



# GRADUATE AWARDS CEREMONY

MONDAY, MAY 19, 2025

DEBAUN AUDITORIUM, EDWIN A. STEVENS HALL



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## ORDER OF CEREMONY

### **WELCOME**

**Nathalie Waite Brown**

Assistant Dean of Students and Director for Graduate Student Life

### **CONGRATULATORY REMARKS**

**Constantin Chassapis**

Senior Vice Provost for Graduate Education

### **PRESENTATION OF ACADEMIC AWARDS**

**Jean Zu**

Lore E. Feiler Dean, Charles V. Schaefer, Jr.

School of Engineering and Science

**GJ de Vreede**

Dean, School of Business

**Constantin Chassapis**

Senior Vice Provost for Graduate Education

### **PRESENTATION OF CO-CURRICULAR AWARDS**

Counseling and Psychological Services

Division of Information Technology

DuckCard Office

Graduate Academics

Graduate Student Life

### **RECEPTION**

To follow in University Center – Tech Flex Auditorium

At any time, photography or videography may be occurring on Stevens' campus. Resulting footage may include the image or likeness of event attendees. Such footage is Stevens' property and may be used for Stevens' commercial and/or noncommercial purposes. By entering, you consent and waive any claim against Stevens related to such use in any media. You are responsible for notifying the event organizer or photographer if you do not wish to be photographed or filmed.

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CHARLES V. SCHAEFER, JR.  
SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND SCIENCE

**BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING**

**OUTSTANDING DISSERTATION AWARD**

Presented for an outstanding Ph.D. thesis

**Xueshen Li, Jun Ming (Sam) Liu**

**HIGH ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT BY A MASTER'S STUDENT IN  
BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING**

Presented for outstanding academic achievement in the master's  
program in biomedical engineering

**Aaron Shamouil**

**CHEMICAL ENGINEERING AND MATERIALS SCIENCE**

**MORTON M. TRAUM AWARD**

For outstanding achievement in pursuing the master's degree in  
materials science and engineering

**Isabella Furrick, Ruhao Li**

**EXXON MOBIL AWARD**

For outstanding doctoral research in chemical engineering

**Ayodeji Omoniyi**

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CHARLES V. SCHAEFER, JR.  
SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND SCIENCE

**CHEMISTRY AND CHEMICAL BIOLOGY**

**OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD IN A MASTER'S IN CHEMISTRY**

Presented for outstanding academic achievement in the master's program

**Laura Masciola, Catherine Minter**

**OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD IN THE DOCTORAL PROGRAM IN CHEMISTRY**

Presented for outstanding academic achievement in the doctoral program

**Meenu Kumar**

**OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD IN A MASTER'S IN CHEMICAL BIOLOGY**

Presented for outstanding academic achievement in the master's program

**Teagan Polotay, Austin Ruth**

**OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD IN THE DOCTORAL PROGRAM IN CHEMICAL BIOLOGY**

Presented for outstanding academic achievement in the doctoral program

**Sadaf Farsinejad**

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CHARLES V. SCHAEFER, JR.  
SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND SCIENCE

**CIVIL, ENVIRONMENTAL AND OCEAN ENGINEERING**

**CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING AND MANAGEMENT AWARD**

Presented to a student with outstanding contributions to the program

**Bhagyashri Wani**

**RICHARD I. HIRES RESEARCH AWARD**

Given to a master's or Ph.D. student in the Department of Civil,  
Environmental and Ocean Engineering for outstanding research

**Hossam Aboalela, Amy Bredes**

**JOHN P. BRESLIN AWARD**

Presented to an outstanding graduate student in ocean engineering.

**Pengwei Guo, Meng Ji**

**COMPUTER SCIENCE**

**EXCELLENCE IN GRADUATE RESEARCH AWARD**

Presented to a graduating doctoral candidate in recognition of an  
outstanding research accomplishment in the computer sciences

**Juan Carlos Dibene, Da Zhong**

**OUTSTANDING MASTER'S THESIS AWARD**

Presented to a graduating master's student for recognition of  
outstanding thesis research in the master's program in computer science

**Nilay Anurag, Hrithik Sikotra**

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CHARLES V. SCHAEFER, JR.  
SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND SCIENCE

**ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING**

**EDWARD PESKIN AWARD FOR EXCEPTIONAL RESEARCH  
PERFORMANCE IN ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING**

Presented to a master's student with outstanding research achievement  
in electrical and computer engineering

**Jingyi Jia**

**OUTSTANDING MASTER'S THESIS AWARD**

Presented for an outstanding research thesis in the Master's program in  
Electrical and Computer Engineering

**Zachary Davis**

**OUTSTANDING MASTER'S RESEARCH PROJECT AWARD**

Presented for an outstanding research project in the master's program  
in electrical engineering, computer engineering and applied artificial  
intelligence

**Derick Miller**

**BEST TEACHING ASSISTANT AWARD**

Presented to an outstanding TA in the Department of Electrical and  
Computer Engineering

**Yunping Fang**

**BEST GRADER AWARD**

Presented to an outstanding grader in the Department of Electrical and  
Computer Engineering

**Prayash Das**

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CHARLES V. SCHAEFER, JR.  
SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND SCIENCE

**OUTSTANDING MASTER'S STUDENT AWARD IN ELECTRICAL  
ENGINEERING**

Presented to an outstanding master's student in electrical engineering  
**Dana Perry**

**OUTSTANDING PH.D. DISSERTATION AWARD IN ELECTRICAL  
ENGINEERING**

Presented for outstanding Ph.D. dissertation in electrical engineering  
**Cengcang Zeng**

**OUTSTANDING MASTER'S STUDENT AWARD IN COMPUTER  
ENGINEERING**

Presented to an outstanding master's student in computer engineering  
**Ajay Thakkar**

**OUTSTANDING PH.D. DISSERTATION AWARD IN COMPUTER  
ENGINEERING**

Presented for outstanding Ph.D. dissertation in computer engineering  
**Wuxinlin Cheng**

**OUTSTANDING MASTER'S STUDENT AWARD IN APPLIED ARTIFICIAL  
INTELLIGENCE**

Presented to an outstanding master's student in applied artificial  
intelligence  
**Marc DiGeronimo**



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CHARLES V. SCHAEFER, JR.  
SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND SCIENCE

## **MECHANICAL ENGINEERING**

### **OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING PROGRAM**

Presented to the student who has excelled academically and demonstrated professional promise and leadership

**Faiz Shams Ahmad Parvaz**

### **OUTSTANDING RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR MASTER OF ENGINEERING IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING**

Presented annually to the student who has done excellent research in the Master of Engineering Program in mechanical engineering

**Xinyue Liu**

### **OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD FOR MASTER OF ENGINEERING IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING**

Presented annually to the student who has done excellent service to the community and demonstrated professional promise and leadership in the Master of Engineering Program in mechanical engineering

**Brandon Rogers**

### **KURT H. WEIL AWARD**

This award was established in 1987 in recognition of the contributions of Professor Kurt Hermann Weil, the Head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering (1957-65) and an aviation pioneer who worked to improve hydrogen-based propulsion systems. It is given annually for outstanding performance in the Master's of Engineering Program in mechanical engineering.

**Kevin Castner**

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CHARLES V. SCHAEFER, JR.  
SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND SCIENCE

**JAMES H. POTTER AWARD**

This award was established in 1987 in recognition of the contributions of Professor James Harry Potter, formerly dean of the Graduate School and professor of mechanical engineering, specifically to steam power systems. It is given annually for outstanding performance in the doctoral program in mechanical engineering.

**Siwei Chen**

**OUTSTANDING TEACHING ASSISTANT AND SERVICE AWARD FOR PH.D. IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING**

Presented annually for outstanding teaching assistance, along with demonstrated service and leadership in the doctoral program in mechanical engineering

**Nima Kalantari**

**PHYSICS**

**GRADUATE LEADERSHIP AWARD**

Awarded by the Department of Physics in recognition for excellence in graduate leadership

**Abdelali Sajia**

**PH.D. THESIS AWARD**

Awarded by the Department of Physics for excellence in Ph.D. thesis research and presentation

**Daniel Tafone**

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CHARLES V. SCHAEFER, JR.  
SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND SCIENCE

**SYSTEMS AND ENTERPRISES**

**OUTSTANDING TEACHING ASSISTANT AWARD**

This award is given to the best teaching assistant in systems and enterprises

**Anlan Dong, Mohamed Mogahed**

**OUTSTANDING DOCTORAL DISSERTATION AWARD**

Awarded to Ph.D. candidates in the systems and enterprises programs who have distinguished themselves in the conduct of research

**JD Caddell, Mohammad Rahul Islam**

**ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE FOR MASTER STUDENTS IN THE DEPARTMENT  
SYSTEMS AND ENTERPRISES**

Awarded for academic achievement and professional promise in master's programs in the Department of Systems and Enterprises

**Evangelia Gkaravela**

**FABRYCKY-BLANCHARD OUTSTANDING DOCTORAL RESEARCH AWARD  
IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SYSTEMS AND ENTERPRISES**

Awarded for outstanding academic achievement and professional promise in the Department of Systems and Enterprises doctoral programs

**Yifeng Peng, Shihao Yang**

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## SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

### **OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD IN THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ACCOUNTING AND ANALYTICS**

Presented to the student who has excelled academically and demonstrated professional promise

**Elsa Bley, Elizabeth Foster**

### **OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD IN THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE AND ANALYTICS**

Presented to the student who has excelled academically and demonstrated professional promise

**Parv Patel**

### **OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE AWARD IN THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE AND ANALYTICS**

Presented to the student who has excelled in leadership and service, demonstrating dedication to Stevens and professional promise

**Hitarth Rakeshkumar Jain**

### **OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD IN THE MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

Presented to the student who has excelled academically and demonstrated professional promise and leadership

**Jack Phelan**

### **OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE AWARD IN THE MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

Presented to the student who has excelled in leadership and service demonstrating dedication to Stevens and professional promise

**Roshan Bastian**

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## SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

### **OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD IN THE MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION ANALYTICS**

Presented to the student who has excelled academically and demonstrated professional promise and leadership

**Tilak Chandana S P**

### **OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE AWARD IN THE MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION ANALYTICS**

Presented to the student who has excelled in leadership and service, demonstrating dedication to Stevens and professional promise

**Hitesh Gupta**

### **OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD IN THE EXECUTIVE MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

Presented to the student who has excelled academically and demonstrated professional promise and leadership

**Alexander Fromholtz**

### **OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD IN ENTERPRISE PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

Presented to the student who has excelled academically and demonstrated professional promise and leadership

**Daniel Kim**

### **OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD IN THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN MANAGEMENT**

Presented to the student who has excelled academically and demonstrated professional promise and leadership

**Janos Farkas**

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## SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

### **OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD IN THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT**

Presented to the student who has excelled academically and demonstrated professional promise and leadership

**Des Alexander**

### **OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD IN THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN FINANCE**

Presented to the student who has excelled academically and demonstrated professional promise and leadership

**Gaurav Jaydeep Sathe**

### **OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE AWARD IN THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN FINANCE**

Presented to the student who has excelled in leadership and service demonstrating dedication to Stevens and professional promise

**Vignesh Kenny**

### **OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD IN THE MASTER OF FINANCIAL ENGINEERING**

Presented to the student who has excelled academically and demonstrated professional promise and leadership

**Victor Dominguez**

### **OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE AWARD IN THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN FINANCIAL ENGINEERING**

Presented to the student who has excelled in leadership and service, demonstrating dedication to Stevens and professional promise

**Charles Hoover**

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## SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

### **OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT IN THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN FINANCIAL ANALYTICS**

Presented to the student who has excelled academically and  
demonstrated professional promise

**Lucia de Alarcon Valverde**

### **OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE AWARD IN THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN FINANCIAL ANALYTICS**

Presented to the student who has excelled in leadership and service to  
Financial Analytics

**Alma Nasic**

### **OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD IN THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN INFORMATION SYSTEMS**

Presented to the student who has excelled academically and  
demonstrated professional promise

**Fahad Shaikh**

### **OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE AWARD IN THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN INFORMATION SYSTEMS**

Presented to the student who has excelled in leadership and service,  
demonstrating dedication to Stevens and professional promise

**Bhargava Naidu Gulla**

### **OUTSTANDING DISSERTATION AWARD**

Presented to the Ph.D. candidates who have distinguished themselves  
in the conduct of research

**Hongju Ren**

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## CO-CURRICULAR AWARDS

### GRADUATE EDUCATION

#### **PAUL KAPLAN AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED DOCTORAL WORK**

Named for the first Ph.D. candidate to graduate from Stevens Institute of Technology, this award is given in recognition of exemplary academic performance, excellence in research and publications, and extraordinary promise in their pursuits beyond program completion

**Siwei Chen, Yewei Huang**

### COUNSELING & PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES

#### **MENTAL HEALTH IMPACT AWARD**

This award is given to a Stevens graduate student who has a passion for mental health education and a commitment to raising awareness within the Stevens community. This individual has gone above and beyond to demystify conversations around mental health and has served as an advocate for those to seek help if needed. They have made a significant impact through their dedicated actions this year.

**Sophia DiCuffa**



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## CO-CURRICULAR AWARDS

### DIVISION OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

#### **CUSTOMER SERVICE EXCELLENCE**

Presented to recognize customer service excellence in our Technology Consultant Program. Awardees consistently display integrity and professionalism while working with both peers and customers, demonstrate versatility, and exhibit excellence in teamwork, knowledge, thoroughness and leadership.

**Om Rakeshkumar Gandhi**

#### **OUTSTANDING INITIATIVE AWARD**

Recognizes a student worker who has demonstrated exceptional proactivity by identifying opportunities for improvement or innovation and independently leading an impactful idea. Criteria for this award include taking initiative beyond assigned responsibilities, showcasing creativity, collaborating effectively with others and delivering measurable results that align with the OneIT values.

**Ayesha Taj Mohammad Shaikh**

### DUCKCARD OFFICE

#### **INNOVATIVE EXCELLENCE AWARD**

This award is presented in recognition of outstanding contributions and innovative efforts in the DuckCard Office.

**Jaswanth Bommidi**

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## CO-CURRICULAR AWARDS

### GRADUATE ACADEMICS

#### **PH.D. PEER MENTOR AWARD**

Presented for outstanding student leadership and mentorship as part of the Ph.D. Peer Mentor Program

**Jun Liu**

### GRADUATE STUDENT LIFE

#### **OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENT LEADER**

Presented for outstanding student leadership in student organizations or in volunteer activities and excellence in student life

**Harish Sateesh Kumar**

#### **OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENT CLUB OFFICER AWARD**

Presented for outstanding leadership and dedication as a graduate student club officer

**Aadyant Agrawal, Ayodeji Omoniyi, Archies Sanjay Patil**

#### **SHEILA BANKS '79 LEGACY AWARD**

Sheila Banks was a member of the Society of Women Engineers, served as secretary of the Black Student Union, and played violin and sang in the Glee Club. In 1978, she graduated from Stevens, serving as a pioneering example for future students. After graduating, she accepted a technical market position with Westinghouse Electric Corporation and was later promoted to sales engineer in the New York office. This award is presented to honor her legacy and recognizes demonstrated outstanding leadership or a commitment to community service.

**Blessing Akpan-Williams**





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