



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 Stemmler, 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 Fryszak 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 Dunnavant³

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

Tayler 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 Pittman⁵
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 Grahem 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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