

Emerson
COLLEGE

SCHOOL OF ARTS AND
INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES
& SCHOOL OF FILM, TELEVISION,
AND MEDIA ARTS

GRADUATE HOODING CEREMONY

Friday
May 8, 2026 | 2:00 p.m.

*Wang Theatre
270 Tremont Street
Boston, Massachusetts*

2026

Graduate Hooding Ceremony Notes

The history of academic dress reaches far back to the early days of the oldest European universities. In England, in the second half of the 14th century, the statutes of some colleges forbade “excess in apparel” and prescribed the wearing of a long gown. Gowns may have been necessary for warmth in the unheated buildings frequented by medieval scholars. Hoods may also have served to cover the tonsured (i.e., shaved) head until they were superseded by scull caps, which were later replaced by headdresses more like those recognized today as “academic.”

Today, academic garb has symbolic rather than practical application. Some universities have their own cap and gown designs, while most defer to traditional black. The size of the academic hood denotes the progression of academic degrees: bachelor's, master's, doctorate.

The color of the hood denotes the field of academic study. The color of the inner lining of the hood reflects the colors of the institution from which one's degree was earned.



Graduate Hooding Ceremony

Processional

Led by Grooversity

*Call to Order
and Welcome*

Alexandra Socarides, PhD
Provost and Vice President, Academic Affairs

Invocation

Rabbi Elisheva Pripas, MEd, MS
Jewish Chaplain, Center for Spiritual Life

*Introduction of
Ceremony
Speaker*

Alexandra Socarides, PhD
Provost and Vice President, Academic Affairs

*Ceremony
Address*

Jan Roberts-Breslin, MFA
Dean, Graduate and Professional Studies

*Graduate Student
Address*

Aniaha A. Ortiz-Roman, BA

Musical Interlude

*Presentation
of Hoods*

Alexandra Socarides, PhD
Provost and Vice President, Academic Affairs

*Presentation
of Degrees*

Shaun Clarke, MFA '12
Interim Dean; School of Film, Television, and Media Arts

*Candidates
Congratulated by*

Jan Roberts-Breslin, MFA
Dean, Graduate and Professional Studies

Lizzy Cooper Davis, PhD
Associate Professor and Graduate Program Director for Theatre Education and Applied Theatre, Department of Performing Arts, School of Arts and Interdisciplinary Studies

Mako Yoshikawa, PhD
Professor and Graduate Program Director for Creative Writing;
Department of Writing, Literature and Publishing;
School of Arts and Interdisciplinary Studies

Katie Williams, MFA
Assistant Professor and Graduate Program Director for Popular Fiction Writing and Publishing; Department of Writing, Literature and Publishing;
School of Arts and Interdisciplinary Studies

Bill Beuttler, MS
Associate Professor and Graduate Program Director for Publishing and Writing;
Department of Writing, Literature and Publishing;
School of Arts and Interdisciplinary Studies

Hanadi Elyan, MFA
Assistant Professor and Graduate Program Director for Film and Media Art;
School of Film, Television, and Media Arts

Jim Lane, PhD
Senior Scholar-in-Residence II and Graduate Program Director
for Writing for Film and Television; School of Film, Television, and Media Arts

Names Announced by

Dana Edell, PhD
Assistant Professor, Department of Performing Arts,
School of Arts and Interdisciplinary Studies

John Rodzvilla, MLS
Assistant Professor; Department of Writing, Literature and Publishing;
School of Arts and Interdisciplinary Studies

Benediction

Rabbi Elisheva Pripas, MJE, MS
Jewish Chaplain, Center for Spiritual Life

Closing

Alexandra Socarides, PhD
Provost and Vice President, Academic Affairs

Recessional

Led by Grooversity

In Memoriam

Sydney E. Ledoux, MS '26, Student

Resources and Information



Captions

Captions of today's ceremony in English, Spanish, and Mandarin are available for your personal mobile device at:

emerson.edu/soa-sof-hooding-captions

Photography and Video

Professional photographers and videographers will be on site today, capturing the spirit of the ceremony. Photography and video of the ceremony and our guests may be used in College publications, on Emerson's website and social media, or for other institutional marketing purposes.

After the ceremony, graduates will be offered a professional video clip of their stage crossing and be invited to purchase professional photos. Visit emerson.edu/commencement for more information.

On-demand viewing of the full ceremony video will be available after the ceremony on the Emerson College YouTube channel.

Social Media

Tag your social media posts with [Emerson2026](#) and connect on X and Instagram with [@EmersonCollege](#) and [@EmersonAlumni](#).

Consideration

We ask that guests be mindful of blocking others' view when celebrating their student. Due to safety regulations, guests may not stand in the aisles.

Candidates for Master's Degrees

SCHOOL OF ARTS AND INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

Department of Performing Arts

MASTER OF ARTS AND MASTER OF FINE ARTS IN THEATRE EDUCATION AND APPLIED THEATRE

Genesis Noelia de los Santos Fragoso
BA, Harvard University

Demi Ann DiCarlo
BFA, Salem State University

Yasmeen Simone Duncan*
BFA, Central Michigan University

Margaret Rachel Elsen
BA, Oberlin College

Jenna Jaye Adams LaBombard*
BA, Brigham Young University

Mingke Li
BA, Goldsmiths, University of London

Katharine Rose Mayk
MA, Emerson College

Makenziy Star McClure
BA, University of New Haven

Emily Hannah McDougal
BA, University of Southern California

Lauren Anne Mennen
BA, Muhlenberg College

Audrey Molina
BA, Vanderbilt University

Jacob Allen Nail
BA, Salisbury University

Autumn Christine Pentecost
BA, The University of Alabama at
Birmingham

Emily Elizabeth Schmid
BA, University of Virginia

Ember Leslie Sentury
BA, University of Illinois Chicago

Kennedy Jo Van Cleve
BA, University of Northern Iowa

Mia Elaine Villeneuve
BA, Union College

Department of Writing, Literature and Publishing

MASTER OF FINE ARTS IN CREATIVE WRITING

Ashley Elizabeth Abitz*
BA, Texas Tech University

Matthew Louis Albren
BA, Wake Forest University

Skylar Bliss Allen
BA, Southern Methodist University

Hannah Jane Bayless
BA, California State University, Northridge

Haley Renee Brock
BA, Trevecca Nazarene University

Noah Vilhauer Buckley
BA, Columbia University

Ethan Capp
BA, Principia College

Miranda Sue Caputo Haeick
BA, California State University, Northridge

Laura Elizabeth Cason
BA, Louisiana Tech University

Maia Andie Cataldo
BA, Brandeis University

Jade Chin
BA, University of Maryland, College Park

Sydnie Isabella David
BA, Simmons University

Nathaniel Louis DeChambeau
BS, Purdue University

Chidera Cyril Duru
BSc, Imo State University

ChloeAnne Lyynn Erickson
BA, Central Washington University

Ryan Patrick Ferguson
BA, Gonzaga University

Christopher Neil Fong Chew
BM, Berklee College of Music

Kenyon Rhodes Geiger
BA, University of Maine

Danny Ellen Holman
BS, University of Missouri–Columbia

Katherine Porter Frey Holmes
BA, University of Chicago

Tariq Maxwell Karibian
MA, University of Chicago

Danielle Marston
BS, Unity College

Casey Mary McCarthy
BA, University of Mississippi

Abigail Rose McGovern
BA, Ferrum College

Abby Patricia Mills
BA, Boston University

Madison Grace Mondeaux
BA, Knox College

Padrick S. Moran
BA, Florida State University

Mason Ryan Newbury
BA, Suffolk University

Tochukwu Emmanuel Okafor
MS, Carnegie Mellon University

Aniaha Ortiz
BA, Denison University

Asya Partan
MSc, The London School of Economics
and Political Science

Scott Pomfret
JD, University of Michigan

Natalie Marie Prieb
BA, The George Washington University

Arohi Purnaye
BA, Fergusson College, Pune

Erin Elizabeth Reilly
BA, St. John Fisher College

BC Reynolds
BA, Boston University

Candidates for Master's Degrees

Abigail Virginia Shoults

BA, Hampshire College

Alec Edward Neil Spencer

BA, Boston University

Richard John Steele

BA, Hamilton College

Adam Douglas Swanson

MPP, George Mason University

Ana Victoria Valdes Salazar

MA, University of Galway

Catherine Rose Varonko

BA, Syracuse University

Oliver Nash Willham

BA, University of Iowa

Su Heng Michael Yi

BA, University of British Columbia

Grace Zhu

BA, University of Illinois Chicago

**MASTER OF FINE ARTS IN POPULAR
FICTION WRITING AND PUBLISHING****Vincent Bernabeo**

MA, California State University San
Marcos

Hunter Heath Bigelow

BA, Arizona State University

Erika Marie Brown

BS, Champlain College

Megan Jessica Brown

BS, University of Vermont

Emily Marie Chapel

MA, University of Denver

Anisah J. Dean

BA, Stockton University

Zenia deHaven

BA, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and
State University

Victoria Tamara Draper

BA, Fairfield University

Logan James Farley*

BA, Lasell University

McKayla Elizabeth Gates

BA, Nelson University

Brittney Liesa Graves

BA, Miami University

Anna Marie Green

BA, Coastal Carolina University

Meghan Michelle Hulsey

BS, Menlo College

Natalie Jane Intihar

BA, Trinity University

Kimberly Michelle Jackson

BA, University of Phoenix

Tabetha Gabriella Kiraz

BA, Rowan University

Madison Gabrielle Knoll

MA, University of North Dakota

Karly Lively

BA, Western Washington University

Jennifer Mach

BA, George Mason University

Genesis Karmaria McGriggs*

BA, University of Houston

Lexiss Morgan

BA, Loyola Marymount University

Amber Morrison

BA, State University of New York at New
Paltz

Alissa Kathryn Mutton

BA, Mercyhurst University

Jack Harrison Nachwalter

BA, Columbia College Chicago

Naomi Athena Necakov

BA, University of Rochester

Victoria Catherine Northrop

BA, Boise State University

Jordan Lee Penney

BA, Lesley University

Amaris Pollinger*

BA, University of Massachusetts Lowell

Jessilyn L. Rich

BA, University of Southern Maine

Natalie Grace Richman

BA, University of California, Berkeley

Elizabeth Roberts

BFA, Indiana University Bloomington

Wendi Romero

BA, Bradley University

Susanne Salehi

MA, The University of Memphis

Tonissa Saul

MA, Arizona State University

Jennifer Sexton-Riley

BA, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Brianne Marie Simone

BA, Franklin & Marshall College

Kaylee Rose Clemans Stanley

BS, Middle Tennessee State University

Shannon Elaine Sweeney

BA, Southern New Hampshire University

Daria Elise Terry*

BA, Augusta University

Madison Paige Thompson

BA, University of Missouri–Columbia

James Robert Tickle

BA, Bridgewater State University

Theresa Y. Tmekei Peterson

BA, University of California, San Diego

Margo Louise Ursitti

BA, Saint Elizabeth University

Matthijs Theodore van der Put*

BA, Gonzaga University

Emma Grace Wright

BA, Heidelberg University

**MASTER OF ARTS IN PUBLISHING
AND WRITING****Catherine Elizabeth Arndt**

BA, George Mason University

Rita Irene Aucker

BA, Ithaca College

Jordan Elizabeth Battaglia

BA, DePaul University

Melanie Grace Bellavance

BA, College of William & Mary

Candidates for Master's Degrees

Leah Marie Brennsteiner

BA, West Virginia University

Amber Margaret Call

BS, Brigham Young University

Reese Anne Corrigan

BA, The University of Alabama

Sydney Elizabeth Denham

MA, St. John's University

Elizabeth Rose DiGrande

BA, Elon University

Fatima Esquivel Benjamin

BA, Purdue University

Nina Manuela Rezendes Fauci

BA, Emerson College

Natalie Clare Foster*

BA, Colby College

Clara Jean Gerken

BA, Southern New Hampshire University

Anya MaKaye Getschel

BA, Emerson College

Evie Giffin

BA, York College of Pennsylvania

Emily Nicholle Goyanes

BA, University of California, Irvine

Anne Elizabeth Gray

BA, Drury University

Sophie Healy Hartstein

BA, Emerson College

Amber Heaney

BA, Emerson College

Alyssa Mai Hempel

BA, University of Washington

Addison Hinkle

BA, University of South Carolina

McKenna Ryan Johnson

BA, University of Montana

Olivia Danielle Johnson

BA, The University of Maine

Melea E. Jones

BA, Emerson College

Gabrielle Alexandra Kirk

BA, The George Washington University

Lily Labella

BA, Emerson College

Camryn Ann Lehr

BA, Emerson College

Leticia Lekos

BA, University at Albany–SUNY

Mary Bailey Massey

BA, The University of Texas at Austin

Aubrey Madison McConnell

BA, Emerson College

Hayley L. McGowan

BA, University of Rochester

Ciera Ilana Miller

BA, University of Maine at Farmington

Cassandra Margarete Montgomery

BA, The University of Alabama

Jessica Ruby Moran-Reyes

BA, Emerson College

Amelia Oei

BA, Emerson College

Jocelyn Maria Rachel Peikes

BA, Boston University

Marissa Ann Romano

BA, Binghamton University

Kelly Ann Rota

BA, San Francisco State University

Grace Elizabeth Rubin

BA, Wesleyan University

Peyton Sloane Sammons

BA, University of New England

Serena Michelle Sanchez

BA, California State University

Milo Ellen Sanders

BA, Oklahoma Christian University

Parvathy Sankunni Nair

BA, LLB, Symbiosis Law School, Pune

Brenna Marie Sheets

BA, University of Florida

Lauren Shoemaker

BA, Florida State University

Leah Samantha Shosteck

BA, Emerson College

Maeve Catherine Stowe

BA, Bridgewater State University

Elisabeth Tonsberg

BA, Boston University

Rebecca Paige Verrill

BA, Emerson College

Lirona Hanita Wainer-Yaffe

BA, Allegheny College

Genevieve J. Zander

BA, University of California, Los Angeles

SCHOOL OF FILM, TELEVISION, AND MEDIA ARTS

MASTER OF FINE ARTS IN FILM AND MEDIA ART

Anne Elizabeth Acker

BS, Appalachian State University

Muhammad Zayan Agha

BFA, National College of Arts

Vanessa Ashlee Bazile

BA, University of Massachusetts Lowell

Vaishnavi Bhimani

PGD, Whistling Woods International

Minyu Chen

BA, Zhejiang University

Luis Gerardo G. Del Razo Tamayo*

BA, National Autonomous University of Mexico

Zhiyao Ding

MA, Communication University of China

Jing Dong

BFA, Communication University of Zhejiang

Saba Ghasemi

BA, Soore University

Maja Lynne Havemeyer Giguere

BA, Rhode Island College

Candidates for Master's Degrees

Takaya Kawasaki

MA, New York University

Sarasa Kikuchi

BA, International Christian University

David G. Lehr

BA, University of Arizona

Noelle Celeste Leslie-Morgan

BA, American University

Jiamin Li

BA, University of Rochester

Zhelun Jerry Lin

BA, Huazhong Agricultural University

Zhengkai Luo

BSc, The London School of Economics and Political Science

Seyedehshaghayegh Mir Jafarinezhadhallaj

BA, Art University of Tehran

Carmen Martín Pedrero

BA, ECAM

Arden Piandes

BA, Emerson College

Rui Shen

BFA, Beijing Film Academy

Ethan Smith

BFA, Wittenberg University

Yangyanyun Tang

BA, Saint Petersburg Repin Academy of Arts

Casey R. Thomas

BA, Lesley University

Yiwei Xie

BFA, Communication University of Zhejiang

Siqi Xiong

BA, Peking University

Yishu Yu

BFA, Beijing Film Academy

Nina Zehri

BSc, Institute of Business Management

Yue Zhang

BA, Zhejiang University

Xiayu Zhou

BA, China Academy of Art

MASTER OF FINE ARTS IN WRITING FOR FILM AND TELEVISION**Camille Mary Alexander**

MSM, Wake Forest University

Tavius Allen

BA, University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Jeffrey T. Beaucar

BA, California State University, Fullerton

Joshua Thomas Bray

BFA, Ringling College of Art and Design

Matthew Brown

BA, James Madison University

Frank Edward Caeti

BA, Colorado State University

Deejay Anette Castillo

BFA, Emerson College

John Cicco

BA, Wesleyan University

Tanasia Davis-Ramsey

BFA, Montclair State University

Zachary Nathan Earnest

BA, Emerson College

Leslieann Eccles

BS, Morgan State University

Allison Kelly Giust

BA, Emerson College

Journey Rose Jennings

BA, Columbus State University

Samuel Lively

BA, College of the Holy Cross

Brittney Michelle Miller

BA, University of North Texas

Rebecca Anne Ortmann

BFA, University of Utah

Ryan Reynir Parteka

BFA, The University of Akron

Danata May Paulino

BA, Aquinas College

Karen Beth Rosenbaum

MD, University of Chicago

Jennifer Sondag

BA, American University

Sierra Bonet-Beverly Sumpter

BA, Georgia State University

Roma Sur

MA, University of Denver

Alyson B. Thompson

BA, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Jordan Alexis Utterback

BFA, University of Central Florida

Tavonne Broneé Williams

BA, Southern Connecticut State University

*Denotes Summer 2026 Graduate

Appearance of a name in the Graduate Hooding Ceremony Program is presumptive evidence of graduation but is not regarded as conclusive. The official Emerson College transcript, sealed and signed by the Registrar, is conclusive testimony of a student's academic record and possession of degree(s) awarded by Emerson College.

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Los Angeles, CA

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President, Di Bonaventura Pictures Television and Di

Bonaventura Pictures, Inc.

Los Angeles, CA

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Managing Partner, Gersh Agency

Los Angeles, CA

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Co-Founder, Katzsmith Productions

Los Angeles, CA

Joseph J. Johnson III, MA

Managing Director and Head of Liabilities, Lafayette

Square Holding Company, LLC

New York, NY

Adele Lim, BS '96, LHD '22

Screenwriter/Director and President,

100 Tigers Productions

Los Angeles, CA

Peter Loge, BA '87

SMPA Director, Associate Professor of Media and Public

Affairs, Director of the Project on Ethics in Political

Communication, George Washington University

Washington, DC

Kevin McKeon, BA '07
Director, Original Film, Netflix
Los Angeles, CA

Andrea M. Montoni, BS '78
Marketing Communications
Washington, DC

Paul J. Morra, BS '95
Partner, Executive Producer, and Director, Swift River
Productions
Los Angeles, CA

Max Mutchnick, BS '87, LHD '13
Television Writer, Producer, and Showrunner,
Fox Television Studios
Los Angeles, CA

Susan (Hammel) Namm Spencer, BS '61
New York, NY, and Jupiter, FL

Patricia Peyton, BS '84
Leadership and Sales Consultant
Scottsdale, AZ

Sam Presti, BA '00
Executive Vice President and General Manager,
Oklahoma City Thunder
Oklahoma City, OK

Steven Samuels, BA, LHD '22
Chairman, Samuels & Associates
Boston, MA

Tara Sandler, BS '84
Partner/Executive Producer, Pie Town Productions
North Hollywood, CA

Cathy M. Weiss, BA
Philanthropic Advisor
New York, NY

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Marilyn Zacharis, MA, LHD '11

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