

Commencement

SPRING SEMESTER 2026



EBERLY COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

Sunday, May 10, 2026
The Bryce Jordan Center
1:30 p.m.



PennState



National Anthem

by Francis Scott Key

O say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming;
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, thro' the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air
Gave proof thro' the night that our flag was still there.
O say, does that Star-Spangled Banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

Alma Mater

by Fred Lewis Pattee

For the glory of old State,
For her founders, strong and great,
For the future that we wait,
Raise the song, raise the song,

Sing our love and loyalty,
Sing our hopes that, bright and free,
Rest, O Mother dear, with thee.
All with thee, all with thee.

When we stood at childhood's gate,
Shapeless in the hands of fate,
Thou didst mold us, dear old State,
Dear old State, dear old State.

May no act of ours bring shame
To one heart that loves thy name,
May our lives but swell thy fame,
Dear old State, dear old State!

Commencement

SPRING SEMESTER 2026

Eberly College of Science
Baccalaureate Degrees

Sunday, May 10, 2026



PennState
Eberly College of Science

Message from the Dean

On behalf of the Penn State Eberly College of Science, I offer my fullest congratulations to the Class of 2026. You should be so proud of all that you have accomplished during your time at Penn State. You have brought a fresh perspective to our classrooms, our laboratories, and our research groups, and you have been part of our powerful mission to solve complex global problems. As you embark on this next exciting step in your journey, carry with you the training you have received. Apply your critical thinking, quantitative analysis, fact-based decision-making, and communication of science to meeting the world's challenges—big and small. You will follow in the rich tradition of Eberly College of Science graduates who have positively impacted humanity. We know that you will take many different paths after graduation, joining the ranks of our alumni in academia, industry, government, or following opportunities you may not yet have dreamed of. As you do so, I hope you carry the personal connections, treasured memories, and important values you have gained at Penn State with you. You have forever made your mark on Penn State, and we wish you all the success that you have rightly earned.

Tracy Langkilde, B.S., Ph.D
Verne M. Willaman Dean, Eberly College of Science

Spring 2026 Commencement Program

Academic Processional

Performed by Centre Brass

National Anthem

Led by Anna Farris

The audience is asked to join in the singing.

Presiding

Fotis Sotiropoulos, B.S., Ph.D.

Executive Vice President and Provost, The Pennsylvania State University

Tracy Langkilde, B.S., Ph.D.

Verne M. Willaman Dean, Eberly College of Science

Commencement Address

Mario Ciabarra, B.S.

CEO/Founder, Quantum Metric

Authorization to Confer Degrees

Trustee Ruby Bjalme

Member, Board of Trustees

Recognition of Meritorious Achievement

Dean Langkilde

Recognition of Student Marshals

Jennelle L. Malcos, B.S., Ph.D.

Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education

Recognition of Military Commissions

Capt. Jake Stewart, United States Army

Assistant Professor of Military Science

Conferral of Degrees

Provost Sotiropoulos

Induction into Alumni Association

Linde Miles

President, Eberly College of Science Alumni Society Board

Alma Mater

Led by Anna Farris

The audience is asked to join in the singing.

Recessional

The audience will please remain seated.

University Nomenclator

E. Alan Cameron

Commencement Speaker

Mario Ciabarra

CEO/Founder, Quantum Metric



Mario Ciabarra is a serial tech entrepreneur, and a proud Penn State alumnus. His career is defined by a relentless curiosity—the same curiosity he cultivated while studying biochemistry, microbiology, and computer science at the Eberly College of Science.

Ciabarra founded Quantum Metric in 2015 to solve one of the modern enterprise's biggest challenges: turning overwhelming data into genuine empathy. By leveraging agentic AI, he has empowered global brands to move beyond the *what* of data to understand the *why* of human behavior.

Long before founding Quantum Metric, Ciabarra was a pioneer of the early mobile ecosystem. Through his ventures Intelliborn and Rock Your Phone, he developed the first mobile hotspots and notification systems, proving that a single developer with a clear vision could outpace the world's largest tech giants. His earlier success with DevStream, an enterprise monitoring tool, further solidified his reputation for solving the industry's most technical "points of pain."

His journey, from an Eberly student to the leader of a global AI-driven platform, serves as a powerful reminder to today's graduates that scientific thinking isn't just for the lab; it is the foundation for a lifetime of innovation and impact.

College Marshal

Luc Schrauf



Luc Schrauf of State College, Pennsylvania, will be honored as the student marshal for the Penn State Eberly College of Science at the University's spring 2026 commencement ceremony on Sunday, May 10, on the University Park campus.

Schrauf will graduate with a 3.97 grade-point average and a bachelor's degree in physics, with minors in nanotechnology, quantum information science and engineering, and mathematics. Throughout his college career, he was a learning assistant for three courses, a volunteer in the Physics and Astronomy for Women+ PAW Pals student organization, and an elected student senator and student representative for the University Faculty Senate and University Park Undergraduate Association.

Between 2024 and 2025, Schrauf received multiple scholarships, including the Evan Pugh Junior Scholarship, the M. Dean and Jean L. Underwood Scholarship, the Bert Elsbach Honors Scholarship in Physics, and the Barry Goldwater Scholarship. In 2024, he was also awarded an Erickson Discovery

Grant. And in 2025, he earned first place in the physical sciences category at the Penn State Undergraduate Research Exhibition.

Schrauf was also involved in undergraduate research in the lab of **Nitin Samarth**, Verne M. Willaman Professor of Physics and professor of materials science and engineering, where he worked primarily with scanning tunneling microscopy and molecular beam epitaxy techniques. Using MBE, which is the equivalent of spray-painting using a beam of atoms, he made Tellurium-based quantum materials that could potentially function as a platform for harnessing novel superconducting qualities.

Schrauf explained that this research ties directly into his career goals of growing the field of quantum computing and his postgraduation plans of attending Princeton University to pursue a doctoral degree in quantum science and engineering.

"After my Ph.D., I hope to join the effort and help build our first useful quantum computer," he said. "My primary career goal is to bring quantum computers to life."

Schrauf added that he was honored to be selected as the Eberly College of Science's student marshal this semester.

"The college has provided me with so much support during my time at Penn State," he said. "It has helped me travel to research conferences to present my research and gave me the opportunity to get civically involved in the local Penn State community as well as participate in a short-term study abroad program. This is primarily a result of the unwavering support from my faculty members, mentors, research group, and the support and guidance of my parents."

Department Marshals and Faculty Escorts

Luke Royer—Astronomy and Astrophysics

Representing the major of Astronomy and Astrophysics is student marshal **Luke Royer**, escorted by **Donald Schneider**. Royer is from Mount Gretna, Pennsylvania, and celebrates this honor with his parents, Matt Royer and Kerry Royer.

Royer graduates with a bachelor's degree in astronomy and astrophysics (graduate studies option) and in physics (general physics option). He conducted research in the Derek Fox lab at Penn State. He also served as a learning assistant for ASTRO 191 Introduction to Astrophysics, ASTRO 291 (GN) Astronomical Methods and the Solar System, and ASTRO 292 Astronomy of the Distant Universe, and served first as treasurer and later as president of the Pulsar Search Collaboratory. He was also a member of the Society of Physics Students and the Pride of the Lions Pep Band. He was honored with the Schreyer Honors College Academic Excellence Scholarship for eight semesters, with the Bert Elsbach Honors Scholarship in Physics and the Evan Pugh Scholar Senior Award in 2025, the Mercedes T. Richards Memorial Scholarship and the President Sparks Award in 2024, and the President Walker Award in 2023. He was also a Schreyer Scholar in the Penn State Schreyer Honors College. Royer was on the Dean's List for seven semesters.

After graduation, Royer plans to attend graduate school to become a professor of astronomy and astrophysics.

Elise Abbott—Planetary Science and Astronomy

Representing the major of Planetary Science and Astronomy is student marshal **Elise Abbott**, escorted by **Christopher Palma**. Abbott is from Altoona, Pennsylvania, and celebrates this honor with her parents, James Abbott and Cheryl Abbott.

Abbott graduates with a bachelor's degree in planetary science and astronomy and in psychology (life sciences option), with a minor in astrobiology. She conducted research in the Julia Plummer and Christopher Palma labs at Penn State. She also served as a Penn State Science-U summer camp curriculum mentor, Liberal Arts Ambassador, and Art Club and Competitive Ballroom and Latin Dance Club member. Abbott was honored as a Paterno Fellow, and she received the Penn State Provost Award and the Agnes Kennedy Tiley Scholarship for eight semesters. She was also a Schreyer Scholar in the Penn State Schreyer Honors College. Abbott was on the Dean's List for nine semesters.

After graduation, Abbott plans to use what she has learned from both of her majors to work in the field of science communication.

Melinda Jin—Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Representing the major of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology is student marshal **Melinda Jin**, escorted by **Wendy Hanna-Rose**. Jin is from Audubon, Pennsylvania, and celebrates this honor with her parents, Denghui Jin and Xiaoyang Dong.

Jin graduates with a bachelor's degree in biochemistry and molecular biology (molecular and cell biology option), with a minor in psychology. She conducted research in the Wendy Hanna-Rose lab at Penn State. She completed the Penn State Research training in Oncology and Medicine to Inspire Student Engagement (PROMISE) program and served as campus chairperson for Global Brigades, as a mentor with LifeLink PSU, and as a volunteer for the Mount Nittany Medical Center. She was honored with the Evan Pugh Scholar Senior Award and the Jacqueline Hemming Whitfield Summer Research Endowment in 2025, the President Sparks Award and the Penn State Montgomery County Alumni Association Scholarship in 2024, and the President Walker Award and the Student Engagement Network Grant in 2023. Jin earned second place in the Health and Life Sciences category and honorable mention for the Data Visualization Awards at Penn State's 2025 Undergraduate Exhibition. She was also a Schreyer Scholar in the Penn State Schreyer Honors College and was on the Dean's List for seven semesters.

After graduation, Jin plans to become a physician, and she will start medical school in the fall.

Kunyu Pan—Biotechnology

Representing the major of Biotechnology is student marshal **Kunyu Pan**, escorted by **Beatrice Sirakaya**. Pan is from Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and celebrates this honor with his parents, Woodrow Ressler and Liang Miao.

Pan graduates with a bachelor's degree in biotechnology. He conducted research in the Marina Feric Lab at Penn State. He completed an upstream process development co-op at GSK. He also participated in the Society for Industrial Biotechnology at Penn State, and in 2024 he received the Eberly College of Science Dean's Scholarship and the Mary A. Styles Scholarship in the Biological Sciences. Pan was

on the Dean's List for nine semesters.

After graduation, Pan plans to launch his career in bioprocess development, focusing on bringing lifesaving therapies to the market. His goal is to use the technical skills he has gained in upstream processing and molecular engineering to optimize manufacturing workflows and improve the efficiency of biopharmaceutical production.

Alexandra Oswald—Forensic Science

Representing the major of Forensic Science is student marshal **Alexandra Oswald**, escorted by **Susan Clutter**. Oswald is from Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, and celebrates this honor with her parents, Eugene Oswald and Jennifer Oswald.

Oswald graduates with a bachelor's degree in forensic science (forensic chemistry option) with a minor in chemistry. She conducted research in the William Campbell lab at Penn State. She completed a forensic science internship with the Forensic Investigation Division of Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, and served as a science and technical intern for the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. Oswald was a member of Delta Epsilon forensic honor society and was honored with the Walter K. and Lynn-Marie C. Wieland Scholarship for four semesters, the Schreyer Honors College Academic Excellence Scholarship for eight semesters, and the 2023 President Walker Award. She was also a Schreyer Scholar in the Penn State Schreyer Honors College. Oswald was on the Dean's List for eight semesters.

After graduation, Oswald plans to work in either drug chemistry or forensic toxicology.

Katie Ziparo—Forensic Science

Representing the major of Forensic Science is student marshal **Katie Ziparo**, escorted by **Susan Clutter**. Ziparo is from Northville, Michigan, and celebrates this honor with her parents, Peter Ziparo and Maureen Ziparo.

Ziparo graduates with a bachelor's degree in forensic science (forensic chemistry option) with a minor in anthropology. She served as a course assistant for FRNSC 100 (GN) Introduction to Forensic Science and FRNSC 413 Criminalistics: Biology. She was chapter president of the Delta Phi Epsilon sorority and a member of the Delta Delta Epsilon international forensic science honor society, Science LionPride, and Forensic Science Club. She was honored with the Walter K. and Lynn-Marie C. Wieland Scholarship. Ziparo was on the Dean's List for eight semesters.

After graduation, Ziparo plans to pursue a master's

degree in biomedical forensic science with a focus in forensic chemistry and toxicology at Boston University.

Jacob Orrico—Microbiology

Representing the major of Microbiology is student marshal **Jacob Orrico**, escorted by **Katsuhiko Murakami**. Orrico is from Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, and celebrates this honor with his parents, Russ Orrico and Lynn Orrico.

Orrico graduates with a bachelor's degree in microbiology and in German, with a minor in biochemistry and molecular biology. He conducted research in the Katsuhiko Murakami lab at Penn State. He served as a regulated bioanalytics intern at Merck, as a research intern at Lehigh Valley Health Network, and as a teaching assistant for BMB 400 Molecular Biology of the Gene. Orrico was outreach director for Fresh START Day of Service at Penn State, a German tutor, and a member of the Nittany Chemical Society and the Penn State Student Red Cross Club. He was honored with the Gerard A. Hauser Award and the Gerhard Strasser Award in 2025, the President Walker Award in 2024, the President Sparks Award in 2023, and the Gerald L. Bayles Memorial Scholarship in 2022. Orrico was also a Schreyer Scholar in the Penn State Schreyer Honors College and was on the Dean's List for seven semesters.

After graduation, Orrico plans to pursue his doctorate in biochemistry, molecular, and cell biology at Cornell University. His goal is to pursue a scientific career where he can apply his background in biochemistry and molecular biology to support the development of novel therapeutics and vaccines.

Gabriella Lawler—Biology

Representing the major of Biology is student marshal **Gabriella Lawler**, escorted by **Carly Sjogren**. Lawler is from Coopersburg, Pennsylvania, and celebrates this honor with her parents, Keith Lawler and Lori Lawler.

Lawler graduates with a bachelor's degree in biology with minors in Spanish and cello performance. She conducted research in the Janet van Hell and Rosa Guzzardo labs at Penn State. She served as a research assistant in the Hermann lab and in the Bilingualism and Linguistic Diversity lab, as a learning assistant and teaching assistant in the First-Year Research Initiative laboratories, and as a Spanish translator and recruiter in the Barragan lab. She also served as treasurer and secretary of the Penn State Cello Club. She was honored as a semifinalist for the 2026 Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Award, and with the Evan Pugh Scholar Award in 2025, the Partnership for International

Research and Education Fellowship and the President Sparks Award in 2024, and the President Walker Award in 2023. Lawler was on the Dean's List for seven semesters.

After graduation, Lawler plans to teach English in Spain for a year, and upon returning home, she plans to enter the health-care field as a medical device sales representative.

Gwendolyn Powell—Biology

Representing the major of Biology is student marshal **Gwendolyn Powell**, escorted by **Denise Woodward**. Powell is from Moscow, Pennsylvania, and celebrates this honor with her parents, Daniel Powell and Loreen Powell.

Powell graduates with a bachelor's degree in biology. She conducted research in the Tanusree Sharma lab at Penn State. She was a member of the women's varsity golf team and founder of the Scholar-Athlete Initiative. She served on the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion group of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and worked as a resident assistant at Wynwood Personal Care Home. She was honored with the President Sparks Award in 2026 and the President Walker Award in 2025. She was also named a Women's Golf Coaches Association All-American Scholar in 2025. Powell was also a Schreyer Scholar in the Penn State Schreyer Honors College and was on the Dean's List for three semesters.

After graduation, Powell plans to become a physician. She hopes to work in internal medicine or a specialty where she can build a long-term relationship with patients. Later in her career, she wants to find an administrative or teaching role in health care.

Holly Lussier—Chemistry

Representing the major of Chemistry is student marshal **Holly Lussier**, escorted by **Kate Masters**. Lussier is from Malvern, Pennsylvania, and celebrates this honor with her parents, Mathieu Lussier and Halaine Lussier.

Lussier graduates with a bachelor's degree in chemistry. She conducted research in the Marty Bollinger, Carsten Krebs, and Elizabeth Elacqua labs at Penn State and completed a medicinal chemistry internship at GSK. She also served as a teaching assistant for CHEM 213M Laboratory in Organic Chemistry—Honors, Writing Intensive, and CHEM 431W Organic and Inorganic Preparations, as a group leader for guided study in organic chemistry, and as a New Student Orientation leader for the Penn State Schreyer Honors College. She was honored with the Schreyer Honors College

Academic Excellence Scholarship for eight semesters, with the John and Elizabeth Holmes Teas Scholarship and the American Chemical Society Undergraduate Award in Inorganic Chemistry in 2025, and the Elizabeth and J. Paul Smith Scholarship and the Benkovic Summer Research Award in 2024. She was also a Schreyer Scholar in the Schreyer Honors College. Lussier was on the Dean's List for eight semesters.

After graduation, Lussier plans to earn her doctorate in organic chemistry and become a teaching professor in the field.

Amber Chen—Mathematics

Representing the major of Mathematics is student marshal **Amber Chen**, escorted by **Nan Zhu**. Chen is from Media, Pennsylvania, and celebrates this honor with her parents, Xiaolu Chen and Fran Yan.

Chen graduates with a bachelor's degree in mathematics (actuarial mathematics option) with a minor in statistics. She conducted research in the Nan Zhu lab at Penn State and completed actuarial internships at Prudential and Transamerica and a summer internship at Allstate Insurance. She also served as director of communications for the Penn State Actuarial Science Club, as vice president of sisterhood and vice president of philanthropy for Sigma Omicron Pi sorority, and as a member of the Phi Beta Kappa honor society, Volé Dance Company, and the Department of Mathematics' Climate and Diversity Committee. She was honored with the Schreyer Honors College Academic Excellence Scholarship for eight semesters, the Jabir Shibley Memorial Scholarship in Mathematics in 2025, and the President Walker Award in 2023. She was also a Schreyer Scholar in the Penn State Schreyer Honors College. Chen was on the Dean's List for seven semesters.

After graduation, Chen plans to work as an actuarial associate at Prudential in Newark, New Jersey. She looks forward to further developing professionally in Prudential's Actuarial Leadership Development Program, passing her actuarial exams, and earning her Associate of the Society of Actuaries and Fellow of the Society of Actuaries credentials.

Elliott Rose—Physics

Representing the major of Physics is student marshal **Elliott Rose**, escorted by **Sarah Shandera**. Rose is from State College, Pennsylvania, and celebrates this honor with his parents, Craig Rose and Wendy Hanna-Rose.

Rose graduates with a bachelor's degree in physics (general physics option) with minors in mathematics

and creative writing. He conducted research in the Sarah Shandera and Martin Bojowald labs at Penn State. He served as a teaching assistant for CAS 137H (GWS) Rhetoric and Civic Life and CAS 138T (GWS) Rhetoric and Civic Life II and as lead learning assistant for vector calculus, learning assistant for linear algebra, treasurer and president of the Creative Writing Club, and secretary of the Penn State International Affairs and Debate Association. Rose was also a member of Sigma Pi Sigma physics honor society. He earned first place in the 2025 Katey Lehman Fiction Awards and second place for fiction in the 2024 Edward J. Nichols Memorial Awards. In 2024 and 2025 he was honored with the Evan Pugh Scholar Award and the Bert Elsbach Honors Scholarship in Physics. He was also honored in 2024 with the M. Dean and Jean L. Underwood Scholarship in Physics, an award from the Cada R. and Susan Wynn Grove Mathematics Enhancement Endowment, and the President Sparks Award, and in 2023 with the President Walker Award. Rose was also a Schreyer Scholar in the Penn State Schreyer Honors College and was on the Dean's List for seven semesters.

After graduation, Rose plans to attend the University of Maryland, College Park, to pursue a master's degree in physics, with the goal of becoming a physics professor.

Michelle Bojalad—Premedicine

Representing the major of Premedicine is student marshal **Michelle Bojalad**, escorted by **Natasha Dinsmore**. Bojalad is from North Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, and celebrates this honor with her parents, William Bojalad and Julia Bojalad.

Bojalad graduates with a bachelor's degree in premedicine with a minor in psychology. She conducted research in the Glenna Malcolm, Charles Anderson, and Bryan Nichols labs at Penn State. She also completed a clinical research internship at Allegheny Health Network and served as president of the Network for Excellence in Undergraduate Science, as donor and alumni relations chair for the Penn State Ski Club benefitting THON, and as a volunteer at Mount Nittany Medical Center and with the YMCA Backpack Packing for Kids Anti-Hunger Program. She was honored with the Evan Pugh Scholar Senior Award, a scholarship from the Ruth E. Duffy Premedicine Endowment, and the Scheel Family Scholarship in Premedicine in 2025, the President Sparks Award in 2024, and the President Walker Award in 2023. Bojalad was on the Dean's List for eight semesters.

After graduation, Bojalad plans to begin medical school to work towards a medical degree.

Nora Prendergast—Integrative Science

Representing the major of Integrative Science is student marshal **Nora Prendergast**, escorted by **Carolyn Jensen**. Prendergast is from Warren, Rhode Island, and celebrates this honor with her parents, Patrick Prendergast and Jennifer Prendergast.

Prendergast graduates with a bachelor's degree in integrative science. She conducted research in the Emily Ansell lab at Penn State. She served as an emergency medical technician at Penn State Emergency Medical Services and at the Bristol Fire Department, and as a volunteer medical assistant with Centre Volunteers in Medicine, as a learning assistant for MATH 140B (GQ) Calculus and Biology, BIOL 110 (GN) Basic Concepts and Biodiversity, and BIOL 161 (GN) Human Anatomy and Physiology, and as a research assistant in the REPEAT lab. She was a member of Phi Epsilon Kappa. Prendergast was on the Dean's List for seven semesters.

After graduation, Prendergast plans to attend the MGH Institute of Health Professions' Physician Assistant Program.

Leo Soccio—Statistics

Representing the major of Statistics is student marshal **Leo Soccio**, escorted by **Scott Roths**. Soccio is from State College, Pennsylvania, and celebrates this honor with his parents, Matthew Soccio and Patricia Soccio.

Soccio graduates with a bachelor's degree in statistics (graduate studies option) with minors in wildlife and fisheries science and mathematics. He conducted research in the Jonathan Dodge and David Miller labs at Penn State and served as a statistical consultant in the Data Learning Center at the Penn State University Libraries and as outings chair of the Penn State Outing Club. He was honored with the 2026 Patil-Taille Award and was also a Schreyer Scholar in the Penn State Schreyer Honors College. Soccio was on the Dean's List for seven semesters.

After graduation, Soccio plans to take a gap year, then go to graduate school to study wildlife statistics / quantitative ecology.

Lily Mayer—Data Sciences

Representing the major of Data Sciences is student marshal **Lily Mayer**, escorted by **Andrea Brandimarte**. Mayer is from Allentown, Pennsylvania, and celebrates this honor with her mother, Kristen Mayer.

Mayer graduates with a bachelor's degree in data sciences (statistical modeling data sciences option) with a minor in mathematics. She completed an analytical sciences vaccine research and development internship

at Sanofi and participated in the Disney College Program at Walt Disney World. She also served as president of the Disney Club at Penn State and was a member of the Pride of the Lions Pep Band and the Mu Sigma Rho national honor society for statistics. She was honored with an award from the Matthew Rosenshine Fund for Excellence in Statistics and the President Sparks Award in 2024, and the President Walker Award in 2023. Mayer was on the Dean's List for six semesters.

After graduation, Mayer plans to work at Walt Disney World, with the goal of being a data analyst for the Walt Disney Company Parks Division.

Aidan Perner—Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps

Representing the major of Biology is student marshal **Aidan Perner**, escorted by **Capt. Jake Stewart**. Perner is from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and celebrates this honor with his parents, Michael Perner and Caroline Soter.

Perner graduates with a bachelor's degree in biology. He conducted research in the Shannon Glenn, Robert Turrisi, and Michael Russell labs at Penn State and completed a US Army Medical Department Internship at Ford Gordon, Georgia, and a University Health Services Clinic Internship at Penn State. He served as founder and president of the Army Prehealth Club, as cadet first sergeant in the Penn State Army ROTC Nittany Lion Battalion, as volunteer with the Centre County YMCA Anti-Hunger Program, and as a member of the ROTC Ranger Club. In 2025, he received the Battalion Commander's Academic Award, the Dallas and Diane Krapf ROTC Outstanding Leadership and Service Scholarship, and the Evan Pugh Scholar Senior Award, was recognized as a Distinguished Military Graduate, and was nominated for the Marshall and Rhodes Scholarships. He was also honored with the President Sparks Award in 2024, the President Walker Award, the Sons of the American Revolution Silver ROTC medal, and the Army ROTC Scholarship in 2023, and the Eberly College of Science Homer Braddock Scholarship, the TD Bank US Achieve the Dream Scholarship, and the United States Army Reserve National Scholar/Athlete Award in 2022. Perner was on the Dean's List for seven semesters.

After graduation, Perner plans to serve as an Army Medical Service Corps officer and then attend medical school. Long term, he hopes to serve as an army physician and simultaneously conduct research on military health.

Department and Program Representatives

Santhosh Girirajan, M.B.B.S., Ph.D.

Head and T. Ming Chu Professor of Genomics, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Beth Johnson, B.S., Ph.D.

Director, Integrative Science Program; Director of Academics, Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Science and Master of Business Administration in Business Administration Program; James and Alvina Balog Faculty Fellow; Associate Teaching Professor

Kenneth Knappenberger Jr., B.S., Ph.D.

Head and Professor, Department of Chemistry; Professor of Physics

Melissa Krajcovic, B.A., Ph.D.

Director, Science Premedicine Majors

Nicole Lazar, B.A., M.S., Ph.D.

Head and Professor, Department of Statistics

Randall McEntaffer, B.S., Ph.D.

Head and Professor, Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics; Professor of Physics

Elizabeth McGraw, B.S., Ph.D.

Head and Professor, Department of Biology

Paul Milewski, B.S., M.S., Ph.D.

Head and Professor, Department of Mathematics

Mauricio Terrones, B.S., Ph.D.

George A. and Margaret M. Downs brough Head, Department of Physics; Evan Pugh University Professor; Professor of Chemistry and of Materials Science and Engineering

Faculty Marshals

Barbara DeHart, B.S., M.S.

Director of Undergraduate Advising, Department of Biology; Associate Teaching Professor of Biology

Carla Hass, B.S., M.S., Ph.D.

Teaching Professor of Biology

Jennifer Stingelin Keefer, B.S., M.S.

Academic Adviser, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

John Neisser, B.A., M.D.

Associate Teaching Professor of Biology

Leana Topper, B.S., M.S., Ph.D.

Teaching Professor of Biology

John Waters, B.S., M.S., Ph.D.

Teaching Professor of Biology and of Anthropology

History of the Eberly College of Science



On March 17, 1990, Penn State's Board of Trustees renamed the College of Science to honor one of its most generous benefactors—the Eberly Family Charitable Trust of Uniontown—and at the spring commencement of the Class of 1990, the formal naming of the Eberly College of Science occurred, inaugurating a new chapter in the long and distinguished history of science education and research at the University. The occasion also marked the first time that a public research university named its basic science college for a benefactor.

The Eberly College of Science began as a department of chemistry, becoming the School of Natural Science in 1896, the School of Chemistry and Physics in 1926, the College of Chemistry and Physics in 1953, and the College of Science in 1963. It has always had as its central goals the education of first-rate scientists and generation of high-quality research. Today, with more than 56,000 alumni and more than \$147 million spent annually on research (provided mostly by grants and contracts from government and industry), the college demonstrates real success.

In 1986, the Eberly Family Trust gave \$10 million to establish a chair in each of the college's departments, to create endowments for biotechnology, and to provide funding for the Hobby-Eberly Telescope. The gift was among the largest donations made to the campaign for Penn State, the University's successful six-year

effort to raise \$300 million in private support. Trustee Manager Robert Eberly, who graduated from Penn State in 1939 with a bachelor's degree in chemistry, served as campaign treasurer. It was the first time in all of higher education philanthropy that an academic college received, in a single gift, endowed chairs for every one of its departments.

The support of the Eberly family and other generous benefactors has allowed the college to attract and retain faculty members of worldwide renown, to provide access for able students from a wide range of backgrounds, and to enhance academic programs.

This margin of excellence is readily evident within the college and in the enhanced national and international prestige of Penn State and its science programs. Current and prospective students and faculty members are excited about the vitality of these programs and the energy with which they are being pursued.

The Eberly College of Science stands as a legacy to the vision and commitment of the Eberly family and other benefactors whose philanthropy will be felt for generations to come.

To Our Guests

We welcome you to the commencement exercises for baccalaureate degree candidates.

Commencement, the solemn but joyful climax and recognition of the graduates' years of study, is an important occasion to the University, its faculty, staff, and students. All guests and participants are requested to avoid unnecessary conversation or moving about during the exercises.

Only authorized press and University photographers are permitted on the floor to take pictures once the exercises are in progress.

When the processional party enters at the beginning of the ceremony, the audience rises. They remain standing until all members of the platform party have taken their places on the platform and during the singing of the national anthem.

Applause should be withheld during the presentation of the individual candidates; however, they may be applauded after all candidates have been recognized.

Following the singing of the alma mater, there is a recessional. The audience is requested to remain seated during this period.

Bryce Jordan Center Information

A **first aid station** is located on the concourse level (south side) between Gates C and D.

Restrooms are located throughout the concourse area.

Lost and found articles will be taken to the administrative offices located on the second level of the facility (room 127).

To order official transcripts, call 814-865-6357 for instructions, or visit the University Registrar website at registrar.psu.edu.

Penn State encourages persons with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation or have questions about the physical access provided, please contact the Office of Strategic Communications at 814-865-2501.

Notice: The possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages in any indoor commencement facility is prohibited. Your admission to any of these facilities is conditional upon compliance with the above. The University reserves the right to refuse admission to or remove, any person who violates this prohibition.

We also ask that cell phones be turned off.

Graduates

Please note: The information in this document was produced March 16, 2026, as an unofficial list of students who indicated intent to graduate spring semester 2026. Students who indicated their intent to graduate after that production date are not listed.

Subject to completion of all degree requirements, degrees will be conferred as indicated upon the individuals listed herein and upon such others as may meet the requirements.

*** Summa Cum Laude (4.00)

** Magna Cum Laude (3.96)

* Cum Laude (3.89)

+ Schreyer Honors College

◆ Millennium Scholar

Astronomy and Astrophysics

Bachelor of Science

Reem Abdou
Aurelia Bankston+
John Blakely
Garrett Brady
Elijah Carlson
Ankita Dasgupta+
Sierra Deppe
Noah DeVito
Neha Dushyantha Kumar
Erin Gavin+
Nicolas Goedert Waltrich+
Aidan Groenendaal+
Gavin Houlihan
Juliette McIlvride+
Lennon Nichol+
Arianna Nielsen
Luke Royer
Devin Sinn
Peiyuan Zhou+

Planetary Science and Astronomy

Bachelor of Science

Elise Abbott**+

Logan Fields
Kate Foyle
Kate Houy
Philip Martin

Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Bachelor of Science

KateLyn Acrie
Taha Alubaidi+
Emily Anderson***
Martena Ayaad
Derek Baldwin
Everett Barbour
Pradham Bathini+
Alexander Baxevanidis***
Samira Bowrey-Walters
Ava Burdell
Jared Cannon*+
Stephanie Carson*+
Catelyn Carter
Abhirup Chakrabarti
Emma Coyle
India Deck+
Dante DelVecchio**
Yousif Dhia***
Isaiah Diggs◆
Dingchen Ding
Reid Elson
Adam Engleka
Alexandra Figliuzzi
Carlee Frantz*
Ryan Gelman***+
Sai Charan Giri+
Madison Hoelzle
Andrei Ianuli*+
Melinda Jin***+
Joshua Kalyan
Melica Kemanian Leites*
Jacob Kohler***+
Mary Koroma
Caden LaLonde
Ava Liddy
Blanca Lizanne Mejia
Hunter Markel
Neha Matai
Gavin McDermond
Sarah McGlynn+
Kaitlyn McKelvey
Duncan McQueen*+
Madison Michelitch*
Ethan Miller

Jooyeon Moon
Caitlin Moser
Yennifer Munoz
Isabella Neumann
Alec Paramo
Alva Peppert+
Sarah Pikhit
Anant Pothakamury*+
Shreshta Raghuvanshi*
Sanika Rane
Maria Ratnasamy***+
Yusuf Shabana
Paris Shanabrough
Adam Sharkawy
Diana Shebetich
Kendyl Smith*
Yun Song+
Jerry Straining
Veronica Swartz
Mehak Tanotra
Timothy Tharp
Ryan Thompson
Kevin Tian+
Rositsa Tsarnakova**+
Joost Van Bastelaar*+
Sarah Vinson
Weile Wang
Elise Wang*+◆
Kade Warntz
John Watts
Lily Williams+
Roy Wu+
Zidian Zheng**
Sean Zsoldos**+
Gabriella Zuccon Sindic**

Biotechnology

Bachelor of Science

Nathaniel Flores*
Bella Gilliard
Zachary Kandel
Norah Kaufman
Victor McCoy
Braden McNeal
Anisha Mukherjee
Kunyu Pan***
Giselle Phung
Isabella Ramirez
Manav Shah
Julie Snyder
Alexandra Uniac
Sofia Veiga
Hannah Visnick

Megan Von Abo**+
Tanner Whiteside

Forensic Science

Bachelor of Science

Victoria Adams
Kayleigh Alicea
Gerisim Arevalo
Jeo Marvin Baptista
Sara Bills
Ashleigh Bolbrugge
Urshita Bose
Scott Brandner
Gabriel Castillo-Lozano
Olivia Cichocki
Olivia Cujdik
Lindsey Davidson
Carol Ann Davis**
Reagen Dixon
Julia Earl
Samantha Erwin
Briza Espinoza
Addison Evanoff
Kacie Fennell
Gabiella Feole
Tiera Figaro
Anna Foley
Kendalyn Gerhardt
Yusra Haroon
Madisyn Hess
Ella Hollida
Kendall Hsing
Colton Johnston
Mark Lee
Abigail Lowe
Erin Mallon
Vincenza Mancino
Sadie Marlow
Daniella Masucci
Caleigh Mayberry
Sara McLaughlin
Abigail Miller
Mallory Mohon*
Jenavieve Munoz
Isabel Newby
Mia Nunnari
Isabella Ochs
Judith Oller
Alexandra Oswald**+
Isabella Perez
Karla Perez-Bacaricia
Faith Perkins
Melanie Pezzano
Ethan Piegzik
Maria Prieto Parra

Kisla Rhoads
Glenna Ruslander
Jenna Santuk
Khalida Senghori+
Elise Shoytush
Zaida Smikle
Abigail Whitney
Maya Wildasin
Brianna Zelek
Lauren Zion
Katie Ziparo**
Ernesto Zulueta Barroeta

Microbiology

Bachelor of Science

Alanna Handley
Abbigail Hess
Lilith Loriinae
Aarshia Mehta
Siera Njenga
Jacob Orrico**+
Mia Perri
Liviah Yudt

Biology

Bachelor of Science

Victoria Adams
Anjoreoluwa Adegboyo+◆
Josephine Akhigbe
Francis Akpan
Brianna Aledo
Fatiha Alif
Alexandria Amato
Samantha Amritt
Lucia Anderson*◆
Marola Anes
Joseph Arlotta
Kiranmai Attaluri
Calyn Baine
Eva Barrueto
Michael Baumgardner
Breanna Becnel
Brooke Beisler***
Berkeley Bender
Cameron Berger
Sophia Berman
Rachel Billet
Taylor Binek
Ella Blank
Danielle Bocchieri
Evelyn Booth
Abena Brantuo
Sophia Brencovich
Kaitlyn Brezosky*
Patricia Brocious+

Madison Brown
Grace Bulera
Rachel Burton
Makayla Campbell
Naomi Canny+
Jurny Canton
Leah Carrigan
Christian Carter
Katherine Carter
Celina Casapulla
Daniela Castro
Cortez Catalano
Jordan Cerminara*
Yanfei Chen
Katherine Chipriano
Victoria Chomik
Owen Clark
Macie Clarke
Alexia Contos
Sophia Cornet
Ava Coups
Anthony Cruz
Alyssa Dass
Brock Davis
Isaac Dechow
Justin Deekollu+
Candice DelCastillo
Neil Di Fonzo
Joseph Diegelman
Kevin Ding***+
Lyne Djonou
Benevolence Dong
Bria Ebeling*
Jackson Emery
Mark Emery
Zachary Evans
Everest Falcone
Kaylyn Feliz
Kennedy Ferguson+
Olivia Ferreiros
Corrinne Field
Brett Fruehauf
Daliah Garibay
Alexa Garrido Aguilar
Diana Giolitti Argueta
Samantha Gode
Aden Goldberg+
Kevin Golden
Faith Goldman
Gabriela Gonzales Villagomez
Genavieve Gorman
Payten Gorman**
Raquel Gottlieb
Sean Gowen
Jeremy Guarasci
Isabella Guthrie

Jessica Habib
Andre Haddad
Logan Hage+
Alicia Hahn
Suliman Hakma
Megan Hampshire
Olivia Hangey
Sanai Harrison
Taylor Harrod
Anna Heilman
William Hervey◆
Aedan Hevey
Daniel Hinkle
Fiona Hogan
Benjamin Hohl+
Marlee Hull
Haeyoung Hwang
Amy Jaafar
Bethany Jacox
Hannah Jahnke
Marah Johnston
Kate Kaja
Liala Kanan
Andrew Keller*
Kendall Kelley+
Erika Kenst*
Mouein Khallouf*
Ali Khan
Maya Kielar
Molly Killough**
Kristina Kintigh
Halle Klugh
Cameron Koch+
Jason Komaromy*
Amanda Koren
Jackson Kozma*
Sarah Kryemadhi**
Rose-Christele Kuetche
Kylee Kurnot
Andrew Kuruvilla*
Arika LaGoy
Esha Lahoti**+
Olivia Lapchak
Gabriella Lawler***
Eri Lee
Ana Lepojevic
Spencer Levin
Isabella Levy
Alexander Lin*
TingTing Lin
Morgan Lindsey
Taylor Lohr
Gabriella Lombardi
Samantha Louthan
Oliver Lowden
Celia Lucey

Ivana Luu+
Ian MacLachlan
Juliana Malek
Amaz Malik
Rachel Mamula
Trace Mansfield
Janel Martinez
Cyrus Marwaha*+
Brooklyn McDonald
Madeline McGovern
Devin McOwen
Eleanor Miller
Justin Minicozzi
Megan Misciagna**
Jamie Mooney
Grace Morani
Conner Morrow
Michael Mucha
Grace Murray
Sanjay Murugan**
Adam Myers
Anthony Myers***
Carley Mykut+ College
Abigail Nail
Damini Nair**+
Dylan Najarian
Marina Naumova+
Alan Ngo
Ziyang Ni
Jason Norwicke***
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Marianna Olaya
Brandon Palmer
Emilia Palumbo
Kennedy Parker
Om Patel
Janvi Patel
Khushi Patel
Ashley Pearson
Trevor Pentin
Aidan Perner***
Ripley Phillips
Megan Pike
Allison Porta**
Gwendolyn Powell***+
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Marlysa Rackmyre
Dayna Rahilly
Rohan Ramaswamy**+
Kiancy Reyes
Jackelin Reyes
Logan Rice
Andrew Rider
Nathan Romero
Tyson Ronel
Emma Russell

Mia Saccone+
Ashika Sagar
Ariana Sapoznik*
Yousef Sbeitan
Alexis Sedlak
Madison Seidel+
Aayush Sharma
Gabrielle Shearer
Benjamin Shine
Dea Shini
Grace Shucavage
Musab Siddiqi
Kathryn Silverberg***
Kaylen Sitzabee**
Isaiah Sleighter
Lexi Snyder
Brett Spivack
Elisabeth Spongr
Nick Stangl
Blake Steigauf
Victoria Stetz
Jack Stevenson*
Alexandria Steward
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Lexie Tilmes
Rosalyn Towler
Margaret Tracht**
Althea Tran
Claire Travis**+
Conner Uter
Paige Van Orden**
Maria Vazquez Rivera◆
Bianca Vechinski
Shivani Venkatesh
Isabella Villado
Luke Visco
Ethan Walpole
Nina Wang
Mingxing Wang
Lisa Wang**+
Samuel Warshaw
Bailee Washington
Erica Weinberg
Katrina Weiskircher
Carly Weyman*
Chloe Williams
Emma Wise
Annabelle Wojciechowski*
Erin Wolfanger*+
Jiayun Xing
Risha Yaragarla
Micah Zeisloft
Rulin Zheng
Yutong Zheng
Shelly Zur

Chemistry

Bachelor of Science

Hosannah Akploh
Alexander Baxevanidis+
Dante DelVecchio**
David Friedenberg
Elisabeth Groff***+
Helen Li
Holly Lussier**+
Adam Marcellus+
Steven Marotta
Neha Matai+
Aaron McDonnell
Mallory Mohon
Walter Ninotti
Mia Petrucela
Emily Ritter
Adam Rowland
Emily Short*
Molly Smock
Caitlin Stoudt*
Mason Stroup
Evan Vidal
Yu-Chiao Wang
Zachary Younker
Sean Zsoldos

Mathematics

Bachelor of Arts

Goeun Choi
Ran Wen

Bachelor of Science

Sabrina Adler**+
Suryansh Agrawal
Andres Aguirre Torres+
Salem Alothman
Kiruthick Anandan
Tyler Anderson
Manav Bajaj
George Barbounis**
Robert Basalyga Jr.
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Thomas Bender
Steven Bernstein
Elizabeth Black+
Sofiyadmitriyev Bogacheva+
Sean Burke
Ava Cardamone
Spencer Carmichael**+
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Ming Lun Chen
Haosheng Chen
Zixuan Chen
Wenyu Chen
Amber Chen*+
Hanzhang Chen

Xuange Chen
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Lucas Craig+
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Pranav Dharmagadi**
Hancong Di
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Sean Galvin
Samuel Gebrehiwet
Ovgu Guleryuz**+
Joel Guzman-Parrilla
Gabe Haddox
Gavin Hallock
Raymond Heimbach
Alejandro Herraiz Sen
Emily Hidalgo+
Nicholas Hotalen
Bhavika Jain
Hanzhe Jiang
Elvin Jiang*+
Nyssa Kahler
Aidan Kelly**+
Minseo Kim**
Xiaochen Li
Jiawei Liang**
Abigail Littlefield
Xingyu Liu
Lilith Loriinae**
Harsh Maheshwari
Simar Malhotra
Spencer Martz
Hope McKenney
Margaret McQuillen
Abhilash Menon
Xi Miao
Cameron Moore
Lucas Moran
Benjamin Myers
Ashton Newton
Hien Nguyen
Kevin Ninh
Ella Parkinson
Roman Parra Bravo
Honey Mehul Patel**
Owen Petronick
Maurice Pettway
Saatvik Pradhan*+
Michael Radzanowski
Jacob Rea*+
Bruce Rifai+
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Manhar Soin
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Gavin Taylor
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Zachary Walnock**
Shengxiang Wang
Shuqing Wei
Liam Woods
Jingxu Xu
Shujun Yao*
Evan Young
Jingqin Zhou
Jingqi Zhou

Physics

Bachelor of Science

Rhiannon Ambrosio
Amelia Arthur
John Blakely
Adam Cameron
Cameron Cassese
Sierra Deppe
Adam Faina
Declan Flanagan
Samuel Gebrehiwet
Kaden Geiger
Madison Gillner**+
Nicolas Goedert Waltrich+
Veer Gowda+
Ovgu Guleryuz
Aidan Kelly**+
Holden Kersey
Emma Lim
Praswell Lorenzana
Owen Madelung
Aditi Maheshwari+
Aaron McDonnell
Juliette Mcilvrive+
Owen Page**+
Roman Parra Bravo
Thomas Pelesky
Neela Pifer
Nicolas Portillo
Jacob Rea
Elliott Rose***+
Luke Royer***+
Luc Schrauf**+
Claire Schubert
Devin Sinn
Jiawei Wang
Hannah Watson
Patrick Wusinich
Jianting Yao
Wangzeyi Zhang

Premedicine

Bachelor of Science

Michelle Bojalad***
Nathan Burkholder
Luke Ciccolella
Joseph Foradora+
Ava Galicic
Killian Horigan
Logan Johns
Zhongxu Liang*+
Grace Lowe
Jasmine Manning**
Tuan Nguyen
Victoria Swartz
Brittany Wood**+

Integrative Science

Bachelor of Science

Olivia Adams
Michael Adams***
Nicolí Aguilera
Amelia Allen+
Monica Barahona
Aaliyah Butts
Macy Cabell
Austin Cambra
Connor Cell
Samantha Constantino
Julia Convery
Brooke Cooper
Xander Cressler
Aaliyah Daud
Jakub Dingo
Demarest Dorvilma
Ava Driscoll
Eric Dunbar
Christina Ellis
Katherine Estes***+
Tanha Fiza
Shenel Fosuah-Asamoah
Hannah Gadpaille
Gia Geary
Isabella Germanos
Allyson Ghostlaw
Shreya Gorawala+
Rachel Gordon-Martin
Brendan Higgins
McAllister Hobbs
Madison Jackson
Haylee Jenkins
Zara Johnson
Kayla Jones
Joseph Kane Jr.
Arav Kasturia
Mitcher Kraus

Thomas Kupper
Hailey Leon
Annette Liang
Amy Lin
Alexander Makrides**+
Alexis Mariani
Ryan McPaul
Joshua McQuilken
Krish Mendiratta+
Michael Mendoza*
Daniell Meyer
Trinity Mickens
Joey Morrison
Logan Muller
Brooklyn Naylor
Alexandra Nesi
Madeleine Niewoehner
Abby Oliver+
Kyra Pires
Nora Prendergast**
Jadyn Rothermel
Bodie Rouzer
Madyson Rovendro
Amaree Seabrooks
Ashwin Shetty
Bohan Shi
Matthew Stuetz
Olivia Turtzo
Eshaal Usman
Samantha Vadino
Ashmit Verma
Han Vu
Ashley Wheeland
Karis Whitcomb
Jeremy Wolfgang*
Ifeoluwa Womiloju
Huaqian Xu
Joseph Zangari
Forrest Zelechoski

Statistics

Bachelor of Science

Ishan Agrahar
Dylan Bauer
William Bressner
Jordan Brophy
Sean Burke
Jesalyn Burleson+
Lingjie Dai
Priyanshu Dey
Charles Floryan
Devya Gummalam
Devin Huffman
Madeline Hughes
Mia Iceland

Enmanuel Inoa
Xiang Jiang
Daniel Johnson
Sibo Lin
Bradley Love
Ryan Marchese
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Juliet Nuccio
Tianjun Ouyang
Darren Panusky
Zihao Qin
Joseph Redmond*+
Yusrat Sanni◆
Gabrielle Smeltzer
Leo Soccio**+
James Sturges IV
Tyler Sweeney*
Ruiyan Tang
Noah Tobias
Camden Wade
Yiyue Wang
Xinyu Xie
Jackie Yang
Kelly Zhang

Data Sciences

Bachelor of Science

Will Arsenault
Robert Chappell III
Gabriel Golden
Bolin Gong
Lucas Heller
Liliana Inkpen
Sabeeh Kabir
Lily Mayer**
Matthew McCarey
Taryn McHugh
Summer Mesler
Cameron Moore
Nathan Pechulis+
Emmett Peterson
Lucas Sadoulet
Reyhaan Sethi
Dorothy Speers

Seating Chart

Stage

Student Marshals and Escorts

Student Marshals and Escorts

Faculty

Faculty

Astronomy and Astrophysics

Chemistry

Planetary Science and Astronomy

Mathematics

Biochemistry
and
Molecular Biology

Physics

Biotechnology

Premedicine

Forensic Science

Integrative Science

Microbiology

Statistics

Biology

Data Sciences

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