



RUTGERS-NEW BRUNSWICK
**Graduate School of Applied
and Professional Psychology**

Class of



**20
26**

CONVOCATION



Graduate School
of
Applied and Professional Psychology



Master of Applied Psychology
Master of Applied Behavior Analysis
Doctor of Psychology

**Class of 2026
Convocation**

Nicholas Music Center
Cook/Douglass Campus
May 14, 2026

ORDER OF EXERCISES

Opening Remarks

Dr. Daniel Hart, Interim Dean

Faculty Honors

Presentation of Professor of the Year Awards

Dr. Daniel Hart, Interim Dean

Student Speakers

Jenny C. Lee, Department of Applied Psychology

Kevin Eslava, Department of Clinical Psychology

Amalia Gomez, Department of School Psychology

Student Honors

Presentation of the Cyril M. Franks Awards

Dr. Ryan Kettler, Associate Dean of Academic and Faculty Affairs

Presentation of Degree Candidates and Guest Speaker Remarks

Master of Applied Psychology - Multi-Tiered Systems of Support Candidate

Dr. Elisa Shernoff, Interim Department Chair, School Psychology

Master of Applied Psychology Candidates

Dr. Vanessa Bal, Department Chair, Applied Psychology

Master of Applied Behavior Analysis Candidates

Dr. Vanessa Bal, Department Chair, Applied Psychology

Welcome from the New Jersey Association for Behavior Analysis

Dr. Robert Isenhower, President-Elect

Doctor of Psychology – Organizational Candidates

Dr. Vanessa Bal, Department Chair, Applied Psychology

Doctor of Psychology – Clinical Candidates

Dr. Nicole Cain, Department Chair, Clinical Psychology

Welcome from the New Jersey Psychological Association

Dr. Anastasia Bullock, President

Doctor of Psychology – School Candidates

Dr. Elisa Shernoff, Interim Department Chair, School Psychology

Welcome from the New Jersey Association of School Psychologists

Dr. Alexander Fertig, President

Induction of New GSAPP Alumni

Dr. Patrick Connelly, Alumni Speaker

Concluding Remarks and Conferring of Degrees

Dr. Daniel Hart, Interim Dean

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF APPLIED AND PROFESSIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

Master of Applied Psychology – Multi-Tiered Systems of Support Candidate

Kayla Rodriguez

Master of Applied Psychology Candidates

Chloe Alpert	Dabany Garris	Shuchita Nagpal
Mason Ballinghoff	Mery Gayed	Jamie Oconer
Nidhi Bannur	Hannah Graham	Anushka Parthasarathi
Shreya Bhanot	Tanya Gulati	Sona Patel
Deanna Branker	Riley Italiano	Valentina Quiceno
Brianna Clark	Elle Jimenez	Anne Marie Simonelli-Semaan
Alexandra Copeland	Ruth John	Joseph Soldo
Alyssa Curcio	Clarose Joseph	Ailin Tian
Alyssa Dalmau-Rivera	Jacqueline Karlin	Zheny Vilela
Samantha Dasilva	Cheyenne Knight	Melanie Wellmann
Kelly De Andrade	Tatyanna Landell	Maneth Wijerathne
Brianna Eng	Jasi Maken	Shatong Xie
Victoria Enoghama	Daniella Mancebo	Abigail Zimmerlink
Kayla Fisco	Isaiah Mendez	Maham Zulfiqar

Master of Applied Behavior Analysis Candidates

Nancy Cerros-Guy	Kent Hairston	Alexander Marcus
Mckenna Douglass	Sophie Hyde	Nicole Podlog

Doctor of Psychology Candidates

Organizational Psychology

Jeanette Williams ∞

Black and Brown Farming Communities: An Organizational Perspective and Variation in Social Organizing as a Form of Recovery and Repair

Dissertation Committee: Alexandria Bauer, Peter Economou

Jenny C. Lee ∞

Perceived Norms, Emotion Regulation, and Facework: A Three-Country Study

Dissertation Committee: Robert Emmerling, Sharon Glazer

Daton L. Haywood ∞

Towards the Uncolonization of Organizational Science: Exploring the Lived Experiences of Black Leaders Navigating Organizational Trauma

Dissertation Committee: Preston Lindsay, Ebony White

Sara Qalbani ∞

From the Ballot to the Breakroom: The Impact of the U.S. Political Climate on Employee Engagement and Performance

Dissertation Committee: Preston Lindsay, Katrina Monton, Renee Cromer

Clinical Psychology

Jeannine Elizabeth Ederer **

Correspondence Between the Brief Observation of Symptoms of Autism (BOSA) and the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule-2 (ADOS-2) in Adolescents and Adults

Dissertation Committee: Vanessa Bal, Robert LaRue

Corey Bryant **

The Influence of Politics on the Transference-Countertransference Matrix Within the Consulting Room: A Psychoanalytic Exploration

Dissertation Committee: Nicole Cain, Louis Sass, Norissa Williams

Julia Dobre **

Investigating the Relationship Between Social Adjustment and the Psychodynamic Diagnostic Manual-2

Dissertation Committee: Nicole Cain, Deirdre Waters

Kevin Eslava **

Si Dios Quiere: Religiosity's Impact on Anxiety and Depression Outcomes Within Hispanic Populations

Dissertation Committee: Nicole Cain, Angelica Diaz-Martinez

Olúwakémi V. Dauda **

Black Clinicians' Perspectives: Integrating Christianity-Based Mental Health Interventions With Black Clients

Dissertation Committee: Shalonda Kelly, Nancy Boyd-Franklin

Kierra Monique Pean **

You've Got a Friend in Me: Are DBT-A Skills Associated With Self-Worth and Interpersonal Functioning in Adolescents With Attention Deficit-Hyperactivity Disorder?

Dissertation Committee: Joshua Langberg, Shireen Rizvi

R. Rhiannon Simons **

An Exploration of the Association Between Perceived Social Connectedness and Trauma Symptoms in Treatment-Seeking Youth: A Diverse Community Sample

Dissertation Committee: Linda Oshin, Kristen Riley

Nina Thu Dallenbach **

Lost and Found: Exploring Attachment-Based Trauma and Identity Development in Vietnamese-Born Transracial International Adoptees

Dissertation Committee: Karen Riggs Slean, Zaynab Khan

Lucas Sohn **

The Effect of MBT-C on Symptoms of ADHD: A Comparison of ADHD Symptoms Before and After a Course of Time-Limited MBT-C

Dissertation Committee: Karen Riggs Skean, Stephanie Lyon

Alexandra Deane Peterson **

Disciplinary Differences Between Health-Allied Professionals' Attitudes About and Barriers to Integrated Healthcare Training and Practice

Dissertation Committee: Kristen Riley, Holly Lister

Hannah Eve Pucker **

The Impact of Therapy-Interfering Behaviors on Clinicians

Dissertation Committee: Shireen Rizvi, Allison Ruork

Thanharat (Poojah) Silamongkol **

Client and Therapist Burnout in Dialectical Behavior Therapy

Dissertation Committee: Shireen Rizvi, Angelo DiBello

Yasmin Abdelhameed Abdelwahab **

Connection Retention: Evaluating Referrals and Youth Mental Health Treatment Retention Pre-/Post-COVID

Dissertation Committee: Brian Chu, Linda Oshin

Adia Michelle Fielder **

Know More, Do More, Feel More: Understanding Critical Consciousness and Mental Wellness in Youth

Dissertation Committee: Brian Chu, Germán Cadenas Pena

Isabelle E. Siegel **

Under Pressure: How Caregivers' Experience and Management of Daily Distress Impacts Parenting Practices and Youth Mental Health

Dissertation Committee: Brian Chu, Andrea Temkin-Yu

Sheila Vazir **

Your Attention, Please: An Examination of Specific Emotional Attention Biases in Youth With Anxiety and Depression Disorders

Dissertation Committee: Brian Chu, Adam Weissman

School Psychology

Michelle Russo *

Using a Situation-Specific Interview to Examine Regulatory Challenges and Skills Among Middle School Mathematics Students: A Pilot Study

Dissertation Committee: Timothy Cleary, Ryan Kettler

Jordyn Loya **

Writing Against One's Own Attitudes: A Qualitative Analysis of Counter-Attitudinal Advocacy

Writing as a Mechanism of Alcohol Harm Reduction

Dissertation Committee: Angelo DiBello, Elisa Shernoff

Jonathan Arlequin-Aleem **

Centering the Experience of Black Psychologists to Guide Future Research on the Culturally Competent Administration of a Risk Assessment

Dissertation Committee: Jennifer Durham, Erum Nadeem

Cindy Forestal **

How does Misogynoir Influence the Lives of Black Women Across the Diaspora Living in the United States

Dissertation Committee: Jennifer Durham, Erum Nadeem

Megan Peake **

Associations Among Future-Mindedness, Positive Purpose, and Mental Health in Urban Middle School Students

Dissertation Committee: Emily Graybill, Maurice Elias

Elana Fox *

A Multi-Method Study of a Peer Support Program for Orthodox Jewish Youth With Concealable Chronic Health Conditions

Dissertation Committee: Anne Gregory, Adam Lekwa, Rivka Molinsky

Amalia Gomez **

Pockets of Potential: Supporting the Bicultural Identity Creation of Latine Youth in a Diverse School Environment

Dissertation Committee: Anne Gregory, Germán Cadenas Pena

Stephanie Jimenez **

Elevating Stakeholder Voice: The Stakeholder Input, Feasibility, and Utility of a Novel Social-Emotional Learning Tool in a Public High School

Dissertation Committee: Anne Gregory, Erum Nadeem

Jacqueline Aliza Zenou **

Restorative Practices and Anxiety During COVID-19

Dissertation Committee: Anne Gregory, Jennifer Foster

Kayla McNerny **

Understanding Successful Trauma-Informed Implementation in Schools: A Study of School Contexts and Needs

Dissertation Committee: Erum Nadeem, Elisa Shernoff

Allegra Gabriella Gold **

The Role of Ethnic Racial Identity in Ethnic/Racial Emotion Regulation Disparities Among College Students

Dissertation Committee: Linda Oshin, Erum Nadeem

Songul Bayram ∞

A Comparative Analysis of Functional Impairment in Multiple Life Domains Among Youth With Principal Social Anxiety Disorder, Primary Other Anxiety Disorders, and Nonclinical Controls in a University-Based Specialty Clinic

Dissertation Committee: Linda Reddy, Brian Chu

Veronica Blachnio **

Paraprofessional Supervision and Supports in K–12 Settings: What They Receive and Need in Schools

Dissertation Committee: Linda Reddy, Timothy Cleary

Julia Rose Kenny **

Training and Supervision Needs of Paraprofessionals Supporting Students With Behavioral Challenges

Dissertation Committee: Linda Reddy, Adam Lekwa

Pinxuan (Alina) Yu **

Translating Awareness to Practices: Piloting a Four-Session School-Based Sleep Hygiene Education Program

Dissertation Committee: Elisa Shernoff, Emily Graybill, Scott Roth

Erin Lau ∞

Strange New Schools: Factors Influencing the Adoption of Artificial Intelligence in Pre-K to 12 School Psychology

Dissertation Committee: Jennifer Foster, Elisa Shernoff

* January 2026 graduates

∞ May 2026 graduates

** August 2026 graduates

Candidates receiving an August 2026 Diploma have met their requirements pending internship completion.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

Dean's Cabinet

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Interim Dean

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Director of Finance

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Lara Delmolino, Ph.D.
Associate Dean for Administration and Strategic Operations

Jennifer Durham, Psy.D.
Special Assistant to the Dean for Recruitment and Retention

Ryan Kettler, Ph.D.
Associate Dean of Academic and Faculty Affairs

Daniel Rice, M.Ed.
Assistant Dean for Student Success and School Climate

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Chair, Department of Applied Psychology

Nicole Cain, Ph.D.
Chair, Department of Clinical Psychology

Brian Chu, Ph.D.
Interim Director of Clinical Training, Clinical Psychology Program

Letty DiLeo, Ph.D.
Director, Multi-Tiered Systems of Support Program

Jennifer Foster, Psy.D.
Director of Clinical Training, School Psychology Program

Sharon Glazer, Ph.D.
Director, Organizational Psychology Program

SungWoo Kahng, Ph.D.
Director, Applied Behavior Analysis Programs

Elisa Shernoff, Ph.D.
Interim Chair, Department of School Psychology

Deirdre Waters, Psy.D.
Director, Master of Applied Psychology Programs

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Joshua Langberg, Ph.D.
Director, Center for Youth Social Emotional Wellness

Stephanie Lyon, Ph.D.
Executive Director, Answer

Christopher Manente, Ph.D.
Executive Director, Rutgers Center for Adult Autism Services

Kelly Moore, Psy.D.
Director, Center for Psychological Services

Margaret Swarbrick, Ph.D.
Associate Director, Center of Alcohol and Substance Use Studies

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Karen Cascio Harford
*Program Coordinator, Department of Applied Psychology,
Organizational Psychology*

Rachel Diaz
*Program Coordinator, Department of Applied Psychology,
Master of Applied Psychology and Applied Behavior Analysis*

Chanelle Greene
Administrative Coordinator, Dean's Office

Robin Hussey
Program Coordinator, Department of School Psychology

Alice Lau
Senior Administrative Assistant, Dean's Office

Julie Skorny
Program Coordinator, Department of Clinical Psychology

FACULTY

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Alexandria Bauer, Ph.D.
Germán Cadenas Pena, Ph.D.
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Brian Chu, Ph.D.
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Meghan Deshais, Ph.D.
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Sarah Weinsztok, Ph.D.
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Thank You to Our Staff and Volunteers!

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RUTGERS UNIVERSITY ALMA MATER

On the Banks of the Old Raritan

From far and near we came to Rutgers,
And resolved to learn all that we can;
And so we settled down,
In that noisy college town,
On the banks of the old Raritan.

Refrain:

On the banks of the old Raritan (my friends)
Where old Rutgers evermore shall stand,
For has she not stood
Since the time of the flood,
On the banks of the old Raritan.

Then sing aloud to Alma Mater
And keep the scarlet in the van'
For with her motto high
Rutgers' name shall never die
On the banks of the old Raritan.

(Refrain)

Congratulations to the Class of 2026!

Class of 2026 You did it!

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