



# *Commencement*

DECEMBER 2023



Missouri School of Journalism  
University of Missouri

# PROGRAM

## **PROCESSIONAL**

### **OPENING REMARKS**

Lynda Kraxberger, associate dean for Undergraduate Studies

### **PLAYING OF THE NATIONAL ANTHEM**

### **MASTER OF CEREMONIES**

Jaclyn Harris, senior, Strategic Communication

### **PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS**

Mun Y Choi, president, University of Missouri

### **THOUGHTS OF THE CLASS OF 2023**

Bradford Siwak, senior, Journalism

### **COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS**

Karen Pensiero, BJ '85

### **KAPPA TAU ALPHA INITIATES**

Jeannette Porter, assistant professor

### **GLOBAL PROGRAMS RECOGNITION**

Fritz Cropp, associate dean for Global Programs

### **PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES**

Amy Simons, professor

#### ■ **GRADUATE STUDIES**

Earnest Perry, associate dean for Graduate Studies & Research

#### ■ **JOURNALISM PROFESSIONS**

Mark Horvit, professor and chair

#### ■ **STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION**

Jon Stemmle, professor and chair

### **REMARKS**

David Kurpius, dean, Missouri School of Journalism

### **CONFERRAL OF DEGREES**

Mun Y Choi, president, University of Missouri

## **RECESSIONAL**

### **PLAYING OF THE ALMA MATER**

*When today's program draws to a close, we ask that you remain in your seats until the platform party exits.*

# DECEMBER 2023 DEGREE CANDIDATES

## DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Tiffany Shenell Jones

## MASTER OF ARTS

Vivien Fanni Abraham <sup>1</sup>  
Amari Simonne Foster  
Michael Thomas Klevorn <sup>1</sup>  
Cody Alan Lillich  
Shannon Eileen Livick  
Valerie Cristine Nava <sup>1</sup>  
Tanishka R Poal  
Abbey Tauchen <sup>1</sup>  
Marisa Katherine Whitaker  
Madelyn Winfield  
Ekua Yorke

<sup>1</sup> *Kappa Tau Alpha Initiate*

<sup>2</sup> *Summa Cum Laude*

<sup>3</sup> *Magna Cum Laude*

<sup>4</sup> *Cum Laude*

<sup>5</sup> *Walter Williams Scholar*

## BACHELOR OF JOURNALISM

Alec Nadir Alaiwat  
Jamie Baker <sup>4</sup>  
Maelisha Nahlee Bocclair  
Quentin Alex Bradbury  
Bailey Nicole Brewer  
Rhianna Ellen Kay Brown <sup>3</sup>  
Elizabeth Blaire Burton  
Justin Bradley Craft  
Yihang Chris Duan <sup>3</sup>  
Jebidiah Hunter Goldman  
Shane Alexander Gravlin  
Lianna Selene Johnson <sup>3</sup>  
Tyler Evan Kading  
Ethan James Kirchberg  
Jack Hamilton Laurie  
Ailing Li <sup>3</sup>  
Tia Marie Maggio  
Noah Marker  
Cora Isabel Mitchell  
Marjai Imanirose Neal  
Brock Alec Nelson <sup>4</sup>  
Trenton Pueppke  
Colin Rhoads  
David Nathaniel Sanchez <sup>5</sup>  
Michael Michelle Sapp  
Richard Michael Schodl <sup>3</sup>  
Joseph Edward Shimanek, III <sup>4</sup>  
Joshua Robert Shuman <sup>1,2</sup>  
Alexis Leone Simmerman <sup>3</sup>  
Bradford L. Siwak <sup>1,2,5</sup>  
Jae Sun Suh <sup>4</sup>  
Pei Zi Tan <sup>4</sup>  
Samantha Jacey Walker <sup>1,2</sup>  
Nicholas William Charles  
Winkelman <sup>2,5</sup>  
Molly Kay Wright <sup>4,5</sup>  
Yiteng Zhang

## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION

David Amirdjanian  
Alexandra Margaret Arand <sup>4</sup>  
Jared S Barnett <sup>2</sup>  
Brooke Elizabeth Beaty <sup>4</sup>  
Aaron Robert Black  
Burke Kenneth Bryan <sup>4</sup>  
Mike Capalungan  
Alexis Marie Daigle <sup>4</sup>  
Carson Quinn Dillick  
Brenna Kaitlyn Donnelly <sup>4,5</sup>  
John Thomas Dunn  
Ashley Paige Faber <sup>4,5</sup>  
Tessa Nicole Fogelberg <sup>4</sup>  
Jaclyn Paige Harris <sup>1,2,5</sup>  
Amanda Rose Hofman  
Thomas Matthew Jamison <sup>1,2,5</sup>  
Aidan M Johnson <sup>4</sup>  
Yuxi Lei  
Katherine Lickert  
Jacob Hardin Mallard <sup>4</sup>  
Kristian L Morrow  
Matthew G Natole  
Jade Elizabeth Parker <sup>4</sup>  
Anna N Poppe <sup>3</sup>  
Lauren Anne Reynolds  
Olivia Leigh Reynolds  
Macy Sample  
Sarah Chapman Tierney <sup>5</sup>  
Emilia C. Trippeer  
Jack Trusler  
Elise Julia Vahle <sup>3</sup>  
Benjamin A. Walker  
Paige K Weckherlin <sup>1,2</sup>  
Katherine Weyland  
Jordan Askari Winn  
Savannah Rose Singletary  
Mitchell Braden Smith  
Reagan Kathleen Van Eaton  
Elle AnnMarie Wilkinson  
Tommy John Wolfe  
Renee Jung-Woo Yoon



**KAREN MILLER PENSIERO**  
BJ '85

## ALUMNA SPEAKER

Karen Miller Pensiero, a 1985 graduate of the University of Missouri School of Journalism, is a veteran news leader who has spent much of her career focused on upholding journalism standards and ethics.

Pensiero worked for over 38 years at The Wall Street Journal, which she left in February after more than five years as managing editor. In that role, she was responsible for hiring, training, the budget, culture and support of the Journal's more than 1,300 journalists in over 60 bureaus around the globe. From 2004 until 2017, she focused on working closely with journalists throughout the reporting process, "final reading" the hardest-hitting Journal articles, and teaching and weighing issues of standards, ethics and fairness globally.

Prior to that, she held a variety of positions throughout the Journal and its parent company, Dow Jones, including managing editor/international, overseeing the editing of the Journal's Asian and European editions; Money & Markets editor of The Wall Street Journal Europe; director of corporate communications for Dow Jones; and director of Dow Jones Interactive Publishing International.

Currently, she is advising and working with New York University's new Ethics & Journalism Initiative and is on a launch committee working group for the Maine Trust for Local News.

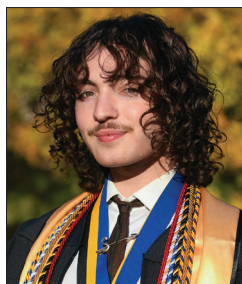
Pensiero serves on the boards of the Missourian Publishing Association, the Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism CUNY Foundation in New York City and the Dow Jones News Fund. She has served as a juror for the Pulitzer Prize and the Ancil Payne Award for Ethics in Journalism. Pensiero was also a member of the Dow Jones Foundation Board and of the advisory board of The Press Forward, an organization formed in the wake of the #MeToo movement that was dedicated to safe, fair and sustainable media work environments.



**JACLYN HARRIS**

## MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Jaclyn Harris is a Walter Williams Scholar and a Chergn Scholar graduating with a degree in journalism with emphasis in strategic communication. Jaclyn is currently serving as the lead researcher and copywriter on her AdZou capstone team, which has spent the semester crafting a fully integrated campaign for a real-world client. Last spring, she took part in the Missouri School of Journalism's Washington Program, where she worked as a communications intern for the United States Department of Commerce. She has also worked at KOMU-TV, served as co-president of the Women in Media Club, participated in Greek life as a member of Delta Gamma and more. Jaclyn would like to thank her incredible network of family, especially her mom and dad, friends, professors, and mentors who have supported her through this journey.



**BRADFORD SIWAK**

## STUDENT SPEAKER

Bradford Siwak is a Walter Williams Scholar and a Senator Wayne Goode Scholar graduating with degrees in journalism and sociology, minors in French and Film Studies, and Honors and Multicultural certificates. His capstone documentary for the School's Jonathan B. Murray Center for Documentary Journalism, West, won the 2023 Stacey Woelfel Award for Innovative Journalism at the School's Stronger than Fiction Film Festival and will screen at the 2024 First Look Film Festival at the Museum of the Moving Image. Bradford has also worked as an editorial assistant for Vox Magazine and a staff photographer/videographer for the Columbia Missourian. Bradford would like to thank his support network of friends and family and honor the intellectual legacies of innumerable professors from various departments who worked incessantly to instill curiosity, creative problem-solving skills, and a penchant for centering ethical considerations in their students.