



# COLLEGE OF INFORMATION STUDIES

## *Winter 2021 Commencement*

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 22 • 12PM  
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

# Message from the Dean

**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



# Student Speakers



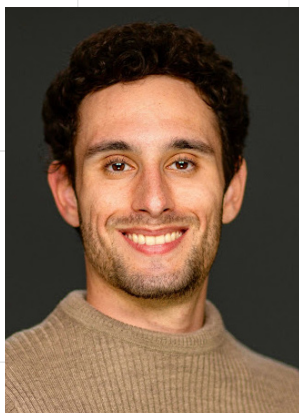
Graduate Speaker

**Georgia Weingarten, MLIS**

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.

# Doctoral Degrees

## **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  
HyeongYun 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 Goplani  
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★

★Cum Laude  
★★Magna Cum Laude  
★★★Summa Cum Laude

# 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  
Betzael 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.

# Alumni Network

## 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](mailto: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](https://youtube.com/user/ischoolumd)**



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