

**2026 Arts & Sciences
Honors Convocation**
A celebration of student achievement

Friday, April 17, 2026
Camp Concert Hall, located in the Booker Hall of Music
11 a.m. - 12 p.m.



UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND
School of Arts & Sciences™



2026 Arts & Sciences Honors Convocation

A celebration of student achievement

Prelude

Trio élégiaque No. 1 in g minor.....Sergei Rachmaninoff
(1873-1943)

Isabella Aldeguer, violin
Eliza Kaplan, cello
Ben Nguyen, piano

WelcomeDr. Jennifer Cavanaugh
Dean of the School of Arts & Sciences, Professor of Theatre

Introduction of Convocation Poet.....Dr. Jennifer Cavanaugh
Dean of the School of Arts & Sciences

Student Poetry Reading.....Charlotte Nofsinger

Presentation of David C. Evans AwardsDr. Jennifer Cavanaugh
Dean of the School of Arts & Sciences

David C. Evans Award

for Outstanding ScholarshipSasha Hanson
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Lidia Radi
Professor of French and Italian Studies

Charles Sheppard
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Michael C. Leopold
Floyd D. and Elisabeth S. Gottwald Professor of Chemistry

David C. Evans Award

for Outstanding Artistic and Creative Work.....Toby Tate
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Benjamin Broening
Professor of Music

Special Music

Out There, from *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*..... Music: Alan Menken
(b. 1949)
Lyrics: Stephen Schwartz
(b. 1948)

Luke Surrusco, baritone
Dr. Joanne Kong, piano
Director of Accompaniment, Coordinator of Chamber Ensembles

Introduction of Student Speaker..... Dr. Jonathan Dattelbaum
Associate Dean, School of Arts & Sciences
Professor of Chemistry

Student AddressDenis Velazquez-Mondragon

Introduction of

URAA Board of Directors Member.....Dr. Jennifer Cavanaugh
Dean of the School of Arts & Sciences

Presentation of A&S Outstanding Senior Awards.....Rasheeda Chambers, '03
President, Board of Directors

A&S Outstanding Senior AwardsDenis Velazquez-Mondragon
Charlotte Nofsinger

Presentation of Symposium Paper Award.....Dr. Manuella Meyer
Associate Dean, School of Arts & Sciences
Associate Professor of History

Symposium Paper Award..... Jason Yoo
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jack Singal, Professor of Physics

Samuel Chanenson
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Laura Knouse, Professor of Psychology

Joshua Walker
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Miriam McCormick, Professor of Philosophy
Lewis T. Booker Professor in Ethics

Presentation of Symposium Arts AwardDr. Sharon Feldman
Associate Dean, School of Arts & Sciences
William Judson Gaines Chair of Modern Foreign Languages

Symposium Artist Award.....Sarah Wirth
Faculty Mentor: Sandy Williams IV, Assistant Professor of Art

Presentation of Outstanding Faculty Mentor Award Dr. Patricia Herrera
Associate Dean, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging
Professor of Theatre

Outstanding Faculty Mentor Award.....Dr. Miriama Rebello de Sousa Dias
Associate Professor of Physics

Dr. Heather M. Russell
Associate Professor of Mathematics

**Presentation of John R. Rilling Award
for First-Year Seminar Writing**Dr. Jennifer Cavanaugh
Dean of the School of Arts & Sciences

John R. Rilling Award for First-Year Seminar Writing.....Rylan Arata
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Natalie McCauley
Teaching Faculty of Russian

Emma Contursi
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Erika Zimmermann Damer
Associate Professor of Classical Studies and Gender & Sexuality Studies

Recognition of Honor SocietiesDr. Jennifer Cavanaugh
Dean of the School of Arts & Sciences

Alpha Kappa Delta — *Sociology*

Founded at the University of Southern California, 1920

Alpha Psi Omega — *Dramatics*

Founded at the State College, Fairmount, West Virginia, 1905

Beta Beta Beta — *Biology*

Founded at Oklahoma City University, 1922

Delta Phi Alpha — *German*

Founded at Wofford College, 1929

Dobro Slovo — *Russian*

Founded at the University of California at Berkeley, 1926

Eta Sigma Phi — *Classics*

Founded at the University of Chicago, 1914

Gamma Theta Upsilon — *Geography*

Founded at the University of Chicago, 1924

Golden Key — *Scholarship*

Founded at Georgia State University, 1977

Kappa Delta Pi — *Education*

Founded at the University of Illinois, 1911

Lambda Alpha — *Anthropology*

Founded at Wichita State University, 1968

Lambda Pi Eta — *Communication Studies*

Founded at the University of Arkansas, 1985

Mortar Board — *Scholarship, Leadership, Service*

Founded at Syracuse University, 1918

Omicron Delta Epsilon — *Economics*

Founded at the University of Wisconsin and Harvard University, 1963

Omicron Delta Kappa — *Leadership*
Founded at Washington and Lee University, 1914

Phi Alpha Theta — *History*
Founded at the University of Arkansas, 1921

Phi Beta Delta — *International Scholars*
Founded at California State University, Long Beach, 1986

Phi Beta Kappa — *Scholarship*
Founded at the College of William and Mary, 1776

Phi Eta Sigma — *First Year Honors*
Founded at the University of Illinois, 1923

Phi Kappa Mu — *Music*
Founded at the University of Richmond, 1977

Pi Mu Epsilon — *Mathematics*
Founded at Syracuse University, 1903

Phi Sigma Iota — *Modern & Classical Languages*
Founded at Allegheny College, 1922

Phi Sigma Tau — *Philosophy*
Founded at Muhlenberg College, 1930

Pi Sigma Alpha — *Political Science*
Founded at the University of Texas, 1920

Psi Chi — *Psychology*
Founded at the University of Kansas, 1929

Sigma Delta Pi — *Spanish*
Founded at the University of California, Berkeley, 1919

Sigma Pi Pi — *Chemistry*
Founded at the University of Richmond, 2010

Sigma Pi Sigma — *Physics*
Founded at Davidson College, 1925

Sigma Tau Delta — English
Founded at the Dakota Wesleyan University, 1924

Upsilon Pi Epsilon — Computing and Information Disciplines
Founded at Texas A&M University, 1967

Gender, and Sexuality Studies
Founded at the University of Richmond, 1990

Recognition of Student Achievement.....Dr. Jennifer Cavenaugh
Dean of the School of Arts & Sciences

American Studies Interdisciplinary Program

Outstanding Senior Award.....Sydney Hass, Lulu Hettleman
Amanda Reese, Zoey Van Peppen

Department of Art and Art History

Philip Frederick, Jr. Memorial Award.....Anastasia Carrico
Paige Pryor

The Bobby Chandler Award in Art and Music.....Taylor Harris
Emma Shields

Department of Biology

John Neasmith Dickinson Memorial Research Award.....Caro Osenga

Willie M. Reams Award in Biology.....Jeff (Ping Yen) Tsai

Robert F. Smart Summer Research Award.....Sabrina Ferrer
Gloria Kroodsma, Aine Macdermott
Jeff (Ping Yen) Tsai

Department of Classical Studies

Tanner Medal for Excellence in GreekJosh Walker

Mary Madison Bowen Award for Excellence in Latin.....Jack Thibault

Gertrude Howland Award.....Margaret (Liz) Diaz-Barriga
Charlotte Dixon, Jonathan Sacket, Moyan (Luna) Zhut

Department of Computer Science

University of Richmond Computer Science Prize.....Vikhyat Agarwal
Dr. B. Lewis Barnett, III Outstanding Service Award.....Tyeon Ford
Outstanding Academics in Computer Science Award.....Leah Le
Outstanding Research in Computer Science Award.....Miles Shelton

Department of Education

Academic Excellence in Education.....Ainsley Forrest
Outstanding Teacher Intern.....Tara Sheehan

Environmental Studies Interdisciplinary Program

Christopher L. Stevenson Award
for Excellence in Environmental Studies.....Isabella Andrus, Kaitlyn Camera

Department of Geography, Environment, and Sustainability

Outstanding Senior Geographer.....Jane Lively
Exemplary Service Award.....Mia Avera
Exemplary Research Award.....Maddy King
Outstanding Service to the Spatial Analysis Lab.....Gloria Kroodsm
Sustainability: Acting for Positive Change Award.....Kate Flanagan
Emma Lenning

Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures

Outstanding Senior Award
ChineseJae Will
FrenchSasha Hanson
GermanJulia Bandte
ItalianAbby Green, Katherine Stackler
Russian.....Grace Brown

Department of Latin American, Latino, and Iberian Studies

- Modern Languages Award,
Latin American, Latino, and Iberian Studies Outstanding Major.....René Polanco
- LALIS Most Outstanding Minor.....Ibrahim Alkaseer
- LALIS Most Outstanding Service to the.....Gavin Clausen
Richmond Hispanic Community
- LALIS Most Outstanding Assistant TeacherJenna Raimond
- LALIS Progress Award.....Nick Mossman
- LALIS Multilingualism Award.....Charlie Fisher

Department of Mathematics and Statistics

- James D. Crump Prize for Excellence in MathematicsVikhyat Agarwal
- Outstanding Student in Mathematics Award.....Pepe Sanchez-Menchen
- Dr. William Jason Owen PrizeDhruvam Desai
Anika Donohue, Rene Polanco
- Outstanding Student in Mathematical Economics Award..... Ben Grace
Stevi Dugas

Department of Music

- Bobby Chandler Award in Arts and Music..... Avery Piantedosi
- C.J. Hesch Award..... Tobias Tate
- Roy Jesson Music Prize.....David Kim

Department of Political Science

- Spencer D. Albright Book Award.....Will Iboshi, Morgan Knoop
Gurbani Makar, Everett Weaver
- Spencer D. Albright Scholarship.....Ethan Callahan, Sabrina Gaytan-Lopez
Olivia Gondek, Ebony Jordan, Quinton Jones
Nicholas Justiniani, Jessica Khan, Mary Kimbrough
Natasha Slezak, Holden Sparrow, Will Tydings

May Thompson Evans and William Ney Evans Scholarship.....Natasha Slezak
Olivia Gondek, Sally Brouhard, Noor Kaiffee

The Richmond Award.....Cristalla Chapman
Ina Loka

Department of Psychology

Austin E. Grigg & Helen W. Grigg Award.....Samuel Chanenson
Kiana Lum

Outstanding Service.....Denis Velazquez-Mondragon

Outstanding Psychology Student.....Samuel Chanenson

Outstanding Psychology Research.....Riley Dunkelberger

Department of Religious Studies

The Lynn C. Dickerson AwardLibby McKinney

The Philip R. Hart Prize Isabella Castillo

Department of Rhetoric and Communication Studies

Academic Excellence Award Thomas Luschen

Leadership Award.....Daniel Polonia

Department of Sociology & Anthropology

The James A. Sartain ScholarshipMarina Valentine

Department of Theatre and Dance

Myra Delang Award.....Annie Hamiton

Notable Scholarships, Grants, and Awards*

Barry Goldwater Scholars Anna Johnson
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Wade Downey, Professor of Chemistry

Nicholas Parlavecchio
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jonathan Richardson, Associate Professor of Biology

Eric Zhou
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Wade Downey, Professor of Chemistry

Davis Projects for Peace GrantStevi Dugas

Fulbright Scholars.....Saige Beatman (Alternate)
Ciara MacMullen (Alternate)
Sadie Nolan (Alternate)

Gilman ScholarsBonny Bruzos
Ryan Dillard
Brenda Galbier

Jepson Scholars (Oxford).....Samuel Chanenson
Abby Green
Emerson Linden
Jake Schumer

Rhodes ScholarIbrahim Alkaseer

Susan Skinner Scholar..... Paxton Mills

*Notable scholarships, grants, and awards announced during the 2025-2026 academic year.

Postlude

Eight Pieces Op. 83 Max Bruch
II. Allegro con moto (1838-1920)

Gabriella Meisner, viola
Adele Kelley, viola
Cadence Rice, piano

Please remain seated through this selection.

Student and faculty musicians are from the Department of Music.

Student Speaker Denis Velazquez-Mondragon

Denis Velazquez-Mondragon graduated from Jefferson County International Baccalaureate High School in Birmingham, Alabama. She is a Richmond Scholar and Oliver Hill Scholar at the University of Richmond, where she is double majoring in cognitive science and psychology with a minor in linguistics. She recently received the Westhampton College Distinguished Leadership Award and the 2026 Outstanding Undergraduate Service Award in Psychology. During her time at Richmond, Denis has served as the president of Scholars' Latino Initiative and Ritmo Latino, worked as a program assistant for the Hub for Student Inclusion and Community, and served as an orientation leader for two years. She also worked as the science of emotion lab coordinator with her thesis advisor, Dr. Lundberg for two years. Denis volunteers as a Spanish medical interpreter in Richmond free clinics, helping bridge language barriers for patients seeking care. This summer, she will attend Virginia Commonwealth University's Summer Academic Enrichment Program as she prepares to apply to Doctor of Physical Therapy programs.

Student Poet Charlotte Nofsinger

Charlotte Nofsinger is graduating UR Phi Beta Kappa and is completing majors in psychology and creative writing with a minor in classical civilization. Charlotte is heavily involved in the UR Creative Writing Program and the Office of Admission, where she has served as student ambassador and intern. In her writings, she is especially influenced by lyric poets of the 20th and 21st centuries, particularly James Schuyler and Louise Glück, whose attention to perception and imagery have shaped the manner in which she thinks about poetry as well as writing as a whole. She is particularly interested in the relationship between physical detail and emotional experience, and how attention can reshape the manner in which we understand things over time. After graduation, Charlotte is planning on attending law school, where she hopes to utilize her writing, communication, and storytelling skills as an attorney specializing in criminal law.



A&S STUDENT SYMPOSIUM 41ST ANNUAL

FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2026

9–11 A.M.
1–5:30 P.M.

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+ OTHER CAMPUS LOCATIONS

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