



Commencement

MAY 2026



Missouri School of Journalism
University of Missouri

PROGRAM

PROCESSIONAL

Columbia Community Band

OPENING REMARKS

Lynda Kraxberger, associate dean for undergraduate studies
and administration

PLAYING OF THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

Columbia Community Band

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Aiyana Massie

THOUGHTS OF THE CLASS OF 2026

Kaiya Lynch

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Chase Davis, BJ '06

KAPPA TAU ALPHA INITIATES

Jeannette Porter, assistant professor

GLOBAL PROGRAMS RECOGNITION

Fritz Cropp, associate dean for global programs

HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT

Barbara Stubbs Cochran

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

Sebastián Martínez Valdivia, associate professor

Amy Simons, professor

■ **GRADUATE STUDIES**

Keith Greenwood, associate professor and chair

■ **JOURNALISM PROFESSIONS**

Mark Horvit, professor and chair

■ **STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION**

Frank Corridori, professor

REMARKS

Earnest Perry, associate dean for graduate studies and research

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

Matthew Martens, provost

PLAYING OF THE ALMA MATER

RECESSIONAL

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

HONORARY GRADUATE



BARBARA STUBBS COCHRAN

Barbara Stubbs Cochran is an award-winning journalist whose career has included top jobs in the print, broadcast and nonprofit worlds.

Cochran is currently president of the Fallen Journalists Memorial Foundation, which is working to build a monument in Washington, D.C., to honor journalists who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

Cochran served nine years as the Missouri School of Journalism's Curtis B. Hurley Chair in Public Affairs Journalism and directed the school's Washington program, which brings students to the nation's capital for hands-on learning. At Mizzou, Cochran also worked with the Donald W. Reynolds Journalism Institute and the Committee of Concerned Journalists in Washington to continuously improve the practice of journalism through research, consulting and training.

Cochran previously spent 12 years as president of the Radio Television Digital News Association (RTDNA), where she championed First Amendment rights and journalism ethics. During her tenure there, RTDNA received the Missouri Honor Medal for Distinguished Service in Journalism.

Cochran began her journalism career as a copy desk trainee and rose to become managing editor of the Washington Star newspaper. She then served as vice president for news at National Public Radio, where she directed the creation of NPR's Morning Edition.

Cochran later transitioned to television, becoming executive producer of NBC's Meet the Press before serving as vice president and Washington bureau chief of CBS News as the first woman to head a network bureau in Washington. Over the course of her career, she supervised coverage of major international stories including Watergate and the Persian Gulf War and played a leading role in the coverage of every election and political convention for 24 years.

Cochran has been recognized with numerous awards including The Media Institute's Freedom of Speech Award, The AWC Matrix Foundation's International Award for Lifetime Achievement, the Library of American Broadcasting's Giants of Broadcasting Award, the Radio Television Digital News Association's First Amendment Award and two DuPont-Columbia Awards.

She has served as a judge for the DuPont-Columbia, George Foster Peabody and Hearst Collegiate Journalism Awards. She's been a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the Accrediting Council for Education in Journalism and Mass Communications.

Cochran has a bachelor's degree from Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania and a master's degree from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism in New York.

MAY 2026 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

Lea-Ann Germinder
Xin Qi Humphreville
Nguyen Hong Vy Luong¹
Zivile Raskauskaite¹
Teodora Galinova Trifonova¹

MASTER OF ARTS

Olamilekan Olanrewaju Anifowoshe
Gregory Russell Bray
Daniel Patrick Carr
Ever Mae Cole
Lonyae D Coulter
Quyên Minh Dang¹
Brianna Mechelle Davis
Ethan Howard Davis
Brendan Joseph
DeLuca-Rodenberg
Anna Jean Duffy
Ryan Michael Duffy
Atira Isabela Feliciano
Kiana Raine Fernandes
Ashley Flewellen
Samuel Stratton Frey
Natanya Friedheim
Ella Teresa Gambaro
Jonathan Sage Hamilton Jr
Grace Elizabeth Hervey¹
Meredith Elle Huring¹
Mikayla Higgins
Aminah Simone Jenkins
Victoria Josse
Emily Christine Kebert¹
Sofiiia Khodieva
Nicole Katherine Lardner
Andrea Lewis
Samuel Abram Manas
Zoe Elizabeth Naylor
Mariia Novoselia¹
Joseph Richard Alves Pastilha
Olivia Riley Plangger
Mallory Kay Pool
Lennard Ishmael Rahaman
Muhammad Saurav Rahman¹
Jasmyne Alexandra Ricard
Anna Sago
Tressany Camille Sawyers
Matthew J Surmaczewicz
Victoria Joann Watson¹
Tyler Nathaniel White¹
Cayli Natsumi Hashimoto Yanagida¹
Li Xuan Yong

BACHELOR OF JOURNALISM

Sophia E Anderson⁵
Esme Claire Anger
Mercy Elizabeth Austin²
Savannah Avery^{4, 5}
Michael Robert Baniewicz⁴
Dylan Barbee⁴
Allison Bealmer
Kennedy Margaret Beebe⁴
Finnegan Emory Belleau^{2, 5}
Faith Boyd³
Alexander David Boynton⁴
Alex Buchanan
Margaret Violet Bunch^{3, 5}
Sara Katherine Burnett⁴
Kyle Paul Button^{4, 5}
Andrew Joseph Calek
Jeffrey Carmichael Calhoun^{4, 5}
Sarah Calixto de Souza
John Michael Calvert II
Henley Gray Campbell⁴
Saylor Joyce Campbell³
Margaret Jean Carlson^{2, 5}
Henry Chappell
Le Chen²
Noa Chen
Laine Kriz Cibulskis^{1, 2, 5}
Charlotte Gwendolyn Cicero³
Matthew S Clark^{1, 2, 5}
Addison Compere
Eleanor Mary Compton
Colin Jameson Conroy⁴
Karleigh Eileen Copeland
Abby Cornell
Quentin Corpuel
Evan Crowell
Nora Jane Crutcher-McGowan
Charles William Dahlgren⁴
True Deck
Carroll Ray Dickerson III
Ashley Olivia Dickey^{1, 2, 5}
Abigail Grace Didonna
Megan Andres Dorr^{3, 5}
Carson Elizabeth Durall⁴
Abigail Rose Durkin⁴
Hanks Edwards
Benjamin Turner Elias
Joseph R. Feduccia⁵
William Walter Steinmetz Firra
Ashley Gaccetta^{1, 2}
Austin Garza^{1, 2, 5}
Chase Gemes
Annie George⁴
Molly Kathryn Gibbs^{3, 5}
Annie Shayna Goldman³
Alexander Murray Goldstein⁵

Natalia Gomez Del Campo⁴
Kaitlin Green^{1, 2, 5}
Kayla Marilyn Grimshaw
Connor Robert Groothuis
Lilley Jane Gray Halloran^{2, 5}
Brooke Nicole Hamann⁴
Dylan Scott Paul Hamann
Patrick Hatzis
Paige Elizabeth Hayes³
Wei He²
Blake Hisey⁴
Scout Thomas Hudson^{4, 5}
Benjamin Scott Hughes⁵
Briana Jordan^{1, 2}
Chloe Elizabeth Ireland-Killday
Lola Ann Jahant³
Henry Joiner
William Glaster Jones⁵
Aiden Jackson Kauffman
Claire Marie Kespohl
Eric Max Kiekeben^{2, 5}
Tyler Patrick Kirwan
Abigail Rose Klinkerman^{4, 5}
Parker Allen Knight
Tierney Elizabeth Kugel⁴
Tanvi Shashank Kulkarni^{1, 2, 5}
Shane LaGesse^{4, 5}
Connor Wayne Lee³
Nathan Lee⁴
Mackenzie Janae Leece³
Jacob Ryan Louraine⁴
Eva Catherine Lynner⁴
Tyler Ann Mader
Maddie Mae Madison
Lily Paige Mantel
Fletcher James Mantooth⁵
Jakob S. Marszewski
Jazmyne Taylor Martinez
Alec Emmanuel Martirez
Aiyana Massie^{1, 2}
Elia Mast³
Simone Kay McCandless
Colin Michael Meehan⁴
Logan Caine Morris^{4, 5}
Jay Neel Motiwala^{3, 5}
Erin C Ohlmeier
Sophia Grace Ortiz
Isabelle Grace Paley^{4, 5}
Ian Paprocki³
Taylor Perkins³
Audrey Laine Pinson³
Claire Powell³
Max Quinn³
Yesenia Renae Quintero
Hannah Alexandra Race
Kavya Ramesh^{1, 2, 5}

Kathambari Ramkumar
Olivia Paige Randolph
Adeen Rao
Sophia Rentschler
Brooke Elaine Riley⁴
Mackenzie Ripe
Iain Ruge
Zoe Aisha Saleem
Cristal Sanchez²
Amelia Schaefer³
Ally Schniepp⁵
Kate Schreiber^{3, 5}
Hannah Schuh^{1, 2, 5}
Justin Paul Scott
Sterling Sewell⁴
Brady Shanahan
Jacob Siciliano
Anna Sikes
Nealy Ann Simms
Morgan Marie Lynn Slagle^{1, 2}
Zildjian Rhiann Smashey⁵
Genevieve Smith⁴
Henry Smith⁵
Paris Desarae Spencer
Coby Alexander Spratte⁴
Miles Jalen Staten
Raphael Dominic Sternadori
Hudson Josiah Summerall^{1, 2}
Zachary Harrison Sweet
Hannah Grace Taylor
Valerie Tiscareno
Calvin Joseph Tobias
Laney Toliver
Michael David Totosz
Jacob Kenneth Tukker⁴
Luka Turanjanin
Vijay Subramaniam Viswanathan⁵
Dane Gregory Vogel
Nicole Josephine Voss³
Jonas Patrick Wall^{3, 5}
John Charles Warner^{3, 5}
Rory Allison Whetstone^{4, 5}
Catherine Anne Willey⁴
Claire Y Williams
Mary Savannah Wolter⁴
Kendall Wright⁴
Emma Christine Zawacki

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION

Paige Christina Allen⁴
Maya Anand^{4, 5}
Addison Breanne Ashmore⁴
Meghan Elizabeth Aslin
Bianca Bakley⁵
Brynn Bartram⁴
Casey Lee Barwick
Tyler Batliner
Eva Victoria Beidle³
Laura Benteman
Sophia Louise Beshoner
Brooke Patricia Beste²
Sarah Kay Blankenship⁴
Julia Boessen²
Natalie Ava Boyles
Karissa Leigh Brandenburg
Sydney Ella Brown³
Ella Buck³
Brigid Buckingham
Lily Burger^{1, 2, 5}
Alexandra Nicole Burke
Emily Ann Burns²
Jaela Burris⁴
Roscoe Kingsley Cadwell
Evangelina Lucia Carbonell
Danielle Carr^{1, 2}
Ainsley Carter⁴
Matthew J Cavender
Jinghan Chen³
Francesca Chierici⁴
Dylan Nels Christopherson^{4, 5}
Emma Grace Clark^{1, 2}
Pauline Ashley Clayton
Molly Grace Cleavinger
Makenna Helen Coddling
Cecilia Rose Condon
Teekeo C Conley⁴
Arabella Jane Cosgrove²
Lily Grace Coutre⁴
Carlotta Ann Croak⁴
David Crow
Remy Salus Sinclair Davis⁴
Kayla Davito
Elizabeth Claire Decker⁴
Olivia Grace Dolan
Brady Dresner
Dallas Dudenhoeffer⁴
Kaleigh Raelyn Dunahee³
Camryn Grace Elliott⁴
Derek Clark Emmert
Kaylee Grace Faddis
Margaret Anne Feldmiller^{1, 2}
Alyssa Fitzgerald^{4, 5}
Mya Dru Fowler
Julia LuCille Friedrich²

Greta Sophia Frymire⁴
Emma Lynn Garner
Matthew Paul Gerber²
Bryleigh Nicole Giffin⁴
Nicholas Glioumas
Emily Jade Goben⁵
Inez Goering³
Connor Aidan Greene
John Rayfield Gronski⁴
Emma Elizabeth Gull^{1, 2}
Carter Thompson Guntli
Emily Ruth Hacker
Madelyn Rose Hall²
Mia Rae Hanlon^{1, 2, 5}
Callie Grace Hazel
Gretchen Virginia Helmsing^{1, 2}
Kampbell Marie Hemeyer⁴
Rita Catherine Hudson⁴
Charles Jaegle⁴
Elise Kipp Jessee³
Hannah Rose Karius³
Harper Faye Kehl
Gavin Michael Kennedy⁴
Abigail Klassen
Brandon Scott Knight⁴
Grace Knight^{3, 5}
Emily Krause³
Lindsey Nicole Kulesza
Frannie Lambert⁴
Katherine Bishop Lamm⁵
Joseph Lane⁴
Haley Langdon
Tori Lerner^{1, 2}
Keira Elizabeth Lasley⁴
Gavin Lawhorn²
Brianna Elizabeth Legette⁴
Jacob Thomas Lemley⁴
Claire Leonard
Isaac Lewis⁴
Sophia Ella Lippel³
Isaiah Lopez
Kathryn Elisabeth Lopez^{1, 2, 5}
Kaiya Lynch³
Ava Belle Magsamen
Dominic James Marino
Jillian Marquardt^{1, 2}
Sophia Dora Martin⁴
Kendall Leigh Mason⁴
Kylyn Skye Maxwell⁴
Zachary Harrison May
Riley Mayer
Nathan McClellan⁴
Libby Jane McCourt
Connor McHugh⁴
Olivia Leigh McMurry³
Emma McPherson⁵

Callie Lynnae Mitchell⁴
Tonni Moll
Annalisa Dominique Monteleone⁴
Katherine Elise Moores
Kara Jayne Moulder^{3, 5}
Madison Mulder⁴
Mary Cassidy Murphy⁴
Anna Murray
Reesi Isabelle Nesbitt^{4, 5}
Audrey Norquest^{4, 5}
Paige Novak⁴
Jojo O⁴
Stuart O'Brien
Grace Louise O'Connor
Samuel Olajide Olawaiye Jr
Emily E Ommen
Ariana Maria Oria
Joseph Patton
Mary Kelly Philip⁴
Lauren Olivia Picollo
Maura Braeden Pilafas
Anthony Michael Pittman
Robert James Plunkett⁴
John Thomas Polansky III
Alexandra Paige Pramberger
Allison Jean Reece
Lucy Martin Richardson
McKenna Riddle^{4, 5}
Kelly McLean Ritter^{1, 2, 5}
Ashley Noelle Rodio^{1, 2, 5}
Caroline Ellen Sandler^{3, 5}
Sienna Maria Savas^{3, 5}
Amelia Mary Scharpf⁵
Julia Diamond Schlueter
Kayli Simone Scott
Olivia Jean Semple
Charlotte Elizabeth Sheehan
Olivia Kay Sims
Lillian Pike Skaggs^{1, 2}
Preston Everett Smith^{1, 2}
TJ Soriano
Kaylie Rose Stuart
Jayden Sudduth⁴
Ella Scott Sulwer⁴
Anna Sumpter
Ava Jean Symanski^{4, 5}
Molly Thissen
Kennedy Ruth Thomas⁴
Hanna Josie Thompson⁴
Gabrielle Summer Sorrel Thornton
Jack Michael Toal⁴
Ethan Ray Tolar
Isabella Trost^{1, 2}
Payton Twyman
Sophie Van Dyne
Addison Elizabeth Vance

Ashlyn VanLerberg Schauf
Jessica Verencia
Heidi Vial^{1, 2, 5}
Ann Vukceвич⁴
William Carter Waghorne
Olivia Claire Walsh^{1, 2}
Kalli Ward⁴
Grayson Waters
Jude William Wheatley^{4, 5}
Edie Marie Isabella Wheeler^{4, 5}
Jackson White³
Kendall Williams
Zoe L Winter
Joseph Louis Yancey IV³
Laiyi Yi^{1, 2}
Alice Ziller Tenorio
Madeline Clark Zimmerman
Owen Michael Zimmerman

OLD MISSOURI

Old Missouri, fair Missouri,
dear old varsity
Ours are hearts that fondly love thee
Here's a "health" to thee

Proud art thou in classic beauty
Of thy noble past
With thy watchwords: honor, duty
Thy high fame shall last

Every student, man and maiden
Swell the glad refrain
'Til the breezes, music laden
Waft it back again

Proud art thou in classic beauty
Of thy noble past
With thy watchwords: honor, duty
Thy high fame shall last

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.

ALUMNA SPEAKER



CHASE DAVIS
BJ '06

Chase Davis is an independent journalist and consultant who has worked at the intersection of news, data and technology for more than 20 years. Most recently he led the AI Lab at the Minnesota Star Tribune, where he also held several senior roles overseeing the newsroom's data, visual and digital journalism teams. Prior to that, he led the Interactive News team at The New York Times. He began his career as an investigative and data reporter in Texas, Iowa and California.

STUDENT SPEAKER



KAIYA LYNCH

Kaiya Lynch, of Kansas City, Missouri, is graduating with a Bachelor of Journalism with an emphasis in strategic communication and minors in information technology and rhetoric and writing studies. Lynch served as a Mizzou Tour Guide and public relations account manager for MOJO Ad, conducted research as a Gregory Scholar, and participated in Matchbook Marketing and the American Advertising Federation. She mentored students at the Missouri University Journalism Workshop and received the Sharon K. Tiley and Gloria Fondren Journalism scholarships. Lynch is also the recipient of the Mizzou '39 award, which recognizes 39 outstanding seniors for their academic achievement, leadership and service to Mizzou and the community. In 2026, she was named to the American Advertising Federation's Most Promising Students, recognizing 25 high-achieving strategic communication seniors. Through these experiences, Lynch discovered her passion for leadership, strategy and community building.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES



AIYANA MASSIE

Aiyana Massie, of Lake Ozark, Missouri, is graduating summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Journalism with an emphasis in photojournalism and documentary through the Murray Center for Documentary Journalism. Massie worked as a photojournalist and documentary reporter for the Columbia Missourian and directed, produced, shot and edited for Method M Films. During her time at Mizzou, she served as president, vice president of recruitment and chapter relations chair for the Beta Eta chapter of Alpha Phi Omega, and as outreach coordinator for the Mizzou Documentary Club. She also contributed to the documentary team for the Missouri Photo Workshop, earned induction into Kappa Tau Alpha, and is a proud member of the Missouri Alpha chapter of Pi Beta Phi. Massie would like to thank the Mizzou faculty and staff, her friends and her family for their endless support.