



UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI
GRADUATE SCHOOL

ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY

April 14, 2023
5:00 P.M.

Lakeside Village Expo Center

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

BOUCHET GRADUATE HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTEES 2023

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 diversity and excellence in doctoral education and the professoriate.

Lamis Amer, Ph.D. in Industrial Engineering

Caroline Velez, Ph.D. in Chemistry

Roberto Roman Laporte, Ph.D. in Nursing Science

Christian McDonald, Ph.D. in Microbiology and Immunology

BreAnne Young, Ph.D. in Prevention Science and Community Health

TEACHING ACADEMY FELLOWS 2022-2023

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

Lamis Amer, Ph.D. in Industrial Engineering
Mentored by Vincent Omachonu

Mahbub Buyan, Ph.D. in Sociology and Criminology
Mentored by Amie Nielsen

Francisco Cardozo, Ph.D. in Prevention Science and Community Health
Mentored by Eric Brown

Kevin Peter Cunningham, Postdoctoral Associate in Physiology and Biophysics
Mentored by Peter Larsson

Samir Elmira, Postdoctoral Associate in Civil and Environmental Engineering
Mentored by Helena Solo-Gabriele

Kesha Grayson, Ed.D. in Higher Education Leadership
Mentored by Willis Jones

Zahid Hussain, Ph.D. in Civil Engineering
Mentored by James Giancaspro

Rafael Leite, Ph.D. in Psychology
Mentored by Elizabeth Simpson

Tiffany Leung, Ph.D. in Psychology
Mentored by Elizabeth Simpson

Kenji Lota, Ph.D. in Philosophy
Mentored by Simon Evnine

Nina Jean-Louis, Ph.D. in Civil Engineering
Mentored by Derin Ural

Austin Perry, Ph.D. in Civil Engineering
Mentored by Esber Andiroglu

Savannah Saavedra, Ph.D. in Literary, Cultural, and Linguistic Studies
Mentored by Andrew Lynch

Lei Sun, Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology
Mentored by Debbiesiu Lee

Katherine Villa, Ph.D. in Philosophy
Mentored by Maria Aleksandra Hernandez

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.

Anna Bianchi, Ph.D. in Cancer Biology

Sana Chaudhry, Ph.D. in Cancer Biology

Wendy Chen Gunther, Ph.D. in Music Education

Kevin Day, D.M.A. in Composition

Zach Goodman, Ph.D. in Psychology

Oswaldo Guio, Ph.D. in Chemistry

Nima Khodadadi, Ph.D. in Civil Engineering

Alyssa Kullberg, Ph.D. in Biology

Chang Li, M.P.S. Urban Sustainability and Resilience

Skye Montoya, Ph.D. in Cancer Biology

Conor Moran, M.D./Ph.D. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

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

Molly Ream, Ph.D. in Psychology

Giulia Ripani, Ph.D. in Music Education

Feiran Xu, Ph.D. in Industrial Engineering

Yihang Xu, Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering

Abdurrahman Yavuz, Ph.D. in Industrial Engineering

Chenguang Zhao, Ph.D. in Computer Science

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 other settings, as well as demonstrated interest in professional development as a teacher.

Amanda Belanger, Ph.D. in Psychology

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

Casey Dickey, D.M.A. in Jazz Composition

Sam Johnson, Ph.D. in Literary, Cultural, and Linguistic Studies

Sergio Lemus Orellana, Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering

David Vess, D.M.A. in Composition

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.

Daniela Galofre, M.S. in Health Management and Policy

Hunter Howell, Ph.D. in Biology

Jillian Murphy, M.A. in Public Relations

Daniel Samano Martin del Campo, M.S. in Climate and Health

Ryne Siesky, D.M.A. in Music Composition

Yasukiyo Sugimoto, Ph.D. in Sociology

Jordan Wright, Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering

GRADUATE STUDENT DIVERSITY ADVOCATE AWARD

This award recognizes a graduate student who has demonstrated a strong commitment and made outstanding contributions to the advancement of diversity, equity, and inclusion at the University.

Salman Ahmad, Ph.D. in Psychology

Livia de Moraes, Ph.D. in Music Education

Stephanie Frosch, Ph.D. in Community Well-Being

Nima Khodadadi, Ph.D. in Civil Engineering

Yasamin Rezaei, Ph.D. in Literary, Cultural, and Linguistic Studies

Temitope Runsewe, Ph.D. in Industrial Engineering

Ryne Siesky, D.M.A. in Music Composition

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

Olga Tserej Vazquez, Ph.D. in Biology

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.

Beth Babcock, Marine Biology and Ecology

Zhibin Chen, Microbiology and Immunology

Nam Ju Kim, Applied Learning Sciences

Doug Lehmann, Business Analytics

Greta Mitzova-Vladinov, Nursing Practice

Stephen Zdzinski, Music Education

FACULTY MENTOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

This award recognizes a graduate 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.

Carlos Abril, Music Education and Music Therapy

Tyler Bartholomew, Public Health Sciences

Marcia Beck, Political Science

Melvin Butler, Musicology

Don Coffman, Music Education and Music Therapy

Sannisha Dale, Psychology

Matt Deroo, Teaching and Learning

Nikki Gonzaga Gomez, Nursing and Health Studies

Lenny Gravier, Accounting

Stephen Guerra, Studio Music and Jazz

Josh Hare, Medicine

Mariano Kanamori, Public Health Sciences

Yui Matsuda, Nursing and Health Studies

Hudson Santos, Nursing and Health Studies

Meryl Shriver-Rice, Anthropology

Bobby Starke, Neurological Surgery

Justin Taylor, Medicine

Michal Toberek, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Nikki Traylor-Knowles, Marine Biology and Ecology

PROGRAM

- 5:00 p.m. Reception Begins
- 6:00 p.m. Special Recognitions
Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees
Teaching Academy Fellows and Mentors
- 6:15 p.m. Presentation of Awards
Outstanding Graduate Research or Scholarship
Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant
Graduate Student Exemplar
Graduate Student Diversity Advocate
Outstanding Graduate Program Director
Faculty Mentor of the Year
- 6:45 p.m. Presentation of Certificates
- 7:00 p.m. Reception Concludes