

DEGREE CELEBRATION

College of Science

19TH ANNUAL CELEBRATION

MAY 16, 2025, 2 p.m.
EagleBank Arena



Order of Ceremony

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL*

NATIONAL ANTHEM*

OPENING REMARKS

Gerald L. R. Weatherspoon, PhD
Associate Dean for Undergraduate and Graduate Student Affairs

WELCOME

Cody W. Edwards, PhD
Dean

INTRODUCTION OF GRADUATE SPEAKER

Cody W. Edwards, PhD
Dean

GRADUATE ADDRESS

Paul Misener, JD '93
Founder and Principal of Misener Innovation LLC

DEGREE CELEBRATION ADDRESS

Natasha Latouf, BS Physics '21
Doctor of Philosophy in Physics

PRESENTATION OF STUDENT AWARDS

PRESENTATION OF COLLEGE OF SCIENCE DISSERTATION MEDAL**

PRESENTATION OF DEGREES

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE ALUMNI GREETINGS

Michelle Ryan, PhD Environmental Science and Policy '15
College of Science Alumni Chapter President

CLOSING REMARKS

Cody W. Edwards, PhD
Dean

RECESSIONAL*

The national anthem will be sung by our very own Genevieve McKenna, academic and administrative specialist, Department of Biology. The colors are presented by the Fairfax County Police Ceremonial Honor Guard.

**The audience is asked to stand.*

***The College of Science Dissertation Medals are presented to recognize the effort and level of achievement associated with defending and successfully completing a PhD dissertation.*



From the Dean

Dear George Mason Science Class of 2025,

Congratulations on your graduation from George Mason University, Virginia's largest, most innovative, and most diverse public research institution. You have achieved a tremendous personal milestone and today we celebrate your many accomplishments, surrounded by your family, friends, and members of our George Mason Science community.

Our degree celebration keynote address will be delivered by Paul Misener, the founder and principal of Misener Innovation LLC, a consultancy dedicated to helping organizations innovate, advocate, and communicate. A global vice president at Amazon.com for 23 years, most recently vice president for global innovation policy and communications, Paul was a leader in Amazon's culture of innovation, and he represented Amazon to

external organizations and internal colleagues worldwide. Who better to discuss the value of the degree received, true partnerships, and lifelong learning than Paul, whose education included his senior research in physics, before receiving his undergraduate degrees in electrical engineering and computer science from Princeton University. Also an attorney and alumnus, Paul received his juris doctor from George Mason in 1993, the university's Distinguished Achievement Award in 2001, and an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from the university in 2023.

Today's celebration might encourage you to take a moment to reflect on what brought you here to pursue your academic goals and dreams. As you recall your time at George Mason, both now and in the future, remember the significant moments that sharpened your scientific expertise and strengthened your ability to collaborate, communicate, and perhaps even navigate through change—especially those moments which still today can make you smile. Ideally, these experiences also forged your confidence and resilience; fostered your curiosity, grit, and determination; and broadened your perspective.

As a George Mason scientist, the intellectual tools you have acquired and successfully demonstrated during your time at George Mason will serve you well as you embark on the next exciting chapter of your life. Set ambitious goals for yourself to make a difference in your community, in your field, and in our world.

Then, come back to George Mason and share your stories with us. Stay connected to your professors, classmates, and those who have shaped your experience here. Always remember to show your Patriot Pride. You are, and always will be, a valued member of our Mason Nation.

On behalf of our entire George Mason Science community, please accept my heartfelt best wishes for your brilliant future of continued discovery and learning.

Cody W. Edwards
Dean, College of Science

Platform Party

COLLEGE ADMINISTRATION

Cody W. Edwards
Dean

Jennifer Bazaz Gettys
Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs and Strategic Enrollment

Andre Clayborne
Acting Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs

Paula Danquah-Brobby
Associate Dean of Access, Belonging, and Community Engagement

Pat Gillevet
Associate Dean for Research

Audrey Kelaher
Chief Advancement Officer

Tracy Mason
Assistant Dean for Strategic Communications and Marketing

Meghan St. George
Chief Business Officer

Gerald L. R. Weatherspoon
Associate Dean for Undergraduate and Graduate Student Affairs

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

Jay M. Dintaman, MD, FAAP
*Col., MC, U.S. Army
Commandant, SOM, GEO, Enlisted to Medical Degree
Preparatory Program (EMDP2)
Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences*

Lisa M. Harris, DO, FAAFP
*Director, EMDP2
Associate Professor of Family Medicine
Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences*

Ashlyn E. Howard
*M.Sgt., U.S. Air Force Senior Enlisted Advisor
Student Enlisted Advisor, EMDP2 and GEO
Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences*

Jamaal I. Jones, BSN, RN
*Capt., AN, U.S. Army
Company Commander, GEO, EMDP2
Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences*

Janette Muir, PhD
*Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
Associate Professor, Communication and Integrative Studies
George Mason University*

Gustavo Ruiz, MBA, MSM
*Deputy Director, EMDP2
Uniformed Services University of the Health Science*

DEPARTMENT CHAIRS AND DIRECTORS

Mark Uhen
Chair, Atmospheric, Oceanic, and Earth Sciences

Geraldine Grant
Chair, Biology

William Hahn
Director, Advanced Biomedical Sciences Program

Mikell Paige
Chair, Chemistry and Biochemistry

Arie Croitoru
Acting Chair, Computational and Data Sciences

Gad Perry
Chair, Environmental Science and Policy

Mary Ellen O'Toole
Director, Forensic Science Program

Dieter Pfoser
Chair, Geography and Geoinformation Science

Saleet Jafri
Director, Interdisciplinary Program in Neuroscience

Maria Emelianenko
Chair, Mathematical Sciences

Ernest Barreto
Chair, Physics and Astronomy

Iosif Vaisman
Director, School of Systems Biology

FACULTY MARSHALS

Patrali Banerjee, Chemistry and Biochemistry

Nathan Burtch, Geography and Geoinformation Science

Joseph A. DiZinno, Forensic Science

Brian Eckenrode, Forensic Science

Elisabeth Epstein, Biology

Suzanne Gantar, Biology

Igor Griva, Mathematics

Ren Guerriero, Neuroscience

Vincent Hermoso, EMDP2

Denise J. Hunnell, Biology

Rebecca Jones, Chemistry

Younsung Kim, Environmental Science and Policy

Maction Komwa, Geography and Geoinformation Science

Gwendolyn (Wendy) Lewis, Neuroscience

Alexandra Masterson, Biology

Matthew Rice, Geography and Geoinformation Science

Kimberly Rule, Forensic Science

Allison Tomson, Biology

Diego Valderrama, Environmental Science and Policy

Monique van Hoek, School of Systems Biology

Anne Verhoeven, Biology

Sarah Ward, Chemistry and Biochemistry

Joseph Weingartner, Physics and Astronomy

Georgia Williams, Forensic Science

READERS

Paula Danquah-Brobby
Associate Dean, Access, Belonging, and Community Engagement

Christine Rosenfeld,
Geography and Geoinformation Science Department

College of Science: An Overview

The College of Science at George Mason University is a leader in scientific discovery and the creation of innovative solutions for the rapidly changing needs of today's world. The college prides itself on being home to a diverse population of students from across the United States and around the world. We are a magnet for minds interested in scientific disciplines, and we offer enhanced undergraduate and graduate research opportunities to our students. The college is also one of George Mason's leaders in entrepreneurship in the science and technology fields. With new discoveries, we are adding to George Mason's portfolio of patents, licenses, and spin-off companies.

We blend traditional science education with cutting-edge programs to prepare students for the most sought after and exciting careers in the field of science. We offer programs in disciplines as diverse as infectious diseases, drug discovery, geoinformatics, biology, chemistry, neuroscience, climate dynamics, environmental conservation, geology, materials science, physics, astronomy, forensic science, computational science, and applied mathematics. We encourage meaningful research at all levels of learning, pairing high-achieving undergraduate students with faculty mentors to undertake original projects. Many of our undergraduates go on to pursue advanced degrees in the sciences or medical professions, while others pursue careers in public service, nonprofit organizations, and the private sector. We also offer innovative minors, certificates, and graduate degree opportunities, as well as global, transfer-focused, and flexible online or hybrid programs that allow professionals the opportunity to reskill or change careers.

The College of Science serves the university through teaching Mason Core courses in a variety of scientific disciplines and leads the development of creative science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) initiatives to challenge and engage students at all levels. The college also serves the community and region as a resource for science education for K-12 students, teacher training, and community outreach programs.

Our faculty strive to impart creativity, rigorous, analytical thinking, and clear communication as they help students explore new ideas and develop novel approaches to problem-solving. Students are prepared for their roles as informed citizens in a complex, global society and are able to adapt to an ever-changing world.

We continue to push the boundaries of scientific discovery and education. Over the past year, George Mason College of Science faculty led collaborations and advised governments and organizations in diverse domains that include space, data, energy, water, climate, agriculture, and quantum materials. The college also launched programming to expand the intellectual curiosity of the next generation of scientists. Whether inside or outside the classroom, our science community cultivates a promising research future for new frontiers.

To learn more about our programs, research, and community outreach, please visit **science.gmu.edu**.

Let's celebrate!

Share today's photos, social posts, and graduation memories using the hashtags **#MasonScience**, **#MasonGrad**, and **#Mason2025** via the College of Science's social feeds on [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#), [X](#), and [Facebook](#).



2025 DEGREE CELEBRATION SPEAKER

Paul Misener, JD '93

Founder and Principal of Misener Innovation LLC



Paul Misener is the founder and principal of Misener Innovation LLC, a consultancy dedicated to helping organizations innovate, advocate, and communicate.

Misener, an engineer and scientist, received a bachelor of science in electrical engineering and computer science from Princeton University in 1985. He is also an attorney, who earned his juris doctor from George Mason University in 1993. George Mason presented Misener with a Distinguished Achievement Award in 2001 and an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters in 2023.

A global vice president at Amazon.com for 23 years, most recently as vice president for global innovation policy and communications, Misener represented Amazon to external organizations and internal colleagues worldwide. The founder of Amazon's global public policy organization, Misener built and led this team and served as the company's vice president for global public policy from February 2000 to May 2016. Misener has testified before U.S. Congress more than 30 times and many dozens of times before other policymaking bodies around the world. He has delivered hundreds of speeches and media interviews.

Misener has met hundreds of times with political leaders around the world, including heads of state, cabinet ministers, and legislators. In the United States, Misener has met with hundreds of representatives and senators, as well as dozens of times with state governors. Misener successfully negotiated policy agreements with many of these governors. Misener also established and, for several years, oversaw Amazon's economic development incentives program. For the two years (2015–16) that Amazon's CEO chaired the Business Council (a CEO-only group), Misener was his sole staffer.

In 2013, Misener chaired the technical subcommittee of the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration's advisory committee that recommended allowing commercial airline passengers to use portable electronics during taxi, takeoff, and landing. Prior to the recommendation from Misener's subcommittee, airline passengers around the world were barred from using electronic devices during taxi, takeoff, and landing; today electronic devices may be used gate to gate. Misener is also an inventor named in three patents.

Formerly a partner in the law firm of Wiley, Rein & Fielding, Misener previously served as the senior legal advisor to a commissioner of the U.S. Federal Communications Commission, and as Intel's manager of telecommunications and computer technology policy. In the mid-1990s, he cofounded and led the computer industry's Internet Access Coalition, which included Intel, Microsoft, and IBM, and which successfully blocked the imposition of telecom access charges on internet access. In the early 1990s, he was the assistant to the chairman of the Emmy Award-winning FCC Advisory Committee on Advanced Television Service, which established the system that underlies modern TV and computer displays.

Misener serves on the Inova Health System Board of Trustees; George Mason University's President's Innovation Advisory Council; and the Smithsonian-Mason School of Conservation Advisory Board. For

three years ending in mid-2024, Misener chaired the board of the foundation known as the Partnership Fund for Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, a nationally top-ranked STEM-focused public school in Northern Virginia. Misener also previously served on the Smithsonian Libraries and Archives Advisory Board (where he cochaired the board's Advancement Committee); the FCC's Technological Advisory Council; the Princeton Center for Information Technology Policy Advisory Board; the board and executive committee of the Northern Virginia Technology Council; and the board of the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce.

Misener loves to read, and his physical library holds well over 1,500 volumes, including hundreds of antiquarian books on 18th/19th century history, politics, natural philosophy, and methods of science. He established and co-leads The Misener Foundation, which supports organizations that foster and promote science and history education. Misener is an FCC-licensed amateur radio operator at the highest level (Amateur Extra Class, call sign KO4EUR). He also is a keel sailboat skipper certified by both the U.S. Sailing Association and the American Sailing Association.



2025 STUDENT SPEAKER

Natasha Latouf, BS Physics '21

Doctor of Philosophy in Physics



Natasha Latouf began her undergraduate journey as a physics major and Honors College student at George Mason University. Latouf leapt into research as a freshman and presented original work on the telluric influence of ground-based exoplanet observations at multiple conferences. She was part of a team that wrote the Code of Professional Conduct for the Department of Physics and Astronomy, codified in May 2020, and co-founded the grassroots organization Spectrum, which developed an extensive number of resources and events for students in physics and astronomy. Latouf took part in multiple public outreach and teaching events (e.g., as a featured exoplanet commentator on the Emmy-nominated *STEM in 30* show produced by the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum). As an undergraduate, Latouf won several scholarships and honors, including the George Mason Excellence Scholarship, Eugenie V. Mielczarek Endowed Scholarship, SCI-STEPS Summer Research

Fellowship, Carol Litchfield Endowed Scholarship, and the Dean's Award for Excellence in Service. She was also awarded the highly competitive National Science Foundation's Graduate Research Fellowship, funding her first three years in graduate school. Latouf graduated *cum laude* from George Mason in 2021 with a bachelor of science in physics.

Latouf decided to remain at George Mason for her graduate studies to work with Avi Mandell at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center on her dissertation work: the detection criteria for biosignatures in exoplanet atmospheres using the Habitable Worlds Observatory (HWO). Her dissertation also included a chapter on effective and ethical mentorship techniques for historically minoritized groups in physics and astronomy. From 2021 to 2025, Latouf worked on the Bayesian Analysis for Remote Biosignature Identification on exoEarths (BARBIE) project and was highly lauded for the name and design scheme. In 2024, Latouf was also awarded the highly competitive NASA Future Investigator of NASA Earth and Space Sciences and Technologies grant, thus funding her entire graduate career. She also remained one of the leaders of Spectrum over the course of her graduate career, while also becoming a member of the Board of Directors for The Neuroverse Initiative, the College of Science AJEDI Advisory Committee, Good Trouble Team President, and the Departmental Communications and Outreach Specialist. Most recently, she has become the project officer for internships for HWO.

In her graduate career, Latouf won more than \$180,000 in grants for herself and Spectrum, published five first-author papers and four second-author papers, and has contributed significantly to several more works still in preparation. She has directly mentored four post-baccalaureate students and been featured in media publications globally. Latouf is graduating in May from George Mason with her PhD in physics. She continues her journey now as a NASA Postdoctoral Program fellow at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center and aims to continue supporting HWO until it launches in the 2040s.

Alumni Greeting

Hello, new alumni! Congratulations on your graduation. Getting here has required a lot of hard work and your diploma is well earned. We would like to officially welcome you into the College of Science alumni community. We are here for you and want to help you stay engaged, however you would like to be involved. The College of Science Alumni Chapter is here to support your endeavors. Please visit **science.gmu.edu/alumni** to learn more about networking, mentorship, volunteering, and other opportunities we work to make available for you. If you have ideas, please share them with us.

Best of luck in what lies ahead. We hope to see you again at one of our upcoming alumni events!

Michelle Ryan, PhD Environmental Science and Policy '15
College of Science Chapter President

The College of Science Alumni Chapter was established as a conduit for graduates, families, and supporters of the college to discover new professional relationships and opportunities. Our goal is to strengthen the professional connections among industry, our alumni, and our current students. Please email us at **cosalum@gmu.edu** for more information.

College of Science Alumni Board Members

Michelle Ryan, PhD Environmental Science
and Public Policy '15
President

Ida Kondori, BA Biology '04
Vice President

Seth Ellsworth, BS Biology '22
Secretary

Nida Sharief, BS Biology '19,
MS Data Analytics Engineering '22
Treasurer

George Dodson, BSc Physics '73
Member-at-Large

Mark Monson, BS Biology '74
Member-at-Large (Past President)

Kellie Perry, PhD Biosciences-Microbiology
and Infectious Diseases '16
Member-at-Large

Emma Gregory, BS Environmental Science '20
MEAN Committee Chair

"When you graduate from George Mason, it can be easy to lose contact with the people you met while you were in college as you navigate the real world. Always continue to cultivate those relationships. Send a quick hello now and then—you never know when you'll need that connection!" —Francis Aguisanda '14

College of Science Dean's Awards

Dean's Undergraduate Student Award: Excellence in Academics and Research

Nicholas Lear

Dean's Graduate Student Award: Excellence in Research

Brandi Williams

Dean's Graduate Student Award: Excellence in Teaching

Frank Pryor

Dean's Student Award: Excellence in Service

Eric Youngsam Kim

Dean's Student Award: Excellence in Access, Belonging, and Community Engagement

Sergey Patsuk

Undergraduate Student Awards

DEPARTMENT OF ATMOSPHERIC, OCEANIC, AND EARTH SCIENCES

Outstanding Student in Atmospheric Sciences (Meteorology Option)

Hanna Tucker

Outstanding Student in Atmospheric Sciences (Computational Atmospheric Sciences Option)

Rachel Davis

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

Biology Honors Award

Tom Freschi

Ema Tahmazi

Faculty Award

Eatha Taylor Lynch

Haley Pak

Nicole Sanchez

Research Semester Award

Kathryn Orlosky

Elizabeth Repogle

Rockwood Pre-Health Award

Arsha Barzgar (Dental)

Deepinder Kaur (Pharmacy)

Azada Samadi Naderi (DO)

Nicol Safatli (Pharmacy)

Senior Award

Destinee Biyoudi-Monthe

Lauren N. Distad

Ikraam Mahamed

Writing Across the Curriculum Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Writing in Biology

Leah Pistone

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY AND BIOCHEMISTRY

American Chemical Society of Washington Senior Award

Amanda McGrath

American Chemical Society Undergraduate Award in Inorganic Chemistry

Quinn Griffin

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTATIONAL AND DATA SCIENCES

Outstanding Undergraduate Academic Performance

Sunbin Kim

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND POLICY

Outstanding Student in Conservation

Jessica Winey

Outstanding Student in Ecological Science

Dylan Raney

Outstanding Student in Human and Ecosystem Response to Climate Change

Julia Frost

**Outstanding Student in Marine, Estuarine, and
Freshwater Ecology**

Emma McDonald

Outstanding Student in Wildlife

Chloe Fowler

FORENSIC SCIENCE PROGRAM

Faculty Award

Chhivhun Chan

Alexandra Tyler

Achievement Award

Morgan Altizer

Mireia Merenciano Garcia

Ethan Quiambao

Shayla Tran

Service Award

Diana Marin

Danica Spencer

**DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND
GEOINFORMATION SCIENCE**

Outstanding Undergraduate Student (BA)

Logan Parsons

Outstanding Undergraduate Student (BS)

Rebekah Wehner

Outstanding Service Award

Claudia Belk

Outstanding Undergraduate Student

Owen Hughes

**INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAM
IN NEUROSCIENCE**

Outstanding Academic Achievement in Neuroscience

Carolyn Soltani

Daniel Yusefi

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES

Amer Beslagic Award

Jessica Chan

Genevieve G. Feinstein Award in Cryptography

William Carey

**Klaus Fischer Academic Achievement
in Mathematics Award**

Liam Kelz

**Mary K. Cabell Award to Outstanding
Mathematics Student**

Nicholas Lear

Mary Nelson Award for Excellence in Teaching

Jasmine Riddick

**Mary Nelson Award for Excellence in
Community Outreach**

John Hargis

**Center for Mathematics and Artificial Intelligence
Award for Outstanding Research**

Aiden Roger

Anthony Vu

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY

Outstanding Graduating Senior

Dawn Pierce

Avin Seneviratne

Outstanding Learning Assistant Award

Tim Cosgrove

Sara Gallo Suarez

"Take small steps toward a long-term goal. There is a shift in the amount of available time, which was previously spent studying. Now that time can be focused on other things, such as passing your boards or obtaining a certification in your field. Keep in mind that learning doesn't stop at graduation." —Daniel Perez '16

Graduate Student Awards

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

Outstanding Biology Graduate Student Teacher Award

Derek Andersen
Becca Evey
Thomas Finley
Riley Moreau
Yasmin Rahmani

Innovative Teaching Award

Shawn Smith
Anastasia Williams

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY AND BIOCHEMISTRY

Outstanding Graduating Chemistry

Master's Degree Student Award

Majed Shabsigh

Outstanding Graduating Chemistry

Doctoral Student Award

Zachary Messegee

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTATIONAL AND DATA SCIENCES

Outstanding Computational Science and Informatics Dissertation Award

Jericho McLeod

Outstanding Computational Social Science Dissertation Award

Clark Petri

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND POLICY

Catherine Z. and Richard J. Becker Graduate Fellowship Award

Drew Arbogast
Colin Chaddock
Zachary Combs
Daya Hall-Stratton

Graduate Research Assistantship and Ann C. Powel Endowed Memorial Fund

Jose Meneses

Lee and Marty Talbot Foreign Student Endowed Scholarship

Oluwaseyi Mary Evans-Adeluka

FORENSIC SCIENCE PROGRAM

Faculty Award

Katherine Flick
Bhavana Potluri

Achievement Award

Hannah Capra
Nicholas Lyde

Service Award

Melanie Finch
Guienever Hayden
Nickolyn Jackson
Erin Shaffrey

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND GEOINFORMATION SCIENCE

Outstanding Graduate Certificate Student

Kyle Johnson

Outstanding Master's Degree Student

Ulas Qazi

Outstanding Doctoral Student

Zifu Wang

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY

Outstanding Dissertation Award, Standard Concentration

William Matzko

Outstanding Dissertation Award, Engineering Physics Concentration

Facundo Airaudo

"It is easy to enter college and life thinking you have to have it all figured out, but the truth is, the process itself will shape you. Allow yourself to grow, to be surprised by the connections you make, and to become more confident of who you are. You will leave not just with knowledge, but with a deeper understanding of your own strength." —Soukaina Amniouel '24

Candidates for Doctor of Philosophy Degrees

Doctor of Philosophy in Bioinformatics and Computational Biology

Shamima Akter

Role of Dysregulation of Calcium Dynamics in the Pathogenesis of Alzheimer's Disease Through Computational Modeling

Advisor: Aman Ullah, PhD, School of Systems Biology

Sarah Altalhi

Computational Analysis of T-Lymphocyte Activation by Peptide Antigen

Advisor: M. Saleet Jafri, PhD, Interdisciplinary Program in Neuroscience and School of Systems Biology

Soukaina Amniouel

Prediction of Solid Tumors Chemotherapy Efficacy of Machine Learning Applied to Gene Expression Data

Advisor: M. Saleet Jafri, PhD, Interdisciplinary Program in Neuroscience and School of Systems Biology

Samiksha Borkar

Consequence of Recreational Marijuana Use on Inflammatory Pathways in Youth with HIV

Advisor: Donald Seto, PhD, School of Systems Biology

George Dimitrov

Effects of Microgravity on the Gut Brain Axis Interaction on Prolonged Space Missions: A Systems Biology Approach

Advisor: Iosif Vaisman, PhD, School of Systems Biology

Aliye Hashemi

Topology-Based Protein Classification Using Deep Learning

Advisor: Iosif Vaisman, PhD, School of Systems Biology

Eric Twum

Peripheral Blood, Lung, and Brain Gene Signatures in Recovered and Deceased Patients with COVID-19

Advisor: Aman Ullah, PhD, School of Systems Biology

Longsheng Xie

Predicting Drug Resistance Phenotype of Protein Variants in Colorectal Cancer

Advisor: M. Saleet Jafri, PhD, Interdisciplinary Program in Neuroscience and School of Systems Biology

Doctor of Philosophy in Biosciences

Rayan Ibrahim Alhammad

Field Cancerization and Microbiome Effects on Lung Cancer: A Source of Early Detection Biomarkers to Improve Patients' Outcome

Advisor: Alessandra Luchini, PhD, School of Systems Biology

Intisar Alruwali

Monoclonal Antibodies Directed Against Surface Antigens of Klebsiella Pneumoniae as Potential Immunoprophylactic Treatment Against Bacterial Infection

Advisor: Monique van Hoek, PhD, School of Systems Biology

Abduljalil Alsubaie

Dissecting the Role of Enhancer of Zeste Homolog 2 (EZH2) in Neuroendocrine Transdifferentiation in Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer (NSCLC) of Epithelial Origin

Advisor: Mariaelena Pierobon, PhD, School of Systems Biology

Dalal Baljoon

Proteomic Approaches to Characterize a Novel Biomaterial for In Situ Delivery of Biologic Drug for Cancer Immunotherapy

Advisor: Alessandra Luchini, PhD, School of Systems Biology

Kathryn Duhadway Cassels

Investigation of the Role of Major T. cruzi Proteins in the Detection of Chagas Disease

Advisor: Alessandra Luchini, PhD, School of Systems Biology

Jorge G. Fernandez Davila

Investigating Extracellular Matrix-Derived Hydrogels from the Lungs of Patients with Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis as an In Vitro Disease Model

Advisor: Geraldine Grant, PhD, Department of Biology

Alison Gomeiz

A Novel, High-Throughput Method to Identify Functional Interactions Associated with Resistance to CDK4/6 Inhibition in Breast Cancer

Advisor: Mariaelena Pierobon, PhD, Department of Biology

Alexandru Gaur

Targeting the Cholinergic Synapse in Development and Disease

Advisor: Nadine Kabbani, PhD, School of Systems Biology

Fatema Hashemi

Enhancing Blood Safety: Utilizing Innovative Nylon Affinity Networks for Effective Bacterial Capture in Human Plasma

Advisor: Alessandra Luchini, PhD, School of Systems Biology

Sebastian Molnar

Discovery of Novel Small Size HIV-1 Released from Infected T-Cells and PBMC

Advisor: Fatah Kashanchi, PhD, School of Systems Biology

Samson Omole

Characterization of RIG-I Inducing RNA Species in Small Extracellular Vesicles (sEV) from Cells Infected with the Cytoplasmic RNA Virus Rift Valley Fever Virus (RVFV)

Advisor: Ramin Hakami, PhD, School of Systems Biology

Rocio Prisby

Unveiling Lyme Disease Diagnostic Targets and Neuroborreliosis Pathogenesis Through Advanced Biomarker Enrichment Technologies
Advisor: Alessandra Luchini, PhD, School of Systems Biology

Telly Sepahpour

Molecular Signatures of Immune Response and Markers of Immunogenicity Upon Immunization with LmCen-/- Parasites Against Leishmaniasis
Advisor: Alessandra Luchini, PhD, School of Systems Biology

Claire Weber

Integrative Multi-omics Investigation of Biomarkers for Age-Related Macular Degeneration
Advisor: Alessandra Luchini, PhD, School of Systems Biology

Doctor of Philosophy in Chemistry and Biochemistry**Maha Alotaibi**

Using Machine Learning to Predict Optical Properties of Molecules
Advisor: Andre Clayborne, PhD, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

Amaal Altalhi

Comprehensive Approaches to the Capture, Identification, and Quantitative Analysis of Antimicrobial Peptides and Other Peptides of Interest from Biological Sources
Advisor: Barney Bishop, PhD, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

Matthew Badia

Keratinous Tissue as Ecosystem Indicators of Regional, Global, and Historical Exposure to Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances
Advisor: Benoit Van Aken, PhD, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

Hadijatu Kamara

Geological and Anthropogenic Factors Influencing Stream Water Chemistry in Northern Virginia
Advisor: Gregory Foster, PhD, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

Eric Youngsam Kim

Developing Conversion-Type Electrode Materials for Metal-Ion Battery Systems
Advisor: Yun Yu, PhD, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

Zachary Messegee

Understanding Disorder Behavior and Magnetic Properties of Polar Magnetic Oxides and Intermetallics
Advisor: Xiaoyan Tan, PhD, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

Sanae Moummi

Structural Engineering of Organic Electrodes for Na-Ion Batteries
Advisor: Mikell Paige, PhD, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

Aaron Newborn

Effects of Environmental Contaminants on the Biomass Components in the Model Plants Arabidopsis thaliana and Brassica oleracea
Advisor: Benoit Van Aken, PhD, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

Yen Nguyen

Synthesis of Novel Modulators for Leukotriene A4 Hydrolase
Advisor: Mikell Paige, PhD, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

Shaylyn Scott

Enhancing the Enrichment and Detection of Antimicrobial Peptides in Reptiles
Advisor: Barney Bishop, PhD, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

Robert Spaine

Computationally Guided Protein Design for Understanding ATP Binding and Phosphoryl Transfer
Advisor: Lee Solomon, PhD, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

Doctor of Philosophy in Climate Dynamics**Paul Buchmann**

Assessing the Limits of Improving Subseasonal Predictability Indices
Advisor: Timothy DelSole, PhD, Department of Atmospheric, Oceanic and Earth Sciences

Finley Miles Hay-Chapman

Analyzing the Role of Land-Atmosphere Coupling Sensitivity and Subgrid Spatial Heterogeneity in Earth System Models
Advisor: Paul Dirmeyer, PhD, Department of Atmospheric, Oceanic and Earth Sciences

Douglas Nedza

Separating Forced and Internal Variability in North Atlantic Sea Surface Temperature
Advisor: Timothy DelSole, PhD, Department of Atmospheric, Oceanic and Earth Sciences

Doctor of Philosophy in Computational Sciences and Informatics

Yoseph Abere

Coarse-Grained Force Field Development for Oxidized Polypyrroles and Monte Carlo Simulations of Their Properties

Advisor: Estela Blaisten-Barojas, PhD, Department of Computational and Data Sciences

Shatha Alahmadi

Statistical Estimation of Agent-Based Models Using Econometric and Machine Learning Techniques

Advisor: Robert Axtell, PhD, Department of Computational and Data Sciences

Xiaoqian Cai

A Hybrid Approach for Semi-Supervised Learning in Text Classification

Advisor: Anamaria Berea, PhD, Department of Computational and Data Sciences

Jericho McLeod

Risk and Drivers of Disease Propagation During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Advisor: Eduardo Lopez, PhD, Department of Computational and Data Sciences

Francesca Moyle

Transforming Conflict Analysis: Unveiling Conflict Causes with Advanced Natural Language Processing and Large-Scale Data Integration

Advisor: William Kennedy, PhD, Department of Computational and Data Sciences

Allen Rabayda

Unsupervised Clustering-Based Anomaly Detection Using Polychronous Neuronal Groups

Advisor: Jason Kinser, PhD, Department of Computational and Data Sciences

Matthew Valko

Benchmarking and Creation of a Deep Learning Computer Vision Dataset in the Taxonomic Revision of the Palo Santo Tree Herbarium Specimens

Advisor: Jason Kinser, PhD, Department of Computational and Data Sciences

Doctor of Philosophy in Computational Social Sciences

Fahad Abdullah H. Aloraini

Psychologically Realistic Decision-Making in Multiagent Simulations

Advisor: William Kennedy, PhD, Department of Computational and Data Sciences

Trang Escobar

Three Essays on the Relationship Between Game Theory and Agent-Based Modeling

Advisor: Robert Axtell, PhD, Department of Computational and Data Sciences

Teresa Franks

A Model of Bank-Run Dynamics: Focusing on the First-to-Fail and Potential Knock-On Effects

Advisor: Robert Axtell, PhD, Department of Computational and Data Sciences

Scott D. Hopkins

Thermoresponsive Polymers in Viscous Solvents Through Molecular Dynamics

Advisor: Estela Blaisten-Barojas, PhD, Department of Computational and Data Sciences

Salwa Patel

Universities as Complex Systems: Data, Power Laws, and an Agent-Based Model

Advisor: Robert Axtell, PhD, Department of Computational and Data Sciences

Clark Petri

Simulating Electric Vehicle Adoption Using Agent-Based Modeling

Advisor: Hamdi Kavak, PhD, Department of Computational and Data Sciences

Chaoqian Wang

A General Computational Framework for Multi-Strategy Collective Social Evolution on Networks

Advisor: Hamdi Kavak, PhD, Department of Computational and Data Sciences

Doctor of Philosophy in Earth Systems and Geoinformation Sciences

Ioana Bouvier

Spatiotemporal Vegetation and Catchment Dynamics Following Infrequent Forest Wildfire Outbreaks

Advisor: Paul Houser, PhD, Department of Geography and Geoinformation Science

Jonathon Hathaway

Forced Migration and State Security

Advisor: Matt Rice, PhD, Department of Geography and Geoinformation Science

Pamela S. Kanu

Predicting Rebel Group Conflict by Using a Bayesian Neural Network and a Bayesian Hierarchical Model

Advisor: Liping Di, PhD, Department of Geography and Geoinformation Science

Carrie Lewis

Using Species Distribution Models to Identify Refugia for Harlequin Frogs (Atelopus) in Panama

Advisor: Paul Houser, PhD, Department of Geography and Geoinformation Science

Hui Li

In-Season Corn and Soybean Mapping in the U.S. and Brazil Using Transfer Learning of Time-Invariant Phenological Features

Advisor: Liping Di, PhD, Department of Geography and Geoinformation Science

Lori Anne Bush Mandable

Investigation of Spatiotemporal Patterns of Volcanic Eruptions on Global and Regional Scales

Advisor: Ruixin Yang, PhD, Department of Geography and Geoinformation Science

Shiyang Ruan

From Data to Simulation: Scenario-Driven Use of Agent-Based Models to Study Urban Mobility Patterns

Advisor: Dieter Pfoser, PhD, Department of Geography and Geoinformation Science

Zifu Wang

Optimizing Location Extraction, Information Classification, and Visualization with Large Language Models for Humanitarian Crises

Advisor: Chaowei Yang, PhD, Department of Geography and Geoinformation Science

Mengfei Xin

A Deep Learning Approach to Crop Yield Prediction and Models Comparison

Advisor: Ruixin Yang, PhD, Department of Geography and Geoinformation Science

Doctor of Philosophy in Environmental Science and Public Policy

Taryn Bromser-Kloeden

Cultural Differences: A Multispecies Ethnography of Black Vulture Predation on Cattle in Virginia

Advisor: David Luther, PhD, Department of Biology

Jennifer Jelincic

Effects of Life-History Stage and Environmental Change Observed in Longitudinal Hormone Profiles of Bowhead Whales (Baleana mysticetus)

Advisor: Kathleen E. Hunt, PhD, Department of Biology and Smithsonian-Mason School of Conservation

Ayesha Karamat

Toxicity and Environmental Interactions of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances in Plants: Assessments from Protein Structural Changes to Seasonal Absorption Dynamics

Advisor: Benoit Van Aken, PhD, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

Meadhbh Molloy

Microbiome Research Applications for the Management and Conservation of the Tasmanian Devil

Advisors: David Luther, PhD, Department of Biology, and A. Alonso Aguirre, PhD, Colorado State University

Ren Montaña

Finding the Resurrection Keys: Native Plants and Their Potential Along Madagascar's Longest River

Advisor: Esther C. Peters, PhD, Department of Environmental Science and Policy

Doreen Sechak Peters

Of Tides and Skins: Using Dragonfly Exuviae as a Non-Lethal Approach to Monitor Mercury Along the Nontidal and Tidal Freshwater Potomac River from Monocacy to Mount Vernon

Advisor: Dann Sklarew, PhD, Department of Environmental Science and Policy

Jordan Alexandra Sims

Complex Biotic and Abiotic Factors Shape Microbial Community Composition Across Compartments of Microbial Diversity in Coral Reef Ecosystems

Advisor: Jennifer L. Salerno, PhD, Department of Environmental Science and Policy

Doctor of Philosophy in Mathematics

Yemeen Ayub

Toward Metric Measure Space Learning

Advisor: Tyrus Berry, PhD, Department of Mathematical Sciences

Patrick Bishop

Computation of Dynamical Structures for Dynamical Billiards and Rate Induced Tipping Equations

Advisor: Evelyn Sander, PhD, Department of Mathematical Sciences

Kiefer H. Green

Multigrid Algorithms and Software for PDEs and Optimization

Advisor: Harbir Antil, PhD, Department of Mathematical Sciences

Tracey Oellerich

Data-Driven Methods for Biological Network Dynamics and Feature Identification

Advisor: Maria Emelianenko, PhD, Department of Mathematical Sciences

Shraddha Rajpal

Toward the Theory of Self-Calibrating Sensors

Advisor: Tyrus Berry, PhD, Department of Mathematical Sciences

Biniyam Tibebe

Computational Modeling, Analysis, and Simulation of Weak-Galerkin Methods for Biot's Consolidation Model and Applications

Advisors: Padmanabhan Seshaiyer, PhD, Department of Mathematics, and Junping Wang, PhD, National Science Foundation

Doctor of Philosophy in Neuroscience**Jeffrey Kopsick**

Cell Assembly Formation and Retrieval in a Biologically Constrained CA3 Network

Advisor: Giorgio Ascoli, PhD, Department of Bioengineering and the Interdisciplinary Program in Neuroscience

Dylan V. Scarton

Designer DX-Tile DNA Hydrogels for Peripheral Nerve Regeneration

Advisor: Remi Veneziano, PhD, Department of Bioengineering

Doctor of Philosophy in Physics**Mohammed Abdalla Mohammedali Elmufti**

Confirmation and Validation of TESS Transiting Exoplanets with the iSHELL Radial Velocities Spectrometer

Advisor: Peter Plavchan, PhD, Department of Physics and Astronomy

Facundo Airaud

Adjoint-Based System Identification in Structures

Advisor: Rainald Lohner, PhD, Department of Physics and Astronomy

Jaafar Ansari

Theoretical Aspects of Electric Field Gradients in Relation to Nuclear Magnetic Resonance

Advisor: Karen L. Sauer, PhD, Department of Physics and Astronomy

Hari Bhandari

Study of Kagome Lattice Magnets

Advisors: Patrick Vora, PhD, Department of Physics and Astronomy, and Nirmal J. Ghimire, PhD, University of Notre Dame

Natasha Latouf

On Bayesian Analysis for Remote Biosignature Identification on exoEarths (BARBIE) and Beyond

Advisors: Joseph Weingartner, PhD, Department of Physics and Astronomy, and Avi Mandell, PhD, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

William Matzko

Characterizing Feedback and Coronal Lines in Active Galactic Nuclei

Advisor: Shobita Satyapal, PhD, Department of Physics and Astronomy

Jeffrey McKaig

High-Energy Emission from Accreting Supermassive Black Holes: The Role of Obscuration, Scattering, and Photoionization.

Advisor: Shobita Satyapal, PhD, Department of Physics and Astronomy

Shahrzad Movafagh

Modeling Spin Currents in 2D Topological Insulator Materials

Advisor: Predrag Nikolic, PhD, Department of Physics and Astronomy

MD Nazmus Sakib

Exploring the Structure and Variability of the Terrestrial Ionosphere: Observations and Model Impact of High-Resolution Cross Sections

Advisor: Erdal Yiğit, PhD, Department of Physics and Astronomy

Emma Schwartzman

Multifrequency Radio Study of Galaxy Cluster Mergers and Dual Active Galactic Nuclei

Advisors: Shobita Satyapal, PhD, Department of Physics and Astronomy, and Tracy Clarke, PhD, U.S. Naval Research Laboratory

Grant Stephens

Revealing the Global Morphology of the Magnetosphere During Substorms Using Data Mining-Driven Empirical Magnetic Field Modeling

Advisor: Robert Weigel, PhD, Department of Physics and Astronomy

Eric Winter

Using Neural Networks to Solve the Differential Equations of Magnetohydrodynamics

Advisor: Robert Weigel, PhD, Department of Physics and Astronomy

"We didn't get here because everything went right; we got here because we kept going when it didn't. Success rarely looks perfect in the moment, and perseverance will carry you far beyond today." —Emma Schwartzman, '25

Candidates for Master of Science Degrees

Program in Applied and Engineering Physics

William M. Bates
Marco Brizzolara
Michael Brown
Terrence Grover Carlson
Anna Claire Engelhardt
Matthew Ian Downs Jackson
Md Shaheen Mahmood
Duy Duc Nguyen
Kyle Edward Nixon
Brendan Gregory Power
Kelly Marie Richardson
MD Najmus Sakib
Dunnchadh Corwin Strnad

Program in Bioinformatics and Computational Biology

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Karrie Michelle Chapman
Rebecca Cruz Soldevilla
Hoang-Anh H. Dinh
Mehrun N. Huda
Clayton Laskodi
Nicholas David Levesque
Alan Yaohang Li
Mary Selina Jessica Martin
Sreenithaa Muthuvel Velayuthasami
Bolanle K. Ola
Divya Ramesh
Tammy Carmona Rex
Arsallan A. Saeed
Huzaiifa Safeer
Roberto Saldana
Emily Joelle Shields
Marwah Tokhi
Swathi Santhosh Varma

Program in Bioinformatics Management

Varshika Mani Peela

Program in Biology

Braulio Enoc Alba Andrade
Reem Mohammad Ali
Jayasree Allam
Jose Barahona
Michael Ryan Bowen
Christian Frank Bray
Zachery Lee Brown
Hafsa Asad Chaudhry
Helen Elizabeth Colón

Rebeca Cruz Soldevilla
Ryan Edward Day
Avkul Singh Dhillon
Victoria Lynn Dimick
Gifty Ayelle Dodd
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Thomas Finley
Jason Randall Flores
Matthew A. Gadziala IV
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Pantea Ghadakpour
Rania Hanna
Ethan Herod
Aisha K. Ibrahim
Diana Kemngang
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Clayton Laskodi
Hadeer Leila
Cassandra S. Leong
Sian Lum
Kevin John Matthews
Kiana Middleton
Thien-Phuoc Dang Ngo
Jeffery Northway
Katherine Kimiko Okada
Makinna Ann Olmstead
Scott B. Parker
Santhosh Kumar Pedada
Leah Elayne Pistone
Kyle A. Quarles
Roberto Saldana
Elikplim Esi-Mawuko Seddoh
Edward Brown Southworth
V Sanskruthi Sreepangi
Heather Walters
Helen Wingate

Program in Chemistry

Kachief Isaiah Callender
Vito De Benedictis
Connor Ryan Green
Dani M. Harrison
Elijah McClendon
Sanae Moumami
Yen Hoang Nguyen
Majed Shabsigh
Dan Nguyen Tran

Program in Climate Science

Aidin Abramowitz
Aasma Acharya
Noah Rafael Blanco-Alcala
Desmond L. Gray
Godwin Leslie Muhati
Amber L. Verstynen

Program in Computational Science

Patricia Oforiwa Agyemang
Patricia Appiah
Nicholas Bishop
John (Jack) Capone
Mira Boyce Eisenhauer
Alison Marie Finn
Samiul Islam
Gizem Korkmaz
Sangmin Lee
Amitesh Paladugu
Md Mahfuzur Rhaman

Program in Earth Science

Mason Brown
David Arthur Hoppe
Samuel Thompson
Justin Robert Wilder

Program in Environmental Science and Policy

Kelly Chimpen MacLeod
Rayan M. Dahal
Jazmin Golden
Megan M. Horning
Kim Louise Magalona
Eric Victor Mazur Jr.
Ryan Daniel McIntyre
Anna Grace McLernon
Trinity Rose Mills
Jason Matthew Motley
Christopher Poole
Emilia Kohler Roberts
Kyle Benjamin Spatz
Bo Tang
Essam Temuri

Program in Forensic Science

Divya Rupini Amarthaluri
Vilma Amaya-Lino
Lisette Abigail Benitez
Alyssa Jillian Bermudez
Espirit Blatchford-Rodriguez
Marlowe Vaughn Bueler
Hannah Capra
Farouk Raymond Chatman
Jacqueline Cheuk-Lam Chung
Melanie Rachel Finch
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Minjin Gantulga
Alejandra Gonzalez

Guinever I. Hayden
 Szu Chieh Hu
 Allison L. Innerst
 Nicholas T. lyde
 Nickolyn M. Jackson
 Madison Faith Janysek
 Poojita Kondur
 Carrie Madelyn Lake
 Carrington Alexa Lippi
 Arial M. Martin
 Noah Rich Martineau
 Alexandra Danielle Mazeas
 Swopnil Parajuli
 Ivy Pham
 Elyse Amil Pitre
 Sydney Alexa Poling
 Bhavana Potluri
 Marissa Noelle Robinson
 Erin Katherine Shaffrey
 Megan E. Skovranko

Alex R. Stone
 Chantelle Storm
 Marie Rose Taylor
 Claire Allison Tulloch
 Elise C. Wells
 Christe I. Williams
 Greta E. Zahn

Program in Geographic and Cartographic Sciences

Jacob Christopher Tomasz Daum
 Jingnan Liu

Program in Geoinformatics and Geospatial Intelligence

Kai Alan Omengan Barner
 Emily Eileen Yu Csizmadia
 Matthew Lucas Foote
 Anne LaFragola
 Ulas Rokhan Qazi
 Jessica Marie Williams
 Aliia Woodworth

Program in Mathematics

John Condon
 Summer Harriet Eldridge
 Steven Rafael Turner

Enlisted to Medical Degree Preparatory Program (EMDP2)

Kierra Barnes
 Donald Gordon Berger II
 Christian H. Bernabe
 Mark Condie Brenay
 Blake Campbell Jr.
 Jude Chi Akiy
 Sean Marcq Clerkin
 Stephen Eicher
 Dionisio Davis Garcia

Devin Patrick Hagen
 Drew Christian Hart
 Mingi Kim
 Jonathan Douglas Lownsbery
 Joseph Michael McEneaney
 Danisha Elizabeth Melvin-Beatty
 Justin S. Miller
 Jesus Moreno
 Scott Robert Nussel

Emma Poveromo
 Quartez Richardson
 Alessandro Salsi
 Briana Nicole Sandoval
 Stephen John Sarica
 Tyler Joseph Volcensek
 Spencer Nathaniel White

Candidates for Graduate Certificate Programs

Graduate Certificate in Advanced Biomedical Sciences

Abena A. Adjei
 Michael F. Agyei
 Briyana Basden
 Sierra Alexis Coffey
 Shannon Liliana Condon
 Glenisha M. Dennis-Harden
 Rajiv E. Esua
 Demetria Faith Fleming
 Rhon Kirk-Patrick Foster
 Nicole M. Garcia
 Marilyn Kate Gomez Ortiz
 Karen L. Gutierrez-Castillo
 Ciana Innocent
 Tayla Ashley Johnson
 Taamson Mehdaar Joshua

Iyer Sarah Logan
 Noah Mammano
 Ethan P. Martinez
 Mardoche Andree Mesine
 Jhonatan David Morales Montes
 Zungnyoi Myitung
 Preston Van Nanthavong
 Mercedes Navarro Garcia
 Phillip E. Nwosu
 Molly Elizabeth Ochs
 Brandon Jungwoong Park
 Gloria Jamilet Perez
 Rayyaan Potter
 Abhishek Naidu Puppala
 Rachel Michelle Reppert
 Reynaldo Rocha
 Maria Julia Rodriguez
 Jon Paul Tudela Sablan
 Nikhil Sirivolu

Jennifer Brianna Smith
 Samyuktha Gowri Voopalapati
 Taylor Jordan Watson
 Alexandria D. Witherspoon

Graduate Certificate in Actuarial Science

Marco Sergio Cote Vicini

Graduate Certificate in Bioinformatics and Computational Biology

Marcus Nahshon Dooley
 Scott C. McAlister
 Krupaben Nimeshkum Patel

Graduate Certificate in Cell and Molecular Biology

Gabriellia McNeil

Graduate Certificate in Computational Social Science

Andrew Tomaz Kvavilashvili

Graduate Certificate in Data Science

Micheal Belete

Graduate Certificate in Forensic Science

Alexandra Danielle Mazeas
Shael Nicole Stromberg-Brusco

Graduate Certificate in Geographic Information Science

Trevor Alan Buita
Kyle Pratap Johnson
Nicole LaFragola
Anissa D. Olivares
Joseph Bradshaw Read

Candidates for Bachelor's Degrees

DEPARTMENT OF ATMOSPHERIC, OCEANIC, AND EARTH SCIENCES

Bachelor of Science in Atmospheric Sciences

Alexis F. Acosta Rodriguez
Rachel L. Davis
Alexandria Mae Dingman
Najah Inaya Israel
Ethan Allen Payne
Hanna Isabella Tucker

Bachelor of Science in Earth Science

Gwendolyn R. Downey
David M. Paisley

Bachelor of Arts in Geology

Allison Rose Smith Berry
William Eugene Fisher
Claire Devon Hoover

Bachelor of Science in Geology

Michael John Dinkelman
Clayton R. Gleason
Catherine Lau
Addison Victoria Obaugh
Alyssa Turner
Jaylen Washington
June C. Williams

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

Bachelor of Arts in Biology

Swostika Acharya
Khadijah Leila Alekozai
Layla Almasarwa
Hiba Alshaial
Caleb Baker Archdeacon
Katelyn Clarke
Sasha Erin Collier
Morgan Elise Ellingsworth
Daniah Amer Nazhat Al Fatal
Victoria Lynn Galati
Jazmine Alexis Gomez
Meagan Rae Kennedy
Kaynat Nazirullah Khattak
Min Lee
Kathryn Grace Lindstrom
Muktar Mahamed
Jade Mcelroy
Philbert Nguyen
Kathryn Noelle Orlosky
Diva Diaz Osinaga
Surabhi Palmer
Gabriela Ramos-Alvarado
Natalie Abigail Robertson
Jillian Staats
Anthony Aaron Villalobos
Jacob R. Walker
Sarah Catherine Wendt
Anakim Valeria Herbas Zapata

Bachelor of Science in Biology

Abeer M. Abbasi
Yahye M. Abdi
Sara Aberra

Sam Jaya Acharya
Muhammad Bin Afzaal
Maria Fernanda Aguirre
Shahd Fethalrahman Ahmad
Havand Saman Ahmed
Yena Aileen Ahn
Maya Akcar
Mohammad Abdullah Aladhab
Abdul Saber Alam
Naomi Alemayehu
Hadir A. Ali
Sifatullah Alkozai
Laila I. Al-Musawi
Wasia Amir
Clayton Thomas Anderson
Golda Ruphyne Anderson
Stavroula Antonis
Jawwad Anwar
Saad Syed Areeb
Fikir Kebede Argaw
Lizandra Liliana Arias
Yelka Nayerly Silva Arroyo
Mekdelawit Seifu Ashagrea
Khadija Attaoui
Sara Attar
Angel Chizoba Atuonah
Serena Fadi Baaklini
Kimberly Adwoa Baffoe
Maryam Atif Baig
Manal Bajwa
Lorina Reda Bandi
Priscilla Mary Barreda
Ayanna S. Barrett
Mia Annabella Barringer
Arsha Barzgar
Atia Basiri
Nisa Zeinab Berlas
Meeha Bhuiyan
Destinee Biyoudi-Monthe
Lucia Emna Bouhaouala
Rebecca Brew
Krishna Chaitanya Chaduruvelly

Stacy Chai
 Rupinder Kaur Chana
 Maggie Chen
 Madison Yee-Ying Cheung
 Conor Chi
 Jeremy Chin
 Kelly Eleana Clayton
 Luis Carlos Aliaga Corvera
 Destinee Fay Cox
 Carolina I. Craig
 Kareem Omar Dajani
 Ashanti Tyesha Tajah Dandridge
 Haley Sarah Dehyar
 Alexandru Nickolas Denes
 Hassan Sherif Derbala
 Jasmine Dev
 Mariebeth Dill
 Benjamin Dilzer
 Thinh Dinh
 Lauren Nicole Distad
 Beshoy Magdy Ebid
 Katherine Elizabeth Edmunds
 Ainoon Elahi
 Laila Sohail Elbakri
 Emilia Ermanoski
 Hamed Essar
 Robert Steven Evans
 Tala Faour
 Mubeen Fatima
 Rachel Nicole Forman
 Thomas Forest Freschi
 Jessica Lynn Fyfe
 Jyanna Rae Bermudez Galamgam
 Sai Greeshma Gayam
 Yesica V. Gomez
 Diborah Ashenafi Gutema
 Yu Jin Ha
 Youssef Haddi
 Iman Campos Hadji
 Muzhgan Hakimi
 Aisha Hameedi
 Jack Thomas Hannan
 Melinda S. Harrilal
 Rachel Hart
 Zeina Housseyki
 Lea Isabelle Hoyos
 Maheen Hussain
 Ehsanallah Hussainy
 Mohamed Sayed Youssef Hussein
 Kinza Iftikhar
 Yasmin Jami
 Felisha Andrea Steel Cuenca Jara
 Sulima Jawid
 Derek Christopher Mason Jr.
 Zumaina Kabir
 Ibrahim Kamara
 Fahim M. Karimi
 Yekta Karimi
 Nimra Kashif
 Manar Kassemi
 Deepinder Kaur
 Guneet Kaur
 Manjot Kaur
 Navleen Kaur
 Zainab Al Khalaf
 Nargis Mohammed Khalaf

Muiz Khalid
 Hina Khan
 Humza Khan
 Sameer U. Khan
 Syed Saifuddin Khan
 Amman Bagherzadeh Khorsandi
 Jukyung Kim
 Jung Yeon Kim
 Marc Anthony Villamor Konahap
 Hannah A. Laoudi
 Christina Thuy Duong Le
 Grace Juwon Lee
 Jungmin Lee
 Alexis Marie Lembke
 Nicholas Todd Lewis
 Kelsey Jordan Lienhart
 Nicole Karin Lindenhall
 Riley Morgan Lucier
 Eatha Taylor Marie Lynch
 Ikraam I. Mahamed
 Hayat A. Mahmoud
 Iman Mahmud
 Katya R. Mancilla
 Ariana Nicole Mandros
 Samantha Lydia Mateu
 Shereef Mohamed El Mawan
 Samreen Mehak
 Emma Grace Menz
 Sumiya Hashemi Miah
 Miles Middleton
 Youngi Min
 Mariene Bobo
 Hannah Angela Moerschell
 Yassmin Mohamed
 Sumaya Ibrahim Mohammed
 Krish Moorjani
 Sidra Mujadidi
 Saraih Munoz
 Azada Naderi
 Aubrey E. Nagel
 Zannatul F. Nahid
 Sanaullah Naimi
 Ahnaf Akmal Navid
 Elsa Malik Nazir
 Nibal Younis Negib
 Alexander Harmony Nguyen
 Anh Nguyen
 Britney C. Nguyen
 Harmony Nguyen
 Linh Nguyen
 Linh Mai Ha Nguyen
 Sylvia D. Nguyen
 Aaidah Fathima Nizamudeen
 Jay Franklin Nolf
 Emma Elizabeth Nolte
 Elham Noory
 Mckenna A. Olsen
 Sama Omari
 Asmma Abobakir Osman
 Sham Azzam Osman
 Aavash B. Pant
 Morgan Min Jung Park
 Ana Magdalena Chavez Perdomo
 Lucas Andrade Perrelli
 Serenity Peters
 Griffin Douglas Pew

Harris Warren Pilson
 Leah Elayne Pistone
 Aya A. Pointer
 Sahar Popalzai
 Madisson C. Powell
 Sugarragchaa S. Purevsuren
 Abdullah Qaiser
 Sami Shah Quadri
 Yesica Patricia Quintanilla
 Hamanda Oblitas Quispe
 Saif-Ur Rahman
 Cindy Lisette Ramirez
 Emad Seid Raoufi
 Daniel Rashid
 Elizabeth Brayton Replogle
 Anthony Misael Reyes
 Maya R. Pesjak Richardson
 Jason Rios
 Diana Soley Rivero
 Rebecca Anne Robertson
 Kathia Maritza Parada Romero
 Miguelangel Romero
 Mariella Diane Antolijao Rosales
 Nicole Natalia Ruiz-Morales
 Paige Elizabeth Saari
 Nicol Safatli
 Usmaan Ahmad Sahibzada
 Hassan Al Salami
 Devin Edward Salter
 Fadzayi Lesley Gloria Sambana
 Nicole Joy Sanchez
 John M. Saretzky
 Vista Sedghi
 Ariana Setayeshpour
 Ryda Shabsigh
 Syeda Shah
 Asjad Shahbaz
 Li Y. Shi
 Nooria Siddiqui
 Harjot Singh
 Kaylee Soon
 Hailey S. Soto-Yapura
 Avila Marie Stanton
 Nathaniel Stephenson
 Douglas George Stevens
 Hannah Marie Stokes
 Ema Tahmazi
 Dima Salih Tambil
 Candace B. Tarango
 Caroline Ji-In Tate
 Karla Terrazas
 Abisha Thapa
 Prasamsa Thapa
 Mrithika Thiruvikraman
 Nopphon Thongkum
 Kelly Lynn Thorpe
 Lauren M. Tong
 Bernand Cruz Torrez
 Colin Tran
 Gina Tran
 Ngoc B. Truong
 Madinabonu S. Tulamirzaeva
 Rebecca Ashley Turcios
 Sherin Varghese
 Lily Alexis Vega
 A. Heyssel M. Velasquez

Amritesh R. Vootguri
Mia Voysest
Brice Douglas Wagner
Wranga Wahedi
Amna Waraich
Dahlia Kaindey Wilhelm
Drake E. Williams
Jordan Christine Wilson
Leslie Lauren Woessner
Crystal Nicole Wynne
Ursala Yaseen
Richard Berry Yoder III
Cityana Teketel Yohannes
Dilan Yousif
Ivan Zabello
Abdullah Hashim Zaeen
Zeyad Hashim Zaeen
Filza Zahra
Mina Zaki

Bachelor of Science in Medical Laboratory Science

Alshima M. Abdelhamid
Patricia Ysabel Visitacion Bacani
Astri Ivana Felicia Fikri
Nazhin Shir Khorshidi
Jason Matthew Kirichok
Vy Phuong Mach
Ramon Medina
Ashanti A. Pascal
Michael A. Pedemonte
Vy Nguyen Tuong Pham
Stephanie Mirana Ratovohery
Mary Simmelink
Trinh Phuong Tran
Dinh Khanh Nhu Vuong
Helen Yakob

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY AND BIOCHEMISTRY

Bachelor of Arts in Chemistry

Zeyang Chen
Karol Dayana Espinal Palacios

Bachelor of Science in Chemistry

Ashley Lien Bui
Quinn J. Griffin
Lena Faisal Hasan
Numa Khan
Grace Juwon Lee
Owen Lenihan
Amanda Noelle McGrath
Rachel Rebecca Rupinen
Lorena Alison Sanchez
Muhammad Zaryyab Sardar

Dat Truong Tuan Tran
Andri Natalie Vargas
Quinn Alexander Wescott
Allison Sonya Westbank
Aya Zaraket

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTATIONAL DATA SCIENCES

Bachelor of Science in Computational and Data Sciences

Suber Abdi
Yulia S. Abebe
Vikram Arunachalam
Fariha Askar
Rida Mariam Awan
Huda Mouayd Azem
Christopher Sorin Bucsa
Linh Tran Ha Bui
Jordan Theodore Callahan
Quincy Maurice Cambrel
Jai H. Carpenter
Dorian S. Senzano Carrasco
Cameron Chambers
Mikal Cheffena
Patrick Long Chen
Jesse Cheng
Anthony Andrews Chetupuzha
Wondwossen Deyaso
Jacob Dickey
Yash Dode
Krissia Elizabeth Portillo Duran
Deeb Elhaj
Anantha Aksshaj Erigisetty
Mia Rae Ford
Rosada Francis-Cedeno
Anaïse Sanya Gaillard
Demitri Alexander Gallegos
Pablo Garcia
Anna Grace Garren
Alex Lowell Griepentrog
Tanisha Gupta
Yousef Raed Hamad
Yusef Saed Hamad
SeungHyuk Han
Nicholas Joseph Hannah
Danielle Hare
Kyle Graham Hart
Tobias Heidrich
Anh Phuc Hoang
Nicholas Austin Hobgood
Thomas Hoffman
Qihong Huang
Sumaya Hassan Ibrahim
Robert Frank Gaither III
Heba Zahea Jaber
Hyejin Jang
Kiana Rose Johnson
Minsu Kang
Armon Ameen Kazemi
Omer Shahid Khan

Sunbin Kim
Connor S. Laskodi
Sukmin Lee
Aminetou Mohamed Lehib
Mabakgona Connie Levy
Yang Li
Nahom Weldemicael Maaza
Ankith Rao Madhavaram
Grace Elizabeth Mattingly
Mesfin Asfawossen Mekonnen
Charles Oteng Mensah
Thomas Myers
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Jennifer Thu Nguyen
Jessica Nguyen
Matthew Nguyen
Yara Oudat
Alexandra Daniella Oxley
Bela Palankar
Sulochan Panta
Sushobhita Paramathmuni
Zachary Paredes
Chae Won Park
Einsley Park
Everett Phoenix
Muhammad Raees
Darpan Rai
Samson Lloyd Reis
Samuel Robinson
Serena Robinson
Ehtasham Sarwar
Kyubean Shin
Alexander L. Shumway
Sai Sumanth Reddy Sineni
Jacob Kota Snyder
Joel Maksym Stankiewicz
Pooja Sureshkumar
Sunho Tae
Katie My Tran
Van Phong Trinh
Iderbat Tsogtbaatar
Shruti Sujana Valappil
Thien Tuan Vu
Dongin Won
Yunna Yi
Monib Zabian
Diego Andre Zambrana
Sofia M. Zandipour
Mahad Zulfiqar

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND POLICY

Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science

Rachael Leigh Austin
Ellen L. Beall
Olivia-Grace Blackwell
Robert Berkley Bowen
Emma Cecilia Brenecki
Bryan K. Childers
Israel Vinolas Coppin

Nikki Anne Curtis
 Nihal Singh Dennis
 Sofia Dindyal
 Abigail K. Faust
 Reagan Madeleine Fillinger
 Chloe S. Fowler
 Julia Farrington Frost
 Trent Joseph Grasso
 Matthew Liu Guilaran
 Samuel Jacob Heath
 Willa Louise Hickman
 Isabella Larissa Jones
 Timothy Klopfer
 Misty Knight
 Alexandra Danielle Kurtz
 Kevin Matthew Laing
 Camille Lee Larkin
 Schuyler P. Lynch
 Emma Katharine McDonald
 Alexander Mills
 Alicia Erika Morgan
 Shannon Ray Mowery Jr.
 Hope Elise Nowacek
 Alexander Penn Peterson
 Amy K. Portillo
 Dylan Salvatore Raney
 Patrick D. Read
 Daniela Romero
 Shishir Sharma
 Logan Spear
 Ariel Stater
 Chase Appleton Stewart
 Willow R. Thompson
 Alexa Michelle Timmes
 Jeremy Myles Williams
 Jessica B. Winey
 Nia Monique Wright
 Ujala Yousaf

FORENSIC SCIENCE PROGRAM

Bachelor of Science in Forensic Science

Mckenzie R. Abeyta
 Monira Ahmed
 Morgan Bay Altizer
 Rachel Anderson
 Emily Rose Billings
 Noon Abdelbagi Bushara
 Clayton Patrick Cangelosi
 Chhivhun Chan
 Joey Chuh
 Amelia R. Click
 Daniel Adam Coleman
 Kennedy Coleman
 Tina M. Dash
 Nina Gerri Durham
 Jason Robert Forsyth
 Lorena Daminique Garcia
 Emily Lynn Geraghty
 David Gerard
 Manreet Kaur Gill
 Hayley Sandra Grenier

Angela Mireya Guarachi Martinez
 Eunice Bethany Viernes Ibon
 Alexis Rene Iturralde
 Elizabeth Hope Jaynes
 Fatima Kanso
 Caitlyn Elizabeth Kern
 Jacinda Ann Kim
 Lydia Shawnte' Lawson
 Andy Li
 Mearah Ione Lightle
 Imagine Eunique Love
 Diana Marin
 Emani D. Martin
 Mireia Merenciano Garcia
 Conal W. Miner
 Kaitlyn Rose Mylett
 Darian David Nguyen-Huynh
 Cassidy Leigh Pajda
 McKenzie Pochiro
 Emma M. Portillo
 Ethan Gabriel Catacutan Quiambao
 Rita Ramzy
 Mariam Sabah
 Hailey A'isha Marie Salmen
 Yasmin Lashae Sanchez Morris
 Frances M. Scholand
 Hayley Rebecca Shifflett
 Joseph Eric Osorio Silla
 Nolan Patrick Smith
 Imani Alise Spann
 Danica L. Spencer
 Emma B. Suter
 Emily Swann
 Allison M. Taylor
 Matthew Mackinnon Tewell
 Linsey M. Thacker
 Arabella Christine Thornhill
 Nicholas Torres
 Kyla Towle
 Shayla Tran
 Alexandra Victoria Tyler
 Maxwell Keophouwa Vannarath
 Lily Alexis Vega
 Hailey M. Wagner
 Abigail Adair Whitridge

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND GEOINFORMATION SCIENCE

Bachelor of Arts in Geography

Rouse A. Barker
 Sabir Hashim
 Cameron Hunt
 Guadalupe Meza-Negrete
 Logan J. Parsons
 Maxwell L. Patrick
 Moutaz Shabab
 Emma Irene Shapiro

Bachelor of Science in Geography

Jonathan Bang
 Claudia Charlise Belk
 Cole Alexander Graves
 Ethan Zachary Cole Hopson
 Owen Patrick Hughes
 Ian D. Lane
 Ethan D. Miles
 Cindy Lissette Ramirez
 Samuel Emmett Smith
 Rachael Naomi South
 Nhi Tran
 Rebekah J. Wehner

INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAM IN NEUROSCIENCE

Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience

Sakina Abbas
 Aliyu K. Abubakar
 Brandi Adams
 Andre Aghmiuni
 Camille Alexander
 Aaqib Mohammed Ali
 Qizar M. Ali
 Haneen T. Ammar
 Ibraheem Razi Ansari
 Amira Talat Anwar
 Rabail Ashar
 Kiran Bajaj
 Om D. Bhagat
 Marina Talaat Boshra
 Mohamed R. Bouyakoub
 Nicole A. Brandt
 Wish Chokrhiansukchai
 Gisselle M. Contreras
 Hailey Cruver
 Andrew Di Donna
 Olivia Pauline Bishop Dumay
 Zachariah Mahdi Elariny
 Diana Ene
 Vanessa Louise Fajardo
 Giovanni Faltaos
 Mariam Fareed
 Victoria Rachel Ghanma
 Diborah Ashenafi Gutema
 Brendan Michael Hall
 Fanna Henok
 Emanuele Cameron Hoo-Fatt
 Engy Ibrahim
 Fae Ladine Jensen
 Nour Jouadi
 Marjan Kandahari
 Abdulhanan Khan
 Branden Khushu
 Guno Devin Kletter
 Aditi Kulkarni
 Khanh Le
 Jackeline Melissa Lopez Hichos
 Jacqueline Lopez Lopez

Cintia Anai Martinez Cardenas
 Gurtej Singh Matharoo
 Sidney Erin Mays
 Diya Sabareesh Meethaleveettil
 Aida Menberu
 Ahad Bin Muhammad
 Sahithi Mummalaneni
 Jessica M. Oliveira
 Kerely Ramirez Silva
 Eesha Randhawa
 Hafsa Rehman
 Kevin Paul Rentapalli
 Daniela Rodrigues-Henry
 Alexander D. Rouff
 Shaden Sayed
 Shahd Sayed
 Muhammad Hasan Shah
 Livi Elizabeth Solis-Castillo
 Carolyn Soltani
 Bryce Howard Sullivan
 Molly Richards Sullivan
 Anyiah J. Syl
 Lam Phung To
 Chimauchem Godson Ukaegbu
 Sarah Emily Wells
 Abigail Williams
 Haneen Yousif
 Daniel Yusufi
 Shady Rashad Zaki
 Roshanay Zeeshan

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES

Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics

Courtney Ann Bowser
 Shikha Kinariwala
 Paola Marisol Mendizabal Perez
 Caitlyn Elizabeth Gabriella Moreno
 Kim T. Ngo
 Sarah Catherine Wendt
 Brett James Womack

Bachelor of Science in Mathematics

Raju Bhattarai
 Bingqi Chen
 John Chesser
 Kevin Daniel DeCara
 Mark Cerberus Dubynskyi
 Jacqueline Reyna Federigan
 Victor Garay
 Zechariah Reagan Hall
 Ari Z. Jaff
 Liam Michael Kelz
 Nicholas James Lear
 Alice Shuang Li
 Ruoxi Liu
 Nicholas Andrew Maranto
 Andrew John Miller
 Lourdes Lucia Navarro
 James O'Hanlon
 George Nicholas Prestoy
 Nikhil Reddy
 Philip Seungpil Shin
 Sajjan Silwal
 Kaitlyn Sullivan
 Ryan Sullivan
 Bhim Tiwari
 Chi T. Trieu
 Diego Valle
 Anthony B. Vu
 Thien Huong Ngoc Vu
 Kanchan Yadav

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY

Bachelor of Science in Astronomy

Nicholas Cotie
 Nasiir Davis-Barkley
 Terrvon Kelley
 Aiden Kriel
 Dawn Xandra Pierce
 Daria Seminario
 Tommy Thompson Thomas Jr.

Bachelor of Science in Physics

Antonio Eugene Alt
 John Allen Baban
 Minh Tuan Tu Cao
 Diego Andres Espinoza Herra
 Alec G. Freschlin
 Samuel Delaney Harris
 Sofia Kampouridou
 Khang Vi Ly
 Michael F. Pieruccini
 Avin Buddheesha Jayasundara
 Seneviratne
 Mohammad Sherazi
 Peter B. Skillman
 Evan Stocker
 Emily E. Thorne
 Zachary Theodore Thornhill

"When entering the workforce or graduate school, you will not be expected to know everything. In all likelihood, you'll be surrounded by people who were once in your situation. View their feedback as a sincere attempt to help you learn, as opposed to criticism." —Taylor Sargent '14

Candidates for Undergraduate Certificate Program

Pre-Medical Undergraduate Certificate

Renzo Gerard Gacusan Adaya
 Uloma Gilda Anele
 Sanghun Bae
 Amelia Jade Zhi Beasley
 Timothy Boos
 Bryce Alan Daniel

Travis Lee Daugherty
 Shelby Lawrence Decker
 Alex M. Doxsey
 Blake Foret
 Gabriel Griffin
 Andrew Lawrence Guthart
 Richard Montgomery Hollenback
 Savannah Kichler Isenberg
 Jake Joseph Kola
 Murray Dean Ladner III
 James E. Moulton

Brian Youngil Park
 Price Parker
 John Carlton Peabody
 Tatjana Petrikina
 John Morris Pritchard III
 Zeltzin Aketzalli Soto
 Kaitlyn Arlene Sowers
 Andrew Wenthe
 Andrew E. Wood

Degree recipients as of April 14, 2025

Special Acknowledgments—College of Science Military Programs

Enlisted to Medical Degree Preparatory Program

In the fall semester of 2014, the College of Science at George Mason University and the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences (USU) embarked on a unique partnership to provide an intensive two-year educational experience to highly qualified active-duty military members to prepare them for acceptance into medical school. This year marks the completion of the program by the tenth cohort of the Enlisted to Medical Degree Preparatory Program (EMDP2), which includes individuals from all four branches of the U.S. military.

The success of this innovative program proves that a group of talented, intelligent, and outstanding active-duty military members with an earned bachelor's degree in any field of study can, through hard work and discipline, focus their trajectories toward a successful career in military medicine.

We congratulate the members of Cohort 10 of the EMDP2 as they leave George Mason on their journey to medical school and then continue their service to our nation as active-duty military physicians. We also thank our partners at USU for facilitating this exceptional opportunity to be part of this remarkable initiative.

George Mason Patriots Serving Patriots

The F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine ("America's Medical School") is traditional in many ways, but it has unique tenets that make it a special place. Among its singular features is a curriculum that places special emphasis on military and public health medicine. This foundation prepares students for the important roles they will take on as uniformed physicians.

Our program melds the study of basic science, the clinical practice of medicine, and military leadership training to produce innovative doctors.

This signature blend of education and training distinguishes USU as a leader among institutions of learning.

Our motto: **Learning to Care for Those in Harm's Way.**

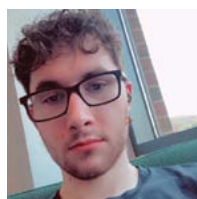
Forensic Science Master's Degree Program

The Forensic Science Program at George Mason University enjoys a synergistic alliance with the U.S. Air Force. As part of this collaboration, the Air Force refers exceptional applicants to our master of science in forensic science degree program each year via a cohort model. These active-duty military members complete their rigorous academic training in 12 months. The quality of our program, with its two-pronged philosophy to provide both theory and operational forensic science training, along with the high caliber of our faculty has made our program an ideal training opportunity for these military personnel. Upon completion of this intensive one-year graduate program, these officers are placed in forensic science officer positions through their branch of the military.

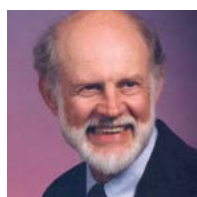
This year, we congratulate the members of Cohort 11 as they leave George Mason and continue their service to our nation as active-duty military crime fighters. Our heartfelt thanks go to our partners in the U.S. Air Force Office of Special Investigations for providing this exceptional opportunity to train and prepare these military personnel for the challenges of their forensic careers.

In Memoriam

A moment lasts all of a second, but the memory lives on forever. When someone you love becomes a memory, that memory becomes a treasure. —Unknown



Landon Von Darnell, born September 15, 2003, in Great Falls, Montana, passed away on October 1, 2024, in Virginia. Darnell was extremely intelligent and anyone who ever met him would be astonished at his knowledge of astrophysics and all sciences. He excelled while at Great Falls High School and relocated to Bristow, Virginia, in 2023 and began classes at George Mason University. His family and friends will attest that not only was he extremely intelligent, but he was also very creative and displayed his talents in many YouTube videos. He lived a life of concern and consideration for others and was a young man of abundant kindness, grace, and humility.



Don Kelso, a retired professor in the Department of Environmental Science and Policy, passed away on August 31, 2024. He earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Tennessee, a master's degree from the University of Florida, and a PhD from the University of Hawaii. In 1970, he became George Mason University's first marine and freshwater ecologist and helped establish what became the Department of Environmental Science and Policy. Kelso played a pivotal role in founding the PhD program in environmental science and public policy in 2000. It was the first doctoral program in the sciences at George Mason and the first of its kind in the nation. His legacy lives on through the countless students he inspired and through memorable excursions to the Potomac River, Chesapeake Bay, and the Caribbean.



John Lyver, an associate professor in the Department of Computational and Data Sciences and retired U.S. Navy lieutenant commander, passed away on June 16, 2024. He earned his BS in engineering from the United States Naval Academy in 1978 and enjoyed a distinguished career, obtaining three degrees from George Mason University. Lyver worked at NASA for 35 years, where he led nuclear safety reviews for significant missions, including Cassini to Saturn, New Horizons to Pluto and the Kuiper Belt, and various Mars missions, such as Pathfinder and Curiosity. He retired from NASA in 2012 and went on to teach at Northern Virginia Community College and George Mason University, where he was recognized as a teacher of distinction in 2020 by the Stearns Center for Teaching and Learning for his excellence in online education.



Valery Soyfer, a Distinguished University Professor Emeritus in the School of Systems Biology, passed away June 11, 2024. Soyfer joined George Mason University in 1990 as a Clarence Robinson Professor and was a Distinguished University Professor from 1993 to 2016. Before George Mason, Soyfer was the founding scientific director of the Research Institute for Applied Molecular Biology and Genetics in Moscow and served as a distinguished visiting professor at Ohio State University. He was a foreign member of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and received honorary degrees and professorships from several institutions, including Moscow State University. In 1996, he was awarded the Gregor Johann Mendel Honorary Medal for Merit in Biological Sciences by the Czech Academy of Sciences. Soyfer was renowned for his pioneering research on DNA mutagenesis and repair and was also a historian of science and human rights activist, authoring works on Soviet-era biology and science under totalitarian regimes.



Stephan Taub, a Professor Emeritus and former chair of the Department of Biology, passed away May 13, 2024. He joined George Mason University in 1974 as a professor and chair of the Department of Biology. While at George Mason, he initiated the creation of an environmental science concentration within the biology MS program. This concentration went on to become the basis for the environmental science and public policy PhD program the college now offers. He taught a wide range of George Mason students in courses on experimental design and analysis, as well as biostatistics. Taub earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Rochester, later earning a PhD from Indiana University.

Dean's Advisory Board Members

The College of Science appreciates the expertise and guidance provided by the distinguished team of executives on the dean's advisory board.

Robbie Barbero
Ceres Nanosciences

Mark Foster
Blazer Ventures

Cohava Gelber
Serpin Pharma

Mark Monson, BS Biology '74
College of Science Alumni Chapter

Richard Morris
Decision-gates

Patrick O'Neil, '15, '17
Spaceflight Industries

Senator Chap Petersen
Virginia State Senator, 34th Senate District; Attorney

Bill Senich
Stonestreet Technical Services

Nancy Senich
Nancy Rose and Associates

Sumeet Shrivastava
George Mason University Foundation

Christopher Tucker
Yale House Ventures

Thank you to the Degree Celebration team for helping to make this year's celebration another great success.



The science curriculum at George Mason University provides extraordinary learning environments on the Fairfax Campus, the Science and Technology Campus, the Smithsonian-Mason School of Conservation, Mason Korea, and the Potomac Science Center.

Please join us for a congratulatory Degree Celebration party honoring our graduates immediately following the ceremony.

The celebration will be held in the atria of Exploratory Hall.

All are invited to attend.

Congratulations, Class of 2025!

#MasonScience

#Mason2025

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