

Commencement
SPRING 2018



Greetings from the President

On behalf of the University of Florida and our administration, faculty and staff, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to you, the Class of 2018, and to your family and friends.

UF's commencement ceremonies celebrate your considerable accomplishment in completing a degree program at one of the world's great universities. I share your pride and excitement, and I am confident that your degree – and the skills and experience you acquired while at this university – will serve you well in your careers and lives.

It has been a privilege to have you as a part of our community, and the university is better for your time here. I hope you remain connected to UF as active alumni and members of The Gator Nation.

Good luck, best wishes, and Go Gators!



W. Kent Fuchs



University of Florida President

Dr. W. Kent Fuchs

Dr. Kent Fuchs became the 12th President of the University of Florida in January 2015. Building on many years of excellence and focused leadership, the university has reached its goal of joining the nation's top-ten public research universities.

Dr. Fuchs has set UF on a path to joining the top-five public research universities and becoming the nation's number one university for comprehensive excellence. UF is working toward those goals through the creation of 500 new faculty positions, the addition of advanced and beautiful university facilities and an ongoing \$3 billion fundraising campaign.

Previous to the UF presidency, Dr. Fuchs was provost of Cornell University. He has served in academic leadership positions and as a faculty member of electrical and computer engineering at Cornell, Purdue and the University of Illinois.

He is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, and the Association for Computing Machinery, and has received numerous awards for teaching and research.

President Fuchs earned his doctorate in electrical and computer engineering from the University of Illinois, and a Master of Divinity from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. He credits divinity school with teaching him communication and community-building skills, and to balance his innately analytic perspective with a deep appreciation for human relationships. He also holds a Bachelor of Science in Engineering from Duke University.

Dr. Fuchs is married to Linda Moskeland Fuchs, an art historian whose scholarship centers on the sculpture of sarcophagi created in the first centuries of Christian art-making. Mrs. Fuchs has two master's degrees in art history, from the University of Chicago and Cornell, and a third in Biblical studies, from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. The Fuchses have three sons, a daughter, and three grandchildren.

Born on an Oklahoma farm in 1954, President Fuchs spent much of his youth in Alaska before moving to Miami, where he graduated from Miami Killian Senior High School.



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Message from the Dean

Dr. R. Elaine Turner

Commencement is one of those rare moments in one's life when time stands still. On this day, our graduates reflect and relive years of experiences, relationships and adventures while simultaneously anticipating a future of new encounters, challenges and opportunities. It is a time for thanking those who have supported and assisted along the way while realizing a new journey is about to begin.

In the University of Florida's College of Agricultural and Life Sciences we educate more than 6,000 students each year across a wide range of disciplines and majors – and are proud that we do so one student at a time. Each of today's graduates enters a world that needs their ideas and energy. We face many challenges – from feeding a growing global population to finding new ways to protect our precious natural resources and managing global economic systems driven by agriculture and energy. Because they are uniquely prepared to meet these challenges, CALS graduates are in high demand by business and industry, agencies and academia, government and non-profits. Whether moving into a new career or advancing on to the best graduate and professional schools in the nation, CALS graduates are prepared to confront real issues with the knowledge, experience and commitment to achieve great success. They enter the work world prepared to contribute and ready to lead.

A few years ago, the University of Florida chose today's graduates to attend this great institution because of the promise and potential each one possessed. During their time here, that potential has been encouraged, challenged and tested. Now



we hope that each of our graduates will continue to live by the ideals and values they have developed inside and outside the classroom – to pursue excellence in all endeavors and be in service to the world as a member of the Gator Nation and a graduate of CALS. We hope that each of you will continue to challenge yourselves and grow and learn throughout your lives.

On behalf of our faculty and staff, I congratulate each of our graduates upon receiving a degree from the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences at the University of Florida. This is an accomplishment and a distinct honor, one of which you deserve to be proud. It is an honor for me to welcome you to the alumni family of the University of Florida and CALS. I hope that you will stay in contact with your alma mater and continue to be a loyal supporter of the Gator Nation.

Congratulations!

College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

The College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALs) administers the degree programs of the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS). IFAS is a federal, state and local government partnership dedicated to developing knowledge in agriculture, human and natural resources and the life sciences and to making the knowledge accessible to sustain and enhance the quality of human life. With 22 undergraduate majors, more than 50 areas of specialization and 22 graduate programs, CALs is an educational leader in the areas of food, agriculture, natural resources and life sciences.

Mission

The mission of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences is to deliver unsurpassed educational programs that prepare students to address the world's critical challenges related to agriculture, food systems, human wellbeing, natural resources and sustainable communities.

The Land-Grant University System

The University of Florida is part of a network of universities across the country whose heritage extends back more than 150 years. Known as the land-grant universities, they were created by a historic piece of legislation, the Morrill Act, which was signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln on July 2, 1862.

The Morrill Act established a nationwide network of public universities with a new mission. They would not only offer traditional disciplines such as medicine, theology and law, they would also teach agricultural science, military tactics and engineering. Moreover, these institutions were created with federal financial support, designed to make higher education affordable to people from modest backgrounds. The term "land-grant" refers to grants in the form of federal lands given to each state for the establishment of a public institution.

In the decades that followed, the land-grant system revolutionized higher education and made it possible for millions of men and women to earn college degrees. As they joined the workforce, these individuals transformed myriad communities by using their knowledge and determination to create new products and services, and devise better ways to deliver existing ones.

In the agricultural and natural resource sciences, the land-grant system also gave rise to an agricultural experiment station (created by the Hatch Act in 1887) and a Cooperative Extension Service (created by the Smith-Lever Act in 1914) associated with each land-grant institution. With these tools, land-grant institutions deliver research-based education, and solutions to local, statewide, national and global challenges. Today, America's land-grant universities continue to fulfill their mandate for openness, accessibility and service to people.

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Agriculture and Natural Resources

Jeanna M. Mastrodicasa
Associate Vice President
Agriculture and Natural Resources

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Dean
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Heather J. McAuslane
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John M. Davis
Associate Dean
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Sciences

Jorge R. Rey
Florida Medical Entomology
Laboratory

Spiro Stefanou
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Wildlife Ecology and Conservation



COMMENCEMENT AGENDA – SATURDAY, MAY 5, 7:00 p.m.

Presiding	W. Kent Fuchs, President <i>University of Florida</i>
Prelude and Student Processional	Gainesville Brass Quintet
Platform Processional	Holton's Highlanders
National Anthem	Ashley Hassan Gainesville Brass Quintet
Welcome	W. Kent Fuchs
Introductions	R. Elaine Turner, Dean <i>College of Agricultural and Life Sciences</i>
Presentation of College Awards	R. Elaine Turner
Alumni Association Remarks and Award Presentation	Karen Unger <i>President, UF Alumni Association, Inc.</i>
Commissioning Recognition	R. Elaine Turner
Student Address	Abigail Schirmer
Commencement Address	W. Kent Fuchs
Presenting Candidates for Graduate Degrees	R. Elaine Turner
Conferring of Graduate Degrees	W. Kent Fuchs
Presenting Candidates for Undergraduate Degrees	R. Elaine Turner
Conferring of Undergraduate Degrees	W. Kent Fuchs
Closing Remarks	W. Kent Fuchs
Alma Mater	Ashley Hassan Gainesville Brass Quintet
Recessional and Postlude	Gainesville Brass Quintet

Commencement Marshals

CHIEF MARSHAL

Ronald J. Spitznagel

CALS MARSHALS

Rob Ahrens

Forest Resources and Conservation

Eban Bean

Agricultural and Biological Engineering

Lyn Branch

Wildlife Ecology and Conservation

Kylie Brannen

College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

Emilio Bruna

Wildlife Ecology and Conservation

Cathy Carr

College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

Jose Chaparro

Horticultural Sciences

Carlene Chase

Horticultural Sciences

Jennifer Clark

Food and Resource Economics

Natalie Coers

College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

James Collins

Food Science and Human Nutrition

Case Emerson

College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

H. Charlotte Emerson

College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

John Erickson

Agronomy

Kate Fletcher

Family, Youth and Community Sciences

Zhifeng Gao

Food and Resource Economics

Stefan Gerber

Soil and Water Sciences

Corey Graf

Career Resource Center

Ian Granville

Biology

Phil Harmon

Plant Pathology

Amie Imler

Animal Sciences

Kathryn Ivey

Family, Youth and Community Sciences

Herschel Johnson

Food Science and Human Nutrition

Katie Lawson

Agricultural Education and Communication

Jim Maruniak

Entomology and Nematology

Jeanna Mastrodicasa

Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

Anne Matthews

Food Science and Human Nutrition

Jorge Ruiz Menjivar

Family, Youth and Community Sciences

Heather McAuslane

College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

Zhonglin Mou

Microbiology and Cell Science

Britta Osborne

College of Agricultural and Life Sciences/Biology

John Peterson

Environmental Horticulture

Dale Pracht

Family, Youth and Community Sciences

Kelly Rice

Microbiology and Cell Science

Tony Romeo

Microbiology and Cell Science

Lorenzo Rossi

Horticultural Sciences

Anne Schwartz

College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

Misti Sharp

Food and Resource Economics

Sandra Tenbroeck

Animal Sciences

Marie Thomas

Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

Kelsey Thornton

College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

Andrew Thoron

Agricultural Education and Communication

Laurie Trenholm

Environmental Horticulture

Amy Vasquez

Environmental Horticulture

Wilfred Vermerris

Microbiology and Cell Science

Jason Vogel

Forest Resources and Conservation

Kristina von Castel

Food Science and Human Nutrition

Adam Watson

Agricultural and Biological Engineering

Carissa Wickens

Animal Sciences

Adam Wong

Entomology and Nematology

Tom Yeager

Environmental Horticulture

Gordon Yoder

College of Agricultural and Life Sciences



CALS Teaching and Advising Award Recipients

Christine Miller

Undergraduate Teacher of the Year



Creativity and innovation are motivating forces behind Dr. Christine Miller's teaching philosophy and student research experiences. As an associate professor in the Department of Entomology and Nematology, Dr. Miller teaches courses in introductory entomology. "Dr. Miller has an exceptional ability to connect with her students and bring out their very best," said the department chair. "By connecting with her students and sharing her enthusiasm, she has an impressive capacity to instill in students this same passion for science and inquiry."

The enthusiasm Dr. Miller's students share for the subject is largely due to the novel Classroom Undergraduate Research Experience (CURE) courses she has developed. These courses stimulate interactions among undergraduate students, graduate students, and post-docs. Undergraduate students in these courses collect data, and results from their findings are published in peer-reviewed scientific publications. Due to the development of these CURE courses, Dr. Miller has taken a leadership role at UF in developing courses that provide undergraduates with meaningful research experiences. "Without a Miller Lab experience, I doubt that my formal coursework in ecology and evolution would have inspired me to pursue a graduate degree," said a former student of Dr. Miller's.

In addition to her innovative teaching methods, Dr. Miller is a devoted and talented mentor for students. Dr. Miller encourages her students to become authors on research papers, and mentors them through the process. She follows up with students on domestic and international research experiences that align with their academic interests. She advocates for her students to attend and present their research at conferences, and introduces students to researchers who share their interests. "Her involvement extends past when students are in her lab; after leaving Dr. Miller's lab, she helped me to find opportunities for both work and graduate studies," said a former student. Dr. Miller was recognized nationally as a recipient of the USDA "New Teacher Award" in November, 2017.

Steve Johnson

Undergraduate Teacher of the Year



Consistent themes students recognize in Dr. Steve Johnson's teaching are his passion and enthusiasm, dynamic classroom experience, and straightforward, effective communication style. As an associate professor in the Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, Dr. Johnson considers teaching a privilege and aims to push his students to their fullest learning potential. His teaching philosophy is based upon the core values of being knowledgeable, creative, approachable, respectful, attentive, fair, and enthusiastic.

Students note the real-world applications of his courses as being particularly effective in their retention of information. One such lesson of Dr. Johnson's made use of sound-bites for students to remember frog calls, which culminated in his conducting of the class in a frog chorus! "Innovative activities like group writing, hands-on learning, interactive field trips, compelling guest speaker schedules, engaging classroom discussions, and a lecture style that communicates information effectively to students of all knowledge levels, are just some of the many hallmarks of Dr. Johnson's courses that make them exceptional," said a former student. "I've not had another instructor since pull a van full of students off the road to turn a road-kill opossum into a species education moment!" said another.

Dr. Johnson has mentored dozens of undergraduates through research projects, guiding them on their path toward becoming scientists. He developed a volunteer undergraduate teaching assistant program for his Wildlife in Florida course that provides teaching experience and learning reinforcement for students formerly enrolled in that course. "Dr. Johnson's record in undergraduate education speaks for itself," said the department chair. "He is well-known in our department for his enthusiastic and entertaining teaching style, which motivates students to seek more knowledge and experience in the field of wildlife ecology." Dr. Johnson understands students have different learning styles and tries to incorporate a diversity of teaching strategies and styles in the classroom, which has earned him the departmental undergraduate teacher of the year award three times in the past six years.

CALS Teaching and Advising Award Recipients

Kristina Haselier

Undergraduate Advisor of the Year



When Kristina Haselier began working as an undergraduate academic advisor for the School of Forest Resources and Conservation seven years ago, she advised more than 130 students in three majors. Now, she serves nearly 320 students a year across four majors. This significant growth in the school has allowed her the opportunity to create easily accessible resources for her students. One such example is an online “Academic Hub” that includes frequently asked questions as well as how-to guides for campus resources, the process for adding a minor, selecting a faculty advisor, and creating an individualized curriculum plan.

With an advising philosophy that utilizes active listening techniques, Haselier has become a comforting shoulder for students to lean on in times of personal and academic anxiety. “I have never met a person or advisor like Ms. Haselier, one who listens and empathizes with her students and always goes that extra mile,” said a current student. “I feel like I am being heard when I explain my troubles or concerns, and she is always giving her time to others to ensure that they are comfortable as CALS students.” When problem-solving solutions to real or perceived issues students have, Haselier helps students plan steps toward an end goal as well as incorporate short-term, easily attainable wins along the way.

Students value Haselier’s individualized advising approach. To help students become successfully employed upon graduation, Haselier works with students to help them identify their goals and narrow their interests to assist in their selection of a faculty advisor. She has found that follow-up with her students is key to her students’ success. “She goes out of her way to identify students for specific job opportunities, assists students with special projects for classes, and works to make good students into outstanding alumni,” said Haselier’s supervisor.

Shirley Baker

Undergraduate Advisor of the Year



As an associate professor and undergraduate advisor and mentor for those studying in the interdisciplinary studies – marine sciences major, Dr. Shirley Baker is known for always making time for undergraduate students and prospective students in the UF/IFAS School of Forest Resources and Conservation. Students mention Dr. Baker’s strength is her ability to listen. They are appreciative of Dr. Baker’s care and attentive attitude for their career goals and her desire to get to know them outside of academics. Within the last two years alone, Dr. Baker has mentored and advised more than 150 undergraduate students, alumni, and prospective students.

Instrumental to the growth and success of the marine sciences major, Dr. Baker worked one-on-one with students to discuss their academic, research, and career goals to then craft individualized curriculum plans unique to each student. This process has continued with its expansion to additional advisors due the program’s increase in students. Dr. Baker provided the materials, workshops, and mentorship training support to these additional advisors. This individualized mentorship with advisors is a critical process in students’ development into skilled, well-informed, and employable graduates prepared for a wide-range of specializations within the field of marine sciences.

Dr. Baker’s advising and mentoring philosophy encompasses critical thinking, responsibility, and exploration. She feels she has succeeded as a mentor if her mentees graduate from the University of Florida with accountability for their career paths and with the capacity to think with a sense of curiosity and wonder. She has received positive feedback from prospective high school and transfer students who are grateful for the attention and tours of facilities she provides them. On April 11, Dr. Baker was named the UF Faculty Advisor/Mentor of the Year for 2017-2018.

CALS Teaching and Advising Award Recipients

Gail Kauwell

Graduate Teacher/Advisor of the Year



Dr. Gail Kauwell is most often described as a selfless instructor and role model by her students. Colleagues remark how often they see her in the office on weekends providing copious notes and feedback on her students' assignments. "She is generous with her time both in and out of the classroom, incredibly kind in her communication and actions, and persistent in her attempts to push students to learn," said one of Dr. Kauwell's graduates. "She creates a unique, challenging learning plan that develops students into better versions of themselves."

As the program director for the Master of Science – Dietetic Internship in the UF/IFAS Food Science and Human Nutrition Department, Dr. Kauwell teaches numerous courses as part of the program's curriculum. She uses various tools in the classroom that promote critical thinking such as case studies, peer-reviewed journal articles, community service projects, and the opportunity for students to develop nutritional curricula for the public. Students consistently notice and appreciate Dr. Kauwell's well-structured, organized class presentations that reflect the most current, evidence-based information available in the field. She has been recognized on campus and across the nation for her excellence in teaching.

According to her students, a defining characteristic of Dr. Kauwell is her ability to challenge students through rigorous assignments all the while comforting and cheering them on. Students mention that even after they graduate, they never forget her phrase, "Do you want to be good or do you want to be rock stars?" A former student said, "Dr. K made a point to prioritize my success, sometimes even more than I did." This teaching and advising philosophy of Dr. Kauwell's is based on the premise that learning and self-discovery occur best when students are actively engaged, feel supported and encouraged, and see a connection with their future.

Amanda Desormeaux

Jack L. Fry Award of Excellence in Teaching



Amanda Desormeaux, a Ph.D. candidate studying interdisciplinary ecology, is this year's recipient of the Jack L. Fry Excellence in Teaching award for a graduate student. The award is named for the former assistant dean for graduate programs in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences and honors an outstanding graduate student who has excelled in classroom or laboratory teaching.

Amanda has always had a passion for teaching. As a child, she saved class assignments she particularly enjoyed to use for lessons in her future teaching career. At UF, Amanda has taught four different undergraduate courses as either a teaching assistant or instructor of record. "Amanda brings to the students her empathy grounded in the hard work she has put in to develop expertise in this wide array of methodologies," said her dissertation advisor Dr. James Jawitz. "These talents, combined with her open and supportive personality, have led to her record of success in forming strong connections with students."

Amanda aims to provide quality learning experiences and opportunities for practice, discussion and reflection, and to support student motivation. An example of this teaching philosophy is a lesson Amanda teaches on sustainable design. Each student reads a blog post that covers an aspect of "green design" and presents a main point to the class before the students design a green neighborhood as a team. Amanda ends the class with a field trip to a local green neighborhood.

Reflecting upon her role in a student's learning process, Amanda sees herself as a facilitator to support students along their journey to create new knowledge. One of Amanda's former students remarked, "The best teachers do not just educate; they inspire. The experiences Amanda curated for our class, from learning GIS-mapping to learning about bees firsthand wearing beekeeper suits, continue to inspire me in my journey of environmental advocacy."

Outstanding Students

Arun Jani

Jimmy G. Cheek Medal of Excellence

Agronomy Ph.D. candidate Arun Jani is this year's recipient of the Jimmy G. Cheek Graduate Student Medal of Excellence. Named after a former dean of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences and former senior vice president for agriculture and natural resources, the award recognizes an outstanding graduate student who demonstrates high academic potential and achievement, leadership and community involvement, and commitment to and passion for his or her chosen field of study.



Growing up in the inner-city near Boston, Arun had little exposure to agriculture. After an introduction to broad academic disciplines spanning environmental science, international affairs, and natural resources, Arun became interested in agriculture and finding solutions to food security issues. After serving in the Peace Corps, Arun developed a curiosity for researching ways to improve nitrogen use efficiency to bridge the void between the needs of resource-limited farmers and those of large, mechanized agricultural systems. He has received numerous awards for his research posters and presentations. Additionally, Arun has been awarded more than \$10,000 in scholarships and has secured more than \$25,000 in grants to support his research.

Arun has a strong commitment to serving both domestic and developing world communities. He led several workshops and trained 250 farmer cooperative members on soil fertility management and water conservation in rural communities during his Peace Corps experiences in Nepal and Senegal. He currently serves as a youth mentor at Westside Recreational Center in Gainesville, and has mentored others through the Boys & Girls Club of Raleigh while he was a master's student at North Carolina State University. In addition to these leadership roles, Arun is the vice president of the Agronomy Graduate Student Association and is the graduate student representative on the CALS Council for Teaching Enhancement and Innovation. Arun's professors admire him for his "selflessness," "can-do attitude," "perseverance," and "enthusiasm."

Wallace Martin

Alumni & Friends Leadership Award

Wallace "Wally" Martin is honored today as the recipient of the CALS Alumni and Friends Leadership Award. This award recognizes an outstanding senior who exemplifies leadership, scholastic achievement and citizenship. The award is presented to a student who has a high degree of leadership in departmental or college organizations and supports the agriculture, natural resource and life science industries.



Wally is a food and resource economics major from Arcadia, Florida. He graduates today with minors in leadership and agricultural and natural resource law. Following graduation, Wally plans to pursue a career in finance related to agriculture.

During his time at UF, Wally has been engaged in key roles in the college as an undergraduate assistant in the Dean's Office, CALS Ambassador, Collegiate Farm Bureau leader, and student director on the CALS Alumni and Friends Board. Wally is a member of Florida Blue Key and a brother in the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity. He has given back to the community through involvement with the Winn Dixie Hope Lodge, All Faiths Food Bank, and First Presbyterian Church of Gainesville.

"[Wally's] greatest contribution is how he commits himself to work toward making every team and enterprise he joins to be a better unit," said Dr. Spiro Stefanou, chair of the UF/IFAS Food and Resource Economics Department. "He is a young man who is poised to make a difference for agriculture, in Florida and beyond."

Since 2015, Wally has served on the Student Advisory Council for Undergraduate Affairs (SACUA), where he represents the college's students to university administrators. Because of his valuable contributions to SACUA, Wally was invited to serve on the UF Academic Honesty and the Timely Graduation Task Forces. "Wally represents CALS and UF in an exemplary manner," said Associate Provost for Undergraduate Affairs, Angela Lindner. "He reflects the strong values that CALS lives out in its classrooms."

Outstanding Students

Jonathan Novak

Emelie L. Matthews Award of Excellence

Jonathan "Jon" Novak is honored today as the recipient of the Emelie L. Matthews Award of Excellence, presented to an outstanding senior in the college who came to UF as a transfer student. Jonathan graduates today with a degree in biology and is from Gainesville, Florida.



Prior to his studies at UF, Jonathan served four years in the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) of the U.S. Army. During his time in the military, Jon deployed three times on missions to Africa and Europe. Jon seeks to improve the successful re-integration of veterans into society, which is particularly evident in his involvement in the UF and Gainesville communities. He is an active member of the UF Collegiate Veterans Society, and tutors veterans in biomedical science, statistics, organic chemistry, and pre-calculus through both UF and Santa Fe College's VetSuccess on Campus programs. Jon has worked on projects to gather and analyze data about veterans and veteran students to better help them align their skills obtained in the military with those required in academia as well as in the private and public sectors.

In addition to his work serving fellow veterans, Jon is a volunteer research assistant at the UF Honey Bee Research and Extension Lab. Jon has volunteered to help Dr. Jamie Ellis with the UF Bee College event in addition to various research projects through the 2017 season. This volunteer role led to a research internship in Dr. Ellis' lab. "I find his candor refreshing, his critical thinking abilities refined, and his vision for his immediate and long-term future well-planned," Dr. Ellis said. "I truly believe that Mr. Novak has all the qualities necessary to succeed in any field he chooses to pursue."

After graduation, Jonathan hopes to earn his M.D.-Ph.D. to engage in gene therapy research to contribute to the fight against cancer.

Huda Aziz

Larry J. Connor Medal of Excellence

Huda Aziz, a resident of Coral Springs, Florida, graduates today as a nutritional sciences major. She is honored as the recipient of the Larry J. Connor Medal of Excellence Award. Named after the late Dr. Larry J. Connor, a former dean of the college, this award recognizes an outstanding senior who has achieved a distinguished scholarship record, has demonstrated a high degree of leadership, and has contributed to and fostered diversity within the student body and society.



As a research assistant on Dr. Carolyn Tucker's health psychology research team, Huda has conducted research on obesity and health disparities in minority communities. In addition to her work on this team, Huda has worked as a UF microbiology lab teaching assistant, medical assistant at a family medicine clinic, and student assistant in the UF Dean of Students Office Care Area.

"[Huda] has demonstrated leadership and dedication to advocating for equal and adequate healthcare for those in all social, economic and religious groups," said Dr. Lauren Butler, a postdoctoral research associate with the UF Health Disparities Research and Intervention Program. In addition to her work on Dr. Tucker's research team, Huda has been trained as a Health Empowerment Coach, and has assisted in recruiting and enrolling participants for the Health Smart Behavior Program at the Alachua County Health Department.

Huda's passion for helping marginalized and underserved populations led her to found a chapter of "Project Downtown" in West Palm Beach, an organization serving weekly hot meals to homeless populations. In her spare time, she creates art projects to sell and raise funds for Project Downtown. On campus, Huda holds leadership roles in Muslim-based campus organizations and volunteers as a conversation partner through the UF English Language Institute. This fall, Huda will attend Florida International University to become a physician assistant.

Outstanding Students

Heather Ryan

J. Wayne Reitz Medal of Excellence

Heather Ryan, an agricultural education and communication major from Lakeland, Florida, is honored today as the recipient of the J. Wayne Reitz Medal of Excellence Award. The award is named after Dr. J. Wayne Reitz, a former UF provost for agriculture and past UF president. The award is bestowed upon an outstanding student who has achieved a distinguished scholarship record and demonstrated a high degree of leadership.



Promoting campus inclusivity has been Heather's top priority since her freshman year. This dedication to providing an inclusive culture is exemplified through her translation of orientation materials into dual languages as a Preview Staffer and championing a free business clothes lending service through the Gator Career Closet. She earned the UF Presidential Service Award for volunteering more than 300 hours at the Boys & Girls Club of Alachua County and Florida YMCA Youth in Government programs.

Heather shares her heart for public service as a community engagement fellow with The Bob Graham Center Fellows. She was selected as one of four fellows to represent UF and serve the City of Gainesville in strategic planning projects. "Heather is a collaborative leader who is passionate about social justice, public service and enabling citizens to make a difference," said Andres Lazo, director of Citizen-Centered Design.

Heather's commitment to serving her community has extended globally through her involvement in Projects for Haiti and the UF/IFAS Challenge 2050 Project. At UF, Heather is a Florida Cicerone, Honors Ambassador, J. Wayne Reitz Scholar, and Florida Blue Key member. She graduates with minors in leadership and Spanish. "What makes Heather different in her pursuits is her innate desire to strengthen and transform the organizations that she is affiliated with on campus and in the community," said Dr. Nicole Stedman, Heather's advisor and UF/IFAS professor.

By pursuing a master's degree in agricultural education and communication after graduation, Heather hopes to continue to bridge gaps to underserved communities and marginalized youth.

Brandon McKee

Outstanding Two - Year Scholar Award

Brandon McKee of Okeechobee, Florida, is honored today as an Outstanding Two-Year Scholar. This honor is awarded by the UF Alumni Association, Inc., and recognizes students with exceptional scholastic achievement who transferred to the university. He graduates today with a major in food and resource economics and a minor in leadership.



Growing up, Brandon's mother would always say, "Do the best you can, then don't worry about it." This ideology serves as Brandon's work ethic. He has excelled in academia due to devoting hours of hard work toward his education. This meant constant revisions to his papers, reading every section in the textbook, and never being too proud to ask for help.

Brandon found his work as a research assistant with the Center for Public Issues Education to provide valuable opportunities and mentorship that have defined his student experience. He completed a summer research experience through Kansas State University working with research on Brazilian sugarcane producers and completed an honors thesis on consumer willingness to pay for water. His research and an internship with the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Extension have resulted in three published journal articles and several presentations at conferences. In addition, Brandon has served the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences as an ambassador and the Gainesville community as a student mentor with Kanapaha Middle School and youth ministry leader through Greenhouse Church.

When asked why he thinks it is great to be a Florida Gator, Brandon said, "The University of Florida and the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences have given me moments that I will remember for a lifetime," especially discussions with his mentors and advisors. In the immediate future, Brandon will marry his fiancée and begin a job near his hometown. He feels called to ministry with a long-term goal of becoming a pastor.

Special Recognition

Abigail Schirmer

Commencement Speaker

Abigail Schirmer from Jupiter, Florida, will graduate today with dual degrees in nutritional sciences and microbiology and cell science. Abigail was selected to present the Commencement address to our graduating students.



Abigail is a member of the CALS Leadership Institute Cohort VIII, a former member of the UF Club Swim and TriGators, and a current U.S. Master Swim Team member. She volunteers at First Presbyterian Church of Gainesville and has given her time to organizations such as Malcom Randall VA Hospital, UF Department of Pediatrics, Ronald McDonald House, LifeSouth Blood Centers, and Thornwell Orphanage in South Carolina.

“Abigail represents CALS with utmost character, compassion, and integrity; her professional demeanor, positivity, and natural ability to connect with others equip her with the capacity to excel as she graduates and enters medical school,” said Dr. Natalie Coers, Program Coordinator for the CALS Leadership Institute. “One attribute of Abigail that has impressed me the most is her ambition. She is eager to learn and grow to be a better leader and better human being, ready to serve others, however she is able.”

Beginning as a high school student in the Student Science Training Program in 2012, Abigail has worked in UF research lab settings as a volunteer and a paid employee. Most notably, she has co-designed and completed research projects that she has presented at local, regional, and national conferences. Two of these projects have impacted UF Health/Shands policies, implementing effective Isolation Gowns in the operating rooms and ICUs, and implementing less contaminated computer keyboards in the newly opened UF Health/Shands facility. She has also completed two manuscript submissions as first author and has completed an honors thesis.

Abigail will begin medical school in August and anticipates continuing her research to better the lives of individuals and medicine as a whole.

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

Henry T. Frierson, Dean

MASTER OF AGRIBUSINESS

Caroline A. Dailey

Samantha J. Dailey

MASTER OF FISHERIES AND AQUATIC SCIENCES

Lindsay Anne French

Michael A. Laguna

Rachael A. Griffiths

Benjamin Edward VanDine

MASTER OF FOREST RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

Joshua Castro

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Matilda C. Adamec

Microbiology and Cell Science

Ann Marie Carias

Entomology and Nematology

Willy Avriely Daeli

Forest Resources and Conservation

Ashley P. Baker

Microbiology and Cell Science

Chelsea Erin Carnes

*Family, Youth and Community
Sciences*

Paul Harrison Decker

Forest Resources and Conservation

Alic R. Bandy

Forest Resources and Conservation

Sherry Elizabeth Carpenter

*Forest Resources and
Conservation*

Stanley Willis Dezern

Agronomy

Peyton Nicole Beattie

*Agricultural Education and
Communication*

Gabriel Castille

Microbiology and Cell Science

Kristi S. Dobra

Soil and Water Sciences

Jesse B. Borden

Interdisciplinary Ecology

Tiffany Garris Cato

Microbiology and Cell Science

Megan Danielle Engel

Food Science and Human Nutrition

David M. Bostwick

Agronomy

Bridgette E. Compton

*Agricultural Education and
Communication*

Jose Antonio Fernandez Abreu

Microbiology and Cell Science

Catalina Pardo Brasil

Microbiology and Cell Science

Cheyenne Conrad

*Family, Youth and Community
Sciences*

Taylor-Shea Joyia Flotow

Microbiology and Cell Science

Brittani M. Brown

Microbiology and Cell Science

Jeremy I. Cooper

*Forest Resources and
Conservation*

Brandy Elizabeth Sara Foley

Soil and Water Sciences

Harry Burman

Entomology and Nematology

Monica Anne Cozad

Microbiology and Cell Science

Nicole L. Garner

*Family, Youth and Community
Sciences*

Nathan Adam Burmester

Forest Resources and Conservation

Bethany Margaret Dado-Senn

*Animal Molecular and Cellular
Biology*

Jay C. Gilbert

Soil and Water Sciences

Juan P. Cabrera Marcelo

Microbiology and Cell Science

Benjamin Merritt Gillenwaters

Entomology and Nematology

Julio Cesar Cardoso Cruz

Food and Resource Economics

Samantha N. Goldenberg

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Sciences*

Yaslin Nicole Gonzalez <i>Soil and Water Sciences</i>	Patrick M. Kelly <i>Microbiology and Cell Science</i>	Katie Elizabeth Miranda <i>Animal Sciences</i>
Emily Michelle Andrews Greene <i>Microbiology and Cell Science</i>	Arjun Khadka <i>Entomology and Nematology</i>	Maria Paula Mugnani <i>Wildlife Ecology and Conservation</i>
Jennifer Kaye Griffith <i>Microbiology and Cell Science</i>	Amelia Cai Knowlton <i>Microbiology and Cell Science</i>	Jackson V. Nielsen <i>Agronomy</i>
Kathryn M. Harriger <i>Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences</i>	Tyler Thomas Knox <i>Microbiology and Cell Science</i>	Morgan Hannah Overstreet <i>Microbiology and Cell Science</i>
Jessica L. Harsh <i>Agricultural Education and Communication</i>	Nattapol Kraistudomsook <i>Plant Pathology</i>	Avish Anil Patel <i>Microbiology and Cell Science</i>
Amy Warwick Hedstrom <i>Agricultural Education and Communication</i>	Sean P. Kryger <i>Food Science and Human Nutrition</i>	William Tyler Plumlee <i>Microbiology and Cell Science</i>
Cassie A. Henegar <i>Soil and Water Sciences</i>	Megan Scherrer Lamb <i>Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences</i>	Taylor G. Polinard <i>Agricultural Education and Communication</i>
David A. Hensley <i>Agronomy</i>	Robert T. Loane III <i>Forest Resources and Conservation</i>	Christine E. Pourciau <i>Microbiology and Cell Science</i>
Melissa K. Hill <i>Interdisciplinary Ecology</i>	Camilo Lopera Higueta <i>Animal Sciences</i>	Ciara Jeanene Powell <i>Family, Youth and Community Sciences</i>
Mark H. Hinz <i>Soil and Water Sciences</i>	Davyn Louis <i>Microbiology and Cell Science</i>	Marta Prat Guitart <i>Wildlife Ecology and Conservation</i>
Brianna Renee Holden <i>Microbiology and Cell Science</i>	Christopher Daniel Louviere <i>Microbiology and Cell Science</i>	Jeffrey M. Ragucci <i>Soil and Water Sciences</i>
Michael Shane Hull <i>Entomology and Nematology</i>	Keevan Jade MacKenzie <i>Plant Pathology</i>	Robert Anthony Ranieri <i>Food and Resource Economics</i>
J. Clay Hurdle <i>Agricultural Education and Communication</i>	Jenna Brennan Magri <i>Microbiology and Cell Science</i>	Mohamad Rois Ridlo <i>Forest Resources and Conservation</i>
Laila A. Ibrahim <i>Animal Molecular and Cellular Biology</i>	Richard Joseph Mansuetti <i>Forest Resources and Conservation</i>	Simon S. Riley <i>Agronomy</i>
Kelly Jean Ingram <i>Microbiology and Cell Science</i>	Michael G. Mauk <i>Microbiology and Cell Science</i>	Claudia Rodriguez <i>Animal Sciences</i>
Kayleigh J. Jeffrey <i>Microbiology and Cell Science</i>	Stephanie Maya <i>Microbiology and Cell Science</i>	Daniel Kelley Rohan <i>Forest Resources and Conservation</i>
Nicholas S. Johnston <i>Entomology and Nematology</i>	Ashley N. McLeod <i>Agricultural Education and Communication</i>	Joaquin Ernesto Saavedra Alvarado <i>Agronomy</i>
Prabhjot Kaur <i>Horticultural Sciences</i>	Gunja Vallavdas Mehta <i>Microbiology and Cell Science</i>	Samantha Nicole Sardes <i>Agronomy</i>
	Kyle M. Mendes <i>Animal Sciences</i>	Melissa Savoy <i>Soil and Water Sciences</i>

Raymond M. Scott
Interdisciplinary Ecology

Prami Sengupta
*Family, Youth and Community
Sciences*

Rui Shao
Food Science and Human Nutrition

Jessica E. Sharpe
Soil and Water Sciences

Emily Rae Sheveland
Microbiology and Cell Science

Anil Sigdel
Animal Sciences

Kristin Elizabeth Sloyer
Entomology and Nematology

Austin Matthew Smith
Interdisciplinary Ecology

Leigh Nicole Smith
Microbiology and Cell Science

Peyton A. Smith III
Microbiology and Cell Science

Taylor A. Smith
Soil and Water Sciences

Jennifer Lanette Sobel
Forest Resources and Conservation

Danielle M. Sprague
Entomology and Nematology

Jesse T. Stephens
Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences

Isabella Storozkova
Microbiology and Cell Science

Jerrica A. Swain
Microbiology and Cell Science

Andréa M. Szabo
Interdisciplinary Ecology

Abigail Stanley Tadigadapa
Microbiology and Cell Science

Callie J. Thompson
Forest Resources and Conservation

Sarada Maury Kolli Tilton
Microbiology and Cell Science

Rebeca Trujillo
Microbiology and Cell Science

Katelyn Elizabeth Turner
*Family, Youth and Community
Sciences*

Alyssa Ann Vinson
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Melissa Lauren Vizza
Entomology and Nematology

Brian Katsumi Wada
Food Science and Human Nutrition

Shelly Marie Wayte
Forest Resources and Conservation

Jacob T. Weiderman
Microbiology and Cell Science

Brett Alan Wisniewski
Microbiology and Cell Science

Levi D. Wooden
Forest Resources and Conservation

Ross A. Wygmans
Forest Resources and Conservation

Lujia Yang
Food Science and Human Nutrition

Angga Yudaputra
Forest Resources and Conservation

Adrian Israel Zuniga Pinto
Plant Pathology



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Rashad M. Austin

Sade Denise Marie Awe

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*Catherine Baitinger

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*Jackson R. Baker

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*Aashni Hitesh Bhukhan

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*Matthew R. Biber

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*Noah Justin Blaker

Emerald Aislinn Blum

John A. Blyzinskyj

Daniel A. Bonce

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Leah Botton

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*Brooke Elizabeth Bowen

Kaleb Steele Boyce

Jonna Ann Boyda

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*Robert Charles Brannan IV

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*Rebekka Lynn Brown

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Able Chow

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 *Shawna Lynn DeGrange
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 *Taeler R. Dupre
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 Naomi J. Ector
 Garrett A. Edmond
 *Robert J. Edwards
 Victoria M. Edwards
 Kalee Brook Eichelberger
 *Samantha B. Eifert
 *Eda Eken
 *Nadine Elkomy
 Christian Alexander Ellis
 Conor Ellis
 David Samuel Ellis
 *Jessica Shelby Emerson
 *Brason A. English
 Najla Elias Faddoul
 Raul Daniel Fagundez Jr.
 Scott Faist
 *Mckenzie N. Farah
 Ariana Eugenia G. Faraji
 Vanessa P. Feanny
 *Hannah Nie Feng
 Abigale V. Ferguson
 Erik G. Ferguson
 *Katy Y. Ferguson
 Gianna Fernandez
 Katherine Fernandez
 *Daniel S. Feuer

*Ashley Kristina Fisher
 Hannah Gail Fitzhugh
 Barry Chase Fleming
 Dwayne A. Fletcher
 *Nicolette Taylor Flynn
 Dariella Vanessa Fonseca Rosenthal
 Shannon L. Forgit
 Pierce A. Forquer
 *Thomas W.R. Fraleigh
 Valeria Franco
 *Jennifer R. Franklin
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 Chelsea Brennan Frost
 *Delaney Anne Fuhrmeister
 Taylor Renee Fulford
 Ruth Ann Galatowitsch
 *Ashley J. Gallops
 Disharee Gangulee
 Kevin Andres Garcia
 Marlen Yolany Garcia Vallecillo
 Lauren R. Gawel
 Jessica E. Gebert
 *Kelsey Danielle Gelok
 *Megan Gwyneth George
 Victoria R. Gerace
 *Ralph Chester Ghioto IV
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 *Jacob Conner Gilbert
 *Kaitlin N. Gingerich
 Kelsie Glinski-Boyd
 Vanessa Joy Ruelos Glomo
 *Emma Rae Glover
 *Justin Michael Glynn
 *Ryan T. Goebel
 *Danielle Ashley Goguen
 *Jessica M. Goldin
 **Jayna Goldstein
 Anna G. Gonzalez
 Ashley Marie Gonzalez
 Lorenzo Vincent Gonzalez
 ***Rachel Marie Gordon
 *Addie Gorst
 Cameron Paul Goss
 Robert Dalton Goss
 Carley Jo Graham
 Morgan M. Gray
 *Elizabeth K. Graydon
 Chase Frederick Green
 Brandi Nicole Griffin
 Mackenzie L. Griffin
 Tori D. Griffith
 *Claire E. Groenstein
 *Gregory Edward Grzempa
 *Shirley C. Guerra

*Kelsea Eileen Guest
 *Carolyna I. Guillen
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 ***Cynthia G. Gutierrez
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 Sarah Rhoden Harrell
 Scarlett R. Harrison
 *Jenna D. Hart
 Yanick Dequen Hart
 ***Connor Michael Hartzell
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 *Blake Loren Hauer
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 Tiffanie Yonellie Henriquez
 *Steven James Herd-Bond
 Ariadne Hernandez
 Eliany Hernandez
 Melissa Maria Hernandez
 Leigha C. Heverly
 Cassandra M. Hicks
 *Antonise Hightower
 *Devin Quade Hingson
 Jordan L. Hinkle
 Shonglee Ho
 *Zachery B. Holmes
 Parker Wyatt Hoppens
 *Nicholas E. Horvath
 Mallie Jo Hosack
 *Madelyn K. Houde
 Mollie Kathryn Huber
 *Monica A. Huynh
 Vivian Huynh
 Elena Mae Iacono
 *Christopher Stephen Imler
 *Daron Keith Ingram Jr.
 *John Hennelly Irvin
 *Jessica E. Irvine
 Raidys Isaac
 Jackson Charles Jablonski
 *Allyson Miller Jack
 Bradley Jackson
 *Lawson Albert Jaffe
 Delaney Victoria Jardine
 Sydney Theresa Jenkins
 Trey Michael Jenkins

*Meghan R. Jessee
Emily L. Johns
Lethia R. Johnson
Lindsey N. Johnson
*Thomas Michael Johnson
Seth Gilbert Joiner
Caroline Ann Jones
Erin E. Jones
Kodie Meeks Jones
Shane C. Kammerman
*Jerrett L. Kandzer
*Elizabeth Margo Kearney
Rachel Lynn Keyt
*Zeerak Khan
Sumayah Khatib
*Alexa Diane Kilichowski
*David Daweit Kim
*Emily Elizabeth Kiner
*Alana Navah Koch
Rachel Lauren Koller
Abdoul Rachid Konseiga
*Timea Adrienne Kovacs
*Noah Gilbert Kreitz
Minji Ku
*Ana Laura La O Vazquez
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*Katy Joyce Lawson
Casey Xuong Le
Alaina Kay Lee
Ji Young Lee
Megan Beth Leitner
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Ashlee Nicole Linn
*McKenzie M. Liskey
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*Alejandra Llano
*Margaret B. Long
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Gabriela D. Lopez
Bernardo Lopez Zinguer
*Jessica Marie Lorenzo-Luaces
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*Abrianna Taylor Lusito
*Natalie Lux
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Vishal Maharaj
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***Katherine Elizabeth Malyszek

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*Abigail Joan Marion
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Jennifer G. Martin
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*Forrest Parker Mason
*Taylor M. Masters
*Anthony J. Matarazzo
*Kelvin B. Mathew
Manessa Matthews
*Francesca G. Maurici
Macy Blair May
Kate L. Mayo
Marina Elizabeth McCampbell
*Caline S. McCarthy
Alec Gregory McCloud
Mariah Love McConnell
*Courtney Amber McCreary
**Cara Irene McDermott
Dalton Carl McDonald
Austin Theodore McGowan
*Katelyn McGraw
*Rachel Marie McKay
***Brandon H. McKee
*Ethan Patrick McLeod
Omani R. McLish
Janess Marie Mederos
*Nicole Perkins Meeks
*Emily Mejia
Danielle Karis Melvin
Kayla J. Merkel
Lillian Belle Messer
W. Smith Meyers
Francisleth Marian Millan Gonzalez
*Stephanie M. Miller
*Therese Clare Miller
*Lydia Milsark
Rashaan D. Mims
*Nicholas Alexander Mirsky
***Avnee Mistry
*Tanya Rachel Mitjans
*Daniela Ester Moïño
Steve Montalvo
*Alejandro J. Montero
Laura Marcella Montesano
*Danielle Marie Moody
*Ashley R. Moore
*Zachary David Moore
Jordan R. Morales
Santiago Moreno Caceres
Nicholas J. Morey

Kaylee Catherine Morgan
Rebecca A. Morrell
*Rachel Danielle Morres
*Alyssa L. Morris
*Fara R. Moskowitz
Jesenia Mosqueda
*Jessy Ashton Motes
Nadia Nazih Mourad
*Robyn Lee Mucci
*Olivia R. Muchmore
Simon Mui
*Morgan Julia Mulé
Adison M. Murphy
Sarvar Nasirov
*Andrea Neira Gesteira
**Taylor Elizabeth Nelson
*Cassandra S. Newman
*Kelsey Jannette Newsome
Anndy Nguyen
Henry Nguyen
*Thomas Hong Nguyen
Truc Lynh Huynh Nguyen
*Sarah Mylinh Nguyentran
Ashley Helen Nicolls
*Avery Ross Nielsen
Beau Bruce Nistler
*Rebecca Marie Nosacka
*Fitzroya G. Nugent
*Robert C. Nusbaum
Stephanie Michelle O'Brien
Michaela Rose Oglesby
*Carlos H. Ojeda
Sarah Danielle Orrell
Gabriela Orta Castillo
Michael T. Osman
William E. Page V
*Briana M. Paiewonsky
*Natalie M. Pan
Ashley Elizabeth Panici
Paola Andrea Pardo
***Milbrey Ann Parke
Hannah Marie Parker
Rachel Parker
William Hasley Parry
Cameron D. Pasman
*Ruth Pasyuk
*Nisha Navin Patel
*Puja D. Patel
*Ruchi Rakesh Patel
Shriya Parimal Patel
Rebecca Anne Patterson
*Arianna N. Paul
Emma Lee Paul
**Kylie Madison Paul

Jose F. Pavon Jr.
*Alexis Danielle Paynter
Lauren Elizabeth Peacock
Chase Coleman Pellett
*Brendan F. Pelzer
Fernando Javier Perez
*Jennifer L. Peters
*Jacqueline N. Phillips
*Adele Pietras
*Taylor Jo Pollak
Frank Lee Porter V
Ryan S. Porterfield
*Barclay Blount Powell
*Mary Athena Prakas
Mitchell Edgar Preston
*Laura E. Prevatt
Chelsea L. Prophater
Virginia E. Propheter
*Annabelle Lily Pulliam
*Lorena Denise Pupo Barroso
*Lori M. Purvis
*David Quang-Trung Quach
*Jessica Lee Radcliffe
Ramonica Nicole Radway
*Zahra Rahman
Katherine Rajschmir
María Del Pilar Ramos Acosta
Christiana Ruth Rarie
Robert William Raske
Sarah L. Redmond
Collin L. Reedy
*Caroline Renée Reeg
Tiffani E. Reilly
Tianmei Ren
*Kelley Evelyn Rendon
Larry James Reser
*Amanda Ashley Reyes
Hanako M. Reyes
*Blaine A. Rhoden
*George Williams Richardson IV
Cayci J. Riegert
*Aditta Islam Riha
*Katelyn L. Ritter
Flavio Rivero Argento
Jordan R. Rivers
Gabriella L. Robilotto
Sophia Mahailey Robinson
David J. Rodriguez
Mateo Rodriguez
***Kristina D. Rojas
*Summer L. Roorda
Amanda Celeste Rosa

*Daniel A. Rosa
*Olivia Rosato
Hollie Marie Rowe
***Heather A. Ryan
*Morgan L. Sacks
Carolina Andrea Salas Gerritsen
***Amara N. Salmon
*Jacob Forrester Sammon
*Christine Marie Samuel
*Jaime Alberto Sánchez A.
Karla A. Sanchez
Morgan M. Sapp
Zoe Julia Scherzer
**Abigail Frances Schirmer
Amanda J. Schultheis
***Alexandra Lynn Seelig
Kevin Michael Sells
James Richard Sharpe
*Sarah Marie Shephard
*Keshari E. Shrestha
*Emily Lynn Silverberg
Chelsea Nicole Simmons
Neal Kent Simmons
*Samantha Judge Simpson
Tyler Philip Simpson
Kaylyn L. Sizemore
*Carson Craig Smith
Jennifer Smith
‡ Nathan Benjamin Snodgrass
Justine G. Snyder
*Angelica Len Solomon
Reshnu J. Soto
*Sabrina Kelley Spada
Arizona Leah Spencer
*Ariel Alexandra Spicer-Pyles
*Clayton A. Spilman
*Gabrielle Paige Spivey
*Brittany L. Stanley
Christopher Stasney
*Emily Sophia Steffes
Karina A. Stein
Sara Lynn Stiehler
Trey Gordon Stinson
Jacqueline Hart Stone
*Haley Marie Straub
Giovanna Olachinyere Hadiya Sutherland
Megan Nicole Sweeney
Michelle N. Taepakdee
*Joseph Bernard Tarnate
*Tamara Taylor Tavakoli
*Valentini A. Theologidou

Alicia J. Thomas
Bruce E. Thomas Jr.
Joseph Wesley Thomas
Alexander Michael Thompson
Noah W. Thompson
Kathryn Elizabeth Timmons
Eugene Mago Tolentino
Caitlyn Marie Trammell
Anna M. Tran
Thien Q. Tran
Aleyda Trana
Elliot Chambers Traxler
*Ashley Nicole Tringas
Nhi Y. Trinh
Aakarsh Tripathi
*Rebecca Lynn Troast
Mechelle S. Trotman
*Alexandra Ulacia
Katherine W. Upshaw
Kimberly Ann Utz
*Julio Agustin Vaca Valverde
*Kristen Lauren Valdes
Maidelys Valdes
*Brianna Marie Sau Kuen Valenti
Lauren M. Varenkamp
*Natalia Carolina Velandia
Joshua Tréntisa Vesely
Carlos Miguel Victoriano
Madhur Wadhwa
*Jared D. Wainwright
Abigail Elise Waldron
Nina Marie Wallick
Taylor C. Walters
Hannah S. Warshaw
*Brett Morris Wasden
*Elizabeth C. Waskover
Paul Carl Wassel III
Rachel Anne Watson
**Meghan Marie Watt
Taylor Elizabeth Wear
Lydia Ann Weaver
*Jheri L. Weiss
David Paul Wheeler Jr.
***Jacob L. White
Kanisha Dornay White
Kimberly Michelle White
Brian M. Whitenack
*Lindsey Jean Wilcox
*Sarah V. Wilder
Robyn A. Williams
*Lauren Elizabeth Wilson
Lauren Elizabeth Wilson

Steven P. Winesett Jr.
*Marc J. Wissel
*Rachael Lynn Witko
Storm Leigh Wittenberg
Kailey Briana Wofford
*Emily E. Wood

Alison C. Woods
*Taylor Ashley Wooten
*Garrett William Worth
*David Cameron Yarborough
Hannah MacKenzie Yates
Alessandra Marie Yentz
Amanda Kate Young

*Mariah Elias Zakharia
Sam Lewis Zawatsky
*Mingye Zhang
Jingyu Lucy Zhou
*Vivian Zhu
Sergio D. Zubizarreta

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN FOREST RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

*Isaac D. Allen
Maria Isabel Alvarez
*Emily E. Bagby
Jillian Nicole Bustillo
Zachary Aaron Butler
*Kentucky Michelle Costellow
*Austin R. Dartez
Logan Gray Deuel
*Kenneth Stryker Duffield IV
Vanessa Fernandez-Herak

*Brevyn Chandler Foreman
Evan W. Hadley II
Amanda S. Hambrick
Carley Nichole Hume
Ann Kelly Kennedy
*Carrie A. Kimbrough
Richard Andrew Larsen III
Emmett James Lee
*Katherine Ann Martin
*Corina Helen McBride

*Stephanie Lynn Moore
Matthew T. Peterson
*August J. Plamann
*Frank Anthony Prince
Landon M. Smith
Allison Renee Strachan
*Holly N. Walp
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*Harley J. Davidson
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Patricia Grau

Samuel Todd Gray
Christopher James Morin
Sina K. Nejad
Devin Eric Platt

Joseph G. Rager
Keith Faulkner Voyles Jr.
Ruoyu Wang

THE SCHOOL OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

Thomas K. Frazer, Director

BACHELOR OF ARTS

***Justin Morgan Beall
*Allison Nicole Blaue
Christian Paul Garcia

Rachel Francesca Geshay
*Alexandra Marie Hazday
Marwa Ali Hussein

Laura Ashley Melendez
Haley Roberson
Hayden T. Wachob

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*Audrey N. Batzer
Nicholas James Bohannon
Anthony T. Carter

Jason Tyler Clark
*Quentin Hanzhou Cui
***Isabella Kathleen Fernandez

Jeffry Matthew Flenniken
Meeka Mo
*Cherilyn Sonja Reyes



CHAIN OF OFFICE

This custom-made ornament is worn with the president's regalia, symbolizing the authority and responsibilities of the office. The chain is engraved with the names and service years of the university presidents. The medallion's centerpiece is a 1.3-carat diamond.

ACADEMIC MACE

Dating back to the Middle Ages, the mace symbolizes strength and authority. The UF ceremonial mace was created for the university's sesquicentennial celebration in 2003. The 70-inch staff features an alligator sitting atop a globe. The four pillars supporting the globe represent the four original colleges: Agriculture, Engineering, Law, and Liberal Arts. The staff is carved from cherry wood. The university's chief marshal, who leads all academic processions, carries the mace.



UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA TASSELS



Fisher School of Accounting
 College of Agricultural and Life Sciences
 College of the Arts
 M.E. Rinker Sr. School of Construction Management
 Warrington College of Business
 Heavener School of Business
 College of Dentistry
 College of Design, Construction and Planning
 College of Education
 Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering
 The Graduate School
 College of Health and Human Performance
 College of Journalism and Communications
 Fredric G. Levin College of Law
 College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Arts
 College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Sciences
 College of Medicine
 College of Nursing
 College of Pharmacy
 College of Public Health and Health Professions
 College of Veterinary Medicine

Aqua
 Maize
 Brown
 Burnt Orange and Opal
 Drab
 Drab
 Lilac
 Blue Violet
 Light Blue
 Orange
 Black
 Sage Green
 Black and White
 Purple
 White
 Gold Yellow
 Green
 Apricot
 Olive Green
 Salmon
 Gray



2018 SPRING
 COMMENCEMENT

Diplomas

Diplomas will be mailed to the graduate's permanent home mailing address in June 2018.

Caps and Gowns, An Explanation

The academic regalia worn by graduating students and faculty at today's commencement ceremonies evolved from a style of dress worn by members of guilds and religious orders in medieval times. The academic gown is worn by individuals who have earned a degree in higher education. In addition, hoods are worn by graduate degree candidates, but not by undergraduate degree candidates.

At the University of Florida, the lining of the hood has a blue chevron on an orange background to represent the university colors. University faculty members who hold degrees from another college or university wear the colors of their alma mater.

The velvet edging on the academic hood is the color that represents the particular degree held by the wearer. Agricultural and Life Sciences and Forest Resources and Conservation share maize edging; Design, Construction and Planning and Building Construction are blue violet; Audiology degrees have colonial blue edging; Business Administration and Accounting are drab; Dentistry is lilac; Education is light blue; Engineering degrees are represented by orange edging; Fine Arts degrees have brown edging; Health and Human Performance is sage green; Journalism and Communications is garnet; Law is purple; Liberal Arts is white and Liberal Sciences is gold yellow; Medicine is green; Music is pink; Natural Resources and Environment is antique gold; Nursing is apricot; Doctor of Pharmacy is olive; Philosophy is royal blue; Public Health degrees have salmon pink edging; Rehabilitation Counseling degrees have Nile green edging; and Veterinary Medicine is gray.

Distinctions among sleeves indicate the type of degree held by the wearer. A long, pointed sleeve indicates a bachelor's degree, while a long, closed sleeve with a slit near the upper part of the arm designates a master's degree. A round, open sleeve identifies a doctoral degree.

The doctoral regalia also has velvet running on the rest of the gown, including cross bars on the sleeve. Colored tassels on the degree candidates' caps indicate a candidate's school or college.



Student Recognition

College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Honors Program

The College of Agricultural and Life Sciences is the only college at the University of Florida that provides a formal upper-division honors experience for its students. CALS students with grade point averages of 3.75 or above are invited to join by the Dean. Successful completion of the program requires four honors courses, an honors thesis, and an upper-division G.P.A. of 3.75 or greater. Academically, honors students rank in the upper 3% of all CALS students. The following graduating seniors are recognized as CALS Honors Scholars and will receive a medallion and a university certificate:

Jana Caracciolo

Connor Hartzell

Kylie Paul

Lauren Cooney

Veronica Laux

Heather Ryan

Steven Dougherty

Milbrey Parke

Meghan Watt

Alumni & Friends

As a graduate of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS) you will automatically become a part of the CALS Alumni & Friends (CALSAF) organization. CALSAF is affiliated with the University of Florida Alumni Association and fosters a spirit of loyalty and fraternity among graduates, former students and friends of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences.

CALS Alumni & Friends members strive to build a strong organization to promote the college's academic programs, enhance the experience of current students and provide programming that allows alumni and friends to network with other members of the Gator Nation.

You may choose to participate in one of the events hosted by CALSAF including the TailGATOR barbecue and regional Gator Gatherings. CALSAF relies on alumni volunteers for a variety of activities including recruiting students, hosting alumni events and mentoring current students.

To learn more about the CALS Alumni & Friends organization or inquire about becoming an alumni volunteer, please visit www.cals.ufl.edu, call (352) 392-1963 or email alumni@cals.ufl.edu.





What Makes a University Great?

Some interesting facts about the University of Florida

Educational Excellence

UF is consistently ranked among the nation's top universities: No. 14 in U.S. News & World Report "Top Public Universities" (2016); No. 2 on the Forbes' list of Best Value Public Universities (2016); No. 1 on Value Colleges' list of Top 50 Best Value Colleges (2016); and No. 8 on the Times Higher Education list of best universities for employers to find new hires.

Faculty

- UF has nearly 5,000 faculty members with distinguished records in teaching, research and service, including 36 Eminent Scholar chairs and 44 faculty elections to the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, the Institute of Medicine or the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.
- Awards include two Pulitzer Prizes, NASA's top award for research, and the Smithsonian Institution's conservation award.

Students

- Ninety-seven percent of incoming freshmen score above the national average (1500/21) on standardized exams. Students admitted for the fall 2017 freshman class had an average 4.4 GPA and an average SAT score of 1930.
- More than 1,285 International Baccalaureate students were enrolled in UF in March 2016. The freshman retention rate of 96 percent is among the highest in the country.
- Among AAU public universities, UF ranked first in master's degrees and second in bachelor's degrees awarded to Hispanic students in 2014.
- Sixty-seven percent of UF full-time freshmen graduate in four years (2011-12 cohort), and 87 percent of UF freshmen graduate within six years (2009-10 cohort).
- Fifty-seven percent of UF graduates leave the university with no student-loan debt. For the remaining students, their average indebtedness is about \$21,603, as compared with the national average of over \$30,000 (2014-15).

