



Commencement

MAY 2025



Missouri School of Journalism
University of Missouri

PROGRAM

PROCESSIONAL

Columbia Community Band

OPENING REMARKS

Lynda Kraxberger, associate dean for Undergraduate Studies

PLAYING OF THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

Columbia Community Band

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Aidan O'Connor, senior, Journalism

THOUGHTS OF THE CLASS OF 2025

Amber Clay, senior, Strategic Communication

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Nischelle Turner, BJ '98

KAPPA TAU ALPHA INITIATES

Jeannette Porter, assistant professor

GLOBAL PROGRAMS RECOGNITION

Fritz Cropp, associate dean

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

Sebastián Martínez Valdivia, assistant professor

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

Matthew Martens, Provost, University of Missouri

PLAYING OF THE ALMA MATER

RECESSIONAL

Columbia Community Band

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

ALUMNA SPEAKER



NISCHELLE TURNER
BJ '98

Nischelle Turner, BJ '98, is co-host of the nine-time Emmy Award-winning newsmagazine “Entertainment Tonight,” having joined the program as a correspondent in 2014 and named co-host in 2021. She has won eight Emmy Awards with “ET,” including the first-ever Daytime Personality-Daily Emmy in 2024 alongside the rest of the on-air talent team. In addition, she often lends her voice to entertainment and political news shows, along with joining coverage on the Grammys, Golden Globes and Oscars. She was previously a contributor for CNN where she is featured in entertainment segments on “CNN Newsroom,” “New Day” and “CNN Tonight.”

As an avid sports fan, Turner’s passion and knowledge came in handy when she joined “Fox NFL Sunday” as a sideline reporter for national football broadcasts in 2007. She has also covered Major League Baseball and basketball for Fox. In 2009, Turner hosted “Extra on Essence,” an online entertainment show focusing on Hollywood’s most elite stars. Turner also has served as a freelance reporter and host for KNBC.

STUDENT SPEAKER



AMBER CLAY

Amber Clay is from Atlanta, Georgia, and is graduating with a bachelor’s degree in journalism with an emphasis in strategic communication. During her time at Mizzou, she served as PR and Treasurer for the Association of Women in Sports Media, Mentorship Chair for the National Association of Black Journalists, and was a David Novak Leadership Institute Scholar. She is also a proud member of the Delta Tau chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. Through these experiences, she discovered her passion for storytelling, leadership and building community.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES



AIDAN O’CONNOR

Aidan O’Connor came to the University of Missouri from the South Side of Chicago and is graduating with a bachelor’s degree in journalism. Aidan has worked in both news and sports at KOMU 8 and appreciates the advice and mentoring everyone in the newsroom has given him these past years. He also worked at KCOU 88.1 and KTGR ESPN Radio Network and is thankful for all the opportunities he had during his time at Mizzou. He credits his friends and professors but, most importantly, his family for always supporting him in every endeavor.

MAY 2025 DEGREE CANDIDATES

¹ Kappa Tau Alpha Initiate

² Summa Cum Laude

³ Magna Cum Laude

⁴ Cum Laude

⁵ Walter Williams Scholar

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Boitshepo Balozwi ¹

Arthur Bremer ¹

Yoorim Hong

Justin F. Willett

Tianting Zhang ¹

MASTER OF ARTS

Micah Renee Barnes

Bailey Elizabeth Becker

Sydney Ann Boeger ¹

Scott Andrew Brinton

Nakylah Carter

Yung Yi Chou

Amelia Gabrielle Cornelius-Hurley

Kailan Dixon

Lauren Patrice Elliott

Rain Peña Embuscado

Laura Evans

Ansley Marie Franco

Elizabeth Frysztak ¹

Libby Rose Gregurich

Ella Jane Haas

Cherise Gabrielle Halsall

Savannah Marie Henderson ¹

Sherae Ann Honeycutt ¹

Colin Imhoff

Daiyi Jiang

Elviira Fanni Matilda Junnila ¹

Gianna Alexandra Lapasso

Erica Renée Little

Skye Meredith Lucas

Jacob Daniel Luebbert

Sofia Grace Lynch ¹

Mia Jean Montgomery

Grace Ellen Noble

Chioma Chinodebem Emmanuella

Obianinwa

Nikita Ponomarenko

Heather Riske

Christina Salonikas

Madeline Erika Shannon

Leor Shomroni

Bradford Siwak

Audrey Stanard

Eric Stann

Lucretius Delray Stephens Jr

Oanh Tran

Elizabeth Paige Marie Trower

Anna Elizabeth Watson

Hana Yun

Xiaoyi Zhang

Zhiting Zhang

Benjamin Frederick Even Zweig ¹

BACHELOR OF JOURNALISM

Kaleb Alston Anderson

Nicole Beth Baerson³

Sam Farmer Barrett

James Patrick Baxley-Cross

Mary McCue Bell³

Devon Christian-Anton Bidjou

Aspen Christine-Kai

Bilton-Gregoire³

Ryan David Blakely⁴

Trevon Ronald Leon Bobo

Madelyn Grace Bonkoski^{4, 5}

Emily Porter Boyett^{2, 5}

TaMya Mi'Shaun Bracy

Graham Anderson Braunstein^{4, 5}

Taylor Brooks

Grace Daneen Burwell^{3, 5}

Adam David Busack

Jack Alan Butchart

Elijah Kidd Camner

Reece Allen Candler³

Muyang Cao^{1, 2}

Elizabeth Lee Carlson^{2, 5}

Lily Carroll

Levi Alan Case

Kate Cassady

Bethany Camille Cates⁴

Noa Cheng Wei Chen

Kennedy Kiichi Choo

Caleigh Joy Christy^{3, 5}

Catherine Cobble

Anna Colletto^{3, 5}

Alyssa Elaine Counts²

Alex Cox

Molly Marie Coy

Haven Dager

Brianna Mechelle Davis⁴

Ethan Howard Davis⁴

Brayden Adam Day

Elizabeth K Derner^{3, 5}

Maxwell Vincent Nduka Dike^{4, 5}

McCormick Doolittle

Sophia Irene Douglas⁵

Kasey Dunnivant³

Christian Riley Dutcher ^{4, 5}

Chris Farbolin

Emma Flannery⁴

Nicole Foeller

Jonah Ben Foster

Yi Gao^{1, 2}

Sarah Gassel^{1, 2, 5}

Kyle Christopher Gerding⁴

Paige Judith Gerling²

Emma Rae Millie Gerwen⁴

Prajukta Ghosh

Taylor Elizabeth Gilmore

Nicholas Joseph Ginter
 Magdalene Angelina Girardi²
 Thomas Gleason²
 Madelyn Loren Gonzales⁴
 Sarah Elizabeth Goodson⁴
 Lauren Michelle Green
 Royce Griffin II
 Avery Grosvenor
 Adeleine Dear Halsey^{2, 5}
 Kylee Marie Hansen
 Siobhan Harms⁴
 Mikayla Danielle Higgins^{4, 5}
 Ryleigh Hindle^{2, 5}
 Austin Hoagland
 Evan Wallace Holden⁴
 Ella Marie Holt²
 Aleigha Janai Hornaday
 Katherine Rose Johnson^{1, 2}
 Lucas Johnson
 Monica Clarisse Johnson
 Robert Allen Kent III^{1, 2}
 Sarah Corinne Kiefer²
 Eliana Joy Kinzer
 Naomi M. Klein
 Ashlee Klotzbuecher⁴
 Sophia Koch
 Benjamin Koelkebeck⁴
 Cameron Koffel
 Gabriella Renee Lacey
 Kalyn Simone Laire
 Abigail Ann Landwehr
 Caroline Michelle Larson⁴
 Wuraola Layiwola
 Cole Brent Lee
 Jonathon Anthony Lieber
 Xander Andrew Lundblad
 Olivia Lynn Mahl
 Olivia Ruth Maillet
 Kyle David Maki
 Rilee Katharine Malloy⁴
 Jamie Maron
 John Martin⁴
 Elena Marie Mathews
 Joseph John Measer⁴
 Stephanie Meininger
 Peter Metanchuk
 Lillian Metzmeier³
 Caden Joseph Michaels
 Anna Maria Mikolajczak
 Benjamin Edward Miller
 Olivia Caitlin Mizelle^{3, 5}
 Zachary Morrison
 Dina Louise Murray
 Olivia Margaret Meilleur Myska
 Elise Renee Newman⁴
 Averi Norris

Wyatt Nun⁴
 Aidan James O'Connor
 Joseph Olberding⁴
 Maya Isey Oleff
 Ava Elise Orr⁴
 Carrington Leigh Peavy
 Kyla Pehr³
 Cara Erin Penquite⁵
 Ashlynn Perez⁵
 Jocelyn Ann Peshia²
 Aidan Patrick Pittman³
 Grayson David Pitts
 Abigail Ramirez³
 Katherine Ramseyer³
 Noah Rees
 Lauryn Nicole Rhodes
 Madisyn Rix³
 Isabella Victoria Roberts
 Tadeo Ruiz Sandoval⁴
 Yasmeen Emilie Saadi^{1, 2, 5}
 Anna Paige Sago^{1, 2, 5}
 Grant Michael Salsman⁴
 Andrew Sax
 Sophia Alina Scheller
 Seth Schwartzberg
 Jessica Leigh Scowcroft⁴
 Garrett Kirk Sheets
 Savannah Rae Sleevar^{1, 2, 5}
 William Garrison Sloan⁵
 Reade Snelling
 Natalie-Elizabeth Tan⁴
 Andrew Charles Theobald²
 Abigail Thronson^{1, 2, 5}
 Riley Joseph Trapp
 Maggie Turner^{1, 2, 5}
 Kevin George Utz^{3, 5}
 Lucy Valeski⁴
 Sarah Elizabeth Voyles
 Hunter Max Walterman⁴
 Egan Ward^{4, 5}
 Jack Garrett Wardynski⁴
 Mayci Alana Wilderman²
 Elise Mabel Wilke-Grimm⁴
 Lydia Williams⁵
 Elena Janelle Wilson^{2, 5}
 Stephen Davis Wilson
 Yinan Wu²
 Jiaqi Zhao³
 Abigail Jane Zorn

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION

Lochlyn Grace Adrian³
 Megan Jean Allen
 Taylor Anne Altergott
 Graham Ambrose⁴
 Maya Anand^{4, 5}
 Anna Emelia Bain³
 Jie Bao⁴
 Alexandra Danielle Barnhart²
 Annie Bartosch
 Jaden Paul Baumel⁴
 Paige Bierman^{1, 2}
 Katie Blades
 Patrick Clayton Blair
 Samantha Nicole Bowlin
 Quinn Thomas Brage
 Gordon Louis Brode^{3, 5}
 Leah Elizabeth Brokaw
 Emma Renee Bruegenhemke
 Emily Grace Bryant
 Jenna Burk
 Gabriella Anne Caponecchi
 Tatum Rylee Carroll
 Margaret Grace Chaffee
 Meredith Brynn Chavez
 Amber Briana Clay⁴
 Pauline Ashley Clayton
 Ever M Cole^{3, 5}
 Abigail L Collura²
 Catherine Grace Crayon⁴
 Kaitlyn Elizabeth Davis²
 Alexa Rose DiBartolo⁵
 Ethan Timothy Dicken⁴
 Lauren Elisabeth Dickerson
 Laura Rose Distefano³
 Lydia Kay Donaldson⁴
 Julia Hope Duffin⁴
 Anna Jean Duffy⁴
 Colin Doyle Duncan
 Mio Dykstra
 Gabriel Eames
 Rachel Lauren Eaton⁴
 Maya Echols-Albrecht
 Ethan James Eckroth
 Riley Ann Ehlermann
 Samuel Chad Ennis^{2, 5}
 Nyah Evans
 Blaise Fields⁴
 Ethan Andrew Figert
 Ella Christine Fixsen^{4, 5}
 Kate Margaret Formhals²
 Camila Nicole Fowler
 Megan Fox
 Lily Judith Franck³
 Julia Anne Frankel^{1, 2}
 Cole Michael Freeman

Chenyu Fu^{1, 2}
Riley Diane Gearhart⁴
Haley Sharon Gebauer^{1, 2}
Madisyn Lee Gentry
Margaret Elise Gillam³
Jada Cheyenne Glass
Lauren Graham⁴
Emily Gray
Noah Joseph Grimsley^{3, 5}
Ava Dianne Grubb
Santiago Andres Guzman
Seth Goodman Hadlow^{4, 5}
Cecilia Grace Hagedorn²
Lilyann Sophia Hames^{1, 2, 5}
Alice Marie Hamilton³
Braelynn Maire Hampton
Thomas Christopher Hand
Amara Harper³
Melaina Harvey⁴
Grace Hedenberg^{1, 2, 5}
Phoebe Grace Hendon
Katherine Hengehold
Lilliana Faith Hernandez
Paige Makenzie Hobbs
Ella Katherine Hoene
Riley Abigail Hogan⁴
Avery Elyse Holton^{1, 2}
Laura Huckstep³
Zoe Elaine Hunziker
Jacob Ingersoll
Jack Calvin January
Emma Grace Johnson²
Jordyn Elizabeth Johnson
Nicholas Bailry Johnson
Abigail Melissa Kenninger⁴
Vincent Michael King
Abigail Klapatauskas^{1, 2, 5}
Grace Marie Kleffner
Logan McCulloch Lair⁴
Isabella Nicole Leal³
Megan Tovit Lederman³
Ava Elizabeth Lees⁴
Cole Preston Lemasters^{1, 2, 5}
Jessica Levitan
Jiawen Li
Michael Holland Linder
Fanbo Liu^{1, 2}
Mingzhe Liu⁴
Jacob Hartley Loggins^{4, 5}
Maya Kathryn Loy⁴
Samantha Magee⁴
Sophia Rosa Malecek⁴
Kathan Lake Touzinsky Mandal
Halle Katherine Mann⁴
Mia Elizabeth Marchiori⁴
Isabella Markel⁴

Cinthia Guadalupe Martinez-Cerna⁴
Margaret Ann McCloud⁴
Macy Melton⁴
Chloe Cate Mill
Kera Marie Mingus³
Andrew Robert Moenster
Piper Gabrielle Molins⁴
Kaitlyn Anne Morris
Liam Patrick Murphy
Leander Nefzger⁴
Owen McMahon Newland
Istahil Muse Ali Omar
Tess Alene Owens
Maggie Elizabeth Pelter²
Fei Peng^{1, 2}
Olivia R Plangger^{1, 2}
Adam Lee Present
Lauren Nicole Prestage
Grace Olivia Radke^{3, 5}
Charlotte Raley^{1, 2, 5}
James Michael Ranes
Emma Marie Ries⁴
Greta Ripperda²
Ashlynn Roberts³
Matthew Vincent Rogers
Jared Rubenstein^{2, 5}
Zoe Skye Savat³
Noah James Schmitz
Savannah Grace Schorey
Caroline Susanne Schultz^{3, 5}
Lorraina Marie Scolaro^{1, 2, 5}
Mark Liam Francis Scott
Anna Kathryn Sha^{y3}
William Greenough Thayer Shedd²
Xiaoyue Shi²
Lola Grace Shipman³
Victoria Sylvania Shore^{4, 5}
Alex Shrader²
Raena Sinclair
Jordan McKenzie Smith⁴
Audrey Mae Snyder
Emma Stefanutti
Alexis Paige Sterling^{3, 5}
Gabriel Grahame Stern⁴
Lainey Isabel Stevens⁴
Anna Elizabeth Stoll⁴
Audrey Katherine Stowe²
Lucas Gabriel Stowe
Caitlin Sullivan⁴
Sarah Sullivan⁴
Wenjing Sun^{1, 2}
Matthew J Surmaczewicz
Skylar Svendsen³
Katie Swanson²
Luke Garrett Swofford⁴
Xiaoran Tang³

Xiangan Tao⁴
Brooklynn Taylor²
Sydney Marie Telander²
Mollie R Unes³
Delaney Leigh Van Buren
Matthew Walther
Victoria Watson³
Emily Elizabeth Wilson^{2, 5}
Fiona Kathleen Wilton^{4, 5}
Claire Winningham²
Reagan Anna Witkowski
Ethan Wons³
Giana Victoria Woodfolk^{1, 2, 5}
Annie Josephine Woodson
Weixuan Zhou³
Sophia Marie Zimmerman

THE JOURNALIST'S CREED

I believe in the profession of journalism.

I believe that the public journal is a public trust; that all connected with it are, to the full measure of their responsibility, trustees for the public; that acceptance of a lesser service than the public service is betrayal of this trust.

I believe that clear thinking and clear statement, accuracy and fairness are fundamental to good journalism.

I believe that a journalist should write only what he holds in his heart to be true.

I believe that suppression of the news, for any consideration other than the welfare of society, is indefensible.

I believe that no one should write as a journalist what he would not say as a gentleman; that bribery by one's own pocketbook is as much to be avoided as bribery by the pocketbook of another; that individual responsibility may not be escaped by pleading another's instructions or another's dividends.

I believe that advertising, news and editorial columns should alike serve the best interests of readers; that a single standard of helpful truth and cleanness should prevail for all; that the supreme test of good journalism is the measure of its public service.

I believe that the journalism which succeeds best—and best deserves success—fears God and honors Man; is stoutly independent, unmoved by pride of opinion or greed of power, constructive, tolerant but never careless, self-controlled, patient, always respectful of its readers but always unafraid; is quickly indignant at injustice; is unswayed by the appeal of privilege or the clamor of the mob; seeks to give every man a chance and, as far as law and honest wage and recognition of human brotherhood can make it so, an equal chance; is profoundly patriotic while sincerely promoting international good will and cementing world-comradeship; is a journalism of humanity, of and for today's world.



The Journalist's Creed was written by the first dean of the Missouri School of Journalism, Walter Williams. More than a century later, his declaration remains one of the clearest statements of the principles, values and standards of journalists throughout the world. Plaques bearing the creed are on display at the School, the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. (since 1958), and many other locations around the world.



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