



# 155<sup>TH</sup>

COMMENCEMENT  
*Ceremonies*

GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY | WASHINGTON, D.C.

MAY 16, 2025 | FIELD HOUSE

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We ask that family, friends, and invited guests take photographs or videotape the ceremony from their seats only. Because of fire and safety regulations, you will not be permitted to approach the stage. A professional photographer will take photos of each graduate as they receive their diploma. Each graduate will receive one image from the photographer, courtesy of Gallaudet University. Thank you for your cooperation.

*Appearance of a name in this program is presumptive evidence of graduation, but it must not in any sense be regarded as conclusive. The diploma of the University, signed and sealed by its proper officers, remains the official testimony of the possession of the degree.*



MAY 16, 2025



# CLASS *of* 2025 COMMENCEMENT

GRADUATE CEREMONY



# GRADUATE CEREMONY

# ORDER *of* EXERCISES

## Prelude

**Gallaudet Dance Company**

**Bison Song Team**

## Processional

*Festmarch from Tännhauser* (1845)

Wilhelm Richard Wagner

## The National Anthem

*The Star-Spangled Banner* (1814)

Francis Scott Key

## Welcome

Roberta J. Cordano, J.D.

President

## Greetings

Robert B. Weinstock, '77 & G-'83

President, Gallaudet University Alumni Association

Jose A. Cervantes, '05

Chair, Gallaudet University Board of Trustees

## Address

Roberta J. Cordano, J.D.

President

## Keynote Address

Carol Padden, Ph.D.

## Graduate Student Address

Lu Ming

## Conferring of Degrees

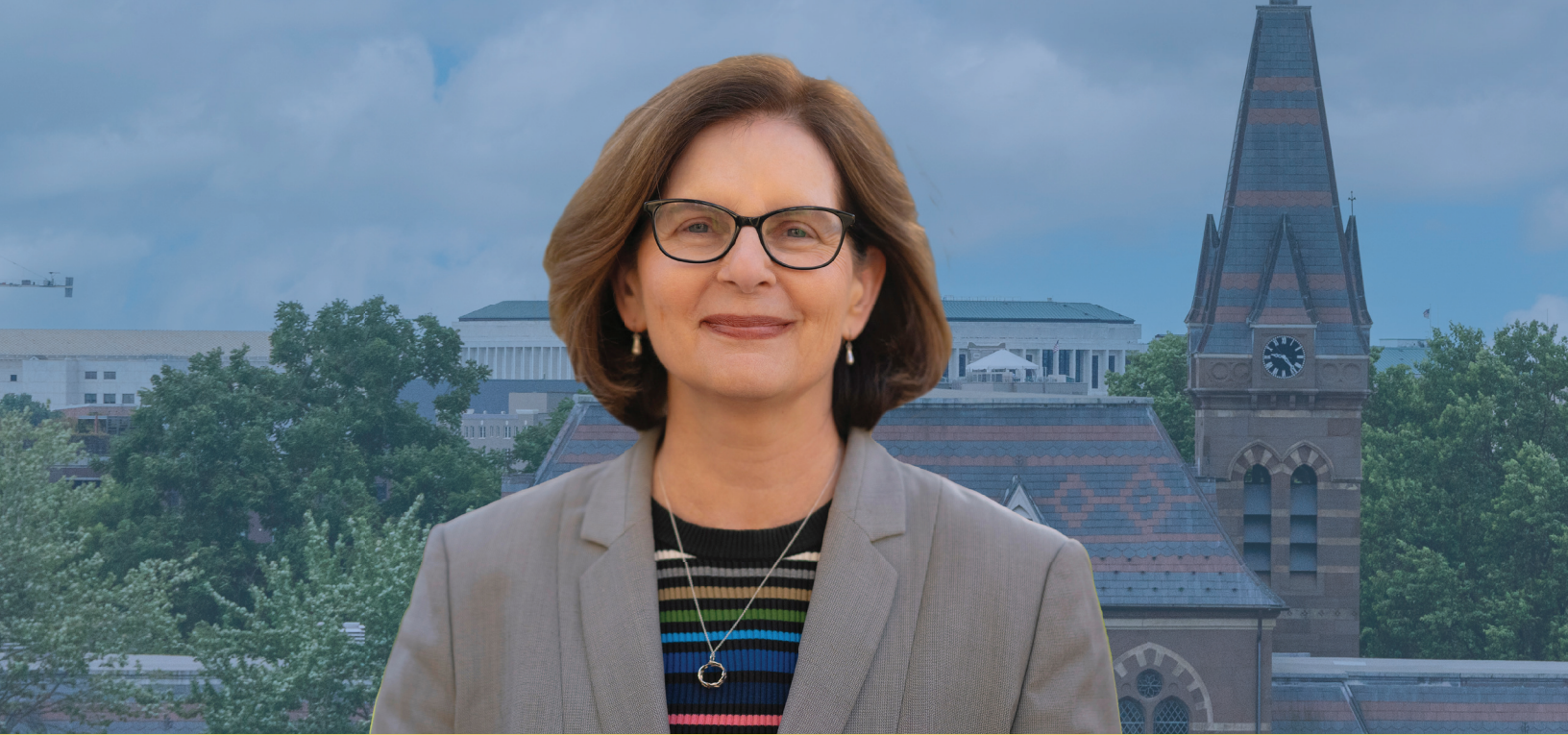
## Recessional

*Triumphal March from Aida* (1871)

Giuseppe Fortunino Francesco Verdi



Following the ceremony, please join the community for light refreshments to celebrate our graduates in the I. King Jordan Student Academic Center.



## GRADUATE

# KEYNOTE SPEAKER

## Dr. Carol Padden

Dr. Carol Ann Padden was born in Washington, D.C., the daughter of two of Gallaudet University's most noted alumni, Donald and Agnes Padden, both of whom taught at Gallaudet for nearly four decades. Dr. Padden attended preschool and the first two grades on the Gallaudet campus at Kendall School (now the Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center's Kendall Demonstration Elementary School). In third grade, she transferred to a public school, which she describes as a significant adjustment for her. Being the only deaf student among her hearing classmates, and a lifetime of navigating between the deaf and hearing worlds, led Dr. Padden to pursue an academic career in language, communication, and culture.

Dr. Padden earned her bachelor's degree at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. in 1978, and upon completing her Ph.D. in Linguistics at University of California, San Diego (UCSD) in 1983, Dr. Padden joined the faculty in the Department of Communication at the same university. After a term as chair of the Department of Communication, she became associate dean and faculty equity advisor in the School of Social Sciences. In 2014, she was appointed dean of Social Sciences, and holds the Sanford I. Berman Chair in Language and Human Communication. In addition to research on sign languages, her work has explored the historical and contemporary dimensions of Deaf culture, the planning of reading instruction for young deaf children by adults and teachers, and the future of Deaf people in the age of cochlear implants and genetic engineering.

Dr. Padden has also gained distinction through devoting her time as a volunteer for community organizations and academic institutions, including the Board of Trustees at Gallaudet University, where she is a trustee emerita, serving from 1989 to 2003, including several years as vice chair. She holds honorary doctoral degrees from the University of Haifa, Israel and Swarthmore College.

During her address to the graduate Class of 2025, Dr. Padden will talk about deafness in the age of genetic engineering and Artificial Intelligence. She will also be awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters.



## GRADUATE

# STUDENT SPEAKER

## Lu Ming

Lu Ming is graduating with a Master of Science in Accessible Human-Centered Computing. Born and raised in China, she was inspired to apply to Gallaudet University after watching the movie *CODA*, which sparked her interest in Deaf culture and the power of sign language. Lu began her journey at the English Language Institute (ELI) in fall 2022, where she not only improved her American Sign Language skills but learned how to navigate and connect with the Deaf community.

In fall 2023, Lu entered the master's program, continuing her journey of personal and professional growth. During graduate school, she joined research teams focused on enhancing the accessibility of educational materials for Deaf students. Her work centered on improving the design and effectiveness of videos and captions to better support Deaf learners. In addition, Lu served as a tutor at ELI, where she supported fellow international students as they adjusted to life at Gallaudet University. These experiences strengthened Lu's passion for creating accessible learning environments and deepened her commitment to advancing equity through thoughtful design.

Learning at Gallaudet University opened new doors for Lu, not only to communication, but to identity, community, and growth. As she looks ahead, Lu carries with her not only the knowledge and skills gained through her studies, but a strong sense of purpose shaped by her lived experiences. She is deeply grateful to the Gallaudet community for embracing her growth and inspiring her journey. Being part of a space where Deaf voices lead and Deaf culture thrives has transformed how she envisions access and inclusion. Lu is excited to continue advocating for an accessible, human-centered design that honors the diversity of lived experiences and helps build a more equitable world for all.

# INTRODUCTION

## *of the* GRADUATES

**Dr. Khadijat K. Rashid, '90**  
**Provost**

**Doctor of Philosophy**

Clinical Psychology  
Educational Neuroscience  
Hearing, Speech, and Language Sciences  
Interpretation  
Linguistics  
Translation and Interpreting Studies

**School of Human Services and Sciences**

**Dr. Daniel Koo, G-'97, Director**

Doctor of Audiology  
Doctor of Psychology  
Master of Arts in Counseling  
Master of Arts in Developmental Psychology  
Master of Arts in Early Intervention Studies  
Master of Science in Hearing, Speech, and Language Sciences  
Master of Arts in Psychology  
Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology

**School of Language, Education, and Culture**

**Dr. Helen Thumann, G-'91, Director**

Education Specialist in Deaf Education  
Master of Arts in Deaf Education  
Master of Arts in Deaf Education Studies  
Master of Arts in International Development  
Master of Arts in Interpretation  
Master of Arts in Linguistics  
Master of Arts in Sign Language Education

**School of Science, Technology, Accessibility, Mathematics, and Public Health**

**Dr. Daniel J. Lundberg, '02, Director**

Master of Science in Accessible Human-Centered Computing

**School of Arts and Humanities**

**Dr. Teresa Blankmeyer Burke, Director**

Master of Arts in Deaf Studies

**School of Civic Leadership, Business, and Social Change**

**Professor Emilia Chukwuma, '85, Director**

Master of Public Administration  
Master of Social Work



## Doctor of Philosophy

### Clinical Psychology

Sarhand Hasan	Virginia
Sheila Maynard	** District of Columbia
Holly Katlin Salem	Oklahoma
Garret Rollin Shelenhamer	* District of Columbia
Erin Celeste Timperlake	*@ Massachusetts

### Educational Neuroscience

Carly Leannah	*@ Tennessee
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### Hearing, Speech, and Language Sciences

Barbara Bustamente	Maryland
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### Interpretation

Ricardo Irvin Ortiz Román	Florida
Roberto Ryukichi Santiago	* California

### Linguistics

Kiva Majorie Bennett	** District of Columbia
Wink K. Smith	@ District of Columbia

### Translation and Interpreting Studies

Heather Anne Turell	Maryland
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## Doctor of Audiology

Austen Beaird	** New York
Christina Elejalde	Pennsylvania
Chloe Grace Hyde	California
Jacquelin Kutz	Texas
Matthew Andrew Lopez	Maryland
Derica Ann Parathundil	*** California
Jared Pinkham	District of Columbia
Karlee Shuldberg	*** Oregon

## Doctor of Psychology

Mariam Azimi	Virginia
Tobias Christopher Canterbury	District of Columbia
Tristan K. Steele	District of Columbia

## Master of Arts in Counseling

Rachel Ilise Baroway	California
Alyssa Isabel Castillo	California
Meredith Anna Falgout	Massachusetts
Nathan Jalali	Kansas
Matthew James McQuinn	Nebraska
Ariel Elizabeth Senics	Indiana
Lucy Taylor	*** Maryland

## Master of Arts in Developmental Psychology

Kristian Alexander Ivey	Georgia
Carol Maureen Lynn	District of Columbia
Moss MacLean	District of Columbia
Katie Lynn Peardon	New Jersey
Ariel Elizabeth Senics	Indiana
Rachel Marie Shaffer	Ohio

## Master of Arts in Early Intervention Studies

Donia Albisherawy	** District of Columbia
Briella Maria Diaz	** Tennessee
Leah Caitrin Geer	** California
Cami Ann Glach	** Colorado

## Master of Science in Hearing, Speech, and Language Sciences

Austen Beaird	**@ New York
Ariana Cipoletta	@ New Jersey
Tiana Dixon	@ District of Columbia
Alaina Grace Milam	@ District of Columbia
Rianna K. Passino	@ Virginia
Kady RYanne Patterson	@ New Jersey
Chloe Frances Scheff	@ Virginia
Hilmarie Turbulencia Tran	@ Virginia
Hannah Weinman	@ Georgia
Emily Woods	@ District of Columbia

## Master of Arts in Psychology

Alexandra Grillo	** Virginia
Rachel Inghram	** Pennsylvania
Amy Sue Lambert	** Maryland
Va'Lecia Larai Penney	** Maryland
Haley Elizabeth Turner	Maryland

## Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology

Kayden Beisner	District of Columbia
Emily Birnbaum	** District of Columbia
Zoe Elysia Blumenson	Virginia
Jena Elaine Burton	District of Columbia
Jowyn Chan	Virginia
Grace Kathryn DiMario	Florida
Alex Dkyhuizen	Virginia
Pia Pia Garreffa	Connecticut
Sarah Goldberg	Virginia
Sorena Joseph	New Jersey
Faith M. Kelly	District of Columbia
Eva I. Perez	District of Columbia
Paige Phifer	Georgia
Nicole Kayla Pilch	Ohio
Jaimi Michelle Pollack	Virginia
Sima Ashley Popowski	Maryland
Nicole M. Reeves	*** Virginia
Victoria Catherine Sabatino	Virginia
Sapir Sandowski	District of Columbia
Hannah Grace Stone	Texas
Hannah I. Tran	Virginia
Zach Jordan Davis Winegardner Ferrin	Maryland

## Education Specialist in Deaf Education

Evon J. Black	District of Columbia
Brooke Elliott	South Carolina
Jenn Lynn Foster	Washington
Adam Garfinkel	** Georgia
Nancy Elizabeth McAnlis	** California
Alaina June Mitchell	New York

\* Degree requirements completed in August 2024 \*\* Degree requirements completed in December 2024 \*\*\* Will complete degree requirements in August 2025  
@ In absentia Current May and August degree candidates will not be awarded degree(s) until all requirements are met.

## Education Specialist in Deaf Education, cont'd.

Bonnie Jo Morrison	California
Jessica Olsen	California
Suthaharan Ramanathan	California
Noelle R. Wilder	California
Krystal Wygas	** Missouri

## Master of Arts in Deaf Education

Shawn Gage Green Daniels	** District of Columbia
Carrie Overman	** Maryland
Cade Patterson	Maryland

## Master of Arts in Deaf Education Studies

Grace Barrett	Texas
Luke Cameron Bundrum	Georgia

## Master of Arts in International Development

Binta Badjie	Drenthe, Gambia
Claire Nicole Coffey	District of Columbia
Eric R. Hidalgo	Texas
Latavia Roberts	*** Georgia
Rodrigo Rodrigo Uresti	Texas

## Master of Arts in Interpretation

Haley Freedman	*** California
Micheal Anthony Guido	*** California
Kenni Ramirez	*** District of Columbia
Kathleen Marie Rehagen	Florida
Chelsea Sampson	*** Maryland
Wendy Yat	*** Connecticut

## Master of Arts in Linguistics

Mikoalis Bedrosian Kajen	Massachusetts
Natalie Marie Castro	Maryland
Chloe E. Eliason	District of Columbia
Jennette Phillips	Missouri

## Master of Arts in Sign Language Education

Hassan Ahmed	California
Alyssa Gleason Bennett	** District of Columbia
Ames Lily Biskupiak	* Maryland
Moni' Unique Brown	* California
Justin W. Christian	Maryland
Donald Roy Cochran	* California
Tiffany Marie Cochran	* California
Adele Lynn Daniels	* District of Columbia
Jade Dawson	** New York
Brianna Lynn Dike	Tennessee
Shasta Dawn Dreese	* Pennsylvania
Angela June Ellman	* South Dakota
Dayamarali Espinosa	* North Carolina
Tai S. Gruver	* Missouri
Jessica Ann Harris	California
Álvaro Valentin Jiménez	* México
Kelly P. Lenis	*** District of Columbia
Joseph E. Mattiace	*** New Jersey
James McGowan	* Pennsylvania
Tyler Naeyaert	* Michigan
Hiroshi Ken Nakama	* District of Columbia

## Master of Arts in Sign Language Education, cont'd.

Ashley Annette Puckett	* Kentucky
Summer Seiger	* Pennsylvania
Kimberly Ann Stinnett	* Kentucky
Misa Suzuki	* Maryland
Lesslie Margarita Talamantez	*** Kansas
Jarlene Gena Villalobos	* Kansas
Kara Wilson	*** Virginia

## Master of Science in Accessible Human-Centered Computing

Mariana Arroyo Chavez	** México
Dante J. Conway	District of Columbia
Beth Dawn Dorsette	District of Columbia
Yasmeen Beatriz Holguin Villa	*** District of Columbia
Ming Li	Maryland
Lu Ming	Hubei, China
Michaela A. Okosi	District of Columbia

## Master of Arts in Deaf Studies

Natasha Renéé Crawford	California
Marie Maslanova	Czechia
Jennette Phillips	Missouri

## Master of Public Administration

Millicent Alexander	Maryland
Darissa I. Bashaw	District of Columbia
Ashley Marie Carries	Maryland
Ana Garcia Daku	Colorado
Ashod Derandonyan	Bulgaria
Leslye Kang	District of Columbia
Jonathan Frank Kessel	District of Columbia
Rarity LeErma Lemons	California
Edwin Manuel Martinez	*** Maryland
Thinaja Nadarajeh Israel	Maryland
Brett C. Sonnenstrahl	Maryland

## Master of Social Work

Zoe Mattison Andrews	Kentucky
Milana Olivia Bielucke	Maryland
Debrah Lynn Bryant	Alabama
Cat Alice Calabro	New York
Mariaisabel Cedeno	Massachusetts
Nell Healy Curtin	Virginia
Greyses Fatima Encarnacion	District of Columbia
Makayla Marie Fagan	District of Columbia
Christina Marie Fulton	Illinois
Aaron Moses Laikram	District of Columbia
Micah Allure Lovell	District of Columbia
Hunter Welch Madsen	Tennessee
Lakeya Jena McCoy	Maryland
Rebekah Ellen Minson	*** District of Columbia
Hannah Beth Mollin	Virginia
Rosa B. Padilla	Michigan
Angela K. Queen	*** Oklahoma
Julie Ann Shoeman	West Virginia
Brittney C. Stuckert	District of Columbia
Victoria Tingler	District of Columbia
Veronica Tovar Cervantes	California

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# **CLASS** *of* **2025** **COMMENCEMENT**



**UNDERGRADUATE CEREMONY**

# UNDERGRADUATE CEREMONY

## ORDER *of* EXERCISES

### **Prelude**

**Gallaudet Dance Company**

**Bison Song Team**

### **Processional**

Batalá Washington, DC

### **The National Anthem**

*The Star-Spangled Banner* (1814)

Francis Scott Key

### **Welcome**

Roberta J. Cordano, J.D.

President

### **Greetings**

Robert B. Weinstock, '77 & G-'83

President, Gallaudet University Alumni Association

Jose A. Cervantes, '05

Chair, Board of Trustees

### **Faculty Honors**

Faculty Emeriti

### **Conferring of Honorary Degrees**

Carol Padden, Ph.D.

Tom Humphries, '68 & G-'72, Ph.D.

### **Keynote Address**

Tom Humphries, '68 & G-'72, Ph.D.

### **Address**

Roberta J. Cordano, J.D.

President

### **Undergraduate Student Address**

Aubrie Bauer

### **Conferring of Degrees**

### **Recessional**

*Triumphal March from Aida* (1871)

Giuseppe Fortunino Francesco Verdi



Following the ceremony, please join the community for light refreshments to celebrate our graduates in the I. King Jordan Student Academic Center.

# CONFERRING *of* FACULTY HONORS *and* HONORARY DEGREES

## Faculty Emeriti

Valerie Dively, '82 and G-'85

Carol J. Erting

Linda Risser Lytle, '72

James Nickerson, '80

## Honorary Degrees

Tom Humphries, Ph.D.

*Doctor of Humane Letters*

Carol Padden, Ph.D.

*Doctor of Humane Letters*



# FACULTY HONORS

## BIOGRAPHIES



**Valerie Dively, '82 and G-'85**  
*Professor Emerit*

Dr. Valerie “Val” Dively was an exemplary educator at Gallaudet University for 30 years, until her retirement in 2019. In 1990, she joined the Interpretation faculty in Gallaudet’s Department of Linguistics and Interpreting, which later divided into two departments - Linguistics, and Interpretation and Translation – and served as first chair of the latter program. She was also the coordinator for both the bachelor of arts and master’s of arts programs in interpretation. Dr. Dively is a published author and researcher in sign language linguistics and interpreting. In addition to her duties as a faculty member, she enrolled in a doctorate program in linguistics at The Union Institute (now Union Institute and University) and received her degree in 1996. Prior to Dr. Dively’s career at the University, she taught English and Mathematics at the Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center’s Model Secondary School for the Deaf at Gallaudet University from January 1984 to June 1985, and worked as an adjunct professor at Gallaudet and a Deaf American Sign Language interpreter and instructor for approximately eight years in Virginia, Maryland, and Washington, D.C.



**Carol J. Erting**  
*Professor and Provost Emerit*

Dr. Carol J. Erting left a lasting impression on Gallaudet University through a career spanning 46 years. Her collaborative ethnographic research in Deaf homes, schools, and classrooms contributed to the literature on socialization and education in the deaf community from a cultural and linguistic perspective. Dr. Erting began working at Gallaudet in 1974 as a research associate in American Sign Language linguistics pioneer Dr. William C. Stokoe’s Linguistics Research Laboratory. In 1977, she joined the faculty, and in 1979 she was appointed to the University’s Research Institute. She held faculty appointments in the Linguistics Department (1982-1996) and the Department of Education (1996-2020). Dr. Erting served in several administrative roles at Gallaudet, including Chair of the Department of Education, Dean of the Graduate School, and Provost, serving in the latter role until her retirement in 2020. Dr. Erting holds a Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology from American University, an M.Phil in Anthropological Research Methods from the University of London, and B.S. and M.A. in Communicative Disorders/Deaf Education degrees from Northwestern University. She has received numerous scholarly awards, including a NATO Postdoctoral Fellowship in Science (1985), the Richard M. Phillips Faculty/Staff of the Year Award (1999), the Award for Excellence in Academic Leadership from the American Conference of Academic Deans (2020), and in 2023 the Association of College Educators – Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ACE-DHH) honored her with the Sister Mary Delaney Award for exemplary achievement in the preparation of teachers of students who are deaf or hard of hearing.



**Linda Risser Lytle, '72**  
*Professor Emerit*

Dr. Linda Risser Lytle had a long and varied career at Gallaudet University. She started as a teacher’s aide at the Model Secondary School for the Deaf (MSSD) in the Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center the summer after receiving her undergraduate degree. She next became a teacher in the MSSD English Department, while pursuing her master’s degree in school psychology from the Catholic University of America, and after graduating became an MSSD school psychologist. Realizing that she wanted to do more in the psychology field, she earned a doctoral degree, also from Catholic University, and became a psychologist, working briefly in the University’s former Counseling and Placement Center, and then leaving Gallaudet to set up a full-time private practice. In 2004, she returned to Gallaudet as a professor in the Department of Counseling, training both clinical mental health counselors and school counselors. Dr. Lytle was director of the innovative Summers and Online School Counseling Program for many years, supporting students with grants provided by the U.S. Department of Education. Before her retirement in 2019, she also co-directed the Infants, Toddlers, and their Families master’s certificate program. She is co-author of *Turning the Tide: Making Life Better for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Schoolchildren*. Dr. Lytle was married to the late Dr. Richard Lytle, a retired Gallaudet faculty member in the Department of Education. She lives in Delaware and enjoys visiting her three adult children and their families.



**James Nickerson, '80**  
*Professor Emerit*

Dr. James Nickerson, had a long and distinguished career as a faculty member in Gallaudet University’s Mathematics Program in the School of Science, Technology, Mathematics, and Public Health (1983 to 2020). Dr. Nickerson, who became deaf at age five, received his early education at the Martin School for the Deaf in Philadelphia, Pa., before transferring to a mainstream program. After graduating from Gallaudet, he enrolled at the University of Tennessee, where he earned his master of science degree in mathematics in 1983, then pursued his Ph.D. in mathematics at the University of Maryland, receiving his degree in 1995. As a Gallaudet faculty member, Dr. Nickerson was very active in faculty governance, particularly with the University Faculty Senate’s Faculty Welfare and Tenure and Promotion committees. He took great pride and gratification in mentoring mathematics majors, and particularly enjoyed teaching Non-Euclidean Geometry in American Sign Language. To this day, whenever Dr. Nickerson is asked about his past career, he always replies, “I loved my job.”



## CITATION *of* CAROL PADDEN

### ON BEING PRESENTED THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS HONORIS CAUSA

For most of her career, Dr. Carol Padden has distinguished herself among linguistic researchers through studying sign languages from multiple perspectives: their grammatical structures compared to spoken languages; how emerging sign languages develop in social and cultural circumstances; and how they continue to thrive in an age where cochlear implants and genetic engineering may threaten their demise.

In her work, Dr. Padden says, “I explore ways in which understanding the complexity of humans – how they communicate, participate in society, and live among different others – provides a way of imagining more expansive futures.”

Dr. Carol Padden was born in Washington, D.C., the daughter of two of Gallaudet University’s most noted alumni, Donald and Agnes Padden, both of whom taught at Gallaudet for nearly four decades. Dr. Padden attended preschool and the first two grades on the Gallaudet campus at Kendall School (now the Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center’s Kendall Demonstration Elementary School). In third grade, she transferred to a public school, which she describes as a significant adjustment for her. Being the only deaf student among her hearing classmates, and a lifetime of navigating between the deaf and hearing worlds, led Dr. Padden to pursue an academic career in language, communication, and culture.

Dr. Padden earned her bachelor’s degree at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. in 1978, and upon completing her Ph.D. in Linguistics at University of California, San Diego (UCSD) in 1983, Dr. Padden joined the faculty in the Department of Communication at the same university. After a term as chair of the Department of Communication, she became associate dean and faculty equity advisor in the School of Social Sciences. In 2014, she was appointed Dean of Social Sciences, and holds the Sanford I. Berman Chair in Language and Human Communication. In addition to research on sign languages, her work has explored the historical and contemporary dimensions of Deaf culture, the planning of reading instruction for young deaf children by adults and teachers, and the future of Deaf people in the age of cochlear implants and genetic engineering.

Dr. Padden has also gained distinction through devoting her time as a volunteer for community organizations and academic institutions, including the Board of Trustees at Gallaudet University, where she is a trustee emerita, serving from 1989 to 2003, including several years as vice chair. She holds honorary doctoral degrees from the University of Haifa, Israel, and Swarthmore College.

Dr. Padden is recognized for her advocacy for Deaf rights and culture. She co-authored the influential book *Deaf in America: Voices from a Culture*, in 1988, followed by *Inside Deaf Culture*, with Dr. Tom Humphries, her spouse and colleague. They also co-authored two textbooks on American Sign Language and various other journal articles. These influential publications shed light on the cultural richness of the Deaf community, rather than hearing loss, and direct attention to their language and their culture. As a result, they have gained a great deal of recognition as Deaf Studies has flourished.

In 1992, Dr. Padden was named a Guggenheim Fellow. In 2010, she received a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship, popularly known as the “Genius Grant,” in recognition of her creative and innovative research.

In recognition of her many achievements and the inspirational example she has set through her illustrious career and her volunteer service, including as a trustee at Gallaudet University, it is with great pleasure that Gallaudet awards Carol Padden the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*.





## CITATION *of* TOMMY LEONARD HUMPHRIES

ON BEING PRESENTED THE DEGREE OF  
**DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS**  
*HONORIS CAUSA*

Dr. Tommy Leonard Humphries, '68 & G-'72, a Gallaudet University alumni, and emeritus professor in the departments of Communication and Education Studies at the University of California at San Diego (UCSD), has focused much of his career researching deaf culture and how deaf people imagine their community. He has been a strong advocate for bilingual education for Deaf children, emphasizing the importance of teaching Deaf students in both ASL and written/spoken English. Dr. Humphries is widely known for coining the term "audism" – a belief in the superiority of the state of being hearing – in his 1975 dissertation.

Dr. Humphries was born in a small town in South Carolina. He was educated at a local public school, surrounded by hearing people, not meeting another deaf person until he entered Gallaudet University. His immersion among this large community of ASL users was an enlightening experience and gave him a different perspective on himself and the culture of the community he found there.

At Gallaudet, Dr. Humphries majored in Accounting and Education, and taught in the University's English department after graduating with a bachelor's degree in 1968 and a master's in 1972. He went on to earn his Ph.D. in Cross Cultural Communication and Language Learning at the Union Institute & University, Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1977. During this doctoral study in 1975, he designed a bilingual approach to teaching deaf language learners and explored the effects on learning of what he called "audism" – a belief in the superiority of the state of being hearing. He then moved to San Diego, California and worked as a college administrator until he left to get back into teaching and research at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) in 1991. Jointly appointed to the departments of Communication and Education Studies at UCSD, he focused much of his career studying deaf cultural processes and how they influence schooling of deaf children. He has been a strong advocate and collaborator with scholars and colleagues across other universities to inform the national dialogue on the language and cognitive developmental needs of deaf children.

In his teaching, Dr. Humphries' research has delved into the global cultural discourse among Deaf people and its influence on the narratives Deaf people tell themselves about their lives. He has been particularly interested in how the concept of "culture" became a key element of self-representation among Deaf people, building on the work he began with his spouse and colleague, Dr. Carol Padden, in their books *Deaf in America: Voices from a Culture* (1988) and *Inside Deaf Culture* (2005).

Dr. Humphries has also published notable research on teacher-student interactions in deaf education settings. In collaboration with Cinnie MacDougall, their paper on teacher talk in deaf and hearing classrooms highlighted how different ideologies shaped teaching practices. They demonstrated how Deaf teachers, by drawing connections between American Sign Language (ASL) and English, promoted English literacy through ASL, a concept previously considered improbable by many in the field of deaf education. His research influenced efforts to reimagine teacher preparation programs for Deaf education.

Dr. Humphries maintained a strong connection with Gallaudet University through his service as a board of trustees member for 12 years, from 2005 to 2017. At Gallaudet's 25th anniversary celebration, he delivered the presentation "Our Time: The Legacy of the 20th Century," reflecting on transformative events of the second half of the 20th century on Gallaudet and the Deaf community. His collaborative spirit extended to research partnerships with Gallaudet faculty, further enriching the academic discourse on Deaf culture and education.

In recognition of his important, insightful work that has led to his reputation as world-renowned researcher of deaf culture and bilingual, multimodal deaf education, and for his service as a trustee of Gallaudet University, Gallaudet is honored to award Dr. Tom L. Humphries the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*.



## UNDERGRADUATE

# KEYNOTE SPEAKER

### Dr. Tom Humphries, '68 & G-'72

Dr. Tommy (Tom) Leonard Humphries was born in a small town in South Carolina. He was educated at a local public school, surrounded by hearing people, not meeting another deaf person until he entered Gallaudet University. His immersion among this large community of ASL users was an enlightening experience and gave him a different perspective on himself and the culture of the community he found there.

At Gallaudet, Dr. Humphries majored in Education, and taught in the University's English department after graduating with a bachelor's degree in 1968 and a master's in 1972. He went on to earn his Ph.D. in Cross Cultural Communication and Language Learning at the Union Institute & University, Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1977. During this doctoral study in 1975, he designed a bilingual approach to teaching deaf language learners and explored the effects on learning of what he called "audism" – a belief in the superiority of the state of being hearing. He then moved to San Diego, California and worked as a college administrator until he left to get back into teaching and research at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) in 1991. Jointly appointed to the departments of Communication and Education Studies at UCSD, he focused much of his career researching deaf cultural processes and how deaf people imagine their community into being. He has been a strong advocate for bilingual education in American Sign Language and English, and he has collaborated with scholars and colleagues across other universities to inform the national dialogue on the developmental needs of deaf children.

During his address to the graduate Class of 2025, Dr. Humphries will talk about a lifelong commitment to changing narratives and the importance of service. He will also be awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters.



## UNDERGRADUATE

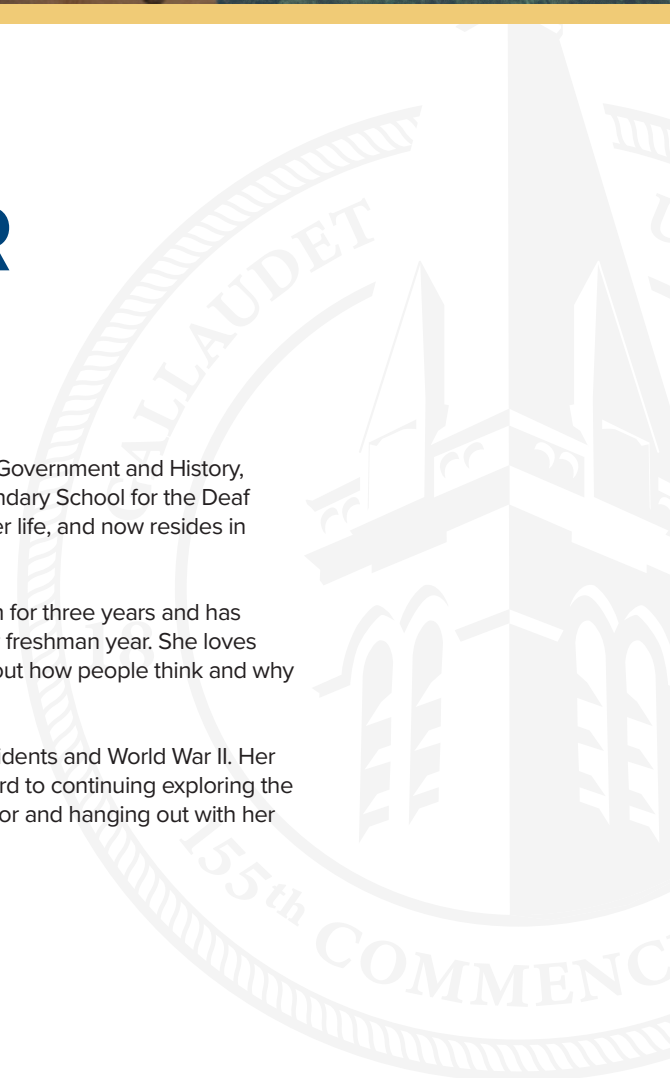
# STUDENT SPEAKER

## Aubrie Bauer

Aubrie Bauer is graduating from Gallaudet University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Government and History, completing eight years on Gallaudet's Kendall Green campus – four at the Model Secondary School for the Deaf and four at the University. Aubrie was born in Wisconsin, raised in Indiana for most of her life, and now resides in Frederick, Md..

During her time at the University, Aubrie has been a proud member of the Debate Team for three years and has worked at the Center for Democracy in Deaf America since the second semester of her freshman year. She loves diving into controversial topics, debating with just about anyone, and learning more about how people think and why they believe what they do.

Aubrie's intellectual curiosity includes politics, democracy, and the histories of U.S. presidents and World War II. Her passion for travel has taken her to over 20 countries, mostly in Europe, and looks forward to continuing exploring the world. When she isn't debating or traveling, Aubrie enjoys engaging in sharp, witty humor and hanging out with her two-year-old German Shepherd, Mercedes.



# UNIVERSITY HONORS GRADUATES 2025

## **Kailee Bates**

Title: *Creating Accessible Literature for Deaf Young Adults*  
Director: Anita Harding, M.Ed.  
Reader: Pamela Decker-Wright, M.A., M.Ed.  
Reader: Jennifer L. Nelson, Ph.D.

## **Lorelei Verena Becktel**

Title: *The Cost of Accommodative Burdens: Prevalence & Impact on Deaf and Hard of Hearing Individuals*  
Director: Lori Day, Ph.D.  
Reader: Deborah Schooler, Ph.D.

## **Elizabeth Droubi**

Title: *The Manifestation of Synesthesia in the Deaf, Hard-of-Hearing, and Sign Language User Population*  
Co-Director: Ilaria Berteletti, Ph.D.  
Co-Director: James Waller, Ph.D.

## **Erza Forero-Tarquino**

Title: *Impacts of Culturally Responsive Social-Emotional Learning Post-COVID-19: An Analysis of How Providing Culturally Responsive SEL Impacts Deaf/Hard of Hearing Students' Social-Emotional Development During and After the COVID-19 Pandemic*  
Director: Julie Mitchiner, Ph.D.  
Reader: Oscar Ocuto, Ed.D.  
Reader: Caroline M. Kobek Pezzarossi, Ph.D.

## **Jeanelle Darlene Francis**

Title: *Reimagining Law Enforcement Communication with the Black Deaf Community*  
Director: Erin Farley, Ph.D.  
Reader: Joseph Hill, Ph.D.

## **Shealyn Andra Jungé**

Title: *The LRE Provision of IDEA's Impact on Deaf Students' Socio-Emotional Satisfaction in K-12th Grade Education*  
Director: Dr. Jessica Kuehne  
Reader: Dr. Julie Rems-Smario, Ed.D.

## **Mara Land**

Title: *Exploring Student Engagement at Gallaudet: A Video Analysis of Direct ASL Instruction and ASL Interpreter-Facilitated Instruction*  
Director: Oscar Ocuto, Ed.D.  
Former Director: Melissa Herzig, Ed.D.  
Reader: Stacy Nowak, Ph.D.  
Reader: Mechelle Tarbox, M.A.

## **Blessed Mbogo**

Title: *Association of Psychological Quality of Life Scores and Adverse Experiences in STOP2 Multi-center Clinical Trial*  
Director: Amalia Magaret, Ph.D.  
Reader: David Nichols, M.D.  
Reader: Derek Braun, Ph.D.

## **Katie McClyman**

Title: *Exploring the Relationship Between Disability and Stress: A Preliminary Study*  
Director: Jeffrey A. Brune, Ph.D.  
Reader: Rachel Pizzie, Ph.D.

## **Amalia Mihalakakos**

Title: *Brain Fog: An Adventure*  
Director: Julie Mitchiner, Ph.D.  
Reader: Dolphia Butler, Ph.D.

## **Cynthia Marie Ortega**

Title: *Conversations and Educating People about Traumatic Experiences*  
Director: Tonya Stremlau, Ph.D.  
Reader: Oscar Ocuto, Ed.D.

## **Atlas Rideout**

Title: *The Transgender & Gender-Diverse Interpreter's Experience*  
Director: Wink Smith, M.A., MBA, NIC Master  
Reader: Jerrin George, CDI

## **Taylor Victor**

Title: *Preparing to Bridge the Deaf Math Gap: Exploring Preparation Materials for ASL Interpreters in Math Education*  
Director: Christopher Hayes, Ph.D.  
Reader: Danielle Hunt, Ph.D.  
Reader: Allison Gibbons

## **Destiny Zhinin**

Title: *Translanguaging and Ethnolinguistic Identity: A Case Study of a Hispanic Latine Family*  
Director: Octavian Robinson, Ph.D.  
Reader: Maribel Gárate, Ph.D.  
Reader: Deborah Chen Pichler, Ph.D.

# INTRODUCTION *of the* GRADUATES

**Dr. Caroline Miller Solomon**  
**Dean of the Faculty**

**Bachelor of Arts**

American Sign Language  
Art and Media Design  
Biology  
Communication Studies  
Deaf Studies  
Education  
English  
Government  
History  
Interdisciplinary Spanish  
International Studies  
Interpretation  
Mathematics  
Philosophy  
Psychology  
Self-Directed Major  
Sociology  
Social Work  
Spanish  
Theatre Arts

**Bachelor of Science**

Accounting  
Biology  
Business Administration  
Information Technology  
Mathematics  
Physical Education and Recreation  
Public Health  
Risk Management and Insurance



## Bachelor of Arts / Bachelor of Science

Foluso Bolutife Adeluola	@ Nigeria	Fabricio Alexander Flores Villegas	*@ Maryland
Vernicole Agustin	Hawaii	Samantha Ruth Floyd	Florida
David Yahir Alegria	*** Texas	Rayston Fonseca	**@ Maryland
Turki Hathlool Alhathlool	*** Saudi Arabia	Ezra Forero-Tarquino	*** Massachusetts
Jon Clayton Anderson	Indiana	Jeanelle Francis	Maryland
Clemence Angue Ndong	Gabon	Jasmene Kristen Fuller	Maryland
Amanda Baldeo	New York	Mallory Garcia	@ Texas
Marzieh Bannazadeh	** Iran	Jamie Lynn Gleason	Kentucky
Myles Klug Barrett	*@ Minnesota	Alyssa Glennon	Texas
Kailee Alexis Bates	North Carolina	Alex Goldberg	New Jersey
Aubrie H. Bauer	Maryland	Devin Goldstein	*@ New York
Lorelei Verena Becktel-Lipscomb	Michigan	Karla Gomez-Zepeda	California
Grace Benham	Texas	Ivory S. Gonzales	** California
Priscilla Berrios	*** Florida	Bryant Yuian Gonzalez	@ Illinois
Sean P. Berry	Florida	Jacqueline Gonzalez	*** Rhode Island
Benjamin William Beyer	*** Wisconsin	Elsa Maria Govea Castillo	@ California
Chandra Noel Bishop	District of Columbia	Zoila M. Goya	Virginia
Lucian Blanks	Minnesota	Kailey J. Grannan	*@ Virginia
Elana T. Bogoff	Virginia	Kelly Grant	*** Missouri
Agustin Tino Bojorquez	@ District of Columbia	Steven Kevin Guerrier	** New York
Talia Boren	California	Raj Guettler	Maryland
Kalena Bumbala	*** Indiana	Thalia Guettler	Maryland
Thomas Edward Burkhardt	*@ Michigan	Amanda Hardin	Georgia
Jarrod Justen Alphonse Burns	@ New Mexico	Jacob Samuel Hartman	West Virginia
Maia Lauren Buzianis	Utah	Billy Haynes	**@ Texas
Mylo Caluza	** Illinois	Ruby Hernandez Gutierrez	*** Minnesota
Tee J. Carter	*** Florida	Michelle Huh	Maryland
Vershon Carter	*@ Illinois	Jadzia Charean Ingram	*@ District of Columbia
Samantha Castaneda	@ Oregon	Nima Jafari	Kansas
Leslie Castillo	*@ California	Jaylen Shane Johnson	California
Adrian Issac Cervantes	*@ California	Jihad Johnson	Maryland
Lou Ann Cherena Santiago	Texas	Shealyn Andra Junge	Pennsylvania
Andee Chesler	Colorado	David Kanter	*@ Utah
Jina Choi	**@ Maryland	Michaela Kelley	@ Texas
Semaj Coleman	@ Mississippi	Elian Jayce Kingswell	** District of Columbia
Shanna Brooke Cooley	@ District of Columbia	Joshua Kinner	@ Utah
Alexis Correia	Massachusetts	Danny Wilderwood Kirch	District of Columbia
Larry David Cotton	California	Monae Klein-Scearce	Delaware
Rebecca Counts	***@ South Carolina	Jacob A. Klenk	*@ Ohio
Zachary Brian Davis	California	Hannah Rayne Kohl	Iowa
Mikaila DeMarco	*@ Ohio	Brenna Bessie Koskie	Canada
Jalina Shenandoah Dietz	California	Estelina Bustamante Kovacs	Maryland
Emily Dominguez	*** Illinois	David Kudatsky	*@ California
Lana Lynette Dove	**@ Maryland	Mara A. Land	** District of Columbia
Elizabeth Kay Droubi	Pennsylvania	Chanel J. Legrand	@ Florida
Alyssa Ashley Duarte	*** California	Brianne Sylvia Leiker	*@ Texas
Joshua Jay Dugan	** Texas	Jeffrey Levitt	Maryland
Zora Rose Elliott-Mendelsohn	Maryland	Tye Leon Don Lovato	District of Columbia
Ashlene Rae Etkie	Texas	Kornelia Joline Lucero	** Ohio
Ethan Akil Ettienne	*@ Maryland	Nicholas T. Maccini	*@ California
Danielle Mae Fisher	Pennsylvania		

\* Degree requirements completed in August 2024 \*\* Degree requirements completed in December 2024 \*\*\*Will complete degree requirements in August 2025  
@ In absentia Current May and August degree candidates will not be awarded degree(s) until all requirements are met.

Smith B. Mamboh	@ Maryland	Krystal Lynne Sanders	@ Washington
Sam D. Marchese-Ragona	New York	Abdul Samed Mohammed Sani	*** Ghana
Elan Sean Markel	** Maryland	Conrad Angelo Oliquino Santos	@ California
Jason Douglas Marple	**@ Pennsylvania	Paola Sarabia Navarro	Arizona
Kamini Dalal Marsh	*** California	John Scarboro	Texas
Zulmi Anahi Marshall	*** Belize	Shae Scarbrough	@ Alabama
Lori Ann Martin	*@ Tennessee	Tiffany Celeste Scofield	Texas
Hanley Martinez	*@ New York	Annabelle Grace Scroggins	*@ Texas
Zeke Beso Martinez	*@ New Mexico	Christine Serame	New York
Blessed Mbogo	Maryland	Kylar Sicoli	Texas
Malik Jahiem McCloud	Florida	Markeeta Antionette Sledge	Illinois
Katie Maye McClyman	Wisconsin	Corey LeKeith Smith	**@ Florida
Antonio Mendoza	** Texas	Kc C. Smith	South Carolina
Ami S. Mihalakakos	Illinois	Elijah Scott Fu Solomon	New York
Alecia Skye Miller	Illinois	Nicholas Spacht	*@ Georgia
Enrico River Miller	California	Charles Spiers	Maryland
Fritts Mosshart	Arizona	Jared Seth Spinale	** Illinois
Onome Junior Okaisabor	** Nigeria	Amanda Tully Stelzer	*@ Washington
Cynthia Marie Ortega	California	Daniel Kenneth Stewart-Banks	New York
Damiete Chimenem Oruwari	@ Nigeria	Lauren Elizabeth Taneyhill	@ Georgia
Nataly Osorio	** New York	Menelik Taveras	District of Columbia
Enow Samuel Otto, Jr.	Maryland	Isabelle T. Taveras	*@ New York
Rosa B. Padilla	*@ Michigan	Jayne Taylor	Texas
Priscila Palos	**@ California	Jordan Tennison	** California
Anevey Patterson	*** Maryland	Shawnee L. Thomas	Texas
Maddy Rachel Perriman	@ California	Candice Underwood	*@ California
Cassidy Jade Perry	** Maryland	TiKa Genesis Van Hein Wallace	Virginia
Jennifer Pfau	*@ Colorado	Tiadra Vang	Kansas
Valerie Rose Phlaum	*@ California	Taylor Ann Victor	@ California
Bunny Zoey Jamika Pixley	*** Maryland	Angela Vilavong	California
Leah R. Polk-Kaftan	Texas	Zachary Alan Wade	** District of Columbia
Anya Pothorski	Ohio	Sahej Singh Walia	North Carolina
Marilyn Puebla	Virginia	Xin Lu Wall	@ Washington
Hannah Puent	Indiana	Jonathon Jason Waterman	*@ California
Marie Qualls	*@ Missouri	Jarian Valerie Watring	* District of Columbia
Bryan Anthony Raffa	*@ Florida	Elijah Leeman Watters	@ California
Erika Johanna Ramirez	@ Maryland	Anika Elaine Webster	*@ Indiana
Leslie Stephanie Ramirez-De La Rosa	**@ New York	Jessica Wells	@ Missouri
Wendell Ratliff	*@ Virginia	Kathe Soleil Wilken-Yoder	Florida
Natasha J. Richards-Hamilton	Arizona	Jason Patrick Williams	Maryland
Atlas Dorothy Rideout	California	Jonathan Charles Withrow	*@ Maryland
Juan De Dios Rivas	Maryland	Joshua Sebastian Wojnar	*** Maryland
Josiah Roberson	Florida	Braedenne Ashley Wolfe-Maxwell	@ Canada
Jewel Rocha	*** Texas	Jin Xianyu	China
Shayla J. Rochette	@ Massachusetts	Faith Yakubu	** Nigeria
Sethan LeRoy Rolofson	District of Columbia	Jayce Ya-Lee Yeh	District of Columbia
Kaitlyn Ann Ruble	@ Ohio	Destiny Fiorella Zhinin	@ New York
Anthony Jacob Sahaf	*@ Virginia	Tiffany Lee Zink	North Carolina
Muna Khalif Said	Tennessee		
Crystal Judelle Salit	Maryland		

\* Degree requirements completed in August 2024 \*\* Degree requirements completed in December 2024 \*\*\* Will complete degree requirements in August 2025  
 @ In absentia Current May and August degree candidates will not be awarded degree(s) until all requirements are met.



# ABOUT COMMENCEMENT

## The Gallaudet Dance Company

The Gallaudet Dance Company was founded by the late Dr. Peter Wisher in 1955. Ms. Brooke Roberts, '19, a former Gallaudet Dancer, is its interim director.

Graduating today are Clemence Angue Ndong, from Gabon, who will be receiving her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration; Mariaisabel Cedeno, from North Andover, Massachusetts, who will be receiving her Master of Social Work degree; Makayla Fagan, from Cleveland, Ohio, who will be receiving her Master of Social Work degree; Rebekah Minson, from Salt Lake City, Utah, who will be receiving her Master of Social Work degree; and Marilyn Puebla, from Albuquerque, New Mexico, who will be receiving her Bachelor of Science in Biology and minor in Dance and Spanish.

The Gallaudet Dance Company will perform the following dances prior to the processional:

“Collapsing into You” was choreographed by Nicholas Nero. “Collapsing into You” will be performed by Gallaudet Dancers Mariaisabel Cedeno, Makayla Fagan, Rebekah Minson, Shelby Norris, and Nicholas Nero.

“Healing” is choreographed and performed by Mariaisabel Cedeno and Rebekah Minson.

“Unity” is choreographed and performed by Marilyn Puebla and Clemence Angue Ndong.

## The National Anthem

*The Star-Spangled Banner* was first translated into American Sign Language by Professor Emerit Gilbert C. Eastman, '57 & H-'02, and has been reinterpreted many times over the years. Our performers today are Alecia Miller, who is receiving her Bachelor of Arts degree in Interpretation, and Marilyn Puebla, who is receiving her Bachelor of Science degree in Biology.

## The Bison Song

The Bison Song is a traditional song at Gallaudet University. It was originally written as a poem by Robert F. Panara, '45 & H-'86, in 1945, and was aptly titled “The Bison Spirit.” In 1960, the Hearing and Speech Center hosted a fight song contest as an incentive for students in their auditory training courses. The winning submission, by Dorothy Miles, '61, became the official Bison Song. Panara’s poem and Miles’ lyrics blended into the Bison Song that we know today.

Performing the Bison Song are Jett Kelly, a senior, and Dalina Schwartz, and sophomore. Their drummer is Tyler Furzland, a junior.



## The Mace

The mace is a symbol of the University's authority. It is made from the wood of three buildings with historic significance in the education of deaf people.

The largest piece is taken from the old interior stairway of the Tower Clock, which sits above Chapel Hall on the Gallaudet University campus.

The second piece comes from the oldest building on the campus of the American School for the Deaf in Hartford, Connecticut, which was founded in 1817 and is the oldest permanent school for deaf students on this continent.

The third, and smallest, piece is a plank from the wall behind the pulpit of a small 16th-century church in Feuges, France, that was served by the Abbé Charles-Michel de l'Épée. Historians recognize l'Épée as the founder of Institut National de Jeunes Sourds de Paris, the oldest free school for deaf students in the world.

In 1967, Leon Auerbach, '40 & H-'89, a professor of mathematics, represented Gallaudet and the deaf people of the United States at the 250th anniversary of l'Épée's birth. When he and his wife, Hortense Auerbach, visited Feuges, they found it in the early stages of a restoration project supported by the deaf people of France. The church's vicar at the time gave the plank to Professor Auerbach as a gift to Gallaudet, "from the old world to the new." The mace was designed by Chun Louie, '68. It was made by Manfred G. Klatt, a Gallaudet carpenter who learned his trade in Germany, where he was born. The silver decorations and silver support for the head of the mace were made and applied by Theodore Salazar, a faculty member in Gallaudet's Department of Art.

The mace made its first ceremonial appearance at the installation of Edward C. Merrill, Jr., H-'69, as the fourth president of Gallaudet College in 1969. It is used during Commencement and at other ceremonial functions to signify their dignity and importance. The faculty marshal carries the mace during the processional and recessional at Commencement. This year, Professor Sarah Burton Doleac, '82, the longest-serving tenured faculty member, will carry the mace.

## The President's Medallion

The president's medallion was presented for the first time on October 23, 1969 to a Gallaudet president. Meant to be worn on ceremonial occasions, it symbolizes the authority of that office. The medallion was redesigned in 1986 to coincide with Gallaudet's achievement of university status and shows the seal of Gallaudet University.

## The Academic Costume

The pageantry and dress of the present-day academic procession were inherited from the medieval universities of the 11th and 12th centuries. In the Middle Ages, the teaching guild was the guild of the master of arts, the bachelor was the apprentice of the master, and their dress was the outward sign of privilege and responsibility.

Principal features of academic dress are the gown, the cap, and the hood. Since the fifth century, Cambridge and Oxford have made academic dress a matter of university control. American universities agreed on a definite system in 1895. In 1932, the American Council on Education presented a revised code that is in general use today. Occasionally, uniquely colored costumes may be seen that do not conform to standard patterns. This is especially true for degrees granted by foreign universities or from American universities that have adopted a European style.

**The Gown:** While 12th century gowns may have been worn as protection against the cold of unheated buildings, today the gown is symbolic of the democracy of scholarship.

It is black for all degrees, with pointed sleeves for the bachelor's degree; long, closed sleeves with a slit at the elbow or wrist for the master's degree; and full, bell double sleeves for the doctoral degree. Doctoral gowns are also faced with velvet and have three bars of velvet on each sleeve, often in the color distinctive of the faculty or discipline to which the degree pertains.

In recent years, the president of a university wears a doctoral gown that is faced with velvet and that has four bars of velvet on each sleeve.

**The Cap:** Today's mortarboard is a derivation of the cap worn in the 16th century at the University of Paris. The soft velvet cap of a "doctor of secular faculties" is from the same period. Bachelor's and master's degree holders wear tassels of black, while doctoral degree holders wear tassels of gold.

**The Hood:** The hood is trimmed with one or more chevrons of a second color on the ground of the primary color of the college. The color facing the hood denotes the discipline represented by the degree. Certain hood colors have historical significance. The white of arts and letters symbolizes the white fur trim of the Oxford bachelor of arts degree. Red, the traditional color of the church, indicates theology, while the royal purple of the King's Court signifies law. The green of medicinal herbs identifies medicine and blue, the color of wisdom and truth, identifies philosophy.

**The Honor Stole:** The honor stole is awarded to graduate students with a 4.0 grade point average and to undergraduate students with 3.5 and above grade point averages. This gold stole denotes exceptional academic achievement.

# Commencement May 16, 2025



## UNIVERSITY HONORS

### Graduate Students with Honors

Milana Olivia Bielucke	Angela June Ellman*	Tyler Naeyaert*	Victoria Tingler
Debrah Lynn Bryant	Makayla Marie Fagan	Rosa B. Padilla	Heather Anne Turell
Luke Cameron Bundrum	Leah Caitrin Geer**	Cade Patterson	
Ana Garcia Daku	Lu Ming	Roberto Ryukichi Santiago*	
Briella Maria Diaz**	Thinaja Nadarajah Israel	Wink K. Smith Jr.	

The above students have maintained a grade point average (GPA) of 4.0 throughout their graduate studies at Gallaudet University

### Undergraduate Graduates with Distinction

#### SUMMA CUM LAUDE

Marzieh Bannazadeh**	*Ezra Forero-Tarquino***	*Katie Maye McClyman	Elijah Scott Fu Solomon
*Kailee Alexis Bates	*Jeanelle Francis	*Ami S. Mihalakakos	Lauren Elizabeth Taneyhill
Aubrie H. Bauer	*Shealyn Andra Junge	*Cynthia Marie Ortega	Xin Lu Wall
*Lorelei Verena Becktel-Lipscomb	Elian Jayce Kingswell**	Maddy Rachel Perriman	Kathe Soleil Wilken-Yoder
Grace Benham	*Mara A. Land**	Cassidy Jade Perry**	*Destiny Fiorella Zhinin
Andee Chesler	Tye Leon Don Lovato	*Atlas Dorothy Rideout	
*Elizabeth Kay Droubi	Kamini Dalal Marsh***	Crystal Judelle Salit	
Zora Rose Elliott-Mendelsohn	*Blessed Mbogo	Krystal Lynne Sanders	

#### MAGNA CUM LAUDE

Shanna Brooke Cooley	Brenna Bessie Koskie	Juan De Dios Rivas	Tiadra Vang
Emily Dominguez	Estelina Bustamante Kovacs	Josiah Roberson	*Taylor Victor
Ashlene Rae Etkie	Jeffrey Levitt	Kaitlyn Ann Ruble	
Alyssa Glennon	Zulmi Anahi Marshall***	Kylar Sicoli	
Jihad Johnson	Marilyn Puebla	Jordan Tennison**	

#### CUM LAUDE

Vernicole Agustin	Jina Choi**	Danny Wilderwood Kirch	Charles Spiers
Turki Hathlool Alhathlool***	Jalina Dietz	Smith B. Mamboh	Jared Seth Spinale**
Sean P. Berry	Samantha Floyd	Sam D. Marchese-Ragona	Tika Genesis Van Hein Wallace
Chandra Noel Bishop	Jamie Gleason	Enrico River Miller	Braedenne Ashley Wolfe-Maxwell
Lucian Blanks	Jacqueline Gonzalez***	Natasha J. Richards-Hamilton	
Elana T. Bogoff	Else Maria Govea Castillo	Shayla J. Rochette	
Maia Lauren Buzianis	Jaylen Shane Johnson	John Scarboro	

\* Graduated with University Honors

\* Degree requirements completed August 2024

\*\* Degree requirements completed December 2024

\*\*\* Degree to be conferred August 2025

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The two Commencement ceremonies today required extensive planning that began many months in advance. These special ceremonies would not have been possible without the teamwork and combined efforts of many departments, units, and individuals on- and off-campus.

We extend special appreciation to the Commencement Planning Committee for their dedication, commitment, and teamwork.

We also extend our gratitude to the Office of the President, the Office of the Provost, the Office of the Dean of the Faculty, the Office of the Dean of Student Affairs, the Office of the Registrar, the Office of Institutional Advancement, Campus Design and Facilities, Campus Services, Residence Life and Housing, the Office of Student Engagement and Leadership, the Office of University Communications, the Office of Belonging and Engagement, the Office of International Affairs, the Department of Public Safety, Gallaudet Interpreting Service, Gallaudet Technology Services, The Bison Shop, the Peter J. Fine Student Health Service, the Transportation Department, Caption Anywhere, Bon Appetit Catering, Filk at Kellogg Conference Center, Jostens, and Mt. Royal Printing.

Finally, we thank our many wonderful volunteers from the Gallaudet University community!

Again, we extend a sincere thank you to everyone who contributed their time and expertise to the success of Gallaudet University's Commencement ceremony. We also congratulate the graduates and their families!

## QR CODES



**Graduate Ceremony**  
[gu.live/grad25](https://gu.live/grad25)



**Undergraduate Ceremony**  
[gu.live/ug25](https://gu.live/ug25)



**Close Vision Zoom Link**  
[gu.live/cv25](https://gu.live/cv25)



**Guidebook App**  
[gu.live/guidebook](https://gu.live/guidebook)



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[www.gallaudet.edu](http://www.gallaudet.edu)

Gallaudet University is an equal opportunity employer/educational institution and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex (including sexual harassment), pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding, and related medical conditions, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or gender expression, age, disability, veteran status or any other category protected under federal law, the D.C. Human Rights Act, or any other applicable law.

Gallaudet University is on unceded land of the Piscataway and Nacotchtank peoples. We ask you to join us in acknowledging the Piscataway and Nacotchtank communities and their elders both past and present, as well as future generations. Gallaudet also acknowledges that it was founded upon exclusions and erasures of many Indigenous peoples, including those on whose land this university is located. This land acknowledgement demonstrates our commitment to the process of working to dismantle the ongoing legacies of settler colonialism.