultural Education and Communication

Amy Warwick Hedstrom  
Agricultural Education and Communication

Cassie A. Henegar  
Soil and Water Sciences

David A. Hensley  
Agronomy

Melissa K. Hill  
Interdisciplinary Ecology

Mark H. Hinz  
Soil and Water Sciences

Brianna Renee Holden  
Microbiology and Cell Science

Michael Shane Hull  
Entomology and Nematology

J. Clay Hurdle  
Agricultural Education and Communication

Laila A. Ibrahim  
Animal Molecular and Cellular Biology

Kelly Jean Ingram  
Microbiology and Cell Science

Kayleigh J. Jeffrey  
Microbiology and Cell Science

Nicholas S. Johnston  
Entomology and Nematology

Prabhjot Kaur  
Horticultural Sciences

Patrick M. Kelly  
Microbiology and Cell Science

Arjun Khadka  
Entomology and Nematology

Amelia Cai Knowlton  
Microbiology and Cell Science

Tyler Thomas Knox  
Microbiology and Cell Science

Nattapol Kraisitudomsook  
Plant Pathology

Sean P. Kryger  
Food Science and Human Nutrition

Megan Scherrer Lamb  
Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences

Robert T. Loane III  
Forest Resources and Conservation

Camillo Lopera Higuita  
Animal Sciences

Davyn Louis  
Microbiology and Cell Science

Christopher Daniel Louviere  
Microbiology and Cell Science

Keevan Jade MacKenzie  
Plant Pathology

Jenna Brennan Magri  
Microbiology and Cell Science

Richard Joseph Mansuetti  
Forest Resources and Conservation

Michael G. Mauk  
Microbiology and Cell Science

Stephanie Maya  
Microbiology and Cell Science

Ashley N. McLeod  
Agricultural Education and Communication

Gunja Vallavadas Mehta  
Microbiology and Cell Science

Kyle M. Mendes  
Animal Sciences

Katie Elizabeth Miranda  
Animal Sciences

Maria Paula Mugnani  
Wildlife Ecology and Conservation

Jackson V. Nielsen  
Agronomy

Morgan Hannah Overstreet  
Microbiology and Cell Science

Avish Anil Patel  
Microbiology and Cell Science

William Tyler Plumlee  
Microbiology and Cell Science

Taylor G. Polinard  
Agricultural Education and Communication

Christine E. Pourciau  
Microbiology and Cell Science

Ciara Jeanene Powell  
Family, Youth and Community Sciences

Marta Prat Guitart  
Wildlife Ecology and Conservation

Jeffrey M. Ragucci  
Soil and Water Sciences

Robert Anthony Ranieri  
Food and Resource Economics

Mohamad Rois Ridlo  
Forest Resources and Conservation

Simon S. Riley  
Agronomy

Claudia Rodriguez  
Animal Sciences

Daniel Kelley Rohan  
Forest Resources and Conservation

Joaquin Ernesto Saavedra Alvarado  
Agronomy

Samantha Nicole Sardes  
Agronomy

Melissa Savoy  
Soil and Water Sciences
Raymond M. Scott  
*Interdisciplinary Ecology*

Prami Sengupta  
*Family, Youth and Community Sciences*

Rui Shao  
*Food Science and Human Nutrition*

Jessica E. Sharpe  
*Soil and Water Sciences*

Emily Rae Sheveland  
*Microbiology and Cell Science*

Anil Sigdel  
*Animal Sciences*

Kristin Elizabeth Sloyer  
*Entomology and Nematology*

Austin Matthew Smith  
*Interdisciplinary Ecology*

Leigh Nicole Smith  
*Microbiology and Cell Science*

Peyton A. Smith III  
*Microbiology and Cell Science*

Taylor A. Smith  
*Soil and Water Sciences*

Jennifer Lanette Sobel  
*Forest Resources and Conservation*

Danielle M. Sprague  
*Entomology and Nematology*

Jesse T. Stephens  
*Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences*

Isabella Storozkova  
*Microbiology and Cell Science*

Jerrica A. Swain  
*Microbiology and Cell Science*

Andréa M. Szabo  
*Interdisciplinary Ecology*

Abigail Stanley Tadigadapa  
*Microbiology and Cell Science*

Callie J. Thompson  
*Forest Resources and Conservation*

Sarada Maury Kolli Tilton  
*Microbiology and Cell Science*

Rebeca Trujillo  
*Microbiology and Cell Science*

Katelyn Elizabeth Turner  
*Family, Youth and Community Sciences*

Alyssa Ann Vinson  
*Forest Resources and Conservation*

Melissa Lauren Vizza  
*Entomology and Nematology*

Brian Katsumi Wada  
*Food Science and Human Nutrition*

Shelly Marie Wayte  
*Forest Resources and Conservation*

Jacob T. Weiderman  
*Microbiology and Cell Science*

Brett Alan Wisniewski  
*Microbiology and Cell Science*

Levi D. Wooden  
*Forest Resources and Conservation*

Ross A. Wygmans  
*Forest Resources and Conservation*

Lujia Yang  
*Food Science and Human Nutrition*

Angga Yudaputra  
*Forest Resources and Conservation*

Adrian Israel Zuniga Pinto  
*Plant Pathology*
BACHELOR OF ARTS
Cameron J. Maletto

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Michaela Francheska Abelgas
Rock Adel Aboujaoude Jr.
Luna Marie Adamo
Janey Gail Adams
Alexander Aguilar
*Adwoa Agyeiwaa Agyei
Omar Al Ajlani
Juvenie Alexandre
*Rebecca Leigh Algero
*Sameer Arif Alidina
Alexandra M. Allgeyer
Cameron Carl Allison
*Ediel Almeida
Michelle Denise Almodovar
*Alexa A. Alsina
Faith A. Alvarez-Moore
Colton Barry Amaral
Neave Marie Anderson
Victoria Alexandria Anderson
Vyttori Joie’ Anderson
Tamara L. Araujo
Kimberly G. Archer
Erika Atencio
*Dillon P. Ather
Hannah E. Ather
Conner Clark Austin
Rashad M. Austin
Sade Denise Marie Awe
*Huda Aziz
*Turan T. Badali
*Catherine Baitinger
*Caroline Belle Baker
*Jackson R. Baker
Geri Bako
Hannah Leigh Baldwin
*Audrey Blair Ballin
McKenzie D. Barickman
*Hunter R. Barnes
Brandon Michael Barnett
Jared T. Barnwell
David A. Barreto
*Alexia Pereira Barrios

*Mackenzie Aleeese Catron
Christine Dhenie Cayan
*Myung S. Cha
*Sierra M. Chadwick
*Olga Elena Chamberlain
Samantha Vanessa Chavez
Reshma Mohan Cheerman
*Phyllis A. Chovoor
Able Chow
*Amanda Elizabeth Chromiak
Sarah Gayle Cimino
Taylor B. Clasen
*Nathan R. Claunch
Stephanie S. Clime
Michael P. Cloyd
*Madison L. Cobb
Sierra Jade Coffman
*Peter Leon Colasante
*Colton M. Colby
Autumn Brooke Coleman
*Jessica H. Collier
*Wesley Milton Collier
Katherine J. Collins
Taylor Mackenzie Combs
Eden L. Cooley
***Lauren Gray Cooney
*Desiree Jane Corbat
*William A. Corcoran
*Katelyn Jan Cornelius
Isabel Costas Velasco
*Connor James Courington
Taylor M. Cowart
Caren Noel Crane
Kelly Marie Crispin
***Trevor W. Crosby
Karen Andrea Cuesta
*Lindsay Ann Culbertson
*Eileen K. Cullen
Paul Douglas Cundiff III
*Stephie T. Cyril
Meghann K. Daniel
*Linda Chi Dao

*Cum Laude          **Magna Cum Laude          ***Summa Cum Laude    (Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude and Summa Cum Laude are tentative and subject to final grades)       ‡ Posthumously
Corey Michael Darnell  
*Alexis M. DaVail  
*Brittney D. Davidson  
Daniela Davila  
Austin L. Davis  
Megan Marie De La Osa  
Nicole T. De Stefano  
Drue Elizabeth DeAngelo  
*Emmy Clare Decker  
*Shawna Lynn DeGrange  
Haley Kathryn Denney  
Alexis M. DaVail  
*Brittney D. Davidson  
Daniela Davila  
Austin L. Davis  
Megan Marie De La Osa  
Nicole T. de Stefano  
*Drue Elizabeth DeAngelo  
*Emmy Clare Decker  
*Shawna Lynn DeGrange  
Haley Kathryn Denney  
*Alexa J. Denton  
*Therese A. DeRosia  
Garrett A. Deross  
Johanna Nickie Dezeme  
Paola Dezubiria  
JulioCesar Diaz Jr  
*Natalie Diaz  
*Angela C. Dillonburg  
Keeley S. DiVita  
*Ava E. Donovan  
***Steven Charles Dougherty  
James Tyler Drake  
Brett A. Ducker  
Katherine Vanessa Dudamel Silva  
*Michele Duong  
*Taeler R. Dupre  
Chase Garrett Earley  
Naomi J. Ector  
Garrett A. Edmond  
*Robert J. Edwards  
Victoria M. Edwards  
Kalee Brook Eichelberger  
*Samantha B. Eifert  
*Eda Eken  
*Nadine Elkomy  
Christian Alexander Ellis  
Conor Ellis  
David Samuel Ellis  
*Jessica Shelby Emerson  
*Brason A. English  
Naja Elias Faddoul  
Raul Daniel Fagundez Jr.  
Scott Faist  
*Mckenzie N. Farah  
Ariana Eugenia G. Faraji  
Vanessa P. Feanny  
*Hannah Nie Feng  
Abigale V. Ferguson  
Erik G. Ferguson  
*Katy Y. Ferguson  
Gianna Fernandez  
Katherine Fernandez  
*Daniel S. Feuer  
*Ashley Kristina Fisher  
Hannah Gail Fitzhugh  
Barry Chase Fleming  
Dwayne A. Fletcher  
*Nicolette Taylor Flynn  
Dariella Vanessa Fonseca Rosenthal  
Shannon L. Forg  
Pierce A. Forquer  
*Thomas W.R. Fraleigh  
Valeria Franco  
*Jennifer R. Franklin  
Abigail Chaya Freund  
Chelsea Brennan Frost  
*Delaney Anne Fuhrmeister  
Taylor Renee Fulford  
Ruth Ann Galatowitsch  
*Ashley J. Gallops  
Dishaaree Gangulee  
Kevin Andres Garcia  
Marlen Yolany Garcia Vallecillo  
Lauren R. Gawel  
Jessica E. Gebert  
*Kelsey Danielle Gelp  
*Megan Gwyneth George  
Victoria R. Gerace  
*Ralph Chester Ghioto IV  
James C. Giampietro  
*Jacob Conner Gilbert  
*Kaitlin N. Gingerich  
Kelsie Glnski-Boy  
Vanessa Joy Ruelos Glomo  
*Emma Rae Glover  
*Justin Michael Glynn  
*Ryan T. Goebel  
*Danielle Ashley Goguen  
*Jessica M. Goldin  
*Jayna Goldstein  
Anna G. Gonzalez  
Ashley Marie Gonzalez  
Lorenzo Vincent Gonzalez  
***Rachel Marie Gordon  
*Addie Gorst  
Cameron Paul Goss  
Robert Dalton Goss  
Carley Jo Graham  
Morgan M. Gray  
*Elizabeth K. Graydon  
Chase Frederick Green  
Brandi Nicole Griffin  
Mackenzie L. Griffin  
Tori D. Griffith  
*Claire E. Groenstei  
*Gregory Edward Grzempa  
*Shirley C. Guerra  
*Kelsea Eileen Guest  
*Carolya I. Guillen  
Kelsey W. Gunthor  
Matthew A. Guthrie  
***Cynthia G. Gutierrez  
*Anne Marie Hampe  
Jasmine K. Han  
*Nylah J. Haney  
Courtney Marie Hanner  
Chandler Reeves Hansen  
Michelle Alexis Haramboure  
Kristen Taylor Harding  
Kyle L. Harrell  
Sarah Rhoden Harrell  
Scarlett R. Harrison  
*Jenna D. Hart  
Yanick DeQuen Hart  
***Connor Michael Hartzell  
Ashley L. Hassan  
*Blake Loren Hauer  
Zachary C. Hawkins  
Kathryn Margaret Heisel  
Tiffanie Yonelle Henriquez  
*Steven James Herd-Bond  
Ariadne Hernandez  
Eliane Hernandez  
Melissa Maria Hernandez  
Leigha C. Hevery  
Cassandra M. Hicks  
*Antonise Hightower  
*Devin Quade Hingson  
Jordan L. Hinkle  
Shonglee Ho  
*Zachery B. Holmes  
Parker Wyatt Hoppens  
*Nicholas E. Horvath  
Mallie Jo Hosack  
*Madelyn K. Houde  
Mollie Kathryn Huber  
*Monica A. Huynh  
Vivian Huynh  
Elena Mae Iacono  
*Christopher Stephen Imler  
*Daron Keith Ingram Jr.  
*John Hennelly Irvin  
*Jessica E. Irvine  
Raidys Isaac  
Jackson Charles Jablonski  
*Allyson Miller Jack  
Bradley Jackson  
*Lawson Albert Jaffe  
Delaney Victoria Jardine  
Sydney Theresa Jenkins  
Trey Michael Jenkins  

*Cum Laude  
**Magna Cum Laude  
***Summa Cum Laude  (Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude and Summa Cum Laude are tentative and subject to final grades)  
‡ Posthumously
*Meghan R. Jessee
Emily L. Johns
Lethia R. Johnson
Lindsey N. Johnson
*Thomas Michael Johnson
Seth Gilbert Joiner
Caroline Ann Jones
Erin E. Jones
Kodie Meeks Jones
Shane C. Kammerman
*Jerrett L. Kandzer
*Elizabeth Margo Kearney
Rachel Lynn Keyt
*Zeerak Khan
Sumayah Khatib
*Alexa Diane Kilichowski
David Dawit Kim
*Emily Elizabeth Kiner
*Alana Navah Koch
Rachel Lauren Koller
Abdoul Rachid Konseiga
*Timea Adrienne Kovacs
*Noah Gilbert Kreitz
Minji Ku
*Ana Laura la O Vazquez
Isabelle Angelique Lady
Daniela Lalinde
Megan R. Lamothe
*Brad Tyler Langford
Jacob P. Larsson
Michelle N. Lawrence-Muniz
*Katy Joyce Lawson
Casey Xuong Le
Alaina Kay Lee
Ji Young Lee
Megan Beth Leitner
Jessica Hsieh Li
Ashlee Nicole Linn
*McKenzie M. Liskey
*Jessica Sarah Little
*Alejandra Llano
*Margaret B. Long
*Gabriel A. Lopez
Gabriela D. Lopez
Bernardo Lopez Zinguer
*Jessica Marie Lorenzo-Luaces
Catherine Elizabeth Lower
*Logan Joseph Luse
*Abrianna Taylor Lusito
*Natalie Lux
*Kimberly Michelle Magee
Vishal Maharaj
Jenna C. Malone
***Katherine Elizabeth Malyszek
Roger Mambru
*Ally Sandrina Marchetti
Abigail Joan Marion
Samuel R. Markowitz
*Aleena Martin
Jennifer G. Martin
Wallace S. Martin
Xelene Amorie Martinez
*Forrest Parker Mason
*Taylor M. Masters
*Anthony J. Matarazzo
Kelvin B. Mathew
Manessa Matthews
*Francesca G. Maurici
Macy Blair May
Kate L. Mayo
Marina Elizabeth McCampbell
*Caline S. McCarthy
Alec Gregory McCloud
Mariah Love McConnell
*Courtney Amber McCreary
**Cara Irene McDermott
Dalton Carl McDonald
Austin Theodore McGowan
*Katelyn McGraw
*Rachel Marie McKay
***Brandon H. McKee
*Ethan Patrick McLeod
Omani R. McLish
Janess Marie Mederos
*Nicole Perkins Meeks
*Emily Mejia
Danielle Karis Melvin
Kayla J. Merkel
Lillian Belle Messer
W. Smith Meyers
Francis Etha Marian Millan Gonzalez
*Stephanie M. Miller
*Therese Clare Miller
*Lydia Millsark
Rashaan D. Mims
*Nicholas Alexander Mirsky
***Avnee Mistry
*Tanya Rachel Mitjans
Daniela Ester Moiño
Steve Montalvo
*Alejandro J. Montero
Laura Marcella Montesano
*Danielle Marie Moody
*Ashley R. Moore
*Zachary David Moore
Jordan R. Morales
Santiago Moreno Caceres
Nicholas J. Morey
Kaylee Catherine Morgan
Rebecca A. Morrell
*Rachel Danielle Morres
*Alyssa L. Morris
*Fara R. Moskowitz
Jesenia Mosqueda
*Jessy Ashton Motes
Nadia Nazih Mourad
*Robyn Lee Mucci
*Olivia R. Muchmore
Simon Mui
*Morgan Julia Mulé
Adison M. Murphy
Sarvar Nasirov
*Andrea Neira Gesteira
**Taylor Elizabeth Nelson
*Cassondra S. Newman
*Kelsey Jannette Newsome
Anndy Nguyen
Henry Nguyen
*Thomas Hong Nguyen
Truc Lynh Huynh Nguyen
*Sarah Mylinh Nguyentrann
Ashley Helen Nicolls
*Avery Ross Nielsen
Beau Bruce Nistler
*Rebecca Marie Nosacka
*Fitzroya G. Nugent
*Robert C. Nusbaum
Stephanie Michelle O'Brien
Michaela Rose Oglesby
*Carlos H. Ojeda
Sarah Danielle Orrell
Gabriela Orta Castillo
Michael T. Osman
William E. Page V
*Brianna M. Paiewonsky
*Natalie M. Pan
Ashley Elizabeth Panici
Paula Andrea Pardo
***Milbrey Ann Parke
Hannah Marie Parker
Rachel Parker
William Hasley Parry
Cameron D. Pasman
*Ruth Pasyuk
*Nisha Navin Patel
*Puja D. Patel
*Ruchi Rakesh Patel
Shriya Parmal Patel
Rebecca Anne Patterson
*Arianna N. Paul
Emma Lee Paul
**Kylie Madison Paul

*Cum Laude  **Magna Cum Laude  ***Summa Cum Laude  (Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude and Summa Cum Laude are tentative and subject to final grades)  ‡ Posthumously
Jose F. Pavon Jr.
*Alexis Danielle Paynter
Lauren Elizabeth Peacock
Chase Coleman Pellett
*Brendan F. Pelzer
Fernando Javier Perez
*Jennifer L. Peters
*Jacqueline N. Phillips
*Adele Pietras
*Taylor Jo Pollak
Frank Lee Porter V
Ryan S. Porterfield
*Barclay Blount Powell
*Mary Athena Prakas
Mitchell Edgar Preston
*Laura E. Prevatt
Chelsea L. Prophater
Virginia E. Propheter
*Annabelle Lily Pulliam
*Lorena Denise Pupo Barroso
*Lori M. Purvis
*David Quang-Trung Quach
*Jessica Lee Radcliffe
Ramonica Nicole Radway
*Zahra Rahman
Katherine Rajaschmir
Maria Del Pilar Ramos Acosta
Christiana Ruth Rarie
Robert William Raske
Sarah L. Redmond
Collin L. Reddy
*Caroline Renée Reeg
Tiffani E. Reilly
Tianmei Ren
*Kelley Evelyn Rendon
Larry James Reser
*Amanda Ashley Reyes
Hanako M. Reyes
*Blaine A. Rhoden
*George William Richardson IV
Cayci J. Riegert
*Aditta Islam Riha
*Katelyn L. Ritter
Flavio Rivero Argento
Jordan R. Rivers
Gabriella L. Robilotto
Sophia Mahailey Robinson
David J. Rodriguez
Mateo Rodriguez
***Kristina D. Rojas
*Summer L. Roorda
Amanda Celeste Rosa
*Daniel A. Rosa
*Olivia Rosato
Hollie Marie Rowe
***Heather A. Ryan
*Morgan L. Sacks
Carolina Andrea Salas Gerritsen
***Amara N. Salmon
*Jacob Forrester Sammon
*Christine Marie Samuel
*Jaime Alberto Sánchez A.
Karla A. Sanchez
Morgan M. Sapp
Zoe Julia Scherzer
*Abigail Frances Schirmer
Amanda J. Schultheis
***Alexandra Lynn Seelig
Kevin Michael Sells
James Richard Sharpe
*Sarah Marie Shephard
*Keshari E. Shrestha
*Emily Lynn Silverberg
Chelsea Nicole Simmons
Neal Kent Simmons
*Samantha Judge Simpson
Tyler Philip Simpson
Kaylyn L. Sizemore
*Carson Craig Smith
Jennifer Smith
*Nathan Benjamin Snodgrass
Justine G. Snyder
*Angelica Len Solomon
Reshnu J. Soto
*Sabrina Kelley Spada
Arizona Leah Spencer
*Ariel Alexandra Spicer-Pyles
*Clayton A. Spilman
*Gabrielle Paige Spivey
*Brittany L. Stanley
Christopher Stansey
*Emily Sophia Steffes
Karina A. Stein
Sara Lynn Stiehler
Trey Gordon Stinson
Jacqueline Hart Stone
*Haley Marie Straub
Giovanina Olachinyere Hadiya Sutherland
Megan Nicole Sweeney
Michelle N. Taepakdee
*Joseph Bernard Tarnate
*Tamara Taylor Tavakoli
*Valentini A. Theologidou
Alicia J. Thomas
Bruce E. Thomas Jr.
Joseph Wesley Thomas
Alexander Michael Thompson
Noah W. Thompson
Kathryn Elizabeth Timmons
Eugene Mago Tolentino
Caitlyn Marie Trammell
Anna M. Tran
Thien Q. Tran
Aleyda Trana
Elliot Chambers Traxler
*Ashley Nicole Tringas
Nhi Y. Trinh
Aakarsh Tripathi
*Rebecca Lynn Troast
Mechelle S. Trotman
*Alexandra Ulacia
Katherine W. Upshaw
Kimberly Ann Utz
*Julio Agustin Vaca Valder
*Kristen Lauren Valdes
Maidelys Valdes
*Brianna Marie Sau Kuen Valenti
Lauren M. Varenkamp
*Natalia Carolina Velandia
Joshua Trénitosa Vesely
Carlos Miguel Victoriano
Madhur Wadhwa
*Jared D. Wainwright
Abigail Elise Waldron
Nina Marie Wallick
Taylor C. Walters
Hannah S. Warshaw
*Brett Morris Wasden
*Elizabeth C. Wasnover
Paul Carl Wessel III
Rachel Anne Watson
**Meghan Marie Watt
Taylor Elizabeth Wear
Lydia Ann Weaver
*Jheri L. Weiss
David Paul Wheeler Jr.
***Jacob L. White
Kanisha Dornay White
Kimberly Michelle White
Brian M. Whitenack
*Lindsey Jean Wilcox
*Sarah V. Wilder
Robyn A. Williams
*Lauren Elizabeth Wilson
Lauren Elizabeth Wilson

\*Cum Laude \ **Magna Cum Laude \ ***Summa Cum Laude \ (Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude and Summa Cum Laude are tentative and subject to final grades) \ ‡ Posthumously
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN FOREST RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

*Isaac D. Allen
Maria Isabel Alvarez
*Emily E. Bagby
Jillian Nicole Bustillo
Zachary Aaron Butler
*Kentucky Michelle Costellow
*Austin R. Dartez
Logan Gray Deuel
*Kenneth Stryker Duffield IV
Vanessa Fernandez-Herak

*Isaac D. Allen
Maria Isabel Alvarez
*Emily E. Bagby
Jillian Nicole Bustillo
Zachary Aaron Butler
*Kentucky Michelle Costellow
*Austin R. Dartez
Logan Gray Deuel
*Kenneth Stryker Duffield IV
Vanessa Fernandez-Herak

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN GEOMATICS

Curtis A. Beatovich
*Harley J. Davidson
Eric Michael Didion
Patricia Grau

BACHELOR OF ARTS

***Justin Morgan Beall
*Allison Nicole Blaue
Christian Paul Garcia

Rachel Francesca Geshay
*Alexandra Marie Hazday
Marwa Ali Hussein

Laura Ashley Melendez
Haley Roberson
Hayden T. Wachob

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

*Audrey N. Batzer
Nicholas James Bohannon
Anthony T. Carter

Jason Tyler Clark
*Quentin Hanzhou Cui
***Isabella Kathleen Fernandez

Jeffry Matthew Flenniken
Meeka Mo
*Cherilyn Sonja Reyes
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.

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA TASSELS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School/College</th>
<th>Color</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fisher School of Accounting</td>
<td>Aqua</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Agricultural and Life Sciences</td>
<td>Maize</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of the Arts</td>
<td>Brown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M.E. Rinker Sr. School of Construction Management</td>
<td>Burnt Orange and Opal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warrington College of Business</td>
<td>Drab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heavener School of Business</td>
<td>Drab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Dentistry</td>
<td>Lilac</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Design, Construction and Planning</td>
<td>Blue Violet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Education</td>
<td>Light Blue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering</td>
<td>Orange</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Graduate School</td>
<td>Black</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Health and Human Performance</td>
<td>Sage Green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Journalism and Communications</td>
<td>Black and White</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fredric G. Levin College of Law</td>
<td>Purple</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Arts</td>
<td>White</td>
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<tr>
<td>College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Sciences</td>
<td>Gold Yellow</td>
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<tr>
<td>College of Medicine</td>
<td>Green</td>
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<tr>
<td>College of Nursing</td>
<td>Apricot</td>
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<td>College of Pharmacy</td>
<td>Olive Green</td>
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<tr>
<td>College of Public Health and Health Professions</td>
<td>Salmon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Veterinary Medicine</td>
<td>Gray</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Diplomas

Diplomas will be mailed to the graduate’s permanent home mailing address in June 2018.
Caps and Gowns, An Explanation

The academic regalia worn by graduating students and faculty at today’s commencement ceremonies 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 blue violet; Audiology degrees have colonial blue edging; Business Administration and Accounting are 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 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 doctoral regalia also has velvet running on the rest of the gown, including cross bars on the sleeve. Colored tassels on the degree candidates’ caps indicate a candidate’s school or college.
Student Recognition

College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Honors Program

The College of Agricultural and Life Sciences is the only college at the University of Florida that provides a formal upper-division honors experience for its students. CALS students with grade point averages of 3.75 or above are invited to join by the Dean. Successful completion of the program requires four honors courses, an honors thesis, and an upper-division G.P.A. of 3.75 or greater. Academically, honors students rank in the upper 3% of all CALS students. The following graduating seniors are recognized as CALS Honors Scholars and will receive a medallion and a university certificate:

Jana Caracciolo  
Lauren Cooney  
Steven Dougherty

Connor Hartzell  
Veronica Laux  
Milbrey Parke

Kylie Paul  
Heather Ryan  
Meghan Watt

Alumni & Friends

As a graduate of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS) you will automatically become a part of the CALS Alumni & Friends (CALSAF) organization. CALSAF is affiliated with the University of Florida Alumni Association and fosters a spirit of loyalty and fraternity among graduates, former students and friends of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences.

CALS Alumni & Friends members strive to build a strong organization to promote the college’s academic programs, enhance the experience of current students and provide programming that allows alumni and friends to network with other members of the Gator Nation.

You may choose to participate in one of the events hosted by CALSAF including the TailGATOR barbecue and regional Gator Gatherings. CALSAF relies on alumni volunteers for a variety of activities including recruiting students, hosting alumni events and mentoring current students.

To learn more about the CALS Alumni & Friends organization or inquire about becoming an alumni volunteer, please visit www.cals.ufl.edu, call (352) 392-1963 or email alumni@cals.ufl.edu.
What Makes a University Great?
Some interesting facts about the University of Florida

Educational Excellence

UF is consistently ranked among the nation’s top universities: No. 14 in U.S. News & World Report “Top Public Universities” (2016); No. 2 on the Forbes list of Best Value Public Universities (2016); No. 1 on Value Colleges’ list of Top 50 Best Value Colleges (2016); and No. 8 on the Times Higher Education list of best universities for employers to find new hires.

Faculty

- UF has nearly 5,000 faculty members with distinguished records in teaching, research and service, including 36 Eminent Scholar chairs and 44 faculty elections to the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, the Institute of Medicine or the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.
- Awards include two Pulitzer Prizes, NASA’s top award for research, and the Smithsonian Institution’s conservation award.

Students

- Ninety-seven percent of incoming freshmen score above the national average (1500/21) on standardized exams. Students admitted for the fall 2017 freshman class had an average 4.4 GPA and an average SAT score of 1930.
- More than 1,285 International Baccalaureate students were enrolled in UF in March 2016. The freshman retention rate of 96 percent is among the highest in the country.
- Among AAU public universities, UF ranked first in master’s degrees and second in bachelor’s degrees awarded to Hispanic students in 2014.
- Sixty-seven percent of UF full-time freshmen graduate in four years (2011-12 cohort), and 87 percent of UF freshmen graduate within six years (2009-10 cohort).
- Fifty-seven percent of UF graduates leave the university with no student-loan debt. For the remaining students, their average indebtedness is about $21,603, as compared with the national average of over $30,000 (2014-15).