



EMERGING SCHOLARS:

A CELEBRATION OF GRADUATE RESEARCH

Friday, April 17, 2026
Andrew White Student Center, 3rd Floor



LOYOLA
UNIVERSITY MARYLAND

Emerging Scholars: A Celebration of Graduate Research

April 17, 2026

Welcome to the fifteenth annual *Emerging Scholars: A Celebration of Graduate Research*, honoring the scholarly work of Loyola's graduate student community.

Schedule of Events

Welcome

Cheryl Moore-Thomas, Ph.D.
Provost and Senior Vice President

Presentation of Medals for Excellence of Performance

Beth Kotchick, Ph.D.
Interim Associate Provost and Dean of Graduate Education



Reverend John E. Wise, S.J., Medal
for Distinguished Achievement in Education

Medal of Excellence in Forensic Science

Graduate Medal for Achievement Excellence
in Clinical Professional Counseling

Doctoral Medal for Excellence in Clinical Psychology

Dr. Bernard A. Saltysiak Medal
for Clinical Excellence in Speech-Language Pathology

The Loyola University Maryland Award for Research in Theology

Graduate Medal for Achievement Excellence in Business

Graduate Medal for Academic Excellence in Emerging Media

Graduate Medal of Excellence in Data Science



Time and Location of Events

Oral Presentation

SGA Conference Room, E301 ~ 5:30 p.m.

Awards Ceremony

Center for Intercultural Engagement, Room SC E300C ~ 6 p.m.

Poster Session and Reception

Third Floor Common Space ~ 6:30 – 8 p.m.

** Refreshments will be available
at the conclusion of the Awards Ceremony*

Graduate Student Award Recipients

Reverend John E. Wise, S.J., Medal for Distinguished Achievement in Education

The Reverend John E. Wise Medal is given each year by the faculty of Loyola University Maryland's School of Education to one graduating student "who has demonstrated excellence in scholarship and outstanding service to Loyola University Maryland and the community as exemplified by Rev. John E. Wise, S.J."

Father Wise, truly the father of today's vast graduate education programs at Loyola, was first of all a reflective and prayerful priest committed to social responsibility and justice, a scholar who wrote two textbooks and provocative journal articles, a talented and caring teacher, and a dedicated community servant.

The Reverend John E. Wise, S.J., Medal recipient:
Emily Rosita Esbri

Medal of Excellence in Forensic Science

The Medal of Excellence in Forensic Science is awarded to the top graduating student in the Master of Science program in Forensic Science. The award is based on academic performance and demonstrated excellence in the fields of forensic pattern evidence, comparative sciences and/or forensic science.

Medal of Excellence in Forensic Science recipient:
Jose Antonio Lopez

**Graduate Medal for Achievement Excellence
in Clinical Professional Counseling**

Doctoral Medal for Excellence in Clinical Psychology

The purpose of these awards is to honor outstanding achievement by a graduating master's and doctoral student who are eligible to receive the award in their commencement year. Each award recognizes achievement excellence in one or more areas relevant to the study and practice of psychology, including clinical or counseling practice, research and scholarship, and professional or community service.

Graduate Medal for Achievement Excellence
in Clinical Professional Counseling recipient:
Caroline Arpin

Doctoral Medal for Excellence in Clinical Psychology recipient:
Sepopo Awovi Vanessa Howard

**Dr. Bernard A. Saltysiak Medal
for Clinical Excellence in Speech-Language Pathology**

Upon her retirement, the late Elaine Saltysiak, a beloved former faculty member of the speech-language pathology/audiology department, created both a scholarship and an award medal to be bestowed in honor of her husband, Bernard A. Saltysiak, O.D. The award medal is given each year to a graduate student in speech-language pathology who demonstrates exceptional clinical skills across both years of practica.

Dr. Bernard A. Saltysiak Medal recipient:
Mairead E. James

**Loyola University Maryland Award
for Research in Theology**

The award for Loyola University Maryland's Master of Theological Studies is given annually to a graduating student based on GPA (minimum 3.75), service to the department and the university, and scholarly contribution to their field.

Loyola University Maryland Award
for Research in Theology recipient:
Daniel Fugitt

Graduate Medal for Achievement Excellence in Business

The award for Loyola University Maryland's Graduate Medal for Achievement Excellence in Business recognizes and honors outstanding achievement by a graduating student in one of the graduate degree programs in the Sellinger School of Business and Management.

Graduate Medal for Achievement Excellence in Business recipient:
Jordy M. Luchies

Graduate Medal for Academic Excellence in Emerging Media

This award recognizes excellence in academic performance for students enrolled in the Emerging Media master's program. The purpose of the award is to honor outstanding achievement by a graduating student in both their coursework and capstone project. Students are eligible to receive the award in their commencement year.

Graduate Medal for Academic Excellence in Emerging Media recipient:
Miranda Lynn Villei-Stepp

Graduate Medal of Excellence in Data Science

This award recognizes academic excellence in students enrolled in the data science program. In addition to a minimum 3.7 cumulative GPA, recipients adhere to all relevant ethical standards in professional activities, address a critically important topic including topics related to Jesuit values of service or social justice, and their Capstone Project is of the highest quality, including research depth and writing clarity and results offer novel and useful insights to others in the data science field.

Graduate Medal of Excellence in Data Science recipient:
Chase Robert Green

Presenters

Student Presenter Name(s) Co-authors / Research Advisors <i>Department</i>	Research Title
Crystal Arnold Melissa Gilroy <i>Teacher Education</i>	Interactive Word Wall Strategies to Build Critical Listening and Verbal Description Skills in 6th Grade Music
Jared Arrington Melissa Gilroy <i>Teacher Education</i>	Promoting Critical Thinking Skills within 8th Graders Using Inquiry-based Science
Jenna Brown Stephanie Flores-Koulish, Ph.D. <i>Education Specialties</i>	Going off Script: How Teacher Identity Shapes Creativity and Differentiation for Gifted Learners
Rosa Julia Camarillo Hernandez <i>Teacher Education</i>	Why Some Students Participate Willingly in Oral Spanish Activities While Other Remain Silent?
Guadalupe Castillo Melissa Gilroy <i>Teacher Education</i>	The Impact of Student-Centered Instruction on Engagement and Analytical Skills in Secondary ELA
Diego Cisneros Jason Prenoveau, Ph.D. <i>Psychology</i>	The Longitudinal Prediction of Adolescent Behavior from Childhood Socioeconomic Status and Adverse Experiences
Gabriella Coakley Matthew Kirkhart, Ph.D. Jeffrey Lating, Ph.D. Amanda Thomas, Ph.D. <i>Psychology</i>	When distress becomes disconnection: A Manualized Protocol of Interpersonal Psychotherapy for Tinnitus (IPT-T)

Student Presenter Name(s) Co-authors / Research Advisors <i>Department</i>	Research Title
Holly Cochran Rachel Grover, Ph.D. <i>Psychology</i>	Academic Self-Efficacy in Emerging Adult College Students: The Roles of First-Generation Status and Perceived Parental Pressure
Ethan Cuttler Emalee Quickel, Ph.D. <i>Psychology</i>	I Thought People Like That Killed Themselves: An Examination of Suicide Script Theory Within the LGB Population
Audrey Davis Theresa DiDonato, Ph.D. <i>Psychology</i>	Depression in Romantic Attraction: Dealbreaker or Preferred Similarity?
Michaela Dickerson Marina Lambrinou, Ph.D. <i>Teacher Education</i>	Leading with Identity: The Influence of Administrators of Color in Diverse Schools
Julie Ellis Melissa Gilroy <i>Teacher Education</i>	Impacts of Peer Brainstorming on Artwork
Margaret Farrell Kelly Keane, Ed.D. <i>Education Specialties</i>	Teaching Coding Without Being a Coder: Adapting Code.org Curriculum to Foster 21st Century Skills in a Jesuit Middle School
Gabriel Flores Rhys Williams, Ph.D. <i>Forensic Science</i>	Alternative Method for 3D Scanning of Bullet Holes for Trajectory Analysis
Laura Fratta Marina Lambrinou, Ph.D. <i>Teacher Education</i>	The Impact of Classroom Dialogue on Disciplinary in Social Studies

Student Presenter Name(s) Co-authors / Research Advisors <i>Department</i>	Research Title
Daniel Fugitt Becky Walker, Ph.D. <i>Theology</i>	Let Us Become Gods For His Sake, Since For Ours He Became Man: Theosis in Gregory of Nazianzus
Rachel Goff <i>Education Specialties</i>	From Sketch to Success: The Role of Planning in the Art Classroom
Travers Galley Rachel Grover, Ph.D. <i>Psychology</i>	The Promise of Dungeons & Dragons as a Vehicle for Social Skills Acquisition in Youth with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder: A Proposed Curriculum
Emilio Gurany Jessica Haddaway Enos, Ph.D. <i>Teacher Education</i>	Working on Pronunciation to Address Reading Prosody
Jenny Hauser Melissa Gilroy <i>Teacher Education</i>	Reading Motivation in Secondary English Students
Matthew Herzing Antoinette Carr, Ed.D. <i>Education Specialties</i>	The Impact of Classroom Dialogue on Disciplinary in Social Studies
Tatiyana Hicks <i>Education Specialties</i>	Mathematical Discourse
Nathaniel Huegel Antoinette Carr, Ed.D. <i>Teacher Education</i>	Interventions In Musical Literacy in Elementary and Middle School

Student Presenter Name(s) Co-authors / Research Advisors <i>Department</i>	Research Title
Allison Kaplan Beth Kotchick, Ph.D. <i>Psychology</i>	The Impact of Sensory Processing Sensitivity and Adverse Childhood Experiences on the Development of Empathy
Sophia Launay-Fallasse Julia O'Grady Rachel Sareyka Kathleen Siren, Ph.D., CCC-SLP Tepanta Fossett, Ph.D., CCC-SLP <i>Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences</i>	Assessing Impact of Visual Supports on Narrative Abilities in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder
Carissa Matrale Bridget Cahill Jenna Mess Kathleen Siren, Ph.D., CCC-SLP Tepanta Fossett, Ph.D., CCC-SLP <i>Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences</i>	Evaluating the Impact of Different Forms of Independent, High-Quantity Screen Exposure on the Vocabulary Growth of Preschool-Aged Children
Savannah McCabe Heather Lyons, Ph.D. <i>Psychology</i>	Examining the Relationship Between Conflict Approach and Perceived Partner Responsiveness
Patrick Mfoudi <i>Teacher Education</i>	Supporting Student Attention In Classroom
Kristina Monari David Rivers, Ph.D. <i>Forensic Science</i>	Exploratory Research into Ant Patterns and Behaviors on Fetal Porcine Corpses
Grace Pagano Antoinette Carr, Ph.D. <i>Teacher Education</i>	Linking Language and Line: Visual literacy

Student Presenter Name(s) Co-authors / Research Advisors <i>Department</i>	Research Title
Langley Parker Diana Betz, Ph.D. <i>Psychology</i>	Implications of the Strong Black Woman Schema on Black Women Therapists' Self-Awareness of their Self-Care Needs
Mary Saieed Gina Magyar-Russell, Ph.D. <i>Psychology</i>	Referral Practices of Coptic Christian Clergy to Mental Health Professionals
John Scherfel Andrew Samuel, Ph.D. <i>Emerging Leaders MBA</i>	How to Make Ethical Data Driven Decisions: Redeveloping York Road Case Analysis
Elisabeth Schuler Madelyn Graessle Kathleen Siren, Ph.D., CCC-SLP Tepanta Fossett, Ph.D., CCC-SLP <i>Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences</i>	Comparing Monolingual and Bilingual VNeST Approaches for Lexical Retrieval in Simultaneous Spanish English Bilingual Adults with Anomic Aphasia
Kacy Sekunda Kathleen Siren, Ph.D., CCC-SLP Tepanta Fossett, Ph.D., CCC-SLP <i>Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences</i>	Effects of a Rhythm-Based Structured Speech Intervention on Fluency in Adults with Developmental Stuttering
Sasha Singh Amy Cosentino <i>Teacher Education</i>	Supporting Multilingual Learners' Academic Language Development Through Science Instruction
Kait Sisney Kathleen Siren, Ph.D., CCC-SLP Tepanta Fossett, Ph.D., CCC-SLP <i>Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences</i>	Comparing The Effects of Early and Delayed Voice Therapy on Therapeutic Outcomes for Transgender Adults Receiving Testosterone Therapy

Student Presenter Name(s) Co-authors / Research Advisors <i>Department</i>	Research Title
Chloe Smith Rhys Williams, Ph.D. <i>Forensic Science</i>	Degradation of Blooded Fingerprints with Weather Effects
Taylor Stevenson Melissa Gilroy <i>Teacher Education</i>	From Ideas to Essays: Improving Analytical Writing Organization Through Graphic Organizers and Peer Collaboration
Mae Sullivan Heather Lyons, Ph.D. <i>Psychology</i>	The Burden of Mother Blame: How Shame, Guilt, and Mothering Norms Relate to Experiences of Mother Blame
Amy Takemoto Melissa Gilroy <i>Teacher Education</i>	Art Critiques in the Middle Grades
Julia Wall Marianna Carlucci, Ph.D. <i>Psychology</i>	A Comparison of Mental Health Presentation and Recovery in Minority and Non-Minority College Students: Pre-, During, and Post-COVID-19
Natalie Wallace Theresa DiDonato, Ph.D. Andrew Futterman, Ph.D. Matthew Kirkhart, Ph.D. Sharon Green-Hennessy, Ph.D. <i>Psychology</i>	Assessing the Unmet Support Needs of Spousal Caregivers in the Context of Bipolar Disorder (BD) and Comorbid Medical Conditions
Madeline Williams Abby Nash Kathleen Siren, Ph.D., CCC-SLP Tepanta Fossett, Ph.D., CCC-SLP <i>Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences</i>	Comparing the Effectiveness of Focused Stimulation Versus Enhanced Milieu Teaching on Accurate Consonant Production for Children with Repaired Cleft Palate

Student Presenter Name(s) Co-authors / Research Advisors <i>Department</i>	Research Title
Carey Williams Jessica Haddaway Enos, Ph.D. <i>Teacher Education</i>	Persistence in Process: How Middle School Artists Re-Engage During the Envisioning Phase of Artmaking
Xue Xia Amy Cosentino Jessica Haddaway Enos, Ph.D. <i>Teacher Education</i>	Explore teaching Sight-singing in Elementary Lower Grade

EMERGING SCHOLARS

A CELEBRATION OF
GRADUATE RESEARCH

Be sure to visit the Emerging Scholars website this summer:

www.loyola.edu/emergingscholars

View the posters from today's presentation online, and view photos from the event.

We hope to see you next year!

Emerging Scholars: A Celebration of Graduate Research is sponsored by the Office of Graduate Education. Special thanks to the Emerging Scholars Committee for its support of this event:

Jessica Haddaway Enos, Ph.D.

Heather Kavanagh

Beth Kotchick, Ph.D.

Jen Lowry, Ph.D.

Kathleen Siren, Ph.D., CCC-SLP