

Palo Alto University

2024 Commencement Ceremony

Saturday, June 15, 2024

Santa Clara Convention Center

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Use **#PAUGrad2024**, **#WeArePAU**, or **#IAmPAU**
to share your posts.

VISION, MISSION, AND VALUES OF PALO ALTO UNIVERSITY

VISION

A world in which insight into human behavior improves well-being and contributes to just and inclusive communities.

MISSION

Through education, research, and training in psychology and counseling, Palo Alto University (PAU) prepares its students to address pressing and emerging issues that equitably meet the needs of our ever-changing human condition.

VALUES

PAU's values have been reaffirmed through lived experience, group discussions, surveys, and focus groups. The five values below express PAU as an organization that understands its distinctive culture that supports a world in which insight into human behavior improves well-being and contributes to just and inclusive communities.

Equity & Inclusion

Community

Excellence & Integrity

Compassion

Innovation

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COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY | JUNE 15, 2024

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Alisha Guthery, PhD

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Janice Habarth, PhD

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Rayna Hirst, PhD

Tamecka Hunter, PhD

Rachel Jacoby, PhD

Jamie Kent, PhD

Janice Kuo, PhD

Margaret Lamar, PhD

Daniel Levy, PhD

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Mikael Rubin, PhD

Josef Ruzek, PhD

Tilman Schulte, PhD

Donna Sheperis, PhD

LaToya Smith, PhD

William H. Snow, PhD

Megan Speciale, PhD

Teceta Tormala, PhD

Sandra Trafalis, PhD

Pei-Chun Tsai, PhD

Shreya Vaishnav, PhD

Wendy Wade, PhD

Donya Wallace, PhD

Cristen Wathen, PhD

Christopher Weaver, PhD

Aviva Wilcox, PsyD

Rose Wong, PhD

Matthew Yalch, PhD

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY DETAILS

10:00 A.M. | Saturday, June 15, 2024 | Santa Clara Convention Center

ORDER OF CEREMONY

PROCESSIONAL

WELCOME

Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs
Erika R.N. Cameron, PhD

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

President Maureen O'Connor, PhD, JD

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Board Chair, Daniele Levy, PhD, MBA

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Distinguished Speaker and Honorary Degree Recipient
Maryam M. Jernigan-Noesi, PhD

CONFERRING OF DEGREES

Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs
Erika R.N. Cameron, PhD

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

Presentation of Bachelor's Degree Candidates
Presentation of Master's Degree Candidates
Presentation and Hooding of Doctoral Degree Candidates

CONCLUDING REMARKS

President Maureen O'Connor, PhD, JD

Palo Alto University

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CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

This program lists candidates who are eligible for graduation within the 2023-2024 academic year.

Cum Laude **Magna Cum Laude *Summa Cum Laude ^Summer Graduate*

BACHELOR'S DEGREE CANDIDATES

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN PSYCHOLOGY AND SOCIAL ACTION

Silvia Corral Torres***^

Arielle Duerr Levine^

Javiera Garcés^

Natalia Pavlovna Lukomski Quiroz***^

Kyle Grattidge***^

Brianah Danielle Pedregon**

Naomi Monique Kubogamell***

Stephanie Nichole Phillippe***

MASTER'S DEGREE CANDIDATES

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PSYCHOLOGY

Allegra Agabian

Melody Renee Gately

Wyatt Holt Alvis

Maria Hanano

Zachary Andriella

Tara Sogol Hedayati

Ashley Elizabeth Barter

Haley Hill

Daniellee Tess Benfica

Teresa S. Kim

Lindsey Bergamaschi

Hannah Grace Loveless

Rayna Nicole Bryan

Vanessa Martinez

Adela Cajic

Melissa Marisol Matcos

Kitzia Corona

Lauren Claire Pagni

Jelena Renee Crone

Sasha Sonia Prasad

Nathaniel Walker Ehlers

Suzanne Marie Della Maggiora Quiney

Natasha Maria Fleisher

Andia Ruiz Payne Narcis

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MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PSYCHOLOGY

Yolanda M. Santiago Peña

Darian Vila

Jesse Timmermann

Mark A Villarama II

Sonia Verma

YingHua Wu

Emily Vi

MASTER OF ARTS IN CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING

Sara Alexander

Anjuli Megan Corzine

Kathleen Nicole Allerton

Danielle Luise Marraccini

Jeanette Alvarez

Nicole Marie Cowans

Marcela Silva Araújo

Javier Crespo

Tala Ateych

Jill Ann Curry

Iman Eyad Awad^

Gregory Reid Davis Jr.

Yusra Beig

Vanessa Diaz

Candace D. Belin

Lisa Marie DiBello

Jessica June Bjerke

Samantha Lynn Duncan

Carrie Jane Braun

Rylie Ann Esparza

Elizabeth Burgos

Mariana Evans^

Hannah Lec Kealoha Button

Mia Renee Falco

Adriana Calambas

Sharai O. Flores

Reid H. Campbell

Anne MacGregor Giles

Lisa Nicole Carpinelli

Wen Guo Godhwani

Lauren Taylor Nguyen

Frances-Marie Suico Gonzales

Dawn Marie Chapman

Leanne Graybill^

Henry Hung Chau

Rachel Green

Cheryl Jolene Christopher

Jasleen Grewal

Alexandria Christopolus

Graciela Paola Gutiérrez Cortés

Deidre Alaine Corda

Eman Ayman Hassounch

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MASTER OF ARTS IN CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING

Rebekah Leah Hesse	Heather Parker^
Gabrielle Karin Holmes	Casey Patrick^
Meagan Marial Hutchcon	Jeniffer Marie Perez
Stephanie Iannello	Hanna Perry^
Yesenia Ibarra	Natalie Pimenta
Megumi Kato	Rayna Prieto-McKallagat
Shannon Kelly^	Brandi Prine
Karishma Kharat^	Haley Michel Pryde
Jennifer Nicole Sayuri Kiehl	Stephanie P. Hernandez^
Tatiana Kline	Alvaro Benjamin Quintana
Suzanne Kopecki	Tamera Rose Marie Ramos
Jennifer Chi-Yun Lee Thuresson	Alicea Reddy^
Nicholas Philip Lee	Haley D. Ritter
Jason Andrew Lefler	Alyssa Rivera
Alban Lcsne	Min Seong Roh
Jiaying Lu	Janelle Romero
Megan Rachel Marn	Brooke Roseberry
April S. McGrath	Jordan L. Rush
Jillion Sherie Meadors-Curtis	Lisa B. Santandrea
Maria Estefania Millan	Helene Schmitt
Ratna Mirchandani	Sasha A. Schultz
Violet Moon	Samantha Sebastian
Jessica Fawn Mosher-Regan	Carmen Sepetka^
Scott Nesbit	Anuj Sharma
Kevin Van Nguyen	John Shaw
Stacy Ourique	Abbey N. S. Sowatzke

MASTER OF ARTS IN CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING

Manon Aimée Spycher

Warren W. Watts

Alaina Rose Strollo

Nicholas Richard Weidell

Luciene Teixeira Callon

Stephanie Lynn Weiss

Raina Fletcher Tempestini

Victoria T. Westbrook^

Amy Toig

Victoria Lowe Woods

Devon Torres

Spencer Francis Wilkinson

Helen Vallacys

Emily Anne Williams^

Alyssa Lee Vang

Mikayla Nicole Wilson

Anuja Anna Varghese^

Emily R. Win

Genn Velasco

Gabriel Wisswaesco

Oscar Noel Velasquez

Lauren Wood

Susana Ibeth Venegas

Hannah Jacqueline Wright

Eugene Maio Dominguez Vigo

Vernessa Vivian Brown

Kimberly D. Villegas Jimenez

Luying Zhang

MASTER OF ARTS IN COUNSELING

Tasmecr Ali

Javier Ivan Gaytan Quevedo

Allixandria Bejar

Bebe Germain

Ishiah Benben

Sarah Jane Gonzales^

Connor deMeillon Bentivoglio

Shannon Hervey-Lentz

Jennifer Siobhan Booker

Heather Higuera-Jones

Lauren Danielle Bryant^

Kettrin Hodgson^

Amanda Cioffi

Bryn McKae Hoyer^

Kaltoum Elghairi

Jagbir Kang

Marglen Enriquez^

Amanjot Kaur

Cassandra M. Garza

Heather Elizabeth Keag

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MASTER OF ARTS IN COUNSELING

Sharon Kent	Marel Fabrizio Romero Zuniga
Alina Kim	Christina Samano
Chase Massone	Ana Carolina Ferreira de Santana
Gabrielle Rose Metzler^	Natalie Jane Smith
Alexa Rae Morrison	Shawna Michelle Sogol
Jonathan Ramos	Lina Sviridovich
Danielle Antoinette Reed^	Agnes H. Tang^
Leane A. Reelfs	Ashley Lynn Theisen
Savannah Lynn Garcia Rigney	Dorothy Toepker

DOCTORAL DEGREE CANDIDATES

PGSP-STANFORD PsyD CONSORTIUM DOCTOR OF PSYCHOLOGY

Anna Marie Lee^	Aileen Kucsera
Aggy Barnowski Kimball	Lauren Lucitt
Parker Alexander Benson	Julian Quies Matra^
Amanda Hsinho Chang	Katherine Mohan
Katherine Elisabeth Christensen	Michaela Rose Moss
Melinda Wong Conolly^	Mary Hannah Poole
Danielle Nicole Esses	Jennifer Lynne Stephens^
Benjamin Goldwasser^	Ashley Tempesta^
Edith Anne Harris^	Abigail Thacher
Leah Hotchkiss^	Jennifer Wahleithner^
Alexandra Katsarelis^	Joseph William Walling
Savanna Lynn Kiefer	Abigail M. Weber

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

Murphy Alafoginis	Danielle Fernanda Stephanie Gonzalez Bustamante^
Aericiell Armas^	Nicole Greenberg^
Natalie Eugenia Avalos-Fuentes^	Lauriane Clarisse Gutierrez^
Katerina Baeza-Hernandez	Naeri Hakopian
Karla Rocio Barajas^	Michael Anthony Hamilton
Yasmine Bensidi-Slimane	Dumichel Harley
Scottie Joseph Blanton	Nesha R. Harper
Aidan P. Boese	Katharine Hedbabny
Carolyn Elizabeth Bradley^	Marc Heise
Nat Lynne Bricker^	Michael Huddleson
Kimberly Brown	Jamie Kerby^
Randi Erin Brown	Nicole Erika Khauli^
Ashley Elizabeth Brumett	Hillary Kingman^
Katrina Angelina Colby	Jessica Kirksey
Levi Anthony Cole^	Ciera Korte
Haley Marie Cook	Meagan Cassidy Lasecke
Shannon Coxon	Andie Maika Leslie
Mina Safiyeh Dailami	Jessica Meng Jie Lin^
Katrina M. Daniels	Ka Yin Emma Liu^
Ryanne Dehart^	Kevin Liu
Mia Lian Delgadillo	Yelena Markiv
Hala El Bahraoui	Alicia Nicole Marmolejo
Monét Fairley^	Momachi Martinson^
Mary Judith I. Feezer^	Vennisia Mo
Alana Rosina Gallagher	Katie Rose Moody^
Justin Peter Giallorenzo	Malia Moreland^

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

Mandana Mostofi

Patricia Scherer[^]

Shannon Frances Murphy[^]

Taylor Reed Short Girardeau[^]

Desheane Newman[^]

Carl Edward St. Goar[^]

Juliana Fungyin Ng[^]

Amber Maria Stewart

Samantha O'Neill[^]

Gabrielle Veronica Swisher

Sylvia Chika Ofodu[^]

Joshua David Tiller-Ormord[^]

Thomas Martin Paderna

Eric J. Uhl[^]

Alexandra Padilla

Shaunc-Ru Wang[^]

Alan Darnell Palmer

Induni Wickramasinghe[^]

Jacob Pratt[^]

Aleesia Lisette Renta-Ramirez[^]

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

DR. MARYAM M. JERNIGAN-NOESI,
FOUNDER, CEO, JERNIGAN & ASSOCIATES, INC.

Dr. Jernigan-Noesi is a licensed psychologist, clinician scientist, educator, and organizational consultant. She has served as a mental health service provider for over two decades. She has extensive training and work experience in psychology and health care and specialized training in youth, adult, and family interventions.

Clinically, Dr. Jernigan-Noesi has worked to provide inpatient and outpatient care and worked in a range of behavioral health settings, including community, medical, forensic, academic settings, and private practice. As the founder and CEO of Jernigan and Associates Consulting, Inc., she provides social impact consulting to state and federal agencies, healthcare systems, educational institutions, legal professionals, and corporations. Her services include assessment and evaluation, professional development, strategic planning and implementation, and executive coaching, helping organizations assess, promote, and implement racially conscious, culturally responsive, equitable policies and practices.

Dr. Jernigan-Noesi completed advanced clinical training at The Center for Multicultural Training in Psychology at Boston Medical Center and Boston University School of Medicine. She completed fellowships at Harvard Medical School and Yale University School of Medicine, specializing in integrated healthcare, translational research, and intervention science.

Dr. Jernigan-Noesi's role as a clinical researcher is a testament to her commitment to advancing the field of behavioral health and healthcare. Her contributions have been recognized by prestigious organizations such as the Ford and Mellon Foundations and the American Psychological Association, further solidifying her credibility and expertise.

As an educator, Dr. Jernigan-Noesi served as a faculty member and tenure-track professor in higher education for over 15 years. She taught various courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels, including Counseling Skills and Techniques, Psychology of Women: Race, Class, and Gender, and Critical Perspectives in Multicultural Psychology. In addition, Dr. Jernigan-Noesi has assisted in developing three inaugural Clinical Mental Health Counseling Masters Programs in Massachusetts, Connecticut, and, most recently, Georgia.

Dr. Jernigan-Noesi facilitated mental health seminars for medical students and healthcare providers in academic medical settings, focusing on culturally responsive patient engagement and treatment. Her experience as an educator informs many of the professional development training she offers, including workshops on Race, Culture and Clinical Supervision, Racial Stress and Trauma Across the Lifespan, Oppression-based Trauma, Racially Conscious and Culturally Informed Measurement and Evaluation. Dr. Jernigan-Noesi's direct training has engaged over 30,000 professionals across disciplines and industries.

In service to humanity, Dr. Jernigan-Noesi serves as an advisor for the Sesame Street racial justice initiative. She is also a member of the Advisory Board for Camp HOPE America – the leading year-round camping and mentoring program in the United States for children and teens impacted by domestic violence. Dr. Jernigan-Noesi was appointed to the Board of Directors for the Boyce L. Ansley School, a tuition-free private school for children and families experiencing homelessness. In addition, she founded and serves as CEO of Psychologists for Racial Justice, Inc., a non-profit organization committed to dismantling systemic racism, promoting racial and social justice, and fostering a more equitable and inclusive world.

The University confers upon Dr. Maryam M. Jernigan-Noesi the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa, with all the rights and privileges pertaining thereunto, given this fifteenth day of June, two thousand and twenty-four, in Santa Clara, California.

THE ACADEMIC REGALIA

The colorful attire worn by graduates, faculty and officers of the platform party during Commencement has quite the history. Through long inheritance, the academic procedure of a modern university includes some of these ancient forms and ceremonies.

University regalia is inherited from the medieval universities of the eleventh and twelfth centuries in Europe, when a university was an ecclesiastical community. The gown seems to be an adaptation of the robe of friar or priest; the hood, of the monk's or friar's cowl; and the mortarboard cap of today.

Academic attire began to appear quite generally on United States campuses in the late 1890s. Since that time, its use has become universal for solemn university functions, and its pattern highly uniform. The principal features of the academic costume are three:

The Cap. The academic cap is a sign of the freedom of scholarship and endows the wearer with new scholastic responsibilities and dignities. Old poetry suggests that the cap of scholarship is square to symbolize a book, although some authorities claim that the mortarboard is a symbol of the masons, a privileged guild. The mortar board has become the universally accepted style in United States colleges and universities.

Black tassels are correct for all degrees, and colored tassels are worn only by preference. Gold metallic tassels may be worn by doctors or presidents of universities and colleges. The tassel should be worn draped over the left front quarter of the cap.

The Gown. The flowing gown comes from the twelfth century. It has become symbolic of the democracy of scholarship, for it completely covers any dress of rank or social standing underneath. It is typically black for all degrees, but can vary in color based on the school colors of an institution. The bachelors and masters degree gown are untrimmed, however, the sleeves of the bachelor's gown are square, where the master gown is distinguished by its long, pointed sleeves. Most notably, is the doctoral gown, which is faced with velvet in front and has three bars of velvet across the sleeves.

The Hood. The hood is an inverted shield with one or more chevrons of a secondary color on the background of the primary color of the college. The components of the hood contain a shell, interior lining, and trim. The color of the facing of the hood denotes the discipline represented by the degree; the color of the lining of the hood designates the university which granted the degree.

Each degree (bachelor, master, doctor) has a right to a hood, which varies in length and can vary in pattern. The bachelor's hood is three feet long; the master's hood, three and one-half; the doctor's hood, four, with wide panels on either side.

WELCOME TO THE PALO ALTO UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Palo Alto University's Alumni Association is excited to welcome the Class of 2024 into its community. Congratulations to all graduates who reached today's significant milestone!

By virtue of graduating from PAU, you have become official members of the Alumni Association; a network of over 4000-plus PAU alumni who are making significant contributions in the fields of psychology, counseling, social work and beyond. As you move into the next phase of your career, we know you will make the world a better place and we are here to help you along the way.

The PAU Alumni Association offers a variety of programming, events and networking opportunities, as well as discounts on test preparation training/materials (ex: EPPP), Continuing Education courses, and other benefits. You can learn more about the Alumni Association and how it can support you at www.paloaltou.edu/alumni.

Over the summer, we hope you'll join other alumni and admitted students about to embark on their PAU academic careers in NYC (July 13th), Los Angeles (July 20th), and in the Bay Area (July 21st). Please email your Director of Alumni Relations, Chloe Corcoran, at Ccorcoran@paloaltou.edu with any questions, and be on the lookout for upcoming communications about these, and more, events!