



University of  
**Pittsburgh**

Graduate School of Public  
and International Affairs

# **2021 COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY**

**Saturday May 1, 2021**

Welcome

**Dr. Carissa Slotterback**

Dean

Address to Graduates

**Dr. Amanda Godley**

Vice Provost for Graduate Studies

Presentation of Award Winners

**Dr. Ryan Grauer**

Faculty President

Student Address

**Jillian Royal, MPA '21**

2020 Student Cabinet President

Commencement Speech

**Betty Cruz, MPA '11**

Introduction of Graduates

**GSPIA Program Directors**

**Messages from Alumni**

# Master of Public Administration

**Jemila Tosan Adoki, BS**

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2017

**Rafael Luiz Araujo-Lopes, BA**

University of Pittsburgh, 2017

**Joseph Anthony Bistransky, BA**

College of William & Mary, 2019

**Adriana Diamonique Bowman, BA**

University of South Carolina, 2018

**Zoë Catherine Burch, BA**

Carlow University, 2016

**Hui Ding, BA**

Xiamen University, China, 2016

**Ziru Gao, BA**

Michigan State University, 2019

**Xiaobo Geng, BA**

Wannan Medical College, China, 2017

**Kimberly M. Goldstein, BA**

University of Pittsburgh, 2016

**Byron Timothy Goode Jr., BA**

Wake Forest University, 2018

**Aaron Gould, BA**

University of Pittsburgh, 2018

**Rhea S. Henry, BA**

University of South Florida, 2018

**Elizabeth M. Hernandez-Pease, BS**

Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania, 2019

**Koffi Kengbo, BA**

Cheyney University of Pennsylvania, 2018

**Hanwei Li, BA**

China University of Political Science and Law, China, 2017

**Yingzi Liu, BA**

Hunan University of Humanities, Science and Technology, China, 2018

**Tianfang Ma, BA**

University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, 2017

**Cassidy A. Martin, BA**

University of Pittsburgh, 2017

**Bijun Pan, BA**

United International College, China, 2017

**Molly Elizabeth Penderville, BA**

University of North Carolina, 2014

**Ryan Timothy Peters, BA, BA**

State University of New York at Oswego, 2016; 2016

**Olivia K.W. Phillips, BS**

Carlow University, 2018

**Daniel W. Pieratt, BA**

Maryville University, 2015

**Eric J. Raabe, BS**

Grove City College, 2018

**Jasmin Dominique Randolph-Taylor, BA**

Howard University, 2015

**Gabriella Danielle Reber, BS**

Florida State University, 2015

**Jillian Denise Royal, BA**

Montclair State University, 2019

**Yang Shen, BA**

Shanghai Lixin University of Accounting and Finance, China, 2018

**Aaron Alexander Sims, BA**

Robert Morris University, 2018

**Brett Michael Stewart, BA**

Gettysburg College, 2018

**Corrine M. Taylor, BS**

University of Pittsburgh, 2019

**Falon Marie Weidman, BA**

Wheeling Jesuit University, 2017

**Elizabeth Aspen Wilkerson, BA**

University of Pittsburgh, 2011

**Mengdi Xu, BA**

Yantai University, China, 2018

**Daizong Xu, BE**

University of Shanghai for Science and Technology, China, 2018

**Yaodeji Yang, BE**

University of Science and Technology Beijing, China, 2019

**Zhexuan Yu, BA**

Northwest University, China, 2019

**Yixuan Zang, BMgmt**

Hebei University of Economics and Business, China, 2019

**Zhaoxin Zhang, BA**

Fudan University, China, 2019

**Wenyu Zhao, BEcon**

Beijing Jiaotong University, China, 2019

# Master of Public and International Affairs

**Tyler Allen Bienio, BA**

University of Pittsburgh, 2014

**Shannon Kathleen Boehm, BA**

Washington & Jefferson College, 2019

**Taylor Nicole Broshar, BA**

Central College, 2017

**Gabrielle Christine Bryant, BA**

Florida State University, 2017

**Kayla Elizabeth Conforti, BA**

Washington & Jefferson College, 2018

**Amanda Janel Dawkins, BA, BS**

University of Pittsburgh, 2017

**Sarah J. Downing, BA**

Hope College, 2018

**Zahra G. Ghannadian, BA**

San Diego State University, 2018

**Paul Gibson, BA**

Temple University, 2012

**Lucy Taylor Gloninger, BS**

Towson University, 2019

**Laura Rose Gooding, BA**

University of Pittsburgh, 2019

**Natalia Y. Goodnow, BA, MA**

Ivanovo State University, Russia, 2008; Kent State University, 2012

**Scott A. Gwyn, BA**

Wheeling Jesuit University, 2018

**Emily Noel Haglund, BA**

Washington & Jefferson College, 2019

**Chloe E. Harvey, BA**

La Roche University, 2019

**Melissa Lynn Hensch, BA**

University of North Carolina at Greensboro, 2019

**Cameron John Hoffman, BA**

University of Pittsburgh, 2019

**Maureen Petra Hossler, BA**

Allegheny College, 2018

**Deborah Jennings, BA**

Mansfield University of Pennsylvania, 2017

**Timofei Andreevich Kharisov, BA**

West Virginia University, 2019

**Alexandra N. Kremer, BS**

Cleveland State University, 2019

**Cameron William Lumley, BA**

Washington & Jefferson College, 2019

**Sara Ann MacDougall, BA**

Mercyhurst University, 2019

**Gabrielle Christina Marotta, BA**

Moravian College, 2017

**Joel T. Matticks, BS**

University of Pittsburgh, 2013

**Ian Scott Maxwell, BA**

University of Pittsburgh, 2017

**Anneliese M. McCarthy, BA**

West Virginia University, 2019

**Andrew Ronald Miller, BA**

Mercyhurst University, 2013

**Nicholas Ryan Myers, BA**

University of Cincinnati, 2016

**Yeraldyn Lilian Maria Pacheco, BS**

Loyola Marymount University, 2019

**Spencer Stephen Pelak, BA**

University of Pittsburgh, 2015

**Mitchell George Powell, BS**

Bentley University, 2017

**Gerald Quattro, BA, JD**

Washington & Jefferson College, 2008; Duquesne University, 2012

**Wensislaus Noval Rumangun, BA**

Universitas Sanata Dharma, Indonesia, 2017

**Benjamin M. Saint-Onge, BA, BA**

Michigan State University, 2014; 2015

**Caelan Hidalgo Schick, BA**

Boston University, 2017

**Gabrielle M. Sinnott, BA**

Daemen College, 2019

**Alexandria Kelly Smith, BA**

University of Michigan, 2016

**Yiyang Sun, BA**

Shanghai University of Political Science and Law, China, 2019

**Josephine Isabelle Syring, BS**

Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania, 2018

**Joshua Andrew Timko, BA**  
James Madison University, 2019

**Thomas L. Vielott, BS**  
Carnegie Mellon University, 2016

**Sharonda Laquetta Watson, BS**  
Kennesaw State University, 2017

**Zachary Weinberg, BA**  
DePaul University, 2011

## **Master of International Development**

**Moska Sonya Akhgar, BA**  
University of California, Irvine, 2017

**Alyssa Marie Amendola, BS**  
University of Pittsburgh, 2013

**I Younan An, BS**  
Northern Illinois University, 2018

**Brian Edward Bayer, BA**  
John Carroll University, 2013

**Juliana Monteiro Bernardino, BA**  
Escola Superior de Propaganda e Marketing,  
Brazil, 2018

**Gabriel P. Cirio, BA**  
Grove City College, 2019

**Rosa Hassan De Ferrari, BA**  
Temple University, 2013

**Paul L. Donnelly, BA**  
West Chester University of Pennsylvania, 2014

**Thomas Joseph Ercoli, BS**  
University of Alabama, 2016

**Christine N. Gameos, BA**  
University of Pittsburgh, 2017

**Alexandria Greenholt, BA**  
University of Pittsburgh, 2016

**Victoria Nguyen Hoang, BA**  
Villanova University, 2013

**Rebecca Marie Holland, BA**  
Saint Michael's College, 2018

**Joshua J. Knupp, BA**  
Allegheny College, 2017

**Kayla Elizabeth Kuziola, BA**  
East Tennessee State University, 2014

**Nora F. Lopez Cruz, BS**  
Universidad de Quintana Roo, Mexico, 2018

**Ihrrar Muhammadi, BA**  
Russell Sage College, 2016

**Alice Mahoro Ngamije, BSW**  
University of Central Florida, 2016

**Paige Cullinan Nied, BA**  
University of Pittsburgh, 2018

**Pelumi Daniel Olugbenga, BA**  
Lagos State University, Nigeria, 2018

**Chidinma Kelechi Onuoha, BA**  
University of Maryland, 2018

**Elizabeth A. Piccoli, BS**  
University of Toronto, Canada, 2015

**Matthew Jacob Pribis, BS**  
Old Dominion University, 2015

**Alexander J. Romeo, BA, BS**  
Saint Francis College, 2018

**Samantha E. Sinn, BA**  
Bowling Green State University, 2018

**Mya D. Williams, BA**  
Washington & Jefferson College, 2018

## **Master of Public Policy and Management**

**Carrie L.P. Anderson, BA, JD**  
Florida Atlantic University, 1998; University of  
Miami, 2002

**Ashley Lynne Anglesey, BA**  
California State University, Sacramento, 2017

**Sandra Marie Barsotti, BA**  
Indiana University of Pennsylvania, 1987

**James B. Bowman, BS**  
University of Pittsburgh, 2008

**Daniel Camarda, BA**  
University of Pittsburgh, 2011

**Kathleen Clawson, BA**  
University of Pittsburgh, 1999

**Chandra L. Colaresi, BA, MA**  
St. Mary's College of Maryland, 1998; Indiana  
University Bloomington, 2002

**Sherman Culver, BA**  
University of Pittsburgh, 2018

**Jamie Renee Cunningham, BS**  
La Roche University, 2012

**Jody M. Davin, BA**  
Indiana University of Pennsylvania, 2009

**Gregg Joseph Earley, BA**  
Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, 2002

**Katie S. Ellison, BA**  
Westminster College, 2012

**Harry Richard Faulk, BS**  
Point Park University, 2014

**Robert J. Ferrainolo, BA**  
University of Maryland University College,  
2012

**Jodi L. Fowler, BS, MS**  
Allegheny College, 1993; University of Virginia,  
1997

**Anthony J. Gacek, BS**  
Ohio University, 2002

**Claire Bramble Guth, BA**  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill,  
2006

**Heather Lynn Hackett, BA**  
University of Pittsburgh, 2005

**Robert F. Hamilton, BA**  
University of Pittsburgh, 2018

**Robert Lawrence Holler Jr., BA**  
University of Pittsburgh, 2002

**Upendra K. Kar, BS, MSc, PhD**  
Utkal University, India, 1995; Jawaharal Nehru  
University, India, 1998; All India Institute of  
Medical Sciences, India, 2009

**Alan L. Katruska, BPhil**  
University of Pittsburgh, 1995

**Timothy S. Kim, BA**  
University of Pittsburgh, 2010

**Heegon Lee, BA**  
Seoul National University, South Korea, 2006

**Soon Il Lee, BA**  
Sungkyunkwan University, South Korea, 2007

**Sythea T. Lester, BA**  
Emory University, 2013

**Bryan Peter Luczak, BA**  
Indiana University of Pennsylvania, 2004

**Aarika Lynn Yates MacIntyre, BS**  
University of Pittsburgh, 2009

**Katie Rochelle Maietta, BA**  
University of Pittsburgh, 2012

**Michelle Lynn McAndrew, BA, M.Ed.**  
La Roche University, 2011; Carlow University,  
2013

**Peter R. McDevitt, BS**  
California University of Pennsylvania, 2010

**Mary Ann Michelle McKeague, BS**  
University of Pittsburgh, 2017

**Eleanor L. Milarski, BA**  
Westminster College, 2002

**Paul Philip Moreau, BA**  
University of Pittsburgh, 2010

**Ryan G. Mulson, BA**  
University of Pittsburgh, 2012

**Karla Nassuno Alcides, BA**  
Escola Superior de Propaganda e Marketing,  
Brazil, 1995

**Nazir Ahmad Noori, BA**  
University of Pittsburgh, 2018

**Ronna Dee Peacock Pratt, BA, MBA**  
University of Pittsburgh, 2001; Duquesne  
University, 2015

**Eric Thomas Poach, BS**  
West Virginia University, 1981

**Denise Preston, BS**  
Duquesne University, 2003

**Andrew Carl Shull, BA**  
University of Pittsburgh, 2013

**Lisa M. Sipusic, BA**  
Penn State Erie, the Behrend College

**Samuel Stack, BA**  
University of Pittsburgh, 2007

**Andrea C. Stanford, BS**  
University of Pittsburgh, 2011

**Michael Susick Jr, BS, MPH**  
University of Pittsburgh, 2009; 2011

**Simone Natalia Thomson, BA**  
Chatham University, 2008

**Amanda J. Veiga, BA**  
University of Pittsburgh, 1997

**Jeremy D. Warren, BA**  
University of North Florida, 2018

# Doctor of Public and International Affairs

## **Daniel Charles Bisbee, BA, MA, MA**

University of Pennsylvania, 1994; University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2003; University of Pittsburgh, 2011.

Dissertation: Metropolitan Battlefields: Urban Topography and the Weaponization of Governance in Baghdad.

## **Max R. Harleman, BS, MPA**

University of Pittsburgh, 2010; 2017.

Dissertation: Three Essays on the Economic Well-Being of Communities Near Energy Development.

## **Min Han Kim, BEcon, MPA**

Korea University, South Korea, 2010; Seoul National University, South Korea, 2014.

Dissertation: A Study of Perceptions of How to Organize Local Government Multi-Lateral Cross-Boundary Collaboration.

## **Blaire Christopher Modic, BA, MA**

Kenyon College, 2002; Florida Atlantic University, 2010.

Dissertation: Property Rights and Judicial Corruption Amidst Infrastructure Booms: The Case of Costa Rica.

## **Tegan Joseph Mosugu, BA, MPA, MS**

Duke University, 2013; New York University, 2015; 2016.

Dissertation: Evidence-Based Management: Panacea or Placebo? Insights from Nigerian HIV/AIDS Service Delivery.

## **Hovhannes Nahapetyan, BA, MS, MA, MA**

Yerevan State Institute of Economics, Armenia, 2003; University of Georgia, 2007; University of York, United Kingdom, 2009; Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals, Spain, 2010.

Dissertation: Determinants of State Repression: A Multifaceted Examination of Domestic and International Factors.

## **Stephen M. Worman, BA, MA**

Quinnipiac College, 2005; Johns Hopkins University, 2010.

Dissertation: The Grand Strategies of Middle Powers: Organizational Determinants and Constraints.

# ENDOWED AWARDS

WITH SPECIAL  
INTEREST

**The Gloria Fitzgibbons Memorial Fund Award**, for a female honoree in high scholastic standing, who is graduating from the MPA or MPPM program with potential to become a recognized public administrator, is awarded to **Adriana Diamonique Bowman** and **Katie S. Ellison**.

**The Sergeant James “Rip” Taylor Memorial Endowment Fund Award**, for a student who has shown outstanding academic achievement and exemplifies Sergeant Taylor’s spirit of public service, is awarded to **Juliana Monteiro Bernardino**, **Zoë Catherine Burch**, **Jody M. Davin**, and **Cameron William Lumley**.

**Taraknath Das Foundation Award**, for an outstanding student with a primary interest in the international problems of Asia, is awarded to **Jacob Curry** for his paper titled, “Examining China’s Role in the Illegal Wildlife Trade”, **Heegon Lee** for his paper titled, “Sustainable Economic Cooperation Between South and North Korea”, and **Ihrar Muhammadi** for her paper titled, “Early Child Marriages: A Barrier to Gender Equality and Development in Afghanistan”.

**The David E. Oeler Award**, for an outstanding student in the field of information systems, is awarded to **Thomas L. Vielott** and **Mengdi Xu**.

**Simon Reich Human Security Writing Award**, for the best research or policy paper on a human security topic, is awarded to **Taylor Nicole Broshar** for her paper titled, “Colombia’s Ripe Moment”.

**Kevin Morrison Memorial Award**, for the student with the most outstanding work in statistics and quantitative methods during the academic year, is awarded to **Alexandria Greenholt**.

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# GRADUATION AWARDS

**Dean’s Award**, for the most distinguished record among students in the graduating class in terms of academic achievement and service to the School, is awarded to **I Younan An**, **Anthony J. Gacek**, **Gerald Quattro** and **Jillian Denise Royal**.



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# CONGRATULATIONS

**TO ALL 2021 GSPIA GRADUATES!**