



# 152<sup>ND</sup>

## COMMENCEMENT

### *Ceremonies*

GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY | WASHINGTON, D.C.

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MAY 13, 2022 | FIELD HOUSE







MAY 13, 2022

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We ask that family, friends, and invited guests take photographs or videotape the ceremony from their seats only. Because of fire and safety regulations, you will not be permitted to approach the stage. A professional photographer will take photos of each graduate as they receive their diploma. Each graduate will receive one image from the photographer, courtesy of Gallaudet University. If you would like to purchase additional photos, please go to [gu.live/commencement2022](https://gu.live/commencement2022) for ordering information. Thank you for your cooperation.

*Appearance of a name in this program is presumptive evidence of graduation, but it must not in any sense be regarded as conclusive. The diploma of the University, signed and sealed by its proper officers, remains the official testimony of the possession of the degree.*

# GRADUATE CEREMONY ORDER *of* EXERCISES

## **Prelude**

### **Gallaudet Dance Company**

## **Processional**

*Festmarch from Tannhauser* (1845)  
Wilhelm Richard Wagner

## **The National Anthem**

*The Star-Spangled Banner* (1814)  
Francis Scott Key

## **Bison Song**

## **Welcome and Remarks**

Roberta J. Cordano, J.D.  
President

## **Greetings**

Le Toudjida Allara, '11 & G-'14  
President, Gallaudet University Alumni Association

Glenn B. Anderson, Ph.D., '68 & H-'17  
Chair, Board of Trustees

## **Address**

Roberta J. Cordano, J.D.  
President

## **Keynote Address**

Naomi Caselli, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor of Education and Human Development  
Co-director of the AI and Education Initiative, Boston University

## **Graduate Student Speaker**

Kristina M. Miranda

## **Conferring of Degrees**

## **Recessional**

*Triumphal March from Aida* (1871)  
Giuseppe Fortunino Francesco Verdi

# GRADUATE CEREMONY KEYNOTE SPEAKER



## Dr. Naomi Caselli

Dr. Naomi Caselli is an assistant professor of Education and Human Development and the co-director of the AI and Education initiative at Boston University. She leads a research team that documents the structure of the ASL lexicon, the effects of language deprivation on language acquisition, and the ethical and practical challenges in using AI for sign language recognition. She earned a joint Ph.D. in psychology and cognitive science from Tufts University, as well as an Ed.M. in deaf education and an M.A. in psychology from Boston University. She is hearing, and her first languages are ASL and English.

Dr. Caselli leads a project developing ASL-LEX ([www.asl-lex.org](http://www.asl-lex.org)), a lexical database documenting the ASL lexicon. This project won the Vizzies award, sponsored by *Popular Science* and the National Science Foundation (NSF), for the interactive web-based visualization that enables users to explore the structure of the ASL lexicon. ASL-LEX and the associated visualization has inspired lexical databases for several other sign languages, including Israeli Sign Language, Shanghai Sign Language, and LIBRAS. This work has been supported by NSF.

Dr. Caselli also leads a project supported by the National Institutes of Health investigating how early language experience affects vocabulary acquisition. Under this project, her team has developed the ASL-CDI, an ASL adaptation of the MacArthur Bates-Communicative Development Inventories that assesses ASL vocabulary in children younger than five years old. This work has identified that early exposure to sign language promotes age-expected ASL acquisition. This work also illustrated that while deaf children's sign language skills are somewhat related to their parents' sign language skills, parents are not the sole determinant of children's language skills.

In a new line of work, Dr. Caselli investigates the ethical and practical challenges in an emerging field of sign language computing. This work explores questions about privacy, fairness, ownership, and bias in sign language technologies. Her work has been published in journals across disciplines including Deaf studies, psychology, computer human interaction, and medicine. Notable venues include *Pediatrics*, *Cognition*, and *Nature Communications*.

# GRADUATE STUDENT SPEAKER



## Kristina Marie Balao Miranda

Kristina Marie Balao Miranda is the only daughter of Rafael “Rory” Miranda and Evans “Pinky” Carag Miranda. She is the proud granddaughter of Mr. Roberto P. Miranda, Mrs. Annie Andes Miranda, and Mrs. Evangeline Carag Del Mundo. She identifies as Mother-Father Deaf Multicultural Coda (Child of Deaf Adults) of Color. *Unang henerasyong Pilipinang Amerikana siya. Ipinagmamalaki niya ang kanyang pamana.* Kristina is a first-generation Filipina-American who has pride in and responsibility toward her heritage. Her Deaf parents migrated to the United States from the Philippines when they were teenagers for a better education.

A New Jersey native, Kristina earned her associate’s degree in 2009 at Union County College in Cranford, New Jersey, and her bachelor’s degree in 2012 from Northeastern University in Boston – both in interpreting. She continued on to become nationally certified. She has loved serving the Deaf community as an interpreter for the past 15 years.

Upon graduating with her master’s degree in International Development, Kristina will be transitioning from interpreting into advocacy, to work with Deaf communities in Southeast Asia for international human rights law and policy with a focus in education and language justice.

Kristina has had the privilege of working as an international development volunteer for most of her adult life. In South Africa, she sat in classrooms alongside Deaf students working as a teacher’s assistant. In Jordan, she learned Arabic and worked with various disability and social justice organizations. In the Philippines, she marched with Deaf community members fighting for sign language implementation.

In the Spring of 2021, Kristina was selected by the United Nations Association of the National Capital Area (UNA-NCA) for a highly competitive position in their Graduate Fellows program. The UNA-NCA invited Kristina to present her research for an international education conference. In the spring of 2022, Kristina was selected to present her research at the East-West Center 21st Annual International Graduate Student conference. Both presentations focused on sign language justice in Deaf education in Southeast Asia.

Kristina works behind the scenes in multiple roles at many organizations. Over the past year, she has worked most extensively with Off-The-Grid Missions to support emergency preparedness with Deaf communities in Haiti, Lebanon, and Ukraine.

# INTRODUCTION *of the* GRADUATES

**Dr. Jeffrey Lewis, '76**  
**Interim Provost**

**Doctor of Philosophy**

Clinical Psychology  
Educational Neuroscience  
Hearing, Speech, and Language Sciences  
Interpretation  
Linguistics

**School of Human Sciences and Services**

**Dr. Daniel Koo, G-'97, Director**

Doctor of Audiology  
Specialist in School Psychology  
Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling  
Master of Arts in Developmental Psychology  
Master of Arts in Psychology  
Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology

**School of Language, Education, and Culture**

**Dr. Helen Thumann, G-'91, Director**

Specialist in Deaf Education  
Master of Arts in Deaf Education  
Master of Arts in Deaf Education Studies  
Master of Arts in International Development  
Master of Arts in Interpretation  
Master of Arts in Linguistics  
Master of Arts in Sign Language Education

**School of Arts and Humanities**

**Dr. Roberto Sanchez, Director**

Master of Arts in Deaf Studies

**School of Civic Leadership, Business, and Social Change**

**Professor Emilia Chukwuma, '85, Director**

Master of Public Administration  
Master of Social Work



## Doctor of Philosophy Clinical Psychology

Tiffany Bridgett	*** Maryland
Gregory Farber	Missouri
Denise Anne Fedlan	*** Virginia
Kelsey Cappetta Mercado	*** New Hampshire
Ryanne R. Rosier	*** Florida
Amanda Renee Strasser	*** Virginia

## Educational Neuroscience

Sarabeth J. Sullivan	** New Jersey
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## Hearing, Speech, and Language Sciences

Katherine Walsh Sullivan	Maryland
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## Interpretation

Yi Hin Chan	Hong Kong
Folami M. Ford	* Maryland
Jennifer Rodrigues	New York

## Linguistics

Raphael V. Domingo	Phillippines
Ardavan Guity	Islamic Republic of Iran
Heather Marie Hamilton	Pennsylvania
Nozomi Tomita	** Japan

## Doctor of Audiology

Ashley Alexandria Brown	New York
Dominique Rose Calandrillo	*** New York
Samantha Gisele Espinal	Florida
Bryn Venora Griswold	*@ Colorado
Luke Weston Hinson	North Carolina
Victoria Lynn Larson	*** Indiana
Shelby Taylor Matthews	*@ Mississippi
Ciara McGovern	New York
Nikolas Sean Mikus	Virginia
Francesca Minieri	***@ New York
Rivkah Nakhon	*** Maryland
Johnathon O'Neal	Maryland
Elizabeth Procak	Delaware
Rachael N. Purcel	Ohio
Allyson Schiller	Vermont
Nicole Stebbins	* Louisiana
Emily Sarah Thompson	*** Minnesota
Katelyn Witham	Indiana
Lindsey Wohar	@ Maryland

## Specialist in School Psychology

Joshua Mark Blake	@ Kansas
Tobias Christopher Canterbury	Illinois
Brieanna Iyomahan	@ Maryland
Rachel Nakhon	Maryland
Maia Quinn	North Carolina

## Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Hannah Coleman	**@ Virginia
Mariah Nevers	** Florida

## Master of Arts in Developmental Psychology

Mariam Azimi	Maryland
Beth Legg	Kentucky
Tristan K. Steele	Connecticut

## Master of Science in Hearing, Speech, and Language Sciences

Ashley Alexandria Brown	** New York
Margaret Elizabeth Gehm	@ Massachusetts
Sara Mergenthal	@ Virginia
Emily Ann Nusbickel	@ Pennsylvania
Emily Quinn Parks	@ Tennessee
Marissa Ann Reuter	@ Delaware
Jennifer Weber	@ Pennsylvania

## Master of Arts in Psychology

Brianna Marie Hernandez	Maryland
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## Master of Arts in School Counseling

Raquel Grindstaff	**@ Maryland
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## Master of Arts in Speech-Language Pathology

Hannah Brouse	* New Mexico
Ana Lorin Canale	New York
Erin Curran	New York
Katelyn Fulmore	Maryland
Amanda Gabrielle Goldman	Maryland
Alyssa Denae Gonnella	** Maryland
Najiye Honca	Massachusetts
Carolynn Elizabeth McElroy	New York
Emily Murphy	Pennsylvania
Rachel Nevins	* District of Columbia
Alyssa Ouderkirk	Michigan
Eleni Maria Papageorge	Virginia
Tinette Phan	Texas
Melissa Richardson	Arkansas
Alexandra Suzanne Williams	Virginia

## Specialist in Deaf Education

Linnea Deann Elliott	Alabama
Victoria M. Haggarty	**@ Tennessee
Suzanne Renee Mattox	@ Alabama
Oladimeji Gabriel Okeniyi	Nigeria

## Master of Arts in Deaf Education

Jillian Marie Brimigion	<i>California</i>
Dara Lynn Hofmann	** <i>Pennsylvania</i>
Carline Minkoue Mouele	<i>Gabon</i>
Paloma Navarrete	** <i>Texas</i>
Meaghan Noel Sauer	** <i>Indiana</i>

## Master of Arts in Deaf Education Studies

Zainab Ajaz	* <i>Missouri</i>
Danica A. Bethea	*** <i>Illinois</i>
Austin Bishop	***@ <i>Kansas</i>
Rima Tia Cornish	* <i>California</i>
Alixandra Dianne Duncan	**@ <i>Canada</i>
Hiroto Onishi	<i>Japan</i>
Ashley Alan Robinson	* <i>New York</i>
Samantha Justice Zak	<i>Michigan</i>

## Master of Arts in International Development

Neha Malavika Balachandran	<i>Ohio</i>
Marlena Cayleen Demmon	<i>Indiana</i>
Grace Elizabeth Kelleher	<i>Florida</i>
Irisa Daphne MacAulay	**@ <i>California</i>
Julia Diane Mills	** <i>California</i>
Kristina Marie Balao Miranda	<i>New Jersey</i>
Jamison K. Oslund	<i>Minnesota</i>
Eboni Jade Robinson	<i>California</i>

## Master of Arts in Interpretation

Victor Manuel Blanco	*@ <i>District of Columbia</i>
Tierra Carter	* <i>District of Columbia</i>
Dreu Davis	*@ <i>Maryland</i>
Christina June DeHart	** <i>Ohio</i>
Summer Elizabeth Dykstra	*** <i>Nebraska</i>
Jaclyn Danielle Farber	*@ <i>Florida</i>
Lauren Elizabeth Harris	* <i>Florida</i>
Leslie Nevon Holden	* <i>District of Columbia</i>
Lorna Elizabeth Lincoln	*** <i>Colorado</i>
Savannah S. Lynch	<i>Vermont</i>
Sarah Jean Mang	*** <i>New York</i>
Myrna Sorelle Pambou	<i>Gabon</i>
Hector E. Torres-Betancourt	*** <i>Puerto Rico</i>
James Winn	* <i>Georgia</i>
Erika L. Ziebart	*** <i>Virginia</i>

## Master of Arts in Linguistics

Marjorie Bates	@ <i>Maryland</i>
Ana Clark	<i>New York</i>
Kayla Davis	<i>California</i>
Lucas Anthony Hamilton	<i>Ohio</i>
Sarah Joy Kadar	<i>New York</i>
Yeh Kim	@ <i>Illinois</i>

## Master of Arts in Linguistics, continued

Jorge Andraos Martinez Castiblanco	** <i>Colombia</i>
Giovanni Paul Maucere	<i>California</i>
Tayla Sunshine Newman	<i>Maryland</i>
Hallie Anne Simmons	<i>South Carolina</i>

## Master of Arts in Sign Language Education

Kailyn P. Aaron-Lozano	* <i>California</i>
Joseph Antonio	* <i>Michigan</i>
Steven Michael Barrios	**@ <i>Kansas</i>
Emli J. Capili	* <i>California</i>
Rey M. Castillo	* <i>North Carolina</i>
Julie Cho	* <i>California</i>
Suzan Colon	**@ <i>New Jersey</i>
Kerry K. Cooler	* <i>California</i>
Desiree N. Delbert	* <i>North Carolina</i>
Juan Michael Dillard	* <i>California</i>
Rachel Marie Downie	**@ <i>Maryland</i>
Susana Araceli Flores	*@ <i>California</i>
Kaitie Garland	* <i>Texas</i>
Megan George	<i>Maryland</i>
Carlos Gomez	* <i>Texas</i>
Richard Charles Hall	* <i>California</i>
Ashlea Brittney Hayes	<i>California</i>
Lisa Patrice Hermatz	* <i>California</i>
Lauren Hostovsky	*@ <i>Hawaii</i>
Isabella Kogan	* <i>New York</i>
Josephine Amelia Krueger	<i>Washington</i>
Katelyn Brooke Linker	* <i>North Carolina</i>
Anacesia Keyla Madera	* <i>California</i>
Jaime Lynn Marshall	* <i>North Carolina</i>
Roxanne L. Martinez	* <i>Texas</i>
Roni Lorelei McCarthy	*@ <i>Canada</i>
Sarah Dorothy Miller	* <i>Illinois</i>
Andrew Shannon Moore	*** <i>California</i>
Tiffany Ann Narciso	* <i>New Jersey</i>
Dane I. Officer	<i>Virginia</i>
Viviana Ortiz	* <i>California</i>
Jotham M. Otterson	*@ <i>New Hampshire</i>
Salatiel Pineda	** <i>California</i>
Matilda Ramona Prestano	* <i>Texas</i>
Zohaib Qureshi	* <i>Canada</i>
Debra Ramirez	* <i>Texas</i>
Jonathan Andrew Reynolds	*@ <i>Hawaii</i>
Justin Reynolds	*@ <i>California</i>
Kathleen F. Roberts	**@ <i>Florida</i>
Denisse Marie Robles	* <i>Arizona</i>
Zoe Rodriguez	** <i>Puerto Rico</i>
Karen A. Ruiz	* <i>California</i>
Terrylene Catalina Sacchetti	@ <i>California</i>
Emily Lynn Smith-Lundberg	*@ <i>Minnesota</i>

\* Degree requirements completed in August 2021    \*\* Degree requirements completed in December 2021    \*\*\*Will complete degree requirements in August 2022

## Master of Arts in Sign Language Education, continued

Brittney Staffieri	*@ <i>California</i>
Erika C. Stebbings	* <i>Canada</i>
Hope Turpin	* <i>North Carolina</i>
Elisa Marie Velez	* <i>Massachusetts</i>
Robert Braden Villa	* <i>California</i>
Michael Anthony Walsh	** <i>California</i>
Angela Marie Wells	*@ <i>Minnesota</i>
Dion Stephon Williams	* <i>Maryland</i>

## Master of Arts in Deaf Studies

Rachel Cherian	**@ <i>Virginia</i>
Stephanie L. Cowan	<i>Arkansas</i>
Jessica Erin Ennis	<i>Texas</i>
Claudia Giordano	** <i>Maryland</i>
Krista Janai Hine	*** <i>Pennsylvania</i>
Madeline Rae Hinkle	***@ <i>Illinois</i>
Kristina McKinnie	<i>Ohio</i>
Dorothy Meagan Sietsema	@ <i>North Carolina</i>

## Master of Arts in Public Administration

Fathia O. Abimbola	** <i>District of Columbia</i>
Alfred Barcenas	* <i>California</i>
Kayla Marie Deegan	<i>New York</i>
Lindy Alicia Klinger	<i>District of Columbia</i>
Min Woo Lee	<i>Maryland</i>
Esther Grace Lemley	<i>Texas</i>
Michael Seidman	<i>Maryland</i>
Jacqueline Rose Ting	<i>Virginia</i>
Amanda Warren	* <i>Georgia</i>
Kimberly Ann Williams	<i>Maryland</i>
Bethany Autumn Yance	<i>Kentucky</i>

## Master of Social Work

Kassandra Lorey Aveiga	<i>Virginia</i>
Kayla DeGuire	<i>Missouri</i>
Kelsey Fechter	<i>Minnesota</i>
Jonathan Archibaldo Gomes	<i>Virginia</i>
Tramarvious Demarcose Hosley	<i>District of Columbia</i>
Townsend Michel Janney	<i>District of Columbia</i>
Deborah Kanter	<i>California</i>
Bridget Morgan Metzger	<i>District of Columbia</i>
Jordan Nell Negron	<i>New York</i>
Nicole Pagilinawan	**@ <i>Philippines</i>
Elizabeth Reza	<i>District of Columbia</i>
Victoria Serrano	<i>New Jersey</i>
Jessie Wood	@ <i>Florida</i>

# UNDERGRADUATE CEREMONY ORDER *of* EXERCISES

## **Prelude**

### **Gallaudet Dance Company**

## **Processional**

*Festmarch from Tannhauser* (1845)  
Wilhelm Richard Wagner

## **The National Anthem**

*The Star-Spangled Banner* (1814)  
Francis Scott Key

## **Bison Song**

## **Welcome and Remarks**

Roberta J. Cordano, J.D.  
President

## **Greetings**

Le Toudjida Allara, '11 & G-'14  
President, Gallaudet University Alumni Association

Glenn B. Anderson, Ph.D., '68 & H-'17  
Chair, Board of Trustees

## **Faculty Honors**

Distinguished Faculty and Faculty Emeriti

## **Conferring of Honorary Degrees**

Dorothy Casterline  
Carl-Gusaf Croneberg  
Lauren Ridloff

## **Address**

Lauren Ridloff  
Actor

## **Undergraduate Student Speaker**

Molly Feanny

## **Introduction of Keynote Speaker**

Marlee Matlin  
Actor, Academy Award Winner

## **Keynote Address**

Tim Cook  
CEO, Apple

## **Address**

Roberta J. Cordano, J.D.  
President

## **Conferring of Degrees**

## **Recessional**

*Triumphal March from Aida* (1871)  
Giuseppe Fortunino Francesco Verdi



# CONFERRING *of* FACULTY HONORS *and* HONORARY DEGREES

## **Distinguished Faculty Members**

2021 - Dr. Roberto Sanchez

2022 - Dr. Brian H. Greenwald, '96

## **Professor Emeriti**

Dr. MJ Bienvenu, '74 & G-'83

Dr. Francis M. Duffy

Dr. Diane Hottendorf

Dr. Lillie S. Ransom, G-'79

## **Honorary Degrees**

Dorothy Sueoka Casterline, '58

*Doctor of Humane Letters*

Carl-Gusaf Croneberg, '55

*Doctor of Humane Letters*

Lauren Ridloff

*Doctor of Humane Letters*



# FACULTY HONORS

## *Professor Emeriti Biographies*



**Dr. MJ Bienvenu, '74 & G-'83**

*Professor Emerita*

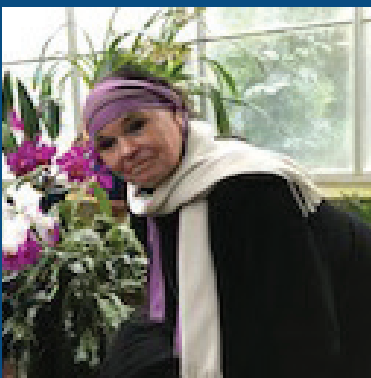
Dr. Bienvenu taught for 25 years: three years in the Department of English at Northwest Campus and 22 years in the Department of American Sign Language and Deaf Studies. She was department chair for one term, and served as vice chair of the University Faculty for three years. In addition, she was a Diversity Fellow, chaired the university's sesquicentennial celebration in 2014, and served on the Bilingual Mission Framework Task Force. Dr. Bienvenu received the Outstanding Graduate Faculty Award in 2018 and the Distinguished Faculty Award in 2019.



**Dr. Francis M. Duffy**

*Professor Emeritus*

Dr. Duffy taught master's and doctoral students in the Department of Administration and Supervision, and master's degree students in the Department of Government and Public Affairs, from 1982 to 2019. He was the architect of the university's first Education Specialist (Ed.S.) program and the Master of Public Administration program. He also taught in the Gallaudet Leadership Institute for school and program administrators. An expert in change management and leadership, he authored multiple books, journal articles, and book chapters, and contributed heavily to policy documents within Academic Affairs and the Graduate School.



**Dr. Diane Hottendorf**

*Professor Emerita*

Dr. Hottendorf was a member of the faculty in the Department of Physical Education and Recreation for 30 years. She created the dance minor, which is now under the Theater and Dance program. As director of the Gallaudet Dance Company, she went beyond the group's traditional focus on modern dance and added jazz, tap, and ballet to its repertoire. She also incorporated American Sign Language into the Company's performances. Dr. Hottendorf was a firm believer in school-work-life balance, and stressed to Dance Company members the importance of becoming well-rounded individuals.



**Dr. Lillie S. Ransom, G-'79**

*Professor Emerita*

Dr. Ransom taught communication studies in the Department of Art, Communication, and Theater for 15 years. She also led the program for two years and served as a faculty fellow in the Office of the Provost for another three years. She mentored both students and new faculty. Dr. Ransom led many curricular efforts within her program and her department, and was especially adept at creating rubrics and other assessment tools, especially for upperclass students. She led the development and implementation of intergroup dialogues on a variety of topics.



# CITATION *of* DOROTHY CHIYOKO SUEOKA CASTERLINE

## ON BEING PRESENTED THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS HONORIS CAUSA



When Dorothy Chiyoko Sueoka Casterline was a senior English major at Gallaudet College in 1958, noted linguist and Gallaudet professor William C. Stokoe recruited her to collaborate with him in the first scientific study of deaf people using sign language. Stokoe valued her sharp eye for detail, which made her indispensable in transcribing signs. Little did she know that she was taking part in a study that would eventually lead to nothing short of a renaissance in the history of the deaf community – the universal recognition that sign languages are true, natural, structured languages, not merely gestures, as most linguists believed up until this revolutionary study.

After Ms. Casterline graduated and joined the faculty of Gallaudet's Department of English, she balanced her workload between teaching and working with Gallaudet's new, grant-funded Linguistics Research Laboratory, meeting with her fellow researchers on Sundays. The result was the landmark 1965 publication, *A Dictionary of American Sign Language on Linguistic Principles*, compiled by Dr. Stokoe, Ms. Casterline, and their colleague, Carl-Gusaf A.O. Croneberg.

Another significant outgrowth of their efforts was the transformation, in 1971, of Gallaudet's Linguistic Research Laboratory into an autonomous research facility, which led to the genesis of the world-renowned Department of Linguistics that was founded a decade later, training students to carry forward the mantle of sign language research.

Ms. Casterline proved that her contributions were instrumental to the project. She was known as a quiet observer who eschewed praise and attention, but it was clear to her coworkers that she was a brilliant, albeit unassuming scholar who was able to utilize the technology she created, along with her strong organizational skills, to bring together all the multiple components to make the project whole.

Ms. Casterline, now age 94, is a proud Hawaiian, Asian-Pacific Islander, born when Hawaii was a U.S. territory. She was educated orally at the Diamond Head School for the Deaf, which is now the Hawaii School for the Deaf and Blind. After graduating from high school, she enrolled at Gallaudet where she completed the requirements for her bachelor's degree in three years. She was the first and only student to be elected to the new, faculty-organized Phi Alpha Pi Honor Society established on campus the previous year. Upon graduation from Gallaudet, Ms. Casterline embarked on a distinguished career spanning three decades as an educator, linguistics researcher, and mentor to countless students.

Dr. Carol J. Erting, former Gallaudet provost and colleague of Dr. Stokoe, stated in a letter of support that Stokoe "...understood and repeatedly emphasized to others that the work could not have been done without the expertise, collaboration, and commitment of his deaf colleagues. From the vantage point of the present day, more than 60 years later, it is perhaps difficult to imagine just how visionary and committed Dorothy Casterline and Carl Croneberg were."

Ms. Casterline is living proof of how forward-thinking Gallaudet was in 1949 when it first accepted international students. She was among the first international students to enroll – and the first Deaf Hawaiian to graduate – from Gallaudet, and is a shining example of the countless other graduates from other countries who have gone on to demonstrate how a Gallaudet education improves the lives of deaf people around the world.

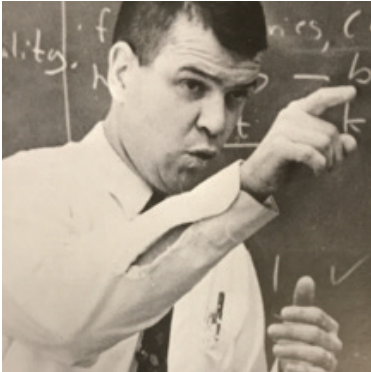
Deaf scholars like the ones who stand before us today – the Class of 2022 – are enjoying opportunities for a better life, thanks to Ms. Casterline's contributions to the university and the field of linguistics. Gallaudet University is pleased to award Dorothy Chiyoko Sueoka Casterline the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*.

GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY  
MAY 13, 2022



## CITATION *of* CARL-GUSAF A.O. CRONEBERG

### ON BEING PRESENTED THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS HONORIS CAUSA



As Gallaudet University celebrates the accomplishments and the promise of hope for the Class of 2022, it takes equal pleasure in commemorating the contributions of Carl-Gusaf A.O. Croneberg to Gallaudet and the field of linguistics. Gallaudet is fully cognizant of the fact that deaf scholars like the ones who stand before us today are enjoying opportunities for a better life thanks to the painstaking research conducted in the 1950s and early 1960s by Mr. Croneberg and his colleagues in affirming that sign language as a true language, contained complexity, structure, and syntax, and was not limited to being a form of pantomime, as it was commonly regarded by linguists at that time – and many deaf people, as well. To skeptics who clung fast to outmoded opinions, Mr. Croneberg has always remained a staunch defender of the native language and its variations of the global deaf community.

Along with Dorothy Casterline, a member of the Class of '58, he taught at Gallaudet for over 30 years, and like Ms. Casterline, joined renowned linguist and Gallaudet professor Dr. William C. Stokoe as researchers in 1958 at Gallaudet's new grant-funded Linguistics Research Laboratory, performing invaluable fieldwork, the first scientific study of American Sign Language, for the project that culminated in the 1965 publication, *Dictionary of American Sign Language on Linguistic Principles*. Mr. Croneberg traveled across the U.S. to observe sign language use in various regions of the country. His exhaustive research led to the creation of a new term – Deaf Culture – which has become a field of study in its own right. His observation of the many variations of sign language used by deaf Americans led to the documentation of Black ASL. Another greatly significant outgrowth of Mr. Croneberg, Dr. Stokoe, and Ms. Casterline's efforts was the transformation in 1971, of Gallaudet's Linguistic Research Lab into an autonomous research facility, which prompted the establishment, a decade later, of the world-renowned Linguistics Department, training students who carry the mantle of sign language research to even greater recognition.

Mr. Croneberg, age 92, was born in Sweden and received his early education there. He had a true gift for linguistics; according to a profile by Carey M. Ballard, "Carl Croneberg: Unsung Hero," during high school, Croneberg "learned English and German from a 'correspondence course' — meaning, basically, that (he) learned two new languages by reading letters." Over the years he expanded his linguistic scope, becoming fluent in written Swedish and Swedish Sign Language, German, English, and ASL. His knowledge and prospects for a bright future were evident at an early age, and he was recruited to enroll at Gallaudet in 1950 by President Leonard Elstad. As a student, he was literary editor of the *Tower Clock* yearbook, president of Alpha Sigma Pi fraternity, and a longtime member of the Phi Alpha Pi academic honor society. He graduated in 1955 with a bachelor's degree in English and joined the English Department faculty the same year. A keen intellect and a lifelong thirst for knowledge led Mr. Croneberg to Catholic University, where he received a Master's degree in English in 1959 – without the assistance of an interpreter. Unjustly, his goal to pursue a Ph.D. in Anthropology at Catholic U. was thwarted because the chair of the department, against Stokoe's staunch support and advice, maintained that it was impossible for a deaf person to complete a doctoral degree in that field.

Mr. Croneberg is living proof of how wise and insightful Gallaudet was in 1949 when it first permitted international students to enroll. He and so many other graduates have gone on to demonstrate how a Gallaudet education augments the lives of deaf people around the world, and in return, how the University is deeply enriched by the contributions of scholars who come here from all parts of the world, sharing their language, culture, and insights. Consequently, Mr. Croneberg's multilingual and multicultural background enhanced the Linguistic Research Lab's work through his ability to embrace different points of view, observe, and consider linguistic and cultural standpoints. In sum total, on a broader scale, Gallaudet enjoys the global reputation it has earned through its zeal in embracing diversity and spreading its message of hope and success through the power of education around the world.

Gallaudet University is truly inspired by Carl-Gusaf A.O. Croneberg's dedication to his alma mater, and the global deaf community, and is greatly honored to confer on him the degree Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*.

GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY  
MAY 13, 2022





## CITATION *of* LAUREN TEUREL RIDLOFF

### ON BEING PRESENTED THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS HONORIS CAUSA



When Lauren Teurel Ridloff first became involved in theater as a student at the Model Secondary School for the Deaf, taking the lead role of Dorothy in the musical *The Wiz*, she also took the first step in charting a career on stage and screen that would draw rave reviews and lead her to roles in some of today's most popular shows.

Ms. Ridloff exemplifies Gallaudet University and the Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center's goal to encourage their students to be changemakers, innovators, and leaders throughout their lives. She is the embodiment of all of these attributes and has had – and will continue to have – a significant impact on the world.

Ms. Ridloff was born deaf to hearing parents, a Mexican-American father and an African-American mother, in Chicago, Illinois. After attending MSSD, where in addition to excelling in drama, she became one of the first deaf American cheerleaders to compete internationally, she enrolled at California State University, Northridge, graduating in 2000, and took a job at the National Center on Deafness, located on the Northridge campus in a program to improve postsecondary school education for deaf and hard of hearing students. The same year, Ms. Ridloff won Miss Deaf Illinois and subsequently Miss Deaf America, the first competitor of either African American or Mexican American descent to win the pageant. She embarked on a two-year stint as a spokesperson for the National Association of the Deaf, then enrolled at Hunter College of the City University of New York, where she earned a master's degree in education. Subsequently, she became a kindergarten and first-grade teacher in the New York City public school system.

New York's deaf theater scene beckoned Ms. Ridloff, and she began building her resume with the 2017 film *Sign Gene: The First Deaf Superheroes*, and the lyric video for *Love Me Now*. Her hard work and talent paid off, earning her the role of Sarah in the revival of *Children of a Lesser God*, and netting her a Tony Award nomination for lead actress, and high praise from *New York Times* critic Ben Brantley, who called her a "sensational find." Her debut in the Marvel superhero film, *The Eternals*, was lauded by *Times* critic Jesse Green, who credited her with a "blistering knockout" performance. It is interesting to note that Ms. Ridloff's character, Makkari, in "Eternals" is a hearing white man in Marvel's comic series, but director Chloé Zhao chose to recast the role as a deaf woman of color to broaden casting representation, making her the first deaf superhero in the Marvel Cinematic Universe.

Ms. Ridloff is a series regular on one of television's most popular shows, AMC's *The Walking Dead*, playing the role of Connie, beginning with the ninth season, has guest-starred on NBC's *New Amsterdam* and The CW network series *Legacies*, and acted in supporting roles in the movies *The Magnificent Meyersons*, *Sound of Metal*, and the Palme d'Or-nominated Cannes film *Wonderstruck*. She balances the demands of a high-profile career as a wife and mother of two boys.

Through her award-winning acting, her work in education, her community leadership, and many other endeavors, Ms. Ridloff has demonstrated to deaf youth the countless possibilities that the future holds for them. She truly exemplifies the spirit of the MSSD Eagle mascot by soaring high. In recognition of her achievements and the inspirational example she has set, Gallaudet University takes great pleasure in awarding Lauren Teurel Ridloff the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*.

# UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT SPEAKER



## Molly Feanny

Molly Feanny was born in North Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, and attended the British Columbia School for the Deaf at South Slope Elementary School until grade five. After that, she attended public schools. She then continued her education at the University of Victoria in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada.

After graduating from the University of Victoria with a Bachelor of Science in psychology in 2018, Molly decided to take a year off to work and travel. At the same time, she was considering going back to school, but this time, at Gallaudet University to learn more about Deaf culture and her Deaf identity. Soon enough she got accepted and started to attend Gallaudet for another Bachelor of Science in information technology in August 2019.

Despite several challenges (mostly related to the coronavirus pandemic), Molly continued her education and work with Gallaudet University virtually. Recently she added a data science minor to her degree. She has consistently been on the Dean's List.

When Molly is not studying, she can be found working for the Office of International Affairs as an information technology assistant, and also as a research assistant for two separate captioning projects. Molly also briefly worked as an information technology tutor and a teaching assistant for a technical writing course at Gallaudet University. She also served as secretary for both the Global Student Association and Rainbow Society.

Recently, she has been accepted to the Disability:IN NextGen Leader program.

Molly hopes to be accepted to graduate school for this upcoming fall or to stay in the United States and work full-time after graduation. Ultimately, her goal is to work with both technology and accessibility, and also advocate for women, especially Deaf women, all over the world. On a personal level, she wants to visit all six Disney theme park resorts in the world.

# UNDERGRADUATE CEREMONY KEYNOTE SPEAKER



## Tim Cook

As CEO and a member of Apple's board of directors, Tim Cook has overseen the introduction of some of the world's most innovative products and services. He has championed inclusion and diversity at Apple, investing in coding programs and educational opportunities for students of all ages and backgrounds, and ensuring that Apple's technology is accessible for all. Under Tim's leadership, Apple has introduced next-generation accessibility technologies like Sound Recognition, Conversation Boost, AssistiveTouch for Apple Watch, and more, which advance the company's long history of delivering industry-leading features that make Apple products customizable for all users.

Tim has carried forward Apple's commitment to privacy as a fundamental human right. Based on the belief that the best products in the world should be the best products for the world, Apple powers its global facilities with 100 percent renewable energy and is helping its entire supply chain do the same, while working toward the ambitious goal of a closed-loop supply chain that no longer extracts materials from the earth.

Since Tim became CEO, Apple initiated a program to match employee donations and deepened its work with non-profit partners including Malala Fund and (RED). As part of its COVID-19 response, Apple sourced and delivered tens of millions of masks to medical workers around the world, and designed, manufactured, and delivered millions of face shields to frontline medical professionals.

Tim has been named Person of the Year by the Financial Times, one of Fortune's World's 50 Greatest Leaders and honored with the Newseum's Free Expression Award. Apple has ranked #1 on Fortune's World's Most Admired Companies for the past 13 years, including each year Tim has been CEO.

Tim earned a B.S. in industrial engineering from Auburn University and an M.B.A. from Duke University, graduating as a Fuqua Scholar in 1988.

# UNIVERSITY HONORS GRADUATES 2022

## **Shane Angel**

Title: *Advancing Towards a More Complete Sign Language Detection Application*

Director: Dr. Raja Kushalnagar

Reader: Dr. Christian Vogler

Reader: Dr. Julie Hochgesang

## **Emelia Beldon**

Title: *Is Gallaudet Diverse? Creating an R Package to Measure Institutional Diversity*

Director: Todd Bonheyo, MA

Reader: Dr. Gaurav Arora

Reader: Dr. Gerardo Chacon

## **Hailey Burton**

Title: *The Effects of Animal Companionship on Mental Health During COVID-19*

Director: Dr. Deborah McCaw

Reader: Dr. Kathryn Wagner

## **Sabine Castro**

Title: *Barriers to Student Success in Deaf/Hard-of-hearing Mainstream Programs*

Director: Dr. Kirk VanGilder

Reader: Dr. Maribel Gárate-Estes

Reader: Dr. Oscar Ocuto,

Reader: Pamela Wright, MA, MEd

## **Andrew Makarewicz**

Title: *Clarifying Drug Reaction Terminology: Insights from Deaf College Students Allergic to Penicillin*

Director: Dr. Cara Gormally

Reader: Dr. Daniel J. Lundberg

## **Taylor Paglieri**

Title: *An Exploration of the Social Networking Site Usage of Middle-Aged and Older Deaf Adults*

Director: Dr. Deborah Schooler

Reader: Dr. Caroline M. Kobek Pezzarossi

## **Brenna Smith**

Title: *Pride Before the Fall: A Historical Fiction Novel*

Director: Dr. Tonya Stremlau

Reader: Dr. Kate Harrell

## **Alexis Wright**

Title: *Animal-Assisted Programs in Deaf Education*

Director: Dr. beth gibbons

Reader: Dr. Deborah Schooler



# INTRODUCTION *of the* GRADUATES

**Dr. Khadijat Rashid, '90**  
**Dean of the Faculty**

## **Bachelor of Arts**

Art and Media Design  
American Sign Language  
Biology  
Communication Studies  
Deaf Studies  
Education  
English  
Government  
History  
Interpretation  
International Education (Self-Directed Major)  
International Studies  
Mathematics  
Psychology  
Sociology  
Spanish  
Social Work  
Theatre Arts

## **Bachelor of Science**

Accounting  
Biology  
Business Administration  
Chemistry  
Information Technology  
Physical Education and Recreation  
Public Health  
Risk Management and Insurance

## Bachelor of Arts / Bachelor of Science

Saeed Mohamed Abdi	** District of Columbia	Kayla Marie Chiofilo	** Massachusetts
Fatimah B. Abdul-Rahim	Maryland	Ivy Ka Ming Chow	* Massachusetts
Huda Mostafa Abuahmad	* Virginia	Dylan Eric Christoffels	Massachusetts
Samer Durar Abualya	*@ New York	Sarah Elizabeth Clawson	Utah
Philip Adetola Adeyeye	** Nigeria	Ikaika Byron Carl Clay	** Texas
Moza Said Salim Al Maqbali	Oman	Kaitlin Teresa Cook	*** Utah
Glenn Eugene Alleman	New Jersey	Juan Carlos Cornejo	New Jersey
Vincent Alvarez	California	Brooke Ashlynn Courter	Michigan
Kiefer Anderson	Minnesota	Eliza Craddock	Maryland
Zoe Mattison Andrews	Illinois	Isba Michell Crisostomo	Mexico
Shane E. Angel	Maryland	Larry G. Daniels	Vermont
Dalton Thomas Attanasi	*@ New Jersey	Paige Sara DeVries	California
Cameron Stephen Baer	** Colorado	Frank Diaz	New York
Juliana Burnes Bahan	Maryland	Brianna Lynn Dike	** California
Harmony V. Baniaga	Washington	Rachel Marie Disbrow	New Jersey
Abigail Grace Barker	Tennessee	Fritz Ann Marie Dar Divina	Hawaii
Austin M. Bates	Washington	Jaleah Jenai Dortch	** Mississippi
Hannah Marie Bayer	*** Colorado	Ariella Marcia Dramin	** Illinois
Emelia Jael Beldon	Maryland	Korie L. Duc	Georgia
Timel Alexander Benton	South Carolina	Mary El-Krab	* Texas
Vianney Bernal	*@ California	Mary Engelbrecht	Arizona
Naveh Amit Berner-Kadish	Maryland	Kelly M. Enyart	@ Florida
Demi Jasmine Bingham	** Maryland	Austen James Ercolino	*@ Canada
Jessica S. Boddy	North Carolina	Raquel Espinoza-Ortega	@ California
Ashlye Bojorquez	*** California	Molly Katherine Feanny	Canada
Brooke Lu Bonheyo	*@ Maryland	John Vadnais Fechter	Minnesota
Megan Joy Lindsay Booth	*@ Minnesota	Ruthie Ferster	*@ Maryland
Tristan Vernon Boren	@ California	Ramon Flores	*** California
Stephanie Christina Boundy	*** California	Haylee Floyd	*** North Carolina
Marlee Brambila	California	Aaren Frame	*@ Virginia
Lexine Elizabeth Brooks	Florida	Malika Janay Freeman	** Georgia
Audrey Buck	North Carolina	Randy Friedman	*@ Illinois
Jessica Maria Budd	Florida	Isela Garcia	@ North Carolina
Ali Kamel Bukhamseen	Kuwait	Jason Terrell Garland	Maryland
Lexi N. Bullock	Nevada	Jaclyn Samara Gleicher	Maryland
Hailey Anne Burton	California	Richara Debra Marie Glenn	**@ California
Samantha Maria Calderon	California	Chandler Gloudeman	Wisconsin
Majalyn DeSales Calderwood	Michigan	Felix Rivas Gonzalez	*@ California
Anley Maria Cardozo	@ California	Kimberly Avila Gonzalez	California
Selima Carlin	** Colorado	Estefany Gonzalez Patino	**@ California
Alyssa Janet Carlton	South Carolina	Isabella Jean Graves	Texas
Ayden James Carrier	*** District of Columbia	Seanna Monica Guettler	Maryland
Noah Jordan Carter	California	Marcus Dont'e Hankins	** Tennessee
Kaelyn Deanne Cartwright	Oregon	Michael Dominic Haynes	*@ Missouri
Fiona Casey	*** Canada	Seth Joseph Hazelett	@ California
Sharon Castillo	Texas	Elijah Dimarko Henderson	*** District of Columbia
Sabine Castro	California	Ayla Marie Hooper	*** Maryland
Jaylen Teleek Chaney	*@ Michigan	Aaron Howard	*** Virginia
Luisa Fernanda Chastel Messner	New York	Lori Patricia Hower	** District of Columbia
Chien-An Chen	*@ Taiwan	Margo Regina Hutto	Texas
Rollo Rafeal Chester	** Georgia	Johnysha Isaac	*** Indiana

\* Degree requirements completed in August 2021

\*\* Degree requirements completed in December 2021

\*\*\*Will complete degree requirements in August 2022

## Bachelor of Arts / Bachelor of Science, continued

Rett Andre Jala	Texas	Drew Vincent Miller	New Jersey
Emily Anna Johnson	** Texas	Steven Michael Miller	@ Michigan
Kelley N. Johnson	** Minnesota	William Joseph Millios	District of Columbia
Laima Jeanett Johnson	*** South Carolina	Kyle Perry Mirus	** Texas
Danielle Jing Jones	**@ Maryland	Michelle Leigh Moore	@ Virginia
Kiara Renee Jones	*@ Maryland	Scott F. Mosley	Wisconsin
Krista N. Kachnik	Texas	Olebogeng Mosobea	Botswana
Jack Menemsha Kalil	Massachusetts	Raymond Elmanovich Mukhailov	** Russia
Rusmir Kasumovic	*@ Florida	Hiroshi Ken Nakama	California
Krishawn Alexis Keasley	Louisiana	Frances Holly Pyle Nazloo	North Carolina
Grace Ann Keller	*** Maryland	Long Minh Nguyen	Vietnam
Rain Ellen Kelly	Maryland	Sean Michael O'Callaghan	California
George Ketcham	Maryland	Taiwo Tolulomo Olumoya	Maryland
Dikhumo Mbisana Kgakgamatso	Botswana	Farenica Chinemelum Onuegbu	Illinois
Tazeem Khan	Massachusetts	Taylor Alexis Paglieri	Ohio
Kaley Alexandra Klecka	Texas	Joseph William Palagano	Georgia
Kevin Esteban Kovacs	California	Chelsea Neva Pedersen	California
Dalton Kramer	Maryland	Jax Pedersen	California
Jenna Marie Krieger	***@ California	Anjel Julissa Perez	New York
Leeba Tova Krigsman	Maryland	Daisy Lauriana Perez	*** Delaware
Sara Ann Kulisan	Florida	Jennette Phillips	Missouri
Hue thuc Lam	California	Mireya Petra Phlaum	California
Winston Elliott Lane	Minnesota	Nicole Rae Pierce	*** Virginia
Kyle John Lasher	**@ Pennsylvania	LaToya LaTika Plummer	Maryland
Justin James Lathus	***@ New York	Abraham Marcus Polanco	*** Texas
Tonya Josephine Lee	*@ Canada	Jamari Tayron Porter	*@ Virginia
Stone Joseph Leiker	** Texas	John Michael Potter	Illinois
Dylan Cherry Lesti	Indiana	Anesti Rafti	Pennsylvania
Karita Zara Lewis	** Maryland	Allison Ralston	*** Oklahoma
Anthony Nicholas Libit	@ Wisconsin	Nia Auntez Ralston	*@ Kentucky
Megan Lynn Lockner	Florida	Tori Ying Hong Reeves	Washington
Annie Marcella Lopez	*** Massachusetts	Lucy Richards	Maryland
Jesus Lopez	Illinois	Samantha Lee Richards	*** Maryland
Kaela Jo Luttrell	** Maryland	Ernesto M. Rodriguez	** California
Jennifer L. Macias	California	Kayla Danielle Rubano	Florida
Andrew James Makarewicz	Michigan	Elina Gennadiyevna Rubinshteyn	Texas
Octavio Maldonado	Delaware	Nayeli Salinas	Texas
Ayishetu Salifu Mamudu	Ghana	Tashinalynn Sanders	Colorado
Hasan Manzoor	*** Maryland	Benjamin Theodore Sealts	*** Ohio
Mia Elyse Marin	California	Summer Marie Seiger	*** Pennsylvania
Mayra Guadalupe Mariscal	District of Columbia	Liora Reba Selzer	New York
Eduardo Martinez	@ California	Ariel Elizabeth Senics	Indiana
Elizabeth Martinez	** California	Dylan Anthony Sicoli	Texas
Gregorio Mata	Texas	Marcos Luis Silva	Maryland
Rebekah Ruth Matos	@ New York	Garrett Ralston Sims	*** Maryland
Ronald P. Mattingly	** Florida	Mequila Dawn Sizemore	@ South Carolina
McKenna Elizabeth McGough	Texas	Brittany Skjeveland	*** District of Columbia
Matthew James McQuinn	*@ Nebraska	Courtney B. Skjeveland	District of Columbia
Canton Meadows	*@ Oklahoma	Vladimir Slavov	@ New York
Jade A. Mejia	Georgia	Claire Eden Slawta	Indiana
Tyler Jensen Mendez-Guerrero	California	Cheyenne Tala Renay Sloan	Pennsylvania

@ In absentia Current May and August degree candidates will not be awarded degree(s) until all requirements are met.

## Bachelor of Arts / Bachelor of Science, cont'd.

Brenna Renae Smith	<i>North Carolina</i>	William Vaillancour	<i>California</i>
Danielle Jo Smith	** <i>Indiana</i>	Mary Van Bavel	<i>Kansas</i>
KyYesha Joynee Smith	<i>North Carolina</i>	Yara Lilibeth Vasquez Aldama	<i>Mexico</i>
Miki Dawn Smith	***@ <i>Indiana</i>	Nicholas Vineyard	<i>Colorado</i>
Dara Sok	** <i>Canada</i>	Alvetta Vinson	<i>Texas</i>
Amanda Southerland	<i>Michigan</i>	Isabella Eve Walker	** <i>Maryland</i>
Hannah Elizabeth Speicher	@ <i>Illinois</i>	Mekayla Walker	** <i>Ohio</i>
Wolfgang Thomas Staley	<i>Virginia</i>	Erin M. Waltner	<i>New Jersey</i>
Nicola Maria Joshua Stein	<i>Nevada</i>	Brianna Renee Wamble	@ <i>Maryland</i>
Sabrina Renee Sthay	*@ <i>Georgia</i>	Breelyn Reka Wells	<i>Missouri</i>
Alyssa Jerri Stover	<i>New York</i>	Jamie Wernlein	<i>Colorado</i>
Kayla Cheyenne Sturdivant	<i>Michigan</i>	Antwon Jarrod White-Giddens	<i>Virginia</i>
Rahsheita Ann Sweeney	<i>Louisiana</i>	Aaron Wesley Whittington	***@ <i>Maryland</i>
Reinz M. Talvo	*** <i>Philippines</i>	Nicole Willard	** <i>District of Columbia</i>
Dalton Zachary Taylor	** <i>Texas</i>	Brittany Michelle Willis	*@ <i>Georgia</i>
Makayla Teles	*@ <i>Rhode Island</i>	Tammy Renae Wilson	<i>Texas</i>
Jaquan Antonio Thomas	**@ <i>Georgia</i>	Tyler D. Wilson	<i>Nebraska</i>
Jacob Thornton	<i>Ohio</i>	Andrew George Wisniewski	<i>Illinois</i>
Ashley Thurman	*@ <i>Nevada</i>	Anthony Rashard Witherspoon	** <i>Tennessee</i>
Jonathan Tikhonoff	*** <i>California</i>	Sara Jean Wnek	*** <i>California</i>
Veronica Tovar	***@ <i>California</i>	Lance Wood	<i>Indiana</i>
Carina Traina	<i>Maryland</i>	Eve Louise Wood-Jacobowitz	** <i>Maryland</i>
Guy Thomas Traxler	** <i>Ohio</i>	Alexis Brianna Wright	<i>Ohio</i>
Wilford Julio Troup	<i>Georgia</i>	Haokun Yang	*@ <i>China</i>
Cody Lee Upchurch	<i>Texas</i>	Wendy Yat	** <i>Connecticut</i>
Mia Roper Upchurch	<i>Texas</i>	Esau Arden Zornoza	*@ <i>California</i>

\* Degree requirements completed in August 2021    \*\* Degree requirements completed in December 2021    \*\*\*Will complete degree requirements in August 2022  
 @ In absentia    Current May and August degree candidates will not be awarded degree(s) until all requirements are met.



# ABOUT COMMENCEMENT

## The Gallaudet Dance Company

The Gallaudet Dance Company was founded by the late Dr. Peter Wisher in 1955. **Ms. Sue Gill-Doleac, '82 & G-'84**, a former Gallaudet Dancer, is the director of the dance company and will be retiring with 37 years of service to the University. Dr. Diane Hottendorf, who retired in 2011, served as the director of the Gallaudet Dance Company and was a professor in the Department of Physical Education and Recreation. She is being honored today as a professor emeritus for her outstanding 30 years of service to the University.

Graduating today are **Harmony Baniaga** from Washington, who will be receiving her Bachelor of Arts degree in American Sign Language with a minor in Dance; **Lexine Brooks** from Pennsylvania, who will be receiving her Bachelor of Arts degree in Early Childhood Education with a minor in Dance; **Phoenix Cook** from Utah who will be receiving her Bachelor of Arts degree in International Studies; and **Grace Keller**, from Maryland, who will be receiving her Bachelor of Arts in Theatre with a minor in Linguistics.

The Gallaudet Dance Company will perform the following dances prior to the procession:

**"Somewhere Over the Rainbow,"** choreographed by **Maya Yamada Carrion, '92 & G-'96**, a former Gallaudet Dancer and a Gallaudet graduate; restaged by **Teresa Dominick, '18**, dance assistant for the dance company and a Gallaudet graduate; and ASL translation by **Benny Llamas, E-'14** and **Brooke Roberts, '19**. Performed by Gallaudet Dancers Harmony Baniaga, Lexine Brooks, Shanesha Brown, Phoenix Cook, Sinae Hwang, Lynicia Maynard, Rebekah Minson, Briana Ogunmokun, Brooke Roberts, BillieDawn Starkey, and Annemarie Timling.

**"One, Two Step,"** choreographed and ASL translation by Harmony Baniaga, will be performed by Gallaudet Dancer Harmony Baniaga.

**"This is Me,"** choreographed by **Ashley Pigliavento Gerald, '18**, dance assistant for the company and a Gallaudet graduate, and ASL translation by Harmony Baniaga, Phoenix Cook, and Brooke Roberts. Performed by Gallaudet Dancers Harmony Baniaga, Lexine Brooks, Shanesha Brown, Phoenix Cook, Sinae Hwang, Grace Keller, Lynicia Maynard, Rebekah Minson, Briana Ogunmokun, Marilyn Puebla, Brooke Roberts, BillieDawn Starkey, and Annemarie Timling.

## The National Anthem

The Star-Spangled Banner was originally translated into American Sign Language by the late Professor Emeritus **Gilbert C. Eastman, '57**, and has been reinterpreted for today's Commencement ceremony by Director of Artistic Sign Language Monique "MoMo" Holt, MFA, Assistant Professor in the Theatre and Dance Program under the School of Arts and Humanities.

Our signers today are **Miguel Arroyo, Junior**, Class of 2023, from Mexico City, Mexico, currently majoring in theatre and minoring in education; **Jessica Fallstone, '09 & G-'17**, from Maryland; **Rachel (Vollmar) Qualls**, Class of 2023 from Kansas, currently majoring in social work; **Kate Rehagen** from Missouri, currently a graduate student in interpretation; and **Payne Nymo**, who is graduating today with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and psychology.

## The Bison Song

The Bison Song is a traditional song at Gallaudet University originally written by alumnus **Mr. Robert F. Panara, '45**, aptly titled "The Bison Spirit". In 1960, our Hearing and Speech Center hosted a fight song contest as an incentive for the students in their auditory training courses. The incentive of the contest, the winning submission would become the official Bison Song and the winner was **Dorothy Miles, '61**. The lyrics of her song and the poem by Mr. Panara blended into the Bison Song we know today.

Performing the Bison Song in American Sign Language are **Shane Carrizales** (undergraduate student majoring in Biology and Public Health), **Daniella Reyna** (undergraduate student majoring in Business Administration), and **Sarah Kadar** (graduating with a Master of Arts degree in Linguistics).

## The Mace

The mace that is carried by the faculty marshal as a symbol of the University's authority made its first ceremonial appearance at the installation of the fourth president of Gallaudet College. In a sense, it has existed longer than the University. It is made of the wood of three buildings historic in the education of deaf people. The largest piece is taken from the

old interior stairway of the Tower Clock on the Gallaudet campus. Another piece comes from the oldest building on the campus of the American School for the Deaf in Hartford, Conn., which is itself the oldest school for deaf students on this continent.

The smallest piece of all is a piece of plank from the wall behind the pulpit of a small 16th century church in Feuges, France, that was served by the Abbé Charles Michel de l'Épée. Historians recognize him as the founder, in Paris, of the oldest free school for deaf students in the world.

The late **Leon Auerbach, '40**, a former member who represented Gallaudet and deaf people of the United States at the 250th anniversary of l'Épée's birth, is responsible for bringing the plank to this country. When he and his wife visited Feuges to see the church, they found it in the early stages of restoration supported by the deaf people of France. The church's present vicar gave the plank to Professor Auerbach as a gift to Gallaudet from the old world to the new.

The mace was designed by **Chun Louie, '68**, a Gallaudet photographer. It was made by Manfred G. Klatt, a Gallaudet carpenter who learned cabinetmaking in Germany, where he was born. The decorative silver and silver support for the head of the mace were made and applied by Theodore Salazar, an assistant professor in Gallaudet's Art Department.

This year, **Sarah Burton Doleac, '82**, Assistant Professor of Physical Education and Recreation, will carry the mace and lead our procession.

## The President's Medallion

The President's Medallion was presented for the first time on October 23, 1969 to a Gallaudet president. Meant to be worn on ceremonial occasions, it symbolizes the authority of that office. The medallion was redesigned in 1986 to coincide with Gallaudet's achievement of university status and shows the seal of Gallaudet University.

## The Academic Costume

The pageantry and dress of the academic procession have been inherited from the medieval universities of the 11th and 12th centuries. In the Middle Ages, the teaching guild was the guild of the master of arts, the bachelor was the apprentice of the master, and their dress was the outward sign of privilege and responsibility.

Principal features of academic dress are the gown, the cap, and the hood. Since the 5th century, Cambridge and Oxford have made academic dress a matter of university control. American universities agreed on a definite system in 1895. In 1932, the American Council on Education presented a revised code that is in general use today. Occasionally, uniquely colored costumes may be seen that do not conform to standard patterns. This is true for degrees granted by foreign universities or from American universities that have adopted a European style.

**The Gown:** While 12th century gowns may have been worn as protection against the cold of unheated buildings, today the gown is symbolic of the democracy of scholarship. It is black for all degrees, with pointed sleeves for the bachelor's degree; long, closed sleeves with a slit at the elbow or wrist for the master's degree; and full, bell double sleeves for the doctoral degree. Doctors' gowns are also faced with velvet and have three bars of velvet on each sleeve, often in the color distinctive of the faculty or discipline to which the degree pertains.

**The Cap:** Today's mortarboard is a derivation of the cap worn in the 16th century at the University of Paris. The soft velvet cap of a "doctor of secular faculties" is from the same period. Bachelor's and master's degree holders wear tassels of black, while doctoral degree holders wear tassels of gold.

**The Hood:** The hood is trimmed with one or more chevrons of a second color on the ground of the primary color of the college. The color facing the hood denotes the discipline represented by the degree. Certain hood colors have historical significance. The white of arts and letters symbolizes the white fur trim of the Oxford bachelor of arts degree. Red, the traditional color of the church, indicates theology, while the royal purple of the King's Court signifies law. The green of medicinal herbs identifies medicine and blue, the color of wisdom and truth, identifies philosophy.

**The Honor Stole:** The honor stole is awarded to graduate students with a 4.0 (straight A) grade point average and to undergraduate students with 3.5 and above grade point average. This gold stain stole denotes exceptional academic achievement.

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Commencement Ceremony requires extensive planning that begins many months prior to the event. This special ceremony would not be possible without the teamwork and combined efforts of many departments, units, and individuals on- and off-campus.

Special appreciation is extended to the dedicated Commencement Planning Committee for their commitment and teamwork.

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We extend a sincere thank you to everyone who contributed their time and expertise to the success of Gallaudet University's Commencement ceremony.



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