

UNIVERSITY *of* MARYLAND  
COLLEGE PARK



COMMENCEMENT EXERCISE FOR  
THE SCHOOL *of* LANGUAGES,  
LITERATURES, AND CULTURES

Saturday, May 19, 2018  
3:30 p.m.  
Dekelboun Concert Hall,  
The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center

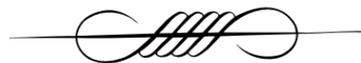
## MASTER OF ARTS

Abadie, Katie Bancker	Second Language Acquisition	Serna Dennis, Ma De Jesus	Hispanic Applied Linguistics
Gallagher, Anna	Second Language Acquisition	Shorkey, Catalina	Hispanic Applied Linguistics
Joyner, Raleigh	Germanic Studies	Sitzler-Sawicki, Maria Assunta	Germanic Studies
Ledon, Julie	French Language and Literature	Timmons, Wendy Cassandra Ellen	Germanic Studies
Maie, Ryo	Second Language Acquisition	Zhang, Lili	Second Language Acquisition
Salen, Bradford	Second Language Acquisition		

*Dear Graduates, Parents, Relatives, and Friends,*

*On behalf of the School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, I welcome you to this milestone event. We are here today to celebrate the achievements of the young men and women who now leave us to join a global world very much in need of their energy, wisdom, and the linguistic and cultural skills they have gained. My colleagues and I look forward every semester to honoring the achievements of our graduates, and to conferring the degrees that their talents and tenacity have earned them. We have been entrusted with the intellectual care and development of these young scholars, and we feel a special bond with them – both intellectual and personal. We salute their commitment to fostering understanding of cultures other than their own and, in some cases, to deepening their understanding of their own heritage.*

*Graduates, we wish you all success as you move forward into the next phase of your lives. I invite you to stay in touch with your professors and mentors and especially to share with us news of your future achievements. I speak for all the faculty and staff of the School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures in offering my congratulations to you and to those who have supported you throughout the years of your study. Do come back and bring us your stories.*



*Fatemeh Keshavarz, Director  
School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures*

## OF ARTS

Schug, Sofiya Gennadievna	Italian	Waller, Anna M
Cao, Zhi Delossantos, Kate Jude Du, Matthew Henry	Japanese	Miller, Kathleen Marie Murphy, Grace Kathleen Xi, Shangyi
Ghonsul Asia, Bahareh	Persian	Weaver, Joshua David*
Banez, Caitlin Therese	Romance Languages	Trass, Ethan Cornelius
Fydenkevez, Ashley •	Russian	Nickoloff, Alexandros
Agapova, Anastasia Athayde-Rizzaro, Nicholas+ Braley, Olivia Turner • Canales, Reina Jacqueline Celtnieks, Joseph Henry • Doyle, Nora Delaney Elover, Nicole Escobar, Tatiana Guadalupe	Spanish	Riveros Hidalgo, Christofer Patricio Robinson, Destiny Sharma, Priya Beth Starobin, Emily Beatrix • Stimely, Jessica Lynn Wells, Clifford James Wrightson, Maureen Gabriela Zagami, John Placidino •
		Hermane, Matthew Thomas+ Surrett, Jasper Roy*  Haduck, Alyssa Jade Nolasco, Betzaida Noemi  Hidar, Alladin Mosley, Katherine Annmarie  Ferrick, Corey Maxwell Garcia, Katherine Gonzalez-Callan, Alessandra Jesus Kunisch, Emily Caitlin Lindstrom, Marion Mejia, Catalina Michaud, Rhianna Skye Nairn, Riley Lynn Plack, Tyler Austin •

***Reception immediately following the ceremony in  
The Language House Multi-Purpose Room of St. Mary's Hall***

# DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Al Thowaini, Assma Mohammad  
Diene, Khady  
Giller-Wilde, Anne E

Second Language Acquisition  
Modern French Studies  
Spanish Language & Literature

Masters, Megan Christina  
Ruel, Cecile Paule  
Wegmann, Hannah

Second Language Acquisition  
Modern French Studies  
Modern French Studies

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# BACHELOR

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## Arabic

Blankenship, Brooke Kelly  
Cai, Kalyn  
Cover, Sarah Verdilla  
Dearden, Garrett Foss  
Farrugia, Marina Corinne •

Fellner, Theresa Hope  
Gallagher, Caitlin  
Goldberg, Barrett Lawrence  
Goldblatt, Zachary Bateman  
Kafer, Reed Charles  
Keppen, Thomas Davis+

Khoury, Nancy G  
Mathena, John Wesley  
McCarthy, Allyson June  
Phinney, Joshua  
Wheeler, Matthew Brendan+

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## Chinese

Anderson, Tabatha Treasure  
Dix, Dominic Paul  
Ennals, William Antonio  
Gavigan, Richard Alan

Goldstone, Jack Carroll  
Kelderman, Matthias Link  
Lane, Daniel James  
Parilla, Daniel Steven  
Perloski, Corinne Alexandria

Sanden, Brianna  
Sengelaub, Brian J  
Shiller, Samantha Blizzard  
Xiao, Yueting

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## Film

Andreu Angulo, Iciar  
Artola, Natalie Gayle  
Blight, Aajah  
Chanyalew, Abel

Fay, Coriander Kathleen  
Hansel, Joshua David+  
Jackson, Symone Keonna  
Leahy, John Peter

Mandell, Maya Frances •  
McLane, Isabel Helene  
Sullivan, Stephen Daniel  
Wolins, Edward Reed

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## French

Argaez, Ebony Michelle  
Barclay, Kolleen Ann  
Biondi, Michael James  
Boishin, Iva\*  
Chen, Yuanting+

Coburn, Donna Rachel  
Gershunskiy, Ann Matilda •  
Huebner, Thomas McKinley  
Mercadel, Theron Andrew  
Murphy, Grace Kathleen  
Parker, Gary Wayne

Robinson, Sydney Moreau  
Scotland, Eboni-Nicole Jazzmin  
Seigel, Colton Philip  
Town, Matthew David  
Vaught, Melanie Erin

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## German

Bourgerie, Austin William+  
Craig, Gillian  
Currier, Margaret Freeman

Harris, Thomas Edward  
Meurkens, Carolina

Mosley, Katherine Annmarie  
Nixon, Andrew Joseph  
Pritchett, Rachel Louise

# Processional

Faculty, Graduates, & Platform Party

## Welcome and Introductions

Dr. Mehl Penrose

Associate Director, School of Languages, Literatures, & Cultures

Dr. Fatemeh Keshavarz

Director, School of Languages, Literatures, & Cultures

## SLLC Undergraduate Speakers

Colton P. Seigel

BA in French Language and Literature

## SLLC Faculty Speaker

Dr. Eyda Merediz

Department of Spanish and Portuguese

## Presentation of Graduates

### Russian/CERES

Dr. Elizabeth Papazian  
Dr. Anastasia Selemeneva

### Chinese

Dr. Andrew Schonebaum

### Second Language Acquisition

Dr. Robert De Keyser

### Japanese

Dr. Michele Mason  
Ms. Makiko Inoue

### Spanish

Dr. Ana Patricia Rodriguez  
Dr. Juan Carlos Quintero-Herencia  
Dr. José María Naharro-Calderon  
Dr. Eyda Merediz  
Mr. Fabian Faccio  
Dr. Elisa Gironzetti

### Arabic

Mr. Zein El-Amine

### Persian

Dr. Ali Abasi

### French

Dr. Valerie Orlando  
Dr. Hervé-Thomas Campagne  
Dr. Caroline Eades  
Dr. Mercedes Baillargeon  
Dr. Erica Cefalo

### Film Studies

Dr. Mauro Resmini

### Germanic Studies

Dr. Hester Baer  
Dr. Julie Koser  
Dr. Regina Ianozi  
Dr. Peter Beicken

### Italian/Romance Languages

Dr. Giuseppe Falvo

## Final Words and Recessional

Dr. Fatemeh Keshavarz

\* *Summa Cum Laude*

+ *Magna Cum Laude*

• *Cum Laude*

*After the ceremony, please remain seated until after the faculty and graduates have processed out.*

Name: Assma Al Thowaini

Dissertation Title: “Speech modification to non-native speakers and content dilution: Implications for English as a medium of instruction (EMI)”

Director: Dr. Michael H. Long

With the rapid growth of language education programs, such as Content-and-Language-Integrated Learning (CLIL) and English as a medium of instruction (EMI), research on input modification shifted perspectives. Assma’s dissertation investigated L2 input modification by comparing the speech of non-native speakers to that of native speakers towards low-proficiency learners of English using quantitative methods. The study also explored the effects of these modifications on learners’ content comprehension and the possible content dilution (e.g., loss of essential information) triggered by linguistic simplification. Her study showed that all speakers exhibited significant linguistic modification (lexical diversity, lexical sophistication, and syntactic complexity) in their speech towards low- and high-proficiency listeners compared to their speech towards the native controls. In addition, only native speakers showed significant content dilution (measured by the count of mentioned information bits) in their speech towards high- and low-proficiency listeners. Finally, the high- and low-proficiency listeners’ scores on the content comprehension assessment were significantly lower than the scores of the native controls.

Name: Cécile Ruel

Dissertation Title: “Political, poetic, philosophical: Simone de Beauvoir’s American Travelogue”

Director: Dr. Joseph Brami

My dissertation looks at *America Day by Day*, French writer and philosopher Simone de Beauvoir’s account of her 1947 travels through the United States.

In the first part of my work, I analyze Beauvoir’s encounter with the American “Other”, by specifically concentrating on three social groups she writes about: intellectuals, African-Americans, and women. Beauvoir investigates the concept of “Americanism”, that is, the social and political system in which Americans evolve. In the second part of my work, I examine how the writing of the American space -specifically the city of New York, the West and the South- serves as catalyst to a beauvoirian poetics of space. In the third part of my work, I question how Beauvoir inscribes herself in the narrative. I show that travel, by creating discontinuity from habitual life, allows her to present her encounter with the world through a phenomenological perspective, which she shares with French philosopher Maurice Merleau-Ponty.

My research suggests that the travel narrative, beyond its documentary and autobiographic purposes, offered Beauvoir the opportunity to veer from habitual modes of writings, such as the novel, the play and the philosophical essay. It gave her license to investigate a social structure other than her own, to create a poetics of space and to apply a phenomenological mode of being in the world.

Name: Khady Diene

Dissertation Title: “From Senghor’s Universalism to Glissant’s Tout-Monde: intercultural dialogues and Métissage in the writing of Fatou Diome, Alain Mabanckou, Gaston Kelman and Aminata Sow Fall”

Director: Dr. Valerie Orlando

This thesis focuses on how Senghorian universalism has influenced the world-views of contemporary mon-dial authors as well as Glissant’s concept of Tout-Monde. It also examines how le voyage, with its relation to globalization, influences or not these authors’ vision, as well as their writing and discourse about the universal ideas on the human condition.

Name: Megan C. Masters

Dissertation Title: “Pathways to Proficiency: Examining the Coherence of Initial Second Language Acquisition Patterns within the Language Difficulty Categorization Framework ”

Director: Dr. Steven J. Ross

It has perhaps never been clearer that in order to effectively communicate with global governments and develop reasoned foreign policy, the United States Intelligence Community requires the support of trained linguists. The development of foreign language proficiency is a complex process requiring a significant investment of time and resources. For learners involved in intensive foreign language training within the United States Government (USG), the Department of Defense (DoD) has developed various Language Difficulty Categorization (LDC) frameworks aimed at standardizing the amount of time learners are given to meet established proficiency criteria. Despite the widespread adoption of LDC frameworks over the past 60 years, few empirical studies have examined the systematicity in proficiency patterns for languages grouped within the same difficulty category. By situating the analysis within the framework of a logic model, data-mining techniques were used to statistically model, via path analysis, the relationships between program inputs, activities, and outcomes. Two main studies comprised the investigation. Study 1 employed a contrastive-analytic approach to examine the coherence with which both cognitive (e.g., general aptitude, language-specific aptitude, and average coursework outcomes) and non-cognitive (e.g., language preference self-assessment scores) variables contributed to the development of foreign language achievement and proficiency outcomes for three languages grouped within the same category. For Study 1, only learners who completed the entire foreign language-training program were included in the analysis. Results of Study 1 found a great deal of coherence in the role that language-specific aptitude and 300-level average coursework grades play in predicting end-of-program proficiency outcomes. To examine the potential hidden effects of non-random attrition, Study 2 followed the same methodological procedures as Study 1, but it imputed missing coursework and proficiency test score data for learners who attrited (that is, “dropped out”) during the intensive foreign language-training program. Results of the imputation procedure confirmed that language-specific aptitude plays a robust role in predicting average coursework outcomes across languages. Study 2 also revealed substantial differences in the role that cognitive and non-cognitive variables play in predicting end-of-program proficiency outcomes between the observed and imputed datasets, as well as across languages and skills.

Name: Hannah Katherine Wegmann

Dissertation Title: “In Search of the City: Power, Identity, and Narratives of Urbanization from Stendhal to Zola”

Director: Dr. Joseph Brami

This dissertation studies urbanization in nineteenth-century French novels, exploring the ways that this demographic phenomenon structures plot, describes inner transformations, and most importantly becomes a catalyst for confronting and challenging established power structures. Characters who transition from rural to urban states, either geographic and actual, or interior and moral, force confrontations between a whole series of power constructs embodied by the country and city. Their evolution, mapped in conjunction with demographic studies and the writings of urban theorists, allows us to explore questions of authority, reality, language, and gender in nineteenth-century France. An analysis of the concrete urbanization of Julien Sorel in Stendhal’s *Le Rouge et le Noir* is followed by a study of the abstract urbanization of Emma in Flaubert’s *Madame Bovary*, who refashions her identity and morals in line with urban ideals. Chapter three employs Zola’s *Au Bonheur des Dames* to study the urbanization reshaping the economic power structures of Paris. Chapter four uses Zola’s *L’Assommoir* to question the nineteenth-century idealism behind many urban reforms. Using works by Flaubert, Théophile Gautier, Pierre Loti, George Sand, Claire de Duras, and numerous visual artists, the final chapter explores the relationship between urbanization and Orientalism by transposing the rural-urban binary onto the relationship between Occident and Orient.

Ultimately, this dissertation argues that actual rural and urban geographies become cartographies of power wherein the country and city communicate an entire set of forces competing for agency. Each narrative of urbanization exhibits different manifestations of the city and the country and different types of evolution between the two. Yet each narrative reveals a fundamental transformation precipitated by the clashing of rural and urban ideas, powers, and identities. This transformation shapes and defines nineteenth-century France.

Name: Anne Giller-Wilde

Dissertation Title: “Market Behavior in the Post-Transitional Narrative of Rafael Chirbes and Belén Gopegui”

Director: Dr. José M. Naharro-Calderón

This dissertation attempts to identify pertinent literary strategies found in the Spanish capitalist contemporary narrative. Having patterns like the stock market’s pendular movements in the Spanish post-Franco Transitional narrative of Rafael Chirbes and Belén Gopegui, this thesis considers similar thematic and stylistic repetitions deriving from the 19th-Century Spanish Realist and Naturalist novel and the Post-War period of the Civil War (1939-1975), characteristics which manifest themselves cumulatively in the novels of Chirbes and Gopegui. Taking into account economic and market theories, and borrowing R.N. Elliott’s wave theory terminology for charting of market data and analysis of numerical data over time, the thesis considers qualitative literary fluctuations analogous to the temporal structures of stock market prices which occur through the history of trading.

Due to differing experiences in the aforementioned periods, male and female authorship are considered separately in the two periods anterior to the post-Franco Transition. The dissertation also relies on theories of memory, history and group psychology, concepts close to formulations found in theories such as those of Prechter, Frost, Ortega y Gasset, Ricoeur, etc. It proposes that the novels of Chirbes and Gopegui, because of their discernible temporally ascending intertextual articulation, are analogous to the fifth wave of Elliott’s five-wave market cycle, which he termed social movement and whose momentum was stimulated by collective social emotion or Prechter’s social mood.

In Chirbes and Gopegui, the underlying social mood is one of indignation and resentment whose manifestation can be traced from the late 19th century, to the Post-War period under the dictator Francisco Franco, culminating in the Post-Transitional novel, in which a generational rift rooted in socio-economic inequality is indicative of the unhealed wounds from the Spanish Civil War. The novels from the three time periods are also of an economic nature, treating human engagement with money and its consequences. Chirbes’ and Gopegui’s protagonists are theoretically a return to the universal protagonist in the novels of Benito Pérez Galdós, but who embody the socio-economic concerns of the 21st century, completing a literary social movement.