

Department of Geosciences Commencement



**Virginia Polytechnic
Institute and State University**

Virtual
May 16, 2020
12:00 noon EST

Welcome to the 2020 Virtual Commencement Ceremony for the Department of Geosciences at Virginia Tech!

As you all know, this year's ceremony is, well, not like our usual commencement. The ongoing pandemic has impacted the entire world, and VT-Geosciences is no exception. Over the past two months just about everything has changed — how we teach our classes, how we communicate, how we conduct science... and, today, how we celebrate.

Even though the Class of 2020 won't be able to walk down the aisle today in their caps and gowns, with their family and friends snapping photos and clapping, we honor and celebrate them no less than we have every other class of graduates. The achievements of the Class of 2020 are just as meaningful as every other class's — perhaps even a bit more so, given the challenges these students have had to overcome in their last few months at Virginia Tech.

So, today, let's all try to imagine that we're gathered together in the auditorium in Hancock Hall, just a stone's throw from Derring, where these graduates have toiled, learned, and grown over the past few years. I hope that today's virtual program provides at least a reasonable simulacrum of our typical commencement ceremony.

Congratulations, Class of 2020! We salute your achievements, your resilience, and your Ut Prosim spirit!

W. Steven Holbrook
Department Head

Program

Graduation Processional: Virtual Faculty Processional

Presiding: **Dr. W. Steven Holbrook** - Department Head

Introduction of Faculty & Staff

Congratulatory Remarks: **Dr. Sally Morton** - Dean, College of Science

Undergraduate Student Address: **Omar Mohammed Ghamedi**

Graduate Student Address: **Joshua Robert Jones**

Acknowledgement of Undergraduate Honors and Awards

Acknowledgement of Graduate Honors and Awards

Presentation of Undergraduate Degrees

Presentation of Graduate Degrees

Closing Remarks: **Dr. W. Steven Holbrook**

Undergraduate Awards

Outstanding Service Recognition Award:

Michelle Marie Worek

Outstanding Senior Award:

Jordan Alexandria Pritchard

Sigma Gamma Epsilon W.A. Tarr Award:

Cameron Robert Chambers

Wallace Lowry Scholarship:

Camille Thy Do

Graduate Awards

Geosciences Outstanding Service Recognition Award:

Alexandria Janson Hoehner, Selva Mariana Marroquín

Tillman Awards for Teaching Excellence:

Maxwel Fredrick Schwid - Introductory Courses

Nathan David Roethlisberger- Advanced Courses

Graduate Awards (continued)

Graduate Student Doctoral Assistantships (GSDA):
Hao Wu, Emmanuel Atem Njinju, Eszter Sendula

Multicultural Academic Opportunities Program (MAOP) Scholarship:
Selva Mariana Marroquín, Joshua Robert Jones

Endowed Scholarships

Chinese Geosciences Scholarship:
Hao Wu, Shangxin Liu

Matthew J. Mikulich Geophysics Scholarship:
Joshua Robert Jones

Charles Sears Scholarship:
Selva Mariana Marroquín

RJ Tracy Research Award:
Eszter Sendula

David R. Wones Geological Scholarship:
Eszter Sendula

Class of 2020

Bachelor of Science

Kevin Andres Bueno	Geology
Cameron Robert Chambers* ****	Geology
Camille Thy Do****	Geology
Omar Mohammed Ghamedi*	Geology
Roberto Carlos Gorjon-Andujar	Geology
Michael Austin Harman	Geology
Zach Tyler Lester****	Geology
Timothy James Makee	Geology
Jacob Daniel Pegelow	Geology
Jacob Wheeler Perkins	Geology
Jordan Alexandria Pritchard** ***	Geology
Patrick Russell Riles****	Geology
Kelsey Moore Tate****	Geology
Taylor Aubrey Warburton	Geology
Michelle Marie Worek* ****	Earth Science Educ., Geology

*cum laude **summa cum laude ***Phi Beta Kappa Member ****Sigma Gamma Epsilon Member

Class of 2020

Master of Science



Joshua Robert Benton

"Temporal Dynamics of Groundwater Flow Direction in a Glaciated, Headwater Catchment"

Advisor - M.E. Schreiber



Graydon Leo Konzen

"Regional Scale Impacts of High-Density Wastewater Injection Disposal"

Advisor - R.M. Pollyea



Nathan David Roethlisberger

"Analysis of the Multi-Aquifer System of the Southern Coastal Plain of Virginia by Inverse Modeling"

Advisor - T. J. Burbey



Maxwel Fredrick Schwid

"Sedimentology and Diagenesis of Ediacaran Phosphorites from South China"

Advisor - S. Xiao



Laura Danielle Szczyrba

"Quantifying the Role of Vulnerability in Hurricane Damage via a Machine Learning Case Study"

Advisor - R. Weiss

Class of 2020

Doctor of Philosophy



Kirkland Smith Broadwell

"From the Appalachians to the Alps: Constraints on the Timing, Duration, and Conditions of Metamorphism at Convergent Margins"

Advisor - M. J. Caddick



Christopher Thomas Griffin

"The Influence of Developmental Patterns on Vertebrate Evolution, with the Evolution of the Sacrum and Pelvis as a Case Study"

Advisor - S.J. Nesbitt



Alexandria Janson Hoehner

"Chemical Controls on the Formation of Amorphous Calcium Phosphate"

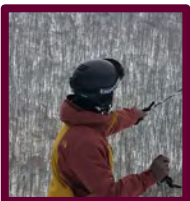
Advisor - F. M. Michel



Joshua Robert Jones

"Investigating Volcano-Tectonic Interactions in the East African Rift System and Low-Latency Data Applications"

Advisor - D.S. Stamps



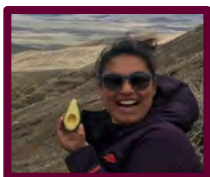
Shangxin Liu

"Dynamics of the North American Plate"

Advisor - S. D. King

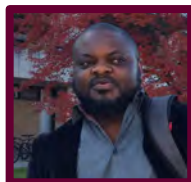
Class of 2020

Doctor of Philosophy



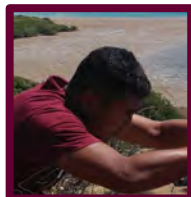
Selva Mariana Marroquín

"Evaluating Geochemical Cycling Across an Early Jurassic Oceanic Anoxic Event with Implications for Paleo-environmental Reconstructions across Biotic Crises"
Advisor - B. C. Gill



Emmanuel Atem Njinju

"Lithospheric-Modulated Convection and Plume-Lithosphere Interactions: Implications for Melt Generation Beneath the Rungwe Volcanic Province and the Malawi Rift, East Africa"
Advisor - D.S. Stamps



Tahiry Andriantsoa Rajaonarison

"Driving Forces of the East African Rift Deformation from 3D Geodynamic Modeling"
Advisor - D.S. Stamps



Eszter Sendula

"Role of Fluids in the Geochemical Evolution of Earth Systems"
Advisor - R.J. Bodnar



Hao Wu

"Numerical Investigations of Geologic CO₂ Sequestration Using Physics-based and Machine Learning Modeling Strategies"
Advisor - R. M. Pollyea

Faculty

S. Bemis	Lab Manager
R.J. Bodnar	C.C. Garvin Professor*
T.J. Burbey	Professor
M.J. Caddick	Associate Professor
M.C. Chapman	Research Professor
J.A. Chermak	Collegiate Associate Professor
P.M. Dove	C.P. Miles Professor of Science* **
M.S. Duncan	Assistant Professor
T. Dura	Assistant Professor
K.A. Eriksson	Professor
L. Fedele	Research Associate
B.C. Gill	Associate Professor
G.B. Glesener	Administrative and Professional Faculty
W.S. Holbrook	Department Head and Professor
J.A. Hole	Professor
N.E. Johnson	Senior Instructor
S.D. King	Professor
R.D. Law	Professor
F.M. Michel	Associate Professor
L.R. Moore	Lab Manager
S.J. Nesbitt	Assistant Professor
R.M. Pollyea	Assistant Professor
R.E.B. Reid	Research Associate
B.W. Romans	Associate Professor
N.L. Ross	Professor
M.E. Schreiber	Professor
J.A. Spotila	Professor
D.S. Stamps	Assistant Professor
M.R. Stocker	Assistant Professor
R. Weiss	Professor
S. Xiao	Professor
V. Yarborough	Lab Manager
Y. Zhou	Associate Professor

* University Distinguished Professor

** National Academy of Science

Emeriti

R. Bambach

G.A. Bollinger

C. Coruh

J.R. Craig

G.V. Gibbs*

G.C. Grender

D.A. Hewitt

M.F. Hochella, Jr.*

J.F. Read

E.S. Robinson

A.K. Sinha

J.A. Snoke

* University Distinguished Professor Emeritus

Administrative Staff

S.J. Collins

M. Cuskovic

A.M. Newcomer

S.L. Sharp

M.J. Smith

Program Support Technician

Business Manager

Advising & Enrollment Manager

Museum Coordinator

Program Support Technician

Technical Staff

J.R. Dunson

J.B. Langridge

M.L. Lemon

G.S. Norris

Unix System Administrator

Sr. Electronic Technician & IT Support

Computer Support Specialist

Electronics Technician

Congratulations, Class of 2020!

Connect with us!



Virginia Tech Geosciences Website



Geosciences at Virginia Tech



Geosciences at Virginia Tech



@vtgeosciences



@vt_geosciences

