

The background features silhouettes of graduation caps at the top and raised hands at the bottom, set against a dark blue-grey background. The central text is in orange and white.

APRIL 27, 2023

20

THE CLASS OF

23

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, KNOXVILLE

**MULTICULTURAL GRADUATION
CELEBRATION**

Presented by the Office of Multicultural Student Life

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"ONE THAT BEARETH A TORCH SHADOWETH ONESELF TO GIVE LIGHT TO OTHERS"

- THE VOLUNTEER CREED



THE UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE

PROGRAM

WELCOME AND PURPOSE

UNIVERSITY ADDRESS

Crystal Hardeman-Ikem
Associate Dean of Students, Director of Inclusive Excellence

Antoinette Williams
President, Black Alumni Council

SPECIAL PERFORMANCE

DaMya Jones

KEYNOTE SPEECH

Jordan Brown

PRESENTATION OF GRADUATES

Dignitaries, Graduates, Faculty
Office of Multicultural Student Life Staff

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

Carl Cowan Scholarship Recipients
Dr. Tanisha L. Jenkins Beacon of Light Award

SENIOR REFLECTION

Pilar Lahnyetah García

SPECIAL PERFORMANCE

Kaiya Moore

CLOSING REMARKS

Anthony Prewitt
Office of Multicultural Student Life Director

RECEPTION (STUDENT UNION 270)

"ONE THAT BEARETH A TORCH SHADOWETH ONESELF TO GIVE LIGHT TO OTHERS"

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AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

2023-2024 CARL COWAN SCHOLARSHIP

The History of the Scholarship

The Carl Cowan Scholarship Fund was made possible through initial donations and contributions from individuals and businesses after Black students and faculty members in the early 1970s sought to identify additional funding sources for Black students. The endowment was originally named the Minority Scholarship and Assistance Fund. In 1983, the name of the endowment was changed to the Carl Cowan Scholarship Endowment Fund and is open to all students.

Carl Cowan was born in Knoxville in 1902, attended Knoxville College, and received a law degree from Howard University College of Law. Mr. Cowan practiced law in Knox County from 1934 until 1980 and was appointed as the first African American assistant district attorney in Knox County in 1953.



Photo: Carl Cowan

Stipend

Four scholarships of \$1,000 will be awarded for the 2023-2024 academic year. The funds will be dispersed in increments of \$500, to be awarded at the beginning of the Fall and Spring terms to each recipient.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

DR. TANISHA L. JENKINS BEACON OF LIGHT AWARD

About the Award

Established on April 23, 2015, the Tanisha L. Jenkins Beacon of Light Award recognizes a faculty or staff member who has made outstanding contributions to diversity and multiculturalism at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Dr. Jenkins once said, "We have the opportunity to positively impact the next generation and help them understand and appreciate the global society we all live in and know that they have the opportunity to change the world for the better."

During Dr. Jenkins' time at the University of Tennessee, she was a leader, mentor, and advocate for students of color. The recipient of this award demonstrates the characteristics of what the Beacon of Light Award represents.

This award is presented once a year at the annual Multicultural Graduation Celebration hosted by the Office of Multicultural Student Life.



Photo: Dr. Tanisha Jenkins

STUDENT PERFORMANCES

MEET THE PERFORMERS

DaMya Jones

DaMya Jones is from Clarksville, TN and is currently a first-year student studying biomedical engineering. After graduating, she plans to pursue a doctorate and go into cancer research. She is currently a member of the UT Biomedical Engineering Society, Engineers in Medicine, the Society of Future Women in Medicine, and next year will be serving as a chairperson for the National Society of Black Engineers.

DaMya would like people to remember her as someone they could always go to in times of need. "My wish is that I made enough of a difference in the world that people remember it."



Photo: DaMya Jones

Kaiya Moore

Kaiya Moore is a first generation college student from Chattanooga, TN. She is proudly graduating from the Haslam College of Business as a Marketing major with a concentration in International Business.

In the future, she hopes to impact the world through sharing music she's created, and she hopes to create a non-profit organization focused on the fine & performing arts for children in grades K-12.



Photo: Kaiya Moore

MULTICULTURAL GRADUATION KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Jordan Brown

A Memphis native, Jordan Brown is a graduating senior studying psychology and sociology. Her campus contribution has touched Minority Enhancement for the University of Tennessee (ME4UT), Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., the Jones Center for Leadership and Service, and the Student Government Association. This impact culminated in continuous advocacy for multicultural mental health across campus, assisting the successful Student Code of Conduct reform efforts around discrimination and harassment, and being elected Student Body President. Her efforts across campus have been recognized through being awarded the 2022 UT Chapter of the NAACP Outstanding Junior Award, 2022 SGA Jimmy Cheek Visionary Award, and 2023 Torchbearer Award. Post-graduation, Jordan will be pursuing a Ph.D. in counseling psychology to study community healing and social policy.

MULTICULTURAL GRADUATION SENIOR REFLECTION



Pilar Lahnyetah García

Pilar Lahnyetah Garcia is a graduating senior studying English and journalism. They are the current chair of the Native American Student Association and were honored with a Torchbearer award.



2023 GRADUATES

BACHELORS, MASTERS, AND
DOCTORATE DEGREES

Names of graduates are presented
alphabetically and by college

"ONE THAT BEARETH A TORCH SHADOWETH ONESELF TO GIVE LIGHT TO OTHERS"

- THE VOLUNTEER CREED

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

BACHELORS

Anna Lauren Bones
Julian Broughton
Jordan Brown
Aliyah Caise
Destiny Davis
Rubí Flores Reyes
Pilar Lahnyetah García
Kentanna D. Hayes
Lauren Hayle
Sydney Hillman
Emmett Ray Hincapie
Valerie Ho
Ashleigh Ivy
Eyden Johnson
Aniya Keaton
Diego Lourenco
Chloe Niravong
Abigail Perez
Justin Phatsadavong

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

BACHELORS

Eriel Sales
Kaitlyn Schroth
Mariana Torres-Panzera
Ana Paola Villegas
Peter Vu
Camiah Wilson
Kennedi Wilson

MASTERS

Rosemary A. Ayelazuno
Livingstone Makwerere
Sidney Marshall
Kayla Roulhac

DOCTORATE

Alexanderia Lacy

COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION

BACHELORS

Miguel Andrés Auvert

Valentina Gómez

Abby Henry

Leslie Hernandez

Madison Payne

Melody Powell

Lilly Tran

MASTERS

Laurenz Howard

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, HEALTH,
AND HUMAN SCIENCES

BACHELORS

Cielo Rico Andrade
Olivia Fernandez
Alyssa Hamilton

MASTERS

Mandeep Brar
Yetunde Fadipe
Temvelo R Matsebula
Ariella Mingo
Shelby Vaughn

HASLAM COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

BACHELORS

Jada Bennett
Kyah Adele Bourbon-Bienville
Payton Butler
Lorenzo Carrion Diaz
Ivan Delgadillo
Sandra Gutierrez
LaKesiya Houston
Kiara Mitchell
Kaiya Moore
Sarvinoz Nabiyeva
Hai Nguyen
Kush Patel
Andrea Pineda
Fredderick Antonio Richardson
Patricia Richardson
Laura I. Salaz
Alexis Sarawan
Summer Souvannaseng
Ashna Tipirneni
Luciana Vasquez

HASLAM COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

MASTERS

Carmanelette Rawls

HERBERT COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

BACHELORS

Damon Conway
Legna Soto-Gonzalez

MASTERS

Emoni White

DOCTORATE

Ekramul Haque EHITE

COLLEGE OF NURSING

BACHELORS

Natalia Vyacheslavovna Franchuk

COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK

BACHELORS

Tianna Madison
Amiee Michele Sadler

TICKLE COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

BACHELORS

Bianca Candelaria
Diego Ferrer
Ariel Lane
Kishan Patel
Riya Patel
Mackenzie Robinson
Jenifer Rodriguez
Emily Tran
Diego M. Uribe-Fabian

MULTICULTURAL GRADUATION SPECIAL THANKS & RECOGNITION



Carmanette Rawls and Sidney Marshall

Among the Class of 2023 graduates are Office of Multicultural Student Life Accounting Specialist, Carmanette Rawls, and MSL Graduate Research Assistant, Sidney Marshall. Carmanette is graduating with her Master's of Science in Management and Human Resources. And Sidney is graduating with her Masters of Public Policy and Administration.

Multicultural Student Life is so proud of you. Thank you for all you do to uplift and empower our students and campus.

MULTICULTURAL GRADUATION COLLAGE OF FLAGS

AS A WAY TO PAY HOMAGE TO OUR GRADUTES' MANY TRADITIONS AND CULTURES, WE ASKED GRADUATES TO SHARE IMAGES OF ANY FLAGS THAT BEST REPRESENT THEIR CULTURAL IDENTITIES AND HERITAGES. 19 UNIQUE FLAGS WERE PROVIDED BY OUR GRADUATES AND ARE DISPLAYED BELOW.



(TOP ROW, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT): FLAG OF THE BAHAMAS, THE CHILEAN FLAG, FLAG OF CHINA, FLAG OF COLOMBIA; (SECOND ROW): FLAG OF CUBA, FLAG OF EL SALVADOR, FLAG OF GHANA, FLAG OF GUATEMALA; (THIRD ROW): FLAG OF INDIA, FLAG OF JAMAICA, FLAG OF LAOS, FLAG OF MEXICO; (FOURTH ROW): FLAG OF PUERTO RICO, RUSSIA-UKRAINE FLAG, SIKH FLAG, FLAG OF THE SANTA YNEZ BAND OF CHUMASH INDIANS; (FIFTH ROW): FLAG OF UZBEKISTAN, FLAG OF VENEZUELA, FLAG OF VIETNAM



GIVING THANKS

GRADUATE THANKS AND DEDICATIONS

We would like to provide space for our graduates to publicly thank the people who positively impacted their educational journeys.

All submissions are ordered alphabetically by graduates' last names

MULTICULTURAL GRADUATION GIVING THANKS: A WORD FROM OUR GRADUATES

Miguel Andrés Auvert

"I would like to personally thank all of my family and friends who have helped me tremendously along this journey! I would also like to thank my Advisor Dr. Julie Longmire! Thank you!"

Rosemary A. Ayelazuno

"Special thanks to my advisor Dr. LaToya Eaves, for her guidance and unending assistance. I want to also thank my committee members, Dr. Nikki Luke, Dr. Solange Muñoz, and Dr. Derek Alderman, for their guidance during this process. Lastly, to my family and friends, especially Kayla Roulhac and Dr. Francis Aduku, for their unwavering Support."

Anna Lauren Bones

"For my family and my ancestors. I am all that I am because of you."

Kyah Adele Bourbon-Bienville

"Thank you to all the POC, women, and minorities before me who have cultivated an environment where I am allowed to grow here now. My effort is dedicated to people in my current generation and beyond and I hope I can be a good example to emulate. Representation has changed my life forever and I am here to represent the girls who didn't know how they were going to make it to college; we will always find a way."

Damon Conway

"Thank you to MSL for being a great resource for me. I would also like to thank you, Ms. Naquaina Moore, for being my first advisor and giving me advice throughout my collegiate career."

Ivan Delgadillo

"I would like to thank everyone in the Haslam Office of Diversity and Community Relations: Pamela Sanchez, Nayasha Farrior, Clarence Vaughn, and Donna Collier. Without you, I wouldn't have had an encouraging and supportive community that kept me motivated."

MULTICULTURAL GRADUATION GIVING THANKS: A WORD FROM OUR GRADUATES

Ekramul Haque EHITE

"Thank you to the From Superheroes team (Andrew, Diana, Craig, Rebecca, Jocelyn, and Kat) for your amazing podcasts that inspired me through my doctoral journey!"

Yetunde Fadipe

"I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to my parents and siblings for their constant love, guidance, and support throughout my educational journey. Their unrelenting belief in my abilities has been a driving force that has motivated me to work hard and pursue my goals. I am also grateful to the Department of Nutrition and most especially my advisor, Dr. Marsha Spence, and Oluwafemifola Oyedeji, for their unwavering dedication to my growth and development, providing me with valuable teaching, advice, and encouragement. I would like to extend my appreciation to my dear friend, Candace, for her continuous support and friendship that means a lot to me. Lastly, I cannot forget to express my profound appreciation to my friends Tawa, Adiat, Kayla, Jayda, Hailey, Iyanu, Marrisa, Sri, and everyone who has made this journey easy and memorable. I will always cherish the memories we've created together. Love you all."

Diego Ferrer

"I would like to thank my parents for always supporting me throughout my college career. I would also like to thank my sister for inspiring me to pursue engineering. Finally, I would like to thank Mr. Griffin, the Fred D. Brown Jr. Director of the Office of Diversity Programs, for always being an excellent mentor to me."

Natalia Vyacheslavovna Franchuk

"Dear Family, Thank you for supporting me daily across the Ocean: Mother- Natalia, Father- Vyacheslav, Sister- Kseniia, Mentor - Inessa Magilina, Friend -Julia Moskaleva.

I wouldn't be where I am today without Eileen Blando, Maria Alvarez, Svetlana Rowland, Roza Kostyunina, Mamta Jain, Tish Damrose, Marissa Elena Yáñez, and Ray."

MULTICULTURAL GRADUATION GIVING THANKS: A WORD FROM OUR GRADUATES

Pilar Lahnyetah García

"To Dr. Lisa King, Dr. Brooke Bauer, and Kim Smith.

Thank you for being such a large part of my educational journey and providing a remarkable space for Indigenous students on campus. You've made me feel so welcome at the University of Tennessee by not only being so supportive with your time, but your words of wisdom, your stories, and your presence. You've created such an incredible feeling of belonging on this campus which is irreplaceable. At times when the world feels uncertain, I am reminded by you of the strength, the beauty, the nurturing, the intelligence, and the resilience of Indigenous women. From the bottom of my heart, kaqinaš (thank you)."

Sandra Gutierrez

"I would like to thank my parents who gave me the opportunity to attend this great university and for pushing me to always do my best. I would also like to thank my older brother Luis for paving the path for me and providing so much support."

Kentanna D. Hayes

"Big thanks to my family and friends who have guided and supported my throughout my endeavors. I wouldn't have done it without you all! Much love!"

Livingstone Makwerere

"I express my sincere gratitude to the University of Tennessee, Knoxville for its generosity and support to me throughout my studies."

MULTICULTURAL GRADUATION GIVING THANKS: A WORD FROM OUR GRADUATES

Sidney Marshall

"With sincere gratitude in my heart, I would like to thank my mom, Myrna Marshall, for her unwavering support of my educational and professional endeavors; I would like to thank my dad, Vincent Marshall, for his undying support in my success and for believing in my dreams; I would like to thank my best friends Bre and Mimi for their continued support and last but definitely not least, I would like to thank Allie, NaQuaina, Anthony, Simphany, Carmi, Mr. Hill, Ms. Diane and Joshua for pouring into me for the last year - working in the Office of Multicultural Student Life has been nothing short of a blessing."

Kaiya Moore

"I really want to thank my family and friends for believing in me through every challenge that I've endured during my college experience. I would also love to thank Mr. Reggie Jenkins & Dr. Dasha Lundy for their guidance & mentorship during these past few years. Becoming a member of the Haslam College of Business' premier honors program, Greg & Lisa Smith Global Leadership Scholars program was a big deal to me being a first generation college student. So I have to give a shout out to this program for continuously pushing me to achieve higher, and believe that I in fact can do anything I set my mind to. Lastly, I want to thank ME4UT & its alumni for showing me that UTK is truly my home sweet home. ME4UT is the organization that got me here, and becoming a member gave me so many reasons to stay and embrace this culture. I am so thankful to have had so many positive experiences at UTK and I am proud to say that I fulfilled the goals I set for my college experience."

Sarvinoz Nabiyeva

"I would not have graduated if it weren't for my sister Dildora Nabiyeva. Thank you so much! A big thank you to the University of Tennessee. Go Vols!"

Andrea Pineda

"I want to thank the Office of Diversity & Community Relations, specifically Nayasha and Pamela. Throughout my college journey, I have had the privilege to get aquatinted with some of the sweetest, selfless beings. They care about their kids and want to ensure success in everyone they cross paths with. I'm so happy to say they were part of my college experience and they shaped me."

MULTICULTURAL GRADUATION GIVING THANKS: A WORD FROM OUR GRADUATES

Amiee Michele Sadler

"Thank you to my daughter who was my cheerleader and study buddy. Thank you to Dr. Foster who reminded me why I started and why I had to finish. Thank you to my professors who saw me as a person and not just another student. I am so thankful for you all."

Alexis Sarawan

"I want to thank Megan King and Pamela Sanchez for the guidance they've provided throughout my journey as an undergraduate."

Legna Soto-Gonzalez

"I would love to personally thank Miss NaQuina Moore, Dr. Sharon Couch, Dr. Sharon Jean-Philippe, Dr. Craig Pickett, to alum Ashlyn Anderson, Nneka Walson, and any one else who has positively made an impact on my collegiate journey and who has guided me when I needed it most. For these professionals and resources I am thankful to be successfully graduating from The University of Tennessee-Knoxville!"

Shelby Vaughn

"Thank you God. Thank you to my professors. Thank you to my family."

Emoni White

"To my family,

I wanted to take a moment to express my deep gratitude for your unconditional support and encouragement throughout my educational journey in receiving my Masters. Your love, guidance, and constant motivation have been instrumental in helping me achieve this significant milestone in my life. I cannot express how grateful I am. I want you to know that I could not have done it without you."

MULTICULTURAL GRADUATION RESOURCES FOR GRADUATES

Find a Special Interest and Diversity Alumni Council

The UT Office of Alumni Relations strives to enrich the lives of students and alumni and advance the university through service to the Volunteer family.

In recognition of our dynamic and diverse alumni populations, we're proud to support several special interest and diversity alumni councils. If you're passionate about building a welcoming community for all Vols and dedicated to UT's traditions of service and leadership, please consider volunteering for a council.

More information about available Alumni Councils can be found at alumni.utk.edu. Councils include:

- [Pride of the Southland Marching Band Alumni Council](#)
- [Latino Alumni Council](#)
- [Army ROTC Alumni Council](#)
- [Air Force ROTC Alumni Council](#)
- [LGBTQIA+ Alumni Council](#)
- [UT Retirees Council](#)
- [Black Alumni Council](#)
- [Young Alumni Council](#)

Graduates interested in joining the Latino Alumni Council or the Black Alumni Council are encouraged to contact Phyllis Moore, Director of Alumni Affairs, at phyllismoore@tennessee.edu.

MULTICULTURAL GRADUATION VENUE MAP

