



Commencement

DECEMBER 2024



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

Adam Busack, senior

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Mun Y Choi, president, University of Missouri

THOUGHTS OF THE CLASS OF 2024

Olivia Gyapong, senior

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Jamie Sohosky, BJ '93

KAPPA TAU ALPHA INITIATES

Jeannette Porter, assistant professor

GLOBAL PROGRAMS RECOGNITION

Fritz Cropp, associate dean

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

Amy Simons, professor

■ GRADUATE STUDIES

Earnest Perry, associate dean

■ 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

Robin Wenneker, curator, University of Missouri

PLAYING OF THE ALMA MATER

RECESSIONAL

When today's program draws to a close, we ask that guests remain seated. The platform party, faculty and students will recess down the aisle and out into the lobby. Once all the students have exited the auditorium, guests may begin exiting as well. Graduates may await guests in the lobby area.

DECEMBER 2024 DEGREE CANDIDATES

MASTER OF ARTS

Anna Grace Bonderer¹
Elias William Lundeen Hoff
Edwin Maiorca
Joy Angelica Mazur¹
Madalyn Murry
Deborah McClure Pastner¹
David Lynn Tallant Jr¹
Tanya Willmeth¹

BACHELOR OF JOURNALISM

Devon Christian-Anton Bidjou
Ezra Bitterman
Nathaniel Harrison Brown
Adam David Busack
Brandon A Curry
Vanina Lubomirova Dimitrova
Ryan Fleming
Kahleah Sanaa Gaither³
Jacob Grant
Olivia Grace Afia Gyapong^{1,2,5}
Aryana Hadjimohammadi²
Brandon Tyler Haynes²
Taylor Jordan Holmes⁴
Zoe Catherine Homan⁵
Anna Katherine Kochman^{2,5}
Evelyn Mary Christine Lewis²
Jaden Matthew Everett Lewis
Jamie Maron
Dmitry Martirosov³
Imane Elisabeth Messahel Grimault⁴
Afshan Musani³
Erin Leigh O'Connell
Halle Grace Paulus³
Margaret Rose Pollard
Shirin Rekabdar-Xavier
Jacob Allen Richey^{2,5}
Olivia Nicole Rodriguez
Joshua Cole Stotler
Natalie-Elizabeth Tan⁴

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION

Breanne KaMae Chamley^{1,2}
Meredith Brynn Chavez
Liam Edward Curtin
Kiara Jenae' Davis
Sydney Claire Dixon²
Konstandina Kaliopi Dronjak
Emma Riley Duncan⁴
Claudia Anne Hagen^{1,2}
Katherine Reiley Heinrich
Jake James Hipsher⁴
Holly Kretschmer
Maggie Marie McCready^{1,2}
Caleb McDairmant³
Lauren Mundell
Harrison William Petty
Vivienne Marie Potter²
Joseph Clyde Quick
Cassidy Reaka^{2,5}
Caitlin Louise Reynolds^{1,2}
Caroline Knox Roche³
Emily Rutledge^{2,5}
Fiona Saliu
Christina Anne Sherman³
William Edmund Wehmer²
Austin Joseph Williams^{2,5}

¹ *Kappa Tau Alpha Initiate*

² *Summa Cum Laude*

³ *Magna Cum Laude*

⁴ *Cum Laude*

⁵ *Walter Williams Scholar*



JAMIE SOHOSKY
BJ '93

ALUMNA SPEAKER

Jamie Sohosky, BJ '93, serves as the Chief Marketing Officer for Bath & Body Works, having joined the business in 2021. With nearly 25 years of global marketing experience, Sohosky leads the marketing team, leveraging customer insights across channels to accelerate business growth and differentiate the brand's customer experience in the marketplace. She has led Bath & Body Works into a new era of customer segmentation, launching the loyalty program as well as a successful Netflix partnership which resulted in unique product collaborations with Bridgerton and Stranger Things.

Prior to joining Bath & Body Works, Sohosky served as Chief Marketing Officer for Bass Pro Group and was a marketing executive at Bed Bath & Beyond, where she led the brand's marketing transformation. Adding to her significant retail experience, Sohosky was a marketing leader at Walmart for over 12 years. There, she focused on strategy and brand positioning in the U.S. market and led Walmart's digital expansion into online grocery pickup and delivery services. While at Walmart, she also led Marketing & Media at Asda in the UK and led the buildout of the international marketing team for India. Sohosky also spent eight years with the Campbell Soup Company in the UK and started her career at advertising agencies supporting global brands like Nike, Jim Beam, and Tropicana.



ADAM BUSACK

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

The master of ceremonies will be Adam Busack. Raised in Denver, Busack is heavily involved in campus radio station KCOU 88.1 FM, where he served as assistant General Manager for the 2023-24 academic year.

Busack was the 2024 recipient of the Becky Diehl Award for Outstanding Leadership in Mizzou Student Media, KCOU's umbrella organization, for his efforts in the station. He currently covers the Missouri football program for the School's Missouri News Network's community paper, the Columbia Missourian, and he enjoys traveling, cooking and long walks on the beach.

Busack is graduating with a Bachelor of Journalism degree with a concentration in reporting and writing.



OLIVIA GYAPONG

STUDENT SPEAKER

Olivia Gyapong will present the "Thoughts of the Class." Originally from Silver Spring, Maryland, she is a Stamps and Walter Williams Scholar at Mizzou.

On campus, Gyapong has been active in the National Association of Black Journalists student chapter. She has also participated in student and professional publications on campus and has been involved in undergraduate research.

Gyapong has interned with WAMU 88.5 and the DCist, the Arizona Republic, and Bloomberg Industry Group. During her study abroad semester in Brussels, Belgium, she interned with EU politics and policy outlet Euractiv. She also attended the 2023 POLITICO Summer Journalism Institute.

Gyapong is graduating with a Bachelor of Journalism degree with a concentration in reporting and writing, as well as a degree in political science. After graduation, Gyapong will be returning to the D.C. area to work as a policy analyst at a government relations firm.