



Penn
Social Policy & Practice
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

Saturday, May 16, 2026

CLASS OF 2026 COMMENCEMENT



*The Palestra
University of Pennsylvania*

COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM

PROCESSIONAL

Pomp and Circumstance

OPENING OF THE CEREMONY

Sara S. Bachman, *Dean*

DEAN'S ADDRESS

Sara S. Bachman, *Dean*

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

Dr. Shadrack Osei Frimpong

AWARDS

Sara S. Bachman, *Dean*

PRESENTATION OF GRADUATES

Sara S. Bachman, *Dean*

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN SOCIAL WELFARE

Tamara Cadet, PhD and Yoosun Park, PhD

DOCTORATE IN CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK

Jacqueline Corcoran, PhD, LCSW

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NONPROFIT LEADERSHIP

Chao Guo, PhD

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN SOCIAL POLICY

Ioana E. Marinescu, PhD

MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK

Malitta Engstrom, PhD, LCSW

CLOSING REMARKS

Sara S. Bachman, *Dean*

RECESSIONAL

Guests are asked to remain seated until the end of the Recessional.



THE PASSIONATE PURSUIT OF SOCIAL GOOD, INNOVATION, AND IMPACT.

For more than 110 years, the University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy & Practice (SP2) has been a powerful force for good in the world. Through research, academics, and engagement, the School drives innovation in policy and practice that creates lasting impact and develops leaders committed to tackling society's most complex social challenges in pursuit of social good.

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

Dr. Shadrack O. Frimpong

Alumnus, Nonprofit Leadership Program



Dr. Shadrack O. Frimpong, is a global health leader and scholar whose work focuses on occupational neurology; the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of neurological disorders caused by environmental and work exposures such as pesticides

and heat. Specifically, he focuses on the world's 860 million farming families, including his parents and siblings. He pioneered occupational neurology for smallholder farmers and built the Cocoa360 Center, the world's first campus for occupational neurology care.

Fueled by his background growing up on a farm in rural Ghana, Frimpong is a triple threat to the problems his efforts address: he's lived through them (from birth), studied them and taken them on. He grew up without running water and electricity and, as a child, his legs were nearly amputated after contracting a river infection. Yet he became the first person from his village to attend college in the US, graduating from the University of Pennsylvania (Penn) with the \$150,000 President's Engagement Prize (PEP), one of Penn's highest honors. With the PEP, he built the Cocoa360 Center. Cocoa360's campus comprises a clinic, a school and a farm that restores brain health for farmers and their schoolchildren.

For his efforts, Frimpong has received many awards, including the prestigious Samuel Huntington Public Service Award, the Forbes 30 Under 30 list of top social entrepreneurs around the world, the Clinton Foundation's CGIU Honor Roll and the Muhammad Ali Award, which recognizes six global activists who work toward social change under age 30. Queen Elizabeth II also awarded him the Queen's Young Leader Award at Buckingham Palace.

Frimpong holds a Master of Science in Nonprofit Leadership from the University of Pennsylvania and an Advanced Master of Public Health (MPH) in Global Health from Yale, graduating from both with top academic prizes. He also pursued a Ph.D. in Public Health and Primary Care from the University of Cambridge as a Gates Cambridge Scholar. Beyond his peer-reviewed publications, he has provided expertise on community engagement in public health and medicine, working with UNICEF and WHO to co-author evidence-based frameworks on global health issues.

In July 2023, he received an Honorary Doctorate from Royal Holloway, University of London and is currently pursuing a Doctor of Medicine degree (M.D.) from the Yale School of Medicine.

Frimpong is a member of the Royal Society of Medicine and a 2025-26 Obama Foundation Africa Leader.

EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARDS

The Excellence in Teaching Award is presented to members of the standing and non-standing faculty in recognition of excellence in teaching and mentoring.

FULL-TIME FACULTY

Allison Werner-Lin, PhD, LCSW
Kim McKay, PhD, LSW, MEd

PART-TIME LECTURERS

Meredith Myers, PhD
Reggie Jones, LCSW, MSS, MLSP



STUDENT PRIZES AND AWARDS

HAL LEVIN AWARD

Anthony Shaw

This award is presented to meritorious students in the Doctor of Philosophy in Social Welfare program who are continuing the process of completing course work.

DR. RAM CNAAN AWARD

Jennifer Elizabeth Panhorst

This award is presented to a meritorious student in the Doctorate in Clinical Social Work program who has completed the third year of course work.

WILSON SPIGNER AWARD FOR SOCIAL POLICY EXCELLENCE

Jiayi Liu

This award is presented to a graduating student in the Master of Science in Social Policy program who has demonstrated a record of intellectual inquiry and academic excellence and who is committed to using research to analyze and shape social policy locally, nationally, and/or globally. The award is named in honor of the Reverend Dr. Welford Robinson Wilson II, and his daughter, Dr. Carol Wilson Spigner, the first faculty director of the MSSP program, who have notably increased equity and equality among people who are often forgotten, through research-based change in policy and organizations.

EXCELLENCE IN SOCIAL IMPACT AWARD

Krista Leigh Smith

This award is presented to a meritorious graduating student in the Nonprofit Leadership program who has a record of academic excellence and has shown promise in using their talents and knowledge to create positive social impact.

RICHARD J. ESTES GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP AWARD

Sina Barzegar

This award is presented to a graduating international student in the Nonprofit Leadership program who embodies a commitment to social impact, who has a record of academic excellence, and who is committed to using their talents and knowledge to make a difference in the world.

ROSA WESSEL AWARD

Jeanne Chang

This award is presented to a meritorious graduating student in the Master of Social Work program who is selected based on academic performance and one or more of the following: exemplary student leadership, innovative activities in the field practicum, and exceptional community service.

DR. RUTH E. SMALLEY AWARD IN INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL WELFARE

Elizabeth Anne McGuinn

This award is presented to a member of the Master of Social Work graduating class who, through their writing, participation in class discussions, and experience, has demonstrated an interest in, and a working knowledge of, the international and cultural dimensions of social work practice, and the application of practice to research.

SP2 STUDENT OF EXCELLENCE

Jeanne Chang

This award is presented to an SP2 student who has had a positive impact on the SP2 community through their collegiality, service, and community engagement inside and outside of the classroom.

CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN SOCIAL WELFARE

FACULTY CO-DIRECTORS: Dr. Tamara Cadet and Dr. Yoosun Park

Alexander David Bervik

But at least he's trying: Exploring masculinity, fatherhood, and social welfare for men involved in a guaranteed income pilot

Abram J. Lyons

A Critical Analysis of Indigenous Children in the Child Welfare System and the Impact of the Indian Child Welfare Act

Shana Lynn Merrill

Examining applications of the socioecological model to support evolving roles in genetic counseling: Advocacy and the ethical, legal, and social implications of genetic medicine

Claudia Jeanette Vogelsang

Pathways to Compassion Satisfaction in Mental Health Crisis Work

DOCTORATE IN CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK

FACULTY DIRECTOR: Dr. Jacqueline Corcoran

Jamie Lynn Anastasio

Understanding Human Re-Trafficking: A Scoping Review

Stephanie Ela Béguin

Integrative Treatment for The Whole Child: A Qualitative Study Exploring How Trained Clinicians Integrate Play Therapy with EMDR in Treating Children ages 3-12 with PTSD Symptoms

Stephanie P. Bianchini

The Hunger Between Us: A Qualitative Study of the Intergenerational Transmission of Eating Disorders in Mother-Daughter Relationships

Adam Clark

Examination of Psychosocial Factors Associated with Depression and Anxiety Within a Year of Bariatric Surgery

Christopher Michael Ferraris

Psychosocial and Structural Correlates of Cumulative Antiretroviral Adherence Measured by Tenofovir Diphosphate in Dried Blood Spots Among People with HIV in Cape Town South Africa

Maurice Anthony Haskins

The Journey Beyond Caregiving: Navigating Identity Reconstruction Following the Loss of a Care Recipient

Magdimar Bonilla Hershberger

Narratives of Intergenerational Trauma Transmission and Disruption among Puerto Rican Mothers in the Mainland United States

Sarah Katherine Howell

Family Risk Factors Present in Hispanic Latine Children Who are Undergoing an Extended Forensic Interview

Christina Lee Im

Neuroscience Applications in Social Work Practice

Andrew Luglio

Biopsychosocial Determinants of Involuntary Discharges from Outpatient Dialysis Clinics

Michelle Hart Marlowe

Home-Based Infant Parent Psychotherapy: Changes in Maternal and Infant Outcomes

Chantelle McCormick

School-Based Eating Disorder Support: A Scoping Review of the U.S. Literature

Nicole C. Nardone

Mother of Exiles: A Two-Paper Discussion of Anti-Oppressive Theories in the Asylum Process

Jennifer Elizabeth Panhorst

Clinical Supervision and Mass Shared Trauma: A Two-Paper Qualitative Study of Supervisory Practice During Natural Disasters, Mass Shootings, and Public Health Emergencies

Ilana Rachel Polak

Linking Youth Rehabilitation and Animal Welfare: A Scoping Review of Shelter Dog Programs for Justice-Involved Youth

Alyssa Marcie Reiner

"Could be Better, Shouldn't Be Worse": A Mixed-Methods Pilot Study of a Polyvagal-Informed Yoga Intervention for Older Adult Offspring of Holocaust Survivors

Elizabeth Anne Rubin

Suicide Prevention for Adults with Serious Mental Illness: A Scoping Review of Interventions and their Compatibility with a Recovery-Oriented

Gwendolyne Elissa Tuttle-Beaudoin

Is Mentalization Colorblind? A Qualitative Study of race in Mentalization Based Therapy

Allison S. White

The Missing Lens: Exploring the Inclusion of Disability Content in HBSE Syllabi

Savannah Lynn Zink

Leaving Siblings Behind: Former Foster Youth Perspectives on the Role of the Sibling Relationship During and After the Transition to Adulthood

SP2 DUAL DEGREE

FACULTY DIRECTOR: Dr. Sara S. Bachman, Dean

Evelyn Aguilar ^{4, 11}

Master of Social Work and Master of Science in Nonprofit Leadership

Louise Min Yue Tan

Master of Social Work and Master of Science in Social Policy

Neha Shelvi Ratnapuri

Master of Social Work and Master of Science in Nonprofit Leadership

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NONPROFIT LEADERSHIP

FACULTY DIRECTOR: Dr. Chao Guo

Latifa Faisal Abdulla AlGurg	Reginald Parish Haley Joseph Adam Henseler	Cindy Evelia Rocha Paredes
Sina Barzegar	Suzanne Herron	Trevor George Schulte
Elizabeth Leigh Bergeron	Kelsey L. Hopper	Natalia Seron
Claire Elizabeth Bergsten	Amanda Huang	Karina Bahari Sharma
Jazmine N. Bonner	Kari Janae Hunter-Wade	Krista Leigh Smith
Kiana Carolan Bucci	Olivia Jane Marie Jorgensen	Shahzadi Lamsal Upadhyay ¹³
Grace Campbell	Saherah Mariam Khan	Sabrina Tiffany Vargas
Simone Cavalcante Da Silva	Micah SJ Kim	Amritha Varshini Venkatesh
Yilin Chen	Grace Liang ¹³	Min Wang
Lauren N. Davidson ¹¹	Yourong Luo	Sophie Alexandra Workinger
Jerry Kharee Davis	Vikas Matta	Xinrui Wu
Gabriel Joseph Dell	Kesta Medoit	Weize Yan
Emma A. H. Dickson ¹³	Amy Catherine Meola	Yichi Zhang
Cydney T. Edwards	Alejandro Molina	Yibo Zhou
Meredith Elaine Eggers	Madeleine Jane Nicol	
Shawn Graaff	Madeline Ruth Pensiero ¹³	
Sriya Gukal	Jenny Elizabeth Penson	
Julia Catherine Halbherr		

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN SOCIAL POLICY

FACULTY DIRECTOR: Dr. Ioana E. Marinescu

Liyan Alkawafhah ¹³	Julia Parker Contino ¹³	Jiayi Liu
Joselyn Lissette Angeles-Figueroa	Trang Dang ¹³	Tristan Ly
Saadhya Saivenkata Bahudodda	Zachary David Demars	Adelaide B. Lyall
Xinyi Bao	Haiqing Deng	Zhonghui Mao
Shayne David Bargman ⁷	Jingkai Fang	Trapetas McGill
Ta'Kyla Shantrell Bates	Xinyi Gao	Xinyi Min
Stephanie Nicole Castor	Runyu Guo	Omolade Adeola Olubowale
Xiaen Chen	Kavin Haldo ^{7,11}	Taryn Lee Painter
	Lin Jin	

Rohan Alexander Palacios	Danielle Georgia Elaine Uter	Fengyi Zhang
Elizabeth K. Reilly	Angelica C. Vega	Zeqiong Zhang
Grace Allyn Snyder	Zhiya Wang ¹³	Siqi Zhao
Jiaqi Tang	Ying Wang	Boyi Zhu

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN SOCIAL POLICY & DATA ANALYTICS

FACULTY DIRECTOR: Dr. Ioana E. Marinescu

Lucy Elizabeth Bowman	Eman Yessuf Mahamed	Zixuan Zhang
Hanqi Cao	Chenkai Mao	Yifei Zhao
Meha Chauhan	Yutong Meng	Yan Zheng
Yusang Chen	Caoyuan Niu	Yuhan Zheng
Huiqi Chen	Yike Peng	
Yilin Deng	Quynh Pham	
Rachel Leigh Evans	Hongyu Qin	
Yongqin Feng	Muhammad Abdul Rahman	
Yihan Gao	Sloane Vanoyan Wagreich ¹³	
Junming Gu	Guoli Wang	
Yunjia Gu	Jingqi Wang	
Luo Hai	Jingrong Wang	
Yuxi Hao	Luoyuan Wang	
Karen Hashimoto	Xicheng Wang	
Chenyue Hu	Yitong Wang	
Tianran Hu	Dacheng Wei	
Danielle Simone Jenkins ¹¹	Shuhan Wen	
Alexandria Kim ¹³	Wenjing Wu	
Yuxing Li	Xiaomeng Wu	
Liqi Liang	Chenxi Xiao	
Yifan Liang	Xinzhao Xie	
Yu Liang	Jiayi Xue	
Qian Liu	Zhiyin Zhang	
Xiao Lu		

MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK

FACULTY DIRECTOR: Dr. Malitta Engstrom

Hannah Sara Ableman ⁴	Victoria Alejandra Garity-Fernández ²	Emma Toby Olshin
Anna Ryan Abraham	Delanie Jane Graettinger ⁴	Kirstin Marie Ortiz ⁴
Leila Azari	Jaylen Tianna Hardy	Eleanor Ryan Patton ⁴
Sasha Baken-Rennert	Ava Noelle Hess	Madeline Rose Pendleton ⁴
Corinne Marie Beavers	Andrew Dillon Johnston-Walsh ⁸	Victoria Pham
Gabrielle Anne Bembry ⁷	Alexsis Kaine	Anna Poplawski
Lindsay Faith Bernstein ^{1,4}	Emma Barbara Kantrowitz ^{1,4}	Mia Prowisor ^{2,9}
Olivia Jo Blaufuss ⁷	Alexandra Carol Lee Knight ⁴	Meggie Yang Qu ²
Benjamin Gordon Blaustein	Ashley Renee Kockler	Tristen Maxwell Rafuse ⁷
Emilie Judy Boisedu-Poggi ⁴	Elizabeth Meiren Kopca	Liat Tamar Rosov
Melissa Kate Bomberger	Isabel Carol Cunneen Kotlowitz ⁷	Chelsea Helene Sadler ³
Jarria Nichole Brewer ^{4,11}	Cathryn Julie Lamour ^{3,8}	Jesse Alexander Samuelson
Cheylane Rose Brown	Akiera Faith Laubin ³	Nicholas John Scheri ⁹
Isabel Tillett Burton	Morgan Nicole Laufgraben ^{1,4}	Caleb Joseph Schneider ⁹
Jeanne Chang ⁴	Celes Anne Marie LeFleur	Lillian Grace Sheridan
Shuyan Chen	Paige Knight Lombard	Adina Michelle Smith ⁹
Sebastian S. Chung	Hua Lyu	Erin Morley Stancill
Emily Ann Conrad	Yuzhu Ma	Ava Storz
Grey Cubano ⁷	Timothy John Mahoney	Ilana Strauss
ShelDan Dalsimer	Clara Ben-Ari Marton ⁴	Siqi Sun
Aiyanna Nadine Daniels ³	Coleman Zorin Maxwell	Pinhui Tang
Lillian Morgan Dean	Elizabeth Anne McGuinn	Hannah Theone Thomas ⁴
Nicole M. Ender ^{4,9}	Madelin Lela Myers ⁷	Mauryce LeRoy Thomas, II ²
Aaren Hope Chavez Fernandez ¹³	Shay Myerson	Margaret Vergenes
Dana M. Filippoli	Ellisa Michelle Anyango Okoth ^{3,8}	Jasleen Kaur Virk ²
Casey Darling Foster	Erin Breen Olesiewicz	Ellie Jo Walter-Goodspeed
Abigail Hope Friedman		Sophie Clare Xu-Friedman ⁷
Nicole Andri Frost ⁷		Shiya Yuan
Shannen Marie Gaffney		

SP2 SPECIALIZATIONS AND PENN CERTIFICATES

- 1 Denotes completion of the Ann Nolan Reese Penn Aging Concentration
- 2 Denotes completion of the Child Well-Being and Child Welfare Specialization
- 3 Denotes completion of the Criminal Justice Specialization
- 4 Denotes completion of the Social Work in Health Care Specialization
- 5 Denotes completion of the Cohen Veterans Network MSW Scholars Program
- 6 Denotes completion of the Global Human Rights Certificate
- 7 Denotes completion of the Certificate in LGBTQ+ Policy & Practice
- 8 Denotes completion of Certificate in Law
- 9 Denotes completion of MSW/ Home-School Visitor Certification
- 10 Denotes completion of Certificate in Latin American and Latinx Studies
- 11 Denotes SP2 Scholar
- 12 Denotes Graduate Certificate in Health Care Innovation
- 13 Denotes Graduate Certificate for Applied Data Ethics, Law and the Social Good

As final action cannot always be taken by the time this program is compiled, these lists of candidates are tentative only; the University reserves the right to withdraw or add names.

MASTER'S PROGRAMS

SP2's MSW, MSSP, and NPL programs equip graduates with the theoretical skills and practical experience to make a lifetime of impact as a skilled social worker, social policy analyst, or nonprofit leader.

- Master of Social Work (MSW): Become an effective, compassionate social worker committed to impact and the pursuit of social good.
- Master of Science in Social Policy (MSSP): Create policy solutions that advance enduring social change. Program option: MSSP+DA focuses on data analytics for social policy.
- Master of Science in Nonprofit Leadership (NPL): Prepare to lead visionary nonprofit organizations working to make meaningful change.



Order SP2 Merch!



DOCTORAL PROGRAMS

SP2's PhD, DSW, and DNPA programs prepare graduates to make their mark as advanced social welfare scholars, social work practitioners, or nonprofit administrators through rigorous study.

- PhD in Social Welfare: Pursue rigorous research to address complex social challenges and become a leader in academic, research, and policy-focused environments.
- Doctorate in Clinical Social Work (DSW): Advance your clinical expertise to become a leader in social work practice, research, and education.
- Doctorate in Nonprofit Administration (DNPA): Strengthen your leadership to shape the future of the nonprofit sector.





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