



WPI

The One Hundred Forty-Eighth
C O M M E N C E M E N T

Graduate Ceremony

Five O'Clock • Thursday
The Twelfth of May
Two Thousand Sixteen
WPI Quadrangle

Worcester Polytechnic Institute

PROGRAM

Prelude	WPI Brass Ensemble Douglas G. Weeks, Conductor
Processional	Led by the Honorary Marshal <i>Full details on page 4</i>
Call to Order	Philip B. Ryan '65 Chairman, WPI Board of Trustees
National Anthem	<i>The audience is invited to join in the singing</i>
Invocation	Rev. Cheryl Leshay Chaplain, WPI Collegiate Religious Center
Charge from the President	Laurie A. Leshin
Student Remarks	"The Next Ascent" Shaymus Hudson '16 (PhD)
Conferring of Honorary Degree	President Leshin
Commencement Address	France A. Córdova Director, National Science Foundation
Presentation of Candidates for Degrees	Terri A. Camesano, Dean of Graduate Studies
Conferring of Degrees	President Leshin
Remarks from the Alumni Association	Rachel Delisle '96, '06 (MBA), President
Benediction	Rev. Leshay
Recessional	WPI Brass Ensemble
Reception	Sports and Recreation Center

The audience is requested to remain standing until the end of the national anthem.

At the conclusion of the Commencement exercises, the audience is requested to remain standing until the academic procession has left the Quadrangle.

A FEW NOTES ABOUT TODAY'S CEREMONY

This year WPI is conferring undergraduate and graduate degrees at separate spring Commencement ceremonies. Master's and PhD degrees will be presented during this evening's exercises; bachelor's degree recipients will receive their diplomas on Saturday morning, May 14.

This first ever graduate commencement is a reflection of the growing stature of the Institute's graduate programs, which have expanded substantially—in size, diversity, and international recognition—since WPI awarded its first master's degrees in 1898 and its first PhD in 1960. Today, some 750 graduate degrees will be conferred.

Serving as honorary marshal is **Richard D. Sisson Jr.**, George F. Fuller Professor of Mechanical Engineering, director of the university's Manufacturing Engineering and Materials Science and Engineering programs, and winner of the 2016 Trustees' Award for Outstanding Research and Creative Scholarship. The baton he carries is the walking stick of WPI founder John Boynton. The ceremonial marshal is **Bruce E. Bursten**, provost.

President Leshin wears the Presidential Medallion, with the WPI seal cast in silver and the names and years of service of all 16 presidents engraved on small silver plates that form links in the chain. Provost Bursten carries the Academic Mace, a 42-inch staff made from fluted cherrywood and topped with a circular silver pedestal on which sits a large silver medal with the WPI seal on each side



As the processional begins, members of the faculty, attired in colorful robes and hoods, line both sides of Earle Bridge to pay tribute to the graduates as they cross the bridge before receiving their diplomas.

Student speaker **Shaymus Hudson** will receive his PhD in materials science and engineering during this evening's ceremony. The Virginia native has been internationally recognized for the research he has conducted in WPI's Metal Processing Institute. His use of laser-induced breakdown spectroscopy as a quality control tool for molten metal earned him the Ron Ruddle Memorial Scholarship from the Foundry Educational Foundation, the Steven J. Harmon Scholarship from the North American Die Casting Association, and membership in Sigma Xi, the scientific research society, and Alpha Sigma Mu, the international professional honor society in materials engineering. In addition to his research, he has served on the board of WPI's chapter of Material Advantage, WPI's Graduate Student Government, the Provost Search Committee, the faculty Committee for Graduate Studies and Research, and the editorial board for the *WPI Undergraduate Research Journal*. He also played saxophone in the WPI Pep Band.

PROCESSIONAL AND RECESSIONAL—

Graduates begin lining up at 3:30 for the processional, which steps off at 4:30 (the ceremony itself starts at 5:00). Originating at Harrington Auditorium, the processional winds through the campus, crosses Earle Bridge, follows the sidewalk past Alden Memorial, moves onto the walkway behind Bartlett Center, turns at the Proud Goat statue, and proceeds up the center aisle under the tent.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, the marchers move down the center aisle and proceed as a group toward the Sports and Recreation Center. Guests are asked not to block the progress of the processional or recessional. It is especially important to keep the center aisle clear so marchers may make their way to and from their seats.

PHOTOS AND VIDEOS—

The pictures taken today will be treasured mementos. The following information should help our guests get the shots they want.

Photos during the ceremony: The area in front and to the side of the stage is reserved for official (badged) WPI photographers. Guests are not permitted in this area and may not stand in the aisles or around the stage area during any part of the ceremony (this will be strictly enforced). A **photo stand** near the stage will be available through a ticketing system. The stand provides families and friends an elevated vantage point for taking photos of their graduates as they receive their diplomas.

Each graduate has received a ticket with the first letter of his or her last name. One member of your party may use this ticket to gain access to the photo stand when your graduate's name is approaching. Once your graduate has left the stage, please return to your seat to allow others the same opportunity. We ask that you not linger near the photo stand either before or after your graduate crosses the stage as you may prevent other guests with tickets from gaining access. Please do not stand in the aisles to take photographs as you will block the view of seated guests.

As you consider whether to make use of the photo stand, be aware that professional photographers (Commencement Photographers Inc.) will take a photograph from an optimal location near the stage of every graduate receiving his or her diploma. The company will mail proofs with an order form to graduates or their families. For more information, you may call Commencement Photographers at 978-851-5924.

WPI records the entire ceremony from several vantage points. A live stream is available on the WPI homepage during the ceremony. A complete, high-quality video of the ceremony will be available for downloading within two weeks at wpi.edu/+Commencement.

Photos after the ceremony: If you'd like to capture your happy graduate following the ceremony, we recommend the following locations:

- **The Stage Area:** After the procession has left the Quadrangle, guests are invited to take photos on or near the stage (with WPI banner and plantings in background).
- **Earle Bridge:** Spanning West Street, the footbridge is decorated with flowering plants.
- **Boynton Hall:** WPI's first building, with its granite exterior and clock tower, is located just across the footbridge.
- **Higgins House:** This WPI mansion, located directly behind the Rubin Campus Center, is surrounded by plantings and formal gardens that are in full bloom at this time of year.
- **Photo Area:** Between Harrington Auditorium and the Sports and Recreation Center, the Parents Association has set up an area where guests may take pictures of their graduates and family members before a WPI backdrop (and receive a complimentary photo frame).



BOYNTON HALL AND WASHBURN SHOPS

Completed in 1868, WPI's first building is named for John Boynton, a prosperous tinware manufacturer who founded the Institute in 1865 with a gift of \$100,000. Boynton Hall was one of the first buildings designed by noted architect Stephen Earle and was constructed of granite obtained from local quarries. The building originally housed classrooms and labs, where students learned the theory of science and engineering; they applied that theory next door in the Washburn Shops. The towers of these two buildings now symbolize WPI's unique philosophy of education, the merger of theory and practice.

Follow Commencement Exercises on Twitter @WPICommencement and Instagram @WPI. Share your memories with #wpi2016.

HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT

FRANCE A. CÓRDOVA DOCTOR OF SCIENCE

In testimony before the United States Congress, France Córdova once observed that the mission of the National Science Foundation, the \$7.5 billion independent federal agency that she leads, “is to look toward the frontier.” The same could be said for her own mission in life. The eldest of 12 children born to an Irish-American mother and a Mexican-American father, Córdova has pushed and even created new frontiers throughout her life, becoming a national leader in science and education, a trailblazer for women and Latina scientists, and a powerful advocate for advancing scientific discovery and technological innovation in the United States.

Growing up in West Covina, California, Córdova attended a Catholic high school where she was one of just five girls in her class to study physics. Receiving little encouragement from her teachers, who believed only boys were suited to be scientists, she remained undaunted. Looking back once, she recalled that she was “driven by some inner force that wanted to know and understand nature and the universe.” After earning a bachelor’s degree in English at Stanford University, she was inspired to return to her original dream of becoming a scientist and went on to earn a PhD in physics at California Institute of Technology.

After stints at Los Alamos National Laboratory, where she served as deputy group leader in the earth and space sciences division, and Pennsylvania State University, where she chaired the department of astronomy and astrophysics, Córdova in 1993 was named chief scientist for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, becoming the youngest person and the first woman to hold that post. During her tenure at NASA she received the agency’s highest honor, the Distinguished Service Medal. After three years in Washington, she returned to California and academic leadership, serving as vice chancellor for research and professor of physics at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and chancellor of the

University of California, Riverside. At UC Riverside, she laid the foundation for a new public medical school, the first in California in more than four decades.

In 2007 she was named the 11th president of Purdue University (she was the first woman to hold that office). She helped lead the school to record levels of research funding, reputational rankings, and student retention rates. She became a Regent of the Smithsonian Institution, and eventually, chair of the Board of Regents. Tapped by President Barack Obama in 2013, she became the second woman and the first Latina to head the NSF.

At a time when women earn only 20 percent of physics PhDs in the United States and Hispanic Americans only 3 percent, she says the key to her success has been a determination to keep her eyes on the frontier and her ears closed to those who would doubt her. “It’s not that I actively don’t listen,” she once explained, “I’m just more bent on where I’m going than on the people who aren’t interested in helping me get there.” Today she encourages other young women and Latinas entering STEM fields to believe in themselves and persevere through any challenges.

Córdova’s scientific contributions have been in the areas of observational and experimental astrophysics, multispectral research on x-ray and gamma ray sources, and space-borne instrumentation. She has published more than 150 scientific papers, has received several honorary doctorates, and was recognized as a Kilby Laureate for “contributions to society through science, technology, innovation, invention, and education.” Elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, she is also a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Association for Women in Science.

For helping illuminate the mysteries of the universe, empowering generations of American scientists and engineers to pursue their best ideas, and blazing a trail for women and Latinas everywhere, WPI is honored to confer on France A. Córdova the degree of Doctor of Science, *Honoris Causa*.



DEGREE OF
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Jose Ricardo Alvarez Corena

BS, University of Cartagena, Colombia;

MS, National University, Colombia

CIVIL ENGINEERING—

“Heterogeneous Photocatalysis for the Treatment of Contaminants of Emerging Concern in Water”

Advisor: John Bergendahl

Awarded: October 9, 2015

Sagar Laljibhai Antala

B.Pharmacy, JSS College of Pharmacy, India;

B.Pharmacy Hons, Nirma University, India;

MS, Long Island University

BIOCHEMISTRY—

“Molecular Insights of the Human Zinc Transporter hZIP4”

Advisor: Robert Dempski

Adrian Boteanu

BS, MS, University Politehnica of Bucharest, Romania

COMPUTER SCIENCE—

“Similarity Reasoning over Semantic Context-Graphs”

Advisor: Sonia Chernova

Awarded: October 9, 2015

Lei Cao

MS, Nanjing University of Posts and Telecommunications, China

COMPUTER SCIENCE—

“Outlier Detection in Big Data”

Advisor: Elke Rundensteiner

Heather Ann Cirka

BS, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute;

MS, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING—

“Mechanical Regulation of Apoptosis and Calcification within Valvular Interstitial Cells”

Advisor: Kristen Billiar

Tatiana Egorova Arpag

BS, MS, Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology, Russia

AEROSPACE ENGINEERING—

“Real-Time Estimation of Gas Concentration Released from a Moving Source Using an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle”

Advisor: Nikolaos Gatsonis

Awarded: February 26, 2016

Maria del Lourdes Gomez Lara

MS, Universidad Autonoma de Yucatan, Mexico

CIVIL ENGINEERING—

“The Use of Axiomatic Design in the Development of an Integrated, BIM-Based Design Process”

Advisor: Guillermo Salazar

Gregory E. Gorbett

BS, Tri-State University;

BS, University of Maryland University College;

MS, Grand Canyon University;

MS, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

FIRE PROTECTION ENGINEERING—

“The Development and Assessment of a Decision Support Framework for Enhancing the Forensic Analysis and Interpretation of Fire Patterns”

Advisor: Brian Meacham

Awarded: October 9, 2015

Sarah J. Hernandez

BS, Franklin Pierce College

BIOLOGY AND BIOTECHNOLOGY—

“Characterization of Arginine Methyltransferase PRMT8 in Cells with Increased Plasticity”

Advisor: Tanja Dominko

Awarded: February 26, 2016

Nguyenho Ho

BS, Northeastern University;

MS, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES—

“Swimming Filaments in a Viscous Fluid with Resistance”

Advisor: Sarah Olson

Shaymus W. Hudson

BS, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

MATERIALS SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING—

“Inclusion Detection in Liquid Aluminum via Laser-Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy”

Advisor: Diran Apelian

Erin Marie Kiley

BA, BS, University of New Hampshire;

MS, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES—

“Reduced-Dimensional Coupled Electromagnetic, Thermal, and Mechanical Models of Microwave Sintering”

Advisor: Vadim Yakovlev

Katrice Elizabeth McLoughlin (King)

BA, Monmouth College

BIOCHEMISTRY—

“Phosphoinositide Phase Behavior in Complex Lipid Monolayer Systems”

Advisor: Arne Gericke

Chuan Lei

BE, University of Science and Technology, China;

MS, Metropolitan State University

COMPUTER SCIENCE—

“Recurring Query Processing on Big Data”

Advisor: Elke Rundensteiner

Awarded: October 9, 2015

Li Liu

MS, Beijing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics, China
 BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING—
 “An Affordable Portable Obstetric Ultrasound Simulator for Synchronous and Asynchronous Scan Training”
Advisor: Peder Pedersen
 Awarded: February 26, 2016

Lukai Liu

BS, Xi’an Jiaotong University, China;
MS, Illinois Institute of Technology
 ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING—
 “A Study of Myoelectric Signal Processing”
Advisor: Edward Clancy
 Awarded: February 26, 2016

Liang-Chih Ma

MS, Chung Yuan Christian University, Taiwan
 CHEMICAL ENGINEERING—
 “Palladium/Alloy-based Catalytic Membrane Reactor Technology Options for Hydrogen Production: A Techno-Economic Performance Assessment Study”
Advisor: Nikolaos Kazantzis
 Awarded: February 26, 2016

Grigor Nika

BS, Worcester State University;
MS, The University of Iowa City;
MS, University of Massachusetts, Lowell
 MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES—
 “Multiscale Analysis of Emulsions and Suspensions with Surface Effects”
Advisor: Bogdan Vernescu

Sarju Patel

B.Pharm, Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, India;
B.Pharm Honors, Nirma University, India
 CHEMISTRY—
 “Functional Diversity of Homologous P1B-ATPases in Metal Homeostasis and Host-Microbe Interaction”
Advisor: José Argüello

Dovan Rai

BS, MS, Tribhuvan University, Nepal
 COMPUTER SCIENCE—
 “Modes and Mechanisms of Game-like Interventions in Intelligent Tutoring Systems”
Advisor: Joseph Beck

Ryan Andrew Richards

BS, University of Massachusetts, Lowell
 CHEMISTRY—
 “Molecular and Structural Determinants that Contribute to Channel Function and Gating in Channelrhodopsin-2”
Advisor: Robert Dempski

Qina Sa

BS, Nankai University, China;
MS, Worcester Polytechnic Institute
 MATERIALS SCIENCE ENGINEERING—
 “Synthesis and Impurity Study of High-Performance LiNi_xMn_yCo_zO₂ Cathode Materials from Lithium Ion Battery Recovery Stream”
Advisor: Yan Wang
 Awarded: February 26, 2016

Ity Sharma

MS, University of Connecticut
 CHEMISTRY—
 “Developing and Validating Fuzzy-Border Continuum Solvation Model with Polarizable Simulations Second-Order Interaction Model (POSSIM) Force Field for Proteins”
Advisor: George Kaminski
 Awarded: February 26, 2016

Halit Bener Suay

BS, Istanbul Technical University, Turkey;
MS, The University of Tokyo, Japan
 ROBOTICS ENGINEERING—
 “Reinforcement Learning from Demonstration”
Advisor: Sonia Chernova

Russell Charles Toris

BS, Dickinson College;
MS, Worcester Polytechnic Institute
 COMPUTER SCIENCE—
 “Spatial and Temporal Learning in Robotic Pick-and-Place Domains via Demonstrations and Observations”
Advisor: Sonia Chernova

Chiyang Wang

BS, MS, Beijing Jiaotong University, China
 COMPUTER SCIENCE—
 “Contributions to Collective Dynamical Clustering-Modeling of Discrete Time Series”
Advisor: Carolina Ruiz

Lei Wang

BS, MS, Southwest Jiaotong University, China
 ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING—
 “System Designs for Diabetic Foot Ulcer Image Assessment”
Advisor: Peder Pedersen

Yutao Wang

BS, MS, Nankai University, China;
MS, Worcester Polytechnic Institute
 COMPUTER SCIENCE—
 “Student Modeling within a Computer Tutor for Mathematics: Using Bayesian Networks and Tabling Methods”
Advisor: Neil Heffernan
 Awarded: October 9, 2015

Janakinadh Yanamadala

BTech, Vellore Institute of Technology, India;
MS, Worcester Polytechnic Institute
ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING—
“Development of Human Body CAD Models and Related
Mesh Processing Algorithms with Applications in
Bioelectromagnetics”
Advisor: Sergey Makarov

Pei-Shan Yen

MS, National Taiwan University, Taiwan
CHEMICAL ENGINEERING—
“Supported Liquid Metal Membranes for
Hydrogen Separation”
Advisor: Ravindra Datta

Jiani Yin

BS, Jilin University, China;
MS, Worcester Polytechnic Institute
MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES—
“Bayesian Nonparametric Models for Multi-Stage
Sample Surveys”
Advisor: Balgobin Nandram

Sina Youssefian

BS, Sharif University, Iran;
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING—
“Nanomechanics and Nanoscale Adhesion in
Biomaterials and Biocomposites: Elucidation of the
Underlying Mechanism”
Advisor: Nima Rahbar
Awarded: February 26, 2016

Kaiyu Zhao

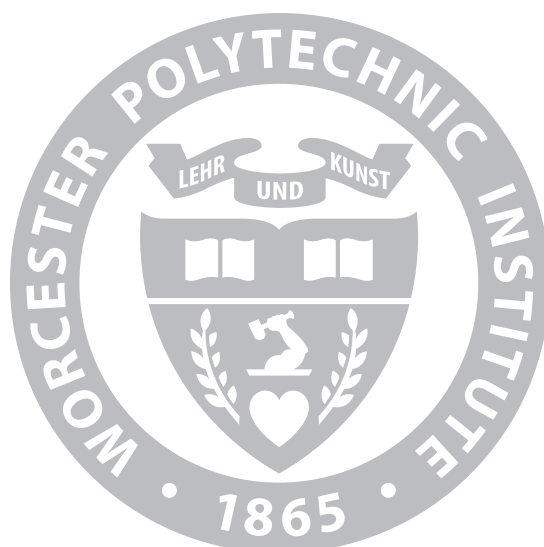
BE, Tongji University, China;
MS, Northeastern University
COMPUTER SCIENCE—
“A Model-driven Visual Analytic Framework for Local
Pattern Analysis”
Advisor: Elke Rundensteiner

Zhangfeng Zheng

BS, Tianjin University, China;
MS, National University of Singapore, Singapore
MATERIALS SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING—
“Sol-Gel Processed Amorphous LiLaTiO₃ as Solid
Electrolyte for Lithium Ion Batteries”
Advisor: Yan Wang
Awarded: October 9, 2015

Zanzan Zhu

BS, MS, Lanzhou University, China
CHEMICAL ENGINEERING—
“The Application of Low-Dimensional Nanomaterials in
Electrocatalysis and Electrochemical Biosensing”
Advisor: Hong Susan Zhou
Awarded: October 9, 2015



DEGREE OF
MASTER OF SCIENCE

Freshta Ghiaszada Abedi
Materials Process Engineering

Amir Abedini
*Electrical and Computer
Engineering*
Awarded October 9, 2015

Paul Calvin Adams
Systems Engineering
Awarded February 26, 2016

Christina Jane Aiello
Computer Science

Murtada Abdulhameed
Al Darweesh
Fire Protection Engineering

Murtada Abdulhameed
Al Darweesh
Management

Eric A. Allcorn
Fire Protection Engineering

Patrick John Allen
Mechanical Engineering
Awarded October 9, 2015

Lily Robin O'Leary Amadeo
Data Science
Awarded October 9, 2015

Amanda Chapman Amsler
Systems Engineering
Awarded February 26, 2016

Yunbo An
Financial Mathematics

Katherynne Marcell Andujar
Construction Project Management

Justice Ansah Nyarko
Power Systems Management

Elena Antil
Civil Engineering

Frank Joseph Ashe
Systems Engineering

Mohammed Ayub
Data Science
Awarded February 26, 2016

Le Bai
Information Technology

Koushik Balasubramanian
Robotics Engineering

Jola Balboa
*Operations Analytics and
Management*

Ashay Pradeep Bandivadekar
Information Technology

Snehasish Barman
Data Science

Michael Sean Barry
Computer Science
Awarded October 9, 2015

Jonathan A. Bates
System Dynamics

Margaret Genevieve Battisti
Mechanical Engineering

Matthew James Beardsley
Robotics Engineering

Danielle Rose Beaulieu
Physics
Awarded October 9, 2015

Alexander Robert Anthony
Beliveau
Biomedical Engineering
Awarded February 26, 2016

Jamie A. Benitez
*Electrical and Computer
Engineering*
Awarded February 26, 2016

Stefano Berti Perez
Mechanical Engineering

Tanishq Bhalla
Management
Awarded October 9, 2015

Aniruddha Milind Bhokarikar
Mechanical Engineering

Jiankun Bi
Financial Mathematics

Jing Bian
Information Technology

Osman M. Bileya
*Electrical and Computer
Engineering*
Awarded February 26, 2016

Andrew Joseph Bingham
Systems Engineering
Awarded October 9, 2015

Rakesh Biradar
Data Science
Awarded February 26, 2016

Anthony Grant Bishop
*Electrical and Computer
Engineering*
Awarded February 26, 2016

Zachary Charles Blanchard
Fire Protection Engineering

Kevin L. Boettcher
System Dynamics

Brandon Thomas Boos
Robotics Engineering

Nicholas Paul Borges
Physics

Evan Boron
*Electrical and Computer
Engineering*

John T. Bosworth
Computer Science

David Anthony Botelho
Management
Awarded February 26, 2016

John Sousa Botelho
Systems Engineering

Matthew Paul Bowers
Robotics Engineering

Jordan Thomas Brauer
Electrical and Computer Engineering
Awarded October 9, 2015

David Jacob Brown
Systems Engineering
Awarded February 26, 2016

David Jeffrey Brown II
Electrical and Computer Engineering
Awarded February 26, 2016

Joseph Michael Brown
Mechanical Engineering

Kelley Melissa Brown
Fire Protection Engineering

Christopher L. Brungardt
Systems Engineering
Awarded February 26, 2016

Ryan Patrick Buckley
Systems Engineering

Ibraeim Abdulmonem Bukhamsin
Fire Protection Engineering

Benjamin Franklin Bunnell
Industrial Mathematics

Vito A. Bussmann
Management
Awarded October 9, 2015

Evan Joseph Butcher
Mechanical Engineering

Yunshen Cai
Operations Analytics and Management

Michael Robert Calder
Computer Science
Awarded February 26, 2016

William Peter Callaway
Marketing and Technology Innovation

Cameron Michael Canale
Mechanical Engineering
Awarded February 26, 2016

Maria Cristina Cantos Cabrera
Mechanical Engineering

Michael Cosmas Caradimos
Systems Engineering
Awarded October 9, 2015

Elizabeth Kate Carcone
Fire Protection Engineering
Awarded February 26, 2016

Robert Henry-Davis Carhart
Mechanical Engineering
Awarded February 26, 2016

Joshua Luke Carr
Electrical and Computer Engineering
Awarded February 26, 2016

John Patrick Carroll
Civil Engineering

Paulo Alberto Wense Gazarian
de Carvalho
Robotics Engineering

Thomas Edward Cavin
System Dynamics

Yue Chang
Materials Science and Engineering

Joyeta Chatterjee
Information Technology

Adam C. Chaulk
Computer Science

Chen Chen
Computer Science

Dan Chen
Financial Mathematics

Juxian Chen
Financial Mathematics

Li Chen
Financial Mathematics

Qiwen Chen
Electrical and Computer Engineering

Tairui Chen
Electrical and Computer Engineering

Xiufeng Chen
Computer Science
Awarded February 26, 2016

Yilun Chen
Financial Mathematics
Awarded October 9, 2015

Yingying Chen
Interactive Media and Game Development
Awarded February 26, 2016

Jarrod Paul Cherwinski, PE
Fire Protection Engineering
Awarded February 26, 2016

Alan Yu-Loon Cheung
Chemical Engineering

Nishang Shantilal Chheda
Information Technology

Kyle James Christiansen
Fire Protection Engineering

Mark Rocco Ciravolo
Systems Engineering
Awarded February 26, 2016

Timothy Burke Clancy
System Dynamics

David Robert Cloutier
Power Systems Management
Awarded February 26, 2016

Matthew John Cogswell
Fire Protection Engineering
Awarded October 9, 2015

David Edward Cohen
Electrical and Computer Engineering
Awarded February 26, 2016

Matthew B. Cole
Systems Engineering
Awarded February 26, 2016

Lauren Bisacky Collins
Mechanical Engineering

Steven Gerard Como Jr.
Mechanical Engineering
Awarded February 26, 2016

Michael Andrew Conrad
Management

Nathan Luis Costa
Materials Science and Engineering

Kendall Thomas Cotton
Materials Science and Engineering
Awarded February 26, 2016

Mary Kathryn Cregan
Systems Engineering
Awarded February 26, 2016

Kevin Michael Cremona
Mechanical Engineering

Eric Raymond Crevoiserat
Management
Awarded February 26, 2016

Jeffrey K. Crompton
Electrical and Computer Engineering
Awarded February 26, 2016

Jenkins Velasco Cruz
Manufacturing Engineering
Awarded February 26, 2016

Isaac Cuevas
Manufacturing Engineering

Xiongyi Cui
Robotics Engineering

Michael William Cullen
Mechanical Engineering
Awarded October 9, 2015

Neal Rajan Dandekar
Systems Engineering
Awarded February 26, 2016

Steven Michael Danley
Mechanical Engineering
Awarded October 9, 2015

Danielle Theresa Davis
Mechanical Engineering

Andre D'Avila da Vitoria
Fire Protection Engineering
Awarded February 26, 2016

Paula de Camargo Bertuso
Biology and Biotechnology

Michael Alfred Delph II
Robotics Engineering
Awarded February 26, 2016

John Robert Desormier
Systems Engineering
Awarded February 26, 2016

James Michael Deveau
Systems Engineering
Awarded February 26, 2016

Nicholas David Deveau
Chemical Engineering
Awarded October 9, 2015

Nathaniel Ferguson Dew
Materials Process Engineering

Michael Anthony DiBlasi
Robotics Engineering
Awarded February 26, 2016

Antonio DiCesare
Power Systems Management
Awarded October 9, 2015

Pankaj Didwania
Computer Science

Velin Dimitrov
Robotics Engineering
Awarded October 9, 2015

Jiyang Dong
Electrical and Computer Engineering

Li Dong
Marketing and Technology Innovation

Daniel Michael Alexander
Duhaney
Financial Mathematics

Andrej Dukalev
Electrical and Computer Engineering
Awarded February 26, 2016

Suwodi Dutta Bordoloi
Data Science

Anthony J. Duva Jr.
Systems Engineering
Awarded October 9, 2015

Nathaniel Allan Eames
Civil Engineering

Sarah El Abbouni
Chemical Engineering

Aline N. Elad
Electrical and Computer Engineering
Awarded October 9, 2015

Mohamed Farouk Elhag
Systems Engineering
Awarded February 26, 2016

William Francis Ellis Jr.
Physics for Educators

Ozan Ertunc
Manufacturing Engineering
Awarded February 26, 2016

Alexis Augusto Espinoza Jara
Computer Science
Awarded February 26, 2016

Oloruntomi Toluwalase Fadipe
Power Systems Management

Shiyang Fan
Operations Analytics and Management

Zhou Fang
Operations Analytics and Management

Tyler Edward Faszewski
Fire Protection Engineering

Ayesha Tazeen Fathima
Robotics Engineering

Thomas Joseph Fay
Mechanical Engineering

Mi Feng
Computer Science

Michael James Figueroa
Civil Engineering

Endrit Fiku, PE
Power Systems Management
Awarded February 26, 2016

Thomas A. Finnie
Materials Process Engineering
Awarded February 26, 2016

Omri Flaisher
Materials Science and Engineering

James Andrew Fleming
Robotics Engineering
Awarded February 26, 2016

Jeffrey Richard Foster
Electrical and Computer Engineering
Awarded February 26, 2016

Jared Matthew Franklin
Biomedical Engineering
Awarded October 9, 2015

Ryan Avelar Fredette
Mechanical Engineering
Awarded October 9, 2015

Margaret Lynn Freed
Civil Engineering

Bobin Fu
Materials Science and Engineering

Jin Fu
Information Technology

Shuting Fu
Applied Statistics

Nicholas Paul Gagnon
Systems Engineering
Awarded October 9, 2015

Haize Galarraga
Materials Science and Engineering

Matthew Joseph Gallagher
Systems Engineering

Anthony Richard Gallo
Computer Science

Chad Hunter Gandolfi
Power Systems Management

Chaoran Gao
Financial Mathematics

Yusu Gao
Information Technology

Lorena Gargano Machado
Materials Science and Engineering

Alex Diaz Gascon
Manufacturing Engineering

Lingjun Ge
Operations Analytics and Management

Zachary Thomas Gendreau
Information Technology

Robert Albert Gendron
Physics for Educators

Tefta Giaya
Physics for Educators

Michael Merritt Gifford Jr.
Management

Allie Kathleen Gilks
Fire Protection Engineering
Awarded October 9, 2015

Brianna Helen Gillespie
Fire Protection Engineering

Sean Daniel Gillis
Fire Protection Engineering

Veronica Clarice Goldsmith
Fire Protection Engineering
Awarded February 26, 2016

George Takchee Gong
Information Technology

Michael Karol Goode
Systems Engineering
Awarded February 26, 2016

Pengyu Gou
Electrical and Computer Engineering
Awarded February 26, 2016

Edward Norman Graff
Manufacturing Engineering

Miranda Rose Gray
Materials Science and Engineering
Awarded October 9, 2015

Sarah Louise Griffith
Electrical and Computer Engineering

Artem Vladimirovich Gritsenko
Computer Science
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Shensheng Gu
Operations Analytics and Management

Siyao Gu
Information Technology

Junwei Guan
Data Science

Michelle Leigh Guevara
Electrical and Computer Engineering

Firoz Kumar Gummadi
Systems Engineering
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Mechanical Engineering

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Electrical and Computer Engineering

Vanessa Guo
Information Technology
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Sovan Lillian Gusack
Electrical and Computer Engineering

Roman Alejandro Gutierrez
Management

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Power Systems Management
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Naim Nakhle George Habib
Materials Science and Engineering
Awarded February 26, 2016

David Robert Hammond Jr.
Systems Engineering
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Xiao Han
Marketing and Technology Innovation

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*Electrical and Computer
Engineering*

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Systems Engineering
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Anthony Samir Hannoush
Mechanical Engineering
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Computer Science

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Fire Protection Engineering
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Data Science

Peng He
Robotics Engineering

Joseph Andrew Heelan
Materials Science and Engineering

Manuel Alberto Henriquez
Management

James Iain Hitchen
Aerospace Engineering

Megan Lee Hoey
Systems Engineering

Andrew Glen Holloway
Environmental Engineering

Mark Leonard Holman
Power Systems Management

Mallory Michal Holmen
Fire Protection Engineering
Awarded February 26, 2016

Andrew O'Gilvie Holmes
Applied Mathematics

Zhiming Hong
Computer Science

Savanna L. Horan
Robotics Engineering

Chunfu Hou
*Electrical and Computer
Engineering*

Daiyang Hu
*Marketing and Technology
Innovation*

Guohong Hu
Systems Engineering

Kaimin Huang
*Marketing and Technology
Innovation*

Kun Huang
*Electrical and Computer
Engineering*

Ruoxi Huang
*Marketing and Technology
Innovation*

Zeyan Huang
*Electrical and Computer
Engineering*
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Qiyang Huangfu
*Operations Analytics and
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Katelyn Jean Hughes
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Systems Engineering
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Systems Engineering

Adel J. Isa
Systems Engineering
Awarded February 26, 2016

Manik Mahesh Jahagirdar
Robotics Engineering

Craig David Janeczek
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Adam S. Jardim
Robotics Engineering

Nathan Richard Jaworski
Fire Protection Engineering

David Barry Jeannotte
Systems Engineering
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Chaima Jemmali
*Interactive Media and
Game Development*

Benjamin Gervais Johnson
Systems Engineering
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Mechanical Engineering

Abbas Ahmed Julaih
Fire Protection Engineering

Eric William Jungers
Manufacturing Engineering
Awarded February 26, 2016

Christian Lawrence Kaan
Robotics Engineering

Bohdan Kachmar
*Interactive Media and
Game Development*

Bir Bahadur Kafle
Data Science
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Tabassum Kakar
Data Science

Tenzin Kalden
Physics

Omesh Keshav Kamat
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Sravan K. Katepalli
Information Technology

Aarat Samir Kaushik
Fire Protection Engineering

Sean Michael Kelly
Materials Science and Engineering
Awarded February 26, 2016

Lauren Elizabeth Ketschke
Manufacturing Engineering

Pradnya Khalwadekar
Information Technology
Awarded October 9, 2015

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Materials Science and Engineering

Amanda Noelle Klein
Electrical and Computer Engineering
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Fire Protection Engineering

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Computer Science
Awarded February 26, 2016

Gregory John Kornichuk
Management

Eric Richard Kottke
Mechanical Engineering
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Jifeng Kou
Electrical and Computer Engineering

Brad Thomas Kulis
Systems Engineering
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Prathamesh Ganesh Kulkarni
Mechanical Engineering

Alex Chettuvallil Kuriakose
Power Systems Management
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Jason Ballou Lackie
Mechanical Engineering

Robin Tierney Lafayette
Power Systems Management
Awarded February 26, 2016

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Robotics Engineering

Suman Kumar Lama
Data Science

Tanner Joshua Landis
Mechanical Engineering
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Andrew James Larsen
Mechanical Engineering
Awarded February 26, 2016

Thompson Lee
Interactive Media and Game Development

Jennifer Grace Parel Legaspi
Electrical and Computer Engineering
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Tianyu Lei
Interactive Media and Game Development

Matthew Isaac Lesonsky
Mechanical Engineering

Nicole Joyce Levasseur
Electrical and Computer Engineering
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Jason Alan Levesque
Systems Engineering
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Boyang Li
Electrical and Computer Engineering
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Chao Li
Computer Science
Awarded October 9, 2015

Danxiang Li
Computer Science
Awarded October 9, 2015

Haocheng Li
Electrical and Computer Engineering

Haoran Li
Mechanical Engineering

Hongnan Li
Data Science

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Marketing and Technology Innovation

Lening Li
Computer Science

Qiu Li
Financial Mathematics

Qiulin Li
Information Technology
Awarded February 26, 2016

Wenjing Li
Applied Statistics

Wenting Li
Marketing and Technology Innovation

Xiaomei Li
Operations Design and Leadership

Xiaoshuai Li
Information Technology

Xuanyu Li
Electrical and Computer Engineering

Yanpu Li
Data Science

Yue Li
Operations Design and Leadership
Awarded February 26, 2016

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Mechanical Engineering

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Electrical and Computer Engineering

Zuodong Li
Materials Science and Engineering

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Management
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Zijiayan Lin
Operations Analytics and Management

Rebecca Joy Linton
Robotics Engineering
Awarded October 9, 2015

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Operations Design and Leadership

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Data Science

Hanmeng Liu
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Materials Science and Engineering

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Data Science

Xuejin Liu
Financial Mathematics

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Applied Statistics

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Zhengyuan Lu
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Azharuddin Priyotomo
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Yiquan Qi
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Fen Qin
Electrical and Computer Engineering

Peiwen Qin
Electrical and Computer Engineering

Zishan Qin
Computer Science

Mariela Qirici
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Mengyi Qiu
Marketing and Technology Innovation

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Fire Protection Engineering

Supreeth Krishna Rao
Robotics Engineering
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Joseph Leonard Richard
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Systems Engineering

Devin Thomas Roberts
Computer Science

Timothy Allen Roberts
Systems Engineering
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Andrew James Rogers
Power Systems Management
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Stephen James Rogers
Systems Engineering
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Mario Rolon
Mechanical Engineering

Jessica Anne Rosewitz
Civil Engineering
Awarded February 26, 2016

Abimael Santana
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Mechanical Engineering

Sanil Gajanan Sawant
Information Technology

Philip Michael Schaffer
Robotics Engineering
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Neil A. Schneider
Information Technology

Travis Christopher Schneider
Fire Protection Engineering
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Miles Ryan Schuler
Mechanical Engineering

Eric Sciacca
Systems Engineering
Awarded February 26, 2016

David Franciose Scott
Fire Protection Engineering

Viseth Sean
Data Science

Adam Howard Sears
Manufacturing Engineering

Karl David Seibert
Environmental Engineering

Ermira Senko
Physics for Educators

Neda Seyedmahmoud
Electrical and Computer Engineering

Aniket Bharat Shah
Robotics Engineering

Aria Shahverdi
Electrical and Computer Engineering
Awarded October 9, 2015

Faezeh Shalchy
Civil Engineering
Awarded February 26, 2016

Alexander Edmund Sharp
Electrical and Computer Engineering
Awarded February 26, 2016

Bicheng Shen
Operations Analytics and Management

Jia Shen
Information Technology

Hui Shi
Information Technology

Michael Wayne Shurtliff
Systems Engineering

Shariq Siddiqui
Power Systems Management
Awarded February 26, 2016

Fredric Benjamin Silberberg
Computer Science

James Edward Silvia
Computer Science

Haley Hayden Smestad
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Paul L. Smith
Systems Engineering
Awarded February 26, 2016

Bryce Snarski-Pierce
Systems Engineering
Awarded October 9, 2015

Yu Song
Operations Analytics and Management

Alejandro Soto
Manufacturing Engineering
Awarded February 26, 2016

Joseph Prothero Sperry
Aerospace Engineering

Saivimal Sridar
Robotics Engineering

James Richard Stapleton
Systems Engineering
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Corre Love Steele
Industrial Mathematics

Lisa Michelle Stefaniak
Management

Kelsey Elizabeth Stergiou
Mechanical Engineering

Joshua Paul Stewart
Mechanical Engineering

Allyson Michelle Stoyle
Systems Engineering

Sarah Rose Straus
Mechanical Engineering
Awarded October 9, 2015

Sachin Sudarshana
Data Science

Ali M. Suleiman
Systems Engineering
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Systems Engineering

Che Sun
Computer Science
Awarded February 26, 2016

Roy Sun
Electrical and Computer Engineering

Xinyuan Sun
Data Science
Awarded February 26, 2016

Yiwen Sun
Financial Mathematics
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Alexander Sunde-Brown
Financial Mathematics

Yuan Suo
Management
Awarded October 9, 2015

Ryan Prescott Susca
Systems Engineering
Awarded February 26, 2016

Daniel Edward Suttmeier
Systems Engineering
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Michael Patrick Sweeney
Mechanical Engineering

Samson Boon Hua Tan
Fire Protection Engineering

Congyuan Tang
Data Science

Hanlin Tang
Marketing and Technology Innovation
Awarded February 26, 2016

Ruipeng Tao
Electrical and Computer Engineering

Brian William Taylor
Mechanical Engineering
Awarded February 26, 2016

Daniel Kevin Taylor
Power Systems Management
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William Joseph Teasdale
Systems Engineering
Awarded February 26, 2016

Guilherme Tebaldi Meira
Electrical and Computer Engineering

Oleksandr Terletskyy
Interactive Media and Game Development

Jighjigh Tersoo-Ivase
Mechanical Engineering

Henry Holmes Thayer Jr.
Materials Process Engineering
Awarded February 26, 2016

Reginald Thevenin
Materials Process Engineering

Johanna Tara Thomas
Financial Mathematics

Lailah Yasmina Thompson
Management

Mengyun Tian
Marketing and Technology Innovation

Tian Tian
Electrical and Computer Engineering
Awarded February 26, 2016

Yu Tian
Electrical and Computer Engineering

Yuan Tian
Operations Analytics and Management

Michael Jason Tobin
Systems Engineering
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Biology and Biotechnology
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Alyssa Brianna Tsiros
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Olexandra Tupalo
Materials Science and Engineering
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Materials Science and Engineering

Ryan Friedrich Turner
Financial Mathematics
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Seiichiro Ueda
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Civil Engineering

Naveen Kumar Vegi
Fire Protection Engineering
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Information Technology
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Robotics Engineering

Kelsey Ann Wall
Mechanical Engineering
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Information Technology
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Computer Science
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Jianan Wang
Operations Analytics and Management

Kanqian Wang
Operations Analytics and Management

Lin Wang
Information Technology
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Electrical and Computer Engineering

Qi Wang
Financial Mathematics

Qi Wang
Information Technology

Qianli Wang
Marketing and Technology Innovation

Shaocheng Wang
Computer Science

Shuangjia Wang
Financial Mathematics

Tianyang Wang
Electrical and Computer Engineering

Wenzhuo Wang
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Xiangbin Wang
Materials Science and Engineering

Yan Wang
Computer Science

Yi Wang
Materials Science and Engineering

Ying Wang
Computer Science
Awarded February 26, 2016

Zhenyu Wang
Financial Mathematics

Zi Wang
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Kristen Marie Warren
Biomedical Engineering
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Electrical and Computer Engineering
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Timothy Matthew Watts
Management
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Jared Matthew Weed
Applied Mathematics
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Chuxin Wei
Marketing and Technology Innovation

Yuxin Wei
Financial Mathematics
Awarded October 9, 2015

Chadwick James Whitcher
Management

Kathleen Anne Wienhold
Systems Engineering

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Benjamin Joseph Wilson
Systems Engineering
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Nicolas Winocur
Systems Engineering
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Haley Lynne Winsor
Physics for Educators

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Murphy Elizabeth Wonsick
Robotics Engineering
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Electrical and Computer Engineering
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Materials Science and Engineering

Qizong Wu
Robotics Engineering

Xin Wu
Interactive Media and Game Development
Awarded February 26, 2016

Yixuan Wu
Marketing and Technology Innovation
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Zihui Wu
Interactive Media and Game Development

Ziyao Xi
Financial Mathematics

Mingchen Xie
Data Science

Yuhuang Xie
Interactive Media and Game Development

Junjie Xiong
Financial Mathematics

Chu Xu
Computer Science
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Jian Xu
Computer Science
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Jingnan Xu
Information Technology
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Tianyang Xu
Electrical and Computer Engineering
Awarded February 26, 2016

Xiaowei Xu
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Yuzhou Xu
Information Technology

Seyedmehdi Yadavarnikravesh
Fire Protection Engineering

Shuning Yan
Operations Design and Leadership
Awarded October 9, 2015

Zhixin Yan
Computer Science

Zikang Yan
Information Technology

Fan Yang
Applied Mathematics

Feifei Yang
Information Technology

Jing Yang
Electrical and Computer Engineering

Junfang Yang
Marketing and Technology Innovation

Kevin Yang
Robotics Engineering

Qianyun Yang
Electrical and Computer Engineering

Sijing Yang
Data Science

Tianxiong Yang
Electrical and Computer Engineering

Xinyi Yang
Marketing and Technology Innovation

Yang Yang
*Electrical and Computer
Engineering*

Yuanzhou Yang
Manufacturing Engineering

Zheming Yang
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Engineering*

Zhijia Yang
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Engineering*

Zijian Yang
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Game Development*

Ozge Yasar
Learning Sciences and Technology
Awarded October 9, 2015

Bin Yu
*Electrical and Computer
Engineering*

Shiyun Yu
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Management*

Yang Yu
Information Technology
Awarded February 26, 2016

Yuzhang Zang
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Engineering*

Jason Anthony Zelle
Mechanical Engineering

Fu Zhan
*Electrical and Computer
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Information Technology

Jia Zhang
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Jun Zhang
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Junchi Zhang
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Qian Zhang
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Song Zhang
Materials Science and Engineering

Ting Zhang
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Awarded February 26, 2016

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Yifan Zhang
Information Technology

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Civil Engineering

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Mechanical Engineering
Awarded February 26, 2016

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Robotics Engineering

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Kyra Rand Burnett
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Jule-Dulyn Francisque
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Ryan Geoffrey Hawthorne
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Chen Lin
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Maturin Lita
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Adam O'Laughlin
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Jason Wayne Philhower
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Keith Washington Samuels
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Ayoub Abdalla Zobjian
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Kaitlyn Marie Hannen

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Lindsay Marie Piccioli

Stephen Anthony Rose

Alexander MacCall Sargent
Awarded October 9, 2015

David Alan Schoenmann
Awarded February 26, 2016

Aashish Sharma
Awarded February 26, 2016

Daniel Thomas Shidler
Awarded February 26, 2016

Blaine Edward Stuart
Awarded February 26, 2016

Kevin John Szeredy
Awarded October 9, 2015

Joanne Bednarz Szewc

Emily Tao
Awarded February 26, 2016

Sujit Tatke
Awarded October 9, 2015

Maximilian Jason Tetrault
Awarded February 26, 2016

Sarah Lynette Thompson
Awarded February 26, 2016

Christopher Mason White Jr.

David John Wiig
Awarded February 26, 2016

Eric Thomas Williams

Yuk-Kwan Brian Yuen
Awarded February 26, 2016

The names published in this Commencement program were determined from information available at the time of printing, which preceded the faculty vote on degrees. Inclusion of a name in the program is not testimony to completion of WPI's degree requirements and does not commit WPI to award a degree.

ACADEMIC HONORS AND AWARDS

SIGMA XI GRADUATE RESEARCH AWARD

Heather Cirka, *PhD*: “Mechanical Regulations of Apoptosis and Calcification within Valvular Interstitial Cells”

Advisor: Kristen Billiar

Haize Galarraga, *MS*: “Microstructure Evolution, Static and Dynamic Properties, and Fatigue Damage Mechanisms in Ti-6Al-4V Fabricated by Electron Beam Melting Technology”

Advisor: Diana Lados

This award, established in 1983, is presented for outstanding research by students at the doctoral and master’s levels and is sponsored jointly by the Society of the Sigma Xi and the Committee on Graduate Studies and Research.

AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION FELLOWSHIP

Heather Cirka, *PhD, Biomedical Engineering*

The American Heart Association Predoctoral Fellowship program helps students initiate careers in cardiovascular and stroke research by providing research assistance and training.

IGERT FELLOWSHIP

Heather Cirka, *PhD, Biomedical Engineering*

Sarah Hernandez, *PhD, Biology and Biotechnology*

The National Science Foundation’s Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT) program funds new models for graduate education and training that emphasize collaborative, interdisciplinary research. IGERT programs prepare PhD-level scientists, engineers, and educators to be leaders and creative agents for change as members of a diverse, globally-engaged science and engineering workforce. WPI’s IGERT program helps students become international leaders in the field of biofabrication.

i3: INVESTING IN IDEAS WITH IMPACT AWARD

BEST CONCEPT PRIZE

Heather Cirka, *PhD, Biomedical Engineering*: “Controlled In Vitro Models for Calcific Aortic Valve Disease” (*AWARDED 2015*)

Advisor: Kristen Billiar

2016 GRADUATE RESEARCH INNOVATION EXCHANGE FIRST PLACE AWARDS

ARTS AND SCIENCES

Christina Aiello, *MS, Computer Science*:

“Investigating Gyroscope Sway Features, Normalization, and Personalization in Detecting Intoxication in Smartphone Users”

Advisor: Emmanuel Agu

Mashaël Alghamdi, *PhD, Physics*: “Flow Effect on Alignment of MWCNTs in Polymer Nanocomposites”

Advisor: Germano Iannacchione

Ermal Toto, *PhD, Computer Science*: “Predicting the PULSE of the City: A Real-Time System for Multi-Granular/Scale Predictions of Crowd Flow”

Advisor: Elke Rudensteiner

BUSINESS AND SOCIAL SCIENCE

Neehar Mukne, *MS, Foisie School of Business*:

“Influence of Graphically Presented Reviews on Product Purchasing (Amazon)”

Advisor: Soussan Djamasbi

ENGINEERING

Veronica Rojas, *MS, Civil and Environmental Engineering*: “Modeling Natural Attenuation of Wastewater-contaminated Aquifers Over Different Scales”

Advisor: Paul Mathisen

Satish Kumar Iyeemperumal, *PhD, Chemical Engineering*: “Comparison of Solvent Models for Metal Surface Chemistry Using Density Functional Theory”

Advisor: Nathaniel Deskins

Carl Soderhjelm, *PhD, Materials Science and Engineering*: “Dissimilar Metal Casting”

Advisor: Diran Apelian

LIFE SCIENCES AND BIOENGINEERING

Robert Orr, *MS, Biology and Biotechnology*: “Myosin XI Transport Mechanism Is Conserved Between the Moss *Physcomitrella patens* and the Flowering Plant *Arabidopsis thaliana*”

Advisor: Luis Vidali

Megan O’Brien, *PhD, Biomedical Engineering*: “Directing Cellular Orientation in a Fibrin Composite Layer for Use in a Modular Cardiac Patch”

Advisor: George Pins

Dalia Shendi, *PhD, Biomedical Engineering*: “Immunoprivileged Hydrogel Microspheres for Neural Stem Cell Transplantation After Spinal Cord Injury”

Advisor: Anjana Jain

Awards were presented in 2016, unless otherwise noted.

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Craig Wills
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Fire Protection Engineering

Kristin Boudreau
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THE CEREMONY AND ACADEMIC COSTUME

Today's Commencement exercises are a modern recreation of a ceremony that dates back to the Middle Ages. The pageantry of the academic procession and of the degree-granting ceremony, and the dignity and color of the academic gowns, are a reminder of the long tradition of the college.

Each degree recipient at WPI receives his or her diploma individually from the president. Those who have earned the degree of doctor of philosophy, the highest academic degree awarded by any university, also receive a hood symbolizing that achievement, presented by the faculty member who has sponsored the candidate.

The academic costume—caps and gowns and hoods—worn today is particularly striking, for Commencement is one of the few occasions in the United States at which academic dress is worn. Until recently, students and faculty at English colleges and universities wore their gowns in class, in university dining halls, and at all official occasions.

Academic dress originated in medieval costume. At the time when universities first came into being, in the 12th century, everyone wore gowns (that is, long, full-flowing robes) to help keep warm in unheated buildings. There were, of course, considerable differences in elegance and style between the extremes of the social and economic scales, and in many cases the king decreed just who could wear what.

Over the gown would often be worn a cloak (usually with a cowl or hood attached), just as we wear coats today. The origin of the cap is more obscure. The "mortarboard" cap usually worn today seems to have been introduced at Oxford University sometime in or before the 17th century.

The gown soon fell out of fashion with the general public, but it remained a distinctive part of the scholars' wardrobe, serving to set them apart from the rest of the community—hence the perennial controversy between "town and gown." Until after the Civil War, students at most U.S. universities wore caps and gowns daily while in residence. Designs varied until they were standardized by the American Intercollegiate Commission in 1894.

At that time it was decided that all robes would be black—bachelors' gowns to be made of worsted stuff with pointed sleeves, masters' gowns of silk with long, closed sleeves, doctors' gowns of silk with longer sleeves and faced with black velvet from hem to neck and back. They also carried three velvet bands around each sleeve about the elbow. Hoods were made of the same material as the gowns, the length varying with the degree. The lining of the hood indicated the university by its colors. The border of the hood indicated the academic discipline in which the degree was earned, as listed below:

Agriculture	Maize
Arts, Letters, Humanities	White
Commerce, Accountancy, Business	Light Brown
Dentistry	Lilac
Economics	Copper
Education	Light Blue
Engineering	Orange
Fine Arts, including Architecture	Brown
Forestry	Russet
Journalism	Crimson
Law	Purple
Library Science	Lemon
Medicine	Green
Music	Pink
Nursing	Apricot
Oratory (Speech)	Silver Gray
Pharmacy	Olive Green
Philosophy	Dark Blue
Physical Education	Sage Green
Public Administration (including Foreign Service)	Peacock Blue
Public Health	Salmon Pink
Science	Golden Yellow
Social Work	Citron
Theology	Scarlet
Veterinary Science	Gray