



Bachelor of Arts

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# GRADUATION CEREMONY

**Sunday, May 14, 2023**

Zellerbach Theater, Annenberg Center  
for the Performing Arts | 10:30am

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Every human advancement or reversal can be understood through communication. The right to free communication carries with it responsibility to respect the dignity of others — and this must be recognized as irreversible. Educating students to communicate this message effectively and to be of service to all people is the enduring mission of this school.

*Walter H. Annenberg, October 16, 1958*

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# WELCOME

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**JOHN L. JACKSON, JR., PH.D.**

*Walter H. Annenberg Dean*

*Richard Perry University Professor*

# OPENING REMARKS

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**LITTY PAXTON, PH.D.**

*Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies*

# AWARDS

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## **C. Nicole Dickerson Award**

**ANIKA PRAKASH**

Named in memory of former Undergraduate Advisor Dickerson, this public service award recognizes a graduating Communication major who has made a significant contribution to our neighbors in the West Philadelphia community.

## **Carolyn Marvin Award**

**PIA SINGH**

Named in honor of the Frances Yates Emeritus Professor of Communication, this award recognizes a graduating Communication major who, through their curricular, co-curricular, or extra-curricular activities has done the most to advance understanding of the importance of free speech and assembly in a democratic society.

## **Honorable Walter H. Annenberg Award**

**JONATHAN CHARLTON**

Named in honor of Annenberg's founder, this award recognizes a graduating Communication major who has most strengthened and improved the University of Pennsylvania's student community through Communication service activities.

## **Phyllis C. Kaniss Award**

**CELIA K. KRETH, TARA SHILKRET**

Named in memory of former Assistant Dean Kaniss, this award recognizes a graduating Communication major who has demonstrated a commitment to civic participation through meaningful action around issues of public concern on or off campus.

## **George Gerbner Award**

**TARA SHILKRET**

Named in honor of former Dean Gerbner, this award recognizes a graduating Communication major whose outstanding honors thesis best demonstrates an original and comprehensive application of research skills as well as a thorough understanding of Communication scholarship.

## **Kathleen Hall Jamieson Award**

**THOMAS CHRISTALDI, JEFFREY ALEXANDER FISHMAN,  
LEANNA CHESANG TILITEI**

Named in honor of former Dean Jamieson, this award recognizes a graduating Communication major who has demonstrated consistent academic excellence as reflected in an outstanding grade point average across their major courses.

## **Michael X. Delli Carpini Award**

**LEANNA CHESANG TILITEI**

Named in honor of former Dean Delli Carpini, this award recognizes a graduating Communication major who has completed an outstanding thesis in the Communication and Public Service program.

## **Charles Morris Price Prize**

**JEFFREY ALEXANDER FISHMAN**

This award recognizes an outstanding graduating Communication major who has distinguished themselves through a combination of academic excellence, research accomplishments, and/or contributions to Annenberg's academic objectives, and includes a cash prize of \$500.

# ALUMNI SPEAKER

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## **Lauren Hitt (C'13)**

*Introduced by Isabella Dorothy Hassett, Graduating Communication Major*

Lauren Hitt (C'13) is the Communications Director for United States Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York.

Hitt's political communications career began while still an undergraduate at Penn, working as a press intern for then-Vice President Joe Biden's Office of Communications, and then as a press assistant for the 2012 Obama re-election campaign.

Over the course of her career, Hitt has worked as Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney's Communications Director; Deputy Press Secretary for Bill de Blasio's first New York City mayoral campaign; Communications Director for the presidential campaign of former Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper; Rapid Response Director for the presidential campaign of former Texas Representative Beto O'Rourke; and Communications Advisor for Cynthia Nixon's run to become New York State Governor.

# PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES

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*Names read by Basha Starr, M.L.S., Registrar and Associate Director of Student Services, Undergraduate Studies*

## Graduates

Sarah Abbe  
Aidan Mayer Ahearn  
Aiyu Aimufua\*  
Inci Deren Alanay  
Ashley Blanco Liz  
Naomi Boruchowicz\*\*\*  
Sydney Caldwell  
Jonathan Charlton  
Thomas Christaldi  
Olivia de Rezende  
Anna Do  
Caroline Olivia Douglas  
Carmen Ferrante  
Jeffrey Alexander Fishman  
Alexandra Goldstein  
Ana Claudia Gomez  
Kristina Grace Gorel  
Lily Hammer  
Valerie Michelle Hanna  
Isabella Dorothy Hassett  
Bernadette May Hodges  
Morgan Jenkins  
Andy Jimenez  
Sloane Kapit  
Henry Gittis Katz  
Ethan Kaufman

Dani Kim  
Samara Kleiman Demel  
Jackson Klingelhofer  
Celia K. Kreth  
Madison Kieran Leal  
Hannah Lonser  
Maxwell Lorca-Lloyd  
Ashley Manning  
Nathalie Marquez  
McCaleigh Marr  
Rose McDonald  
Emily Sohyun Moon  
Sydney Lynn Nixon  
Ashley Oden  
Jordana Pearlman  
Anika Prakash  
John Reum  
Nolan Katherine Riina  
Margaret Robinson  
Aviva Tzipora Rosen\*  
Valerie Rubens  
Emily Brynne Schwartz  
Tara Shilkret  
Alexa Shulman  
Pia Singh  
Leanna Chesang Tilittei

Declan Vargas\*\*  
James Joseph von Oiste  
Abigail Walker  
Khalil Jamar Weathers

Emily White  
Ella Wright  
Xuefei Zhou

*\* December 2022 Graduates, \*\* August 2023 Graduate, \*\*\* December 2023 Graduate*

## **CLOSING REMARKS**

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**JOHN L. JACKSON, JR., PH.D.**

## **PENN RESEARCH AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS**

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### **Phi Beta Kappa**

**ASHLEY BLANCO LIZ, JONATHAN CHARLTON, THOMAS  
CHRISTALDI, JEFFREY ALEXANDER FISHMAN, TARA  
SHILKRET, LEANNA CHESANG TILITEI, TAMARA WURMAN\***

*\*Spring 2022 Graduate*

### **Center for Undergraduate Research & Fellowships Grantees**

**ASHLEY BLANCO LIZ, THOMAS CHRISTALDI, JEFFREY  
ALEXANDER FISHMAN, TARA SHILKRET, LEANNA CHESANG  
TILITEI**

### **SNF Paideia Program Grantees**

**HENRY GITTIS KATZ, CELIA K. KRETH, SYDNEY LYNN NIXON**

### **2023 Nora Magid Mentorship Prize For Excellence in Journalism**

**PIA SINGH**

# COMMENCEMENT FLAG BEARER

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## Communication Major Representative

**THOMAS CRISTALDI**

## 2023 SENIOR HONORS THESES

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*The following students earned at least a 3.5 cumulative grade point average and completed a thesis based upon original research to graduate with honors.*

*Honors Thesis Program Director: Kim Woolf, Ph.D.*

### **ASHLEY BLANCO LIZ**

Gen Z Latinas on TikTok: Uncovering Their Complex Intersectional Identities

*Thesis advisors: Jessa Lingel, Kim Woolf*

### **JONATHAN CHARLTON**

From “Stand by Your Man” to “Better Man”: A Corpus-Linguistic Analysis of Female Country Music Artists’ Lyrics from 1959 to 2022

*Thesis advisors: Matthew Brook O’Donnell, Kim Woolf*

### **THOMAS CRISTALDI**

Fake or Scripted?: Fact versus Fiction in Professional Wrestling’s “Worked Shoots” from 1982-2022

*Thesis advisors: Perry B. Johnson, Kim Woolf*

### **JEFFREY ALEXANDER FISHMAN**

Relationship-Building in Philadelphia’s Communication Infrastructure: Integrating Youth Participatory Action Research with Community-Based Organizations and Local Media Groups

*Thesis advisors: Andy Tan, Kim Woolf*



# 2023 COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC SERVICE (ComPS) HONORS THESES

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*The following students earned at least a 3.5 cumulative grade point average and completed a ComPS capstone thesis based upon original research to graduate with honors.*

*ComPS Program Director: David Eisenhower, J.D.*

## **HENRY GITTIS KATZ**

Tax the Rich: Measuring the Effects of Education, Age, and Message Framing on Empathy and Political Attitudes

*Thesis advisors: David Eisenhower, Kim Woolf*

## **CELIA K. KRETH**

The 1957 Little Rock Crisis: Analyzing the Crisis Rhetoric of President Eisenhower and Governor Faubus

*Thesis advisors: David Eisenhower, Kim Woolf*

## **TARA SHILKRET**

The Child Care Connection: Popular Media Representations of Care and Women's Support of Potential Care Policies

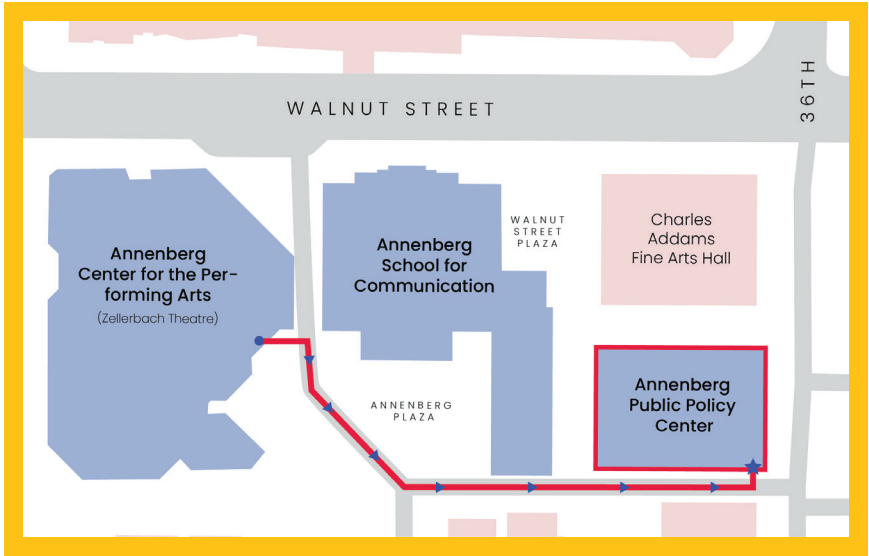
*Thesis advisors: Kat Higgins, Kim Woolf*

## **LEANNA CHESANG TILITEI**

God and the Burning Bush: American Civil Religion and Christian Themes in George W. Bush's War on Terror

*Thesis advisors: David Eisenhower, Kim Woolf*





Please join us for a reception following the ceremony at the Annenberg Public Policy Center. Please enter through the front entrance for graduates to receive their certificate and Annenberg memento.

*For a wheelchair route to the reception, please see a member of our team.*

**CONGRATULATIONS  
GRADUATES!**



**Annenberg**  
SCHOOL FOR COMMUNICATION  
UNIVERSITY *of* PENNSYLVANIA