



ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY

April 17, 2025
5:00 P.M.

S.H.A.R.E. Auditorium
School of Nursing and Health Studies

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

BOUCHET GRADUATE HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTEES 2024-2025

Named for Edward Alexander Bouchet, the first African American doctoral recipient in the United States, the Edward Alexander Bouchet Graduate Honor Society recognizes outstanding scholarly achievement and promotes excellence in doctoral education and the professoriate.

Alexa Parra, Ph.D. in Nursing Science

Giltrecia Head, Ph.D. in History

Nkosi Muse, Ph.D. in Environmental Science and Policy

Sadegh Tale, Ph.D. in Civil Engineering

Tericka Cesar, Ph.D. in Nursing Science

BOUCHET FACULTY HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTEES 2024-2025

The Edward Alexander Bouchet Graduate Honor Society recognizes outstanding scholarly achievement in faculty. Membership in the society is conferred upon faculty who have exemplified excellence in research, teaching, and service, demonstrating a steadfast commitment to advancing knowledge and fostering inclusive academic environments.

Alex Piquero, Professor in Sociology and Criminology

Soyeon Ahn, Professor in Educational and Psychological Studies

Victor Deupi, Associate Professor of Professional Practice in Architecture

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

TEACHING ACADEMY FELLOWS 2024-2025

The Graduate School's Teaching Academy prepares participants for academic careers through training in best practices and tools that promote teaching excellence.

Alexa Parra, Ph.D. in Nursing Science
Mentored by Cynthia Lebron

Ana Sierra, Post-doctoral Associate in Neurology
Mentored by Ralf Landgraf

Eric Mischell, Ph.D. in Atmospheric Sciences
Mentored by Brian Soden

Franz Philip Tuchen, Post-doctoral Associate in Marine and Atmospheric Sciences
Mentored by Ben Kirtman

Hannah Grassie, Ph.D. in Psychology
Mentored by Spencer Evans

Judy Greengold, Ph.D. in Nursing Science
Mentored by Cindy Foronda

Lourdes Schmader, Ph.D. in Literary, Cultural, and Linguistic Studies
Mentored by Tracy Devine Guzman

Melissa Ruszczyk, Post-doctoral Associate in Physics
Mentored by Vivek Nagendra Prakash

Trey Santorine, Ph.D. in Sociology
Mentored by John Murphy and Taylor Sumpter

Virginia Emmons, Ed.D. in Higher Education Leadership
Mentored by Isaac Prilleltensky

GRADUATE STUDENT EXEMPLAR AWARD

This award recognizes a graduating student who excelled academically and has either overcome tremendous odds to be successful or has consistently made contributions that benefit others. This student's service, leadership or other distinctive efforts may have been to the campus, local, national or international community.

Alanna Ardoin, Master of Sport Administration

Alexa Parra, Ph.D. in Nursing Science

Alonzo Frederic, Master of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Craig Peaslee, D.M.A. in Composition

Guerdiana Thelomar, Ph.D. in Community Well-Being

Judy Greengold, Ph.D. in Nursing Science

Kenan Jean, Master of Sport Administration

Mathilda Ron, Master of Architecture

Olivia Colbert, Ph.D. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Salman Ahmad, Ph.D. in Psychology

Shruti Choudhary, Ph.D. in Chemical, Environmental, and Materials Engineering

Yi-Chun (Sarah) Tsai, D.M.A. in Vocal Performance and Pedagogy

GRADUATE STUDENT INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE AWARD

This award recognizes a graduate student who has fostered a culture of belonging and inclusive excellence at the University of Miami. Through their actions, the recipient has strengthened the sense of community and promoted an environment where all individuals can thrive.

Chabely Figuereo, Ph.D. in Psychology

Guerdiana Thelomar, Ph.D. in Community Well-Being

Ingrid Barrera, Executive Master of Business Administration in Health Management and Policy

Kenan Jean, Master of Sport Administration

Leonardo Schultz Araujo, Ph.D. in Mathematics

Matthew Sussmane, Master of Business Administration

OUTSTANDING GRADUATE RESEARCH OR SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

This award recognizes a graduate student distinguished in scholarly or research pursuits in a graduate program at the University. The award winner would have made a distinctive and discernible contribution to the field of study to which the student belongs.

Antonio Fontanella, Ph.D. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Anya Shi, Ph.D. in Communication

Caleb Calaway, Ph.D. in Exercise Physiology

Charlie Alver, Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering

Dalton Scott, Ph.D. in Nursing Science

David Vess, D.M.A. in Composition

David Xiong, Ph.D. in Exercise Physiology

Debasish Sarker, Ph.D. in Physics

Geyi Wang, Ph.D. in Communication

Giaffon Lam Salinas, Master of Real Estate Development and Urbanism

Grace Woodard, Ph.D. in Psychology

Guerdiana Thelomar, Ph.D. in Community Well-Being

Jose Domingo Barrera-Paez, Ph.D. in Human Genetics and Genomics

Kamran Vali Zadeh, Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering

Kapiamba Fabrice, Ph.D. in Chemical, Environmental, and Materials Engineering

Lacey Despres, Ph.D. in Prevention Science and Community Health

Leonardo Schultz Araujo, Ph.D. in Mathematics

Mateus Barreto Gondim, Ph.D. in Mathematics

Mathilda Ron, Master of Architecture

Maxwell Tsipoaka, Ph.D. in Chemical, Environmental, and Materials Engineering

Natascha Varona, Ph.D. in Biology

Nima Khodadadi, Ph.D. in Civil Engineering

Paola Manara, Ph.D. in Cancer Biology

Rachel Northrop, Ph.D. in English

Riley Fortier, Ph.D. in Biology

Saung Ya Tu, Master of Architecture

Shubham Sinha, Ph.D. in Physics

Sofiane Amroun, Ph.D. in Civil Engineering

Tommy Tsai, Ph.D. in Psychology

Xiru Pan, Ph.D. in Business

Yi-Chun (Sarah) Tsai, D.M.A. in Voical Performance and Pedagogy

Zixiao Yang, Ph.D. in Communication

OUTSTANDING GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT AWARD

This award recognizes a graduate student for enhancing education at the University. The award winner would have demonstrated superior effectiveness or innovation in teaching while serving as an instructor or teaching assistant in a classroom, laboratory, studio or another setting, as well as demonstrated interest in professional development as a teacher.

Aleksandar Bahat, Ph.D. in Mathematics

Amanda Belanger, Ph.D. in Psychology

Francisco Cardozo, Ph.D. in Prevention Science and Community Health

Indigo Knecht, D.M.A. in Composition

Javi Irarrazaval, Master of Media Management

Karissa Coady, Ph.D. in Community Well-Being

Leonardo Schultz Araujo, Ph.D. in Mathematics

Mateus Barreto Gondim, Ph.D. in Mathematics

Mohamed Ghoneim, Ph.D. in Mathematics

Nerissa Rebagay, Ph.D. in Music Education

Nona Kiknadze, Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology

Sarah Schuyler, Master of Public Health

FACULTY MENTOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

This award recognizes a faculty member who has shown tremendous commitment to mentoring, advising, and supporting graduate student advisees during the academic year. A faculty member who has made distinctive efforts in mentoring and advising graduate students to 1) become professionals in their field, 2) shape the graduate work of a graduate student, or 3) provide exceptional personal support and development to a graduate student.

Alex Piquero, Sociology and Criminology

Amanda Jensen-Doss, Psychology

Batya Elbaum, Teaching and Learning

Cynthia Lebron, Nursing

Cynthia Silveira, Biology

Dafnis Prieto, Studio Music and Jazz

Dante Luciani, Studio Music and Jazz

Dorothy Hindman, Music Composition

Doug Lehmann, Management Science

Ian Scharf, Marketing

Jennifer Krawec, Teaching and Learning

Joaquin Jimenez, Dermatology and Cutaneous Surgery

Karina Gattamorta, Nursing

Ken Feeley, Biology

Laura Kohn Wood, Educational and Psychological Studies

Michal Toborek, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Nina Huang, Business Technology

Roger McIntosh, Psychology

Shigui Ruan, Mathematics

Sophie Muller-Bryson, Strategic Communication

Spencer Evans, Psychology

Stephen Cerrone, Management

Tracy Devine Guzmán, Modern Languages and Literatures

Uzma Khan, Marketing

WayWay Hlaing, Public Health Sciences

OUTSTANDING GRADUATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

This award recognizes a Graduate Program Director (GPD) who has made a significant impact on graduate education, and/or in support of graduate students in their program during the academic year. The outstanding GPD may have made innovations and/or contributions to enhance curriculum, programming, recruitment, retention, or placement.

Amie Nielsen, Sociology

Cali Curley, Public Administration and Public Policy

Cassandra Gaston, Atmospheric Sciences

Dan Medina, Accountancy

Jill Ehrenreich-May, Psychology

Landolf Rhode-Barbarigos, Civil Engineering

Richard Rotundo, Molecular Cell and Developmental Biology

Roland Romeiser, Ocean Sciences

Sheyum Syed, Physics

PROGRAM

5:00 p.m.	Award Ceremony Begins
5:15 p.m.	Special Recognitions Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees Teaching Academy Fellows and Mentors
5:30 p.m.	Presentation of Awards Graduate Student Exemplar Graduate Student Inclusive Excellence Outstanding Graduate Research or Scholarship Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Faculty Mentor of the Year Outstanding Graduate Program Director
6:30 p.m.	Reception Begins
7:00 p.m.	Reception Concludes