ORDER OF EXERCISES

MASTER OF CEREMONIES
Joy Connolly
Provost and Senior Vice President, The Graduate Center

PRELUDE
The Graduate Center Brass Quintet

PROCESSIONAL
Die Bänkelsängerlieder

CO-GRAND MARSHALS
Professor Juliette Blevins and Professor Ofelia García

MARSHALS FOR EXECUTIVE OFFICERS/FACULTY
Associate Professor Erika Lin and Presidential Professor Tony Ro

MARSHALS FOR STUDENTS
Associate Professor Matthew Gold and Associate Professor Anne Stone

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM
Xiaoming Tian, D.M.A. Program in Music

GREETINGS
Lorraine Cortés-Vázquez
Board of Trustees, The City University of New York

James B. Milliken
Chancellor, The City University of New York

ON BEHALF OF THE GRADUATES
Kristina Huang
Ph.D. Program in English
PRESENTATION OF PRESIDENT’S DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI MEDAL

Chase F. Robinson
President, The Graduate Center

PRESIDENT’S DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI MEDAL AWARDED TO

Patricia Chapple Wright, Ph.D.
Anthropology, 1985

PRESENTATION OF HONORARY DEGREE CANDIDATES

President Chase F. Robinson

HONORARY DEGREES AWARDED TO

Neal Kumar Katyal, Doctor of Humane Letters
Presented by Professor Don Robotham

Katharine Viner, Doctor of Humane Letters
Presented by Professor Peter Beinart

ADDRESS

André Aciman
Distinguished Professor of Comparative Literature and French

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

Provost and Senior Vice President Joy Connolly

CONFERRING OF DEGREES

President Chase F. Robinson

HOODING OF THE CANDIDATES

Professor Peter Eckersall

CLOSING REMARKS

President Chase F. Robinson

RECESSional

Canzona Bergamasca
PATRICIA CHAPPLE WRIGHT
President's Distinguished Alumni Medal

Patricia Chapple Wright (Ph.D. '85, Anthropology) is renowned for her research in the behavioral ecology of nonhuman primates in South America, Asia, and Madagascar, and for her significant contributions to conservation. She has been honored as a MacArthur Fellow and is the recipient of many awards, including the Chevalier d'Ordre National of Madagascar and the Indianapolis Prize for conservation. She is a distinguished professor of anthropology at Stony Brook University.

A tropical biologist and primatologist, Wright took on conservation issues more than 30 years ago in Madagascar when she and her colleagues discovered the golden bamboo lemur and rediscovered the greater bamboo lemur, a species thought to be extinct. The lemurs lived in one of the country's last remaining intact rain forests, a habitat that was threatened by timber exploitation. She spearheaded an integrated conservation and development project that focused on protection and conservation. In 1991, the Ranomafana National Park was officially inaugurated.

Wright's ongoing research in Madagascar on the behavioral ecology of another lemur, Milne-Edward's sifaka, led her to establish the Institute for the Conservation of Tropical Environments in 1991 and Centre ValBio Research Station in 2002, an award-winning green, sustainable research station on the edge of the rainforest with molecular and infectious disease laboratories, high-speed internet, and modern facilities. Centre ValBio hosts programs in biodiversity research, environmental arts, village education, health, and reforestation.

Wright was awarded a MacArthur “genius” grant in 1989 and three national medals of honor from the president of Madagascar: Chevalier (1995); Officier (2005); and Commandeur (2012). In 2014, she was elected to the American Philosophical Society, a prestigious scholarly society founded by Benjamin Franklin in 1743. Also in 2014, she became the first woman to win the Indianapolis Prize, considered the Nobel Prize for conservation.

Her work has been featured in several documentaries and in the 2014 IMAX film Island of Lemurs: Madagascar, narrated by Morgan Freeman. She is the author of more than 170 scientific papers and of a two-volume autobiography, High Moon over the Amazon: My Quest to Understand the Monkeys of the Night and For the Love of Lemurs: My Life in the Wilds of Madagascar.
Neal Kumar Katyal, the Paul and Patricia Saunders Professor of Law at Georgetown University, partner at the firm of Hogan Lovells, and former acting solicitor general of the United States, has argued more Supreme Court cases in United States history than any other minority attorney, breaking the record held by Thurgood Marshall.

An expert in constitutional law, Katyal has argued 37 cases before the Supreme Court of the United States, with 34 of them in the last nine years. They include some of the most consequential cases of the last two decades. In Hamdan v. Rumsfeld, which challenged the policy of military trials at Guantanamo Bay, the Supreme Court voted 5 to 3 in favor of his argument that President George Bush’s tribunals violated the constitutional separation of powers, domestic military law, and international law. As acting solicitor general under President Barack Obama, Katyal successfully defended the constitutionality of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. Most recently, in the Supreme Court on April 25, Katyal argued the “Travel ban” case on behalf of the State of Hawaii against President Donald Trump, earning Katyal a headline in Politico as “The Travel Ban’s Legal Nemesis.”

A graduate of Dartmouth College and Yale Law School, Katyal was one of the youngest professors to receive tenure and a chaired professorship at Georgetown University Law Center.

Katyal is the recipient of the Edmund Randolph Award, the highest civilian award given by the United States Department of Justice. In 2017, The American Lawyer named him Litigator of the Year, the sole grand prize winner out of all lawyers in the United States. He has published widely in law journals and is a frequent contributor to the op-ed pages of national newspapers, and now on Twitter. He is much sought after by news broadcasts to bring clarity to important legal news. He has additionally shared his expertise with The Colbert Report and appeared as himself in the Netflix series House of Cards.
Katharine Viner, editor-in-chief of Guardian News & Media (comprising The Guardian, The Observer—the world’s oldest Sunday newspaper—and theguardian.com), is the first woman to lead the British media organization in its nearly 200-year history. She has met the challenges of running a news organization in the digital age with innovative business models and a passionate respect for reporting that, as she says, “takes time and effort, carefully uncovers the facts, holds the powerful to account, and interrogates ideas and arguments—work that speaks to the urgency of the moment, but lasts for more than a day.”

Viner joined The Guardian as a writer in 1997 and was appointed deputy editor in 2008. She launched the award-winning Guardian Australia in 2013, then moved to New York to run Guardian US before becoming editor-in-chief of The Guardian in 2015.

She is considered one of the most eloquent and thoughtful analysts of journalism today at a time, as she writes, of “dazzling political shocks and the disruptive impact of new technologies.” As advertising revenue has fallen for newspapers generally, The Guardian has chosen to keep its website open to all readers, rather than using a paywall, which limits access to paid subscribers only. Relying on voluntary support, the company reports that more of its funding now comes from its 800,000 paying supporters than from its advertisers.

Viner’s speeches and extended reflections on the press have highlighted the importance of journalism to the functioning of democracy. In her “Long Reads” on The Guardian’s website, she has set forth her newspaper’s mission as a champion of press freedom, investigative journalism, and the public interest. She has embraced the digital revolution for increasing the accountability of news organizations to their audience. At the same time, she has confronted the challenges of social media and the speed of technology that allow the proliferation of false information taken as truth. Reinforcing the essential role of journalism, Viner asserts that it is more important than ever for journalists to embrace traditional news values and do the demanding on-the-ground work of reporting a story and verifying facts.
ANDRÉ ACIMAN
Commencement Speaker

Graduate Center Distinguished Professor André Aciman is a noted scholar of 17th-century English, French, and Italian literature and a New York Times best-selling author. The first of his four novels, Call Me by Your Name, garnered widespread praise and inspired the film by the same name, which won the 2018 Academy Award for Best Adapted Screenplay.

While a professor at Princeton, Aciman published his acclaimed memoir, Out of Egypt. In it, he shares his memories of his childhood in Egypt, where his Jewish family made its home until 1965 when, amid escalating anti-Semitism, his parents and his family were expelled and left for Italy. The New York Times described the book as “magical and resonant … a memoir that leaves the reader with a mesmerizing portrait of a now vanquished world.” Aciman received the 1995 Whiting Award for the book.

After publishing two collections of essays, Aciman debuted as a novelist with Call Me by Your Name in 2007. A poignant story of first romance, it was hailed by The New York Times as “an exceptionally beautiful book.” The 2017 movie based on it received similar recognition, and includes a cameo role by the author. Screenwriter James Ivory, in his Oscar acceptance speech, thanked Aciman for writing “a story familiar to most of us.”


His teaching at The Graduate Center, which started in 2001, focuses on the work of Marcel Proust and the literature of memory and exile. Aciman is the former executive officer of the doctoral program in comparative literature and has an appointment in the French department. Until recently, he directed The Writers’ Institute at The Graduate Center and the Critical Theory Certificate Program.

Aciman is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship as well as a fellowship from the New York Public Library’s Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers. He is currently working on a collection of essays.
CANDIDATES FOR THE MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE

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FEBRUARY 2018

LIBERAL STUDIES
ZACHARY ACREE
FEBRUARY 2018
MEGHAN ADDISON
MAY 2018
MANJU ADIKESAVAN
SEPTEMBER 2017
RENZO DANIEL ADLER
SEPTEMBER 2017
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FEBRUARY 2018
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MAY 2018
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MAY 2018
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FEBRUARY 2018
YINGLI HUANG
SEPTEMBER 2017
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SEPTEMBER 2017
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FEBRUARY 2018
TALYA WOLF
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MAY 2018

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EKATERINA KISTANOVA
MAY 2018

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MAY 2018

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FEBRUARY 2018

QI ZHANG
SEPTEMBER 2017

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DESMOND PATRICK BUTLER
MAY 2018

ANDRÉA CALLABE
FEBRUARY 2018

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MAY 2018

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SEPTEMBER 2017

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FEBRUARY 2018

TAHA K. POONAWALA
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AMR SHATER
FEBRUARY 2018

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FEBRUARY 2018

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SEPTEMBER 2017

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MAY 2018

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MAY 2018

MELANIE D. CHIN
MAY 2018

STEPHANIE DEBIASE
FEBRUARY 2018

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MAY 2018

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THE EFFECT OF HEARING AID USE ON COGNITION IN OLDER ADULTS WITH ONSET HEARING LOSS: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

ESTHER COHN
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NOISE LEVELS IN THE NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE UNIT: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

SUM YEE FONG
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SPEECH PERCEPTION IN MANDARIN- AND CANTONESE-SPEAKING CHILDREN WITH COCHLEAR IMPLANTS: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

IMARI JANIQUE GREAVES
FEBRUARY 2018
ASSOCIATIONS OF THE MEDIAL OLIVOCOCHLEAR REFLEX AND SPEECH-IN-NOISE ABILITIES IN NORMAL HEARING ADULT LISTENERS: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

MEGHAN ASHLEY JOYCE
MAY 2018
MUSIC INTENSITY IN THE EAR CANAL IN QUIET AND IN SUBWAY NOISE USING FOUR DIFFERENT HEADPHONES

CANDIDATES FOR THE DOCTOR OF MUSICAL ARTS DEGREE

NINA EMILY BERMAN
MAY 2018
SPLENDID DISARRAY: THE MUSIC OF ANDREW MCKENNA LEE

MELISSA BETH KEELING
SEPTEMBER 2017
WORLDS OF IT: ANALYSES OF THE COMPOSED AND IMPROVISED WORKS OF ROBERT DICK

SOYEON KATE LEE
FEBRUARY 2018

LEANN OSTERKAMP
MAY 2018
LEONARD BERNSTEIN’S PIANO MUSIC: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF SELECTED WORKS

HOO YEE LEUNG
MAY 2018
DEVELOPMENT OF REALISTIC STIMULI FOR THE EVALUATION OF LISTENING EFFORT USING AUDITORY EVOKED POTENTIALS

MICHELLE SINGER
MAY 2018
OTOLOGIC BLAST INJURIES

LAURA SINTON
FEBRUARY 2018
AUDIOMETRIC STATUS, SELF-PERCEPTION OF HEARING DISORDERS, AND NOISE DOSE IN AUDIO POST-PRODUCTION ENGINEERS

NICOLE CLAIRE SNIDER
MAY 2018
DEVELOPMENT OF A JOURNALING APPLICATION TO TRACK PROGRESS OF ADAPTATION TO AMPLIFICATION FOR ADULT PATIENTS: DEARDIARY

KATHLEEN WALLACE
MAY 2018
HEARING LOSS AND THIRD PARTY DISABILITY: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

ASIS A. REYES
SEPTEMBER 2017
A PERFORMER’S GUIDE TO ASTOR PIAZZOLLA’S TANGO-ETUDES POUR FLUTE SEULE: AN ANALYTICAL APPROACH

HEESUN SHIN
MAY 2018
A PEDAGOGICAL STUDY OF THE FOUR LAUDS FOR SOLO VIOLIN BY ELLIOTT CARTER

JONATHAN DAVID SINGER
SEPTEMBER 2017
NOODLING CHANGES: THE DEVELOPMENT OF XYLOPHONE IMPROVISATION IN NEW YORK CITY (1916-1942)

GREGORY K. WILLIAMS
MAY 2018
AN EXPLORATION AND ANALYSIS OF THE UNACCOMPANIED VIOLA SONATAS OF GÜNTER RAPHAEL
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate Name</th>
<th>Degree in Study</th>
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<td><strong>ANTHROPOLOGY</strong></td>
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<td>Neil Suresh Agarwal</td>
<td>September 2017</td>
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<td>Yellowing the Logarithm: How Money Solved the Problem of Freedom</td>
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<td>Shahrina Chowdhury</td>
<td>May 2018</td>
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<td>Sociality and Stress in Female Chacma Baboons (Papio Ursinus) in the Cape Peninsula of South Africa: Behavioral Flexibility and Coping Mechanisms</td>
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<td>Eileen M. Colligan</td>
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<td>Thule Iron Use in the Pre-Contact Arctic</td>
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<td>Salman Hussain</td>
<td>February 2018</td>
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<td>Together without Consensus: Class, Emotions and the Politics of the Rule of Law in the Lawyers' Movement (2007-09) in Pakistan</td>
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<td>Ahmed Sharif Ibrahim</td>
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<td>The Sharia Courts of Mogadishu: Beyond &quot;African Islam&quot; and &quot;Islamic Law&quot;</td>
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<td>Deconstructing City Hall Park: The Development and Archaeology of the Common</td>
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<td>Manissa McCleave Maharawal</td>
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<td>Affective Afterlives: An Ethnography of Activism Between Movements</td>
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<td>Military Citizenship in the Post 9/11 Homefront</td>
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<td>Jonathan J. Stillo</td>
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<td>Sick Systems: How Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis Became Practically Incurable in Romania</td>
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<td>Lauren Suchman</td>
<td>September 2017</td>
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<td>The End of AIDS: Gender, Race and Class Politics in New York's Campaign to End the Epidemic</td>
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<td>Yunus Dogan Telliel</td>
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<td>What is the Language of Islam: Reform, Translation, and Secularism in Turkey</td>
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<td><strong>ART HISTORY</strong></td>
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<td>Elizabeth Sarah Berkowitz</td>
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<td>Bloomsbury's Byzantium and the Writing of Modern Art</td>
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<td>Mya B. Dosch</td>
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<td>Creating 1968: Art, Architecture, and the Memory of the Mexican Student Movement</td>
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<td>Posthumanist Animals in Art: France and Belgium, 1972-87</td>
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<td>Saisha M. Grayson</td>
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<td>Cellist, Catalyst, Collaborator: The Work of Charlotte Moorman</td>
<td>Certificate in Film Studies</td>
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<td>Elsie Y. Heung</td>
<td>February 2018</td>
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<td>Women's Suffrage in American Art: Recovering Forgotten Contexts, 1900-1920</td>
<td>Certificate in American Studies</td>
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<td>Barbara Marie Laux</td>
<td>September 2017</td>
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<td>Claude III Audran: Ornemaniste of the Rococo Style</td>
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<td>Christina L. McCollum</td>
<td>September 2017</td>
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<td>Exhibitions of Outsider Art Since 1947</td>
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<td>Alice L. Mcmichael</td>
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<td>Rising Above the Faithful: Monumental Ceiling Crosses in Byzantine Cappadocia</td>
<td>Certificate in Medieval Studies</td>
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<td>Rebecca A. Siefert</td>
<td>May 2018</td>
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<td>Nicole L. Simpson</td>
<td>February 2018</td>
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<td>Prints on Display: Exhibitions of Etching and Engraving in England, 17705-1858</td>
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<td>Sara Jane Weintrab</td>
<td>September 2017</td>
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<td>From Design to Completion: The Transformation of U.S. War Memorials on the National Mall</td>
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CANDIDATES FOR THE DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY DEGREE

BIOCHEMISTRY

JORGE E. BAQUERO
JOINT DEGREE WITH HUNTER COLLEGE
FEBRUARY 2018
FUNCTIONAL INTERACTIONS OF TAU, PIN1, P53 AND MRNA 3' PROCESSING FACTORS IN NON-NEURONAL CELLS

JOSEPH MURPHY BRISENDINE
JOINT DEGREE WITH THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK
FEBRUARY 2018
INFORMATION CONTENT, CHARGE TRANSPORT PROPERTIES, AND COMPUTATIONAL CAPACITIES OF PROTEINS

MARY ELLEN HEAVNER
JOINT DEGREE WITH THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK
MAY 2018
EVIDENCE FOR ORGANELLE-LIKE EXTRACELLULAR VESICLES FROM A PARASITE OF DROSOPHILA AND THEIR FUNCTION IN SUPPRESSING HOST IMMUNITY

TENEKA LATOYA JEAN-LOUIS
JOINT DEGREE WITH HUNTER COLLEGE
SEPTEMBER 2017
REGULATION OF THE AMYLOID PRECURSOR PROTEIN BY PROSTAGLANDIN 12, A MEDIATOR OF INFLAMMATION: RELEVANCE TO ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

QIAO LIU
JOINT DEGREE WITH HUNTER COLLEGE
MAY 2018
BINDING OF MAIZE NECROTIC STREAK VIRUS (MNESV) 3' I-SHAPED STRUCTURE (3' ISS) TO EUKARYOTIC TRANSLATION FACTORS (EFS) AND IMPLICATION IN EEF4 MEDIATED TRANSLATION

MARIAM F. MEGHDARI
JOINT DEGREE WITH THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK
SEPTEMBER 2017
POTENTIAL MODIFICATIONS TO ENZYME REPLACEMENT THERAPY IN ANDERSON-FABRY DISEASE

DIEGO ESTEBAN MONTENEGRO
JOINT DEGREE WITH HUNTER COLLEGE
FEBRUARY 2018
BACTERIAL LPS AT THE IMMUNE MODULATING COMPONENT IN JUZEN-TAIHO-TO

MIHWA NA
JOINT DEGREE WITH THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK
SEPTEMBER 2017
PHARMACOLOGICAL ANTAGONISM AND THE Olfactory CODE

NATALIA ORLOVA
JOINT DEGREE WITH THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK
SEPTEMBER 2017
STRUCTURAL AND BIOCHEMICAL STUDIES OF THE DNA REPLICATION INITIATION MECHANISM OF THE SECOND CHROMOSOME OF VIBRIO CHOLERAE

ERIN SIMPSON STOKES
JOINT DEGREE WITH THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK
SEPTEMBER 2017
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THE DISTRIBUTION OF TOTALLY POSITIVE INTEGERS IN TOTALLY REAL NUMBER FIELDS
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate Name</th>
<th>Degree Date</th>
<th>Title of Thesis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Zachary S. McGuirk</td>
<td>May 2018</td>
<td>On Some Geometry of Graphs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ryan Patrick Ronan</td>
<td>September 2017</td>
<td>Asymptotic Counting Formulas for Markoff - Hurwitz Tuples</td>
</tr>
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<td>Todd Michael Stambaugh</td>
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<td>Coincidence of Bargaining Solutions and Rationalizability in Epistemic Games</td>
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<td>Edger Sterjo</td>
<td>February 2018</td>
<td>Infinitely Many Solutions to Asymmetric, Polyharmonic Dirichlet Problems</td>
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<td>The Structure of Models of Second-Order Set Theories</td>
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<td>Music</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Nursing</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>May 2018</td>
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<td>The Lived Experience of Feeling Disrespected</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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A QUALITATIVE CASE STUDY: JAMAICAN NURSES INTENT TO MIGRATE INTERNATIONALLY

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