



UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO

# COMMENCEMENT

*School of Education*  
May 16, 2025 ♦ 6:00 P.M.

# MISSION STATEMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO

## **MISSION**

Since 1855, the University of San Francisco has dedicated itself to offering a daring and dynamic liberal arts education in the Jesuit, Catholic tradition. As a community, we empower and hold accountable our students, faculty, librarians, staff, administrators, alumni, and community partners to be persons for and with others, to care for our common home, including the native lands on which our campuses reside, and to promote the common good by critically, thoughtfully, and innovatively addressing inequities to create a more humane and just world.

We seek to live USF's Mission by nurturing a diverse, ever-expanding community where persons of all races and ethnicities, religions, sexual orientations, genders, generations, abilities, nationalities, occupations, and socioeconomic backgrounds are honored and accompanied. We are committed to educating hearts and minds to cultivate the full, integral development of each person and all persons; pursuing learning as a lifelong humanizing and liberating social activity; and advancing excellence as the standard for teaching, scholarship, creative expression, and service. Inspired by a faith that does justice, we strive to humbly and responsibly engage with, and contribute to, the cultural, intellectual, economic and spiritual gifts and talents of the San Francisco Bay Area and the global communities to which we belong.

*Approved by the Board of Trustees, September 24, 2021.*

166th Annual Commencement Exercises

# UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

**MAY 16, 2025, 6:00 PM**

Today, the University welcomes you — the graduates and candidates of the class of 2025 — into the ranks of the proud alumni of the University of San Francisco.

We also welcome your families and friends to the celebration, mindful and appreciative of their contribution to your achievement, through their support, sacrifice, and encouragement.

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*The University of San Francisco has made every attempt to include in this program all persons deserving of recognition. If there have been any errors or omissions, please accept our sincerest apologies.*

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**Angélica Nohemi Quiñónez, Ed.D.**

*Director, University Ministry*

**Lawrence Williams, JD**

*Director, Athletics*

## ORDER OF CEREMONY

### Procession

The University Mace  
The Flags of the University  
The University Commencement Marshals  
The Class of 2025  
The Faculty of the Schools  
The Academic Directors of the Schools  
The Alumni Board of Governors  
The Student Speaker  
The Deans of the Schools  
The University Leadership Team  
The Members of the University Board  
of Trustees  
The Honorary Degree Recipient and  
Commencement Speaker  
The Interim President of the University

### Prelude Processional

Baroque Ceremonial Music  
"Pomp and Circumstance" by Sir Edward Elgar

### Master of Ceremonies

**Rebecca Hong**  
*Vice Provost, Student Success, Inclusive Excellence,  
and Curricular Innovation*

### National Anthem

**Elayne Jeanne Daniels**  
*Candidate, Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology*

### Invocation

**Angélica Nohemi Quiñónez**  
*Director of University Ministry*

### Official Opening of the Ceremony

*Member, Board of Trustees*

### Student Address

**Jamal Isiah Epperson**  
*Candidate, Doctor of Education in International  
and Multicultural Education*

### Presentation of the Honorary Degree

**Shabnam Koirala Azad**  
*Dean of the School*

Recipient:

**Janet E. Helms, PhD**  
*Augustus Long Professor Emerita, Boston College*

### Commencement Address

**Janet E. Helms, PhD**

**Presentation of Candidates  
for Graduate Degrees**

**Shabnam Koirala Azad**

*Dean of the School*

and

**Whitneé Garrett-Walker**

*Assistant Dean of the School*

and

**Emma Haydée Fuentes**

*Professor and Chair, International and Multicultural  
Education Department*

**Formal Conferral of  
Graduate Degrees**

**Rev. John P. Fitzgibbons, S.J.**

*Interim President and Chief Mission Officer*

**Presentation of Candidates  
for Doctoral Degrees**

**Shabnam Koirala Azad**

*Dean of the School*

and

**Emma Haydée Fuentes**

*Professor and Chair, International and Multicultural  
Education Department*

**Formal Conferral of  
Doctoral Degrees**

**Rev. John P. Fitzgibbons, S.J.**

*Interim President and Chief Mission Officer*

**Salutation to the Graduates**

**Rev. John P. Fitzgibbons, S.J.**

*Interim President and Chief Mission Officer*

**Benediction**

**Rev. Dónal Godfrey, S.J.**

*University Chaplain*

**Recessional**

“Crown Imperial” by Sir William Walton

## GRADUATE DEGREES MASTER OF ARTS

### Catholic Educational Leadership

Nelson Diaz  
Christian Uchechukwu Ekesiobi  
Judith Nekesa

### Counseling Psychology

Erin Nasim Abbassian Castro  
Khayrat Mostafa Abdulla  
Kyle Wayne Adamson  
Alexandra J. Akin  
Saba Almassi  
Clarissa Dianna Alvarado  
Esmeralda Alvarado  
Mayra Guadalupe Alvarez Mozqueda  
Evan Robert Anatra  
Monica Elizabeth Azevedo  
Emily Alexia Azmitia  
Franklyn Bakala  
Paulina Amanda Barajas-Sanchez  
Monique Lopez Barroso  
Paige Lillie Kupperberg Bartow  
Alexa Kathryn Bellucci  
Briana Kristine Bennett  
Karina Marisol Beteran  
Brentt J. Blackmon  
Adriana Bolanos Juarez  
Ursa Lee Born  
Gabrielle Bouzon  
Michelle Leigh Bowen  
Jade Branner  
Peyton Louise Brooker  
Adelle Marie Buencamino  
Priscilla Ann Chua Buentipo  
Brendan Thomas Byrne  
Karla Belen Campos Pino  
Claudia Christina Carlos  
Anaid Carreno  
Jesus Anthony Cedillo  
Kayla Maika Cha  
April Chan

Mei Kwan Chan  
Sofia Teresa Chicote Cohee  
Amber Monique Christian  
Eva Magaly Cisneros  
Cristina Collins  
Jenna Elizabeth Collins  
Chloe Bleau Coppola  
Dania Lizbeth Coreas Zamora  
Omar Cornejo-Esquivel  
Taylor Cornwell  
Tsianna Leigh Crooks-Backus  
Jade Holly Cruz  
Elayne Jeanne Daniels  
Michael Andrew Deju  
Alma Olga Delgado  
Mackenzie Deterding  
Anastacia Lee Dobson Bell  
Tweety Doe  
Jaleh Justina Donaldson  
Macie Regan Dutra  
Jade Josephine Erickson  
Nicholas Lawrence Erickson  
Aiulu Tumua A. Faasua  
Zahra Fannane  
Angela M. Farren  
Jordan Andrew Fernandez  
Lauren Marie Fernandez  
Olivia Marie Fernandez  
Yajaira Fernandez  
Moises Fino  
Alexis Faye Fischer  
Maria Franco-Aguirre  
Leslie Camellia Freeman  
Kate Julia Fulop

## GRADUATE DEGREES MASTER OF ARTS

### Counseling Psychology (*continued*)

Emmanuel David Galeana Santamaria  
Cynthia Garcia Ponce  
Itzel Garcia-Gonzalez  
Daisy Garnica  
Kyle William Gaughan  
Sophia Giegerich  
Cailin Greenburg  
Julia Marie Ham  
Caiti Utahana Hamilton  
Tiffany Jean Hartman  
Sarah Anneliese Haselton  
Jasmine Varankish Hassanzadeh  
Azaria Stephanie Hayes  
Julie Ann Hernandez  
Kuan-Lun Huang  
Thi Xuan Huynh  
Kimberly Jacobson  
Jiachen Ji  
Jordan-Hunter Refugio Jimenez  
Kaitlin Renee Johnson Williams  
Richard Kelly  
Ananya Khanna  
Hyungsook Kim  
Paige Margaret Kimm  
Paul Jacob Kivelson  
Makynna Antonet Knockum  
Isabella Victoria Knypstra  
Imogen Wormwood  
Simran Kumar  
Poya Lai  
Shadee Rose Laines  
Nirupama Lal  
Curt Lejano  
Elizabeth Lim  
Ruiqi Liu  
Keonna Alexandra Lopez  
Michael Luna  
Lauryn Alexis Mankarios  
Damaris Manquera  
Christopher Aaron Marcos

Kylie Martin-Holt  
Claire Ellen Martin  
Mariana Martinez  
Maritza Martinez  
Martin Eduardo Martinez, Jr.  
Aspen Matis  
Marija Mayer  
Olivia Grace McGee  
Tania Catadhe Mendez  
Monica Mendoza  
Zhenia Libao Mendoza  
Carolyn Jessica Miller Lopez  
Emilie Karen Iannarelli  
Tara Mojabi  
Jamie Nikol Molina  
Quinci Montosa Boyd  
Erica Moore  
Ana Elena Morales-Galvan  
Ariana Gisela Munoz  
Molly Elizabeth Murtaugh  
Raisa Helena Nielsen  
Kade Nomof  
Jennifer Noriega  
Karen Melissa Orellana  
Lissette Oronia  
Jennifer Jaquelin Oseguera Chavez  
Stephanie Patricia Palacios Aguilar  
Elizabeth Rose Pearson  
Sophia Elizalde Pereira  
Rachel Luz Perez  
Maeve Elisabeth Phelan  
Jordan Dale Pineda  
Alexandra Rose Pittman  
Christine Nguyen Pham Powell  
Hannah Leigh Prior  
Anita Mary Puthenparambil  
Citlaly Quintero Martinez  
Juanita Quintero  
Dawn Michelle Ramey  
Angelina Olivia Ramirez

## GRADUATE DEGREES MASTER OF ARTS

### Counseling Psychology (*continued*)

Jessica Rettberg  
Marley Ribeiro  
Lindsay Freeman Richardson  
Melanie Foronda Rivera  
Celestina Esperanza Robles  
Kennedy Constance Roks  
Steven Xavier Romero  
Jing Rong  
Amanda Jeanne Rouse Citrenbaum  
Chloe Einauz Rowshani  
Jack Pierre Sallaberry  
Michelle Escabas Salve  
Jose Patricio Santa Cruz  
Stacey Joceylne Santiago  
Ariel Renee' Schneider  
Melissa Olivia Sheridan  
Katie Rose Shieh  
Gabriella Anna Shimon  
Fiona Oceane Simpson  
Adelina Skywalker  
Alexandra Smith  
Madalene Leigh Smith  
Makisha Michelle Smith  
Mina Olivia Solis Alamo  
Stephanie Sosa Manrique  
Geneva Antonia Stevens  
Rebecca Akhtar Straznickas  
Renee Danielle Taylor

Emily Anne Thompson  
Vaisuatoto Kahealani Thompson  
Ryan Henry Tom  
Alexa Tondreau Dahl  
Evelyn Ivette Tovar Villanueva  
Marisol Sanchez Tovar  
Joshua Taylor Toy  
William Trang  
William Brian Trawick  
Alexandra Theodora Tsitsiringos  
Tyshawn Reyette Turner  
Lauren Mackenzie Gearhart Utchen  
Cassandra Valle  
Elizabeth Amber Valle  
Karissa C. Van Atta  
Yaroslava Veselova  
Joana Gabriela Vicuna  
Suzanne Vue  
Callie Portia Walder  
Cameron M. Walsh  
Madeline Mellett Wilson  
Pilar Solh Winter  
Gregory Alan Wolfenden  
Alexander Chun Ying Wong  
Meline Yavryan  
Alexandria Rosalia Ybarra  
Lydia Zhao

## GRADUATE DEGREES MASTER OF ARTS

### Educational Technology

Paul Robert Rosell Bersabe  
Brooke Bondurant  
Renling Feng  
Minh Tuyet Nguyen

### Higher Education and Student Affairs

Ashley Erin-Allen Kaff  
Tiffany Thy Nguyen  
Melissa Margarita Posada  
Andrea Renee Pressman  
Alyssa Soukhaseum

### Human Rights Education

Cole A. Habeck  
Genesis Jasmin Morales

### International and Multicultural Education

Ifunanya Grace-Elias Ekott  
Ariel Aliciana Fields  
Erika Nathalia Ibanez Duarte  
Erica Marie Knebel  
Sergio Jesus Maravilla  
Alejandro Wences  
Sarah Beth Yanuck

### Organization and Leadership

Emeric George Bisbee  
Luis Ernesto Castillo  
Kiah Cassidy Combs  
Daniela Cueros Hernández  
Kristian Holly Dawson  
Ruth Marely Gomez  
Manuel Gonzalez  
Deisy Leanos Meza

### Special Education

Karla Gabriela Ambriz Garcia  
Dylan Michael Borst  
Valerie Helen Chang Lee  
Molly Louise Chappell  
George Kendall Dickerson  
Kira Jewel Gifford  
Aliyah Kirkland Jackson  
Sarik Ouch  
Kadeem Austin Rae  
Rosalvina Ramirez Gomez  
Andre Joel Sanchez  
Lia Monet Kira Knight Williams

### Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages

Nhung T. Dao  
Rebecca Christina Eagleson  
Olga Evans  
Sharon Green  
Meral Kacar  
Stephanie Gabriele Kaiser  
Cameron Aaron Marshall  
Yoshiko Okamura  
Rungpech Petcharinphan  
Lauren Ryan Campos  
Yohko Suzuki  
Yue Yuan

### Teaching Reading

Kaisey Anne Hake  
Abril Alejandra Iriondo Herrera  
Allison Elizabeth Kenny  
Lauren Page  
Alys Mimi Shin  
Lauren Elisa Dallo Tapang

## GRADUATE DEGREES MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING

### Education

Mohammad Adib  
Colleen Albin  
Carlos Romario Alvarenga Rosales  
Angelina Alvarez  
Caitlin Keeley Arnold  
Sophia Rae Beardsley  
Ari Matan Berk  
Crew Vincent Bittner  
Sophia Renee Bloom  
Dominic Edward Borrego  
Alexis Ariel Bristow-Alcala  
Jennifer Marie Bruan  
Edward Hiutung Chow  
Dominique Nicole Cortese  
Michael Dao  
Xue Ding  
Abigail Elizarraraz  
Flora ElmColone  
Grace Leba Rose Fa'avesi  
Grace-Jasmine Irene Ferdinand  
Shengyu Gao  
Kamelia Ivanova Gavazova  
Elise Ghitman  
Collin Mullen Green  
Lauren Taylor Hanel  
Kathleen Nicole Harp  
Giselle Hernandez Valencia  
Christina Nicole Hillo  
Michelle Huang  
Joely Yael Kaatz  
Mary Lucille Keane  
D'Vonna Aleah Kiwovele  
Kimberly Christine Kuhny  
David E. Locke  
Victoria Rhyanne Hobbs

Emili Jean Marlar  
Ian Marshall  
Evan McCormack  
Debra Marie McCracken  
Kathryn Suzanne McLaughlin-Gomez  
Ingrid Millan  
James Thomas Munz  
Sydney Sivan Nicole Nadler  
Natalie Marie Negulescu  
Payton Onesti  
Catherine Ortiz  
Clara Marin Papandrea  
Michelle Renee Patin  
Justin Benedict Perez  
Paulo Miguel Miguel Quicho  
Mia Amanda Radosky  
Emillee Fedora Rego  
Angela Christine Reyes  
Susan Rinelli  
Lindsey Ann Nicole Rowell  
Maribel De Jesus Sanchez  
Rebekkah Hui Ying Scharf  
Reza Ray Shahbazi  
Alyssa Nicole Shreve  
Jessica Paige Shubrook  
Keegan Rae Smith  
Michaela Rose Snook  
Kelly Lauren Stuhldreher  
Lillian Parma Anne Thomas  
Kassidy Sloane Tolbert  
Thanh Cong Tran  
Annaliese Noelle Van Sickle  
Brianna Justine Vasquez  
Anastasia Juanita Wanser  
Jacquelyn Paige Whorton

# GRADUATE DEGREES MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING

## Urban Education and Social Justice

Thomas Michael Abbott  
Madison Jade Avery  
Elias Bautista  
Anne Kimberly Pascual Bornilla  
Maria Gisela Guerrero

Sadiya Kazani  
Jules Demi Misiluti  
Maribel Perez  
Rhea Ramos Laforga  
Xavier Maurice Shakur

## DOCTORAL DEGREES DOCTOR OF EDUCATION

### Catholic Educational Leadership

Richard Zapanta Alvia  
Maria Apablaza  
Richard Leonard Hill, Jr.

### International and Multicultural Education

Rene Anderson  
Sashanae Cuenco Buchanan  
Anna Bianca Cortesio  
Brian Anthony Davis  
Guadalupe Ramírez Díaz  
Jamal Isiah Epperson  
Christina Yukie Masuda  
Deborah A. Randall  
Lori Selke  
Nancy Ellen Sheftel-Gomes  
Shruti Sheshadri  
Jennifer Christine Thomas  
Angelika Williams  
Yolanda Medina Zevas

### Learning and Instruction

Mandana Abedini  
André Tyrece Carter  
David I. Daoud  
Emma Elizalde  
Christine Anne Franco  
Juhee Mo  
Rajeev S. Naidu  
Valerie Ione Kuhner Stokeld  
Chitkamon Tungkaburana

### Organization and Leadership

Anthony Clemons  
Olivier Kayitare  
Anastasia V. Mixcoatl-Martinez  
Ramiliarisoa Patric Razafimahafaly  
Jaymie Lynn Santiago  
Michael Tadesse-Bell  
Mariella Miranda Thaning  
Natalie R. Townsend  
Victoria Elizabeth Valencia

## **CANDIDACY**

Candidacy for degrees is based on a preliminary review of the academic records of students petitioning for graduation in the respective term. Degrees are considered official when all grades are received and all requirements for degree fulfillment are met. Some students listed as candidates may already have been notified that they have met all requirements, but, because of printing deadlines, are listed here as candidates.

## Honorary Degree

# JANET E. HELMS, PhD

## AUGUSTUS LONG PROFESSOR EMERITA, BOSTON COLLEGE

Scholar whose cutting-edge research in counseling psychology advanced the integration of race, culture, and assessment.

Powerful voice for racial justice, tireless activist for social reform, steadfast opponent of race-based bias in educational testing.

Inclusive colleague, inspiring mentor, and innovative educator.

Dr. Janet Helms has always been ahead of her time. Helms's groundbreaking scholarship has been praised as "revolutionary and far-reaching." She has been a brilliant researcher, revered professor and mentor, and a pre-eminent psychologist. Her pioneering research focused on racial identity development, illuminated a scientific understanding of the subject, and expanded the thinking on racial issues in her field of counseling psychology. She was recruited to Boston College in 2000, where she was offered an endowed chair, the Augustus Long Professorship in the department of counseling, developmental and educational psychology. She concurrently led BC's Institute for the Study and Promotion of Race and Culture for more than two decades as its founding director. Under her leadership, the Institute defined its interdisciplinary mission with a wide-angle focus on societal conflicts associated with race or culture in theory and research, mental health practice, and education and business.

Helms's research into the harmful nature of racism has had a transformative impact in a broad swath of scientific areas, including racial identity theories, racially conscious practice, womanist identity, and the examination of racial biases in cognitive ability tests and measurement. Her use of psychological science in radical progressive debates about race and identity was unprecedented at the time. Her development of racial identity theory transformed both counseling and education for Black students. She used the scientific method to shed light on disparities in standardized testing. Her findings have given credence and voice to the silent and insidious variables hidden within racial and cultural socialization. She advanced her theory of white racial identity development more than three decades ago, when no one else was focused on whiteness. An expert on whiteness, she researched white privilege as the foundation of racism. Her early models of racial identity development are still used today as a framework to address racism and promote racial justice.

Just as this university was San Francisco's first, Helms, too, has been an intrepid trailblazer. As the first Black woman doctoral candidate in her program at Iowa State University, she was the diversity within the counseling psychology department among its 40 white students, and all-white faculty and staff. She has nurtured, mentored, and advanced many next-generation educators and psychologists throughout her career. She embodies this university's mission through her unwavering commitment as a woman for and with others and by her unflinching academic activism.

Helms and her six siblings grew up in Kansas during the dehumanizing Jim Crow era. The state's segregation laws demanded that white and Black students attend schools that were separate, but most definitely not equal. She was reared with high expectations by strong and loving parents, and by her paternal grandmother. She earned her undergraduate degree at the University of Missouri. At her professors' urging, she earned a master's degree. After earning a doctorate in psychology at Iowa State, her first professional job was at Washington State University, followed by positions at Southern Illinois University and University of Maryland. Helms's impressive vita details her tremendous contributions to the canon of research, literature, and practice of racial identity development. One of her books, *A Race is a Nice Thing to Have: A Guide to Being a White Person or Understanding the White Persons in Your Life*, helped to forge the language we use today to talk about race.

She received the 2023 American Psychology Association's Presidential Citation; the 2019 APA/APF Gold Medal for Life Achievement in Psychology in the Public Interest; the 2018 Lifetime Achievement Award from APA's Society for the Psychological Study of Culture, Ethnicity and Race; and a 2007 Association of Black Psychologists Award, among many other honors.

That all may know of our esteem for you and our support for your decades of heroic leadership on racial and social justice issues within and beyond assessment, the University does, therefore, confer upon you, Janet E. Helms PhD, Augustus Long Professor Emerita, Boston College, the degree of Doctor of Humane letters, *honoris causa*, with all the rights and privileges pertaining thereunto, given this sixteenth day of May, two thousand and twenty-five, and the hundred and seventieth year of the University, in San Francisco, California.

The following is a listing of dissertations completed during the 2024-2025 academic year.  
The assisting chairperson's name is listed below the candidate's name.

## Catholic Educational Leadership

Spiritual Leadership in Times of Crises: The Perceptions of Catholic School Administrators as Spiritual Leaders in the Catholic Schools in Guam

*Richard Zapanta Alvia*

DR. MICHAEL DUFFY

The Art of Building Belonging Through Student Voice and Choice: Liberating Learning and Creating Community in Catholic Schools

*Richard Leonard Hill, Jr.*

DR. DAVID DONAHUE

Under Pressure: Student Perceptions of Stress, Coping, and Mental Health Supports During Final Exams in Catholic Secondary Education

*Maria Apablasa*

DR. URSULA ALDANA

## International and Multicultural Education

Black Women's Paradoxical Hypervisibility-Invisibility in the PWI Workspaces of Higher Education: A QuantCrit Exploratory Sequential Mixed Methods Inquiry

*Rene Anderson*

DR. DAVID SUL

Black Faces in Neoliberal Spaces: Black Fugitivity, Epistemic Violence, and Disruptive Agency Amongst Black School DEI Directors in Private School Settings

*Brian Anthony Davis*

DR. MONISHA BAJAJ

Youth Perspectives on the Borderlands: The Intersectionality of Language, Culture, and Ability at a US/Mexico Border School

*Sashanae Cuenco Buchanan*

DR. ROSA JIMENEZ

Centering the Lived Experiences of Latinx Community College Transfer Students

*Guadalupe Ramírez Díaz*

DR. ROSA JIMENEZ

A Collective of Reflective Language Educators Cultivating Pedagogies of Resistance in Oaxaca: A Participatory Action Research Study

*Anna Bianca Cortesio*

DR. DAVID DONAHUE

Bold Transforming More than Just-Us: The Experiences of BIPOC Restorative Practices Practitioners in Higher Education

*Jamal Isiah Epperson*

DR. DAVID DONAHUE

## Dissertations

The following is a listing of dissertations completed during the 2024-2025 academic year.  
The assisting chairperson's name is listed below the candidate's name.

### International and Multicultural Education (*continued*)

Writing Expectations and Classroom Application:  
Developing Writing Instruction for Designated  
English Language Learners

*Christina Yukie Masuda*

DR. SEDIQUE POPAL

Dismantling the Hierarchy of Literacy Skills:  
A Comparative Study on the Development of  
Language Textbooks in the Global South

*Shruti Sheshadri*

DR. MONISHA BAJAJ

Moves to Decoloniality: A Thematic Analysis of  
Humanitarian Aid Organizations and Education  
in Emergencies

*Deborah A. Randall*

DR. MONISHA BAJAJ

The Ecopedagogical Effectiveness of the US-ED  
Green Ribbon School Framework in K-12 Schools

*Jennifer Christine Thomas*

DR. MELISSA ANN CANLAS

"I Can't Even Teach ESL Straight": LGBTQ+ ESL  
Teacher Identity and Praxis

*Lori Selke*

DR. DAVID DONAHUE

Young, Gifted, and Black Perspectives: Exploring  
Accessibility and Affordability Experiences of  
Low-Income Black Students in Higher Education

*Angelika Williams*

DR. MELISSA ANN CANLAS

Conflicts Teaching About Conflicts: How Jewish  
Educators Engage with Israel-Palestine

*Nancy Ellen Sheftel-Gomes*

DR. SUSAN KATZ

Who I Am in This Place: Pláticas with Latinx  
Heritage Seekers Studying Abroad in Mexico

*Yolanda Medina Zevas*

DR. ROSA JIMENEZ

The following is a listing of dissertations completed during the 2024-2025 academic year.  
The assisting chairperson's name is listed below the candidate's name.

### Learning and Instruction

Examining the Efficacy of Dynamic Written Corrective Feedback (DWCF) on Stabilized Grammatical Errors Among Adult ESL Learners in Writing

*Mandana Abedini*  
DR. SEDIQUE POPAL

Black Educators in Second Language Acquisition

*André Tyrece Carter*  
DR. SEDIQUE POPAL

Exploring Arabic, Russian, and Spanish Native Language Teachers' Perceptions of the Flipped Classroom Model Through the Lens of the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM2)

*David I. Daoud*  
DR. NICOLA MCCLUNG

Teachers Perceptions and Understanding of Teaching Reading in a Special Education Credentialing Program: A Mixed Methods Study

*Emma Elizalde*  
DR. KEVIN OH

Accessible Technology for All: A Content Analysis of UX Design in Mobile Websites and Applications

*Christine Anne Franco*  
DR. KEVIN OH

Exploring the Use of Listening Strategies (Cognitive, Metacognitive, and Socio-affective) and Listening Comprehension Using Authentic Materials in Korean as a Foreign Language: A Mixed-Methods Study

*Juhee Mo*  
DR. PATRICIA BUSK

The Role of Deliberate Practice and Self-regulated Learning with Advanced Audio Engineering Students in Higher Education

*Rajeev S. Naidu*  
DR. NICOLA MCCLUNG

Effect of Point-of-View Video Modeling on Job Skill Acquisition, Maintenance, and Generalization for Autistic Adults with Significant Support Needs

*Valerie Ione Kuhner Stokeld*  
DR. NICOLA MCCLUNG

Effects of Technology-Enhanced Collaborative Writing Tasks on Adult English as a Second-Language Learner's Development of Academic Writing Skills in Higher Education: A Meta-Analysis

*Chitkamon Tungkaburana*  
DR. PATRICIA BUSK

## Dissertations

The following is a listing of dissertations completed during the 2024-2025 academic year.  
The assisting chairperson's name is listed below the candidate's name.

### Organization and Leadership

The Influence of Market Pressures on the Discursive Construction of DEI in Elite Independent Private Schools

*Anthony Clemons*

DR. DESIREE ZERQUERA

Exploring Ignatian Pedagogy's Role in Shaping Holistic Student Success in the Current Neoliberal Era: A Qualitative Inquiry at Saint Ignatius High School, Rwanda, and Lycée Du Saint-Esprit, Burundi

*Olivier Kayitare*

DR. GENEVIEVE NEGRÓN-GONZALES

Uncovering the Invisibility of Middle School Emergent Multilingual Learners: A Qualitative Case Study

*Anastasia V. Mixcoatl-Martinez*

DR. SEENAE CHONG

Decolonizing Education in the Post-Independent Madagascar by Utilizing Malagasy as the Primary Language of Instruction in Schools

*Ramiliarisoa Patric Razafimahafaly*

DR. URSULA ALDANA

They Want It That Way: A Phenomenological Study on Site-Based Educators' Experience of Decisions During COVID-19 in San Francisco

*Jaymie Lynn Santiago*

DR. SEENAE CHONG

Relationships Matter: A Critical Case Study Exploring How the Relationship Between Presidents & Chief Diversity Officers Work to Improve the Experiences of Black Students

*Michael Tadesse-Bell*

DR. DESIREE ZERQUERA

International Faculty Navigating U.S. Higher Education Institutions

*Mariella Miranda Thaning*

DR. DARRICK SMITH

Glass Cliff Phenomenon: An Opportunity or Disadvantage for Women of Color in Higher Education

*Natalie R. Townsend*

DR. DESIREE ZERQUERA

"I Ain't Learning Shit": Exploring the Disconnect in Caring Relationships Between Latinx Middle School Students and Their Teachers

*Victoria Elizabeth Valencia*

DR. SEENAE CHONG

## UNIVERSITY WIDE AWARDS

### Graduate Student Leadership Award

This award will be given to students who have consistently worked and succeeded in enriching and having an impact on student life and the values of University Life (leadership, social justice, and cultural competency) throughout their careers at USF. This year's student is:

*Brian Anthony Davis*  
*Makynna Antonet Knockum*  
*Emilie Karen Mitchell*

### Hilary Williams Ford Award

Recognized for her contributions and commitment to her field and the University of San Francisco, the Hilary Williams Ford Award is presented to a graduate student who has initiated positive changes in their field, and is awarded to:

*Erin Nasim Abbassian Castro*

### President's Advisory Committee on the Status of Women (PACSW) Gender Justice Award

This award may be granted to USF students who have demonstrated ongoing and creative commitment to the promotion of gender justice. This year's student is:

*Cristina Collins*

## HONOR SOCIETY

### Phi Delta Kappa (ΦΔΚ)

Phi Delta Kappa is an international professional fraternity for men and women in education. Membership is composed of recognized leaders in the profession and graduate students in education whose leadership potential has been identified. The following graduates are members of the University of San Francisco Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa:

*Richard Zapanta Alvia*

*Michael Tadesse-Bell*

## UNIVERSITY-WIDE AWARDS

### Community Engaged Learning Faculty Award

The University Community Engaged Learning Faculty Award recognizes the work of full-time faculty in developing service-learning opportunities for USF students. The awardee shall be a full-time faculty member who has demonstrated a commitment to service learning through the integration of service-learning into the curriculum; innovation in employing a reflective teaching methodology to connect community and public service experience with academic study; and demonstration of leadership that promotes service-learning on campus.

*Gabby King, School of Law*

### Distinguished Adjunct Teaching Award

A purse and a plaque, awarded jointly by the USF Faculty Association and the University, to a part-time faculty member for extraordinary dedication to teaching and students, and for innovative and gifted approaches to teaching and the classroom at USF, are awarded to:

*Beth Packer, College of Arts and Sciences*  
*Karl Soehnlein, College of Arts and Sciences*  
*Zehlia Babaci-Wilhite, College of Arts and Sciences*

### Distinguished Research Award

A purse and a plaque, awarded jointly by the USF Faculty Association and the University, to a full-time faculty member whose recent research and scholarship have made an outstanding contribution to his or her academic discipline, are awarded to:

*Joyce P. Yang, College of Arts and Sciences*

### Distinguished Teaching Award

A purse and a plaque, awarded jointly by the USF Faculty Association and the University, to a full-time faculty member for extraordinary dedication to teaching and students, and for innovative and gifted approaches to teaching and the classroom, are awarded to:

*James Sikes, College of Arts and Sciences*

### Educational Effectiveness Award

The Educational Effectiveness Award (EEA) is given out annually to one team in recognition of excellence in assessment practices at the University of San Francisco. The recognized assessment work should show evidence of student learning, use of student learning evidence, and help the University, or any part of the University or community, achieve its learning outcomes, goals or mission. Exemplary assessment work should also support a culture of assessment at USF, and include a plan for closing the loop.

*Laura Chyu, School of Nursing and Health Professions*

## UNIVERSITY-WIDE AWARDS

### Excellence in Academic Leadership Award

The Excellence in Academic Leadership award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated exceptional leadership and vision, particularly during times of uncertainty and transition. The awardee has gone beyond the traditional scope of their role, showing resilience, creativity, and a profound commitment to supporting the USF community. Through navigating challenges, advocating for innovation, and leading transformational change, this leader has made a lasting impact and inspired others through collaboration and leadership.

*Megan O'Banion, School of Nursing and Health Professions*

### Inclusive Excellence Award

Presented by the Office of ADEI to recognize a faculty member, librarian, or staff member who has made exceptional contributions to advancing access, fostering belonging, and promoting inclusion within the USF community.

*Genevieve Negron-Gonzales, School of Education*

### Ignatian Service Award

Ignatian Service Award recognizes an exceptional commitment to the service of students, the University, and the community at large, in light of the religious and moral legacy of St. Ignatius. The awardee shall be a full-time faculty member who has demonstrated an ongoing and creative commitment to the realization of this legacy through his/her actions and accomplishments.

*Timothy Godfrey, School of Nursing and Health Professions*

### Innovation in Global Initiative Award

Recognize a faculty, librarian, or staff member who demonstrates innovation in facilitating global educational opportunities, (study abroad, immersion programs, internships, research opportunities) or bringing global perspective to campus (incorporating global into courses, developing new global courses, or broadening access to global perspectives).

*Julianne Cartwright Taylor, School of Law*

### Innovation in Instruction Award

The Innovation in Instruction Award is granted to a part-time faculty member that utilizes creative or innovative teaching methods, approaches, and techniques in their courses.

*Sara Marinelli, College of Arts and Sciences*

## UNIVERSITY-WIDE AWARDS

### Innovation in Teaching with Technology Award

The CIT Awards honor faculty or staff who have demonstrated excellent use of technology in education. Recipients have supported the development of teaching and learning contributing to the overall quality of the USF learning environment.

*Liat Berdugo, College of Arts and Sciences*  
*Megan Hutchinson, School of Law*

### Mentor of the Year Award

The Mentor of the Year Award was created by the Provost Council in order to recognize a faculty member or a staff person who furthers the Vision, Mission and Values of the University through their demonstrated commitment to and excellence in advising and mentoring our graduate and undergraduate students. The award recognizes individuals who help our students (1) identify their academic goals; (2) establish relationships between their curricular and co-curricular activities; (3) develop the expertise, skills and values that support academic and personal achievement; and, (4) discern how their USF experience will assist them in forming a more humane and just world, and is awarded to:

*Khulan Zagd, Learning Center, Office of Student Life*

### Outstanding Teamwork in Advancing the University's Strategic Plan Award

The Outstanding Teamwork in Advancing the University's Strategic Plan Award was created by the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs in order to recognize and honor a team of faculty, librarians and/or staff who have made exceptional contributions to advancing USF's Strategic Plan, with an emphasis on creative co-design, collaboration, and cross-departmental/divisional teamwork.

*Louise Goupil, College of Arts and Sciences*  
*Joshua Gamson, College of Arts and Sciences*

### Sr. Vicky Siu Award for Outstanding Contributions and Service to the University of San Francisco

A purse and a plaque, awarded jointly by the USF Faculty Association and the University, to a part-time faculty member who has volunteered to organize workshops, performances, lectures, or other opportunities for students at USF — beyond the responsibilities of their teaching position, are awarded to:

*Kimberly Carfore, College of Arts and Sciences*

## *American Flag*

USF's ROTC Color Guard proudly presents the American flag flown over the United States Capitol on the day of Pope Francis' historic address to a Joint Session of Congress, September 24, 2015. On that inspiring day, Pope Francis renewed the faith of Catholics worldwide and inspired a new generation, regardless of their religious affiliation, to be instruments of peace. He reminded us of our sacred and inescapable responsibility to those struggling to escape poverty, persecution and war. He challenged us to rescue our planet from the climate crisis that threatens the future of our children and the health of God's creation - and to do so in a way that is sensitive to the needs of the poor. He urged us to live our values and reach beyond our divisions.

The colorful attire worn by the graduates, the faculty, and officers of the University on the occasion of these Commencement Exercises has historic roots in medieval times. Dressed as they are in cap and gown, the graduates and their professors form part of a long tradition which dates back to Paris and Bologna, to Oxford and Cambridge in the days of their Catholic glory.

The precise origins of the several parts of the academic garb are not easy to discover. However, since medieval students enjoyed the status of clerics during their university years, one is hardly far wrong in asserting that their attire found its inspiration in the clerical dress of medieval times. 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, the end product of curious evolution, recalls the skull cap of days when tonsured heads needed protection against the drafts of medieval classrooms.

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 GOWN

The gowns are three in number and styling. That of the bachelor is a yoked, closed-front garment, with long, pointed sleeves; that of the master is cut to be worn open front, its sleeves are long and closed, slit cut just above the elbow to allow the forearm to protrude; the gown of the doctor is also worn open and has full bell-shaped sleeves. Only the doctor's gown is trimmed—with velvet panels down the front and three velvet bars on each sleeve.

Though black velvet is proper trimming for all doctor gowns, the color and material of the panels and sleeve bars is often varied in order to indicate the faculty which granted the wearer's degree; dark blue for Philosophy (PHD); light blue for Education (EDD); white for Arts and Letters (LITTD); gold-yellow for Science (SCD); orange for Engineering (ENGD, DCE); purple for Law (LLD, DCL, JD, JUD, JCD); green for Medicine (MD); scarlet for Theology (STD, DD).

## THE HOOD

The hood at first seems to have been worn over the head and was attached to the gown. When the skull cap was introduced, the hood was retained, but detached and worn much as it is today. Each degree (bachelor, master, doctor) has a right to a hood, which varies in length and, in the case of the doctor's, also 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.

The color or colors with which the hood is lined are those of the college or university that granted the wearer's degree—for example, the University of San Francisco is known by the gold chevron on the field of Kelly green. The colored velvet binding or edging of the hood, in different widths for bachelor, master, doctor, is a key to the faculty granting the degree. The velvet colors include white for Arts, gold-yellow for Science, drab for Business, apricot for Nursing, light blue for Education, royal blue for Nonprofit Administration, peacock blue for Public Administration, scarlet for Theology, purple for Law, and so forth.

## THE CAP

The mortar board has become the universally accepted style in United States colleges and universities. Many European institutions still retain distinctive forms of academic headdress—for example, the University of London's tam-o-shanter cap.

The doctor, following graduation, has the right to wear a gold tassel on the mortar board; black, however, is perfectly proper and perhaps more common.



UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO  
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