

Commencement

SPRING SEMESTER 2024



COLLEGE OF THE LIBERAL ARTS

Saturday, May 4, 2024
The Bryce Jordan Center
4:30 p.m.



PennState



National Anthem

by Francis Scott Key

O say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming;
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, thro' the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air
Gave proof thro' the night that our flag was still there.
O say, does that Star-Spangled Banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

Alma Mater

by Fred Lewis Pattee

For the glory of old State,
For her founders, strong and great,
For the future that we wait,
Raise the song, raise the song,

Sing our love and loyalty,
Sing our hopes that, bright and free,
Rest, O Mother dear, with thee.
All with thee, all with thee.

When we stood at childhood's gate,
Shapeless in the hands of fate,
Thou didst mold us, dear old State,
Dear old State, dear old State.

May no act of ours bring shame
To one heart that loves thy name,
May our lives but swell thy fame,
Dear old State, dear old State!

PROGRAM

ACADEMIC PROCESSIONAL

Performed by Centre Brass

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Thomas Delahoy '26 Arts and Architecture
The audience is asked to join in the singing.

PRESIDING

Tracy Langkilde, B.S., Ph.D.
Interim Executive Vice President and Provost

Clarence Lang, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.
Susan Welch Dean of the College of the Liberal Arts

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Caroline Fitzgerald '12 Women's Studies and Marketing
CEO and Founder, GOALS

AUTHORIZATION TO CONFER DEGREES

Christa Hasenkopf, B.S., Ph.D.
Member, Board of Trustees

RECOGNITION OF MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT

B. Richard Page, B.A., M.A., J.D, Ph.D.
Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies

RECOGNITION OF PATERNO FELLOWS GRADUATES

Joshua Wretzel, B.S., M.A., Ph.D.
Assistant Director, Paterno Fellows Program

RECOGNITION OF STUDENT MARSHALS

B. Richard Page, B.A., M.A., J.D, Ph.D.
Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies

RECOGNITION OF MILITARY COMMISSIONS

MAJ Joseph G. Jankovich
Assistant Professor of Military Science

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

Tracy Langkilde, B.S., Ph.D.
Interim Executive Vice President and Provost

INDUCTION INTO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Caroline Fitzgerald '12 Women's Studies and Marketing
CEO and Founder, GOALS

PENN STATE ALMA MATER

Thomas Delahoy '26 Arts and Architecture
The audience is asked to join in the singing.

RECESSIONAL

The audience will please remain seated.

COMMENCEMENT MARSHAL-IN-CHARGE

B. Richard Page, B.A., M.A., J.D, Ph.D.
Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies

UNIVERSITY NOMENCLATOR

E. Alan Cameron, B.S.A., M.S., Ph.D., B.C.E.
Professor Emeritus

ABOUT THE SPEAKER



Caroline Fitzgerald is the CEO and founder of GOALS—a women's sports marketing consultancy and media platform based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Caroline launched GOALS in 2020 after recognizing that there was an opportunity to help brands, networks, and fans see the social and economic value that can come from investing in women's sports. GOALS also produces the leading women's sports business podcast *The Business Case for Women's Sports*, which is presented by Ally.

Before launching GOALS, Caroline worked for more than ten years as a marketing and sponsorship sales professional for a variety of organizations, including Kohl's Department Stores, the Smithsonian-affiliated Heinz History Center museum, and the DICK'S Sporting Goods Pittsburgh Marathon.

Caroline graduated from Penn State with bachelor's degrees in Women's Studies and Marketing in 2012 and also holds a master of science degree in global sport from New York University. While at Penn State, Caroline served as the merchandise director for THON 2011; a Lion Ambassador; a member of the Women's Club Basketball Team; a member of TRIOTA, Penn State's Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Honor Society; a resident assistant; and a student program associate at Penn State's Center for Gender Equity for four years. Caroline is also one of eight siblings, all of whom are Penn State graduates.

ABOUT THE COLLEGE

The Liberal Arts have been part of the Penn State curriculum since its founding in 1855. However, it wasn't until 1909 that an official "home" for Liberal Arts was formed by President Edwin Erle Sparks, who combined the School of History, Mathematics, and Philosophy with the School of Language and Literature to create the School of Liberal Arts. President Sparks, a widely known historian, named himself the school's first dean.

Today, the College of the Liberal Arts is home to 24 schools, departments, and programs that offer nearly 50 undergraduate degrees and more than 25 graduate degrees to more than 5,100 undergraduates and nearly 800 graduate students each year. Additionally, virtually every Penn State student—regardless of their major—takes almost one-third of their classes in Liberal Arts.

The "Live to Learn, Learn to Live" motto etched outside the lecture hall in Sparks Building—the college's administrative home—reflects the college's mission to stimulate a love of learning. In order to fulfill this mission, the College of the Liberal Arts seeks to provide students with an educational experience that combines a traditional liberal arts foundation in communication, analytical thinking, ethical decision-making, and appreciation for other cultures and other times with learning opportunities that allow students to develop global interconnections, cultivate digital fluencies, and apply their knowledge and skills in real-world contexts. In so doing, our faculty and students play a key role in identifying, exploring, and resolving some of the most pressing issues facing society today—from studying democracy, to promoting civic engagement, to combating racial and class discrimination, to reducing global conflict, to educating the leaders of tomorrow.

Share your commencement photos with us using **#PSUGrad** and **#PSULiberalArtsGrad**.



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[@PennStateLiberalArts](https://www.facebook.com/PennStateLiberalArts)



[@PSULiberalArts](https://twitter.com/PSULiberalArts)

Join the Penn State Liberal Arts Alumni group on [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

STUDENT MARSHALS



COLLEGE MARSHAL/LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Amanda Mohamed

Amanda is the daughter of Stella and the late Ahmed Mohamed of State College, Pennsylvania.

A Paterno Fellow and Schreyer

Scholar, she is graduating with bachelor of arts degrees in Labor and Human Resources, Global and International Studies, and Spanish, and a minor in Civic and Community Engagement. Amanda had the opportunity to volunteer on two farms in Hawaii and Alaska through the Worldwide Opportunities on Organic Farms (WWOOF) USA program. Additionally, she was a Partnerships for International Research and Education (PIRE) Fellow in The Brain Tracking Lab, directed by Giuli Dussias, where she conducted her research in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Amanda also studied abroad in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and Santiago, Chile, through the Institute for the International Education of Students (IES Abroad). At Penn State, the McNair Scholar and Presidential Scholar was a co-director for Students Teaching Students and a Lion Ambassador. After graduation, Amanda will work as a human resources intern at First National Bank Corporation in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, this summer. Following her internship, she will attend the University of Maryland, College Park, to pursue a master's degree in higher education.



AFRICAN STUDIES

Jaclyn Schwartz

Jaclyn is the daughter of Susan and Robert Schwartz of Finleyville, Pennsylvania. She is graduating with bachelor of arts degrees in African Studies and Psychology

and a minor in Human Development and Family Studies. Jaclyn was the recipient of the 2024 Mona Shibley Bird Memorial Scholarship in Psychology, the 2023 Runtagh Scholarship in the College of the Liberal Arts, the 2023 Simpson-Marcher-Petersen Scholarship, and the 2022 African Studies Scholarship. At Penn State, Jaclyn was a research assistant for the Laboratory for Anxiety and Depression Research, a teaching assistant for the Department of Psychology, the academic chair of Alpha Xi Delta, and a member of the Panhellenic Judicial Board. After graduation, Jaclyn will attend graduate school to pursue a master's degree in counseling and licensure as a licensed professional counselor.



ANTHROPOLOGICAL SCIENCE

Ericka Pica

Ericka is the daughter of Erin and Richard Pica of Scranton, Pennsylvania. She is graduating with a bachelor of science degree in Anthropological Science. Ericka

was the recipient of the 2023 Evan Pugh Scholar Award and the 2022 President's Freshman Award. At Penn State, Ericka was a teaching assistant for the Department of Biology and the Department of Statistics and a member of Alpha Epsilon Delta, the National Health Preprofessional Honor Society at Penn State. She also studied abroad in Italy. After graduation, Ericka will attend Wayne State University, pursuing a master's degree in biological anthropology with a focus on forensics.



ANTHROPOLOGY

Kate Sarsfield

Kate is the daughter of Erin and Robert Sarsfield of Hershey, Pennsylvania. She is graduating with a bachelor of arts degree in Anthropology and minors

in Ethics and Holocaust and Genocide Studies. At Penn State, Kate was an intern for the Matson Museum of Anthropology, a teaching assistant for the Department of Anthropology, the treasurer and Panhellenic delegate of Omega Phi Alpha, and a THON 2024 dancer. After graduation, Kate will enter the workforce in preparation for applying to law school.



ASIAN STUDIES

Carollynn Stefanko

Carollynn is the daughter of Emily and Brian Stefanko of Poulsbo, Washington. She is graduating with a bachelor of arts degree in Asian Studies and minors in Korean

and World Literature. Carollynn worked abroad in the summer of 2022 in Seoul, South Korea, as a marketing and business intern for CRCC Asia. After graduation, Carollynn will move abroad to South Korea to teach English in preparation for applying to graduate school to pursue a master's degree in Asian studies and literature.

ABOUT THE MARSHALS: Student marshals are chosen to represent the College of the Liberal Arts on the basis of outstanding academic achievement and their contributions to Liberal Arts student life.

**CHINESE**
Sam Koenig

Sam is the son of Julie and Mike Koenig of Windsor, Colorado. He is graduating with bachelor of arts degrees in Chinese and International Politics. At Penn State,

Sam was the philanthropy chair of Beta Sigma Beta, a World in Conversation facilitator, an undergraduate research assistant for the Department of Asian Studies, and a member of Penn State Hillel. After graduation, Sam will work as a litigation assistant at Kobre & Kim in preparation for applying to law school.

**CLASSICS AND ANCIENT MEDITERRANEAN STUDIES**
Grace Blaha

Grace is the daughter of Martha and John Blaha of Los Altos, California. A Paterno Fellow and Schreyer Scholar, she is

graduating with bachelor of arts degrees in Classics and Ancient Mediterranean Studies and Labor and Human Resources, a bachelor of science degree in Anthropology, and a minor in Jewish Studies. At Penn State, Grace was a museum assistant for the Matson Museum of Anthropology, a research assistant for the Behavioral Endocrinology and Evolution Lab, the commander of Apollo Benefitting THON, a teaching assistant for the Department of Anthropology and the Department of Communication Arts and Sciences, an undergraduate researcher in the MicroARCH Lab, and a member of Lambda Alpha, the National Anthropology Honor Society. She also studied abroad in Italy and Greece. After graduation, Grace will enter the workforce.

**COMMUNICATION ARTS AND SCIENCES**
Hayden D'Elena

Hayden is the son of Juliann and John D'Elena of Mahwah, New Jersey. A Paterno Fellow and Schreyer Scholar, he is graduating

with bachelor of arts degrees in Communication Arts and Sciences and Political Science and minors in Chinese and Rhetoric. Hayden is the recipient of the 2023 Richard B. Gregg Award for Scholarly Excellence, the 2023 Evan Pugh Scholar Award, the 2022 President Sparks Award, the 2022 American Mock Trial Association All-Region Award, and the 2021 President's Freshman Award. He has also received a 2023 Michael Hodes Scholarship in Communication Arts and Sciences and a 2022 Kim Anderson Memorial Scholarship in Political Science. At Penn State, Hayden was the chief justice of the University Park Undergraduate Association (UPUA), director of outreach for Lion Caucus, tournament director of the Mock Trial Association, and a speaking mentor for the Undergraduate Speaking Center. After graduation, Hayden will take a gap year to prepare for applying to law school.

**COMPARATIVE LITERATURE**
Sydney Burns

Sydney is the daughter of Angela and William Burns of Bethel Park, Pennsylvania. A Paterno Fellow and Schreyer Scholar, she is graduating with bachelor of arts degrees in

Comparative Literature and English and a minor in Greek. Sydney is the recipient of the 2022 John W. Moore, Jr. Undergraduate Award in English, the 2022 Samuel P. Bayard Award, and the 2022 President Walker Award. She also received the 2023 Agnes Kennedy Tiley Scholarship, the 2022 Martha Conner Memorial Award, and the 2022 Benjamin Cantwell Memorial Scholarship in the College of the Liberal Arts. At Penn State, Sydney was a Center for American Literary Studies intern for the Department of English, an outreach intern for the Department of Comparative Literature, a writing peer tutor for the Writing Center at Penn State Learning, and president of the Comparative Literature Club for two consecutive years. After graduation, Sydney will attend the University of Cambridge, pursuing a master of philosophy degree in English studies.

**CRIMINOLOGY**
Kira Soricelli

Kira is the daughter of Tammy and Jason Soricelli of Milford, New Jersey. A Schreyer Scholar, she is graduating with bachelor of arts degrees in Criminology and English

and minors in Sociology and Psychology. At Penn State, Kira was a founding member of the United Nations Campus Advocates; a teaching assistant for the Department of Sociology and Criminology; an event coordinator for Take Back the Night; secretary of the Sunny State Club; a peer adviser for the Liberal Arts Office of Academic Advising; and a brother of Phi Sigma Pi, Phi Beta Kappa, and Phi Alpha Delta. After graduation, Kira will attend Antonin Scalia Law School at George Mason University to pursue her juris doctorate.

**ECONOMICS**
Rithvik Aloney

Rithvik is the son of Jyothi Kiran Aloney of Houston, Texas. He is graduating with a bachelor of science degree in Economics.

Rithvik is a recipient of the 2024 and 2023 Evan Pugh Scholar Awards and the 2022 President Walker Award. At Penn State, he was a grading assistant for the Department of Economics and a member of the Derivatives Association and the Investment Association. After graduation, Rithvik will attend the University of Pennsylvania to pursue a master's degree in computer science.

**ENGLISH****Troi Howell**

Troi is the daughter of Desiree and Derwin Howell of Oswego, Illinois. A Schreyer Scholar, she is graduating with a bachelor of arts degree in English and a minor in African

American Studies. Troi is a 2024 Fulbright semi-finalist and the recipient of numerous Liberal Arts scholarships. Her work has been presented at the 2021 Smeal College of Business S.T.A.R.T. Conference and the 2021 National Conference on Undergraduate Research. She also was awarded the 2024 Lehman Award in Nonfiction from the Department of English and placed third in the 2021 Smeal College of Business S.T.A.R.T. Diversity Contest. At Penn State, Troi was a 2023–24 Bednar Conservation Intern through University Libraries and community belonging educator for the Center for Social Change and Belonging. She pursued four independent research projects on American film portrayals of enslavement and the Black American experience. After graduation, Troi will pursue her Fulbright Study and Research Award plan and prepare for applying to graduate school to pursue a master’s degree in library and information science or a doctorate in African American studies.

**FRENCH AND FRANCOPHONE STUDIES****Lauren Mazzatesta**

Lauren is the daughter of Christine and Richard Mazzatesta of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. A Paterno Fellow and Schreyer Scholar, she

is graduating with a bachelor of science degree in French and Francophone Studies and bachelor of arts degrees in English and History. At Penn State, Lauren was the president of Phi Alpha Theta, the National History Honor Society; a Heritage Archival Processing Project intern for the University Club; a member of Phi Beta Kappa; and a representative at the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders in the summer of 2023. After graduation, Lauren will attend Penn State Dickinson Law to pursue her juris doctorate to become an attorney and advocate for international human rights or family law.

**GERMAN****Merel Padt**

Merel is the daughter of Janet van Hell and Frans Padt of State College, Pennsylvania. A Paterno Fellow and Schreyer Scholar, she is graduating with a bachelor of

arts degree in German, a bachelor of science degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders, and a minor in Human Development and Family Studies. At Penn State, Merel was an undergraduate research assistant for the Speech Production Laboratory, led by Ji Min Lee, and conducted research abroad in the Netherlands last summer through the National Science Foundation’s Partnerships for International Research and Education (PIRE) program. She also served as the president and programming director of the Language and Linguistics Club. After graduation, Merel will attend graduate school for speech-language pathology to become a speech-language pathologist.

**GLOBAL AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES****Olivia Bratton**

Olivia is the daughter of Julie and Darwin Bratton of Hummelstown, Pennsylvania. A Schreyer Scholar, she is graduating with a bachelor

of science degree in Global and International Studies and a bachelor of arts degree in Political Science. At Penn State, Olivia served as a mentor for incoming Schreyer Scholars, a member of Gamma Phi Beta, and a content writer for the Global and International Studies program newsletter. During her third year, she studied abroad in Barcelona, Spain, an influential and life-changing experience that expanded her cultural knowledge and awareness. After graduation, Olivia will attend law school to pursue a career in international law.

**HISTORY****Ashlee Wilson**

Ashlee is the daughter of Rebecca Hazekamp of Topsham, Maine, and Scott Wilson of Milford, Pennsylvania. She is graduating with a bachelor of arts degree in

History, a minor in Political Science, and certificates in Holocaust and Genocide Studies and Human Geography. At Penn State, Ashlee received the 2021 President’s Freshman Award and 2022 President Sparks Award, was a research intern for the Armsby Respiration Calorimeter Museum, and served in multiple leadership roles for the Phi Sigma Pi National Honor Fraternity. In 2022, she also studied abroad in the United Kingdom at Leeds International Summer School. After graduation, Ashlee will pursue a career helping others as a legal assistant while she obtains her paralegal certification.



INTEGRATED SOCIAL SCIENCES **Renee Gibson**

Renee is the wife of Kevin Gibson and mother of Jacob and Clare Gibson of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. She is graduating with a bachelor of science degree in Integrated

Social Sciences. Renee credits Penn State World Campus for getting her where she is today. Her daughter, Clare, will also graduate from Penn State this spring. Throughout her undergraduate education, Renee admired the remarkable demonstration of what Penn State students can accomplish together during THON. She also enjoyed the atmosphere of Penn State football games and being part of the team's loyal community. After graduation, Renee will continue working to support and advance the objectives of companies and institutions that serve the public's best interests.



INTERNATIONAL POLITICS **Noah Eakin**

Noah is the son of Tracey and Lawrence Eakin of McMurray, Pennsylvania. He is graduating with a bachelor of arts degree in International Politics and minors in

Business and the Liberal Arts and Chinese. At Penn State, Noah served as engagement manager and director of the Nittany Lion Consulting Group and was a member of Club Powerlifting. Last summer, he interned as an investment analyst at Vista Investment Management. After graduation, Noah will join BNY Mellon in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, as an operations analyst in a two-year development program.



ITALIAN **Victoria Snyder**

Victoria is the daughter of Debra and Stephen Snyder of Larchmont, New York. A Paterno Fellow and Schreyer Scholar, she is graduating with a bachelor of science degree

in Italian and a bachelor of arts degree in English. At Penn State, Victoria was a member of the figure skating team and a head figure skating instructor at Pegula Ice Arena. She spent a year studying abroad in Perugia, Italy, where she embraced Italian culture and developed her Italian language skills. While in Italy, Victoria collaborated with educators at a local high school as an English language teaching assistant to help bring a native English perspective to Italian classrooms. She is also a member of Gamma Kappa Alpha, the National Italian Honor Society. After graduation, Victoria will return to Italy to continue her studies in Italian language and culture at L'Università per Stranieri di Perugia (the University for Foreigners of Perugia).



JAPANESE **Siyu Qian**

Siyu is the daughter of Chi Zhang and Ganbo Qian of Shanghai, China. She is graduating with a bachelor of arts degree in Japanese and a bachelor of science degree in

Finance. At Penn State, Siyu received the President's Freshman Award and a Certificate of Excellence in Japanese. Her favorite class was ASIA 200, because she learned more about her native language, Chinese, and her major, Japanese, from different perspectives. After graduation, Siyu will attend Columbia University in New York City, New York, to continue her studies in finance to work in a leading investment firm.



LAW AND SOCIETY **Jazmin Sorensen**

Jazmin is the wife of Christoffer Sorensen and mother of Isabella Sorensen, currently residing in San Clemente, California. She is graduating with a bachelor of arts

degree in Law and Society and a minor in Political Science. Jazmin took online courses through Penn State World Campus and explored different perspectives from students worldwide. She is open to new challenges and responsibilities; however, the most important plans for her future are related to her role as a mother and inspiration to her children. After graduation, Jazmin will continue to develop her skills and gain more experience in the legal industry.



LINGUISTICS **Grace Smith**

Grace is the daughter of Elizabeth Smith and Glen Smith of Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. A Paterno Fellow and Schreyer Scholar, she is graduating with a

bachelor of arts degree in Linguistics and minors in Music Performance and History. At Penn State, Grace received many awards, scholarships, and honors, all of which have allowed her a well-rounded college experience. She was involved in many extracurricular activities such as serving as vice president of the Concert Choir and a member of Club Climbing. Grace also worked as a research assistant for the Linguistics program, where she developed linguistic coding skills, and as a communications intern for the Paterno Fellows Program. After graduation, Grace will attend graduate school for speech-language pathology to pursue work in pediatric autism.



MIDDLE EAST STUDIES

Julia Welp

Julia is the daughter of Janet and Keith Welp of Macungie, Pennsylvania. A Paterno Fellow and Schreyer Scholar, she is graduating with bachelor of arts degrees in

Middle East Studies, History, and Political Science, and a minor in Global Security. At Penn State, she was a member of Oriana Singers for eight semesters and Glee Club Benefitting THON where she served as the family relations chair. After graduation, Julia will pursue a doctorate in history to become a history professor or museum curator.



ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Sharon Cohen

Sharon is the daughter of Faye Bissonnette of Dunwoody, Georgia, and Roy Huff of Powhatan, Virginia. She is graduating with a bachelor of arts degree in Organizational

Leadership. Sharon completed her education online through Penn State World Campus and was a member of Pi Delta Chi, the National Adult Learner Honor Society. She also recently ran her sixty-fifth half marathon. After graduation, Sharon will seek employment in the human resources field and take the SHRM-CP certification exam this fall.



ORGANIZATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION

William Dexter Fowler

William of Las Vegas, Nevada, is graduating with a bachelor of science degree in Organizational

and Professional Communication. Before completing his college education online through Penn State World Campus, he was a professional baseball player and won the 2016 MLB World Series with the Chicago Cubs. William was also a franchise player with the St. Louis Cardinals and a bronze medalist at the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing, China. Currently, he works as a television sportscaster for Marquee Sports Network. After graduation, William will start a production company focused on bridging the communication gap between entertainers, athletes, and the broader audience through different media platforms.



PHILOSOPHY

Madison Phillips

Madison is the daughter of Stephanie and Ralph Phillips of New Kensington, Pennsylvania. A Schreyer Scholar, she is graduating with bachelor of arts degrees in

Philosophy and Political Science. At Penn State, Madison was a teaching assistant and learning coordinator for BISC 003 Environmental Science and a PHIL 105 Philosophy of Law student mentor and undergraduate research assistant, under the supervision of Eduardo Mendieta. She also studied abroad in Aix-en-Provence, France, for three weeks during the summer of 2023, where she applied and practiced her French language skills. After graduation, Madison will take a gap year to pursue service-related work before attending law school to earn a juris doctorate and work as an advocate for the environment and underserved populations in the United States.



POLITICAL SCIENCE

Amita Diarra

Amita is the daughter of Gillian Blackman-Diarra and Abdoul Diarra of Lanham, Maryland. A Paterno Fellow, Schreyer Scholar, and Provost Scholar, she is graduating

with a bachelor of arts degree in Political Science and minors in French and Francophone Studies and Sexuality and Gender Studies. At Penn State, Amita served as a research assistant for political science professors Sona Golder, Gregory Kruczek, and Erin Heidt-Forsythe and was a member of the student-led television talk show *Culture Central*. She also participated in the Ralph Bunche Summer Institute and presented her research at the 2023 American Political Science Association annual meeting. After graduation, Amita will attend graduate school to pursue a doctorate in political science to become a professor and researcher.



PSYCHOLOGY

Rebecca Burns

Rebecca is the daughter of Ruda and Richard Burns of Bellwood, Pennsylvania. A Schreyer Scholar, she is graduating with a bachelor of science degree in Psychology.

At Penn State, she was a research assistant for numerous psychology labs; the research chair of Psi Chi, the International Honor Society in Psychology; the vice president and treasurer of the Bethune Society, a community service student organization; and a member of The Navigators, a Christian campus ministry community. After graduation, Rebecca will attend graduate school to become a professor of psychology.

**ROTC****Mia Jordan**

Mia is the daughter of Cherie and Bruce Jordan of Johnstown, Pennsylvania. She is graduating with a bachelor of science degree

in Economics. Mia received the 2024 Vice Provost's Award for Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) Scholar-Leader. At Penn State, Mia served as a company commander and battalion command sergeant major as part of the Penn State Army ROTC program and Cadet Relations team. She was also recognized as a 2023 Guaranteed Reserve Forces Duty (GRFD) Outstanding Cadet. Aside from ROTC, Mia was a teacher and member of Volé Dance Company, the largest dance organization at Penn State University Park, and was involved heavily in their THON organization in raising awareness and funds for childhood cancer. After graduation, Mia will commission as a United States Army officer.

**RUSSIAN****William Tatcher**

William of Centre Hall, Pennsylvania, is graduating with a bachelor of arts degree in Russian and a bachelor of science degree in Economics.

A Paterno Fellow and Schreyer Scholar, he was a member of the Russian Studies Club and the International Politics Club. After graduation, William will prepare to apply to and attend law school.

**SOCIAL DATA ANALYTICS****Yeji Park**

Yeji is the daughter of Nam Jin Kim and Jong Sung Park of Seongnam-si, South Korea. She is graduating with a bachelor of science

degree in Social Data Analytics. At Penn State, Yeji worked as a research assistant for the Center for Social Data Analytics (C-SoDA) and participated in the 2024 Bardusch Family IdeaMakers Challenge as part of Team Jinni, who placed third for their proposal of a privacy-focused digital journaling platform with friend-like features. After graduation, Yeji will return home to South Korea to pursue work in data analysis and machine learning, where she can further develop her AI and big data skills and expertise while contributing to the advancement of technology and innovation.

**SOCIOLOGY****Jamie Nguyen**

Jamie is the daughter of Thu Pham of Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania. A Paterno Fellow, Schreyer Scholar, and Chaiken Scholar, she is graduating with bachelor of arts degrees in Sociology and Film

Production and a minor in Horticulture. At Penn State, Jamie was a videographer for 46LIVE, the student-run THON livestream production team; videographer and editor for CommAgency; and a resident assistant. A first-generation college student who hopes to create social commentary films about the Asian American diaspora, she interned at Los Angeles, California-based film production companies Monkeypaw Productions and Samuel Goldwyn Films. After graduation, Jamie will work as the inaugural studio production intern for The Clorox Company, where she will create, film, and edit high-quality marketing materials for household brands such as Burt's Bees, Brita, Hidden Valley, Glad, and Clorox at the company's in-house production studio in Oakland, California.

**SPANISH****Lindsay Conrad**

Lindsay is the daughter of Cassandra and Brian Conrad of Fleetwood, Pennsylvania. She is graduating with bachelor of science degrees in Spanish and Labor and Human Resources. At Penn State,

Lindsay studied abroad through two summer programs in Ronda, Spain, and Cádiz, Spain, and worked as a peer career intern for the Bank of America Career Services Center. She was also the president of the Society for Human Resource Management, treasurer of the Liberal Arts Ambassadors, and a member of the Spanish Club and DiscipleMakers Christian Fellowship. After graduation, Lindsay will complete a human resources internship at Evonik, one of the world's leading chemical companies, before returning to Penn State to complete her master's degree in Human Resources and Employment Relations. Once she has earned her master's degree, she hopes to secure a human resources position for an international company so she can continue to use her Spanish language skills.

**WOMEN'S STUDIES****Nia Smith**

Nia is the daughter of Naree Hoyo of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. A Schreyer Scholar, Bunton Waller Fellow, and Chaiken Scholar, she is graduating with bachelor of arts degrees in Women's Studies and

Psychology, a minor in Child Maltreatment and Advocacy Studies, and a certificate in Diversity Studies. At Penn State, she was a research assistant for numerous professors; the president of Hope Here Hope Now, a human trafficking awareness student organization; and a peer success coach in the Chaiken Center for Student Success. After graduation, Nia will pursue a doctorate in clinical psychology to study child maltreatment prevention and intervention efforts.

BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES

Bachelor of Arts

Mary Diallo

AFRICAN STUDIES

Bachelor of Arts

Abdul Adl Balogun

Talisha Brown

Mackenzie DeArment

Carley Anne Palkon

Jaclyn Schwartz**

ANTHROPOLOGICAL SCIENCE

Bachelor of Science

Grace Blaha***

Kathryn Casey

Julie Colarusso

Emma Cummings

John Falcone

Gwendolyn Fry

Samantha Hagar

Noah Hunt

Daniel Inglese

Meghan Malloy

Kerian Martinez Pitre

Jeremy Massung

Ericka Pica***

Natalia Sanabria Torres

Ella Sibilila

Lariana Teran*

ANTHROPOLOGY

Bachelor of Arts

Colin Bannon

Katey Benedict

Riley Foster

Q'hanna Gooden

David Hay

Matthew Hines

Makenzie Hoag

Margaret Matous*

Jack Pringle

Jason Romanoski

Leah Sanchez

Kate Sarsfield**

Alexander Schneider

Ashley Showalter

Mallory Simon

Logan Wiseman

ASIAN STUDIES

Bachelor of Arts

Maxwell Magyar

Emily Ohmer

Coby Sophabmixay

Jasia Spencer

Carollynn Stefanko*

CHINESE

Bachelor of Arts

Jada Edwards

Jocelyn Fafard

Weijia Jiang*

Samuel Koenig

Hannah Lee

Morgan Urlaub*

CLASSICS AND ANCIENT MEDITERRANEAN STUDIES

Bachelor of Arts

Grace Blaha***

Marissa Cruz

Braden Dyreson

Carlyle Engel

John Falcone

David Hay

Makenzie Hoag

Ryan Jackson

Kristen Kitch*

Meghan Malloy

Kerian Martinez Pitre

Andres Rodriguez

Alexander Schneider

John Thomas**

COMMUNICATION ARTS AND SCIENCES

Bachelor of Arts

Juliana Bachiri**

Chantel Bennett

Hudson Bohn

Julia Briselli

Elena Caputo

Thomas Cartnick

Hunter Davia-Zive

Hayden D'Elena***

Gavin Emery

Benjamin Gendron

Abigail Goulstone

Avery Heverly**

Andrew Kandravi

Dylan Karpf

Gabriella Kline

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Peri Sallah
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Nilakshi Sarkar***
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Ansley Robbins
Jordan Roberts*
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Sadie Salgado
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Isabella Vazquez
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Mikah Watkins
Magdalene Webb
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Jessica Yeo
Jordan Yerger***
Cameron Yousaitis
Alexis Zahorchak
Kayla Zand*
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Keith Zelig III
Micaela Zelinsky
Huimo Zi
Chloe Ziegler
Gabrielle Zuckerman

RUSSIAN

Bachelor of Arts

William Thatcher***

SOCIAL DATA ANALYTICS

Bachelor of Science

Yeji Park*
Poorvika Vijayanand

SOCIOLOGY

Bachelor of Arts

Elisabeth Ballard
Jack Bell
Lauren Burnham
Ryan Coughlan
Michelle Dakis*
Jiacheng Ding
Molly Donlon**
Katherine Faour
Celine Garcia
Alexandra Gow
Harini Gunasekera
Grant Harm Miller
Gizelle Ingersoll**
Karly Jardin
Min Kim
Julia Kramer
Lauren Leppert

Chuhang Liu
Andrew Massie
Jacob Myers
Jamie Nguyen***
Lauren O'Rourke**
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Danielle Rainerman
Lily Rubin***
Madeline Shine
Savannah Stankelis
Mary Sundholm
Taylor Trammell
Kathy Vargas
Peter Varghese
Lidia Vitoc
Alex Winicov
Elyssa Zucker

Bachelor of Science

Ashley Campos
Hayden Fried
Xintong Ge
Ava Hofmann
Jakirah Johnson*
Azziyah LaRue
Colby Lau
Xiangmin Mao
Hannah Persaud**

SPANISH

Bachelor of Arts

Stephanie Beinhauer
Ryan Coughlan
Jillian Coughlin
Brian Einhaus Jr.*
Riley Emel
Mary Griswold
Stevens Gustafson
Raegan Holzhter*
Patrick Kenney
Rafael Lara Matos
Isabella Macon*
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Zairi Mercader
Amanda Mohamed**
Grace Norris
Lily Pershica
Kaitlyn Plummer
Allison Savio
Kathy Vargas
Luke Vargas*
Samantha Verrelli*
Caden Vitti*
Natalee West
Dulcia Wigfield

Bachelor of Science

Lindsay Conrad***
Collin Murphy
Kendyll Vandlikr

WOMEN'S STUDIES

Bachelor of Arts

Alexis Abdullah
Amy DiFebo
Elly Miller
Anastasia Schechterly**
Nia Smith*
Jaina Spatola
Nina Thomas
Bachelor of Science
Emily Geesey

ASSOCIATE DEGREES

LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Chad DeShano
Bryce Herman
Ashley Jack
Adam Johns
Jessica Molter

MULTIDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

Shane Acernese
Jazmin Rae Agsalud
Elizabeth Ahkivgak
Emily Barron
Christopher Bishop
Jennifer Bradley
Brooke Braham
Brayden Carpinello
Livia Etter
Camila Gonzalez-Sotomayor
Erin Leonard
Michelle Malinich
Erin Norman
Cristie Sampson
Alan Schaffranek Jr.
Patrick Sclafani
Cheyenne Shoff
Leslie Shotwell
Ronald Sprankle
Kiley Vollmer
Shelby Walkusky
Paul Wilson Jr.
Sasha Zafar

NOTE ABOUT DISTINCTION: This group is made up of those students who have completed the required number of credits at the University and who are in the top 12 percent of their graduating class in their college. The 12 percent is divided into 2 percent summa cum laude (highest distinction), 4 percent magna cum laude (high distinction), and 6 percent cum laude (distinction). This list was produced on February 22, 2024, as an unofficial list of graduating students earning honors.

*** = highest distinction
** = high distinction
* = distinction

NOTE: This program contains the list of candidates for graduation as of March 14, 2024. Students who indicated their intent to graduate after that production date are not listed. Subject to completion of all degree requirements, degrees will be conferred as indicated upon the individuals listed herein and upon such others as may meet the requirements. If you have questions about your name, degree, or distinction listed in this program, please reach out to David Lingenfelter at dxl127@psu.edu. Congratulations on your achievements!

SEATING CHART

Department Banners	Stage		Department Banners
<p>Faculty</p> <p>Political Science International Politics Social Data Analytics Law and Society Integrated Social Sciences</p>	<p>Faculty</p> <p>Political Science International Politics Social Data Analytics Law and Society Integrated Social Sciences</p>	<p>Faculty</p> <p>Anthropology Anthropological Science</p> <p>Communication Arts and Sciences Organizational and Professional Communication</p> <p>Philosophy</p> <p>Comparative Literature French and Francophone Studies Global and International Studies</p>	<p>Faculty</p> <p>Anthropology Anthropological Science</p> <p>Communication Arts and Sciences Organizational and Professional Communication</p> <p>Philosophy</p> <p>Comparative Literature French and Francophone Studies Global and International Studies</p>
<p>Psychology</p>	<p>Psychology</p>	<p>German Russian Linguistics</p> <p>Japanese Chinese Asian Studies Korean</p> <p>Italian Spanish</p> <p>History Jewish Studies Medieval Studies Middle East Studies Latin American Studies Classics and Ancient Mediterranean Studies</p>	<p>German Russian Linguistics</p> <p>Japanese Chinese Asian Studies Korean</p> <p>Italian Spanish</p> <p>History Jewish Studies Medieval Studies Middle East Studies Latin American Studies Classics and Ancient Mediterranean Studies</p>
<p>Economics</p>	<p>Economics</p>	<p>Criminology</p> <p>Sociology</p> <p>English</p> <p>Labor and Employment Relations Labor and Human Resources Organizational Leadership</p> <p>Multidisciplinary Studies</p> <p>Women's Studies</p>	<p>Criminology</p> <p>Sociology</p> <p>English</p> <p>Labor and Employment Relations Labor and Human Resources Organizational Leadership</p> <p>Multidisciplinary Studies</p> <p>African American Studies African Studies</p>

THE PATERNO FELLOWS PROGRAM

The Paterno Fellows Program is an innovative program offered jointly by the College of the Liberal Arts and Schreyer Honors College that encourages students to challenge themselves academically and distinguish themselves in areas traditionally associated with the liberal arts—ethics, service, and leadership; excellence in communication; and intercultural awareness.

Catherine Ackerman**	Julia Mertes***
Juliana Bachiri**	Amanda Mohamed**
Grace Blaha***	Jamie Nguyen***
Benjamin Brauser**	Susan Pacer
Julia Briselli	Merel Padt
Sydney Burns**	Lily Pershica
Kylie Cabot	Alana Petrovani Bird
Madison Campsey**	Lauren Phelps**
Jordynn Cheattle	Abigail Picozzi*
Aditya Datta*	Sneha Prem Chandran
Hayden D'Elena***	Isabella Pusateri
Braden Dyreson	Anjali Rampersaud
Kelsey Evans**	Elizabeth Reber**
Grace Farash	Ethan Renz
Gwendolyn Fry	Najee Rodriguez
Anna Fuori	Allison Savio
Saloni Gauniyal***	Rachel Seiden
Arushi Grover*	Ryan Setzenfand*
Paige Harris	Emily Shiels**
Madelyn Hindman*	Grace Smith*
Evan Jones***	Allison Staricka
Simran Kakar	Gabrielle Stokes**
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Montserrat Kobeh	William Thatcher***
Jihee Lee**	John Thomas**
Teresa Leonard***	Johanna Tirone*
Sarah Lombardi	Teara Veney
Jenna Lugo	Caden Vitti*
Peri Manoff**	Julia Welp***
Lauren Mazzatesta**	

THANKS TO OUR RETIRING FACULTY AND STAFF

These Liberal Arts faculty and staff retired this year. We are grateful for their service to the college, the University, and our students.

Thomas Beebee, Edwin Erle Sparks Professor of Comparative Literature and German

Sheri Berenbaum, Professor of Psychology and Pediatrics

Stephen Browne, Liberal Arts Professor of Communication Arts and Sciences

Melissa Hardy, Distinguished Professor of Sociology and Demography

Robin Haynes, Administrative Support Assistant, Sparks Building

Sherrilee Gilliland, Administrative Support Assistant, Department of Psychology

Margaret Michels, Teaching Professor of Communication Arts and Sciences

George Milner, Distinguished Professor of Anthropology

Aldon L. Nielsen, George and Barbara Kelly Professor of American Literature

Glenn Palmer, Liberal Arts Professor of Political Science

Donald Redford, Professor of Classics and Ancient Mediterranean Studies and History

Jodi Ripka, IT Asset Management Specialist, Information Technology Liberal Arts

Darrell Steffensmeier, Kramer Professor of Criminology and Professor of Sociology and Criminology

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