



# 156<sup>TH</sup>

## COMMENCEMENT

### *Ceremonies*

GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY | WASHINGTON, D.C.

MAY 15, 2026 | 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 15, 2026



# CLASS *of* 2026 COMMENCEMENT

GRADUATE CEREMONY



# GRADUATE CEREMONY

# ORDER *of* EXERCISES

## Prelude

Gallaudet Dance Company

## Bison Song Team

## Processional

*Festmarch from Tannhauser* (1845)

Richard Wagner

## The National Anthem

*The Star-Spangled Banner* (1814)

Francis Scott Key

## Welcome

Roberta J. Cordano

President

## Greetings

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

President, Gallaudet University Alumni Association

Jose A. Cervantes, '05

Chair, Board of Trustees

## Address

Roberta J. Cordano

President

## Conferring of Honorary Degree

Yohei Sasakawa

Honorary Chair, The Nippon Foundation

## Keynote Address

Yohei Sasakawa

Honorary Chair, The Nippon Foundation

## Graduate Student Address

Wadha Alshammari

## Conferring of Degrees

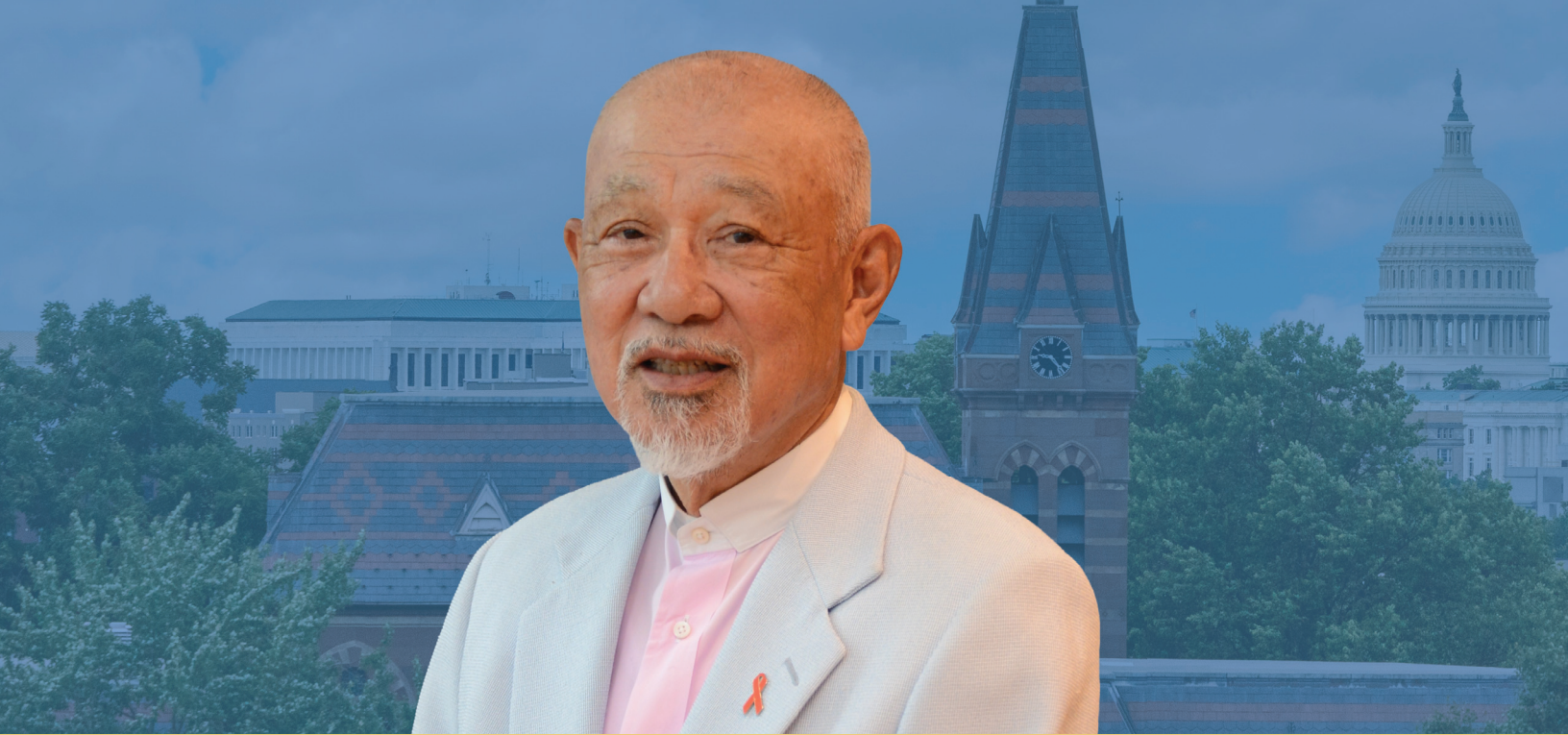
## Recessional

*Triumphal March* from *Aida* (1871)

Giuseppe 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

## Honorary Chair Yohei Sasakawa

Yohei Sasakawa, Honorary Chair of The Nippon Foundation, one of Asia's largest philanthropic organizations, will deliver the graduate commencement address. During the ceremony, Gallaudet University will confer upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters in recognition of his leadership and longstanding contributions to advancing human dignity and inclusion worldwide.

Since joining The Nippon Foundation in 1981, Mr. Sasakawa has advanced global initiatives in health, education, food security, maritime safety, and humanitarian development. A central pillar of his work has been his more than four-decade commitment to the elimination of leprosy and the eradication of related discrimination.

In his capacity as World Health Organization Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination, Mr. Sasakawa has worked tirelessly to advance human dignity, promote social inclusion, and catalyze policy change at the global level.

Mr. Sasakawa has also made significant contributions to deaf communities worldwide. The Nippon Foundation has established two endowed scholarship funds at Gallaudet University — the Sasakawa International Scholarship Fund (1992) and the World Deaf Leadership Program Fund (2003) — which support deaf students from developing countries and foster a global network of emerging leaders.

In addition, the Foundation has supported a wide range of initiatives to promote the inclusion of persons who are deaf, contributing to the recognition of sign language and the advancement of accessibility in Japan, thereby fostering more inclusive societies.



## CITATION *of* YOHEI SASAKAWA

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

As chair of The Nippon Foundation, Tokyo, Japan — the country's largest charitable foundation and the world's foremost educational benefactor of deaf and hard of hearing people — a post he held from 2005 to 2025 and for which he now serves as Honorary Chair, Yohei Sasakawa has devoted his life to the foundation's founding principle: "The world is one family; all mankind are brothers and sisters." Guided by that conviction, he has challenged a world in which, as he has said with characteristic directness, "almost every decision concerning deaf people is still today made by the hearing society" — and spent four decades determined to change it.

After 20 years in the business sector, Mr. Sasakawa joined The Nippon Foundation in 1981. One of his primary causes over the past four decades has been a global fight against leprosy and the social stigma it brings — work for which he serves as the World Health Organization's Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination, and for which he has received the WHO Health-for-All Gold Medal. That experience gave him a framework he has applied directly to the situation of deaf people: just as leprosy carries centuries of stigma despite being curable, deaf people face not a condition requiring correction but what he has called, "a structure of society and ingrained stereotypes" — an invisible enemy more formidable than any before. His reach as a humanitarian statesman extends further still: alongside Václav Havel and Elie Wiesel, he co-founded Forum 2000, a gathering of world leaders dedicated to global peace and democratic values — the same moral seriousness he has brought to his decades of work on behalf of deaf people.

In Japan, Mr. Sasakawa championed a national telecommunications relay service piloted by The Nippon Foundation, beginning in 2013, that led to the passage of landmark legislation in 2020 and the launch of a government-run service in 2021 — establishing, for the first time, a nationwide and publicly supported system that enabled deaf and hard of hearing people in Japan to communicate by telephone. His advocacy for relay services has extended well beyond Japan's borders. At the 2019 United Nations World Summit on the Information Society, The Nippon Foundation sponsored and led an international session on expanding relay access in developing countries, bringing nations to the table. This is a model of the inclusive, globally minded leadership that has defined his tenure. Beginning in 2010, The Nippon Foundation funded the Japanese Federation of the Deaf's sustained national campaign

to achieve legal recognition of Japanese Sign Language. The campaign's first legislative achievement was Japan's first Sign Language Ordinance, enacted in Tottori Prefecture in 2013. This was followed by a wave of similar ordinances across prefectures and municipalities nationwide, including Tokyo's Sign Language Ordinance in 2022, under Governor Koike Yuriko. And in June 2025, Japan enacted a national law to promote sign language policies nationwide, establishing a comprehensive framework that significantly advanced support for deaf communities across the country — the historic culmination of 12 years of sustained effort that Mr. Sasakawa has described as among his most consequential achievements.

It is at Gallaudet, however, that Mr. Sasakawa's partnership has been most direct and most enduring. The Sasakawa International Scholarship Fund provides financial assistance to deserving deaf international students to ensure they have the means to complete their degrees and to return home to strengthen deaf communities in their own countries. The Gallaudet–Nippon World Deaf Leadership Scholarship has, since its founding, provided full support to deaf leaders from developing nations who earn degrees and leadership training at Gallaudet and return home as advocates for change. Over more than three decades, this partnership has supported a substantial number of deaf individuals from across the globe, creating lasting impact in their home communities.

Mr. Sasakawa has understood from the beginning that strengthening deaf higher education strengthens the entire global community — that students who pass through institutions like Gallaudet carry that investment back to their home countries as leaders whose influence multiplies far beyond any single campus. Speaking about the legacy of the 1880 Milan Conference, he has declared plainly: "One of the fundamental rights deaf people are denied is to choose how they communicate. The fact that deaf children could not use sign language, which they themselves wanted, was a denial of their rights."

For his tireless commitment in support of deaf and disabled people around the world, Gallaudet University is deeply honored to award Yohei Sasakawa the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*.

GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY  
MAY 15, 2026



## GRADUATE

# STUDENT SPEAKER

## Wadha Hamad Alshammari

Wadha Hamad Alshammari is graduating with a Master of Arts in Deaf Education Studies, and is a proud member of the Deaf community. Originally from Hail, Saudi Arabia, she first learned about Gallaudet in middle school, and the university quickly became a dream that shaped her future.

In fall 2021, Wadha moved to the United States to pursue her dream of studying in an environment that celebrates Deaf identity, sign language, and culture. She began her academic journey in the English Language Institute (ELI) at Gallaudet, where she studied from 2021 through spring 2024. She entered the graduate program in Deaf Education Studies in fall 2024. Through her studies, Wadha has developed a deeper understanding of Deaf identity, language access, and inclusive learning environments for Deaf students.

Beyond the classroom, Wadha has contributed to the community through work and service supporting Deaf and DeafBlind individuals and families learning American Sign Language. She has also been active in several campus organizations and played a role in reactivating the Saudi Student Club.

Wadha believes in the power of curiosity, reflection, and lifelong learning. She aspires to support the growth of Deaf education and expand opportunities for Deaf students, especially in Saudi Arabia.

# INTRODUCTION *of the* GRADUATES

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

**Doctor of Philosophy**

Clinical Psychology  
Critical Studies in the Education of Deaf Learners  
Educational Neuroscience  
Linguistics  
Translation and Interpreting Studies

**School of Human Services and Sciences**

**Dr. Kara Hawthorne, Interim Director**

Doctor of Audiology  
Doctor of Psychology  
Master of Arts in Counseling  
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



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## Doctor of Philosophy

### Clinical Psychology

Kallissa K. Bailey \*  
Amy Sue Lambert \*\*\*  
Christina Nguyen \*\*\*

### Critical Studies in the Education of Deaf Learners

Bernice Adebimpe Adekeye @  
Reginald Bess  
Amanda Kline \*\*  
Victorica D. Monroe

### Educational Neuroscience

Melody F. Schwenk  
Rachel Sortino  
Casey Lynn Spelman \*

### Linguistics

Kaj B. Kraus \*

### Translation and Interpreting Studies

Sarah Elizabeth Biello  
Carrie Noel Hasenfang Humphrey

## Doctor of Audiology

Ariana Alexis Cipoletta \*\*\*  
Tiana Dixon  
Emily Woods Harper \*\*\*  
Alaina Grace Milam \*\*\*  
Katie Paige Nelson \*\*\*  
Rianna K. Passino \*\*\*  
Kady Rynne Patterson \*\*\*  
Chloe Frances Scheff \*\*\*  
Hilmarie Turbulencia Tran  
Hannah Weinman \*\*\*

## Doctor of Psychology

Fallon Amanda Birke \*@  
Elizabeth Legg \*\*  
Madeeha Mirza

## Master of Arts in Counseling

Liv May Anderson  
Vanessa Burd \*\*\*  
Jim Clifton Celestine  
Jasmine Coreathers  
Chandler Meredith Gloudeman  
Dakota Rianne Haege \*\*\*  
Cam Victoria Lexow  
Paulo Martell  
Charles Wayne Mason \*\*  
Simone Constance Mau-Slone  
Halee Ann Mazzuca  
Ethan Juno Moon @  
Dashae Reeves \*\*\*  
Meighan Schmidt  
Lucy Taylor \*\*  
Claire Sheffer Tucker  
Meagan Justine Utsey \*\*\*

## Master of Arts in Early Intervention Studies

Luisa F. Chastel Messner \*\*  
Ashlee M. Gillis  
Sarah Catherine Okes \*\*  
Leila Sicoli

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

Allison Autry @  
Melanie Elizabeth Carter Greene @  
Kaitlyn A. Marnien @  
Clarissa Arianne Quarum @  
Alexandra Vorozilchak @  
Isa Day Yacub @

## Master of Arts in Psychology

Christina Nguyen \*@

## Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology

Hailey Rose Cerniglia  
Claire Neve Clark  
Sari Jill Goldstein  
Lillian Alta Lemke  
Alyssa J. Marino  
Erinn Neal Yepiz  
Ashley Dianne Uelmen  
Mikayla J. Walker \*\*\*  
Valerie Zhao

## Education Specialist in Deaf Education

Brooke Elliott \*@  
Jenn Lynn Foster \*  
Chaminda Prabodha Hewapathirana  
Amelia A. McCall \*\*@  
Jessica Ida Olsen \*\*@  
Noelle R. Wilder \*

## Master of Arts in Deaf Education

Theodore J. Conley \*\*  
Amalia S. Mihalakakos  
Jakiya Nicole Murphy *Secondary Education*  
Cynthia Marie Ortega  
Shannon Keely Sherlock \*\*\*  
Bryan Frank Solis \*\*\* *Secondary Education*

## Master of Arts in Deaf Education Studies

Wadha Hamad Alshammari  
Emily Wilson Leonard Duncan  
LaQuita Ferataj \*\*\*  
Joanie B. Grondin \*\*\*@  
Emily Anna Johnson @  
Tony Oswaldo Nicolalde \*  
Kaitlyn Ann Ruble  
Brian M. Van Bavel  
Michelle E. Weaver-Fudge \*\*\*

\* Degree requirements completed in August 2025 \*\* Degree requirements completed in December 2025 \*\*\* Will complete degree requirements in August 2026  
@ In absentia Current May and August degree candidates will not be awarded degree(s) until all requirements are met.

Marilee Purple Williams \*

## Master of Arts in International Development

Genesis Valeria Piraneque  
Renee Glanville  
Tyler Guadalupe Mendez-Guerrero \*\*\*  
Rachel Marget Qualls  
Tashinalynn Sanders  
Rachel Ann Saxey  
Robert P. Todd

## Master of Arts in Interpretation

Sonya Charisse Balenton \*\*\*  
Sophia Arianna Coverston \*\*\*  
Phuong Anh Doan \*\*\*  
Samantha Ryan Dutra \*\*\*  
Alex Hou Ching Lei \*\*\*  
Mark Myles Murray \*\*\*  
Jamie Ruth Sfarnas \*\*\*  
Shawna Rose Wolf

## Master of Arts in Linguistics

Sasho Plamenov Ivanov  
Grace Li  
Kolby Noble Lipiz

## Master of Arts in Sign Language Education

Hassan Ahmed \*\*@  
Gabriela Leticia Balmaceda \*  
Harmony Tiana Ver Baniaga \*  
Nicholas Richard Bolger \*@  
Maricelis Cruz Carrasquillo \*  
Caitlyn M. D'Angelo \*  
Mary Ann Hencker \*  
Claudia Bonifacio Hopkins \*  
Brooke Emily Johnson \*\*  
Jaylen Shane Johnson  
Ajo Hepburn Lake \*\*  
Lizet Segovia Libby \*  
Darren S. Malin  
Celso Lozano Martinez \*  
Josco J. Mast \*  
Jessica Marie Meehan \*  
Isabella Maria Rosa \*  
Valerie Rose \*\*  
Maximilian Stelzer \*@  
Mia Roper Upchurch \*@  
Megan S. Wetzel \*  
Jennifer Lynn Winegeart \*  
Maribeth F. Zeleski-Emmons

## Master of Science in Accessible Human-Centered Computing

Shela Zinkia Atemnkeng  
Anderson Sese Atina  
Ajong Gerald \*\*\*@  
Nathan Beltran Habon  
Amy Keith Luna @  
Lauren Nicole Medina  
Bryan Anthony Raffa \*\*  
Devesh Saini

## Master of Arts in Deaf Studies

Aireyonah Eileen Crockett \*\*  
Molly Headrick \*\*\*  
Katie Reid  
Jay Annelaine Rhodes \*  
Thea Wrenn

## Master of Public Administration

Wafaa Abdelal  
Tylo Harry Zimmer Broszeit @  
Shane Tyler Carrizales  
Kirstin Clark  
Abhishek Dasgupta  
Emma Giuntoli  
Elijah Dimarko Henderson  
Jadzia Charean Ingram  
MarcusKeith Island  
bebe lee justice  
Eric Michael Kaika  
Fatuma Kuti  
Stephen Shawn Emerson McDonald  
Marisa Elizabeth Montoya  
Sydney Layne Padgett  
Morris C. Patrick III @  
Julie Ann Shoeman  
Tiffany Smith \*\*\*  
Nikki Surber  
Tina Michelle Tremblay  
Mekayla Shontay Walker  
Valerie Rainey Watson  
Laura Willey-Saunders \*\*\*  
Dominique LaChea Williams  
Anna Rose Wood-Jacobowitz

## Master of Social Work

Jasmine Regine Archer  
Priscilla Berrios  
Camilla Cambone-Barlow  
Brooke Ashlynn Courter  
Ashlene Rae Etkie  
Cindy Euceda  
Lily Fruguglietti @  
Jason Paul Gates \*\*  
CK L. Gormally @  
Imran Hakamali  
Courtina Kiyoshi Hocog  
Brenna Bessie Koskie  
Tye Leon Don Lovato  
Brian A. Moss @  
Sophia Catherine Roach  
Tashinalynn Sanders  
Tiffany Smith \*  
Nicole Rose Sommer  
Kim A. Weissman

\* Degree requirements completed in August 2025 \*\* Degree requirements completed in December 2025 \*\*\* Will complete degree requirements in August 2026  
@ In absentia Current May and August degree candidates will not be awarded degree(s) until all requirements are met.



# CLASS *of* 2026 COMMENCEMENT



**UNDERGRADUATE CEREMONY**

# UNDERGRADUATE CEREMONY

## ORDER *of* EXERCISES

### **Prelude**

**Gallaudet Dance Company**

**Bison Song Team**

### **Processional**

Batalá Washington

### **The National Anthem**

*The Star-Spangled Banner* (1814)

Francis Scott Key

### **Welcome**

Roberta J. Cordano

President

### **Greetings**

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

President, Gallaudet University Alumni Association

Jose A. Cervantes, '05

Chair, Board of Trustees

### **Address**

Roberta J. Cordano

President

### **Faculty Honors**

Faculty Emeriti

### **Conferring of Honorary Degree**

Nyle DiMarco, '13

### **Keynote Address**

Nyle DiMarco, '13

### **Undergraduate Student Address**

Christopher "Salt" Morton

### **Conferring of Degrees**

### **Recessional**

*Triumphal March* from *Aida* (1871)

Giuseppe Verdi



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

# FACULTY HONORS

## BIOGRAPHIES



### **Dr. Benjamin Bahan, '79**

*Professor Emerit*

Dr. Benjamin Bahan is a professor, storyteller, and researcher in American Sign Language (ASL) and Deaf Studies, recognized for his longstanding work at Gallaudet University prior to his retirement. He earned a bachelor's from Gallaudet, a master's in Deaf Education, and a doctoral degree in Applied Linguistics from Boston University. He also conducted early research on ASL linguistics and language acquisition at the Salk Institute. An influential figure in ASL literature and Deaf culture, he served as Executive Editor of the *Deaf Studies Digital Journal*, the first peer-reviewed online journal featuring signed and written languages. His research focused on gesture, sensory orientation, and nonverbal communication, and he founded Gallaudet's Gesture Literacy Knowledge Studio. His work significantly advanced understanding of Deaf culture, storytelling, and ASL linguistics.



### **Dr. Beth Benedict, '80 & G-'03**

*Professor Emerit*

Dr. Beth Benedict served as a professor of Communication Studies from 2003 to 2010. She implemented and coordinated the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Infants, Toddlers, and Families interdisciplinary graduate certificate program and later served as executive director of Undergraduate Admissions and Outreach until her retirement. She also served as president of the American Society for Deaf Children and the Council on Education of the Deaf, and as chair of the Joint Committee on Infant Hearing. She has published numerous professional and peer-reviewed articles and continues to lecture on early intervention, language acquisition, and family engagement. Her honors include the Antonia Brancia Maxon Award for EHDI Excellence at the 2010 Early Hearing Detection and Intervention annual conference. She is one of four authors of the DawnSignPress *ASL Dictionary (Monolingual Edition)*, which won a Web Excellence Award in 2026. Dr. Benedict continues to consult in deaf education and early intervention.



### **Professor Sarah Burton Doleac, '82**

*Professor Emerit*

Professor Sarah Burton Doleac dedicated more than 40 years to Gallaudet University's Physical Education and Recreation program. She directed the Personal Discovery and Rock Climbing programs and served as a faculty-athlete mentor and coordinator of the athletic coaching minor. She coached Gallaudet's softball team for 26 years (1984–2009), earning 224 NCAA victories and being named CAC Coach of the Year in 1993. During her tenure, she coached 23 all-conference players and led the team to top NCAA rankings. She was inducted into the Gallaudet Athletics Hall of Fame in 2014. Her honors include Faculty of the Year (2018–2019), Outstanding Faculty Member (2016), and the Honorary "G" Award (2024). She is known for integrating physical education with personal development and continues to be recognized for her impact on generations of students.





### **Dr. Arlene Blumenthal Kelly, '77 & G-'92**

#### ***Professor Emerit***

Dr. Arlene Blumenthal Kelly began her career as a research assistant at the Gallaudet Research Institute. After earning a master's in Linguistics, she joined the Department of Deaf Studies in 1995. She later earned her doctoral degree in American Studies from the University of Maryland. Her dissertation, *How Deaf Women Construct Teaching, Language and Culture, and Gender: An Ethnographic Study of ASL Teachers*, examined how Deaf women teaching ASL understand their identities and roles. She chaired the Department of ASL and Deaf Studies from 2009 to 2012 and from 2018 to 2021, and coordinated the Deaf Studies undergraduate program from 2012 to 2018. She developed the Deaf Women's Studies course, a notable contribution to the curriculum. In 2017, she was honored as a Distinguished Faculty Member. Her publications appear in journals including *American Annals of the Deaf*, *Disability Studies Quarterly*, *Sign Language Studies*, *Deaf Studies Digital Journal*, *Deaf Studies Encyclopedia*, and *Society of ASL Journal*.



### **Dr. Carolyn McCaskill, '77, G-'79 & PhD '05**

#### ***Professor Emerit***

Dr. Carolyn McCaskill graduated from the Alabama School for the Deaf in 1972 and earned her bachelor's in Psychology with a minor in Social Work from Gallaudet in 1977. She went on to receive a master's in Counseling with the Deaf in 1979 and a doctoral degree in Special Education Administration and Supervision in 2005. She is the founding director of the Center for Black Deaf Studies at Gallaudet University. She retired in 2024 after 28 years of teaching in the Department of ASL and Deaf Studies. She is co-author of the widely cited book *The Hidden Treasure of Black ASL: Its History and Structure* (2011), with Ceil Lucas, Robert Bayley, and Joseph Hill. She also served as an associate producer for the documentary *Signing Black in America* (2020), produced by the Language & Life Project at North Carolina State University.



### **Dr. Elizabeth A. Moore, '81, G-'94 & PhD '11**

#### ***Professor Emerit***

Dr. Elizabeth A. Moore served as Interim Chief Diversity Officer at Gallaudet University, where she spearheaded the university's anti-oppression initiatives in collaboration with the Executive Team, Board of Trustees, and campus and community stakeholders. She previously served as a tenured faculty member in the Department of Social Work and as Director of the MSW Program, in addition to her role as Department Chair. Over four decades, she has contributed to advocacy and professional organizations, including the National Black Deaf Advocates, the Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Advisory Board, and Deaf Women United. She holds a bachelor's and a master's in Social Work, and a doctoral degree in Special Education Administration from Gallaudet. She currently serves as Chair of the Board of Trustees at the Pennsylvania School for the Deaf.



### **Dr. Laura-Ann Petitto**

#### ***Professor Emerit***

Dr. Laura-Ann Petitto is a cognitive neuroscientist who served as Co-Principal Investigator and Science Director of the NSF–Gallaudet Visual Language and Visual Learning (VL2) Center. She founded Gallaudet's Cognitive Neuroscience Institute and its Brain and Language Center for Neuroimaging to advance research on language and learning. She developed Gallaudet's PhD in Educational Neuroscience (PEN) program, integrating brain and developmental sciences, with a focus on deaf and hard of hearing children. Her research demonstrates that signed and spoken languages are processed similarly in the brain, supporting their biological equivalence. Her work also shows that early exposure to sign language supports language and reading development. Her team developed a prototype Robot-Avatar Language Learning Tool to support sign language acquisition in infants. She holds a master's and a doctoral degree from Harvard University, and has received numerous international honors, including a Guggenheim Fellowship.



## UNDERGRADUATE

# KEYNOTE SPEAKER

## Nyle Lorenzo DiMarco, '13

Nyle DiMarco, Emmy-nominated filmmaker, actor, and Deaf activist, will deliver the undergraduate commencement address. During the ceremony, Gallaudet will confer the honorary degree of Doctors of Arts upon Mr. DiMarco in recognition of his extraordinary leadership and longstanding contributions to advancing opportunities for Deaf and hard of hearing communities worldwide.

A 2013 graduate of Gallaudet University with a degree in mathematics, Mr. DiMarco has become one of the most visible Deaf leaders in media and entertainment. He first gained national recognition as the first Deaf winner of *America's Next Top Model* (2015) and later *Dancing With the Stars* (2016), using those platforms to highlight Deaf culture and language to mainstream audiences.

In 2025, Mr. DiMarco made Emmy history as the first Deaf filmmaker nominated in a directing category for his co-directing of the Apple TV+ documentary *Deaf President Now!* alongside Academy Award winner Davis Guggenheim. The film chronicles the historic 1988 student-led protest at Gallaudet University that reshaped leadership at the institution and became a pivotal moment in the disability rights movement.

Mr. DiMarco also created and executive-produced Netflix's *Deaf U*, a reality series following Gallaudet students, and ensured significant Deaf representation behind the camera. His 2022 memoir, *Deaf Utopia: A Memoir — and a Love Letter to a Way of Life*, was a New York Times best seller.

Beyond entertainment, Mr. DiMarco is an international advocate for Deaf rights as human rights. Through the Nyle DiMarco Foundation, founded in 2016, he supports bilingual education, language access, and resources for Deaf children and families worldwide. He has worked with global organizations including the United Nations and the World Economic Forum to advance disability inclusion and equity.



## CITATION *of* NYLE LOREZNO DiMARCO

ON BEING PRESENTED THE DEGREE OF  
**DOCTOR OF ARTS**  
**HONORIS CAUSA**

Nyle Lorenzo DiMarco arrived at Gallaudet University as a mathematics major and student athlete, with no background in theater, film, or the arts. What followed his graduation in 2012 could not have been scripted: a chance casting in an independent film led to a recurring role on *Switched at Birth* which led to a winning Season 22 of *America's Next Top Model* — making him the first deaf person and only the second male to claim that title. The following year, he and partner Peta Murgatroyd won Season 22 of ABC's *Dancing with the Stars*. Throughout every platform his success opened, Nyle turned the spotlight toward Gallaudet and the Deaf community.

Nyle never treated fame separately from responsibility. During the rigors of production, he took time to support the University's Office of Undergraduate Admissions recruitment efforts, contributing to increased enrollment. He became a national spokesperson for Language Equality and Acquisition for Deaf Kids, advocating for state legislation to ensure deaf and hard of hearing youth develop a language foundation for lifelong success. He founded the Nyle DiMarco Foundation, which serves as a national resource for organizations and individuals working to improve the lives of deaf people.

The contributions Nyle made to Deaf arts and culture are equally enduring. As executive producer of *Deaf U* — the Critics Choice Real TV Award-winning Netflix reality series featuring an all-deaf cast — Nyle insisted that a significant portion of the production crew also be deaf. His autobiography, *Deaf Utopia: A Memoir and a Love Letter to a Way of Life*, became a *New York Times* bestseller. Nyle was also executive producer of *Audible*, a 2021 Netflix film nominated for Best Documentary Short at the 94th Academy Awards. He then co-directed and co-produced the award-winning 2025 documentary *Deaf President Now!*, chronicling the landmark 1988 student-led movement that resulted in Gallaudet's first deaf president. The film featured more than 40 deaf crew members — the largest number in film production history — and earned two Emmy nominations, including Nyle as the first deaf director nominated for outstanding directing.

In 2016, the Gallaudet University Alumni Association honored Nyle with the Laurent Clerc Award for outstanding social contributions by a deaf person in the interest of deaf people, making him the youngest-ever recipient. The following year, *DEAF LIFE Magazine* named him its Deaf Person of the Year.

Gallaudet University is proud to count Nyle among its most distinguished alumni — a man who, in the words of those who know him best, has stayed true to himself throughout his rise to fame, and who exemplifies what it means to carry the message of Gallaudet University into the world. Therefore, Gallaudet takes great pleasure in bestowing upon Nyle Lorenzo DiMarco the degree, Doctor of Arts, *honoris causa*.

GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY  
MAY 15, 2026



## UNDERGRADUATE

# STUDENT SPEAKER

## Christopher “Salt” Morton

Christopher “Salt” Morton is graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies. He is a Deaf communications professional, advocate, and public figure.

Born in Riverside, California, Salt spent much of his early childhood at Loma Linda Children’s Hospital, where he underwent more than 15 years of intensive medical treatment for Short Bowel Syndrome, including numerous surgeries and long-term care that shaped his resilience and perspective.

Salt initially attended public schools with speech therapy support. He later enrolled at California School for the Deaf, Riverside, where he embraced Deaf culture and discovered a strong sense of identity, community, and leadership.

He began studying sign language interpreting at Riverside City College and later worked as an independent contractor serving Deaf and hard of hearing communities in Southern California.

Salt completed an 11-month journey walking across the United States from Venice Beach, California, to Asbury Park, New Jersey, in 2022-2023 – an accomplishment that reflects his endurance and commitment to advocacy.

Focusing on strategic communication and leadership, Salt aspires to pursue a career in political or international studies to expand access and opportunity for communities worldwide. He is the first graduate of Gallaudet’s online degree completion program to serve as a Commencement student speaker.

# UNIVERSITY HONORS GRADUATES 2026

## **Julia Elizabeth Bronneberg**

Title: Photo Identification on Interactions between *Tursiops truncatus* and Humans to Promote the Importance of Sustainability

Director: Barbara Spiecker, PhD  
Reader: Patrizia Patti, PhD

## **Courtney Rose Bronson**

Title: A Study into the Psychology of Emotions, Dark Comedy, and Theatre of the Absurd: Ghosted an Original Script

Director: Annie Wiegand, MFA  
Reader: Ethan Sinnott, MFA  
Reader: Kristen Harmon, PhD

## **Andrew Crawford**

Title: Descriptive Comparative Analysis of Bacteriophage and Auxiliary Metabolic Gene Diversity in Marine and Wastewater Environments

Director: Gaurav Arora, PhD  
Reader: Abbi Simons, MS

## **Edgar J. DelaTorre**

Title: Exploring Safety Perceptions on Campus: A Look at Student Responses to Campus Crime and Institutional Effectiveness

Director: Erin J. Farley, PhD  
Reader: Gabriel I. Lomas, PhD

## **Neila H. Eaddy**

Title: Signs of Belonging: Community Identities of Deaf Elders in Central and Coastal Massachusetts

Director: Hayley Stokar, PhD  
Reader: Teresa Blankmeyer Burke, PhD

## **Tyler Furzland**

Title: *A Weeping Willow*, An Original Script Enriching the Canon of Deaf Plays

Director: Annie Wiegand, MFA  
Reader: Kristen Harmon, PhD  
Reader: Sharon Pajka, PhD

## **Ella Gamble**

Title: Comparing Deaf School and Mainstream Student-Athletes' Mental Health Depression, Anxiety and Risk Factors

Director: Tom McKnight MS, LAT, ATC, CES  
Reader: Leslie Rach, PhD

## **Carter Johnson**

Title: Synthesis of a Nicotine-like Backbone Ligand for Binding Evaluation at PLK-1 PBD

Director: Adebowale Ogunjirin, PhD  
Reader: Paul Sabila, PhD

## **Ciara Whaley Luttrell**

Title: Patient-Provider Communication Among Deaf English Users: Disparities and Implications for Cancer Screening

Director: Abbi Simons, MS  
Reader: Poorna Kushalnagar, PhD

## **Samantha Rae Michelson**

Title: Themes of Moral Injury in the Field of ASL Interpreting

Co-Directors: Kirk VanGilder, PhD and Danielle Hunt, PhD  
Reader: Teresa Blankmeyer Burke, PhD

## **Jeremy Neyon Pitts**

Title: Programming Lights For Storytelling in Live Theatre: Technology, Collaboration, and Creativity

Director: Annie Wiegand, MFA  
Reader: Ethan Sinnott, MFA

## **Frederick William Scott**

Title: Worldbuilding a Place for the Deaf: an Encyclopedic Approach to Writing Inclusive Narratives

Director: Pamela Decker-Wright, MA, MEd  
Reader: Christopher Heuer, PhD  
Reader: Kristen Harmon, PhD  
Reader: Kirk VanGilder, PhD

## **Ella Selene Stromberg**

Title: The Missing Link: Connecting Hearing Parents of Deaf Children to Resources that Re-center Language Access Decisions Around Their Deaf Child

Director: M. Diane Clark, PhD  
Reader: Marina Dzougoutov, MFA  
Reader: Geoffrey Whitebread, PhD

## **Maizy Grace Ann Wilcox**

Title: Investigating the Microbial Communities in Freshwaters of Northern Sweden

Co-Directors: Adebowale Ogunjirin, PhD, Phan Dawson and Afaf Abdelrahim  
Reader: Virginia Rich, PhD

# INTRODUCTION *of the* GRADUATES

**Dr. Caroline M. Kobek Pezzarossi, G-'07 & PhD '08**  
**Dean, Curriculum, Outreach, Resources, and Effectiveness**

## **Bachelor of Arts**

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

## **Bachelor of Science**

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

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## **Bachelor of Arts / Bachelor of Science**

Muna Mukhtaar Abanoor \*\*\*

Yasmine Azzam Abdelkarim \*\*\*

Zoe Ryley Abrams-Gay

Priscilla Acosta-Feliz

Bode W. Aggas

Jacqueline Amber Albert

Raymond Andrew Alcocer

Abdullah M. Alghamdi \*\*\*

Sarah Mahdi Alghamdi

Timara Nicole Allen \*\*\*

Feras Omar M. Alshammasi \*\*

Fahad Abdulrahman F. Altuwaim

Olivia Armstrong

Brayan Arroyo Valencia

Rajeyah Khamirah At-Agri

Clark Barrett

Nicholas M. Barron

Dawsen Wayne Bashaw \*\*

Nathaniel Warren Baxter

Christian Begani-Mayorga \*\*\*

Tanasha Monzell Bennett

Andrew Nicholos Bibbs

Matthew Bigotta

Kelsey August Bird \*\*\*

Levi B. Biser

Revelin Dalton Bonomo

Nicholle Pauline Bradach

Candace Keyonna Broadnax

Toska Broadway \*\*\*

Julia Elizabeth Bronneberg

Courtney Rose Bronson

Jazelina Lemoine Bumbala

Thalia Marie Bunda \*\*

Ashley Nicole Byrnes \*\*

Kevin John Carpenter @

Travis Carrizales

Jasmine Janet Castillo \*\*

Shem Lee Castillo

Joe Cherichello \*\*

\* Degree requirements completed in August 2025    \*\* Degree requirements completed in December 2025    \*\*\*Will complete degree requirements in August 2026  
@ In absentia    Current May and August degree candidates will not be awarded degree(s) until all requirements are met.

## Bachelor of Arts / Bachelor of Science, cont'd.

Iris Darlene Childers  
Brandon Chung \*\*\*  
Dania Joyce Collins  
Nayely Colmenares Rodriguez  
Kathylean Carmenmarie Colon \*\*  
Tyler Gaige Conner  
Ashley Lynn Corcoran  
Cadence Cornwell \*\*  
William Coy-Gonzalez  
Andrew Crawford  
Erick A. Cuellar Ramos \*\*\*  
Cha D'Angelo  
Keaobaka Dabutha  
Kevin Danielson  
Danyeah Davis  
Zachary Brian Davis \*\*  
Darrick Morice De La O  
Macy DeGraw  
Edgar J. DelaTorre  
Walter Douglas  
Dylan Duarte  
Megan Gabriella Dukes  
Bex Marie Duncan  
Neila H. Eaddy  
Mohamed Hashim Elsamani Elsheikh  
Mindy Enriquez @  
Brian Andrew Espanto \*\*@  
Jarius Andrew Evans \*\*  
Jaykuss Figueroa \*\*\*  
Matthew Flores  
Traz Alyssa Freeman  
Tyler Christopher Furzland  
Ella Lou Gamble \*\*  
Kylie Ariel Garcia \*\*@  
Maria Garza @  
Sasha Frances-Rose Gladding  
Mark Daniel Goings  
Aspen Brielle Goldstein  
Jazman Shanea Greene  
Marcus Noah Guillou @  
La'Terria Q. Hampton \*\*\*  
Jayvon Ronel Harmon  
Sajia Hassan  
Nicole Danielle Haynes \*\*\*  
Elghin Mikan Hebrado  
Zane Vanni Hencker  
Stephanie Jean Herring \*\*\*  
Jared Hilaire \*\*  
ZaniBelle I. Hoglind  
Kaitlyn Nadinne Holcombe \*\*@  
Ricky Allen Hubbard \*\*\*  
Jacob Alexander Hundley  
Keyna C. Iwuagwu \*\*\*

Jasmine Jimenez Lara  
Carter Riley Johnson  
Taran Johnson  
Hanna Judith Johnston-Shaw  
Melody Kabbai  
Muhammad Khan  
Minchan Kim  
Jaelynn L. King \*\*\*  
Danielle Jonna Kinner \*\*  
Ella-Berri M. Kornkven  
Anthony Lantieri \*\*@  
Elijah Amos Lee  
Kodi Nelson Lee \*\*\*  
Dazlyn Natori Lopez \*\*\*  
Eboni L. Love-Peel  
Citrine Lallen Lummer  
Ciara Whaley Luttrell  
Zola D. MacAulay  
Dre'Vaughn M. Mackall  
Kimberly Frances MacLeod \*\*  
Adem Mahassini  
Amy Elizabeth Marcus \*\*\*@  
Kelly M. Marquez-Carbajal  
Aryzona Sting Marsh  
Cotis Martinez  
Sophia A. Martinez  
Jojay McInnis \*\*  
Azariyah Iaa-Jahi Yiaddiah McKinnon  
Mel Nichole Mejias  
Tate Lee Merriman  
Avery Grace Meza  
Samantha Rae Michaelson  
Trent Mora \*\*\*  
Salt Scott Morton  
Reza Justeen Mosher  
Justin Audley Muschette  
Marquize R. Nash  
Zarek Aden Nathanson  
Zefan Elan Nathanson  
Amala C. Onyiuke  
Idaly Pacheco  
Puja G. Parmar \*\*\*  
Anevay Patterson \*\*@  
Miguel Pavao  
Nakai Payton \*\*\*  
Jeremy Neyon Pitts  
Ray Noelle Poukish  
Natasha Jo Richards-Hamilton \*\*  
Hillary Rose Ritter \*\*\*  
Jewel Rocha @  
Diana Rosario  
Mario Rosario  
Tina Rowland \*\*

Joshua W. Rutherford  
Jennifer Salaz  
Chloe Saunders  
Jett Amos Saunders \*\*  
Sunita Schmidjorg \*\*\*  
Frederick William Scott  
Katé Michelle Scott  
Michael Seidman  
Chandler Ross Sexton-Ruiz \*\*  
Genesis Simpson \*\*\*  
Ray Stephen Sioco  
Victor Sitali  
Luisa Parker Skjeveland  
Max Skjeveland  
Caitlyn Rose Smith \*\*  
Jennifer Renee St.Pierre  
Etasha Stone  
Julia Elizabeth Stone  
Ella Selene Stromberg  
Sonya Michelle Szywala \*\*@  
Chikako Tamaki \*\*  
Richard Carlisle Taulbee \*\*@  
Wenzel Jeremy Teeters @  
Fernando De Jesus Tejada Lamar \*\*  
Belinda N. Toledo  
Jennifer Marie Tronson @  
Deltha Viena  
Azeb Visco \*\*\*  
Enza Visco \*\*\*  
Gisella April Visco  
Anh Thien Vo  
Koral Ann Wagoner @  
Brandon Readree Washington \*\*\*  
Kelly Elaine Webster  
Hannah Weiss  
Caleb Stephen Westerfield  
Maizy Grace Ann Wilcox  
Bella Rose Williams \*\*\*  
Dorothea Alyse Williams  
Gianna Katherine Wilson  
Jesse McCoy Wilson  
Joshua Sebastian Wojnar \*\*\*  
Sannya Marie Woodyard \*\*\*  
Nyasia Alexandra Wright  
Carmelita Saucedo Yalcin  
Alona Zfati  
Elvis Gascon Zornoza  
Enos Louis Zornoza

\* Degree requirements completed in August 2025 \*\* Degree requirements completed in December 2025 \*\*\* Will complete degree requirements in August 2026  
@ 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. Mrs. Brooke Roberts Davis, '19, a former Gallaudet Dancer, is its interim director.

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

*Tara's Cowboy Tour* was choreographed by Tara Miles, '97, G-'15, and will be performed by Gallaudet Dancers Susie Alonso, Kendal Jordan, Lizbeth Bravo Mendoza, Rebekah Minson, and Antawn Wanliss.

*Imagine* was choreographed by Brooke Roberts Davis and Ashley Pigliavento-Gerald, '18, and will be performed by Tyler Fortson, Katrina Ifurung, Jora Ingrham, Kendal Jordan, Alecia Miller, Rebekah Minson, and Antawn Wanliss.

*Wicked: For Good* was choreographed by Brooke Roberts Davis and will be performed by Susie Alonso, Tyler Fortson, Katrina Ifurung, Jora Ingrham, Kendal Jordan, Lizbeth Bravo Mendoza, Alecia Miller, Rebekah Minson, and Antawn Wanliss.

## 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 performer today is Kathylean Colon, who is receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mathematics.

## 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. Today's performers are Jacqueline Albert, a graduating senior, and Jorina Traina, a junior, accompanied by drummer Justin Muschette, who is also graduating today.

## 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 comes 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, founded in 1817 and recognized as 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 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 Emilia Chukwuma, '85, the longest-serving tenured faculty member, will carry the mace, accompanied by Dr. Daniel J. Lundberg, '02.

## 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 the office. The medallion was redesigned in 1986 to coincide with Gallaudet's achievement of university status and bears 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 15, 2026



## UNIVERSITY HONORS

### Graduate Students with Honors

Bernice Adebimpe Adekeye	Imran Hakamali	Stephen S. Emerson McDonald	Nikki Surber
Jasmine Regine Archer	Courtina Kiyoshi Hocog	Amalia S. Mihalakakos	Lucy Taylor**
Shela Zinkia Atemnkeng	Carrie Noel Hasenfang Humphrey	Jakiya Nicole Murphy	Claire Sheffer Tucker
Sarah Elizabeth Biello	Amanda Kline**	Tony Oswald Nicholalde*	Valerie Rainey Watson
Tylo Harry Zimmer Broszeit	Kaj B. Kraus*	Jessica Olsen**	Kim A. Weissman
Jim Clifton Celestine	Amy Keith Luna	Cynthia Marie Ortega	Megan S. Wetzel*
Emily Wilson Leonard Duncan	Simone Constance Mau-Slone	Tashinalynn Sanders	Shawna Rose Wolf
CK L. Gormally	Halee Ann Mazzuca	Meighan Schmidt	Thea Wrenn
Nathan Beltran Habon	Amelia A. McCall**	Rachel Sortino	

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

Muna Mukhtaar Abanoor***	Dania Joyce Collins	*Carter Riley Johnson	Jennifer Renee St.Pierre
Zoe Ryley Abrams-Gay	*Andrew Crawford	Kodi Nelson Lee***	*Ella Selene Stromberg
Priscilla Acosta-Feliz	Cadence Cornwell**	*Ciara Whaley Luttrell	Jennifer Marie Tronson
Feras Omar M. Alshammasi**	*Tyler Christopher Furzland	*Samantha Rae Michaelson	Anh Thien Vo
Fahad Abdulrahman F. Altuwaim	*Ella Lou Gamble**	Justin Audley Muschette	Alona Zfati
Matthew Bigotta	Stephanie Jean Herring***	*Frederick William Scott	
*Courtney Rose Bronson	ZaniBelle I. Hoglind	Luisa Parker Skjeveland	

#### MAGNA CUM LAUDE

Nicholle Pauline Bradach	*Edgar J. DelaTorre	Kimberly Frances MacLeod**	Gisella April Visco
Candace Keyonna Broadnax	*Neila H. Eaddy	Aryzona Sting Marsh	Koral Ann Wagoner
Shem Lee Castillo	Mohamed H. Elsamani Elsheikh	Cotis Martinez	*Maizy Grace Ann Wilcox
Iris Darlene Childers	Mark Daniel Goings	Sophia A. Martinez	Enos Louis Zornoza
Kathylean Carmenmarie Colon	Hanna Judith Johnston-Shaw	*Jeremy Neyon Pitts	
Tyler Gaige Conner	Dazlyn Natori Lopez***	Hillary Rose Ritter***	
William Coy-Gonzalez	Citrine Lallen Lummer	Chloe Saunders	

#### CUM LAUDE

Yasmine Azzam Abdelkarim***	Jasmine Castillo	Melody Kabbai	Richard Carlisle Taulbee**
Jackie Amber Albert	Nayely Colmenares Rodriguez	Danielle Jonna Kinner**	Wenzel Jeremy Teeters
Sarah Mahdi Alghamdi	Ashley Lynn Corcoran	Elijah Amos Lee	Belinda N. Toledo
Olivia Armstrong	Keaobaka Dabutha	Amy Elizabeth Marcus***	Azeb Visco***
Brayan Arroyo Valencia	Kevin Danielson	Kelly M. Marquez-Carbajal	Kelly Elaine Webster
Clark Barrett	Danyeal Davis	Mel Nichole Mejias	Hannah Weiss
Nathaniel Warren Baxter	Jarius Andrew Evans	Natasha Jo Richards-Hamilton**	Caleb Stephen Westerfield
Toska Broadway***	Ricky Allen Hubbard***	Diana Rosario	
*Julia Elizabeth Bronneberg	Jacob Alexander Hundley	Victor Sitali	

\* Graduated with University Honors

\* Degree requirements completed August 2025

\*\* Degree requirements completed December 2025

\*\*\* Degree to be conferred August 2026

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Today's two Commencement ceremonies required extensive planning that began many months ago. These special ceremonies would not have been possible without the collaboration 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, Kellogg Conference Center, Jostens, and Mt. Royal Printing.

Finally, we thank the many wonderful volunteers from the Gallaudet University community whose time and support contributed to the success of today's ceremonies.

We also extend our congratulations to the graduates and their families!

## QR CODES



**Graduate Ceremony**  
[gu.live/grad26](https://gu.live/grad26)



**Undergraduate Ceremony**  
[gu.live/ug26](https://gu.live/ug26)



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



800 Florida Avenue N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20002

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

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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.