



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
Commencement

May 8, 2021, 9 a.m.

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TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT

Program

Doctoral Commencement and Hooding Ceremony

Saturday, May 8, 2021, 9 a.m.
Reed Arena

Procession of Stage Party

The National Anthem

Invocation

Student Expression of Appreciation

Greetings and Authorization to Confer Degrees

Presentation of Degree Candidates and Conferring of Degrees

Induction into The Association of Former Students

Presentation of Diplomas

Faculty Marshals

Mace Bearer

Dr. Blanca Lupiani, Associate Provost and Dean of Faculties

Stage Party

Dr. George B. Cunningham, Senior Associate Dean

Announcer

Ms. Nora Cargo, Director, Scholarships & Financial Aid

*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 (interim) Dr. John L. Junkins
- Provost and Executive Vice President (interim) Dr. Mark H. Weichold
- Dean, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Dr. Patrick J. Stover
- Dean, College of Architecture Dr. Jorge A. Vanegas
- Dean, Mays Business School (acting) Dr. R. Duane Ireland
- 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 Law Mr. Robert B. Ahdieh
- Dean, College of Liberal Arts Dr. Pamela R. Matthews
- Dean, College of Medicine Dr. Amy L. 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 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 for Faculty Affairs and
Interdisciplinary Initiatives (interim) Dr. Patrick Louchouart
Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and
Strategic Initiatives Dr. Michael T. Stephenson
Vice President and
Associate Provost for Diversity (interim) Dr. Annie S. McGowan
Vice President for Brand Development Mr. Shane Hinckley
Vice President for Economic Development and
Dean, School of Innovation Dr. Andrew P. Morriss
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 P. McGinnis
Commandant of the
Corps of Cadets Brigadier General Joe E. Ramirez, Jr. (Ret.)
Associate Provost and Dean of Faculties Dr. Blanca Lupiani
Associate Provost and Dean of Graduate and
Professional School Dr. Karen L. Butler-Purry
Associate Provost for Undergraduate Studies Dr. Ann L. Kenimer
Associate Provost for Academic Affairs
and Student Success Dr. Timothy P. Scott

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Candidates for Doctoral Degrees

Presented by Dr. Karen Butler-Purry
Associate Provost and Dean

Graduate and Professional School

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Doctor of Philosophy

- Jaehyun Ahn Agricultural Leadership, Education, and
Communications
Dissertation: "Agricultural Leadership, Family-Planning Communi-
cations, and Education: Ghana, Liberia, and Senegal in
West Africa"
Chair: Gary E. Briers
Co-Chair: Manuel Pina
- Nasser A Al Haj Ali Poultry Science
Dissertation: "Response of Innate Immune Genes to Newcastle Disease
Virus (NDV) Challenge in Chicken Embryos Incubated
under Different Lighting Regimens"
Chair: John Carey
- Talaat Khudhair Ibadi Al-Alwani Poultry Science
Dissertation: "Effect of Neonatal Fasting on the Assimilation of
Maternal Immunity (IGY), Yolk Absorption and Intestinal
Gene Expression of IL8, IL17 and TNF-Alpha"
Chair: John Carey
- Robert Jones Arnold, Jr. Plant Breeding
Dissertation: "Charting a Chemical Roadmap of Terroir in Corn-Tools
for Selection of Novel Varieties for Whiskey"
Chair: Seth Murray
Co-Chair: Eric Simanek
- Perejitei Ebikirifagha Bekewe Agronomy
Dissertation: "Building Soil and Food Security in Wheat Production
Systems in Texas"
Chair: Haly L. Neely
Co-Chair: Clark B. Neely
- Sohini Sanjay Bhatia Poultry Science
Dissertation: "Investigations into Metabolically Active yet Non-
Culturable (MAyNC) *Clostridium perfringens* to Control
Necrotic Enteritis in Broiler Chickens"
Chair: Suresh Pillai
- Joseph Lee Black Entomology
Dissertation: "Helicoverpa zea (Boddie) (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae)
Immune System Responses to Variation in Nutritional
and Plant Defensive Environments"
Chair: Gregory Sword

- Jeng-Yih Chang Biochemistry
 Dissertation: "Genome Packaging in Single-Stranded RNA Viruses"
 Chair: Junjie Zhang
- Zhicheng Cui Biochemistry
 Dissertation: "Structural Studies of Mycobacterium Tuberculosis
 Ribosome: From Translational Regulation to Drug
 Resistance"
 Chair: Michael Polymenis
- Todd Stephen Dart Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences
 Dissertation: "Ecophysiological Modeling of Metabolic Oxygen
 Supply in Support of Growth for the Southern Flounder
Paralichthys lethostigma"
 Chair: William Neill
 Co-Chair: Delbert Gatlin III
- Zehuan Ding Nutrition
 Dissertation: "Maternal Nutrition, Placenta Function and Offspring
 Health"
 Chair: Linglin Xie
- Christopher Caleb Eagleson Poultry Science
 Dissertation: "The Role Dietary Calcium Plays on Necrotic Enteritis
 Pathogenesis and Broiler Performance"
 Chair: Audrey P. McElroy
- Lauren Nancy Fedenia Horticulture
 Dissertation: "Environmental and Genetic Control of Black Pericarp
 Traits in Sorghum (Sorghum Bicolor)"
 Chair: Patricia E. Klein
- Shankar Prasad Gaire Plant Pathology
 Dissertation: "Seedling Blight of Rice in the Southern United States
 and Its Management"
 Chair: Xin-Gen Zhou
 Co-Chair: Young-Ki Jo
- Long Gao Agricultural Economics
 Dissertation: "Demand Analysis of Dairy Products in the United States"
 Chair: Oral Capps
 Co-Chair: Kalu Arachchillage Senarath Dhananjaya Dharmasena
- John Wesley Gordy Entomology
 Dissertation: "Management of Sugarcane Aphid, *Melanaphis sacchari*
 (Hemiptera: Aphididae), in Susceptible and Resistant
 Grain Sorghum"
 Chair: Michael J. Brewer
 Co-Chair: Michael O. Way
- Bonnie Electra Gulas-Wroblewski Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences
 Dissertation: "Zoonotic Diseases of Texas Skunks (Mammalia:
 Mephitidae) Within a One Health Framework"
 Chair: Thomas Lacher
 Co-Chair: Donald Brightsmith

- Rebecca Lynn Hapes Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications
 Dissertation: "Thriving in STEM: A Mixed Methods Approach to Describing, Comparing, and Analyzing Factors that Contribute to First-Year Student Thriving in a Rigorous STEM Major at a Tier One Institution"
 Chair: Summer Rachelle F. Odom
 Co-Chair: Kim W. Dooley
- Samantha Rae Hays Entomology
 Dissertation: "Integrated Tick Management of the Winter Tick, *Dermacentor albipictus* (Acari: Ixodidae), in Grazing Cattle Systems"
 Chair: Pete Teel
- Kaitlin Ann Hopkins Horticulture
 Dissertation: "Exploring the Potential Commercial Significance of *Ratibida columnifera* (Nutt.) Wooten & Standl. for the Green Industry"
 Chair: Michael Arnold
 Co-Chair: Charles R. Hall
- Yu-Kai Huang Agricultural Economics
 Dissertation: "Essays on Resource and Environmental Economics: Evidence from a Natural Experiment, Laboratory Experiment, and Scenario Forecasting"
 Chair: Bruce McCarl
 Co-Chair: Marco Palma
- Donna Marie Iadarola Biochemistry
 Dissertation: "Genetic and Biochemical Dissection of Phospholipid Transport to The Mitochondria"
 Chair: Junjie Zhang
- Dhafer Jameel Ibrahim Physiology of Reproduction
 Dissertation: "Effect of Maternal Nutrient Restriction on Fetal Skeletal Muscle Growth in Sheep"
 Chair: Michael C. Satterfield
 Co-Chair: Wesley N. Osburn
- Mohamed Magdy Abdelfattah Ibrahim Poultry Science
 Dissertation: "The Functional Profiles of Chicken Eggs Incubated Under Monochromatic Lighting"
 Chair: Giridhar N. Athrey
- Mengqiu Jiang Biochemistry
 Dissertation: "Structural Analysis of *Clostridium Difficile* TCDB Uptake Mechanism"
 Chair: Hays Rye
- Tao Jing Biochemistry
 Dissertation: "The Structural Basis of IRF-3 Activation Upon Phosphorylation"
 Chair: Margaret Glasner

- Jose Guillermo Juarez Valdez Entomology
 Dissertation: "An Eco-Bio-Social Approach for the Surveillance and Control of *Aedes aegypti* in the Lower Rio Grand Valley, Texas"
 Chair: Gabriel L. Hamer
- Da Mi Kim Nutrition
 Dissertation: "Nutrient-Sensing GHS-R in Macrophage Programming and Meta-Inflammation"
 Chair: Yuxiang Sun
- Jeekin Lau Horticulture
 Dissertation: "Genetic Analysis and QTL Discovery in Tetraploid Garden Roses: A Study of Disease and Horticultural Traits"
 Chair: David Byrne
 Co-Chair: Patricia E. Klein
- Sunyoung Lee Agricultural Economics
 Dissertation: "Three Essays on Public Economics"
 Chair: Yu Zhang
- Linfeng Li Biochemistry
 Dissertation: "Design and Development of Two Novel Classes of Cysteine Protease Inhibitors Against Pathogenic Trypanosomes"
 Chair: Frank Raushel
- Nairita Maitra Biochemistry
 Dissertation: "Translational Control of Lipid Homeostasis in the Cell Cycle of Budding Yeast"
 Chair: Dorothy Shippen
- Aniruddha Maity Plant Breeding
 Dissertation: "Adaptive Trait Diversity, Mechanisms and Management of Italian Ryegrass (*Lolium multiflorum*)"
 Chair: Muthukumar V. Bagavathiannan
 Co-Chair: Gerald Smith
- Sumeet Prabhakar Mankar Plant Breeding
 Dissertation: "Genome-Wide Association Studies for Dry-Direct-Seeded Rice Traits and Gene Editing to Validate the Genes Underlying Purple Leaf Color in Rice"
 Chair: Endang M. Septiningsih
- Elliott Emmanuel Martinez Biochemistry
 Dissertation: "Assessment of A Chemogenomic Approach to Characterizing the Metabolic and Functional Role of a Conserved Squalene-Binding Phosphatidylinositol Transfer Protein"
 Chair: Vytas A. Bankaitis
 Co-Chair: Hays S. Rye
- John Willam Mosior III Biochemistry
 Dissertation: "Discovery of Novel *M. tuberculosis* Inhibitors Targeting a Phosphopantetheinyl Transferase and a CTP Synthase"
 Chair: Paul Straight

- John Connor Padgett Poultry Science
 Dissertation: "Evaluation of Prebiotic and Probiotic Feed Additives as a Method of Salmonella Mitigation in Broilers and Laying Hens"
 Chair: Christopher Bailey
- Shweta Priya Soil Science
 Dissertation: "Improving Beneficial Plant-Microbe Interactions in Acidic and Saline Soil"
 Chair: Anil K. Somenahally Chandrappa
 Co-Chair: Terry Gentry
- Nishita Sinha Agricultural Economics
 Dissertation: "Essays on Preference for Charitable Giving"
 Chair: Luis A. Ribera Landivar
 Co-Chair: Richard Woodward
- Jiarui Song Biochemistry
 Dissertation: "Identification and Characterization of Telomerase Components in Plants"
 Chair: Jorge Cruz-Reyes
- Juan Carlos Suarez Martinez Poultry Science
 Dissertation: "Impact of Live Coccidiosis Vaccine on Intestinal Morphology, Performance, and Vitamin D Status of Broilers: Use of Dietary Supplementation of Animal Feed Grade Sodium Bisulfate and 25-Hydroxycholecalciferol"
 Chair: John Carey
- Di Sun Molecular and Environmental Plant Sciences
 Dissertation: "Epigenetic Component FVE Orchestrates Cytoplasmic SGS3-DRB4- DCL4 Activities to Promote RNA Silencing in *Arabidopsis*"
 Chair: Xiuren Zhang
- Stephany Eleana Toinga Villafuerte Molecular and Environmental
 Plant Sciences
 Dissertation: "CRISPR-Cas9 Targeted Mutagenesis of Green Fluorescent Protein Transgene and a Native, Granule Bound Starch Synthase, Gene in Potato"
 Chair: Keerti Rathore
- Justin Sunny Varghese Agricultural Leadership, Education, and
 Communications
 Dissertation: "Supervisory Relationships and Leadership Behaviors Within Student Affairs: Perceptions of Supervisees"
 Chair: Lori L. Moore
- Sharon Pardes Wagner Agricultural Leadership, Education, and
 Communications
 Dissertation: "Consumer Attitudes Toward Milk and Plant-Based Dairy Alternative Beverages"
 Chair: Tracy A. Rutherford
 Co-Chair: Hart Blanton

- Matthew C. Wolfe Molecular and Environmental Plant Sciences
 Dissertation: "Application of a Prototype Ground Penetrating Radar Array for the Detection of Bioenergy Grass Root Systems"
 Chair: Dirk B. Hays
- Pengbiao Xu Biochemistry
 Dissertation: "The Structural Basis of Tight Nucleosome Tethering and Inactivation of cGAS"
 Chair: Junjie Zhang
- Kailun Zhang Biochemistry
 Dissertation: "The Mechanism of Lysis-Lysogeny Decision-Making of Bacteriophage P1"
 Chair: Ryland Young
- Peilu Zhang Agricultural Economics
 Dissertation: "Economics Experiments on Insurance, Gender Roles and Labor Contract Design"
 Chair: Marco Palma
- Dan Zhao Poultry Science
 Dissertation: "Development of Cellular and Molecular Methods to Characterize the Mechanisms of Common Infectious- And Non-infectious-based Diseases of Poultry"
 Chair: Morgan B. Farnell
 Co-Chair: Yuhua Z. Farnell

College of Architecture

Doctor of Philosophy

- Madhavi Manish Dixit Architecture
 Dissertation: "Therapists' Attitudes and Beliefs Towards Nature-Based Enrichment in Counseling Rooms for Children and Adolescents: A Mixed-Method Study"
 Chair: Stephen Caffey
- Mingqian Liu Architecture
 Dissertation: "Public Perceptions of Preservation Policies and Practices in Historic Residential Neighborhood: A Case of Dongsi, Beijing, China"
 Chair: Nancy Klein
- Margit Pap Urban and Regional Science
 Dissertation: "Understanding Planning as A Cultural-Religious Practice: A Case Study Analysis of Three Christian Denominations' Roles in Minority Community Development in Romania"
 Chair: Dawn Jourdan
- Neeraj Yadav Architecture
 Dissertation: "PIVOT: A Framework for Minimizing Stress Deviations in Structural Form"
 Chair: Weiling He
 Co-Chair: Ho-Yeong Kang

Mays Business School

Doctor of Philosophy

- Wenting Dai Business Administration
 Dissertation: "Two Essays on The Investment of Institutional Investors"
 Chair: Yong Chen
- Yao Han Business Administration
 Dissertation: "New Methods in Empirical Finance"
 Chair: James Kolari

College of Education and Human Development

Doctor of Education

- Franklin G. Cahuasqui, Jr. Educational Administration
 Record of Study: "Reading and English Achievement of Fourth Grade English Language Learners in a Two-Way Dual Language Program and A Transitional Bilingual Program"
 Chair: Beverly Irby
- Genevieve Marie Lopardo Curriculum and Instruction
 Record of Study: "Guardian Perceptions of Cyberbullying at the Junior High Level"
 Chair: Robin A. Rackley
 Co-Chair: Sharon D. Matthews
- Jessica Nicole Nickels Curriculum and Instruction
 Record of Study: "Demand-side Experiences of Employers Who Work with Individuals with Disabilities"
 Chair: Sharon D. Matthews
 Co-Chair: Robin A. Rackly
- Nickolas Ryan Smith Educational Administration
 Record of Study: "Suburban School Superintendents Perspectives of Changing Student Demographics and the Impact on District Policies and Practices"
 Chair: Jean Madsen

Doctor of Philosophy

- Danielle Marie Bevan Curriculum and Instruction
 Dissertation: "Creative Problem-Solving and Mathematics Attitudes/Beliefs Through the Years"
 Chair: Mary Capraro
- Ruoqiao Chang Curriculum and Instruction
 Dissertation: "The Effects of English Fun Dubbing in Language Acquisition in the Chinese EFL Classroom"
 Chair: Laurie Dixon

- Zhuo Chen. Curriculum and Instruction
Dissertation: "Emergent Literacy Development and the Impact of Home Literacy Environment on Oral Vocabulary Among Children with ASD"
Chair: Li-Jen Kuo
Co-Chair: Laurie Dixon
- Dan R. Childs, Jr. Educational Administration
Dissertation: "Experiences of Division I Football Black Male Student-Athletes and Their Perceptions of Career and Professional Development"
Chair: Christine A. Stanley
- Clayton Lyles Cruthirds Kinesiology
Dissertation: "Characterizing Functional and Metabolic Manifestations in Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease"
Chair: Marielle P. Engelen
- Christina April Dunn. Educational Administration
Dissertation: "'I Feel Less Beholden to Others': How Education Abroad Facilitates Movement Toward Self-Authorship Among First-Generation Students"
Chair: Christine A. Stanley
- Claudia Montoya Dunn Educational Psychology
Dissertation: "Experiences of Latino Immigrant Parents of Children with Disabilities: The Importance of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Parent Involvement in the IEP Process"
Chair: Lisa Perrott
Co-Chair: Julie Thompson
- Amanda Mae Garr Educational Human Resource Development
Dissertation: "Motivating Factors of Unfunded Grant Applicants to Conduct Interdisciplinary Research: A Qualitative Study"
Chair: Michael M. Beyerlein
- Anthony Karl Hunt Educational Human Resource Development
Dissertation: "Exploring the Relationships Between Expertise and Overconfidence Among Human Resource Management (HRM) Professionals: The Mediating and Moderating Effects of Individual Differences"
Chair: Jia Wang
- Umer Hussain. Kinesiology
Dissertation: "Unconventional Means to Enhance Muslim Women's Inclusion in Sports"
Chair: George B. Cunningham
- Bora Jin Educational Human Resource Development
Dissertation: "Older Adults' Physical Identity Development Through Learning: A Grounded Theory Study"
Chair: Elizabeth Roumell
Co-Chair: Lisa Baumgartner

- Ashlynn Wicke Kogut Educational Administration
 Dissertation: "Exploration of Academic Teaching Librarians' Beliefs about Undergraduate Instruction, Student Learning, and Teaching Methods at Texas Doctoral Universities"
 Chair: Luis Ponjuan
- Mary Elizabeth Lockhart Educational Psychology
 Dissertation: "A Potential Fix for the Leaky STEM Pipeline: The Development and Validation of the SciD Scale"
 Chair: Oi-Man Kwok
 Co-Chair: Myeongsun Yoon
- Julie Kate Owens Curriculum and Instruction
 Dissertation: "How Can I Lead When I Am in the Dark? Principals' Role in Writing Instruction Implementation"
 Chair: Debra McKeown
- Donna Michelle Phillips-Druery Educational Administration
 Dissertation: "Navigating School Choice: Decisions that Women of Color Make in Seeking Charter Schools for Their Children's Education in Texas"
 Chair: Gwendolyn Carol Webb
 Co-Chair: Mario Torres
- Lauren Michelle Pierson Educational Psychology
 Dissertation: "Promoting Language and Literacy in Children with Complex Communication Needs"
 Chair: Jennifer Ganz
 Co-Chair: Glenda E. Byrns
- Ankita Sahu Counseling Psychology
 Dissertation: "Training in Interpretation of Cultural Data: Understanding its Effect on Multicultural Case Conceptualizations"
 Chair: Charles Ridley
- Sarayu Sankar Educational Human Resource Development
 Dissertation: "Exploring the Role of Team Leaders and Their Perceptions of Barriers to Conducting Interdisciplinary Research"
 Chair: Michael M. Beyerlein
- Elsa Garcia Villarreal Educational Administration
 Dissertation: "Latina Principals Leading in Secondary Schools: A Phenomenological Case Study"
 Chair: Beverly Irby
 Co-Chair: Mario Torres
- Thomas Christopher Wild Counseling Psychology
 Dissertation: "The Experience of Identity Transition Among American Millennials Who Disaffiliate from Religion"
 Chair: Charles Ridley

College of Engineering

Doctor of Philosophy

- Baiherula Abula Civil Engineering
 Dissertation: "Characterization of Road Network Resilience Against Cascading Failures Using Dynamic Network Approaches"
 Chair: Bjorn Birgisson
- Manayer Q A A Al-MujalhemPetroleum Engineering
 Dissertation: "Evaluation and Removal of Formation Damage Caused by Oil- Based Drilling Fluids Weighted with Micronized Ilmenite"
 Chair: Hadi Nasrabadi
- Laith Mohammad AlbarakatComputer Engineering
 Dissertation: "Speculative Techniques for Memory Hierarchy Management"
 Chair: Paul Gratz
- Fahad M F S AlhuwaishelElectrical Engineering
 Dissertation: "Transformerless Utility Interface for Solar PV and Battery Hybrid Systems"
 Chair: Prasad Enjeti
- Lance Gabriel Alpuerto Interdisciplinary Engineering
 Dissertation: "Non-Planar Photovoltaic Surfaces: Modeling, Optimization, and Application"
 Chair: Robert Balog
- Anas Mohammed F Alwafi.Nuclear Engineering
 Dissertation: "Experimental Measurements of Fluid Mixing at the Scaled Upper Plenum of High Temperature Gas Cooled Reactors"
 Chair: Yassin Hassan
 Co-Chair: Nagamangala Anand
- Meltem Apaydin Electrical Engineering
 Dissertation: "Pessimistic Bilevel Optimization and Its Applications"
 Chair: Xiaoning Qian
- Fergany Mahmoud Mohammed BadryNuclear Engineering
 Dissertation: "A Hybrid Physics-Based and Data-Driven Approach for Predicting the Effective Thermal Conductivity of Heterogeneous Solids"
 Chair: Karim E. Ahmed
- Sina Baghbani Kordmahale Electrical Engineering
 Dissertation: "Soft Material Platform for Robotics and Energy Harvesting"
 Chair: Jun Kameoka
 Co-Chair: Pao Tai Lin
- Anita Helene Brown Civil Engineering
 Dissertation: "Evaluating Risk of Waterborne Debris"
 Chair: John Niedzwecki

- Paul Andrew Burke Aerospace Engineering
 Dissertation: "Computational Fluid Dynamic (CFD) Modeling and Experimental Study of the Formation and Buoyancy-Driven Detachment of Bubbles in Variable Gravity Environments"
 Chair: Bonnie J. Dunbar
- Mohamedsufiyan Azizurrehman Challiwala. Chemical Engineering
 Dissertation: "Cargen™: A Novel Technology to Advance Methane Reforming Using CO₂"
 Chair: Nimir Elbashir
 Co-Chair: Mahmoud El-Halwagi
- Chin-Hua Cheng Materials Science and Engineering
 Dissertation: "Corrosion Behavior on Mild Carbon Steel C1018 in Supercritical CO₂ Environment with Addition of H₂S"
 Chair: Raymundo P. Case
- Hsin-Min Cheng Computer Science
 Dissertation: "Proprioceptive Localization for Robots"
 Chair: Dezhen Song
- Doowon Choi Industrial Engineering
 Dissertation: "Extensions of Regression Trees for Subgroup Identification"
 Chair: Li Zeng
- Prafulla Kumar Choubey Computer Science
 Dissertation: "News Discourse Structure-Guided Approaches for Event Coreference Resolution"
 Chair: Ruihong Huang
- Woo Chul Chung Ocean Engineering
 Dissertation: "Development of Offshore Structures (Mooring/Riser) Performance Assessment and Monitoring Using Computer Simulations and Numerical Sensors"
 Chair: Moohyun Kim
 Co-Chair: Robert Randall
- Marilyn Irene Delgado Interdisciplinary Engineering
 Dissertation: "An Experimental Study on Flow-Induced Vibration of a Single and Adjacent Tubes Within a Model Helical Coil Heat Exchanger"
 Chair: Yassin Hassan
 Co-Chair: Nagamangala Anand
- Shaojin Ding Computer Science
 Dissertation: "Few-Shot Voice and Foreign Accent Conversion and its Applications in Pronunciation Training"
 Chair: Ricardo Gutierrez-Osuna
- Olga Valerievna Eliseeva. Materials Science and Engineering
 Dissertation: "Utilizing the Structure-Property Relationship of Porosity and Composition in Additively Manufactured Metallic Systems"
 Chair: Ibrahim Karaman

- Jon Paul Elizondo Mechanical Engineering
 Dissertation: "Jumping Exercise and Sclerostin Antibody as Countermeasures for Simulated Microgravity in the Adult Rat Skeleton"
 Chair: Harry Hogan
- Paraskevi Flouda Materials Science and Engineering
 Dissertation: "Nanocomposite Electrodes for Structural Energy Storage"
 Chair: Jodie L. Lutkenhaus
 Co-Chair: Dimitris Lagoudas
- Katie Marie Ford Chemical Engineering
 Dissertation: "Surface Drag and Swarming Bacteria"
 Chair: Pushkar P. Lele
- Avinash Godara Chemical Engineering
 Dissertation: "Efficient Strain Development Strategies for Production of Terpenes in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*"
 Chair: Katy Kao
- Christopher Ampofo Kwadwo Gordon Chemical Engineering
 Dissertation: "Data-Driven Maintenance Planning, Scheduling and Control"
 Chair: Efstratios Pistikopoulos
- Paul David Gordon Biomedical Engineering
 Dissertation: "Portable Multimodal Microscopy for Quantitative Malaria Diagnosis and Monitoring at the Point of Care"
 Chair: Gerard Cote
- Kunal Gupta Civil Engineering
 Dissertation: "Fouling of Microfiltration Membranes During Filtration of Wastewater Effluent for Water Reuse: Mechanisms, Effects, and Control"
 Chair: Shankararaman Chellam
- Mohammad Ehsan Hajiramezanali Electrical Engineering
 Dissertation: "Bayesian Learning with Heterogeneous Data for Life Sciences"
 Chair: Xiaoning Qian
- Sunghwa Han Biological and Agricultural Engineering
 Dissertation: "Investigation on Methods and Mechanisms of Bacterial Reduction in Agricultural Wastewater"
 Chair: Zong Liu
 Co-Chair: Yongheng Huang
- Jianing He Biological and Agricultural Engineering
 Dissertation: "Real-Time Calibrated Cotton Yield Monitor"
 Chair: John A. Thomasson
- Seyedmohammadhossein Hosseinian Industrial Engineering
 Dissertation: "Optimization Methods for Cluster Analysis in Network-based Data Mining"
 Chair: Sergiy Butenko

- Dali Huang Materials Science and Engineering
 Dissertation: "Controlled Self-Assembly of 2D Colloidal Liquid Crystals"
 Chair: Hong Liang
- Han Huang Ocean Engineering
 Dissertation: "Coupled CFD-FEM Simulation of Floaters with Mooring Systems"
 Chair: Hamn Chen
- Ajit Jain Computer Science
 Dissertation: "How to Support Situated Design Education Through AI-Based Analytics"
 Chair: Andrew Kerne
 Co-Chair: Ruihong Huang
- Lindy K. Jang Biomedical Engineering
 Dissertation: "Enhancing Multiple Functionalities of Shape Memory Polyurethane Foams and Building an *In Vitro* Platform of Aneurysm-Bearing Vascular Structure"
 Chair: Duncan Maitland
- Yong-Yu Jhan Biomedical Engineering
 Dissertation: "Engineering Extracellular Vesicles for Gene-Modulating Combinatorial Therapies"
 Chair: Daniel L. Alge
 Co-Chair: Corey J. Bishop
- Haifeng Jin Computer Science
 Dissertation: "Efficient Neural Architecture Search for Automated Deep Learning"
 Chair: Xia Hu
- Tianying Jin Petroleum Engineering
 Dissertation: "Assessing the Impact on Hydrocarbon Production from Tight and Shale Plays by Depletion and Injection Using Thermodynamic and Transport Properties from Confined Spaces"
 Chair: Maria A. Barrufet
- Chetna Prakash Kamble Ocean Engineering
 Dissertation: "On Partially-Averaged Navier-Stokes Turbulence Closures: Improved Near-Wall Strategies and Characterization of Three-Dimensional Wakes"
 Chair: Sharath Girimaji
 Co-Chair: Hamn Chen
- Ethan Phillip Kamphaus Chemical Engineering
 Dissertation: "Physical, Chemical, and Reactivity Behavior of Materials and Processes of Lithium Sulfur Batteries"
 Chair: Perla Balbuena
- Jin Young Kim Civil Engineering
 Dissertation: "Wetland Erosion in Galveston Bay by Ocean Waves"
 Chair: James M. Kaihatu
 Co-Chair: Kuang-An Chang

- Jinho Kim Civil Engineering
 Dissertation: "Improvement of Joint Sealant Configuration and Performance"
 Chair: Dan Zollinger
- Jungyong KimPetroleum Engineering
 Dissertation: "Experimental Study of Degradable Fibers as a Proppant Transport Agent"
 Chair: Nobuo Morita
- Kyung Hoon Kim Computer Engineering
 Dissertation: "Energy-Efficient Accelerator Design for Emerging Applications"
 Chair: Eun Kim
- Woo Seok KimElectrical Engineering
 Dissertation: "Organ-Specific, Multimodal, Wireless Optogenetics for High-Throughput Phenotyping of Peripheral Neural Pathways"
 Chair: Sung I. Park
- Elizabeth Hope Krath Aerospace Engineering
 Dissertation: "An Efficient Zeta-Variable Proper Orthogonal Decomposition-Based Reduced-Order Model for Compressible Flows with Aeroelastic Applications"
 Chair: Paul Cizmas
- Raniero Aaron Lara Garduno Computer Engineering
 Dissertation: "Machine Learning and Digital Sketch Recognition Methods to Support Neuropsychological Diagnosis and Identification of Cognitive Decline"
 Chair: Tracy Hammond
- Cheng-Chun Lee Civil Engineering
 Dissertation: "Automated Methods for Evaluating Stormwater Drainage Systems at the Neighborhood Scale Using Mobile Lidar Data"
 Chair: Nasir Gharaibeh
- Binbin Li Computer Engineering
 Dissertation: "Belief Space-Guided Navigation for Robots and Autonomous Vehicles"
 Chair: Dezhen Song
- Hang Li Computer Science
 Dissertation: "Computation of Filament Winding Paths with Concavities and Friction"
 Chair: John Keyser
- Ning LiPetroleum Engineering
 Dissertation: "Study of Stress Changes in Unconventional Reservoirs with Coupled Flow and Geomechanics Simulations"
 Chair: John E. Killough
 Co-Chair: Kan Wu
- Zhixing Li Computer Engineering
 Dissertation: "Algorithms for Semiconductor Modeling and Classification Based on Machine Learning"
 Chair: Weiping Shi

- Mengying Liu Materials Science and Engineering
 Dissertation: "In Situ Investigation of the Role of Slip in Crack
 Initiation in Hydrogen Embrittled Inconel 725"
 Chair: Michal Demkowicz
- Ninghao Liu Computer Science
 Dissertation: "Extracting and Harnessing Interpretation in Data
 Mining"
 Chair: Xia Hu
- Yuchen Liu Industrial Engineering
 Dissertation: "Nano-/Micro-Structured Membrane Enabled Water and
 Energy Sustainability"
 Chair: Shiren Wang
- Debora Eliezer Martogi Simanjuntak Petroleum Engineering
 Dissertation: "Micro-Scale Characterization of Rocks: From Elastic to
 Fracture Properties"
 Chair: Sara Abedi Mashhadi Migha
- Mutaz Yousef Melhem Electrical Engineering
 Dissertation: "The Impact of Parasitic DC and AC Sources on the
 Security of The KLJN Secure Key Exchange Scheme"
 Chair: Laszlo Kish
- Yi Meng Civil Engineering
 Dissertation: "Bayesian Approaches for Calibrating the Mixed C-Logit
 Model of Truck Route Choice"
 Chair: Xiu Wang
- Naveen Kumar Mishra Chemical Engineering
 Dissertation: "Novel Materials for Light Gas Separation and Reaction
 Engineering Applications"
 Chair: Benjamin A. Wilhite
- Glendimar Saharai Molero Materials Science and Engineering
 Dissertation: "Scratch and Mechanical Behaviors of Polyrotaxane-
 Modified Poly(Methyl Methacrylate)"
 Chair: Hung-Jue Su
- Juk Rin Moon Industrial Engineering
 Dissertation: "Understanding Interactive Team Cognition in Crisis
 Management"
 Chair: Farzan Sasangohar
- Kenta Nakajima Petroleum Engineering
 Dissertation: "Development and Application of Fast Simulation Based
 on the PSS Pressure as a Spatial Coordinate"
 Chair: Michael King
- Wahaz Nasim Materials Science and Engineering
 Dissertation: "Inverse Optimization and Design of Thermo-Mechanical
 Processing Paths for Improved Formability of Mg Alloys"
 Chair: Ibrahim Karaman
 Co-Chair: Jyhwen Wang

- Walter Edward Olarte Merida Civil Engineering
 Dissertation: “An Integrated Approach to Project Planning: Reducing
 Uncertainty to Improve Safety and Cost”
 Chair: Ivan Damnjanovic
- Yash Bharatbhushan Parikh Mechanical Engineering
 Dissertation: “Analyses of Property-Graded Stainless Steel 316L Bulk
 Structures Processed by Selective Laser Melting”
 Chair: Hong Liang
 Co-Chair: Mathew A. Kuttolamadom
- Jaeyoung Park Petroleum Engineering
 Dissertation: “Coupled Fluid Flow and Geomechanical Modeling for
 Unconventional Field Development Optimization and
 Induced Seismicity Assessment”
 Chair: Akhil Dattagupta
- Sung Hwan Park Chemical Engineering
 Dissertation: “Scalable Fabrication of Mixed-Matrix Membranes for
 Gas Separations: Polymer-Modification-Enabled In-Situ
 Metal-Organic Framework Formation”
 Chair: Hae-Kwon Jeong
- Michaela Pfau Biomedical Engineering
 Dissertation: “Self-Fitting Craniomaxillofacial (CMF) Bone Scaffolds
 with Tunable Properties”
 Chair: Melissa Grunlan
- Md Saifur Rahman Mechanical Engineering
 Dissertation: “High Temperature Tribology Performance of Nickel
 Alloys Under Helium Atmosphere”
 Chair: Andreas A. Polycarpou
- Harikrishnan Rajendran Aerospace Engineering
 Dissertation: “Microstructural Instabilities in Nickel-based Single
 Crystal Superalloys”
 Chair: Jean-Briac B. Le Graverend
- Raja Subramanian Ramanathan Petroleum Engineering
 Dissertation: “Iron Sulfide Scale Removal Using Alternative
 Dissolvers”
 Chair: Hadi Nasrabadi
- Adriana Carolina Sanabria Borbon Electrical Engineering
 Dissertation: “Trends in Analog IC Design: Highly Reconfigurable
 Filters, Performance Optimization, and IP Protection”
 Chair: E Sanchez-Sinencio
- Kasturi Tulashidas Sarang Chemical Engineering
 Dissertation: “Silicon Anodes for Lithium-Ion Batteries”
 Chair: Jodie L. Lutkenhaus
- Jian Shao Electrical Engineering
 Dissertation: “Mixer Mode IC Design Techniques for Spectrum Sharing”
 Chair: Jose E. Silva-Martinez
 Co-Chair: Aydin Karsilayan

- Ching-Heng Shiau Nuclear Engineering
 Dissertation: "Irradiation Response and Mechanical Properties of 316L
 Stainless Steel Fabricated by Direct Energy Deposition"
 Chair: Lin Shao
- Changwon Son Industrial Engineering
 Dissertation: "A Multifaceted Approach to Understanding Resilience
 of Management Teams"
 Chair: Farzan Sasangohar
 Co-Chair: Camille Peres
- Qingquan Song Computer Science
 Dissertation: "Automated Recommender Systems"
 Chair: Xia Hu
- Yukun Tan Electrical Engineering
 Dissertation: "Maximum Likelihood Adaptive Filter Using
 Metaheuristic Optimization for Stochastic Nonlinear
 Dynamic Systems"
 Chair: Ulisses Braga Neto
- Arif Kivanc Ustun Electrical Engineering
 Dissertation: "Micromachined Acoustic Delay Line Technologies for
 Photoacoustic Sensing Applications"
 Chair: Jun Zou
- Venkata Shirdi Sai Lakshman Haswanth Vundavilli Electrical Engineering
 Dissertation: "Mathematical Modeling and Inference of Cancer
 Networks"
 Chair: Aniruddha Datta
- Jackson Nicholas Wagner Nuclear Engineering
 Dissertation: "The Characterization and Application of a Method to
 Predict the Background Neutron Response in Nuclear
 Security Systems"
 Chair: Craig Marianno
- Feiyue Wang Civil Engineering
 Dissertation: "Development of Bridge Deterioration and M&R
 Decision-Making Models for Use in Network-Level
 Bridge Management Systems"
 Chair: Nasir Gharaibeh
- Fanglue Wu Materials Science and Engineering
 Dissertation: "Evolution of Molybdenum Disulfide on Metal Surfaces"
 Chair: James Batteas
- Libo Wu Mechanical Engineering
 Dissertation: "Liquid Crystal Shuttered Passive Infrared Sensors for
 True Presence Detection"
 Chair: Ya Wang
- Shuilian Xie Electrical Engineering
 Dissertation: "Pattern Recognition for Restricted and Nonstationary
 Data"
 Chair: Ulisses Braga Neto

- Zhitian Xie..... Ocean Engineering
 Dissertation: "Improvement of Wave Structure Interaction Calculation with Applications to the Shallow Water, Maneuvering in Waves and Hull Form Optimization"
 Chair: Jeffrey Falzarano
- Baiyu Zhang..... Materials Science and Engineering
 Dissertation: "First-Principles Electronic Structure and Defect Physics in Photovoltaic and Neuromorphic Materials"
 Chair: Xiaofeng Qian
- Lu Zhang..... Computer Engineering
 Dissertation: "Highly Parallel Algorithms and Systems for Fast Electromagnetic Transient Simulation in Power System"
 Chair: Weiping Shi
- Yu Zhang..... Biological and Agricultural Engineering
 Dissertation: "Quantifying Uncertainty of Probable Maximum Flood"
 Chair: Vijay Singh
- Yuwei Zhang..... Mechanical Engineering
 Dissertation: "Chemo-Mechanics of Functional Thin Films for Lithium-Ion Batteries and Neuromorphic Computing Devices"
 Chair: Matt Pharr
- Zimeng Zhang..... Industrial Engineering
 Dissertation: "Direct Ink Writing of High-Strength Polymer Composites"
 Chair: Shiren Wang

College of Geosciences

Doctor of Philosophy

- Adam Drake Bell..... Atmospheric Sciences
 Dissertation: "Inferring Ice Cloud Properties from Polarized Sub-Millimeter Microwave and Infrared Spaceborne Observations"
 Chair: Ping Yang
- David A. Coates..... Atmospheric Sciences
 Dissertation: "A Synoptic View of the Upscale Energy Cascade"
 Chair: John Nielsen-Gammon
- Raquel Granados Aguilar..... Geology
 Dissertation: "Non-Invasive Multiple-Method Approaches to Characterize Landforms in the Anthropocene: A Study of the Periglacial Critical Zone"
 Chair: John Giardino
- Angela Marie Van Boening..... Geology
 Dissertation: "The Nature and Classification of Gestures in Visualizing, Conceptualizing, and Communicating Geology"
 Chair: Eric A. Riggs

- Kyle Robert Wodzicki Atmospheric Sciences
 Dissertation: "Changes in Tropical Convection and Cloud Populations with ITCZ Width and Implications for the Hadley Circulation"
 Chair: Anita D. Rapp
- Meng Zhang Atmospheric Sciences
 Dissertation: "Understanding and Improving Representations of Processes Determining High-Latitude Mixed-Phase Cloud Properties in GCMS"
 Chair: Xiaohong Liu

College of Liberal Arts

Doctor of Philosophy

- Dong An Philosophy
 Dissertation: "Rethinking the Fittingness of Emotions"
 Chair: Linda Radzik
 Co-Chair: Martin B. Pettersson
- Lori Dawn Arnold English
 Dissertation: "Reading the Body, Writing the Body: Women's Experiences of Giving Birth Shared on the Internet"
 Chair: Valerie Balester
- Daniel Eben Bishop Anthropology
 Dissertation: "The Sloop Boscawen: Hull Construction and Design During the Mid-Eighteenth Century in the Champlain Valley"
 Chair: Kevin Crisman
- Ricardo Borrero Londoño Anthropology
 Dissertation: "Iberian Shipbuilding and Design in the Days of Cutting-Edge Protoscience (1570-1712)"
 Chair: Luis F. Vieira De Castro
- Gisele Cardoso de Lemos English
 Dissertation: "Acid Aesthetic: Gender-Based Violence, Disfigurement, and Cultural Production in India"
 Chair: Marian Eide
- Daniela Alexandra Cortez Hispanic Studies
 Dissertation: "Narrando con Vos: Central American Transnational Narrative in the United States"
 Chair: Richard K. Curry
- Sara Maria Dowd Psychology
 Dissertation: "Process and Outcome Counterfactual Thinking"
 Chair: Rachel Smallman
- Rotem Dvir Political Science
 Dissertation: "Shifting Horizons: Temporal Orientations and Conflict Decision-Making"
 Chair: Nehemia Geva

- Jacob Marshall Hardy Sociology
 Dissertation: "Video Games as Wish Fulfillment: Gaming as Seen Through a Sociological Lens"
 Chair: Stjepan Mestrovic
- Grace Lee Ellen Heneks English
 Dissertation: "Terrorizing and Terrified: Depictions of Whiteness in Obama Era Black Satire"
 Chair: Sally Robinson
- Nathalie Mendez Mendez Political Science
 Dissertation: "Wellsprings of Bureaucratic Collaboration: Identity, Trust, and Agency Performance in Colombia"
 Chair: Maria Escobar-Lemmon
- Neil Nelson Puckett Anthropology
 Dissertation: "An Interdisciplinary Approach to Refining the Archaeological and Geomorphological Record of the Walker Lake Basin, Nevada"
 Chair: Kelly E. Graf
- Michael Angelo Rangel History
 Dissertation: "Border Intimacies: Student Activism, Reproductive Justice, and Queer Rights in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, 1968-2000"
 Chair: Carlos Blanton
- Reed Larson Ressler Neuroscience
 Dissertation: "Synaptic and Associative Mechanisms Mediating Pavlovian Conditioning to Unpredictable Threats"
 Chair: Stephen Maren
- Ryan Austin Rholes Economics
 Dissertation: "Three Essays on Central Banking"
 Chair: Catherine C. Eckel
- Cheryl Pumphrey Rollman-Tinajero Sociology
 Dissertation: "Marriage Impact on Health for Gays and Lesbians in America: An Analysis of the Effect of Marriage on Health for Those in Same-Sex Marriages and Same-Sex Cohabiting Relationships Using 2016-2018 NHIS Data"
 Chair: Dudley Poston
 Co-Chair: Heili Pals
- Kate L. Siegfried Communication
 Dissertation: "Rhetorics of Exile: Black Proletarian Cartographies During the Cold War Era"
 Chair: Kristan A. Poirot
- Elina Rumenova Tachkova Communication
 Dissertation: "Parameters of Scansis: Exploring the Interconnectedness of Crises and Scandals"
 Chair: William T. Coombs
- Meradee Tangvatharapong Economics
 Dissertation: "An Essay on Topics in Applied Microeconomics"
 Chair: Mark L. Hoekstra

Tiffany Amorette Young Sociology
 Dissertation: "The Iron Cage of Immigrant Detention: Textual
 Connections Between the Oversight Bureacracy and State
 Violence"
 Chair: Sarah Gatson
 Co-Chair: Joseph Jewell

School of Public Health

Doctor of Philosophy

Emily Elizabeth Jasek Health Services Research
 Dissertation: "Identifying Solutions to Address Issues of Safety in
 Home Care Environments for Children and Youth"
 Chair: Lesley E. Tomaszewski

Doctor of Public Health

Eduardo G. Gandara. Health Promotion and Community
 Health Science
 Dissertation: "Assessing Facilitators and Barriers of Conducting Adult
 Health Programs Within the African-American Church
 and Reexamining Religious Based Constructs Using
 Items from the Religion, Aging, and Health Survey"
 Chair: James Burdine
 Co-Chair: Wen Luo

Chinelo Nsobundu. Health Promotion and Community
 Health Science
 Dissertation: "An Examination of the Factors that Impact the
 Implementation and Effectiveness of Diabetes Self-
 Management Programs"
 Chair: James Burdine
 Co-Chair: Marcia Ory

College of Science

Doctor of Philosophy

Justin L. Andrews. Chemistry
 Dissertation: "Corralling Electrons in Metastable Vanadium
 Oxides: Implications for Neuromorphic Computing,
 Electrochemical Energy Storage and Photocatalysis"
 Chair: Sarbajit Banerjee

Maritess Noelle Victoria Arancillo Chemistry
 Dissertation: "Piptides: A New Peptidomimetic Design for Biomolecular
 Interactions"
 Chair: Kevin Burgess

Sayan Banerjee Chemistry
 Dissertation: "Modification of Porous Materials to Improve Their Gas
 Storage and Catalytic Activity"
 Chair: Hongcai Zhou

- Kashif Karim Bari Mathematics
 Dissertation: "On the Structure Tensor of \mathfrak{sl}_n "
 Chair: Joseph Landsberg
- Erick James Braham Chemistry
 Dissertation: "Establishing Control over VO₂ Phase Transformations and Perovskite Quantum Confinement Through Targeted Exploration of Materials and Processing Design Spaces"
 Chair: Sarbajit Banerjee
- Alyson Brokaw Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
 Dissertation: "Olfactory Tracking Behaviors of Bats"
 Chair: Michael Smotherman
- Hsu-Cheng Cheng Chemistry
 Dissertation: "Photophysical Properties of Plasmonic Gold Nanostructures and Semiconducting Lead-Halide Perovskite Quantum Dots"
 Chair: Dong Son
 Co-Chair: Matthew T. Sheldon
- Zachary Nathaniel Coker Applied Physics
 Dissertation: "Brillouin Elastography for Monitoring Cell Biomechanics in Response to External Stimuli"
 Chair: Vladislav V. Yakovlev
- Aramayis Dallakyan Statistics
 Dissertation: "Topics on the Role of Cholesky Factor in Learning High Dimensional Graphical Models"
 Chair: Mohsen Pourahmadi
- Fei Ding Statistics
 Dissertation: "Warp-U MCMC, Stochastic Bridge Sampling and Supervised Functional Principle Component Analysis"
 Chair: Jianhua Huang
 Co-Chair: David E. Jones
- Zhaolan Ding Biology
 Dissertation: "Circadian Clock Regulation of The Activity of Translation Initiation Factor eIF2 α in *Neurospora crassa*"
 Chair: Deborah Bell-Pedersen
- Kari Eifler Mathematics
 Dissertation: "Quantum Symmetries Studied Through the Lens of Non-Local Games"
 Chair: Michael P. Brannan
- Jimmy Ferreira Goncalves Biology
 Dissertation: "Age-Dependent Changes in Gluco-Glyceroneogenesis and Fat Synthesis Sustain Copulation Fitness in *C. elegans* Males"
 Chair: Luis Garcia
- Katrina Sierra Hofstetter Biology
 Dissertation: "Development of Stationary Bands During *Escherichia coli* Swimming"
 Chair: Steve W. Lockless

- Sung-Min HyunChemistry
 Dissertation: "Development of Catalysis for Small Molecule Activation and Mechanistic Studies of Aerobic Hypervalent Iodine Catalysis"
 Chair: David C. Powers
- Samantha Elizabeth Iiams Genetics
 Dissertation: "Circadian Clock Regulation of Photoperiodic Responses in the Monarch Butterfly"
 Chair: Christine Merlin
- Jibran Amanullah Khan Biology
 Dissertation: "Enhancing Transcription in *Escherichia coli* Bw25113 and *Pseudomonas putida* Kt2440 Using Bacteriophage Lambda Antiterminator Protein Q"
 Chair: Katy Kao
 Co-Chair: Steve W. Lockless
- Chalinee KhaochimMathematics
 Dissertation: "Rigid Analytic Trivializations and Periods of Drinfeld Modules and Their Tensor Products"
 Chair: Matthew Papanikolas
- Narissara KhaochimMathematics
 Dissertation: "Asymptotics for Traces of Weak Maass Forms and Applications"
 Chair: Mohamad R. Masri
- Thomas J. KolibabaChemistry
 Dissertation: "Polyelectrolyte Complexes for Fire Protection of Materials"
 Chair: Jaime Grunlan
- Qingheng LaiChemistry
 Dissertation: "Iridium Catalyzed Dehydrogenative Diboration of Alkyne, Nickel and Silver Complexes of an Alane/Tris(Phosphine) Ligand Built Around a Strongly Lewis Acidic Tris(N-pyrrolyl) Aluminum and Exploration on Reactivity of Palpligated Rhodium and Iridium Complexes"
 Chair: Oleg Ozerov
- Se Yoon Lee Statistics
 Dissertation: "Bayesian Hierarchical Modeling: Application Towards Complex and High-dimensional Data"
 Chair: Bani Mallick
- Fu Li Physics
 Dissertation: "Quantum Sensing with Squeezed Light"
 Chair: Marlan Scully
 Co-Chair: Girish Agarwal
- Quyuan LinMathematics
 Dissertation: "Mathematical Analysis of The Primitive Equations with Rotation"
 Chair: Edriss S. Titi

- Mingyu Liu Mathematics
 Dissertation: "C*-algebraic Higher Signatures on Non-Witt Spaces"
 Chair: Zhizhang Xie
- Sangin Mah Mathematics
 Dissertation: "A Continuum Mechanics Model for the Arterial Wall Growth and Remodeling Under Hypertension"
 Chair: Jay Walton
- William Joseph Maximuck Chemistry
 Dissertation: "Syntheses of Lipophilic Werner Complexes for Application as Chiral Hydrogen Bond Donors in Enantioselective Catalysis and Investigation of the Effect of Chloride on Fluid Catalytic Cracking Catalysts"
 Chair: John Gladysz
- Dustin Cade McPhate Mathematics
 Dissertation: "Resolutions for Truncated Ore Extensions"
 Chair: Sarah Witherspoon
- Vladislav Roytman Chemistry
 Dissertation: "Transcending Transition State Theory: Solvent Dynamic Effects in Polar Reactions and Machine-Learning Transition State Theory"
 Chair: Daniel Singleton
- Alexander Mark Ruys De Perez Mathematics
 Dissertation: "New Tools for Classifying Convex Neural Codes: The Factor Complex and the Wheel"
 Chair: Anne J. Shiu
 Co-Chair: Laura Matusevich
- Supun Tamara Samarakoon Mathematics
 Dissertation: "Generalized Grigorchuk's Overgroups: Growth, Cluster Points, and Associated Rational Maps"
 Chair: Rostislav Grigorchuk
 Co-Chair: Volodymyr Nekrashevych
- David Gamble Sykes Mathematics
 Dissertation: "On Geometry of 2-nondegenerate, Hypersurface-Type Cauchy-Riemann Manifolds Encoded in Dynamical Legendrian Contact Structures"
 Chair: Igor Zelenko
- Yefan Tian Physics
 Dissertation: "NMR Studies of Advanced Thermoelectric Materials and Topological Chalcogenides"
 Chair: Joseph Ross
- Christopher B. Watson Chemistry
 Dissertation: "Recycling Polyisobutylene Catalysts and Polymers"
 Chair: David Bergbreiter
- Taylor Ray Whitehead Physics
 Dissertation: "Microscopic Nucleon-Nucleus Optical Potentials from Chiral Effective Field Theory"
 Chair: Jeremy W. Holt

- Konrad Wrobel Mathematics
 Dissertation: "Orbit Equivalence Invariants and Examples"
 Chair: Robin D. Tucker-Drob
- Junho Yang Statistics
 Dissertation: "A New Spectral Method in Time Series Analysis"
 Chair: Suhasini Subbarao
 Co-Chair: Mikyoung Jun
- Xin Yang Chemistry
 Dissertation: "A Computational Insight of C-H Bond Activation
 by Transition Metal Complexes and the Nature of
 Lanthanide-Transition Metal Bonds"
 Chair: Michael Hall
- Zecheng Zhang Mathematics
 Dissertation: "Multiscale Model Reduction and Deep Reinforcement
 Learning for the Selected Applications"
 Chair: Yalchin Efendiev
- Yan Zhong Statistics
 Dissertation: "Structured Regularized Dimensionality Reduction on
 Two Real Applications"
 Chair: Jianhua Huang
 Co-Chair: Xia Hu
- Huijuan Zhou Statistics
 Dissertation: "Structure Adaptive Multiple Testing with Applications
 to Bioinformatics"
 Chair: Xianyang Zhang

College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

Doctor of Philosophy

- Krisa M. Camargo Toxicology
 Dissertation: "Sampling Strategies, Methodologies, and Modeling
 of Complex Mixtures Within Galveston Bay and the
 Houston Ship Channel"
 Chair: Thomas J. McDonald
 Co-Chair: Weihsueh A. Chiu
- Yifei Liao Biomedical Sciences
 Dissertation: "Functional Interaction Between Marek's Disease
 Virus US3 and Meq with Chicken CREB and Histone
 Deacetylases"
 Chair: Blanca Lupiani
 Co-Chair: Sanjay Reddy
- Daniel Camilo Osorio Hurtado Biomedical Sciences
 Dissertation: "Single-Cell Gene Expression Variability: Functional
 Assessment and Applications in Functional Genomics"
 Chair: Jing Cai

Krystal J. Vail Biomedical Sciences
Dissertation: "Regulation of Macrophage Innate Immunity During
Intracellular Bacterial Infection"
Chair: Robert O. Watson
Co-Chair: Sara D. Lawhon

Constance Josiane Woodman Biomedical Sciences
Dissertation: "Assessing New Methods for Psittacine Conservation at
the Captive-Wild Interface"
Chair: Donald Brightsmith

Academic Regalia

Academic institutions throughout the world have created a wide variety of customs including distinctive dress, color and ceremony to indicate the accomplishments of scholars. English traditions originating at Oxford and Cambridge led to the development of American academic regalia. By the twentieth century, institutions of higher learning in the United States had adopted a well-defined code of academic costume, which now includes the identification of the different academic degrees by distinctive gowns, hoods and colors. For instance, the baccalaureate gown is worn closed and is identified by long, pleated front panels and long, pointed sleeves. The master's gown has very long sleeves, closed at the bottom, and the arms of the wearer are placed through an opening in the front of the sleeves. Doctoral gowns are distinguished by velvet panels around the neck and down the front of the gown. Three horizontal black velvet bars also mark the doctorate. In America, the hood is the most colorful feature of academic regalia. The bachelor's hood, when worn, is comparatively short; the master's, a bit longer; and the doctor's, at four feet, reaches far down the wearer's back. The outside of the hood is black and is bordered with a two-, three- or five-inch band of velvet in the color representing the degree received, and the hood is lined with the colors of the granting institution. For instance, the Master of Arts hood from Texas A&M has a white border, for the discipline color of Arts, Letters and Humanities, with a maroon and white lining; the Master of Science hood has a golden yellow border, for Science, with a maroon and white lining; and the Doctor of Philosophy hood has a border in the blue of Philosophy with a maroon and white lining. Among the other discipline colors are Agriculture—maize, Architecture—violet, Business—olive green, Education—light blue, Engineering—orange and Veterinary Medicine—gray. These colors represent the degree earned, not the academic major. The Ph.D. in Engineering, for example, would normally wear the dark blue of Philosophy on the hood and gown instead of the orange of Engineering. Official guests of the University and members of the Board of Regents wear the doctor's gown with the blue of Philosophy on the front and hood.

Ceremonial Mace

The University mace, a gift of the Class of 1990, leads the academic procession at commencement and on other special ceremonial occasions. Historically, the use of a mace dates back to the Middle Ages and was carried before or placed near a magistrate or other dignitary as an ensign of authority. This mace is made of sterling silver, walnut and oak and depicts various University symbols. It was designed by Rodney Hill, Texas A&M architecture professor who also carved the staff. Silversmith Lane Coulter '78, of Santa Fe, prepared the silver head of the mace and Lars Stanley '74, of Austin, designed and manufactured the stand.

Gonfalons

The gonfalon, a flag that hangs from a crosspiece or frame, originated in the medieval republics of Italy as an ensign of state or office. Gonfalons have been adopted in many universities around the world as college or institutional insignias. The gonfalons displayed represent the colleges of Texas A&M University. The colors of the University, maroon and white, are joined together in a pattern common to all of the flags. The top portion is the designated color for each unit. The white field serves as a background for the symbol of each.

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. On a ground of white appears an emerging sun of yellow and russet rays. Yellow, the discipline color of science, russet, the discipline color of natural resources, and the center orange, color of engineering, combine to illustrate the intellectual interest in human and biological systems and structures. The interweaving ring encompasses the dawn making a full circle of life.

College of Architecture. The hexagonal symbol is composed of three colors that represent the solid foundation of the college. Our Aggie core values (maroon) connect limitless possibilities and opportunities in learning, scholarship, and engagement for the college (blue) with the energy of creativity, innovation, and design to address them (yellow). The striped ribbon represents the drivers of the college's vision of quality of life, place, and human endeavors which is intertwined with a solid ribbon that represents where this vision is applied: the natural, built, and virtual environments. The six segments defined by the alternating striped and solid ribbon represent the six disciplinary domains of the college: urban planning, architecture, landscape architecture, land and property development, construction science, and visualization.

Mays Business School. The golden knot symbolizes unity and coordination of the disciplines of business administration. Surrounding the golden knot, a field of purple represents the rank of authority. The foundation of lozenges under the triangle illustrates the flow of order.

College of Dentistry. The color lilac has been associated with dentistry since the 1800s, symbolizing compassion and inspiration. Upon it, rests the Greek Omicron, O, representing the first letter in “odont,” meaning tooth, along with an interlaced Delta representing the letter D for Dentistry. The inner-most component of the emblem depicts healing, as signified with a serpent intertwined around the ancient cauterizing rod of the Greek god of healing, Asclepius. Included in the emblem, are 32 leaves and 20 berries representing both the primary and secondary teeth.

College of Education and Human Development. The flourishing flame blazoned with gold, light blue and royal purple signifies the burning zeal of the three missions of education--teaching, research and service. The hands hold the spiritual, social and intellectual flame of education.

College of Engineering. As the triangles collaborate alongside each other, projecting a diamond shape, they depict the strong relationship between the diverse engineering disciplines. The use of mathematics, science and technology provide the foundation of solving today’s challenging ideas between and within each engineering department. The center illustrates a circuit board to express the continuing growth in technology and engineering today, resulting in new industries and opportunities. The cohesive elements of this design work together as a whole symbolizing communication, interaction, teamwork, and balance in Engineering as the green, blue and navy color palette represents energy, loyalty, wisdom, professionalism and ambition.

College of Geosciences. The white field reveals a yellow sun representing our surrounding atmosphere. The mountain peaks and the horizontal band of golden land represent the lithosphere. The banded waves of white signify the hydrosphere. The atmosphere, lithosphere and hydrosphere form the total environment for life in our world.

Bush School of Government and Public Service. The star symbolizes pride and heritage in our great state of Texas. The two lines on either side of the star represent our connection with the past, and with the future, in an effort to build on experiences from history, while contributing and presenting new opportunities to future generations.

College of Liberal Arts. The golden torch symbolizes the various disciplines lighting the path to our goal, “Knowledge for Life.” The circle of blue, the traditional color of knowledge, represents the college’s unending, unbroken commitment to scholarship, learning, and responsible citizenship.

School of Law. A widely accepted symbol of peace, the olive leaves highlight one of the most critical contributions of law and legal order to human development. Curving inwards, they also bring to mind the Aggie Ring – and the circle of fellowship and community it represents. Lady Justice symbolizes the values our graduates bring to bear in their careers: a spirit of objectivity (blindfold), an unwavering commitment to fairness (scales), and the strength necessary to pursue it (sword). The six stars, finally, represent Texas A&M’s Core Values – Leadership, Respect, Loyalty, Excellence, Selfless Service, and Integrity – essential requirements of not only members of the legal profession, but all those who study the law and seek to advance justice, fairness, and the Rule of Law.

College of Medicine. The white field provides a background for the Aesculapian staff and serpent, long used as the symbol of the healing arts. The green color is the same displayed on the hoods and robes worn for the degree of Doctor of Medicine.

College of Nursing. The stars on the College of Nursing gonfalon represent caring, innovation and empowerment, while the cross symbolizes the origins of nursing. The candle honors the founder of nursing, Florence Nightingale. Apricot is the color of nursing.

School of Public Health. The anchor and caduceus are adapted from the national Public Health Service, which evolved from the Marine Hospital Service to the Public Health and Marine Hospital Service, and finally became the U.S. Public Health Service. The star represents the linkage of the School of Public Health with the Texas A&M Health Science Center and the State of Texas. The salmon color is the color of the public health hoods.

College of Science. This symbol’s segments represent the five departments of the College of Science--Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics and Astronomy, and Statistics. The interweaving of each depicts their close relationship to each other. The inner quilting represents the intellectual search in science and its continuing growth.

College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. Resting upon a ground of purity, a white snake stands for the science and the art of prevention, cure or alleviation of disease and injury to animals. It is found entwined around a herald’s green staff--the symbol of service. The golden radiant triangle atop the Aesculapius illustrates the breadth of veterinary medical science.

“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.

