COLLEGE OF INFORMATION STUDIES

Winter 2021
Commencement

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 22 • 12PM
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
Dear iSchool graduates,

Congratulations!

At the College of Information Studies, we improve lives and opportunities for people through information. We foster responsible information use—and ensure equitable access to information. We harness data and technology for social, economic, and environmental good. We use information to move the world forward. These are the iSchool values.

As UMD graduates, you possess an irreplaceable value—the ability to be fearless in your pursuits while diving head-first into the grandest challenges of our time. The skills you learned in college combined with the core values of the iSchool are more important today than ever before as our world turns increasingly digital and access to information becomes a necessity for survival. New groups of people are now being demanded to have ICT skills overnight, unearthing many accessibility challenges that leave behind seniors, underserved communities, and more. We need better systems, access, and equity, and I firmly believe you all will be the change we need to see.

When you find yourself needing to be fearless, as you will—draw on the values you learned here at the school. And look to your peers, now alumni, who have been fearless changemakers.

This graduation is both an ending and a beginning. Embrace change. We’re counting on you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Keith Marzullo
Dean & Professor
UMD College of Information Studies (iSchool)
Order of Ceremony

Welcome and Introductions
Dr. Keith Marzullo

Conferral of Doctoral Degrees

Conferral of Master’s Degrees

Master’s Student Speaker
Ms. Georgia Weingarten

Conferral of Undergraduate Degrees

Undergrad Student Speaker
Mr. Abraham White
Georgia is the Afternoon Law Librarian at Montgomery County Circuit Court Law Library, a public law library in Rockville. A native of Silver Spring, she graduated with distinction from UNC-Chapel Hill, specializing in Political Science and French. She returned to Maryland after graduation and was employed as a legal assistant before discovering her passion for law librarianship. She has worked in the field for the last 10 years, first at the Law Library of Congress and more recently the MCCC Law Library while completing her MLIS degree. Her primary interest at UMD has been exploring how information professionals can promote Access to Justice through their work. Upon graduation, she hopes to move into the civil and criminal justice reform sector, advocating for Access to Justice ideals within state and federal government.
Student Speakers

Undergraduate Speaker
Abraham White

During his time at the University of Maryland, Abraham Rothman White was able to feed his passion for learning and stimulate his interests through numerous courses, and was subsequently awarded a spot on the Distinguished Dean’s List for his academic achievements. Outside of class, he volunteered as a student council member in his freshman dorm, worked as an undergraduate teaching assistant for multiple courses, and conducted research in both a public health laboratory and a genetic anthropology laboratory on campus. Aside from his University of Maryland involvement, Abraham has interned with The MITRE Corporation, The U.S. Department of State, and will work with the Brookings Institution in the spring. He is hoping to leverage the skills he developed through the iSchool’s data science track, as well as the experiences growing up on the southside of Chicago, to help alleviate societal issues ranging from environmental justice to information privacy, inclusive growth, and political polarization.
Dr. Fiona Jardine, Spring 2020
Dissertation Title: Breastfeeding Without Nursing: The Lived Experiences of Exclusive Pumpers
Advisor: Dr. Beth St. Jean

Dr. Priya Kumar, Spring 2021
Dissertation Title: From Oversharing To Sharenting: How Experts Judge Parents And Their Social Media Use
Advisor: Dr. Jessica Vitak

Dr. Yuting Liao
Dissertation Title: Design and Evaluation of a Conversational Agent for Mental Health Support: Forming Human-Agent Sociotechnical and Therapeutic Relationships
Faculty Advisor: Dr. Jessica Vitak

Dr. Jiahui Wu
Dissertation Title: Fair Urban Crime Prediction With Human Mobility Big Data
Faculty Advisor: Dr. Vanessa Frias-Martinez
Class of 2021

Master of Science in Human–Computer Interaction

Julia Kerns
Zimmerman Miles Jay
Anup Sathya Sai Kumar
Matthew David Patrick
Rachel Wood

Master of Information Management

Kanishka Sanjay/Varsha Jain
Danish Ahmad Mir
Srinidhi Nag
Tsion Michael Zewolde

Master of Library & Information Science

Ricardo Alvarez Rivas
Anna Kate Arisco
Kathryn Aspden
Abigail Marie Bell
Alastair Canavan
Sidney Champagne
Tiffany N. Chavis, MSW
Abby Clouse-Radigan
Zoë Di Giorgio
Kathryn Donald
Erin Nichol Engelbrecht
Emily Fisher
Cara Forster
keondra bills freemyn
Amy George
Erica Tai Gresham
Jessica Helen Grimmer
Deborah Gur
Ty Reagan Hallmark
Juli S Han
Zee Hinz
Angela Joy Horjus
Jenna Michelle Jachles
Hawa Isata Jalloh
Zachary Jameson
Aimee Kirby
Priya Kuppuraju
Britt Law
Geethani Jeewanthi Liyanage
Steven C. Lowe II
Amy Lubinski
Louis Meiselman
Class of 2021

Master of Library & Information Science

Mary-Anne Nelligan
Joycelyn Caridad Nelson
Darby Nisbett
Brianna Nunez
Jessica Lynne O’Brien
Angela Rodgers-Koukoui
Julianne Russell
Anne R. Sageng
S. Eliza Scally
Callie Jo Shannon
Benjamin Alexander Shaw

Hilary Szu Yin Shiue
Anne Simpson
Teresa Sites
Kari Marie Johnson Smith
Joana M. Stillwell
Marcella R. Stranieri
Samantha Tejada
Georgia Weingarten
Nikki Werner
Alexis Darien Woolford

History and Library & Information Science
Dual-Degree Program

Christine Michelle Kirchner
Elaina Anne Snyder

Bachelor of Science in Information Science
College Park

Aliyah Abdulmalek
Uchenna Aduaka
Aroge Akhtar
Muhammad Waleed Akram
Amina Moataz AlAraki

Luis Alfaro*
Edward Aloba
Vionny Amelia
Christine Ursulina Ash
Mark Anthony Bailey

*Cum Laude
**Magna Cum Laude
***Summa Cum Laude
Class of 2021

Bachelor of Science in Information Science
College Park

Natalie Baker  
Saamia Z. Bashir*  
Peter Benton Blair  
Andy Anthony Blanco  
Maya Kai Shun Brenner-Letich*  
Rodolfo dela Paz Castro Jr.  
Henry Chandler Jr  
Henry Thanh Chau  
Edison Chen  
Guanzhi Chen  
Jonathan Chen  
Hyeong Yung Choi  
Alexander Chui  
Paloma Colunga  
Antonio Ramon Cuevas Ozuna  
Rankin Owen D’Souza  
Jeet Ashwin Dalsania  
Ilyas Dasti  
Will Delgado  
Abel Demiss  
Richa Dhamankar*  
Iman Durrani  
Daniel Ely  
Abiemwense A Emokpae  
Christian Andres Escobar  
Branden Etienne  
Tyler Farmer  
Nicholas Gaffney  
Sonali Garg  
Emily A. Gazda  
William Giovanini  
Kayla Godwin  
Charles Gomes  
Vanessa Gomes  
Swapnil Gopalan  
Hudson Graves  
Vidur Gupta  
Faraz Hafeez  
Megan Laura Harris  
Jason Allen Haslup  
Agustin Henriquez  
Brennan Holloway  
Michael Hough  
Alan Rex Hurley  
Marzena M. Hurtado  
Chinemerem Joshua Iweala  
Malonnie Rayana Jackson  
Sarah Faulkner Jackson  
Ankith Jalagam  
Alexander J. Janzen  
Nadia Jaouad  
Kevin Johansen  
Samson Paul Joseph*
Class of 2021

Bachelor of Science in Information Science
College Park

Kiranpreet Kaur
Jonghyeong Kim***
Fekedeselassie Kinfu
Samantha Lacovara
Desmond Lam
Lauren Petra LaTeef
Kevin Le
Christian Grey Love
Jamal Martin
Burhanuddin Marvi
Arko Mazumder
Joseph McCarthy
Samantha Anne Menashe***
Nelson Humberto Mendez
Romero
Peyton Milstead
Andrew James Miyahara
Betzalel Yair Moskowitz**
Nur Mulugeta
Baldric Nguena
 Ugom Okeoma
Tracy Okwaisie
Nikita Patel
Brandon Anthony Pennington
Saad Peshimam
Jessica Phillips
Asad Abdul Raheem
Delmar Wilmont Randolph
Nithin Richard
Antonio Juan Saco
Bhavesh Saini
Joseph Guillermo Sanchez
Martha Serekeberhan
Gabriel Enzo Sestieri
Rohan N. Shah
Affan Ahmed Shaikh
Samrah Shaikh*
Chi-Hao Sheng*
Konstantinos Skardis*
Yazeed Sobahi
Christopher Alejandro Solano
Andrew Solomon
Yosef Solomon
Rhia Soni
Jake Taylor Stark
Rishi Sudhakar
Raymond A Swenton Jr
Yiming Tang
Theodore Tasker
Samantha Melina Tavarez
Aaron Taylor***
Kaitlyn Elizabeth Vesterby*

*Cum Laude
**Magna Cum Laude
***Summa Cum Laude
Class of 2021

Bachelor of Science in Information Science
College Park

Preetha Jai Vikram
Matt Volkov
Jacob M Walter*
Shutian Wang
Wenchen Wang
Ramseii Benjamin Welton
Abraham Rothman White***
Faith Wilkins El
Ashley Wu
Yuqing Wu
Hannah Zhrebker
Laraib Zia

*Cum Laude
**Magna Cum Laude
***Summa Cum Laude

Bachelor of Science in Information Science
Shady Grove

Robert William Byers III
Jessica Kimberlee Castor
Samantha Kamal
Awards & Scholarships

B. Parker Hamilton Libraries of the Future Scholarship
Karen Adjei (MLIS)

Bruce Ambacher Digital Archives and Curation Fellowship
Hilary Szu Yin Shiue (MLIS)

Dr. Joan Giesecke Health Informatics Fellowship
Sejal Singh (HCIM)

Frank G. Burke Scholarship
Emily Frazier (HiLS)

Gloria Davidson Endowed Fellowship
Margaret Bourbon (MLIS)

Helen A. Tegnell Scholarship
Samuel DiBella (PhD), Tyliah McDonald (MLIS), Brianna Melgar (MLIS)

Library Systems & Services (LSSI) Scholarship
Jennifer Chapman (MLIS)

Mary Lee Bundy Scholarship
Morgan Binnix (MLIS)

Nancy & Daniel Balz MLIS Scholarship for Returning Students
Danielle Fitch (MLIS), Rebecca McGiveny (MLIS)

Noyes Library Association Scholarship
Morgan Binnix (MLIS), Melody Wang (MLIS)

Turner Family Optimal Solutions Endowed Scholarship
Shiqiong Lu (InfoSci)

Undergraduate iSchool Excellence Fund Award
Ramita Shrestha
About Our Programs

InfoSci
Bachelor of Science in Information Science (BSIS/InfoSci) program is a STEM major that prepares students for careers where they design, develop and use tools and methods that bring together information, technology, and people to meet individual, organizational, and societal needs. InfoSci was launched in Fall 2016, and has grown to reach more than 1,400 students, becoming one of the largest majors at UMD. The program graduated its first cohort of alumni in May 2018, and has graduated more than 250 alumni as of May 2019. The major was also launched at the Universities at Shady Grove campus in Fall 2018. InfoSci alumni excel in a variety of jobs including data scientists, cyber security analysts, and UX designers.

HCIM
The Master of Science in Human–Computer Interaction (HCIM) program prepares students to transform the way people connect to information and to create innovative technologies with diverse users in mind. Students learn to design, evaluate, and implement new information technologies that are understandable, usable, and appealing to a wide variety of people. They develop a fundamental understanding of the technology design process, tool–building technologies, evaluation techniques, application areas for users, and the social impact of technology on the individual and community.

MIM
The Master of Information Management (MIM) degree prepares students to be strategic leaders in the use of information and technology in any organization. The MIM degree fuses training in computer science, information science, and advanced analytics. It provides students with skills and knowledge to develop and deploy emerging technologies, lead efforts to develop and modernize organizational information management capabilities, and manage high-value information resources to successfully meet users’ information needs.
About Our Programs

MLIS
The Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) program, continuously accredited by the American Library Association since 1967, is committed to preparing its students to be socially engaged and technologically focused information professionals, ready to create, educate, and innovate. Our students have the option to follow a plan tailored to their interests or to focus their studies in one or more of the following areas: archives and digital curation; school librarianship; diversity and inclusion; youth experience; legal informatics; or, intelligence and analytics. Through online and face-to-face classes, our students gain valuable skills in research techniques, project management, outreach, and pedagogy, among other areas.

PhD
The Doctor of Philosophy in Information Studies (PhD) program prepares students to address the hardest social and technical problems of today and tomorrow. Working side-by-side with world-renowned faculty and at internationally recognized research centers and labs, students conduct research on pressing information issues, which often entwine social and technical innovation. We draw on core values of information studies, including justice, inclusion, and access, and use these principles to facilitate the discovery of new knowledge.
The journey does not end here...

In fact, your journey is just beginning! You have a lot to look forward to in the coming months and years. Please keep us updated on your milestones, successes, and general news by emailing Nancy Murray at nmurray@umd.edu. And, you’ve already been added to our Alumni Newsletter, so staying in touch has never been easier! Some things to look out for are great networking opportunities, iSchool events, research opportunities, and professional partnership opportunities.

For those that want to make an immediate impact, please consider joining the iSchool Alumni Network. To learn more, visit this site: https://ischool.umd.edu/alumni/alumni-network

We enjoyed having you here for this part of your journey, and look forward to working with you in the future!
Find a video of the Commencement ceremony on our YouTube channel starting January 3, 2022

youtube.com/user/ischoolumd

COLLEGE OF INFORMATION STUDIES

4161 Fieldhouse Drive
Patuxent Building, Room 1117
College Park, MD 20742-4911
(301) 405-2039
ischool.umd.edu