



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY  
*Commencement*

*August 7, 2020*





TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY  
Conferral of Doctoral  
Degrees

*Program*

Friday, August 7, 2020

Greetings

Invocation

Greetings and Authorization to Confer Degrees

Presentation of Degree Candidates and Conferring of Degrees

Student Expression of Appreciation

President's Remarks

"The Spirit of Aggieland"

*The Texas A&M University System  
Board of Regents*

Ms. Elaine Mendoza, Chairman . . . . . San Antonio  
Mr. Tim Leach, Vice Chairman . . . . . Midland  
Mr. Phil Adams . . . . . Bryan/College Station  
Mr. Robert L. Albritton . . . . . Fort Worth  
Mr. Jay C. Graham . . . . . Houston  
Mr. Michael A. "Mike" Hernandez III . . . . . Fort Worth  
Mr. Bill Mahomes, Jr. . . . . Dallas  
Mr. Michael J. Plank . . . . . Houston  
Mr. Cliff Thomas . . . . . Victoria  
Mr. Cahlen Cheatham (Student Regent) . . . . . Stephenville

*Chancellor*

Mr. John Sharp . . . . . Placedo

*Texas A&M University Administrative Officers*

President . . . . . Mr. Michael K. Young  
Provost and Executive Vice President . . . . . Dr. Carol A. Fierke  
Dean, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences . . . . . Dr. Patrick J. Stover  
Dean, College of Architecture . . . . . Dr. Jorge A. Vanegas  
Dean, Mays Business School . . . . . Dr. Eli Jones  
Dean, College of Dentistry . . . . . Dr. Lawrence E. Wolinsky  
Dean, College of Education and  
Human Development . . . . . Dr. Joyce M. Alexander  
Dean, College of Engineering . . . . . Dr. M. Katherine Banks  
Dean, College of Geosciences . . . . . Dr. Debbie Thomas  
Dean, Bush School of Government and  
Public Service . . . . . General Mark A. Welsh III (Ret.)  
Dean, School of Innovation, Vice President for Entrepreneurship  
and Economic Development . . . . . Dr. Andrew P. Morriss  
Dean, School of Law . . . . . Mr. Robert B. Ahdieh  
Dean, College of Liberal Arts . . . . . Dr. Pamela R. Matthews  
Dean, College of Medicine (interim) . . . . . Dr. Amy Waer  
Dean, College of Nursing . . . . . Dr. Nancy L. Fahrenwald  
Dean, Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy . . . . . Dr. Indra K. Reddy  
Dean, School of Public Health . . . . . Dr. Shawn G. Gibbs  
Dean, College of Science . . . . . Dr. Valen E. Johnson  
Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine and  
Biomedical Sciences (interim) . . . . . Dr. John R. August  
Dean, Texas A&M University Libraries . . . . . Mr. David H. Carlson  
Dean and Chief Operating Officer,  
Texas A&M University at Qatar . . . . . Dr. César O. Malavé

Executive Vice President for Finance and  
Operations and Chief Financial Officer . . . . . Dr. Jerry R. Strawser  
Senior Vice President, Texas A&M University  
Health Science Center . . . . . Mr. Gregory W. Hartman  
Senior Vice President and Chief Marketing and  
Communications Officer . . . . . Ms. Amy B. Smith  
Vice Provost and Chief International Officer. . . . . Dr. Michael J. Benedik  
Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and  
Strategic Initiatives. . . . . Dr. Michael T. Stephenson  
Vice President for Brand Development . . . . . Mr. Shane Hinckley  
Vice President and  
Associate Provost for Diversity . . . . . Dr. Robin R. Means Coleman  
Vice President for Enrollment and  
Academic Services . . . . . Mr. Joseph P. Pettibon II  
Vice President for Government Relations . . . . . Mr. Michael G. O'Quinn  
Vice President for Human Resources and  
Organizational Effectiveness . . . . . Dr. Jeffrey A. Risinger  
Vice President for Information Technology and  
Chief Information Officer . . . . . Ms. M. Dee Childs  
Vice President for Research . . . . . Dr. Mark A. Barteau  
Vice President for Student Affairs . . . . . Dr. Daniel J. Pugh, Sr.  
Vice President and Chief Operating Officer,  
Texas A&M University at Galveston. . . . . Colonel Michael E. Fossum (Ret.)  
Chief Compliance Officer . . . . . Mr. Kevin McGinnis  
Commandant of the  
Corps of Cadets . . . . . Brigadier General Joe E. Ramirez, Jr. (Ret.)  
Dean of Faculties and Associate Provost . . . . . Dr. Blanca Lupiani  
Associate Provost for Graduate and  
Professional Studies. . . . . Dr. Karen L. Butler-Purry  
Associate Provost for Undergraduate Studies. . . . . Dr. Ann L. Kenimer

*Candidates for Doctoral Degrees*

Presented by Dr. Karen L. Butler-Purry  
Associate Provost for Graduate and Professional Studies

*Graduate and Professional Studies*

*College of Agriculture and Life Sciences*

*Doctor of Philosophy*

- Carlos McGee Agüero . . . . . Entomology  
Dissertation: "The Relationship Between Subterranean Termites and  
Soilborne Pathogens"  
Chair: Edward L. Vargo
- Nolan Bradford Bentley . . . . . Horticulture  
Dissertation: "New Genomic Resources for Pecan (*Carya illinoensis*)"  
Chair: Patricia E. Klein
- Drutdaman Singh Bhangu . . . . . Plant Breeding  
Dissertation: "Proof of Concept: Novel Gene Based Breeding vs Field  
Based Breeding in Improving Fiber Quality Traits in  
Cotton"  
Chair: C. Wayne Smith
- Yuri Clements Daglia Calil . . . . . Agribusiness and Managerial Economics  
Dissertation: "Essays on Brazilian Agricultural Production and Policy"  
Chair: Luis A. Ribera Landivar  
Co-Chair: Henry L. Bryant
- Baoxin Chang . . . . . Soil Science  
Dissertation: "Nutrient and Irrigation Management for Enhancing  
Turfgrass Eco-Benefits"  
Chair: Benjamin G. Wherley  
Co-Chair: Jacqueline Aitkenhead-Peterson
- Luis Miguel De Santiago . . . . . Genetics  
Dissertation: "Identifying, Mapping and Overcoming Genomic  
Impediments to Intraspecific Genetic Improvement of  
Upland Cotton Through Interspecific Hybridization and  
Introgression"  
Chair: David Stelly  
Co-Chair: Clare Gill
- Isaac Luis Esquivel . . . . . Entomology  
Dissertation: "Effects of Landscape Structure on Herbivorous Pests  
and Native Pollinators in the Cotton Agroecosystem:  
Implications for Pest Management"  
Chair: Michael J. Brewer  
Co-Chair: Robert Coulson

- Rachael Marie Glazner ..... Ecology and Evolutionary Biology  
 Dissertation: "Effects of Vegetation Type on Predation Success: Implications of Mangrove Expansion"  
 Chair: Anna Armitage Chan
- Huajun Han ..... Biochemistry  
 Dissertation: "The Effect of Aryl Hydrocarbon Receptor Signaling on Colonic Stem Cell Biology"  
 Chair: Vishal Gohil
- James Kelly Hoffman ..... Ecosystem Science and Management  
 Dissertation: "Implementing Fire with Feeling: The Role of Heuristics and Process Modelling in Navigating Social Barriers to Landscape-Scale Prescribed Fire Use in the Southern Great Plains, USA"  
 Chair: Urs P. Kreuter
- Meng Jiang ..... Agricultural Economics  
 Dissertation: "Three Essays on the Impacts of Education Policies and Food Nutrition Facts Panel"  
 Chair: Ariun Ishdorj  
 Co-Chair: Rebekka M. Dudensing
- Sachin Sanjeev Katti ..... Biochemistry  
 Dissertation: "Deciphering the Molecular Determinants of Membrane Association by Phospholipid-Binding Domains"  
 Chair: Vytas A. Bankaitis
- Friedrich Wolfgang Kuppeler ..... Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences  
 Dissertation: "Untangling Food Webs: Identification of Drivers and Major Patterns in Predator-Prey Interactions"  
 Chair: Kirk Winemiller
- Songyi Kim ..... Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences  
 Dissertation: "Towards Inclusive Tourism Development Policy and Governance in South Korea: Guiding Principles for a Just Tourism Destination"  
 Chair: Tazim B. Jamal
- Melinda Jean Knuth ..... Horticulture  
 Dissertation: "Behavioral and Attitudinal Differences of Consumers Amid Drought and Non-Drought Conditions"  
 Chair: Charles R. Hall  
 Co-Chair: Terri W. Starman
- Helena Marie Kondow-McConaghy ..... Biochemistry  
 Dissertation: "Defining the Utility of Cell-Penetrating Peptides Within the Mammalian Cell Model: A Study in How These Reagents Impact Cells and How Cell Culture Parameters Modulate Their Cellular Penetration"  
 Chair: Hays S. Rye
- Man Li ..... Plant Pathology  
 Dissertation: "Metabolic Engineering to Enhance Biofuel and Bioproducts Production in Microorganisms"  
 Chair: Shuhua Yuan

- Xinyu Li ..... Animal Science  
 Dissertation: "Diet Development for the Largemouth Bass (*Micropterus salmoides*) Juveniles"  
 Chair: Guoyao Wu
- Yongjin Liu ..... Biochemistry  
 Dissertation: "Identification of Metabolic Mechanisms for Antibiotic-Induced *Bacillus subtilis* Mobilization"  
 Chair: Jean-Philippe Pellois
- Jeffrey Michael Martin ..... Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences  
 Dissertation: "Drivers of Morphological Change in Bison (*Bison bison*): Consequences of Rising Temperature, Increasing Drought, and Assessing Vulnerabilities for Managing a Keystone Species"  
 Chair: Peregrine S. Barboza
- Melissa Beth Meierhofer ..... Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences  
 Dissertation: "Baseline Data on Overwintering Bats and Roosts in Texas"  
 Chair: Mike Morrison
- Jill Nelson ..... Poultry Science  
 Dissertation: "Evaluation of Yeast Fermentate Supplementation on Poultry Stress Susceptibility and Physiology"  
 Chair: Gregory S. Archer
- Shannon L. Norris ..... Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications  
 Dissertation: "Enabling the Enablers: Developing U.S. Army Special Operations Command Curricular and Training Support for Agricultural Assessment in Conflict Zones"  
 Chair: Holli R. Leggette
- Mark F. Olson ..... Entomology  
 Dissertation: "The Influence of *Aedes aegypti* (Diptera: Culicidae) Feeding Patterns and Abundance on Arboviral Transmission"  
 Chair: Gabriel L. Hamer
- Colton Ray Oney ..... Animal Science  
 Dissertation: "Strategic Management Options to Optimize Beef Cattle Production"  
 Chair: Tryon A. Wickersham  
 Co-Chair: Jason E. Sawyer
- Pramod Pokhrel ..... Agronomy  
 Dissertation: "Agronomic Performance and Modeling of Bioenergy Feedstock Crop Growth and Development in the Texas Rolling Plains"  
 Chair: Nithya Rajan  
 Co-Chair: John L. Jifon
- Zachary Ray Popkin-Hall ..... Entomology  
 Dissertation: "A Taste of the Genetics and Anatomy Underlying Vertebrate Host Preference in the *Anopheles gambiae* Complex of Malaria Vectors"  
 Chair: Michel Slotman



- Nicolette Sarah Roach . . . . . Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences  
Dissertation: "Assessing the Impacts of Land Use Change and Climate Change on Amphibians to Improve Conservation Strategies for Biodiversity and Livelihoods in the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, Colombia"  
Chair: Thomas Lacher
- Lacey Nicole Roberts . . . . . Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications  
Dissertation: "Picturing Development: Visualizing International Agricultural Development and Communication"  
Chair: Tobin D. Redwine
- David Ernesto Saenz . . . . . Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences  
Dissertation: "Signaling and Sensory Adaptations in Weakly Electric Fish"  
Chair: Kirk Winemiller
- Rachel Ann Short . . . . . Ecosystem Science and Management  
Dissertation: "Paleobiology of Mammals Using Functional Trait-Environment Relationships Across Space and Through Time for Conservation and Public Understanding of Science"  
Chair: Anna M. Lawing
- James Talmage Taylor, Jr. . . . . Plant Pathology  
Dissertation: "Identification of Genes from *Trichoderma virens* Involved in the Colonization of Maize Roots and Induced Systemic Resistance"  
Chair: Charles Kenerley  
Co-Chair: Mikhailo Kolomiets
- Daniel Paul Thompson . . . . . Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences  
Dissertation: "Evaluating the Physiological and Behavioral Responses of Moose (*Alces alces*) to Fluctuating Environmental Temperatures"  
Chair: Peregrine S. Barboza
- Mackenzie Tietjen . . . . . Entomology  
Dissertation: "Tick Population Ecology and Its Potential Role in Explaining Tick-Borne Disease Prevalence"  
Chair: Raul Medina  
Co-Chair: Maria Esteve-Gasent
- Lauren Rose Wottlin . . . . . Animal Science  
Dissertation: "Strategies and Technologies for the Management and Mitigation of Bovine Respiratory Disease"  
Chair: Gordon Carstens  
Co-Chair: William E. Pinchak
- Ellen Louise Young . . . . . Horticulture  
Dissertation: "Genetic Analyses of Disease Resistance and Ornamental Traits in Diploid *Rosa* Spp."  
Chair: David Byrne  
Co-Chair: Patricia E. Klein

Chengxi Zhang ..... Biochemistry  
 Dissertation: "Genetic Approaches to Regulation and Identification of Bacterial Specialized Metabolites"  
 Chair: Jennifer K. Herman

*College of Architecture*

*Doctor of Philosophy*

Wenwen Cheng ..... Urban and Regional Science  
 Dissertation: "Design of Thermally Comfortable and UVR-Healthy Schoolyards for Children in Low Latitude Urban Areas in North America (College Station, TX)"  
 Chair: Robert D. Brown

Jinuk Hwang ..... Urban and Regional Science  
 Dissertation: "Improving Mobility of People with Disabilities: The Potential of Autonomous Vehicle Transportation Service and the Role of the Built Environment"  
 Chair: Li Wei

Yalong Pi ..... Architecture  
 Dissertation: "Artificial Intelligence for Aerial Information Retrieval and Mapping in Natural Disasters"  
 Chair: Wei Yan  
 Co-Chair: Amir Behzadan

Haotian Zhong ..... Urban and Regional Science  
 Dissertation: "Autonomous Vehicles, Travel Behavior, and Urban Structure"  
 Chair: Li Wei

Sinan Zhong ..... Urban and Regional Science  
 Dissertation: "Intergenerational Communities: The Role of Neighborhood Environments in Older Adults' Social Interactions and Walking Behavior"  
 Chair: Chanam Lee

*Mays Business School*

*Doctor of Philosophy*

Mingming Ao ..... Business Administration  
 Dissertation: "Two Essays in Banking and Corporate Finance"  
 Chair: Shane A. Johnson  
 Co-Chair: Christa Bouwman

Megan Elizabeth Grady ..... Business Administration  
 Dissertation: "Friends in High Places: An Empirical Analysis of Political Connections, Corruption, and Voluntary Disclosure"  
 Chair: Anwer Ahmed

Young Hoon Kim ..... Business Administration  
 Dissertation: "Auditor Choice in Commonly Owned Firms"  
 Chair: Dechun Wang

## *College of Dentistry*

### *Doctor of Philosophy*

- Wedad Saad D Alshehri ..... Oral Biology  
 Dissertation: "Effect of Silver Diamine Fluoride on the Treatment of Gingivitis in Geriatric Patients"  
 Chair: Kathy Svoboda  
 Co-Chair: Amal Noureldin
- Bei Chang ..... Oral Biology  
 Dissertation: "An In Vitro 3D Platform for Identifying Factors Regulating DPSC Polarization and Differentiation"  
 Chair: Xiaohua Liu
- Hui Shu ..... Oral Biology  
 Dissertation: "Dynorphin Promotes Comorbid Migraine-Like Pain in Female Mice with Temporomandibular Joint Disorders"  
 Chair: Feng Tao

## *College of Education and Human Development*

### *Doctor of Education*

- Timothy Paul Ditoro ..... Curriculum and Instruction  
 Record of Study: "Use of Synchronous Video to Deliver a Learner-Centered Foreign Language Course at a Distance: A Mixed Methods Approach"  
 Chair: Radhika Viruru  
 Co-Chair: Robin A. Rackley
- Karen Elizabeth Harper ..... Curriculum and Instruction  
 Record of Study: "The Use of Elementary and Middle School Science Lead Teachers for the Purpose of Delivering Effective Professional Development During the Transition to New Standards"  
 Chair: Julie A. Singleton
- Toni L. Harrison-Kelly ..... Curriculum and Instruction  
 Record of Study: "Using Gamification to Improve Student Engagement of African-American Middle-School Students from Low-Socioeconomic- Status Households"  
 Chair: James D. Laub  
 Co-Chair: Trina J. Davis
- Catherine Louise Hill ..... Curriculum and Instruction  
 Record of Study: "Teaching in a Transformative Dual-Enrollment Program: A Study of a System of Support for High School Teachers During the Initial Year of Implementation"  
 Chair: Mary Capraro  
 Co-Chair: Bugrahan Yalvac
- Richele Bailey Langley ..... Curriculum and Instruction  
 Record of Study: "Effects of the State Accountability System on Social Studies in Texas Schools"  
 Chair: James D. Laub

- Jeff L. McCanna ..... Educational Administration  
 Record of Study: "Mid-Career Educators' Perceptions of Performance Pay's Influence on Retention at Title I Campuses in a Large School District"  
 Chair: Beverly Irby
- Darlene Marie Messer ..... Curriculum and Instruction  
 Record of Study: "Experiences of Secondary Math Teachers Implementing an Adaptive Personalized Learning Tool"  
 Chair: Radhika Viruru  
 Co-Chair: Monica V. Neshyba
- Stephanie Love Ndiaye ..... Curriculum and Instruction  
 Record of Study: "Administrators' Perception of Implementation Fidelity in Secondary Literacy Response to Intervention: A Mixed Methods Study"  
 Chair: James D. Laub
- Douglas Ray Rice ..... Educational Administration  
 Record of Study: "Teacher Perceptions of their Ability to Improve a High-Poverty, Urban School"  
 Chair: Jean Madsen
- John Eric Salinas ..... Curriculum and Instruction  
 Record of Study: "Teacher Perceptions of Teacher Leadership Culture Dimensions Towards Professional Growth in a Rural South Texas School District"  
 Chair: Trina J. Davis
- Adam Christopher Whitaker ..... Curriculum and Instruction  
 Record of Study: "Exploring Eighth Grade Middle School Students' Reading and Writing Experiences and the Impact of Culturally Relevant Writing Instruction"  
 Chair: Trina J. Davis  
 Co-Chair: Monica V. Neshyba
- Sharla Camille Williams ..... Curriculum and Instruction  
 Record of Study: "Understanding and Developing the Knowledge, Skills, and Dispositions for Social Justice School Leadership in a Texas Charter School Network"  
 Chair: James D. Laub
- Doctor of Philosophy*
- Arynn C. Auzout ..... Counseling Psychology  
 Dissertation: "Analysis of Latinx and African American Responses to the Patient Health Questionnaire - 9 Depression Scale"  
 Chair: Timothy Elliott
- Stefanie Anne Baker ..... Educational Administration  
 Dissertation: "Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Fields: Mentoring Pathways During the Ph.D."  
 Chair: Vicente Lechuga
- Kevin J. Bazner ..... Educational Administration  
 Dissertation: "A Narrative Exploration of Racially Minoritized Mid-Level Student Affairs Administrators"  
 Chair: Christine A. Stanley

- Sarah Marie Sharrar Brown ..... Kinesiology  
Dissertation: "Let's Get Virtual: Measuring Virtual Influencer's Endorser Effectiveness"  
Chair: Natasha T. Brison  
Co-Chair: Gregg Bennett
- Miguel Burgess ..... Curriculum and Instruction  
Dissertation: "Teacher Recruitment and Retention and the Minority Teacher Shortage Among Latinx Teachers in the United States and Mexico"  
Chair: Cheryl J. Craig
- Maria Jose Castro Aviles ..... School Psychology  
Dissertation: "School Belongingness and Educational Motivation Among Hispanic Students"  
Chair: Cynthia Riccio  
Co-Chair: Sara M. Castro Olivo
- Katherine Jeanine Cecil-Sanchez ..... Educational Administration  
Dissertation: "A First-Year Experience Course in the Community College: A Case Study Analysis of Student Perceptions"  
Chair: Yvonna Lincoln
- Ana Carina Dabreu ..... School Psychology  
Dissertation: "Acculturative Stress, Resilience, and Mental Health in Syrian Refugee Children"  
Chair: Sara M. Castro Olivo
- Christi Hays Esquivel ..... Health Education  
Dissertation: "Analyzing the Feasibility of a Game-Based Learning Program to Prevent Teen Pregnancy: A Case Study"  
Chair: Kelly L. Wilson
- Marcus Charles Fuller ..... Educational Psychology  
Dissertation: "The Use of Performance Feedback to Increase Teachers' Implementation of Interventions and Classroom Management Strategies"  
Chair: Kimberly Vannest  
Co-Chair: Jennifer Ganz
- Christina Marie Gushanas ..... Educational Psychology  
Dissertation: "Interventions that Promote Self-Determination for Students with or At-Risk for Emotional and Behavioral Disorders in School Settings: A Quality Review and Meta-Analysis of the Single Case Literature"  
Chair: Mack Burke  
Co-Chair: Julie Thompson
- April Nicole Haas ..... Educational Psychology  
Dissertation: "Peer-Mediated Academic Instruction: A Meta-Analysis and Single Case Experiment"  
Chair: Kimberly Vannest  
Co-Chair: Jennifer Ganz

- Bizhu He ..... Educational Psychology  
 Dissertation: "Examining the Effectiveness of Family Involvement on English Learners' Academic and Socioemotional Outcomes: A Systematic Literature Review, Hierarchical Linear Models, and a Structural Equation Model"  
 Chair: Hector Rivera
- Xueyan Hu ..... Curriculum and Instruction  
 Dissertation: "Effective Communication Between American Undergraduates and International Teaching Assistants"  
 Chair: Li-Jen Kuo
- Yuhong Ji ..... Educational Psychology  
 Dissertation: "Approaches to Identifying the Optimal Number of Factors in Multilevel Exploratory Factor Analysis"  
 Chair: Oi-Man Kwok  
 Co-Chair: Wen Luo
- Courtney Nicole Lavadia ..... School Psychology  
 Dissertation: "The Impact of Self-Reported Adolescent Strengths on Therapeutic Alliance and Psychotherapy Outcomes"  
 Chair: Jamilia Blake
- Jin Lee ..... Educational Human Resource Development  
 Dissertation: "Construction of Middle Managers' Corporate Entrepreneurial Identity in South Korea: A Grounded Theory Study"  
 Chair: Jia Wang
- Leslie Kate Lowry ..... Counseling Psychology  
 Dissertation: "Examining Adolescent Predictors of Early Adulthood Resilience"  
 Chair: Timothy Elliott
- Jason Robert Lytle ..... Kinesiology  
 Dissertation: "Assessment of Vascular Function in Response to High-Fat and Low-Fat Ground Beef Consumption in Humans"  
 Chair: Stephen Crouse
- Alexandra Mary McCammon ..... Counseling Psychology  
 Dissertation: "Personality, Well-Being, and Cultural Empathy of Third Culture Kids: A Comparative Study"  
 Chair: Daniel Brossart
- Martin Mendoza ..... Educational Psychology  
 Dissertation: "Exclusionary Discipline Practices Effect on Hispanic Students and the Risk for Juvenile Justice Contact"  
 Chair: Jamilia Blake  
 Co-Chair: Mack Burke
- Stephanie Michelle Moody ..... Curriculum and Instruction  
 Dissertation: "Preservice Teacher Preparation for English Language Learners' Writing Instruction"  
 Chair: Li-Jen Kuo  
 Co-Chair: Zohreh Eslami

- Chi Yun Moon ..... Curriculum and Instruction  
 Dissertation: "Examining Mathematics Achievement: An Analysis of Fourth and Eighth Grade TIMSS 2015 U.S. Data by Ethnicity, Gender, Student Bullying, Parental Involvement, and Engaging Teaching"  
 Chair: Patricia Larke  
 Co-Chair: Marlon C. James
- Jordan Lindsey Nelon ..... Health Education  
 Dissertation: "The Use of Social Network Analysis to Assess Social Support Among Young Adults Who Experience Disability: A Program Evaluation"  
 Chair: Kelly L. Wilson  
 Co-Chair: Megan S. Patterson
- Kristi Fusako Oshiro ..... Kinesiology  
 Dissertation: "Dear Student-Athlete: Illuminating the Voices of Former Female Student-Athletes of Color"  
 Chair: John Singer
- Kristin M. Primm ..... Health Education  
 Dissertation: "Examining the Effect of the Affordable Care Act's Dependent Coverage Provision on Access and Utilization of Behavioral Health Treatment: An Urban Rural Comparison"  
 Chair: Whitney R. Garney
- Sarah Michele Ray ..... Educational Human Resource Development  
 Dissertation: "Figuring It Out: How Immigrant Women Learn to Be Entrepreneurs in the United States"  
 Chair: Mary Alfred
- Alex Michael Russell ..... Health Education  
 Dissertation: "Methodological Considerations for Alcohol Research Using Social Networks Analysis"  
 Chair: Adam E. Barry
- Nina Jo Saint ..... Curriculum and Instruction  
 Dissertation: "A Critical Examination of Driver Traffic Crash Fatality Causation Factors in the United States Across Age, Race and Gender"  
 Chair: Patricia Larke
- Sandra D. Smith ..... Educational Psychology  
 Dissertation: "Bug-in-Ear Coaching in the Classroom"  
 Chair: Kimberly Vannest  
 Co-Chair: Jennifer Ganz
- Rachel Kay Turner ..... Curriculum and Instruction  
 Dissertation: "There and Back Again: A Social Studies Tale of Integration"  
 Chair: Lynn Burlbaw
- Asha Unni ..... School Psychology  
 Dissertation: "Experiences of Perceived Discrimination Among Asian Indian Youth: A Mixed-Methods Study"  
 Chair: Jamilia Blake

- Huyen Thi Minh Van . . . . . Educational Human Resource Development  
 Dissertation: "Examining the Mediating Effect of Employee Engagement in the Relationships Between Organizational Learning, Perceived Organizational Support and Employee Performance Outcomes in Vietnamese Small and Medium Enterprises"  
 Chair: Fredrick Nafukho
- Katherine Nicole Vela . . . . . Curriculum and Instruction  
 Dissertation: "Empow'her'ing Female Students to Pursue STEM Fields"  
 Chair: Robert Capraro
- Sanikan Wattanawongwan . . . . . Educational Psychology  
 Dissertation: "The Effectiveness of Interventions Targeting Social-Communication Skills for Adolescents and Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder: A Meta-Analysis, Quality Review, and Single-Case Analysis"  
 Chair: Jennifer Ganz

*College of Engineering*

*Doctor of Philosophy*

- Jeremy John Adams . . . . . Petroleum Engineering  
 Dissertation: "Experimental Studies on Methane Hydrate Formation in Uniform Porous Media"  
 Chair: Ibrahim Y. Akkutlu  
 Co-Chair: George J. Moridis
- Kahkashan Afrin . . . . . Industrial Engineering  
 Dissertation: "Survival Analysis for Big Data"  
 Chair: Satish T. Bukkapatnam  
 Co-Chair: Bimal Nepal
- Shaik Afzal . . . . . Chemical Engineering  
 Dissertation: "Design of ALD-Based Catalysts and Processes for Dry Reforming of Methane"  
 Chair: Nimir Elbashir  
 Co-Chair: Mahmoud El-Halwagi
- Imtiaz Ahmed . . . . . Industrial Engineering  
 Dissertation: "Unsupervised Anomaly Detection of High Dimensional Data with Low Dimensional Embedded Manifold"  
 Chair: Yu Ding
- Husham Atalla Mohammed Al-Janabi . . . . . Civil Engineering  
 Dissertation: "Cyclically Loaded Foundations and Pipelines in Cohesive Soils"  
 Chair: Charles Aubeny
- Qudama Jasim Mohammed Abu-Jasim . . . . . Civil Engineering  
 Dissertation: "Probabilistic Calibration of Unreinforced Masonry Wall Properties: From Constitutive Material Models to Structural Performance"  
 Chair: Zenon Medina Cetina  
 Co-Chair: Hanifah Muliana



- Abdullah Reyad A Almuhaideb ..... Petroleum Engineering  
 Dissertation: "A Study of Downhole Circulating Temperature Prediction Model Analysis and Enhancement of the Geothermal Drilling Practices and Performance in Puna Geothermal Venture, HI"  
 Chair: Samuel F. Noynaert
- Syedamin Banihashemrad ..... Civil Engineering  
 Dissertation: "Development of Machine-Learning Models for Classifying Rutting in Asphalt Pavement Based on Network-Level Data and LiDAR Measurements"  
 Chair: Maryam S. Sakhaei Far  
 Co-Chair: Nasir Gharaibeh
- Ran Bi ..... Petroleum Engineering  
 Dissertation: "Study of the Phase Behavior of Hydrocarbons Under the Confinement Effect Using Molecular Simulation"  
 Chair: Hadi Nasrabadi
- William Eric Brown ..... Industrial Engineering  
 Dissertation: "Efficient and Effective Algorithms for Contingency Response in Electric Power Systems with Transmission Switching"  
 Chair: Erick Moreno Centeno
- Baris Burnak ..... Chemical Engineering  
 Dissertation: "Integration of Process Design, Scheduling, and Control via Model Based Multiparametric Programming"  
 Chair: Efstratios Pistikopoulos
- Mengyuan Chao ..... Computer Science  
 Dissertation: "Towards Adaptive Edge Computing and Communication for Disaster Response"  
 Chair: Radu Stoleru
- Tzu-Ling Chen ..... Chemical Engineering  
 Dissertation: "Poly(Ionic Liquid) Block Copolymers as Solid Polymer Electrolytes for Lithium Ion Batteries"  
 Chair: Yossef A. Elabd
- Yu Chen ..... Civil Engineering  
 Dissertation: "Predictive Faulting Models in Jointed Concrete Pavement"  
 Chair: Robert Lytton
- Salih Emre Demirel ..... Chemical Engineering  
 Dissertation: "Methods for Systematic Process Intensification"  
 Chair: M M Faruque Hasan
- Cosar Doga Demirhan ..... Chemical Engineering  
 Dissertation: "Multi-Scale Optimization-Based Energy Transition Strategies for Modeling, Design, and Operation of Process Systems"  
 Chair: Efstratios Pistikopoulos
- Yong Deng ..... Civil Engineering  
 Dissertation: "Artificial Intelligence-Based Inverse Analysis of Flexible Pavement Deteriorations Under Moving Loads"  
 Chair: Robert Lytton

- Vasav Dubey ..... Civil Engineering  
 Dissertation: "Stochastic and Multiscale Modeling of Mechanical and Transport Properties in Heterogeneous Brittle Materials"  
 Chair: Arash Noshadravan  
 Co-Chair: Sara Abedi Mashhadi Migha
- Jan Dufek ..... Computer Science  
 Dissertation: "Best Viewpoints for External Robots or Sensors Assisting Other Robots"  
 Chair: Robin Murphy
- Iqra Ejaz ..... Industrial Engineering  
 Dissertation: "Condition-Based Maintenance of Queues with Degrading Servers"  
 Chair: Mark A. Lawley
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*College of Liberal Arts*

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 Dissertation: "Transition Metal Doping of Semiconductor Quantum Dots for Enhanced Hot Electron Generation Under Visible Excitation"  
 Chair: Dong Son



- Abira Sahu ..... Biology  
 Dissertation: "Spatiotemporal Dynamics of Inorganic Phosphate Distribution in Arabidopsis Thaliana Roots"  
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 Dissertation: "Structured Laser Wavefronts for Raman Spectroscopy and Single Molecule Spectroscopy"  
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- Leila Marie Siciliano Martina ..... Ecology and Evolutionary Biology  
 Dissertation: "Variation in the Skull Morphology of Captive Mammals: A Geometric Morphometric and Meta-Analytic Approach"  
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 Co-Chair: Jessica E. Light
- Aleksandra Cecylia Sobieska-Snyder ..... Mathematics  
 Dissertation: "Some Homological Properties of Lattice Ideals"  
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 Dissertation: "Advancing the Development of Glucose-Based Polycarbonates: From Fundamentals to Biomedical Applications"  
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 Dissertation: "Investigations into the Chemistry of Dinuclear Complexes of Palladium, Platinum, and Gold"  
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 Dissertation: "Autocrine Proliferation Inhibition Pathways in *Dictyostelium discoideum*"  
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 Dissertation: "The Search for Lightly Ionizing Particles in the Large Underground Xenon Detector"  
 Chair: Robert Webb
- Joseph Lawrence Torres ..... Mathematics  
 Dissertation: "Extension Phenomena of Integrable Holomorphic Functions in Reinhardt Domains of Holomorphy"  
 Chair: Harold Boas
- Lauren Ashley Washburn ..... Chemistry  
 Dissertation: "Investigation of the Azinomycin Biosynthetic Pathway"  
 Chair: Coran Watanabe
- Jiayan Ye ..... Mathematics  
 Dissertation: "Statistical Physics Models Governed by Diffusion"  
 Chair: Procaccia B. Eviatar
- Sangyoon Yi ..... Statistics  
 Dissertation: "Statistical Inference in High-Dimensional Models"  
 Chair: Xianyang Zhang

- Yunfeng Zhang ..... Statistics  
 Dissertation: "Statistical Inference for Multi-View Data"  
 Chair: Irina Gaynanova
- Shuang Zhou ..... Statistics  
 Dissertation: "Semi-Parametric Bayesian Function Estimation Using  
 Gaussian Process Transformations"  
 Chair: Debdeep Pati  
 Co-Chair: Anirban Bhattacharya

*College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences*

*Doctor of Philosophy*

- Andrea Estelle Hanson ..... Biomedical Sciences  
 Dissertation: "Role of Androgens in Blood Pressure Regulation: Anti-  
 Hypertensive Effects in Normotension and Beneficial  
 Vascular Effects in Pregnancy-Induced Hypertension  
 (Preeclampsia)"  
 Chair: John Stallone
- Martha Hensel ..... Biomedical Sciences  
 Dissertation: "Intratracheal Inoculation of the Guinea Pig is an  
 Improved Model for Brucellosis"  
 Chair: Angela M. Arenas Gamboa  
 Co-Chair: James Samuel
- Erica Renee Malone ..... Biomedical Sciences  
 Dissertation: "Reigniting the Love of Learning: Physical and  
 Interactive Methods in Life Science Education"  
 Chair: Michelle D. Pine
- Sarah Anne Murray ..... Biomedical Sciences  
 Dissertation: "Effects of Antibiotic Alternatives on Antimicrobial  
 Resistance Among Fecal Bacteria in Beef Cattle"  
 Chair: Harvey Scott
- Caitlin Elizabeth Older ..... Biomedical Sciences  
 Dissertation: "The Cutaneous Microbiota and Cytokine Profile in  
 Feline Allergic Dermatitis"  
 Chair: Aline Rodrigues

*“The Spirit of Aggieland”*

By Mimms-Dunn

Some may boast of prowess’ bold,  
Of the school they think so grand,  
But there’s a spirit can ne’er be told,  
It’s the spirit of Aggieland.

Chorus

We are the Aggies—the Aggies are we,  
True to each other as Aggies can be.  
We’ve got to fight, boys,  
We’ve got to fight!  
We’ve got to fight for Maroon and White.  
After they’ve boosted all the rest,  
They will come and join the best,  
For we are the Aggies—the Aggies so true,  
We’re from Texas A M U.







# CONGRATULATIONS NEW GRADUATES!

## WELCOME TO THE ASSOCIATION OF FORMER STUDENTS!

Today, as a proud graduate of Texas A&M University, graduates will turn their Aggie Rings so that the Class year faces away from the body symbolizing a readiness to face the world.

Being an Aggie lasts a lifetime! It is a life-long experience that is supported by the Aggie Network. By staying involved with Texas A&M through The Association of Former Students, together, we will continue the work of passing back the core values, traditions and experiences that make Texas A&M unique.

As you begin your new journey, we ask that when you're ready, you consider helping to pass it back to future generations. Join the Century Club at a 50% discount and proudly showcase your very own Century Club Member decal.



The Association of Former Students is **HERE** for Aggies during their days as students and former students, **THERE** for Aggies as they take their way around the world and **EVERYWHERE** that the Aggie Network needs us to be.

