

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.



Greetings from the Dean

Congratulations to the graduates of the Class of 2018! Your hard work has paid off and you are finally ready to graduate — stepping out of the classroom and immersing yourselves in a world where technology and innovation are critical to almost every human endeavor. You are not just entering the workforce. You are stepping up into a leadership role, where you will be responsible for developing the 21st century economy and taking on the greatest challenges facing our world.

You are what we call the New Engineers.

For the past few years while you have been working on your degrees, focusing on your specific majors and your classwork, you have been exposed to a wider culture of diversity and inclusion, of entrepreneurship, of innovation, and of creative approaches to problem solving that reach across disciplines — and across differences — to work towards what we call the Gator Good. You have grown to be part of a rich community that, we hope, will guide you for years to come. Thank you for sharing your talents and enthusiasm with us these past few years. We are excited to see the impact you will make on the world. Visit us often, and Go Gators!



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cammy R. Abernathy".

Cammy R. Abernathy, Ph.D.
Dean, Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering

Dean of the Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering

Dr. Cammy R. Abernathy received her B.S. degree in materials science and engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1980, and her M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in materials science and engineering from Stanford University in 1982 and 1985 respectively. She joined the University of Florida's Department of Materials Science and Engineering as a professor in 1993. In 2004 she became the College's Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and in July 2009 was appointed Dean of the College of Engineering. Dr. Abernathy's research interests are in synthesis of thin-film electronic materials and devices using metal organic chemical vapor deposition and molecular beam epitaxy. She is the author of over 500 journal publications, over 430 conference papers, one co-authored book, 7 edited books, 8 book chapters, and 7 patents. Dr. Abernathy is a fellow of the MRS, AAAS, AVS, APS and of the Electrochemical Society. She is also a member of the American Society of Engineering Education.



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. 9 in U.S. News & World Report "Top Public Universities" (2018); No. 12 in the Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education list of Best Public Colleges (2017); No. 3 on the Forbes' list of Best Value Public Universities (2017); No. 1 on Value Colleges' list of Top 50 Best Value Colleges (2016); and No. 1 on the Times Higher Education list of best public 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 45 faculty elections to the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, the National Academy 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 2018 freshman class had an average 4.45 GPA and an average SAT score of 1370.
- The freshman retention rate of 96 percent is among the highest in the country.
- UF awards more professional degrees to African American, Hispanic and other minority students than any other public university in the Association of American Universities (2014-15).
- 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 more than \$30,000 (2015-16).

UF

2018 SPRING

COMMENCEMENT

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Vice President - Business Affairs

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R. Elaine Turner, Ph.D.
College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

Lucinda Lavelli, M.F.A.
College of the Arts

John Kraft, Ph.D.
Warrington College of Business

A. Isabel Garcia, D.D.S., M.P.H.
College of Dentistry

Chimay Anumba, Ph.D.
College of Design, Construction and Planning

Glenn E. Good, Ph.D.
College of Education

Cammy R. Abernathy, Ph.D.
Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering

Henry T. Frierson, Ph.D.
The Graduate School

Michael Reid, Ph.D.
College of Health and Human Performance

Nick Place, Ph.D.
IFAS Extension

Jacqueline Burns, Ph.D.
IFAS Research

Leonardo Villalón, Ph.D.
International Center

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College of Journalism and Communications

Laura A. Rosenbury, J.D.
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College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

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College of Nursing

Julie A. Johnson, Pharm.D.
College of Pharmacy

Michael G. Perri, Ph.D.
College of Public Health and Health Professions

James W. Lloyd, D.V.M., Ph.D.
College of Veterinary Medicine

Judith C. Russell, M.S.
University Libraries

Heather White, Ph.D.
Dean of Students

The Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering



The Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering at the University of Florida houses one of the largest and most dynamic engineering programs in the nation. Curriculum offered across nine departments, 15 degree programs, and more than 20 centers and institutes produces leaders and problem-solvers who take a multidisciplinary approach to innovative and human-centered solutions. Students, faculty and alumni are hailed as New Engineers who aim to transform the way we live, work and play. The college produces inventions at twice the national average — and startups at five times the national average — for every research dollar spent. Engineering is the largest professional school, the second largest college, and one of the top three research units at UF.

Established in 1910 with John R. Benton serving as dean until 1930, college initially offered programs in civil, electrical and mechanical engineering. Dean Joseph Weil served from 1937 to 1963, guiding the college through two and a half decades of tremendous change, including a post-war enrollment surge and the creation of the Engineering and Industrial Experiment Station. During his 15-year tenure, Dean Wayne H. Chen tripled enrollment and dramatically increased research funding. Beginning in 1988, Dean Winfred Phillips led the college into a new

era of expanded research programs. From 2001 to 2009, Dean Pramod Khargonekar helped create the J. Crayton Pruitt Family Department of Biomedical Engineering and launched a new version of UF EDGE — the college's distance learning online graduate degree program.

Under the leadership of Dean Cammy Abernathy, the college has opened two new institutes dedicated to preparing 21st century engineers to be leaders and entrepreneurs in a global innovation economy. Her strategic research initiatives in healthcare, security and sustainability have positioned the college to lead collaborative and transformative efforts across campus that are aimed at solving the greatest problems facing our world.

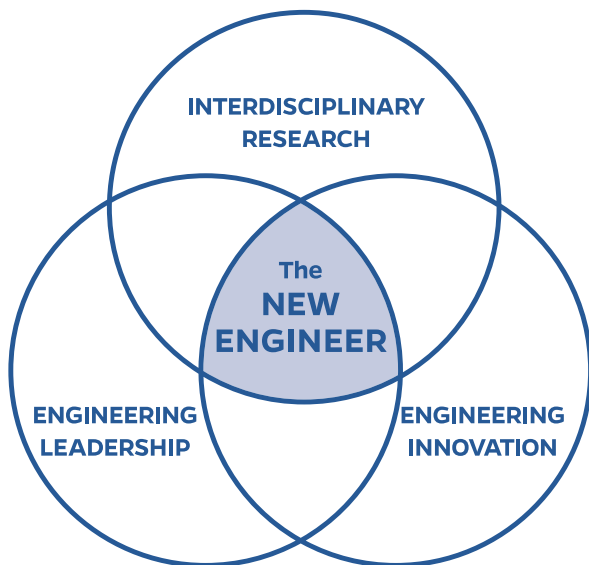
In 2015, Dean Abernathy's vision of the New Engineer was recognized and met by a man intent to change the world by investing in engineering education. Herbert Wertheim's historic \$50 million gift launched a \$300 million dollar private-public partnership that is transforming the college with increased faculty hires and student enrollment, exciting research budgets and a brand new flagship building — the Herbert Wertheim Laboratory for Engineering Excellence. The Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering was named in his honor.

Powering the New Engineer to Transform the Future



The 21st century is teaching us how interdependent we are and what we can accomplish by working together. In a world where technology and innovation are critical to almost every human endeavor, engineers must serve as leaders, driving solutions for healthcare, security and sustainability.

Gator Engineering is poised to lead the next era of technological revolution by preparing a generation of engineers capable of solving global problems, and creating and commercializing the discoveries that will transform the way we live our lives, and perhaps even ‘us.’



THE NEW ENGINEER IS:

- A leader
- Ethical and principled
- Creative
- Grounded in a human-centered approach
- Focused on innovation and discovery
- Interdisciplinary
- Dynamic
- A contributor to the economy
- A contributor to the global community
- ... and we are powering the New Engineer to transform the future.

Transforming the Future

In 2015, Dr. Herbert & Nicole Wertheim gave the largest cash gift in UF's history in support of engineering education and research. Their \$50 million catalyst gift launched a \$300 million public and private fundraising initiative that is transforming the college, and the future.

Dr. Herbert “Herbie” Wertheim is a physician, inventor, entrepreneur, philanthropist and a University of Florida Distinguished Alumnus. Dr. Wertheim was a pioneer in identifying ultraviolet light as a primary cause of cataracts and retinal deterioration. He has secured over 100 patents and trademarks, and his series of protective coatings have become the industry standard. Wertheim founded Brain Power Incorporated, and his innovative products, created with advanced robotics as well as complex chemical processes, have been a medical miracle for millions of people.



Dr. Herbert & Nicole Wertheim

The Dr. Herbert & Nicole Wertheim Family Foundation — aided by the leadership of daughters Erica Wertheim Zohar and Vanessa Von Wertheim — is committed to investing in a better world for everyone.

“The transformation made possible by the Wertheim investment signals UF engineering’s remarkable determination to become one of the leading programs in the world. It raises the stature of both the engineering college and the university. This transformation will further accelerate social and economic development in the state of Florida and the nation.”



— Kent Fuchs, University of Florida President

“UF is joining the ranks of the world’s best universities, and having a world-class engineering college is one of the keys to that success. This strategic gift is one giant step in getting there and sustaining engineering leadership in the world. The Wertheims’ investment in the college and university continues their insight in the future of mankind. This gift dramatically increases UF’s ability to impact the lives of people around the world through innovative teaching and research.”



— Steve Scott, UF Board of Trustees Chairman

Commencement Agenda

Exactech Arena at the Stephen C. O'Connell Center

Presiding	W. Kent Fuchs, Ph.D., President, University of Florida
Processional	Gainesville Brass Quintet
National Anthem	Engineering Ambassadors
Welcome	W. Kent Fuchs
Introductory Remarks	Cammy R. Abernathy, Ph.D. Dean, Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering
Presentation of Distinguished Awards	Cammy R. Abernathy
Remarks.....	Dr. Herbert Wertheim O.D., Sc.D., M.D. (hc), Honorary Chairman, Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering
UF Alumni Association Remarks and Awards.....	Karen Unger President, UF Alumni Association
Commissions in Armed Forces and Veteran Recognition	Lt. Colonel Al Roach UF Army ROTC
Student Representative Remarks.....	Kelly Napoli, Environmental Engineering Ivens Appllys, Computer Engineering
Commencement Address.....	W. Kent Fuchs
Presentation of Candidates for Bachelor's Degrees.....	Cammy R. Abernathy
Conferring Degrees	Daniel O'Keefe, Trustee, UF
Closing Remarks.....	W. Kent Fuchs
Alma Mater.....	Engineering Ambassadors and Gainesville Brass Quintet
Recessional	Gainesville Brass Quintet
Postlude	Gainesville Brass Quintet



The Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering Leadership

Dean & Associate Deans

Cammy R. Abernathy, Ph.D., *Dean*
Forrest Masters, Ph.D., *Associate Dean for Research and Facilities*
Toshikazu Nishida, Ph.D., *Associate Dean for Academic Affairs*
Curtis Taylor, Ph.D., *Associate Dean for Student Affairs*

Department Heads

Robert J. Thieke, Ph.D., *CCE*
Chang-Yu Wu, Ph.D., *EES*

Department Chairs and School Directors

Dorota Z. Haman, Ph.D., *ABE*
Christine E. Schmidt, Ph.D., *BME*
Carlos Rinaldi, Ph.D., *CHE*
Juan E. Gilbert, Ph.D., *CISE*
John G. Harris, Ph.D., *ECE*
Kirk Hatfield, Ph.D., *Director of the Engineering School of Sustainable Infrastructure and Environment (ESSIE)*
Lily Eleftheriadou, Ph.D., *Interim Chair, ISE*
Michele Manuel, Ph.D., *MSE*
David W. Hahn, Ph.D., *MAE*

College Commencement Leadership

Commencement Director

Dr. Curtis R. Taylor
Associate Dean for Engineering Student Affairs

Chief Marshal

Dr. Fazil T. Najafi, *Professor of Civil and Coastal Engineering*

Planning Committee

Shelby Barton, *Marketing and Communications*
Samora Bazil, *Engineering Student Affairs*
Celine Bessman, *Engineering Student Affairs*
Maureen Cox, *Engineering Student Affairs*
Andrea Fabric, *Engineering Student Affairs*
Elizabeth Fiore, *Marketing and Communications*
Helen Goh, *Marketing and Communications*
Jennifer Gove-Cooper, *Engineering Student Affairs*
Yolanda Hankerson, *Engineering Student Affairs*
Sarah Zachrich Jeng, *Marketing and Communications*
Daniel Juarez, *Engineering Student Affairs*
Jen Li, *Marketing and Communications*
Deborah Mayhew, *Engineering Student Affairs*
Pingchien Neo, *Engineering Student Affairs*
Michael O'Malley, *Engineering Student Affairs*
James Ogles, *Engineering Student Affairs*
Joel Parker, *Engineering Student Affairs*
Kanitra Perry, *Engineering Student Affairs*
Heather Peterson, *Engineering Student Affairs*
Loredana Petrucci, *Engineering Student Affairs*
Stephen Roberts, *Engineering Student Affairs*
Valeria Torres, *Engineering Student Affairs*
Janna Underhill, *Engineering Student Affairs*
Matthew Williams, *Engineering Student Affairs*

Undergraduate Coordinators

Dr. James Leary, *Agricultural and Biological Engineering*
Dr. David Gilland, *J. Crayton Pruitt Family Department of Biomedical Engineering*
Dr. Spyros Svoronos, *Chemical Engineering*
Dr. Robert Thieke, *Civil and Coastal Engineering*
Dr. Richard Newman, *Computer and Information Science and Engineering*
Dr. Henry Zmuda, *Electrical and Computer Engineering*
Dr. Jean-Claude Bonzongo, *Environmental Engineering Sciences*
Dr. Serdar Kirli, *Industrial and Systems Engineering*
Dr. Gerhard Fuchs, *Materials Science and Engineering*
Dr. Bruce Carroll, *Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering*
Dr. Duwayne Schubring, *Nuclear Engineering*

Marshals

Ed Phelps, *BME*
Jason Butler, *CHE*
Paul Kravachenko, *CHE*
Imani Sherman, *CISE*
Kingshuk Mukherjee, *CISE*
Nidish Vashistha, *ECE*
Ayobami Edun, *ECE*
Edward Tora Bueno, *ESSIE*
Stephen Spana, *ESSIE*
Ehsan Salimi, *ISE*
Xin Tang, *MAE*
Matt Hale, *MAE*
Amor Menezes, *MAE*
Andreas Enqvist, *MSE*
Assel Aitkaliyeva, *MSE*

Engineering Ambassadors 2018 Engineering Commencement Student Volunteers

Alexander Smith
Anna Ball
Ariana Borton
Ava Chandler
Beatrice Villanueva
Blake Studer
Brandon Furry
Caitlin Becker
Caitlin DeYoung
Connor Jenkins
Danelle Amsellem
David Graniero
Deanna Alford
Emma Johnson
Eric McKinnon
Ernestine Celestial
Grant Owens
Jackie Lu
Jacob Levenson
Jeanine Marrou
Joshua Pinto
Joshua Poulalion
Karyna Villalba
Kenzie Gordon
Logan Hickox
Maddie Rodriguez
Marissa Buck
Nick Poindexter
Ning (Nina) Gao
Rodel Enderez
Savannah Mika
Shannon Scolforo
Wesley Schreiner



Honorary Doctorate of Technology

Dr. Herbert “Herbie” Wertheim

Dr. Herbert “Herbie” Wertheim is a physician, inventor, entrepreneur, philanthropist and a University of Florida Distinguished Alumnus. Dr. Wertheim was a pioneer in identifying ultraviolet light as a primary cause of cataracts and retinal deterioration. He has secured over 100 patents and trademarks, and his series of protective coatings have become the industry standard. Wertheim founded Brain Power Incorporated, and his innovative products, created with advanced robotics as well as complex chemical processes, have been a medical miracle for millions of people.

Dr. Wertheim was awarded the Horatio Alger award in 2011 for his exceptional ability to overcome adversity, namely for championing his own dyslexia. He has a keen interest in higher education and has completed graduate studies at Stanford University, the London School of Economics, Northwestern University and the International Institute for Management Development in Lausanne, Switzerland, on top of being a distinguished and life member of Tau Beta Pi Honorary Engineering Society.

The Dr. Herbert & Nicole Wertheim Family Foundation — aided by the leadership of daughters Erica Wertheim Zohar and Vanessa Von Wertheim — is committed to investing in a better world for everyone.



**Dr. Herbert “Herbie” Wertheim,
O.D., Sc.D., M.D.(hc)**

Distinguished Alumnus Award

Alejandro “Alex” Moreno

Over the last 25 years, serial entrepreneur Alex Moreno has launched and developed a number of companies and projects, ranging from environmental services to construction and development. Alex is currently CEO and co-founder of Nightingale Nurses, one of the largest and fastest-growing health care-staffing companies in the United States. Nightingale Nurses has over 500 employees and revenues in excess of \$60 million. Alex is also CEO and founder of Panther Development Investments, which provides consulting services to Native American Nations in the areas of energy development, infrastructure and financing.

Alex received his bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering (BSCHE) in 1983 from the Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering. He is an enthusiastic supporter of the Department of Chemical Engineering, serving as a member of the external advisory board and frequent guest lecturer. In 2015, Alex received the Department of Chemical Engineering’s Excellence in Entrepreneurship Award. Alex has made generous philanthropic commitments to UF totaling \$5.2 Million to endow a new professorship which will launch a new energy program within the college. Alex received his BSCHE degree in 1983 from UF, followed by an MBA from Harvard. Alex grew up in the country of Colombia. When he was 10, his family moved to Fort Lauderdale. He has five brothers and one sister. Alex is married to his beautiful wife Vicky, and they have two adorable children, Isabel and Mattias.



Alex Moreno

Recognition of Outstanding Students

Derya Zeynep Tansel

Major: Electrical
Engineering

*UF Outstanding Four-Year
Scholar*



Why do you think it's great to be a Florida Gator?

Being a Gator allowed me to grow personally and professionally through mentorship and leadership opportunities, participating in cutting edge research, engaging with community outreach efforts, and involvement in sports. I feel well prepared through the education, training and leadership experiences to face the challenges I will encounter in the future. I believe that the ability to push science and find breakthroughs stems from the passion and drive that people have for pushing the limits. The experiences and opportunities I had at UF fueled my passion to dream bigger, actively pursue opportunities, and be inspired. I had great mentors who encouraged me to go after the opportunities and met other Gators who inspired me. I am proud and excited to be part of the Gator Nation.

Which scholarly activity at UF did you find to be most meaningful?

I found the internship opportunities during the summer months and the research experience during the academic year to be very meaningful. I gained new skills through my experiences at NASA Langley Research Center and at Los Alamos National Laboratory. I presented my research findings at international conferences and published a book chapter. Participating in teams allowed me to understand the bigger challenges and importance of team work. These experiences allowed me to be a better researcher in the laboratory as well as engage in meaningful outreach activities.

What are your future plans?

I am planning to continue my studies in graduate school to advance my knowledge and skills in electrical engineering. I will be starting the PhD program in the fall. After completing my PhD, I plan to pursue work at a National Laboratory to conduct cutting-edge research to continue to advance the field electrical engineering.

Margaret Pires-Fernandes

Major: Biomedical
Engineering

*UF Outstanding Four-Year
Scholar*



Why do you think it's great to be a Florida Gator?

The University of Florida provides an extremely well rounded college experience for its students. From athletics to academics and everything in between, there is something for every single Florida Gator. Being a Florida Gator has allowed me to cultivate my leadership skills, learn the rules of football, and achieve in academics and research. The University of Florida will forever hold a place in my heart, and I owe my success at UF to my family, friends, and professors that have supported me for the last four years. To be a Florida Gator means more than just being a student at UF, it means being a part of a family that lasts forever.

Which scholarly activity at UF did you find to be most meaningful?

Participating in undergraduate research with Dr. Kyle Allen transformed me as student, researcher, and person. I had the opportunity to explore topics I was interested in, and provide meaningful contributions to the field of osteoarthritis research. I really enjoyed being able to generate original ideas and pursue them, regardless of the outcome. I had the opportunity to both succeed and fail in the lab, which strongly contributes to the person that I am today. Through my experiences in the lab, I became a more thoughtful problem solver, a more analytical thinker, a stronger writer, and a better scholar.

What are your future plans?

At the end of June, I will begin an engineering rotational program at Edwards Lifesciences, a cardiovascular medical device company in Irvine, California. After the program, I hope to pursue a combined Master of Business Administration and Master of Public Health. In the future, I would like to work in engineering the solutions to domestic and global public health problems.

Recognition of Outstanding Students

Mihael Cudic

Major: Electrical Engineering

UF Outstanding Four-Year Scholar



Why do you think it's great to be a Florida Gator?

The University of Florida is a microcosm for the world and an academic institution that values its diversity. People with different origins, upbringings, skin colors, and sexualities are openly welcomed and given equal opportunities to pursue higher education. Over the last 4 years, I have especially enjoyed engaging with my fellow colleagues. They are passionate, vocal, and determined. As long as the Gator community continues to fight for what is right, I will remain optimistic about our future and always be proud to be a Florida Gator.

Which scholarly activity at UF did you find to be most meaningful?

Undergraduate research has impacted me the most during my time at the University of Florida. Classes are a great way to develop the necessary foundation in a field, but the cutting-edge innovations can only be learned through research. UF has world class faculty and I was privileged to work alongside one of them, Dr. Jose Principe from the Computational NeuroEngineering Laboratory. Through research in his lab, I developed a passion for Artificial Intelligence as it allowed me to combine my interests in philosophy, mathematics, and science.

What are your future plans?

After receiving a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering, I will attend graduate school and receive a Ph.D. in Biomedical Sciences through the National Institutes of Health Oxford-Cambridge Scholars Program. I intend to use Artificial Intelligence to better understand the encoding and transfer of information in the brain. Upon graduating, my goal is to then teach and do research at a US university and continue to bridge the gap between neuroscience and engineering. Similar to how I was inspired to pursue a career in STEM by my professors at the University of Florida, I hope that my teaching and research contributions will inspire others to do the same.

Ishika Khondaker

Major: Chemical Engineering
Minor: Biomolecular Engineering

UF Outstanding Four-Year Scholar



Why do you think it's great to be a Florida Gator?

When I came to UF for Preview, I got a lanyard which says "Get EXCITED! Get INFORMED! Get INVOLVED!" and became immediately immersed in UF's culture of involvement. This culture is what pushed me to keep going, to stay open minded, motivated, and goal-oriented, and now inspires me to continue in lifelong learning. To me, this culture is the "great" in #itsgreatUF.

Which scholarly activity at UF did you find to be most meaningful?

I don't know if I can pick just one. UF offers so many unique opportunities, which each provide a new learning experience. I think it's best to take advantage of as many as possible! I will say that my most pivotal experience at UF would be going to the career fair and gaining the opportunity to work in Research and Development at FritoLay for a summer. By the time I had started working at FritoLay, I had worked in a lab through the University Scholars Program at UF, volunteered in the General Pediatric Unit at SHANDS, worked as a tutor at the Broward Teaching Center, among other activities and had a general idea of things I liked and didn't like as I began to seriously evaluate what I wanted to do with my future. This internship is what brought everything together for me by making me realize that I liked working in a lab setting, teaching, and medicine much more than I liked anything else; however, I would not have been able to come to this revelation had I not pursued other opportunities at UF beforehand.

What are your future plans?

I hope to go to medical school and become a medical scientist at a university - this is everything I love!



Recognition of Outstanding Students

Michael D. Gerding

Major: Chemical Engineering

Outstanding Gator Engineer Two-Year Scholar



What is your proudest Gator moment?

My proudest gator moment will be when I am able to sit on stage in front of all my peers at graduation while we all complete our undergraduate journey together. I have been quite lucky to be surrounded by a diverse group of people capable of making a lasting impact on the world.

What is something every Gator should know?

Every gator should know that Chicken Parmesan days are the best days to go to Arredondo Café. Every gator should also know that Krishna lunch still tastes good even if you are not a vegan.

What is your favorite Gator icon or tradition?

My favorite gator icon is the giant University of Florida sign located on the south end of the stadium. I remember being a freshman, living in the fourth floor in Tolbert hall, and being able to see the sign on my way down the stairs. I also like being able to see it against the skyline while I am eating Chicken Parmesan at the Arredondo Café.

What was your most fulfilling UF role?

My most fulfilling role has been working as a Student Assistant under Dr. Sheplak in the Interdisciplinary Microsystems Group (IMG). I enjoyed being able to go through the design process and create a physical solution to a problem. Seeing something I drew on paper evolve and turn into a real object over time was very satisfying.

What will your legacy be?

I hope my legacy will be one of hard work and perseverance. I always do my best and try to learn all that I can from opportunities presented to me. I hope to have had a positive and lasting impact on my peers and mentors.

Kevaughn A. Aiken

Major: Chemical Engineering

Outstanding Gator Engineer Two-Year Scholar



What is your proudest Gator moment?

My proudest gator moment was winning the 2018 Outstanding Gator Engineer Two Year Scholar Award.

Within my first few semesters at UF I was faced with transitional challenges, culturally and academically, that affected my professional and academic progress. However, my faith, passion and vision of success were instrumental; keeping me motivated and consistent in my endeavors.

What was your most fulfilling UF role?

Working as a Chemical Engineering Peer Advisor was one of my most fulfilling roles at UF. Being a peer advisor provided the platform for me to advise and guide underclassmen on professional and academic matters. Considering that I initially faced challenges navigating through these areas, their position was relatable. Additionally, as an advisor, I was able to share my personal experiences gained throughout my years at UF, and internships, to freshmen through the Introduction to Engineering course. Being able to share insights from my work experiences, regarding the importance of being involved and strategic networking, made this my most fulfilling role.

Which UF affiliations or activities nurtured you most?

The UF career related events (such as career showcase, major and minor fair, etc) provided the most help regarding my development. It was these events that fostered the development of my soft and technical skills.

How will you pay it forward?

Over the years gator professionals and scholars have helped me tremendously through mentorship. It is their advice and kindness that has enabled me to accomplish many of my goals. Based on their influence, I desire to be an active alumnus upon entering the workforce, offering experiential advice towards professional development.

Recognition of Outstanding Students

Estenia J. Ortiz Carabantes

Major: Environmental Engineering

Dean Jonathan F.K. Earle Engineering Leadership Award



What is your proudest Gator moment?

My proudest Gator moment was being selected as a Ronald E. McNair Scholar and later becoming the President of the McNair Ambassadors, the student advisory board for the program. I am humbled to join such a supportive group of people in making the world a better place, one research project at a time.

What is something every Gator should know?

First and foremost, every Gator should know about the free printing in Reitz and the fact that you can get so many discounts just by being a student. Secondly, don't be afraid to step out of your comfort zone. That's where true growth begins.

What was the most important lesson you learned from (or taught to) a fellow Gator?

It took me a while to learn this lesson but make sure you dedicate some time to your overall health—both physically and mentally. You can't be at your peak performance if you don't take care of yourself. A healthy body makes a healthy mind!

How will you pay it forward?

Using the knowledge and skills I've gained at UF, I will continue my education in environmental engineering for human and economic development. As a graduate student, I hope to be able to create research opportunities for first generation and underrepresented students, so they can get most out of their education, as I have.

What will your legacy be?

My legacy will be one of perseverance and resilience. No matter how challenging situations got, my passion and grit have been pulled me through. Every day I aim to keep challenging myself to become the best version of myself I can be and to give back more than I receive.

Naomi Senehi

Major: Environmental Engineering

Dean Joseph Weil Engineering Leadership Award



What is something every Gator should know?

Every Gator should know that all of the ups and downs are shaping you to be your best self so enjoy all the moments you have at UF, and take time to appreciate the identity you have developed at the end of your journey.

What was the most important lesson you learned from (or taught to) a fellow Gator?

The most important lesson I learned from a fellow Gator is to take every opportunity you can — life will pave your path for you.

Which scholarly activity at UF did you find to be most meaningful?

I am the most grateful for my roles in the Engineering Student Advisory Council and the UF Chapter of the Air & Waste Management Association for giving me the opportunity to be a professional, scholar, and student all at the same time.

What UF affiliations or activities nurtured you the most?

Volunteering with athletes with disabilities through Balance180 connected me to students at UF that I may never have met otherwise. They have taught me compassion and patience.

How do you bleed orange and blue?

Being a gator means being part of something bigger than yourself and bigger than your grades, I bleed orange and blue by giving back to the UF and Gainesville communities.

Recognition of Outstanding Students

Kranthi Kiran Konganti

Major: Electrical &
Computer Engineering

*Outstanding Gator
Engineer M.S. Scholar*



What is your favorite Gator icon or tradition?

Albert and Alberta are my favorite, we all love to take photos with them.

Who are the Gators who inspire you?

The first person I name is Dr. Alen Gorge, he is the one who I took inspiration from to be here. His works and his dedication inspired me a lot. I admire my favorite professor, Dr. Scott Thompson a lot. He is a very good source of knowledge and wisdom. His teaching skills are excellent.

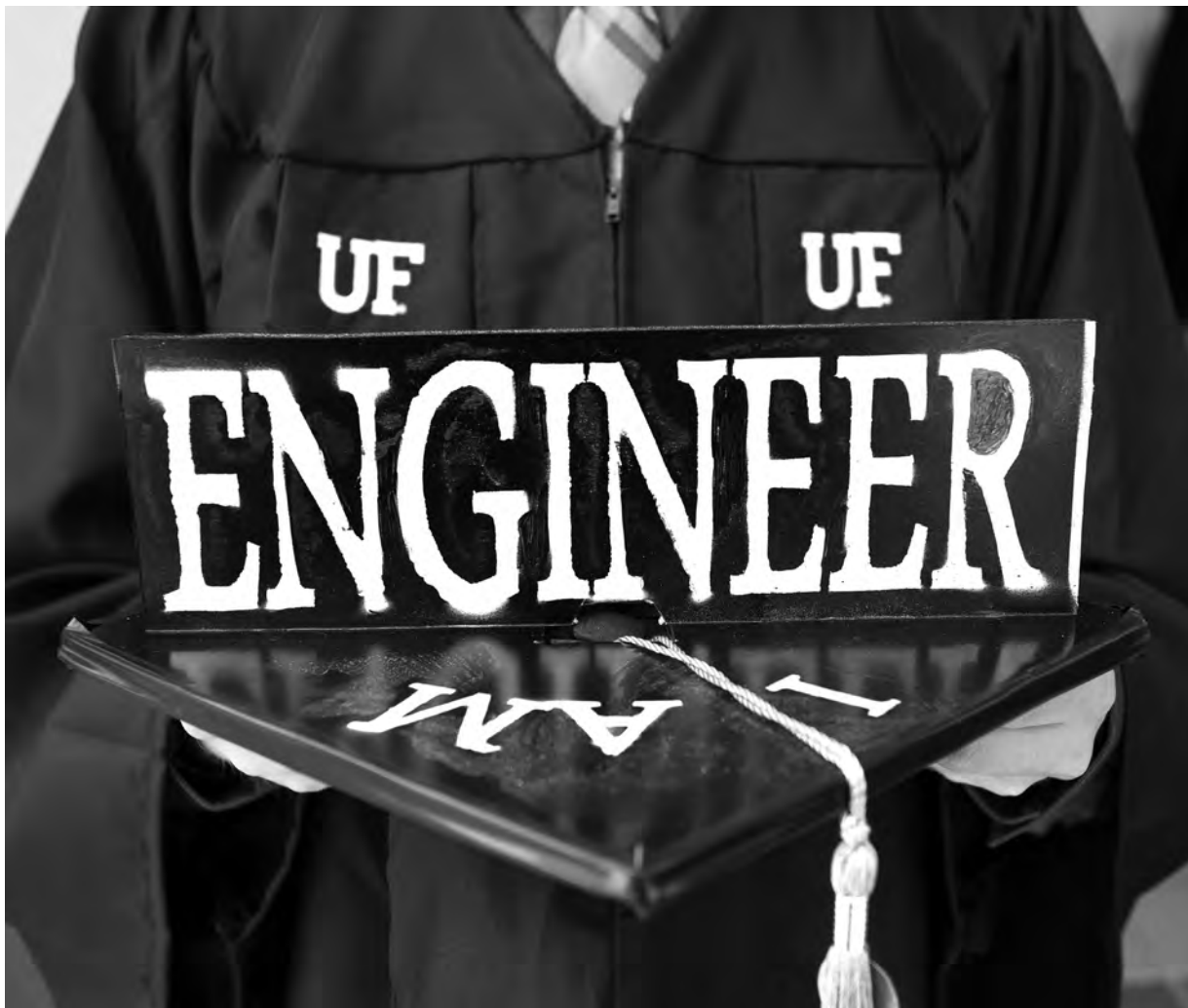
I have to name Tim Tebow, because of his achievements and his service to the gator community.

What was the most important lesson you learned from (or taught to) a fellow Gator?

The most important thing I learned here is that If you want to see success you have to invest yourself fully. The more we keep ourselves towards our goals, the sooner we will achieve them.

What will your legacy be?

I hope and wish my legacy will be a part of the Gator Nation family. I would like to serve the organization as an alum. I would like to attend alumni events and I would like to be involved in programs that help the students in their professional development.



Student Speakers

Kelly Napoli

Major: Environmental Engineering

Student Commencement Speaker



What is your proudest Gator moment?

My acceptance to UF's Engineers Without Borders (EWB) Team!

What is something every Gator should know?

There is no limit to the impact you can have when working with a team that has similar set of values as you. My time at UF has showed me that I am surrounded by students who are driven to achieve similar goals to improve this world.

Who are the Gators who inspire you?

The Gators who have inspired me the most are the leaders who have come before me, showed me the impact of humanitarian work, and laid the foundation for the organization's continued support of global communities. Bruno Grabovac, Aaron Thomas, and Sabah Pirani were each EWB project leads, and watching them lead a student organization that makes a real impact in the world was incredibly inspirational.

What was the most important lesson you learned from (or taught to) a fellow Gator?

A fellow Gator taught me that the results of hard work will not always be seen immediately. Sometimes, the most important role a Gator can have in an organization or design team is to lay a foundation of good work, so that other students can reach even greater heights.

What was your most fulfilling UF role?

My most fulfilling role at this University was my position as Engineer's Without Borders Design Team Lead for the Peru Team. It was challenging, but it drove me to think outside of the box and produce good, sustainable work.

How will you pay it forward?

I plan to continue getting involved in humanitarian engineering and possibly being a UF Professional Mentor for EWB students!

Ivens T. Applyrs

Major: Computer Engineering

Student Commencement Speaker



What is your proudest Gator moment?

Crossing the stage at graduation with my hands in the air, affirming to my family and friends, that the tears, the sleepless nights, and the peanut butter and jelly sandwiches were all worth it.

What is something every Gator should know?

"You are exactly where you need to be. Period." The statement, "I should have been *insert here* by now" is a distraction. A delay is not a denial, but it will be if you keep comparing yourself to what's not. Have faith, keep your head high, and eyes focused on being the best you. Period.

Who are the Gators who inspire you?

The Gators who inspire me are Dr. Angela Lindner, Dr. Samesha Barnes, and Dr. Juan Gilbert. Their altruism and mentorship has provided me with an environment to grow and achieve anything. To them, I will continually be grateful.

What was your most fulfilling UF role?

My most fulfilling UF role is being a mentor for Leaders Overcoming through Faith (LOF): A support program for young men. It gave me the opportunity to be the role model I always wanted when I was their age.

Which UF affiliations or activities nurtured you most?

Being a part of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) nurtured me by giving me a family of over thirty thousand black engineers who strive to "excel academically, succeed professionally, and positively impact their community."

How will you pay it forward?

It would be a disservice to those who invested in me if I didn't pay it forward through mentorship.

How do you bleed orange and blue?

This first-generation Haitian student from Broward County bleeds orange and blue through grit and determination.

Recognition of Outstanding Faculty & Staff

Todd Best

*Herbert Wertheim
College of Engineering
Professional Advisor of
the Year*



Todd Best has been an academic advisor for undergraduate majors in the Department of Computer and Information Science and Engineering since the fall of 2009. In his role, he enjoys helping students navigate their pathway at UF by encouraging them to make deep connections in the learning process between their passions, their field of study, and the needs of society. He holds a master's degree in religious studies from UF, and he continues to keep his own academic interests alive by teaching humanities and social sciences courses in the Honors Program's Uncommon Reading program.

Dr. Sergey Vasenkov

*Herbert Wertheim
College of Engineering
Undergraduate Teacher of
the Year*



Dr. Sergey Vasenkov puts great emphasis on teaching chemical engineering courses using inquiry-based and problem-based approaches in a way that is highly engaging for students. He is also very passionate about advising undergraduate research. In recent years, he coordinated a departmental undergraduate research seminar series, introduced a research-seminar component into the STEPUP program, a six-week summer residential program organized by the UF Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering for minority freshman engineering students, and served as a research project advisor for many UF chemical engineering students. Dr. Vasenkov also served as a faculty advisor of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) student chapter that won an Outstanding Chapter Award for the academic year 2016-2017. His research focuses on developing fundamental understanding of transport of molecules and ions in porous membranes, sorbents, catalysts and related materials using advanced nuclear magnetic resonance techniques in combination with analytical treatment. Dr. Vasenkov earned a Ph.D. degree in Physical Chemistry from the Russian Academy of Sciences, Russia in 1994 and a second Ph.D. degree (Habilitation) in Physics from Leipzig University, Germany in 2003. He has a Master's Degree in Physics from Novosibirsk University, Russia. Dr. Vasenkov joined the University of Florida in 2006 as an Assistant Professor and was promoted to Associate professor with tenure in 2011. His research and teaching activities at the University of Florida were previously recognized by a UF Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering Teacher of the Year Award in 2010, a National Science Foundation (NSF) CAREER award in 2010, Hanse-Wissenschaftskolleg (HWK) Senior Fellowship, Germany in 2015, University of Florida Term Professorship in 2017, and Mercator Fellowship, Germany in 2018.

Recognition of Outstanding Faculty & Staff

Dr. Lisa Anthony

*Herbert Wertheim College
of Engineering Faculty
Advisor of the Year*



Lisa Anthony is presently an assistant professor in the Department of Computer & Information Science & Engineering at the University of Florida in Gainesville, FL. She holds a B.S. and M.S. in Computer Science (Drexel University, 2002), and a Ph.D. in Human-Computer Interaction (Carnegie Mellon University, 2008). Lisa's research focuses on understanding, designing, and developing so-called "natural" user interfaces for children. The field of Natural User Interaction (NUI) involves allowing users to interact with technology through the range of human abilities, such as touch, voice, vision and motion. Children are still developing their cognitive and physical capabilities, creating unique design challenges and opportunities for interacting in these modalities. Lisa's research lab, the Intelligent Natural Interaction Technology (INIT) at UF CISE (init.cise.ufl.edu), investigates these questions, including (a) understanding children's expectations and abilities with respect to NUIs and (b) designing and developing new multimodal NUIs for children in a variety of contexts, including education, healthcare, and serious games. Her Ph.D. dissertation investigated the use of handwriting input for middle school math tutoring software, and her simple and accurate multistroke gesture recognizers called \$N\$ and \$P\$ are well-known in the field of interactive surface gesture recognition. Lisa is presently advising 5 Ph.D. students and 2 undergraduate students. Over the course of her time at UF, Lisa has advised 20 undergraduate students as research assistants in her laboratory, as well as 20 more through senior design projects in the CISE department. Lisa is passionate about showing undergraduate students the range of career options that experience in research can open up, and spends a lot of effort to help mentor and advise undergraduates at all stages of their careers. Lisa's undergraduates have authored research publications, developed research software, and collected research datasets. They have gone on to industry and graduate school, and been recognized nationally for prestigious awards. Lisa plans to stay actively involved in undergraduate research and advising.

Dr. Kevin Jones

*UF Teacher/Scholar
of the Year*



Dr. Kevin S. Jones is a Distinguished Professor in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering (M.S.E.). He received his B.S. in M.S.E from the University of Florida in 1980. After working for DuPont as a process engineer for two years, he went to the University of California at Berkeley where he earned a M.S. in MSE in 1985 and a Ph.D. in MSE in 1987. He has spent the past 30 years as a professor at the University of Florida studying electronic materials. He has published over 400 technical articles, most focusing on defects that form during the processing of semiconductors for microelectronics including laptops and cellphones. He has graduated 40 Ph.D. students. He is chairman of the International Committee on Ion Implantation Technology and co-director of SWAMP Center. He is a fellow of the Materials Research Society (MRS), the American Society of Materials (ASM) and the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE). He has won many awards including the 1990 Presidential Young Investigator award from NSF, several teacher of the year awards and in 2013 he and his close UF colleague Prof. Mark Law were awarded the North American SEMI Award given annually by SEMI International (an international organization representing over 2000 semiconductor companies). He was Chair of the UF-MSE Department from 2002 to 2010 and helped the department achieve its highest ranking of 6th in the country, tied that year with his alma mater UC Berkeley. He has focused significant effort over the past few years creating a freshman course entitled the Impact of Materials on Society. This course was developed with the help of eight colleagues in Liberal Arts and Sciences led by Dr. Sophia Acord in Humanities and with financial support from NSF, DoD and the MRS. With a focus on increasing the social awareness of engineers, this unique class has been enormously successful and disseminated to over 30 other universities in the US, Europe, South America and most recently Africa. He has been married for 35 years to the love of his life Debra and they have three fantastic children, Britta, Ryan and Sean.

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE CANDIDATES

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Andr s Brenes**
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Bachelor of Science in Biological Engineering

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Timothy Tri Nguyen
Kelly A. Noble
Michael James Orlando Jr***
Julianne Rose Petro*
Ruth Abigail Portalatin-Walker*
Frederick Junior Quispe*
Oreana Karyna Ram rez Robles
Stephen Patrick Rantz

*Cum Laude

**Magna Cum Laude

***Summa Cum Laude

(Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude and Summa Cum Laude are tentative and subject to final grades)

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Jonathan I. Robuck*
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**Magna Cum Laude

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Estenia J. Ortiz Carabantes**
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Josue Emanuel Rivera Moreno
Sebastian Sayavedra**
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John M. Yakulevich

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**Magna Cum Laude

***Summa Cum Laude

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Bachelor of Science in Materials Science and Engineering

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Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering

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Marcelo Aguilar**
Edgar Mauricio Aldahondo**
Basil Mazen Anabtawi***
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Bachelor of Science in Nuclear Engineering

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MASTER OF ENGINEERING DEGREE CANDIDATES

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Yu Qiao
Hainan Wang
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Ruoxin Wu
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Monisha Mathew
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Hareesh Nutalapati
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Rajashekar Rajagopalan
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Gowtham Kumar Thimma Subburaman
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Sichao Ye
Gaurav Anil Yeole
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Environmental Engineering Science

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Industrial & Systems Engineering

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Axel Buatois
Roy Alexander Bunting
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Tyler England
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Mechanical Engineering

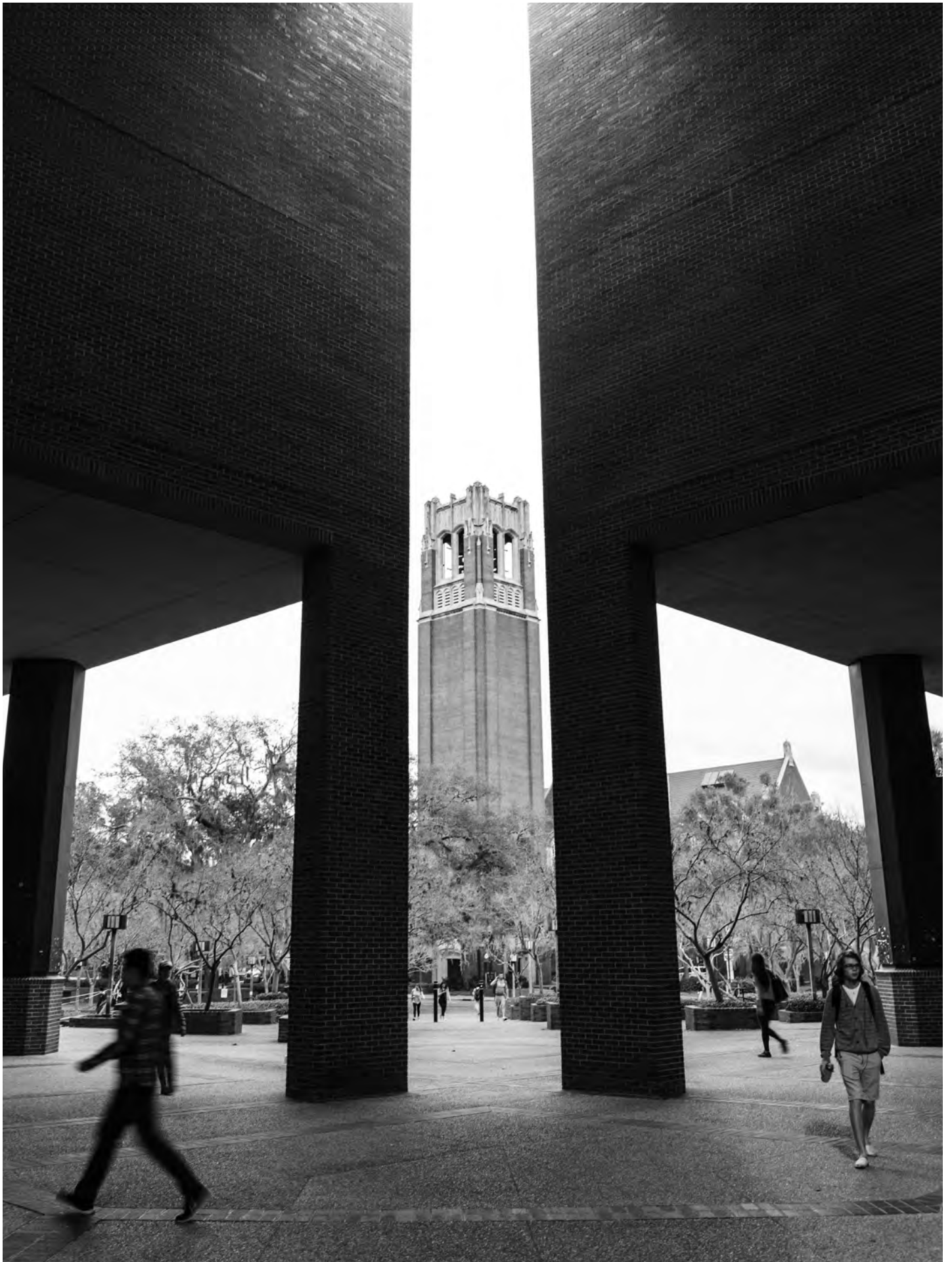
Rahul Aggarwal
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Siyuan Gao

Shirin Ghatrehsamani
Sanket Gomekar
Vivek Hari
Santosh Chandra Haribabu
Mustafa Sadiq Hathiari
Eva C. Hinkeldey
Jianchi Huang
Christopher J. Hudson
Tanazulibaad Israrahmed
Vinay Vilas Jadhav
Sungmo Jung
Aditya Suresh Katkar
Justin D. Keister
Sameer Saeed Khan
Srikrishna Praneeth Kurisetty
Seungjae Lee
Siyu Lei
Stephen P. Leopold
Haoyan Li
Mingshuo Li
Songqi Li
Chengdong Liu
Manindersingh A. Longia
Can Lu
Binghao Luo
Noah A. Madnick
Jayanth Mahadevaswamy
Baalaganapathy Manohar
Curtis Martin McKinion
Alexander Thomson Miller
Vinny Mittal
Jiaqi Mo
Shravan Sajjan Mungasavalli Gnanesh
Subhash Nerella
Yan Ning
Rohit Ode
Brandon E. Osborne
Akshay Vilas Padwal
Deng Pan
Hao Pang

Hao Peng
Noha Peter
Ritesh Bharadwaj Raghavapudi
Roshan Rajen Raisoni
Vamsidhar Reddy Rajula
Sharath Kumar Ramasamy
Rishab Ramaswamy
Vigneshwar Ravisankar
Niveditha Ravivarman
Moisés Alberto Rivero
Colin Thatcher Rockwell
Sarthak Rout
Swapnil Saurav
Joseph T. Shafer
Yixi Shen
Akshay R. Shinde
Kartik Sivasubramanian
Chirag M. Somani
Kaidong Song
Jagadeesh Kumar Sukumaran
Runhan Sun
Mugdha Sanjay Talole
Sai Priyatam Tayi
Tsung-Ying Tsai
Apurva Maya Walke
Hengyun Wan
Qia Wan
Haitsang Wu
Yuanjie Wu
Youjian Xu
Zhenpeng Xu
Shishir Sanjay Yadav
Jingwen Zhang
Yicheng Zhang
Mingyang Zhao
Xinwei Zhao
Ziqiang Zhao
Zhiyang Zhou
Chao Zhu
Zhaoyu Zhu

Nuclear Engineering Sciences

Zachery James Egerton Cooper



DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY DEGREE CANDIDATES

Jeremy J. Anderson, *Electrical & Computer Engineering*

Dissertation: A Long-Term Average Cepstral Enhancement Technique to Improve Single Microphone Automatic Speech Recognition

Chair: John Gregory Harris

Sam C. Arden, *Environmental Engineering Science*

Dissertation: Resource Use in the Urban Water System

Chair: Mark T. Brown

Clayton Walker Argenbright, *Materials Science & Engineering*

Dissertation: Effect of Nanoscale and Hierarchical Topographies on the Antifouling Efficacy of Silicone Surfaces

Chair: Anthony B. Brennan

George J. Armanious, *Aerospace Engineering*

Dissertation: Distributed Control of a Flexible Air Vehicle Using an Adaptive Multi-Rate Distributed Kalman Filtering Framework

Chair: Richard C. Lind Jr

Immanuel Babu Henry Samuel, *Biomedical Engineering*

Dissertation: Neural Responses to Cognitive Demand

Chair: Mingzhou Ding

Elizabeth Kay Bartlett, *Mechanical Engineering*

Dissertation: Experimental Characterization and Modeling of High Strength Martensitic Steels Based on a New Distortional Hardening Model

Chair: Oana Cazacu

Tapomoy Bhattacharjee, *Mechanical Engineering*

Dissertation: 3D Cell Behavior in Jammed Microgel Media: 3D Printed Constructs and Single Cells

Chair: Thomas Ettore Angelini

Julian Langston Brinkley, *Human-centered Computing*

Dissertation: Autonomous Vehicles and Visually Impaired Operators

Chair: Shaundra Daily

Zhendong Cao, *Coastal & Oceanographic Engineering*

Dissertation: Baroclinic Effects on the Long-Term Estuarine Morphodynamic Evolution

Chair: Maitane Olabarrieta Lizaso

Edward Leroy Carlisle IV, *Electrical & Computer Engineering*

Dissertation: Fault Injection, Analysis, and Radiation Testing with DrSEUs: The Dynamic Robust Single-Event Upset Simulator

Chair: Alan Dale George

Felipe Lenz Carvalho, *Electrical & Computer Engineering*

Dissertation: Characteristics of Triggered Lightning Radiation Source and Sky Waves

Chair: Martin A. Uman

Rudrasis Chakraborty, *Computer Science*

Dissertation: Geometry-Aware Efficient Statistical Analysis on Riemannian Manifolds

Chair: Baba C. Vemuri

Inchul Choi, *Computer Science*

Dissertation: Multi-Scale Generalized PlaneMatch based Occlusion Detection and Correspondence for Optical Flow

Chair: Arunava Banerjee

Jaeshik Chung, *Environmental Engineering Science*

Dissertation: Effects of Spatiotemporal Boundary Variation in Contaminant Transport Phenomena of Groundwater Resources near Landfills

Chair: Timothy G. Townsend



2018 SPRING

COMMENCEMENT

Yongmin Chung, *Agricultural & Biological Engineering*

Dissertation: Development of a Nonlinear Controller for an IMU-based Load-leveling System on an Over-the-Top Citrus Harvester with Optional Hydraulic Accumulator Suspension

Chair: Thomas Francis Burks

Cristian Cocconcelli, *Civil Engineering*

Dissertation: Design and Evaluation of Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA) Mixtures Used as Interlayer to Mitigate Near-Surface Reflective Cracking (RC) in Flexible Pavement

Chair: Reynaldo Roque

Paul E. Crittenden, *Mechanical Engineering*

Dissertation: Numerical Methods for Single and Two-Phase Flow Developed to Determine the Stability of Rapidly Expanding Contact and Particle Interfaces.

Chair: Sivaramakrishnan Balachandar

Melissa Cruz-Acuña, *Biomedical Engineering*

Dissertation: Polyethylenimine-Coated Single-Magnetic Gene Carriers and Their Evaluation in Various Transfection Systems

Chair: Carlos Rinaldi

Victor Hazael Dueñas Fontes, *Mechanical Engineering*

Dissertation: Functional Electrical Stimulation-Induced Cycling Using Repetitive Learning and Passivity-Based Control

Chair: Warren E. Dixon

Shannon L. Eggers, *Nuclear Engineering Sciences*

Dissertation: Adapting Anomaly Detection Techniques for Online Intrusion Detection in Nuclear Facilities

Chair: Per Andreas Jon Enqvist

Ahmed Hassan Fahmy, *Electrical & Computer Engineering*

Dissertation: Mixed-Signal IC Design for Interfacing with Peripheral Nervous System

Chair: Rizwan Bashirullah

Daniel Zeno Frank, *Mechanical Engineering*

Dissertation: Investigating Culturally-Contextualized Making with the Navajo Nation

Chair: Carl D. Crane III

Mohamed Ibrahim Aref Ibrahim Gadou, *Computer Engineering*

Dissertation: Performance Energy Tradeoffs for Iterative and Direct Sparse Matrix Solvers on Hybrid Multicore Architectures

Chair: Sanjay Ranka

Andrew C. Gray, *Electrical & Computer Engineering*

Dissertation: A Low-Cost Autonomous Submersible and Acoustic Tracking System

Chair: Amauri Antonio Arroyo

Zimu Guo, *Electrical & Computer Engineering*

Dissertation: A Framework for Securing Digital Systems against Counterfeiting, Reverse Engineering and Tampering

Chair: Domenic J. Forte

Alexander Arthur Haluska, *Environmental Engineering Science*

Dissertation: Performance Assessments of Bioremediation and Bioaugmentation of Chloroethene DNAPL Source Zones

Chair: Michael D. Annable

France LaShay Jackson, *Human-centered Computing*

Dissertation: Fashionable BCI: Applying a User-Centered Design Approach to Developing a Socially Acceptable Brain-Computer Interface Device for Women

Chair: Juan Eugene Gilbert

Kookhyun Jeong, *Materials Science & Engineering*

Dissertation: Innovative Coating of Vanadium Carbide on the F/M Cladding Tube Inner Surface for Mitigating the Fuel Cladding Chemical Interactions

Chair: Yong Yang

- Huanhuan Jiang, *Environmental Engineering Science*
 Dissertation: Determination of Molecular Mechanisms of Organic Aerosols on PM Toxicity Using Cell-Free Assays
 Chair: Myoseon Jang
- Yifei Jin, *Mechanical Engineering*
 Dissertation: Study of Nanoclay-Assisted Extrusion Fabrication System for 3D Printing
 Chair: Yong Huang
- Jessica Nicole Jones, *Human-centered Computing*
 Dissertation: Sightword Pal: An Intelligent Sight Word Tutor for African-American Second Grade Students
 Chair: Juan Eugene Gilbert
- Swati Khare, *Biomedical Engineering*
 Dissertation: Characterization of Novel Biological Models for Spinocerebellar Ataxia 13
 Chair: Kyle Allen
- Alan Kuhnle, *Computer Science*
 Dissertation: Scalable Algorithms for Vulnerability Assessment of Large-Scale Networked Systems
 Chair: My Tra Thai
- Amy Kathleen Langston, *Environmental Engineering Science*
 Dissertation: A Shifting Mosaic: Climate Change and Biotic Control Drive Changes in Coastal Forests Along Florida's Big Bend Coast
 Chair: David A. Kaplan
- Sin-Yen Leo, *Chemical Engineering*
 Dissertation: Programmable Photonic Crystals Enabled by Smart Shape Memory Polymers
 Chair: Peng Jiang
- Tao Li, *Chemical Engineering*
 Dissertation: Adsorption and Reaction Characteristics of Ruthenium Dioxide (110) and Iridium Dioxide (110)
 Chair: Jason F. Weaver
- Hua Liu, *Environmental Engineering Science*
 Dissertation: PM Separation and Re-Suspension Test of Hydrodynamic Unit Operations Modeling, Scaling and Regulations in Urban Drainage System
 Chair: John Joseph Sansalone
- Bo Ma, *Computer Engineering*
 Dissertation: Feature-Based Methods for Visualizations of Volumetric Data and Ensemble Simulations
 Chair: Alireza Entezari
- Goran Marjanovic, *Mechanical Engineering*
 Dissertation: Direct Numerical Simulations of Single and Multiphase Turbulent Plumes in the Forced, Pure, and Lazy Regimes at Intermediate Grashof Numbers
 Chair: Sivaramakrishnan Balachandar
- Samantha Lauren Marshall, *Mechanical Engineering*
 Dissertation: Microgels for In Vitro Three-Dimensional Cancer Models
 Chair: Wallace Gregory Sawyer
- Lindsay J. Mullenix, *Materials Science & Engineering*
 Dissertation: Evaluation of Solution Heat Treatment and Creep Properties of CMSX-8 B/C for Industrial Gas Turbines
 Chair: Gerhard E. Fuchs
- Vignesh Nandakumar, *Materials Science & Engineering*
 Dissertation: Physicochemical Aspects of Bacterial Adhesion on Surfaces and Strategies to Remove Adhered Bacteria from Surfaces
 Chair: Brij Mohan Moudgil
- Yongliang Ni, *Mechanical Engineering*
 Dissertation: Investigation of the Shape Memory Mechanisms of a Series of Polymer Macroporous Photonic Crystals
 Chair: Curtis Taylor



Adam Steven Nickels, *Aerospace Engineering*
Dissertation: Experimental-Based Velocity, Hydrodynamic Pressure, and Acoustic Estimation in a Three-Dimensional Turbulent Wall Jet
Chair: Lawrence S. Ukeiley

Supriya Nirkhivale, *Computer Engineering*
Dissertation: A Sampling Algebra for Scalable Approximate Query Processing
Chair: Alin Viorel Dobra

David Nonso Ojika, *Electrical & Computer Engineering*
Dissertation: Flexible Architecture for Programmable Accelerators at Datacenter-Scale
Chair: Ann M. Gordon-Ross

Maohua Pan, *Environmental Engineering Science*
Dissertation: Highly Efficient Virus Aerosol Collection System and Its Application in Investigating Distribution of Infectious Viruses in Aerosolized Particles
Chair: Chang-Yu Wu

Chang Peng, *Mechanical Engineering*
Dissertation: Physical Mechanisms of Direct-Contact Ultrasonic Cloth Drying Process
Chair: Saeed Moghaddam

Catia Sofia Pinho Da Silva, *Electrical & Computer Engineering*
Dissertation: A Framework for Spatiotemporal Quantification of Neural Functional Connectivity
Chair: Jose C. Principe

Sherlie Eileen Portugal Atencio, *Electrical & Computer Engineering*
Dissertation: Design and Improvement of Dielectric Barrier Discharge (DBD) Reactors for Ozone Generation in Atmospheric Air
Chair: Jenshan Lin

Abhijit Rajan, *Biomedical Engineering*
Dissertation: Neural Mechanisms of Attentional Control
Chair: Mingzhou Ding

Barath Ramesh, *Electrical & Computer Engineering*
Dissertation: Frame- and Line-Oriented Optimizations in Image Processing on Multicore Embedded Processors
Chair: Alan Dale George

Antonietta Restuccia, *Biomedical Engineering*
Dissertation: Glycosylated Peptide Nanofibers as Tools to Elucidate Multivalent Carbohydrate Structure-Function Relationships
Chair: Gregory Hudalla

Regina Rodriguez, *Environmental Engineering Science*
Dissertation: Activated Carbon Surface Chemistry Impact on Mercury Adsorption
Chair: David W. Mazyck

Jhonathan Rosales Franco, *Nuclear Engineering Sciences*
Dissertation: Characterization of Direct Additive Manufactured U₃Si₂ Surrogates to Predict U₃Si₂ Microstructures
Chair: Isabella Van Rooyen

Andres Rubiano-Acosta, *Mechanical Engineering*
Dissertation: Experimental Methods for Mechanical Characterization of Soft Matter and Applications in Pancreatic Cancer
Chair: Chelsey Savannah Simmons

Nathan R. Sauder, *Mechanical Engineering*
Dissertation: Predicting Optimal Fast Functional Electrical Stimulation Patterns for Post-Stroke Gait Neurorehabilitation
Chair: Benjamin J. Fregly

Paul Charly Serra, *Aerospace Engineering*
Dissertation: Integrated, Low-Power Sub-Nanosecond Timing Systems for Space Navigation and Communication
Chair: John Conklin

- Michael J. Sexton, *Materials Science & Engineering*
 Dissertation: Organometallic Halide Perovskite Solar Cells and a Search for New Perovskites
 Chair: Jiangeng Xue
- Sean J. Sharp, *Environmental Engineering Science*
 Dissertation: Disturbance and Recovery of Southeastern Salt Marshes: Drivers of Change and Ecosystem Service Dynamics
 Chair: Christine Angelini
- Isaac J. Sledge, *Electrical & Computer Engineering*
 Dissertation: The Exploration and Exploitation of Reinforcement-Learned Behaviors Using Information-Theoretic Criteria
 Chair: Jose C. Principe
- Avni Solanki, *Environmental Engineering Science*
 Dissertation: Investigation of Pharmaceutical Removal in Source Separated Urine Using Biochar
 Chair: Treavor H. Boyer
- Zhuoyuan Song, *Mechanical Engineering*
 Dissertation: Cooperative Control and Navigation of Autonomous Vehicles in Harsh Environments
 Chair: Kamran Mohseni
- Saman Souri, *Agricultural & Biological Engineering*
 Dissertation: Possibility of Root Heat Treatment, Modification and Performance of a Hot Water Injection System to Treat HLB in Citrus
 Chair: John Kenneth Schueller
- Chase M. Stamey, *Chemical Engineering*
 Dissertation: Development of Dynamic Smart Windows via Micro and Nano Materials
 Chair: Peng Jiang
- Cameron S. Stewart, *Mechanical Engineering*
 Dissertation: Soft Sphere Simulations of a Planar Multiphase Shockwave Passing through a Bed of Particles
 Chair: Sivaramakrishnan Balachandar
- Vincent J. Tocco Jr, *Chemical Engineering*
 Dissertation: The Mechanism of Nuclear Shaping
 Chair: Tanmay Lele
- Manh Duc Tran, *Electrical & Computer Engineering*
 Dissertation: A Study of Lightning Properties Using High-Speed Video and Energetic Radiation Observations Synchronized with Electric and Magnetic Field Measurements
 Chair: Vladimir Alek Sandrovich Rakov
- Juan Manuel Urueña Vargas, *Mechanical Engineering*
 Dissertation: The Effects of Temperature & Pressure on Hydrogel Tribology
 Chair: Wallace Gregory Sawyer
- Kevin Lawrence Ward, *Chemical Engineering*
 Dissertation: Faraday Instability in Mechanically and Electrostatically Forced Systems
 Chair: Ranganatha Narayanan
- Donald Charles Watson Jr, *Civil Engineering*
 Dissertation: Modeling and Estimation of Heavy Vehicle Effects on Two-Lane Highway Traffic Operations
 Chair: Scott Stuart Washburn
- Benjamin E. Watts, *Civil Engineering*
 Dissertation: Applications of High Performance Computing and Machine Learning to Predict Behavior of Portland Cement-Based Materials
 Chair: Christopher Charles Ferraro
- Erin B. White, *Environmental Engineering Science*
 Dissertation: Contaminant Fluxes through Heterogeneous Transport Pathways in Fractured Rock and Karst
 Chair: Michael D. Annable



Christopher Mark Wilson, *Electrical & Computer Engineering*
Dissertation: Modeling and Mitigation for Hybrid Space Computers
Chair: Alan Dale George

Chi Xu, *Materials Science & Engineering*
Dissertation: Developing Microstructure-Property Correlations in The Advanced Austenitic Stainless Steels as Candidate Materials for the Next-Gen Nuclear Reactors by using High-Energy X-ray and TEM/APT Techniques
Chair: Yong Yang

Chengliang Yang, *Computer Science*
Dissertation: Interpretable Machine Learning with Applications in Health Care
Chair: Sanjay Ranka

Kai Yang, *Electrical & Computer Engineering*
Dissertation: Memory-Centric Reconfigurable Accelerators for Energy-Efficiency and Security
Chair: Swarup Bhunia

Kun Yang, *Electrical & Computer Engineering*
Dissertation: RFID-Based Solutions for Protecting Supply Chain
Chair: Mark M. Tehranipoor

Difan Zhang, *Materials Science & Engineering*
Dissertation: Application of Atomistic Scale Simulations to Porous Nanostructures, Surfaces, and Interfaces
Chair: Susan B. Sinnott

Fengchao Zhang, *Electrical & Computer Engineering*
Dissertation: Low-Overhead Integrity Verification for Electronics and Beyond
Chair: Swarup Bhunia

Yiming Zhang, *Mechanical Engineering*
Dissertation: Using Multiple Predictions and Multiple Sources of Data for Design Space Exploration
Chair: Raphael Tuvia Haftka

Yingxiu Zhang, *Agricultural & Biological Engineering*
Dissertation: Cultivation, Growth Optimization and Modeling of a Saline Cyanobacteria Species BG0011 for Production of Biofuels and Bioproducts
Chair: P. C. Pullammanappallil

Yuan Zhou, *Computer Science*
Dissertation: Hyperspectral Unmixing with Endmember Uncertainty, Variability and Multiresolution Fusion
Chair: Anand Rangarajan

Ruizhi Zou, *Coastal & Oceanographic Engineering*
Dissertation: Modeling the Attenuation of Surge, Current, and Wave by Vegetation in Coastal Waters
Chair: Yeayi P. Sheng





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#WERTHTHEWAIT**



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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

Diplomas

Diplomas will be mailed to the graduate’s permanent home mailing address in July 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.



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