On behalf of the University of Georgia College of Engineering faculty and staff, I want to extend my warmest congratulations to you, the Class of 2021. We are honored to celebrate your hard work, commitment and achievement in completing a demanding and rigorous course of study at one of the nation’s best public research universities. You should be proud of your accomplishment, as should the family and friends who supported you during this journey.

Even under normal circumstances, successfully completing the requirements for an engineering degree is a daunting challenge. Your class should be especially proud of the resilience and persistence it has demonstrated throughout the past year. By successfully navigating these uncertainties, I am confident this class of engineers is well prepared to face the future and make a positive impact on society.

While this is a time of celebration, it is also a time of reflection on what lies ahead. Whatever path you choose, I am confident you have acquired the knowledge and skills you need to succeed. The world faces unprecedented challenges and engineers will play a major role in finding creative solutions that ensure a brighter future for people around the globe. Whether you choose a career in research, the private sector, or public service, I know you will make a difference.

Our college is built around communities of learning, discovery and innovation that prepare students for leadership roles in the engineering profession. Your commitment in the classroom, in the laboratory, and throughout the state of Georgia and beyond is helping create a strong and vibrant engineering community at UGA. Our college and our university are better because of the work you have done here. It has been a privilege and a pleasure to learn and grow alongside you during your academic career.

As you join our growing and distinguished alumni community, I encourage you to stay in touch with the college. Make every effort to attend alumni events and activities so you can share your legacy with a new generation of students. Keep this college and the people who helped you during your academic journey close to you as you venture on to your next destination. You will always have a home at the University of Georgia College of Engineering.

Good luck, best wishes, and stay in touch!

Dean and UGA Foundation Professor in Engineering
Order of Ceremony

WELCOME
Jaime Camelio, Ph.D.
Associate Dean for Research, Innovation and Entrepreneurship and Professor

FACULTY PROCESSIONAL

GREETINGS & INTRODUCTIONS
Donald J. Leo, Ph.D.
Dean & UGA Foundation Professor in Engineering

STUDENT CONVOCATION ADDRESS
Alexandria Asmerom
Bachelor of Science in Biochemical Engineering Candidate

RECOGNITION OF GRADUATE DEGREE CANDIDATES
Ramaraja P. Ramasamy, Ph.D.
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs & Assessment and Professor

Major Professors

School Chairs

RECOGNITION OF UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE CANDIDATES
Stephan Durham, Ph.D., P.E.
Assistant Dean for Student Success and Outreach & Professor

School Chairs

WELL WISHES & CONCLUDING REMARKS
Dean Leo

FACULTY RECESSIONAL
Alexandria Asmerom is a biochemical engineering major from Lilburn, Georgia. During her time in the UGA College of Engineering, Asmerom has excelled in the classroom, in student leadership roles, and in community service.

As an Engineering Student Ambassador, Asmerom assisted with college and university-sponsored special events including recognition ceremonies, orientation sessions, alumni events, and campus visits with prospective students. She also provided valuable feedback to the administration on important issues related to student life in the college.

Asmerom also was a vital member of the National Society of Black Engineers, one of the largest and most active student organizations in the UGA College of Engineering. Among her many leadership roles, she served as treasurer on the chapter's executive board.

While in Athens, Asmerom gave back to the community through her involvement with Feed My Sheep, Inc. She tutored students in elementary through high school, helping them develop a better understanding of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Asmerom’s interests span the pharmaceutical, healthcare, and supply chain industries. She recently served as a supply chain engineering intern with PepsiCo at the company’s facility in Middletown, New York. Working as a member of the quality and assurance team, she assisted with safety procedures and tests performed to ensure products meet quality and safety standards.

Following graduation, Asmerom plans to gain industry experience in the pharmaceutical or supply chain field and eventually pursue her Ph.D. in biochemical engineering. She hopes to influence future generations, particularly women and people of color, to pursue their dreams in engineering.
Doctor of Philosophy Candidates

Matthew D. Becton
Engineering
Major Professor: Xianqiao Wang, Ph.D.
Dissertation:
Dynamic Clustering and Scaling Behavior of Active Particles under Confinement

Megan Douglass
Biomedical Engineering
Major Professor: Hitesh Handa, Ph.D.
Dissertation:
Combination Surface Strategies that Improve the Longevity, Tunability, and Antifouling Properties of Nitric Oxide-Releasing Platforms

Ruizhe Lin
Engineering with an Emphasis in Electrical & Computer Engineering
Major Professor: Peter Kner, Ph.D.
Dissertation:
Three-dimensional aberration-free super-resolution fluorescence microscopy using structured illumination and adaptive optics

Qidi Liu
Engineering
Major Professor: Mable Fok, Ph.D.
Dissertation:
Enabling Photonic Technologies for Dynamic and Adaptive RF Signal Processing

Michelle M. Makhoul-Mansour
Engineering with an Emphasis in Mechanics and Materials
Major Professor: Eric Freeman, Ph.D.
Dissertation:
Adaptive Droplet-Based Membranous Soft Materials

Arnab Mondal
Engineering
Major Professor: Hitesh Handa, Ph.D.
Dissertation:
Development Of Combination Strategies To Enhance Antibacterial Efficacy Of Nitric Oxide Releasing Medical Grade Polymers

Prabaharan Graceraj Ponnusamy
Engineering
Major Professor: Sudhagar Mani, Ph.D.
Dissertation:
Production And Characterization Of Cellulose Nanofibrils And Biopolymer Composites For Packaging Applications

Ruihua Zhang
Biological and Agricultural Engineering
Major Professor: Yajun Yan, Ph.D.
Dissertation:
Tool Development and Product Derivation in Synthetic Aromatic Metabolism

University of Georgia College of Engineering
Master of Science Degree Candidates

Shirin Afzali
Engineering with an Emphasis in Electrical & Computer Engineering
Major Professor: Javad Mohammadpour, Ph.D.
Thesis: Development and Implementation of Optimal Supplemental Lighting Control Strategies in Greenhouses

Mary A. Burnam
Civil and Environmental Engineering with an Emphasis in Environmental Engineering
Major Professor: Stephan Durham, Ph.D., P.E.
Thesis: Development of Stormwater Management Curriculum for Local Georgia Agencies

Anastasia Klosterman
Civil and Environmental Engineering with an Emphasis in Civil Engineering
Major Professor: C. Brook Woodson, Ph.D.
Thesis: Guidelines for Evaluating Wave Reduction Loss in Salt Marshes and Application to Condition Assessment

Kehinde S. Lawal
Engineering with an Emphasis in Electrical & Computer Engineering
Major Professor: Fred Beyette, Ph.D.

Hamed Massoumi
Biological Engineering
Major Professor: Elizabeth Brisbois, Ph.D.
Thesis: Nitric Oxide-Releasing Structures As Versatile And Robust Antibacterial And Wound Healing Agents

Clint K. Morris
Civil and Environmental Engineering with an Emphasis in Civil Engineering
Major Professor: Jidong Yang, Ph.D.

Alexander T. Rush
Civil and Environmental Engineering with an Emphasis in Civil Engineering
Major Professor: Mi Geum Chorzepa, Ph.D., P.E.
Thesis: Modularly Packaged Construction of Raised Insulated Concrete Form (MPack-RICF) Houses for Affordable, Climate-Resilient, and Sustainable Communities

William T. Shirley
Civil and Environmental Engineering with an Emphasis in Civil Engineering
Major Professor: Stephan Durham, Ph.D., P.E.
Thesis: Development of an Innovative, On-Demand E-construction Training Program to Increase Usage and Understanding of Agency-Wide Software Programs
Bachelor of Science Candidates

School of Chemical, Materials and Biomedical Engineering

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BIOCHEMICAL ENGINEERING

Alexandria Asmerom
Jarod Mark Frost

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BIOLOGICAL ENGINEERING

Dakota Alexander Arrington
Riley Barnes Carraher
Cum Laude, with Honors
Nicolin Trowbridge Dedecker
Hurnzah Ghani
Gabrielle Nicole Gil
Cum Laude
Abigail H. Gritters
Benjamin Guzman
Sundus Kaimari
Stephen Karu Mburu
Madeleine Claire Schwab
Summa Cum Laude, with Honors
Tia Nicole Shorter
Magna Cum Laude
Cameron Smith
Hassan Taiwo Olagunju

School of Electrical and Computer Engineering

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN COMPUTER SYSTEMS ENGINEERING

Justin E. Fischman
Magna Cum Laude
Kevin Thomas Koffroth
Rachel Iris Long
Magna Cum Laude
Jackson C. Moss

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS ENGINEERING

Christina Michelle Abner
Magna Cum Laude
Faiyaz Alam
Christopher Chase Orr
Daksh Bhadresh Patel
Duncan McGregor McCance
Nathaniel James Poschel
Alissa Rose Benkoski
Daksh Bhadresh Patel
Juhitha Porika
Pulin V. Shukla
Joseph Paul Snavely
Daksh Bhadresh Patel
Danny Dat Tang
Daksh Bhadresh Patel
Jeremiah Walker Townley
Daksh Bhadresh Patel
Ulises Trejo-Torres

School of Environmental, Civil, Agricultural and Mechanical Engineering

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING

Gabriel David Cloud
Magna Cum Laude
Maxwell John Volino

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN CIVIL ENGINEERING

Melanie Shannon Bott
Willard Hugh Edwards
Kevin Tegeler Nastasi
John C. Cherry
Simon A. Fox
Ryan Michael Scherer
Brandon Alexis Cruztitla-Juarez
Hannah Leann Johnson
Thomas Jackson Smith
Vanessa Diaz-Guerrero
Spencer Ellis Kopf
Davis George Wilson

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING

Phoebe Anne Graham
Sherine Kullmann
Clarke John Weeks
Magna Cum Laude
Bachelor of Science Candidates

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

Jamie James Baldwin
Trent Jeffrey Barbaree
Kordell Donovan Boone
Bailey Kathleen Booth
Cum Laude
Henry W. Bowden
Scott Allen Camps
Barhon Ridgeway Carter
Madeline Ann Cheshire
Jung Hwan Choe
Austin Adati Deck
Magna Cum Laude
Christopher C. Diemer
Anna C. Epstein
Christina Marie Gatlin
Grant Riley Gibson
Chase Kohl Glenn
Nathan Lee Harris
Aubrie Elaine Herndon
Daniel James Hogan
Cum Laude
Jake Thomas Hooper
William James Horlock
Robert Aaron Johnson
Jacob E. Jones
Logan Jay Kendricks
Kyleigh Ray Kestner
Christopher James Kochanik
Kruthika V. Kumar
Jacob Allen Lancaster
Benjamin Robert Lane
Joseph E. Lindekugel
Cum Laude
William Robert Lovvorn
Jacob Prichard Lowder
Magna Cum Laude
Frederik K. Ly
Trenton Blake McDougal
Michael Paul McInnis
Andrew Wade Miller
Sydney L. Miracle
Michael Keith Paulk
Thomas R. Pawloski
Robert Davis Peel
Christina Nicole Pio
Santiago Alfredo Poretti
Matthew Alexander Raftis
Kayla Elizabeth Reilly
Cum Laude
Mariana Salazar Sandoval
Elias Bashir Simma
Zachary Aaron Sloan
Connor Ethan Smith
Skylar Marie Tafelski
Magna Cum Laude
James Michael Turpin
Eryck R. Warmsley
Alexander Watson-Jones
Cum Laude
Weijie Zhang
Graduation Distinctions

DEGREES WITH HONORS
Summa cum laude: 3.90 overall GPA  |  Magna cum laude: 3.75 overall GPA  |  Cum laude: 3.60 overall GPA

FIRST HONOR GRADUATE
Each student completing a baccalaureate degree with an overall grade point average of 4.0 will be designated a First Honor Graduate. The overall grade point average includes all work attempted at the University of Georgia as well as all college-level transfer work attempted prior to or subsequent to matriculation at the University.

GRADUATION WITH HIGHEST HONORS
Requires a total of nine Honors courses, six to nine credits of Honors approved Capstone coursework, with a minimum 3.5 Honors GPA and a minimum 3.9 cumulative GPA.

GRADUATION WITH HIGH HONORS
Requires a total of nine Honors courses, six to nine credits of Honors approved Capstone coursework, with a minimum 3.5 Honors GPA and a minimum 3.7 cumulative GPA.

WITH HONORS
Denotes a member of the University of the Georgia Honors Program

TAU BETA GAMMA
Denotes a member of the Tau Beta Gamma Engineering Honors Society

In compliance with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act, students who place a FERPA restriction on their records and did not grant permission to publish their name in the Convocation Program are not listed. Graduate students are responsible for submitting an application for graduation as well as information regarding their thesis/dissertation to be listed in the program.