

CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

Doctoral Hooding Ceremony

DECEMBER 21, 2022



DOCTORAL HOODING CEREMONY

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2022

3:00 P.M.

BROOKS CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

CLEMSON, SOUTH CAROLINA

ORDER OF CEREMONIES

PROCESSIONAL

Stage Party

NATIONAL ANTHEM

(Please stand as you are able)

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

John Lopes

Associate Provost and Dean of the Graduate School

GRADUATE ADDRESS

James D. Allen

Ed.D. Candidate: Education Systems Improvement Science

Selected by the Graduate Student and Postdoctoral Advisory Committee

REMARKS

John Lopes

Associate Provost and Dean of the Graduate School

and

Robert H. Jones

Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

CONFERRING OF DEGREES

President James P. Clements

ALMA MATER

(See page 24 for lyrics;

Please stand as you are able and remain standing for

the recessional of the stage party)

Please remember to mute your phone during the ceremony.

Click or tap the name of a person on this page to see more information.

Today's ceremony is being streamed live with captioning at <https://tv.clemson.edu/>

The recording will be posted on Clemson's YouTube page.

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Robert Barcelona Parks, Recreation
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David Fleming Teaching and Learning

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Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies

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Associate Dean for Inclusive Excellence – Undergraduate

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Associate Dean for Inclusive Excellence – Graduate

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David A. Bruce Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering
Jesus M. de la Garza School of Civil and Environmental
Engineering and Earth Sciences

Brian Dean, acting..... School of Computing
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R. Joe Watkins General Engineering
Kevin M. Taaffe Industrial Engineering
Kyle S. Brinkman Materials Science and Engineering
Zoran Filipi School of Mechanical
and Automotive Engineering

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Associate Dean for Undergraduate Excellence, Global
Engagement, Community Engagement and Inclusive Excellence

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William T. Pennington Chemistry
David F. Clayton Genetics and Biochemistry
Kevin L. James School of Mathematical
and Statistical Sciences
Sean D. Brittain..... Physics and Astronomy

Special thanks to graduate program coordinators and staff:
Though there are too many to list here, the graduate program coordinators, student services coordinators and countless other staff members across campus are essential to the success of graduate education at Clemson. We thank you for your commitment and hard work.

DOCTORAL PIN

Earning a doctoral degree is never easy. Finishing a program in the midst of a global pandemic is truly remarkable.

To honor the extraordinary dedication and achievement of today's graduates, each one will receive a lapel pin designed for our doctoral graduates.

The pin features a block "C" logo that was in use in 1955 when Clemson offered its first doctoral degree program. Across the C are three stripes like the ones graduates are wearing on their sleeves today.



DOCTORAL HOODING

The doctoral hood is a symbolic honor of distinction bestowed upon scholars who have attained the highest level of formal education available in the world, representing a typical range of five to seven years of study beyond the bachelor's degree. Clemson's 46-inch-long doctoral hood is usually draped over the shoulders by the faculty member who, as chair of the advisory committee, has formally mentored and guided the student's research and education.

The University has named "Clemson purple" *Regalia* in a nod to these stately gowns.

You will note that faculty members are wearing gowns, caps and hoods of many colors and designs. These academic costumes of medieval origin are, for faculty with degrees from U.S. institutions, specified by a uniform code maintained by the American Council on Education. Caps are black and are usually mortar boards or tams with tassels. Doctors of philosophy wear gold tassels usually of metallic thread; those with other degrees wear black or discipline colors. Those who have received their degrees from institutions outside the United States wear regalia specified by the awarding institutions.

Doctors' gowns are full, with bell-like sleeves. The front is bordered with velvet panels and the sleeves are marked by three velvet bars. While some gowns are black with black velvet, one variation is to replace black velvet with velvet in the discipline color. A second variation is a colored gown usually of the university's colors.

All hoods specify the level of degree, the type of discipline studied and the awarding institution. The width of the velvet trim conveys the degree. In addition, the degree is indicated by the color of the trim edging the hood to form the throat over the gown. The most frequently seen color is dark blue, which designates the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree. Finally, the color of the hood's lining is specific to the awarding institution. The colors are displayed in combinations that are drawn from heraldry. Notice that the Clemson University hood is lined with purple through which is an orange chevron (a "V"). Although many combinations are duplicated by dozens of institutions, Clemson is presently the only institution with that registered combination of purple and orange.

The officers, trustees and honored guests wear academic, ecclesiastical or military regalia as set forth by their professions. The president of Clemson University wears a purple gown with four velvet bars piped in orange and the University seal embroidered on the panels. Each trustee wears a similar gown with three velvet bars piped in orange for doctorates and an embroidered palmetto tree on each sleeve for those who do not hold doctorates. Trustee hoods are either from Clemson or from the awarding school.



A BRIEF HISTORY OF GRADUATE EDUCATION AND THE GRADUATE SCHOOL AT CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

[Clemson's faculty] would engage in original and important research, by which knowledge would be increased, whilst the immediate objects... would be the diffusion of facts on all scientific subjects. It would be vain to attempt to fix a limit to the benefits that would thus be conferred upon mankind and their effects upon society...
— THOMAS GREEN CLEMSON¹

In conceptualizing a “high seminary of learning” for South Carolina, Thomas Green Clemson knowingly set the stage for graduate education to emerge as an engine of economic development in the state. Graduate education quickly became synonymous with the application of theory to improving the practices of education and agriculture. The analysis of fertilizer, a contracted activity of the chemistry department that began in the late 1930s, would help restore depleted South Carolina soils, increase agricultural production, and spur a rapid development in opportunities for students at Clemson College to study beyond the baccalaureate degree.

Graduate coursework initially responded to the needs of veterans and to the interests of teachers wanting to improve their classroom skills, but also — from its inception — attracted international students' attention. On June 3, 1924, Patrick Hobson of Sandy Springs, South Carolina, earned the first master's degree awarded at Clemson. He used his degree in vocational education to serve as a high school principal and later as superintendent of schools in York County, South Carolina and Mitchell County, North Carolina. The third graduate degree, a master's in textile industrial education awarded to Ko-Chia Li from Mukden, China, on June 1, 1926, initiated an enrollment trend that has catapulted China to its status as the number-one sending country for international graduate students for many years. Mr. Li returned to China and taught as a professor of textile engineering at Peking University, and served as head of the construction department in LiaoBei Province.

From 1938 until 1945, all aspects of graduate education (courses, programs, policies, procedures, admission, and graduation) developed under the auspices of the Committee on Graduate Instruction, chaired by F. H. H. Calhoun, Dean of the School of Chemistry and Geology. Twice during these years, the University's attempts to formalize graduate education were thwarted because of the challenges to the Committee to maintain the necessary standards of quality. Clemson faculty recognized early that to establish a graduate program that enabled Clemson alumni to enroll would require strengthening the undergraduate curriculum and courses to prevent knowledge gaps “between the two.”²

On March 14, 1945, President Poole received the Committee's resolution requesting the appointment of a Dean of the Graduate School. It had been ascertained by that time that 19 courses could be offered immediately by the schools of agriculture, chemistry, engineering, textiles, and arts and sciences. On July 27, 1946, the Board of Trustees approved the Committee's proposed graduate program of study and, that fall, formally admitted the first class of students into “the Graduate School.” However, it would not be until June 15, 1951, that Herbert J. Webb, Chair of the Department of Chemistry and Toxicology, was appointed as the first Dean of the Graduate School.

Masterfully stewarded by President Poole himself and modeled initially after several prestigious southern institutions, Clemson's graduate programs grew cautiously but steadily, introducing the first doctoral degree, in plant pathology, in 1955. Today, the Graduate School proudly enrolls more than 5,000 graduate students and is committed to continued growth at both the master's and doctoral levels.

1. Holmes, A. and G. R. Sherrill. *Thomas Green Clemson: His Life and Work*. 1937, p. 129.

2. Clemson University Library System archives. *Minutes of the Committee on Graduate Instruction, 1945-1953*, p. 7.

GRADUATE ADDRESS

JAMES D. ALLEN EDUCATION SYSTEMS IMPROVEMENT SCIENCE

Speech Delivered at the Doctoral Hooding Ceremony, December 21, 2022



Good Afternoon.

First, let me say what an honor it is to be standing here today. I was humbled to be nominated, and to be chosen to speak today is just a very surreal moment for me. On behalf of myself and the graduates represented today, we would like to express our deepest gratitude to the faculty and staff of this university that have helped us so much along this journey. To our families and friends who have supported us and made sacrifices along the way, today would not have been possible without you. Over the course of the last few years, there have been many times when my wife played the role of a single parent so that I could read, write and revise what seemed like draft 4,000 of my proposal and later dissertation. To everyone who has helped along the way, we are so grateful for your support, and as we celebrate today, faculty, family, and friends, please know that we are celebrating you as well.

As I was thinking about today and the different things that would be taking place, I couldn't help but reflect back on some past ceremonies where we have gathered, just like this, celebrating great milestones in our lives. Great achievements, where we have walked across a stage and been celebrated, the first probably being high school graduation. I know it's been longer for some of us than others, but do you remember that feeling of such great accomplishment? Do you remember how "grown up" you felt? If only we had known some of the things we know now, maybe we wouldn't have been in such a hurry to jump into adulthood.

Then, fast forward four years, maybe a little longer for some of us, but eventually, we made it and there we were, graduating with our first college degree, walking across yet another stage, again celebrating the end of a journey.

For me, that one was quite special because, in my family, that was the first time we celebrated a college graduation, although I must say, it was also a little bittersweet that day, realizing that as a lifelong Tiger fan, the degree that would be hanging on my wall, would bear the name of another university, and I won't mention which, but the main campus is in Columbia. In fact, that actually became part of the motivation for completing my doctorate at Clemson, just a small part, but I wanted to be able to proudly display my Clemson degree on the wall above my... other one.

But we stand here today, all of us having been part of these past celebrations—I realize for some, you may have gone from undergraduate school straight into a doctoral program—many probably went on and celebrated receiving a master's degree or maybe like myself, a master's and then a specialist's degree.

Regardless of the path each of us took to get here today, as we look back, there have been many stops along the journey where we celebrated.

As I looked back to each of those events, each of those times of celebration, I began reflecting on the similarities and the differences between them, and I started wondering, how would today be different? As we gather today, there is one very distinct difference from those past celebrations.

For me, the realization of just how different today would be occurred the day after I defended my dissertation. It was 7:45 the next morning, and as I was standing in the hall watching students hurry into their classes, I was talking with my colleague about how my defense went, and she asked me this question: "So you're done now?"

At that moment, the weight of this "terminal" degree sank upon me. It was at that very moment I realized that completing this degree was not like any of those we'd earned in the past. You see, in the past, as we celebrated those accomplishments, there was always a question, what's next?

After high school, we were asked, "are you going to go to college," and "what are you going to major in?"

After undergrad, "are you thinking about getting your master's?"

And so on, and so on, until now. Sure, there may be some of us that are just crazy enough to go on and pursue a second doctoral degree, but for most of us, this is it.

With the awarding of our terminal degree today, this is probably the last time you or I will be celebrated for walking across a stage unless maybe you become a famous singer; I don't think that's in the cards for me.

But my challenge to you today, my hope for you today, is that you do not let today become the last time you are celebrated. As you go on to pursue your career, whether it be in healthcare, engineering, or like myself, education, let this degree be a tool that opens opportunities for you.

Opportunities to help and care for others, opportunities to reach and teach the underserved in our communities. Opportunities to pursue and solve problems that, just yesterday, were thought impossible.

I hope today affords you many opportunities to stand up and speak out for those who can't stand for themselves.

You see, Doctors, whether you realize it or not, you are now among the experts in your field. Your voice is now louder, your influence greater, and your reach wider.

We have all worked extremely hard to be here today, extremely hard to make a difference in our lives, but I ask now that you continue your work, working to make a difference in the lives of others. Don't let the celebration end today.

To the Graduate School, thank you for allowing me this time today. To my committee, thank you for your endless support and guidance through this process. Finally, to my family, thank you for coming along on this journey with me. Now, let's celebrate! Go, Tigers!



Please remember to mute your phone during the ceremony.
Click or tap the image to view the slideshow, or go to bit.ly/dec2022slideshow.

CANDIDATES FOR THE DOCTORAL DEGREE

John Lopes, Dean of the Graduate School

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND LIFE SCIENCES

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Entomology

Sophia Conzemius Christian Eagan, MN

B.S., M.S., South Dakota State University

Dissertation: Quantifying and Identifying Mechanisms of Resistance to Thrips (Thysanoptera: Thripidae) In Landraces of Upland Cotton (*Gossypium hirsutum*)

Advisers: Dr. Francis P.F. Reay-Jones, Dr. Jeremy K. Greene

Sophia has held several student organization leadership positions including president of the Clemson Entomology Club and vice president of the Edisto Research Association. She received seven travel and research awards and was a finalist in Clemson University's 2019 Three Minute Thesis Competition. She has accepted the position of Sustaining Way's Food Security and Agriculture AmeriCorps VISTA in Greenville, SC.

Food, Nutrition, and Packaging Sciences

Wesam H. Aljeddawi Baghdad, Iraq

B.S., University of Baghdad; M.S., Clemson University

Dissertation: The Effect of Freezing Rates and Storage on Atlantic Salmon and Peaches

Adviser: Dr. Paul L. Dawson

Wesam has held numerous leadership roles at DiscoverFresh Foods Inc., USA, including director of quality assurance, food scientist and consultant, director of laboratory and scientific research, and currently an executive director of laboratory services. He is a member of the editorial board in the journal of food research (The Canadian Center of Science and Education, Canada) and *Advances in Science, Technology and Engineering Systems Journal (ASTESJ)*, United States.

Sneh Bangar Hisar, India

B.S., Kurukshetra University; M.S., Chaudhary Devi Lal University

Dissertation: Development, Characterization, and Application of Pearl Millet Starch-Based Nanocomposite Films Reinforced With Kudzu Cellulose Nanocrystals

Adviser: Dr. Feng Chen

Ikechukwu Collins Esobi.....Lagos, Nigeria

M.S., Texas A&M University

Dissertation: The Role of VSMC MiR-33A Expression on ApoA-1 Mediated Cholesterol Efflux and Macrophage-Like Cell Transdifferentiation

Adviser: Dr. Alexis Stamatikos

Ikechukwu was a recipient of the Columbus Hammond Townsend Graduate Fellowship, Wade Stackhouse Fellowship, and the 2022 Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis, and Vascular Biology Grant for Early Career Investigators. He plans to continue his research on arteriosclerosis and cardiovascular diseases.

Sepideh Alasvand Zarasvand Clemson, SC
B.S., Isfahan University of Technology; M.S., Shiraz University
Dissertation: Chemical and Sensory Analyses of Teas From *Mangifera indica* L. Leaves and
Evaluation of Their Anti-Adipogenic Effect in 3T3-L1 Adipocytes
Adviser: Dr. Vivian J. Haley-Zitlin

Duleeka Prasadani Kuruwita Arachchige Clemson, SC
B.S., University of Kelaniya; M.S., Clemson University
Dissertation: Effect of Chlorine Dioxide Gas on the Properties of Packaging Materials and
Effect of Chlorine Dioxide Gas to Maintain the Quality of Fresh Strawberries
Adviser: Dr. Duncan O. Darby
Duleeka has one peer-reviewed publication with another under review and two peer-review papers to
be submitted. She plans to work in a position that utilizes her experience in food science and food
technology with an emphasis on packaging, microbiology, and total quality assurance to ensure the
quality and safety of the final product.

Plant and Environmental Sciences

Lukas Aryn Dant Forest City, IA
B.S., M.S., Iowa State University
Dissertation: Etiology and Epidemiology of Mini-ring in Ultradwarf Bermudagrass Putting
Greens
Adviser: Dr. Lambert McCarty
Lukas will continue to work for Syngenta Crop Protection and reside with his family near Greenville,
SC.

Brian Tyler Lawrence Nashville, IN
B.A., Hanover College; M.S., Clemson University
Dissertation: Exploring Soil-Tree Interactions After Applying Organic Matter Amendments to
Peach Orchards in the Subtropical Climate of the Southeastern United States
Adviser: Dr. Juan Carlos Melgar
Brian has authored six peer-reviewed papers on peach and small fruit orchard management while at
Clemson with another five papers in progress. He will continue tree physiology research in Spain next
spring but plans to become a professor to continue research and educate others about sustainable
agriculture.

Melissa Muñoz Medellin, Colombia
B.S., Universidad Nacional de Colombia sede Medellin; M.S., Clemson University
Dissertation: Unveiling the Potential of Calcium and Natamycin for Botrytis Blight
Management on Cut Roses
Advisers: Dr. James E. Faust, Dr. Guido Schnabel
Melissa has received two prestigious horticulture scholarships the Paul Ecke Jr. and Altman Family
Scholar-ships. She was also the winner of the 2022 spring Graduate Research and Discovery Symposium
(GRADS) and was awarded for her oral presentations at national and international scientific
conferences. She has accepted a postdoctoral position with the University of North Carolina.

Wildlife and Fisheries Biology

Nakisha T. FouchHampton, VA

B.S., The Ohio State University; B.S., Brevard College; M.C.R.P., Clemson University

Dissertation: Green on the Map – The Influence of Conservation Easements on the
Naturalness of Landscapes in the United States

Adviser: Dr. Robert F. Baldwin

Prior to acceptance at Clemson, Nakisha served as an AmeriCorps member for Western North Carolina's Project Conserve. Nakisha has seven peer-reviewed publications in collaboration with both Clemson faculty/alumni and through a graduate fellowship with National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center (SESYNC), and is employed as a climate impact risk advisor with Fannie Mae.

Anjelika Dominique Kidd-Weaver.....Pelzer, SC

B.S., Mars Hill University; M.S., University of Georgia

Dissertation: Behavioral Ecology of the American Alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*) in Human-Dominated Landscapes of Coastal South Carolina

Adviser: Dr. Catherine M. Bodinof Jachowski

Anje is a first-generation college graduate.

COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE, ARTS AND HUMANITIES

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Planning, Design and the Built Environment

Christopher Todd UsherGreenville, SC

B.S., M.B.A., M.S., Clemson University

Dissertation: Likelihood to Recommend: A Mixed-Methods Analysis of Consumer Perception of Homebuilders

Advisers: Dr. Jason D. Lucas, Dr. Shima N. Clarke

Todd has joined other leading experts from the housing industry to form a working group that will define benchmarks for environmental, social, and governance (ESG) strategies, accountability, and reporting for the housing sector. He founded and will continue to manage the upstate South Carolina green building firm, Addison Homes.

Rhetorics, Communication and Information Design

Matthew Gregory ChambersStarr, SC

B.S., Anderson University; M.B.A., Clemson University

Dissertation: Data In-Form: Measuring the Effect of Visualization Rhetoric

Adviser: Dr. Jan Rune Holmevik

Matthew has one peer-reviewed publication. He will continue to serve as Executive Director of Visual Analytics at Clemson University.

COLLEGE OF BEHAVIORAL, SOCIAL, AND HEALTH SCIENCES

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Applied Health Research and Evaluation

Christina J. Dietz Bluffton, SC
B.S., M.S., Clemson University
Dissertation: Diabetes Self-Management Education and Support: Understanding Knowledge and the Impact
Adviser: Dr. Windsor Westbrook Sherrill
Christina has accepted a position at Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center in the Division of Hospital Medicine to work as a health researcher with clinicians.

Caitlin Tabitha Teaster Torrence Maryville, TN
M.S., Clemson University; M.A., East Tennessee State University
Dissertation: Pattern of Health Care Utilization and Cost Among Alzheimer’s Emergency Department Patients in South Carolina
Advisers: Dr. Khoa Dang Truong, Dr. Cheryl J. Dye
Caitlin was named outstanding graduate teacher assistant for the Public Health Department in 2018 and was awarded the Clemson University Doctoral Dissertation Grant. She has three peer-reviewed publications and one under review. Caitlin plans to continue her research on Alzheimer’s disease and related dementia.

Industrial and Organizational Psychology

Phoebe Xoxakos Yorkville, IL
B.A., Northern Illinois University; M.S., Clemson University
Dissertation: A New Comprehensive and Practical Taxonomy of Demands Healthcare Professionals Experience: The Development Process and Testing Using Machine Learning
Advisers: Dr. Patrick J. Rosopa, Dr. Marissa Shuffler
Phoebe was named the Outstanding Ph.D. Student in Psychology in 2022; she coauthored four peer-reviewed journal and chapter publications, presented fourteen conference presentations, and held internships with PRISMA Health and Press Ganey. Phoebe served Clemson’s Society for Industrial Organizational Psychology as the social affairs coordinator, as an ad hoc journal reviewer, on the selection committee for the associate dean of research and graduate studies, on the diversity, equity, and inclusion subcommittee, and was a peer mentor.

International Family and Community Studies

William H. Edwards Central, SC
B.A., University of Florida; M.S., University of North Texas
Dissertation: Needs Assessment for Systematic Cultural Competence Training in the Field of Applied Behavior Analysis
Adviser: Dr. Mark A. Small
Billy was the recipient of the 2021 Clemson University Frankie O. Felder Graduate Student Award of Excellence presented for persistence and demonstrating academic excellence as a graduate student. Billy plans to continue his role as Director of the Clemson Center for Behavior Analysis.

Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management

Alexsandra Jo Dubin East Greenbush, NY

B.A., University of Vermont; M.S., State University of New York, Cortland

Dissertation: The Experience of Children With Severe Food Allergy at Residential Camp

Adviser: Dr. Barry A. Garst

Ali is thrilled to continue her time at Clemson University after graduation. She has accepted a position lecturing for the non-profit leadership program and for the new hospitality certification program for Clemson Life.

Summer Dawn MaticsSalem, VA

B.S., Radford University; M.A., Liberty University

Dissertation: The Impact of COVID-19 on Recreational Therapists Working in Inpatient Mental Health Settings

Adviser: Dr. Brandi M. Crowe

Summer is currently the director of adjunctive therapy at Catawba Hospital, a state psychiatric facility in Catawba, VA. She is also an adjunct instructor of recreational therapy at Radford University. Summer plans to either advance in her career in mental health or teach recreational therapy full-time.

Tania Santiago PerezVeracruz, Mexico

B.S., M.S., Florida International University

Dissertation: Scuba Diving Social Identity, Type of Experience, Sociopsychobio Health, Health-Related Quality of Life, Self-Efficacy, Disability Level, and Personality among People with Physical Impairments: A Mixed-Methods Study

Adviser: Dr. Brandi M. Crowe

Tania received the Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism Management 2021-2022 Brett A. Wright Award for Graduate Student Achievement. In addition, she was promoted to Associate Teaching Professor at Florida International University in 2021.

Andrew Bateman WatersSpartanburg, SC

B.A., University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; M.B.A., University of North Carolina, Greensboro

Dissertation: Activating Cosmic Capital: Evaluating the Role of Social Capital and Sense of Place in Environmental Stewardship and Adaptive Governance

Advisers: Dr. Charles Chancellor, Dr. Lori A. Dickes

Andrew is a project director at the University of North Carolina Environmental Finance Center and instructor in the Clemson MPA program.

Karen Carnicello Wenzel Littleton, CO

B.A., B.S., University of Colorado; M.A., University of Northern Colorado

Dissertation: The Role of Leisure Engagement in Fostering Cognition in Aging

Adviser: Dr. Marieke Van Puymbroeck

Karen has eleven peer-reviewed publications with another under review. She has also written two book chapters, and co-authored a third. She became a Fellow Distinguished in Recreational Therapy (FDRT) in 2019.

WILBUR O. AND ANN POWERS COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Economics

Yanchen Wu[†] Hangzhou, China
B.S., Harbin Engineering University; M.S., Northeastern University
Adviser: Dr. Curtis J. Simon
[†] Posthumous

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

DOCTOR OF EDUCATION

Education Systems Improvement Science

Paula Taylor Alexander Easley, SC
B.S., Southern Wesleyan University; M.A., Ed.S., Furman University
Dissertation: Pedagogical Data Literacy with a Multi-tiered System of Supports: A Mixed
Methods Study of Teachers Using Data-driven Reading Instruction in a Title I School
Adviser: Dr. Noelle A. Paufler

James Daniel Allen Boiling Springs, SC
M.Ed., Converse College; Ed.S., University of Arkansas
Dissertation: The Effects of the AVID Program on Rural Student Growth in Middle Grades
Mathematics
Adviser: Dr. Jane Clark Lindle
James was recently named Teacher of the Year at Rainbow Lake Middle School and plans to continue his
career in education.

Kelli Jo Lowe Anderson, SC
B.S., University of Central Florida; M.Ed., Southern Wesleyan University; Ed.S., Clemson
University
Dissertation: The Impact of Funds of Knowledge on Elementary Multilingual Learners'
Perceptions of their Connection to their Teacher and the Classroom
Adviser: Dr. Noelle A. Paufler
Kelli Jo is proud to be part of the first collaborative dissertation research team at Clemson University.
She plans to continue her work in the private sector.

Christie Denise Shealy Pelzer, SC
B.A., M.Ed., Ed.S., Clemson University
Dissertation: Increasing Classroom Teachers' Use of Linguistically Responsive Strategies To
Support English Language Learners: A Mixed-Methods Study
Adviser: Dr. Hans W. Klar
Christie works in Anderson School District One as the director of testing and accountability, in addition
to coordinating the multilingual learner program. She regularly presents at educational conferences on
supporting multilingual learners in the classroom and utilizing professional learning communities to
advance the teaching practice. She has served on state committees shaping standards and assessment and
teaches adjunct courses for teachers seeking graduate-level opportunities in the multilingual field.

Lindsey Skirtich Bluffton, SC
B.S., Ohio University; M.Ed., University of Cincinnati; Ed.S., The Citadel
Dissertation: Building Teachers' Cultural Capital in the Classroom: Using Funds of Knowledge
to Support Multilingual Learners
Adviser: Dr. Noelle A. Paufler
Lindsey serves as a senior account manager at NWEA, supporting educators and students at some of
the largest districts in the country. Prior to entering this role in the private sector, she served as a public
school teacher and administrator for 16 years.

Jeremy Aric Spielman.....Asheville, NC
B.A., Appalachian State University; M.S.A., Winthrop University
Dissertation: Developing and Advancing the Listening Lift Program to Improve How Leaders
Listen as a Means to Communicate More Effectively
Adviser: Dr. Hans W. Klar

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Educational Leadership

Charlotte Mildred Bruner Clemson, SC
B.A., Ed.S., Clemson University; M.Ed., Southern Wesleyan University
Dissertation: The Relationships Between College and Career Readiness Assessments
Adviser: Dr. Hans W. Klar
Charlotte teaches full-time at D. W. Daniel High School

Learning Sciences

Hazel Vega Quesada.....Alajuela, Costa Rica
B.S., M.A., Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica
Dissertation: Identity Tensions and Negotiations of English Teachers in Costa Rica through
Narrative Inquiry
Adviser: Dr. Golnaz Arastoopour Irgens
Hazel has presented her research on teacher identity and participatory approaches at national and
international conferences. She has published in peer-reviewed journals and edited volumes and plans to
work in academia.

Literacy, Language and Culture

Guoyong Wu.....Zheng Zhou, China
B.A., Shanghai Normal University; M.A., Shanghai University of Finance and Economics;
M.Ed., Vanderbilt University
Dissertation: Academic Discourse Socialization of International Graduate Students: The
Negotiation of Participation in Classroom Speaking Activities
Adviser: Dr. Phillip M. Wilder

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING, COMPUTING AND APPLIED SCIENCES

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Automotive Engineering

Dustin Bielecki..... Williamsville, NY

B.S., M.S., University at Buffalo

Dissertation: Multiscale Topology Optimization With a Strong Dependence on
Complementary Energy

Adviser: Dr. Rahul Rai

Howard James Jarrell Brand Christiansburg, VA

B.S., M.S., Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Dissertation: Non-Destructive Terrain Evaluation and Modeling for Off-Road Autonomy

Adviser: Dr. Bing Li

Howard is a federal employee. For the past seven years he has served as a mentor for young African American youth in a STEM outreach program. He also serves on a committee devoted to enacting initiatives for enhancing the efficacy of minoritized populations in rural communities.

Adhiti Raman Thothathri Delhi, India

B.E., Ramaiah Institute of Technology

Dissertation: Modeling, Control and Estimation of Reconfigurable Cable-Driven Parallel
Robots

Advisers: Dr. Venkat N. Krovi, Dr. Matthias Schmid

Adhiti's work will enable more efficient methods of modeling and control and advance the state of the art in safety and robustness through failure tolerant control of such robots for practical applications in domains such as concrete 3D printing.

Bioengineering

Mikhail Bredikhin Moscow, Russia

B.S., Stony Brook University

Dissertation: Highly Adherent Antimicrobial Coatings for Orthopedic Implants

Adviser: Dr. Alexey A. Vertegel

Samuel J. Coeyman..... Mt. Pleasant, SC

B.S., Clemson University

Dissertation: *In Vitro* Bioreactor for Mechanical Control and Characterization of Tissue
Constructs

Adviser: Dr. Ann C. Foley

Howard Dodwell Herbert IV..... Charleston, SC

B.S., Clemson University

Dissertation: Development of a Tissue Engineered Cardiac Patch

Advisers: Dr. Agneta Simionescu

Sarah Mayala MbikiMatthews, NC
B.S., Appalachian State University
Dissertation: Scalable Data-Driven Predictive Modeling and Analytics for CHO Process
Development Optimization
Adviser: Dr. Jordon A. Gilmore
Sarah has one peer-reviewed publication and another under review. She served as President of the Black Graduate Student Association and secretary of the Graduate Student Advisory Board for the College of Engineering, Computing and Applied Sciences. She has accepted a position at Regeneron Pharmaceuticals.

Michael Jacob PotterKnoxville, TN
B.S., University of Tennessee
Dissertation: Investigating Spatial Heterogeneity in Myocardial Wound Environments to Improve Therapy
Adviser: Dr. David K. Karig
Jake has a patent application filed for in vitro myocardial screening platforms and has presented his work through conference presentation and peer-reviewed publication. Following graduation, he will continue his work developing cardiac engineering technologies.

Biomedical Data Science and Informatics

Paritra Mandal JainNew Delhi, India
B.Tech., Amity University; M.S., New Jersey Institute of Technology
Dissertation: Data-Driven Biomarker Panel Discovery in Ovarian Cancer Using Heterogenous Data Fusion on Exosomal and Non-Exosomal Microrna Expression Data
Advisers: Dr. Terri F. Bruce, Dr. Brian C. Dean
Paritra was recipient of the People's Choice Award for GRADS 2021 and a dissertation completion grant. She is a three-time 3-Minute Thesis finalist and has accepted a position at CFD-Research to work with the CDC on COVID data.

Chemical Engineering

Sagar Vishnudas Shobha Kanhere..... Kumbhej, India
B.Tech., Institute of Chemical Technology
Dissertation: Carbon Fibers From Bio-Based Precursors Derived From Renewable Sources
Adviser: Dr. Amod A. Ogale
Sagar is a first-generation college student and has four peer-reviewed co-authored research articles, nine conference proceedings articles, and a first-authored book chapter. He won outstanding graduate student of the year award for the chemical engineering department.

Bipin Chakravarthy ParuchuriGuntur, India
B.E., M.E., Birla Institute of Technology and Science
Dissertation: Development of Enzyme-Responsive Polymersomes as a Drug Delivery System for GM1 Gangliosidosis
Adviser: Dr. Jessica M. Larsen
Bipin finished his doctoral dissertation with two peer-reviewed papers and is currently doing a post-doc at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, OH.

Dyllan Mariah Rives Scottsboro, AL
B.Ch.E., Auburn University
Dissertation: Profiling and Engineering the Unfolded Protein Response in Therapeutic Protein-Producing CHO Cell Lines
Advisers: Dr. Mark A. Blenner, Dr. Jessica M. Larsen
Dyllan is a recipient of the Earl C. Ray Fellowship in 2021 and the Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN) Fellowship in 2019. Dyllan has also been awarded several Graduate Travel Grants (GTG) from the Graduate Student Government. Dyllan has one peer-reviewed publication, and she is in the process of publishing three additional peer-reviewed articles. She plans to pursue a career in academia.

Deepraj SarmahGogamukh, India
B.E., Birla Institute of Technology and Science
Dissertation: Combining Network Modeling and Experimental Approaches to Predict Drug Combination Responses
Adviser: Dr. Marc R. Birtwistle
Deepraj has three peer reviewed publications with another under review. He plans to continue working on computational biology in the industry.

Hafeera ShabbirIslamabad, Pakistan
B.S., UET Lahore, Pakistan; M.S., Purdue University
Dissertation: Elucidation of Active Site and Mechanism of Metal Catalysts Supported in Nu-1000
Adviser: Dr. Rachel B. Getman
Hafeera won the Kokes and ACS travel awards and has three peer-reviewed publications with another under re-view. She plans to work in the oil and gas industry.

Michael Scott SpagnuoloPickerington, OH
B.S., Ohio State University; M.S., University of Akron
Dissertation: Metabolic Engineering of *Yarrowia lipolytica* for Enhanced Peroxisomal Production of Polyhydroxyalkanoates
Adviser: Dr. Mark A. Blenner, Dr. Marc R. Birtwistle
Michael has six peer-reviewed publications and is pursuing a career in industrial research and development.

Civil Engineering

Saleh Hussain Alhathloul Central, SC
B.S., King Saud University; M.S., Colorado State University
Dissertation: Influence of Climate and Droughts on Visibility Degradation in Saudi Arabia
Adviser: Dr. Abdul A. Khan, Dr. Ashok Mishra

Camilius Kofi Amevorku Keta, Ghana
B.S., Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology; M.S., Clemson University
Dissertation: Geology-Based Shear-Wave Velocity Model of Reference Site Conditions in South Carolina for Seismic Site Response Analysis
Adviser: Dr. Ronald D. Andrus, Dr. Nadarajah Ravichandran
Camilius has six peer-reviewed publications and was voted by students as the outstanding graduate lab assistant in civil engineering in 2021.

John Stuart Bell Greenville, SC
B.S., North Greenville University; M.S., Clemson University
Dissertation: Dynamic Characterization, Analysis, and Design of Rigid-Flex Robotics
Adviser: Dr. Laura Redmond
John has a total of five conference and journal publications, with two others in review, comprising his dissertation "Dynamic Analysis, Characterization, and Design of Rigid-Flex PCB Robotics." He plans to continue working in the aerospace industry.

Leonildo Nelson Cassule Central, SC
B.S., Kyung Hee University; M.S., Hanyang University
Dissertation: Measurement and Evaluation of Roadway Geometry for Safety Analyses and Pavement Material Volume Estimation for Resurfacing and Rehabilitation Using Mobile LiDAR and Imagery-based Point Clouds
Adviser: Dr. Wayne A. Sarasua
Leonildo was selected to become a member of the Civil Engineering Honor Society (Chi Epsilon) in 2020. In addition, he accepted the annual James Edwin Clark Fellowship award in the spring of 2022. The award is offered to outstanding graduate students enrolled in the Civil Engineering graduate program with the intent of pursuing a career as a transportation engineer.

Abdul Basit Peerzada Sopore, India
B.Tech., M.Tech., SRM University
Dissertation: Active Rheological and Stiffening Control of Cementitious Systems for Additive Manufacturing
Advisers: Dr. Prasad R. Rangaraju
Abdul was awarded the J.P. Gleason Research Fellowship by PCA and the Glenn teaching fellowship. He was awarded NSF INTERN supplementary funding for working at the National Institute of Standards and Technology. He has published three articles and has four more upcoming. He served as president of the Graduate Student Advisory Board.

Computer Science

Nicodemus Msafiri John Mbwambo Arusha, Tanzania
B.Eng., Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology; M.S., Clemson University
Dissertation: Uni-Prover: A Universal Automated Prover for Specificationally Rich Languages
Adviser: Dr. Murali Sitaraman

Yuehua Zhang Hefei, China
B.S., Xi'an JiaoTong University; M.S., Graduate University of Chinese Academy of Sciences
Dissertation: Large Genomes Assembly Using MAPREDUCE Framework
Advisers: Dr. Feng Luo

Electrical Engineering

Naireeta Deb Clemson, SC
B. Tech., M. Tech., National Institute of Technology
Dissertation: Implementation of SiC Power Electronics for Green Energy Based Electrification of Transportation
Adviser: Dr. Rajendra Singh

Payam Ramezani Badr Seneca, SC
B.S., Lorestan University
Dissertation: Multi-Criteria Performance Evaluation and Control in Power and Energy Systems
Adviser: Dr. Christopher S. Edrington
Bill has published several peer-reviewed papers and worked as a research assistant at real-time control and optimization laboratory. He intends to continue as an R&D engineer after graduation.

Weihang Tan.....Foshan, China
B.S., M.S., Clemson University
Dissertation: High-Performance VLSI Architectures for Lattice-Based Cryptography
Adviser: Dr. Yingjie Lao
Weihang was the recipient of the best Ph.D. forum presentation award at the AsianHOST 2021 conference and has seven peer-reviewed publications. He will join the University of Minnesota as a postdoctoral associate.

Eyob Negussie Tarekegn.....Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
B.S., Benedict College; M.S., Clemson University
Dissertation: Enhancing the Performance of Poly(3-hexylthiophene) Based Organic Thin-Film Transistors Using an Interface Engineering Method
Adviser: Dr. William R. Harrell
Eyob has four peer-reviewed journal publications. He has also presented and published two conference papers. He is currently working as an Advanced DRAM Process Integration Engineer at Micron Technology, Inc.

Xuran Zhu Beijing, China
M.S., Tianjin University
Dissertation: Permanently-Installed Distributed Pressure Sensors for Downhole Applications
Adviser: Dr. Hai Xiao

Environmental Engineering and Earth Sciences

Brennan Owens FergusonDestrehan, LA
B.A., Alfred University
Dissertation: Ligand-Promoted Dissolution of Uranyl Phosphate Across Scales
Advisers: Dr. Brian A. Powell, Dr. Lawrence C. Murdoch
Brennan received an honorable mention for the National Science Foundation Graduate Student Research Fellowship and won Clemson University's 2020 3-Minute Thesis competition. She has accepted a faculty position at the University of Georgia.

Isaac Louis Johnston.....Irving, TX
B.S., Texas A&M University at Galveston
Dissertation: Computational and Experimental Investigations of Alkali Cation Interactions at the Rutile - Water Interface
Advisers: Dr. Lindsay Shuller-Nickles, Dr. Brian A. Powell

Hao Wang Beijing, China
B.S., Tianjin University; M.S., Clemson University
Dissertation: Microcosm Evaluation of Natural and Biologically-Enhanced Abiotic Transformation of Chlorinated Ethenes in Low Permeability Formations
Adviser: Dr. David L. Freedman

Human Centered Computing

Alexandra Adkins Palm Desert, CA

B.S., Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering; M.S., Clemson University
Dissertation: The Importance of Hand Motions for Communication and Interaction in Virtual Reality
Adviser: Dr. Sophie Jörg

Reza Ghaiumy Anaraky Isfahan, Iran

B.S., Isfahan University; M.S., Clemson University
Dissertation: Empowering Older Adults With Their Information Privacy Management
Adviser: Dr. Bart P. Knijnenburg
Reza received a Fellowship award from Meta, was named the outstanding graduate researcher in the School of Computing, won several best paper awards, collaborated with more than ten research labs, and published 31 peer-reviewed articles. He has accepted a postdoctoral position at New York University.

Geoffrey Mitchell Musick..... Colorado Springs, CO

B.S., M.Ed., Lipscomb University
Dissertation: Developing and Facilitating Temporary Team Mental Models Through an Information-Sharing Recommender System
Adviser: Dr. Nathan J. McNeese

Darcia Wilkinson.....Cotton Ground Village, Saint Kitts-Nevis

B.B.A., University of the Virgin Islands; M.S., Clemson University
Dissertation: Fair, Equitable, and Just: A Socio-Technical Approach to Online Safety
Adviser: Dr. Bart P. Knijnenburg
Darcia was named the outstanding Ph.D. student in the human-centered computing program in 2022. She received both a Meta PhD Fellowship and the Google Scholar award. The United Nations also featured her as a trailblazer in research in the Caribbean with more than 10 peer-reviewed publications. Darcia has accepted a postdoctoral research position with Microsoft in the Fairness, Accountability, Transparency, and Ethics in AI (FATE) group in New York.

Industrial Engineering

Amogh Sunil Bhosekar..... Mumbai, India

B.S., University of Mumbai; M.S., Clemson University
Dissertation: Essays on Perioperative Services Problems in Healthcare
Advisers: Dr. Tugce Isik, Dr. Sandra D. Eksioglu

Materials Science and Engineering

Benjamin Thomas Grant..... Wethersfield, CT

B.S., Clemson University

Dissertation: Design, Fabrication, and Characterization of Conjugated Polymeric
Electrochemical Memristors as Neuromorphic/Integrated Circuits

Adviser: Dr. Stephen H. Foulger

Ben was awarded the Kentwool Educational Fellowship in 2022 and has seven peer-review publications with another two under review.

Najah Mhesn..... Clemson, SC

B.S., University of Florida

Dissertation: Fabrication And Characterization Of Polymer Blends Containing Plant Oil-
Derived Copolymers

Adviser: Dr. Igor A. Luzinov

Mechanical Engineering

Hesameddin Khosravi Clemson, SC

B.S., Tabriz University; M.S., Sharif University of Technology

Dissertation: Infusing Kirigami Principles Into Design of Mechanical Properties

Adviser: Dr. Suyi Li

Hesam has five publications with another under review and won the best paper award from ASME (SMASIS 2022). He has accepted an industry position at Caterpillar in Illinois.

Zaker Ali Syed Hyderabad, India

B.E., Osmania University; M.S., Colorado State University

Dissertation: Multiple Heat Exchanger Cooling System for Automotive Applications – Design,
Mathematical Modeling, and Experimental Observations

Adviser: Dr. John R. Wagner

Zaker has been a teaching fellow for mechanical engineering department, and is now a faculty lecturer at Clemson University. He has also been a part of the center for aviation and automotive education using virtual e-schools and intends to pursue a career in academia.

Jiayue Tao Yiwu, China

B.S., M.S., Southeast University, China

Dissertation: Mechanics Modeling of Non-Rigid Origami: From Qualitative to Quantitative
Accuracy

Adviser: Dr. Suyi Li

Jiayue was a finalist in the SMASIS 2022 Best Student Paper Award and has five peer-reviewed publications with another under review.

Huanfei Zheng Central, SC

B.S., M.S., Jilin University

Dissertation: Multi-Robot Symbolic Task and Motion Planning Leveraging Human Trust
Models: Theory and Applications

Adviser: Dr. Yue Wang

Huanfei has seven peer-reviewed publications with another under review. He plans to work in the tech industry.

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Nava Raj PoudyalKathmandu, Nepal

B.S., M.S., Tribhuvan University

Dissertation: The Role of Fatty Acid Metabolism in the Pathogenesis of *Trypanosoma brucei*

Adviser: Dr. Kimberly S. Paul

Nava was finalist in the GRADS 2022 and the ASBMB Science in Flash Competition. He was awarded numerous travel grants and was honored with the Extraordinary Student Service Award 2022 by the Clemson Graduate Student Government.

Anqi Wei..... Lanzhou, China

B.S., Lanzhou University

Dissertation: Machine Learning Models for Human Synapse Genomics

Adviser: Dr. Liangjiang Wang

Biological Sciences

Victoria Neckles..... Fort Mill, SC

B.S., Clemson University

Dissertation: The Characterization of Microglia in the Murine Dorsal Telencephalon in Development and Disease

Adviser: Dr. David M. Feliciano

Maria Chiara Perego Milan, Italy

D.V.M., Milan University; M.S., Oklahoma State University

Dissertation: Developmental Effects of Chronic Low-Level Arsenic Exposure in Mouse Embryonic Stem Cells and in Human Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells

Adviser: Dr. Lisa J. Bain

Chiara was awarded the College of Science Grant in Aid of Research in 2019 and has fourteen peer-reviewed publications with another under review. She has accepted a position as Associate Scientist for a Consulting Group in Orlando.

Chemistry

Apeksha Chaturangi Rajamanthrilage Matara, Sri Lanka

B.S., University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka

Dissertation: X-Ray Interrogated Implantable Chemical and Strain Sensors for Monitoring Implant Associated Infections and Fracture Healing

Adviser: Dr. Jeffrey N. Anker

Mathematical Sciences

John William Grant.....Pickens, SC

B.S., North Carolina State University; M.S., Clemson University

Dissertation: Lindley Processes With Correlated Changes

Adviser: Dr. Xin Liu

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- Brandon David Lumsden Strongsville, OH
 B.S., Baldwin-Wallace University; M.S., Clemson University
 Dissertation: Statistical Methods for Modern Threats
 Advisers: Dr. Christopher S. McMahan, Dr. Lior Rennert
 Brandon worked as a research assistant in the Department of Public Health Sciences and co-authored four publications during this time. In May 2022 he presented his original research on Genomic Prediction Models at the National Institute of Statistical Sciences Graduate Student Research Conference and was awarded best presentation.
- Seyed Hamid Nazari Clemson, SC
 M.S., Iran University of Science and Technology; M.S., Clemson University
 Dissertation: On Variants of Sliding and Frank-Wolfe Type Methods and Their Applications in Video Co-localization
 Adviser: Dr. Yuyuan Ouyang
 Hamid has accepted an industry position as a business systems analyst at American Credit Acceptance.
- Jiajing Niu Henan, China
 B.S., Jiangsu University of Sciences and Technology; M.S., Tongji University; M.S., Technical University of Munich; M.S., Clemson University
 Dissertation: Learning Graphical Models of Multivariate Functional Data With Applications To Neuroimaging
 Adviser: Dr. D. Andrew Brown
- Madeleine Elise St. Ville..... Baltimore, MD
 B.S., University of Alabama; M.S., Clemson University
 Dissertation: Machine Learning Solutions for Biomedical Applications
 Advisers: Dr. Christopher S. McMahan, Dr. Joseph D. Bible
 Maddy has accepted a position as a postdoctoral fellow at NIH in the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.
- Shengjie Xu Changzhou, China
 B.E., Sichuan University; M.S., Clemson University
 Dissertation: Improving Efficiency of Rational Krylov Subspace Methods
 Adviser: Dr. Fei Xue

CLEMSON ALMA MATER

Farmer and McGarity/arr. Freeman

Where the Blue Ridge yawns its greatness,
Where the Tigers play;

Here the sons of dear Old Clemson
Reign supreme always.

Chorus

Dear Old Clemson, we will triumph
And with all our might,

That the Tiger's roar may echo
O'er the mountain height.

We will dream of greater conquests,
For our past is grand,

And her sons have fought and conquered
Every foreign land.

Where the mountains smile in grandeur
O'er the hill and dale,

Here the Tiger lair is nestling
Swept by storm and gale.

We are brothers strong in manhood,
For we work and strive;

And our alma mater reigneth
Ever in our lives.

