
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

CONVOCATION

MAY 11
2024



COLLEGE OF
LIBERAL ARTS
& SCIENCES

TO OUR GRADUATES

Today you are graduates of the University of Illinois.

This is a remarkable achievement, and we hope that you celebrate the occasion with loved ones. Commencement is a joyous and deeply symbolic event for all, including the faculty members, staff, family, friends, and others who have supported you on your journey. As members of the Class of 2024, you have overcome many challenges to earn your degree. Congratulations, and we look forward to learning of your future success.

ORDER OF EXERCISES

1:30 p.m. | May 11, 2024

PROCESSIONAL OF FACULTY AND GRADUATES

Theater Organist David Schroeder

REMARKS

George Deltas, *Economics Department Head*

Amy Nathan, *Department of Economics Alumna*

RECOGNITION OF CANDIDATES WITH HONORS AND PRESENTATION OF GRADUATES

Stefan Krasa

Faculty Director, PhD Program

Ali Toossi

Associate Director, Master of Science in Policy Economics

Elizabeth Powers

Director of Undergraduate Studies, Economics

Isaac Dilanni

Lecturer of Economics

CONFERRAL OF GRADUATES

Cari Vanderpool

Associate Dean for Research

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

RECESSION OF FACULTY AND GRADUATES

Theater Organist David Schroeder

GUEST SPEAKER



Amy Nathan is a thought leader and executive in the burgeoning cannabis industry. After decades of working up the professional ladder, Amy left Corporate America in 2018 and is now the Founder and Co-CEO of LitSmart. LitSmart a company that provides health-and-safety resources to cannabis and psychedelics sectors, aiming to raise awareness and standards across all aspects of the broader entertainment

industry while also upgrading emergency management capabilities as these substances become more normalized in society.

Prior to LitSmart, Amy jumped into Cannabis by starting GROmentum Lab, a social-impact business accelerator that aimed to ease the burden of starting viable businesses for those most impacted by the failed war on drugs. Her work with GROmentum Lab received recognition from former Mayor of Chicago, Lori Lightfoot, and earned her a spot as a key contributor and economic development advisor on her Cannabis Working Group. Through this work, she has had the privilege to speak at numerous industry conferences like NECANN and Canacon and on syndicated radio programs such as WVON's The World as We See IT.

Before entering the Cannabis industry, Amy had spent over fifteen years honing her expertise in developing compliance-based solutions in highly regulated industries such as financial services, healthcare, and consumer and industrial products. She initially stumbled into this line of work accidentally, working as

a consultant for Price Waterhouse Coopers when she was asked to help privatize the then-largest steel-producing company that had been previously nationalized in South Korea. Later, she led initiatives to stabilize companies undergoing crises like Waste Management and Enron which helped prompt the establishment of Sarbanes-Oxley (SOX) compliance. These experiences allowed Amy to transition to healthcare with Caremark, later acquired by CVS, where she implemented Medicare Part D, or government-supported medication for seniors, and the Affordable Care Act, otherwise known as Obamacare. She punctuated her healthcare career by implementing the Obamacare Market Place Exchange for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois, Texas, Montana, and New Mexico. From there, she led the reform of Anti-Money Laundering procedures at BMO Harris Bank after the Financial Crisis of the late aughts, the passing of Dodd-Frank, and the Patriot Acts post 9/11.

Amy has always welded dual passions for entrepreneurship and international business/economic development. She owned two businesses before graduating from UIUC where she studied Economics and Political Science and minored in Latin American Studies. Her last year of college set her up to travel internationally and work building bridges across cultures. Amy completed an independent study-work exchange program with a Latin American think tank known as CLASCO, or Instituto de Desarrollo Economico y Social Argentina, where she completed her thesis which received the highest distinction. From there, after some months of travel in Latin America and Europe, she landed in Israel where she worked at the Center for Jewish-Arab Economic Development, forging

business ventures between Israelis and Palestinians of the region through their incubator program. She traveled between large cities, small villages, and the countryside to learn the challenges her partners faced during the hopeful years leading up to and just after the Oslo Accords of 1993.

Having always straddled the worlds of Social Science and Business Development, Amy went on to complete two master's degrees at the University of Chicago in Middle East Studies and an MBA with the goal of formalizing acquired competencies, studying regional economic interdependent agreements, particularly in the Middle East, and upskilling to a more corporate international business setting. Her work in consulting for PwC and IBM post-graduate school brought her on long-term assignments in South Korea, Argentina, Chile, Brazil, Finland, and Belgium.

Amy has volunteered in local Chicago politics. She is on the board of the Chicago Arts Partnership in Education and has been an active member of the Corporate Employee Resource Groups (ERGs) working with countless corporate and entrepreneurial mentees and in local synagogue communities. She has been an educator on workforce development topics at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Harvey, Illinois. The proud mom of a first grader at a Chicago Public School, Amy and her family are active in their synagogue community.

ACADEMIC DRESS

Academic dress, consisting of cap, gown, and hood, originated about the twelfth century and was worn primarily for warmth. Subsequently, the material of the gown and lining, and the shape of the hood, represented the economic and social, as well as academic status of the wearer.

In the United States, the great majority of the academic costumes now worn are in accordance with the general provisions of the Intercollegiate Code of 1895, which was revised in 1932 and again in 1960. Under this code, the bachelor's gown has pointed sleeves, the master's gown has oblong sleeves with an arc at the bottom, and the doctor's gown has bell-shaped sleeves. All gowns are black, although the adoption of colored gowns by individual institutions in the United States is becoming more prevalent.

The bachelor's and master's gowns are untrimmed. The doctor's gown is faced down the front with velvet and has three bars of velvet across the sleeves. The facing and bars may be black or may be the color of the subject to which the degree pertains. The bachelor's gown is worn closed; the master's and doctor's gowns may be worn open or closed.

Hoods are also black. The bachelor's hood is 3 feet in length, the master's is 3 ½ feet, and the doctor's is 4 feet. Hoods are lined with the official color or colors of the college or university conferring the degree. At the University of Illinois, the lining is orange and blue. The colored velvet border of the hood, which is 2 inches, 3 inches, and 5 inches wide for the bachelor's, master's, and doctor's degree

respectively, identifies the faculty or field of study to which the degree pertains.

The black mortarboard cap is standard in the United States. Usually, all tassels are black, but where the graduating seniors do not wear hoods, as at the University of Illinois, the color of the cap tassel indicates the department of study. At the University of Illinois, candidates for degrees wear tassels on the right front quadrant of their caps before degrees are conferred, and move them to the left front quadrant after degrees are conferred. Caps are considered a part of the costume and are customarily removed only during an invocation or benediction, and then by men only.

For all academic purposes, including trimmings of doctor's gowns, edging of hoods, tassels of caps, and linings of banners, there are different colors associated with the different disciplines. The color for Liberal Arts & Sciences is white.

Caps and gowns were worn for the first time at the University of Illinois Commencement ceremony of 1897. In the early 1900s the Commencement procession marched up Burrill Avenue to the old Armory. After diplomas were received, the procession marched back to the lawn south of Green Street. The seniors sang the State song and "Auld Lang Syne" before they said good-bye to each other and the campus.

AWARDS AND HONORS

BRONZE TABLET

Michael D'Angelo
Botao Huang
Megan Ja
Pooja Khatri
Sean Le Blanc
Xicheng Liang
Yiche Liu
Hunter Palandri
Luke Peng
Bohan Qiu
Abhiram Tamvada
Peiyu Yan
Jingyi Yu
Wenqi Zeng

JAMES SCHOLAR HONORS

Elizabeth Atmore
Georgina Bridgman
Kevan Fleming
Audrey Goodwin
Yifan He
Larry Peng

Luke Peng
Myles Phung
Freddy Platinus
Anna Maria Stephanov
Abhiram Tamvada
Christopher Taylor
Gautami Thombare
Kaitlin Wong

CAMPUS HONORS PROGRAM

Clayton Haase

PHI BETA KAPPA

Botao Huang
Luke Peng

DEPARTMENT DISTINCTION

Aashna Bhambri
Yifan He (Annie)
Erin Kelley

OMICRON DELTA EPSILON

Graduate

Xinyi He
Motoki Katano
Suqing Liu
Fanjun Qiu
Seung-Uk Yang
Zhiyuan Zhou

Undergraduate

Hyunjin Bong
Vaishnavi Abhijit Jadhav
Freddy Platinus
Robert Puentes
Abhiram Tamvada

GRADUATES AND CANDIDATES

This program contains an unofficial list of honors candidates for graduation in May and August 2024, as well as a list of honors candidates who received degrees in August and December 2023. Due to printing deadlines, names of some honors candidates may not appear, while names of honors candidates who have not completed degree requirements may be included.

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY ECONOMICS

Degrees Conferred, August 2023

Marcelino Guerra

Three Essays on the Economics of Crime Prevention

Jieun Lee

Essays on Spatial, Health, and Socioeconomic Interactions

Guilherme Marques de Amorim

Health Economics and Public Policy in Brazil

Italo Morais Santos

Essays on Economic Policy Analysis Within the Bayesian Econometrics Framework

Andreas Entony Violaris

Essays on Applied Macroeconometrics

Degrees Conferred, December 2023

Melany Gualavisi

Essays in Applied Microeconomics

Irina Valenzuela Ramirez

Essays in Education, Gender and Political Economy

Candidates for Degree, May 2024

Sakshi Bhardwaj

Three Essays in Applied Public Economics

Allen Hardiman

Three Essays in Applied Economics

Youngwook Jung

Essays on Labor and Regional Economics

Malabika Koley

Specification Testing of Spatial Econometrics Models

Zhendong Sun

Estimation and Forecasting with Time-varying Parameters Models and Sequential Method

Mahounan Yedomiffi

Education in West Africa

Jian Zou

Essays on the Economics of Human Capital Formation

MASTER OF SCIENCE POLICY ECONOMICS

Degrees Conferred, December 2023

Yuqian Cai

Chong Chen

Jorge Ferrer-Ortiz

Sinuo Han

GRADUATES AND CANDIDATES

Xinyi He
Di Hu
Simin Huang
Cole Kinson
Shuangfei Li
Jinxuan Li
Chufeng Liu
Suqing Liu
Wenxin Lu
Joseph Oder
Jilang Qing
Fanjun Qiu
Joao Saldanha
Chuwei Sun
Yunhao Wang
Yizhou Wang
Ziyi Wang
Yinan Wang
Yu Wang
Xinyi Wen
Lei Xu
Nuo Xu
Yuhui Xu
Qidong Yang
Mingming Yu

Mengshu Zhang
Handong Zhao
Xiaobing Zheng
Huaqian Zhu
Xunuo Zhu

Candidates for Degree, May 2024

Siyuan Bao
Zhiqi Bao
Yelaman Begimkulov
Borui Cao
Zexin Chen
Jiaxin Dong
Wenqing Dou
Zhongxuan Du
Wang Dong
Haochen Guo
Nabeel Hussain
Kanplu Kaewgoragot
Aliaksei Karavaichyk
Motoki Katano
Oleg Khaytarov
Robert Knuerr
Shanwei Li
Shizhao Lin

Shuqin Liu
Zhesu Liu
Gerry Michel
Kadjo N'gbe
Anastasiya Sembina
Tianyang Sheng
Daulet Tursynbay
Rhett Walker
Hanqing Wang
Qianxi Wang
Qing Xi
Qiming Xia
Seung-Uk Yang
Weirui Zhou
Zhiyuan Zhou

Candidates for Degree, August 2024

Yu Huan
Wei Huang
Lin Jiang
Thomas B. Kanneh
Jingru Li
Ashley Ponce
Adriano Sekita
Rujie Tang

Po-Chun Yin
Yijin Zhou

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

COMPUTER SCIENCE + ECONOMICS MAJOR

Degrees Conferred, August 2023

Kareem Benaissa
Amish Dara
Aryan Jain
Emilia Kedainis

Degrees Conferred, December 2023

Kavya Karthi
Gisella Roselyn Kontaria
Lakshay Maharana
Jacob Matz
Arman Rafati
Joshua Ranft
Pratyush Tulsian

GRADUATES AND CANDIDATES

Candidates for Degree, May 2024

Navya Ahuja
Armaan Bajpai
Ritvik Banakar
Rishab Banthiya
Telmen Nathan Bayarsaikhan
Trisha Choudhary
Krish Vinay Desai
Advaya Dutta
Yuang Fan
Pranav Sai Gaka
Vansh Gupta
Steven Thomas Isaac
Megan Ja
Neel Khare
Jennifer Young Lim
Yunhao Liu
Nimish Prakash Mathur
Udit Narayan Methi
Anwasha Mishra
Idrees Saud Mohammed
Harshith Moningi
Ayushe Nagpal
Sanya Nema

Jason H. Oh
Michael Lin Parekh
Larry Liwen Peng
Myles Aram Phung
Ishwar Nagraj Ramesh
Deepika Rana
Aditi Roy
Ronojoy Roy
Suraj Roy
Saanji Tejas Shah
Salman Talib Shaheen
Abrar Shawkat
Varun Shroff
Aman Singh
Ritul Ketankumar Soni
Kartik Subramanian
Serena Suni
Abhiram Tamvada
Phong Thanh Tran
Batuhan Usluel
Kaitlin Rachel Wong
Jason Wu
Yuxin Wu
Zonghan Wu

Candidates for Degree, August 2024

Xiaoci Huang
Akhil Gadde

**BACHELOR OF
SCIENCE**

**ECONOMETRICS &
QUANTITATIVE ECONOMICS
MAJOR**

Degrees Conferred, August 2023

Edward S. Park

Degrees Conferred, December 2023

Matt Badali
Kaile Chen
Chrissy Chen
Greyson Kim
Marcus Mrdak
Billy Oken
Keesan Patel
Rut Patel
Colin Peyton

GRADUATES AND CANDIDATES

Mitch Price
Lingyu Shi
Chris Sneed
Manyi Wang
Zhongtian Ye
Letai Zhao

Candidates for Degree, May 2024

Maximus Alexander Castillo Beach
Austin Blake Belman
Aashna Bombwal
Hyunjin Bong
Seung Soo Chae
Wangyi Chen
Seungmin Cho
ZeJia Chong
Michael Sebastiano Maria D'Angelo
Randall James De Vera
Ethan John DeValk
Soham Kishor Dharia
Anastasia Jean Evans
Yongpeng Fu
Jacob S. Garza
Eddy Q. Guo

Botao Huang
Kamil Michael Jamrozik
Nubaira Kabir
Mirra Kannappan
Sean Michael Le Blanc
Samuel Lin
Mingshu Liu
Juhi Lokare
Jiani Lu
Ziyu Lu
Qizhong Luo
Hanniel Contredas Malonzo
Kevin McCarthy
Meera Navale
Vincent Ngai
Chukwunonso Osamor
Freddy Platinus
Shiduo Qian
Payal Rathore
Orlando Sepulveda
Ahsan Ahmad Shaikh
Yunyeong Shin
Wenhao Tang
Gautami Mahesh Thombare
Marcus C. Tschoe

GRADUATES AND CANDIDATES

Jiayu Wan
Adam Wawrowski
Seth Michael Wellner
Haocen Xie
Xiangxuan Yu
Yuese Yu
Xianqi Zeng
Deyu Zhang
Haoting Zhang
Zhewei Zhang
Junyi Zhao
Balqish Asyikin Binti Zulkifli

Candidates for Degree, August 2024

Alexis De Jesus Hernandez
Quoc A. Tran

BACHELOR OF ARTS

ECONOMICS

Degrees Conferred, August 2023

Jeongwoo Choi
Shawn Michael Coffell
Benjamin Robert Conover

Suad El-Jawhari
Daniel Leal Giger
Luis Joel Gomez-Diaz
Xuning Hu
Zhou Jiang
Tito Michael Johnson Jr.
Aditya Kandula
Brian Lawrence Kotin
Evelyn Grace Lamb
Yayong Li
Lucas Aaron Mantay
Charles Ryan Martell
Maxwell Joseph Moews
Charles J. Nortier III
Jessica Osayamen Osemwengie
Dong Ha Son
Claire Elyse Szilagyi
Gilberto Torres

Degrees Conferred, December 2023

Vincent Roger Adamo
Akhila Adkoli
Aliza Fatima Alam
Nicole Bayawa Arnold

Scotlyn Jewell Belew
Paul Stephen Brodnansky
Anamaria Bunas
Yi Cai
Cristian Alberto Camacho
Meixinyu Chen
Franese Patrice Coupet
Zifan Dong
Martin John Duffy
Benjamin Espana Arellano
Mason Scott Ewing
Giovanni Michael Ferrara
Kevan Fleming
Christopher George Gilbert
Audrey Goodwin
Anna Elizabeth Henning
Charles Joseph Hopper
Tao Jiang
Xinyue Jiang
Paul Richard Thurston Johnson III
Lily G. Kennedy
Grace Isabel Reddin Long
Josie Ann Martin
Frehan Zubin Mehta
Jian Dong Mei

GRADUATES AND CANDIDATES

Xin Miao
Taher Moosabhoy
Leonard Nrekaj
Shi Hoon Park
Austin B. Poothavelil
Bohan Qiu
Weiyue Shao
Sean J. Shin
Yue Tan
Haoran Wang
Yiqi Xu
Zhilin Xu
Ashley Yoon
Qianwen Zhang
Yannan Zhang

Candidates for Degree, May 2024

Meera Elizabeth Achari
Somtochukwu R. Agboifoh
Angad Vir Agrawal
Anjolaoluwa Moromoke Akinosun
Bryam Alvarez
Christopher Daniel Arger
Yigit Atas

Elizabeth Marie Atmore
Mohamed Ahmed Awad
Evan Joseph Bajerski
Zada Xiao Jia Baker
Antonio Mirko Bandalò
James Conor Waite Barrowman
Arnab Basu
Khary D. Bausily
Daniel Robert Bemis
Luke Richard Blaszczyk
Kyle William Boardwine
Kaitlyn Elizabeth Borgardt
Georgina Ann Bridgman
Jack Christopher Burriesci
Qiuer Cai
Anastasia Alexandria Calkins
Harrison Cao
Sophie Louise Casaburi
Anderson Casas
Nicolas Caviezel
Xuanzhen Chang
Amy Chen
Andrew Chen
Cheng Chen
Yan Chen

Anudeep Chennuri
Theresa Elizabeth Coleman
Jack Callaghan Coolidge
Xinyuan Cui
Angelina J. Dailey
Liam M. Davis
Irvin Ricardo Diaz
Hongting Dong
Yifei Dong
Yiran Dong
Ran Duan
Eren Ekinci
Mick Enev
Evan Anders Ericson
Jean-Marc Etienne
Amy Beth Exposito
Zoe Athena Fayad
Joseph Granger Fox
Jack Joseph Frank
Hannah Marie Gallinaitis
Daniel Gandara
Ke Gao
Ruichen Gao
Maya Christine Gibes
Yule Gu

GRADUATES AND CANDIDATES

Edmon Guan
Diego Guardado
Rohit Kalpak Gude
Tylor R. Gunther
Aakash Gupta
Vyomika Gupta
Clayton Paul Haase
Edin Haskovic
James Hauser IV
Yifan He
Jaqueline Hernandez
Jax Manuel Hernandez
Wade Kenneth Herrera
Luyao Hu
Tianchen Huang
Max Issel
Josh G. Jacob
Vaishnavi Abhijit Jadhav
Sejun Jeon
Chenyu Jiang
Andrew David Johnson
Erin Marie Kelley
Pooja Khatri
Minjun Kim
Yuchan Kim

Caroline Mabel Kness
Karam Kohli
Weijian Kong
Olivia Korzhevych
Benjamin Luke Kouri
Jack Henry Krasucki
Jessica Rose Krummick
Tobin James Kunkel
Giovanni Lechuga
Donghee Lee
Junyeop Lee
Philbert Lee
Seoghyun Lee
Jie Li
Xicheng Liang
James Wang Lichtenstein
Yuxiao Lin
Bowen Liu
Chenxi Liu
Feiyang Liu
Hansheng Liu
Ruihan Liu
Yi Liu
Yishan Liu
John Lopez

Serena Marie Lopez
Yitao Luo
Aidan Lynde
Shuchong Ma
Peter Maculan
Lukas Peter Maggos
Faizaan A. Majeed
Michelle Catherine Marshall
Elizabeth Miltcheva
Hyunmean Mo
Umar Bin Mohd Faiz
Aaron Monreal Jr.
Miles Amir Moore
Edmond Mui
Nathan Edward Nagy
Maya Seshadri Nayak
Allison Nicole Neitzel
Mudassir Mohammed Niaz
Victoria Diana Nunez
Denver Vincent Oakley
Emma Jane O'Connor
Hunter Barron Palandri
Jiayi Pan
William Soogang Park
Myles Patel

GRADUATES AND CANDIDATES

Varshal A. Patel
Haley Pedd
Boyu Peng
Luke Nian Peng
Sophia Cantos Pizarro
Evelyn Rose Purcell
Eddy Joseph Quezada
Ajay K. Raigaga
Nicolas Sean Ramkumar
Lochan Riteshkumar Rathod
Nuha Razi Pahlavi
Junchao Dustin Ren
Yijin Ren
Jason Rodriguez
Denisse Yasaira Rodriguez Martinez
William James Rooney
Samuel Stephen Zobel Ross
Peter Frank Rybinski
Ali Samani
Meghna Sarkar
Benjamin Erik Scheidelman
William Christopher Schneider
Dylan Randall Scott
Emad E. Shehata
Xuanning Shi

Yuheng Shi
Carlos Sierra Jr.
Anna Maria Stephanov
Hans Sebastian Stilp
Alexandra Maria Stonkus
Jane Creighton Sullivan
Krishna Arrow Sundaram
Shaikh Tasmiah Sunehra
Kaitlyn Hanna Swider
Abdur Syed
Devrim Ali Tak
Shaunak Santosh Talapatra
Patrick Nathaniel Tarunadjaja
Christopher John Taylor Jr.
Celia Ferguson Thomas
Jake Thomas Tobin
Nickolas Torres
Fotios Vakakis
Chetna Verma
Isabella Villalobos-Gil
Mofolarin Matthew Walter-Johnson
Junyuan Wang
Yiduo Wang
Yufan Wang
Yutong Wang

Jowita K. Warias
Tonii Brianna White
Charles Martin Williams
Andy Wong
Emma Kate Worrell
David Allen Wright
Jiaying Wu
Yuansen Xia
Haotian Xu
Jiaheng Xu
Peiyu Yan
Qi Yang
Qing Yang
Xiyu Yao
Yuguo Ye
Andrew Yoon
Jingyi Yu
Qiaochu Yu
Yingchao Yu
Tyler Christina Yuen
Wenqi Zeng
Deyi Zhang
Jiayuan Zhang
Sirui Zhang
Yice Zhang

GRADUATES AND CANDIDATES

Ying Zhao
Zhiyu Zhao
Qi Zheng
Hengyu Zhou
Qingyuan Zhu
Xiye Zhu
Qiaoyu Zou

Candidates for Degree, August 2024

Jason Bold
Justin Cho
Zongyao Hu
Dylan Keiper
Sungjun Lim
Edward Martin
Gengyang Quan
Jason Robins
Yiqiu Song
Sriya Vallapareddy
Jeffrey Yan

ALMA MATER LYRICS

Hail to the Orange
Hail to the Blue
Hail Alma Mater
Ever so true!
We love no other
So let our motto be
Victory, Illinois!
Varsity!

THANK YOU

A special thank you to all who helped organize this convocation.
Thank you to the family and friends who have supported the graduates
throughout their time at the University of Illinois.



Degree Information

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The University's official registry for conferral of degrees is the Office of the Registrar, 901 W. Illinois St., Urbana, IL 61801.



COLLEGE OF
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& SCIENCES

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