



NYU

**GALLATIN SCHOOL OF
INDIVIDUALIZED STUDY**

**2020 MA
GRADUATION
AWARDS
CELEBRATION**

Tuesday, May 4, 2021

Tonight's Program

Welcome

Susanne L. Wofford, Dean

Awards to Be Presented Tonight

Master of Arts Degree Representative

The Léo Bronstein Homage Award

Special Service Award

The Clyde Taylor Award for Distinguished Work
in African American and Africana Studies

e. Frances White Award

Graduate Interdisciplinary Academic Excellence

Alumnae/Alumni/Alumna Award

Master's Thesis Award

Closing Remarks

Susanne L. Wofford, Dean



Announcer

Gwynneth Malin, Associate Faculty and
Administrative Director, MA Program

Master of Arts Degree Representative

This award recognizes the overall academic excellence of a student who has been selected by the faculty to represent the entire class of Master of Arts degree recipients and candidates at the New York University Commencement Exercises at Yankee Stadium.



Rachael Mattson's Gallatin MA concentration is Political Ecology of Urban Infrastructures. She worked as a graduate research assistant on Rosalind Fredericks's NSF-funded project on the politics of discard infrastructure in Dakar, Senegal. Through her research assistantship, the Horn Fund for Environmental Research, along with Gallatin's Global Human Rights Fellowship and Research Scholars programs, Rachael conducted ethnographic research with informal recyclers at Dakar's garbage dump and interned with Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing. During her two years at Gallatin, she also interned with NYU's Discard Studies Collaborative. Her research brings together feminist political ecology, critical infrastructure studies, and discard studies to offer insight into the politics of informal recycling labor and its value. After graduation, Rachael hopes to continue her research by applying for a Fulbright Scholarship and eventually pursuing a PhD in Geography.



The Léo Bronstein Homage Award

Given to a Gallatin student whose work exemplifies the best in interdisciplinary arts and scholarship.

Singer, composer, and performing artist **Aine E. Nakamura** created her idiosyncratic performance grammar of voice and body through her MA project, which ponders the genesis of a work of spirituality and sensibility. She studied rituals and ritualistic songs by women in Okinawa and Yaeyama and their orality. She was supported by a Dean's Award for Summer Research grant, the Dean's Conference Fund, the C.V. Starr Fund of Asian/Pacific/American Institute, a Siff Grant, and the Japanese American Citizens League.

Performances of her compositions include NYCEMF, Dias de Música Electroacústica, and the October New Music Festival in Finland. Other appearances include *The Two* directed by Dmitry Krymov. Winner of the APNM 2019 Electronic Music Competition, Aine has been trained in Okinawan traditional music, and jazz voice and composition at the Jazz School of The New School and holds a BA from Jochi University.



Special Service Award

Given by the faculty and Dean in recognition of outstanding service to the Gallatin School and New York University.



Colleigh Stein completed her BA at Gallatin in 2015 with the concentration The Adaptation of Ancient, Medieval, and Modern Literature for Film & Television. In 2018, Colleigh returned to Gallatin as a Dean's Graduate Scholar in the Humanities to receive her MA in Popular Culture and Fan Studies. Her concentration centers around science fiction, fantasy, and mythology and uses literature, media studies, and fan studies to investigate both the tensions and correlations between professional and fan authorship. Her MA thesis investigates the role of fandom in negotiating authorship and canonicity in *Game of Thrones* and the *Harry Potter* novels. Prior to returning to NYU for her master's, Colleigh worked in film marketing for Universal Pictures in Los Angeles. Outside of the University, Colleigh has presented her work at the Popular Culture Association's international and national conferences in Reykjavik, Iceland; Seattle, Washington; San Diego, California; and Washington, DC.



Clyde Taylor Award for Distinguished Work in African American and Africana Studies

Established in honor of the contributions of Clyde Taylor, Professor Emeritus at Gallatin, and given by the faculty to a student who has done distinguished work in African American or Africana Studies.



Ramon W. Johnson is an interdisciplinary artist and researcher with roots in Ellenwood, Georgia. They received their BA in Sociology from Morehouse College and completed their MA in Black Queer Studies at Gallatin. Much of Ramon's work explores Black LGBTQ+ institutional politics, anti-fatness, and gender. During their time at Gallatin, they received the Richard J. Koppenaal Award for Academic Excellence, Gallatin's highest academic honor. Ramon has had their work published in the Black Youth Project and has a forthcoming publication in the *Journal of College Student Development/About Campus*.



e. Frances White Award

Established to honor the contributions of e. Frances White, Professor Emerita at Gallatin, and given by the faculty to a student whose scholarly or artistic work or practice has impact or significance beyond the academy, particularly in the areas of African History, African American Studies, Gender and Sexuality Studies, and Feminist Studies.



Lizette Terry received her BA from Spelman College in 2017 and completed her MA in Black Feminist Visual Cultural Studies at Gallatin. Her thesis, *From Our Mothers' Garden: A Framework for Exploring Black Women's Artistic Looking Practices*, navigates the critical significance of naming and honing the artistic and intellectual tradition(s) of Black women in the US. During her time at Gallatin, Lizette became a member of the Dean's Team and was selected as a Social Sector Leadership Diversity Fellow. Most recently, she was chosen to join a cohort of six other NYU students and alumni to embark on screenwriting and film endeavors with NYU's Production Lab Screenwriting Development Studio. Lizette's goal is to become a film director and a media studies educator in the social sector where she hopes to co-create space for communities of color to cultivate the gifts of the next generation of artists.



Alumnae/Alumni/Alumna Award

Given to a student for outstanding scholarship and exemplary participation in community-building activities at Gallatin and NYU.



Teka Nicholas received her BS in Fashion and Retail Management from The Art Institute of San Antonio and completed her MA in Sustainable Futures at Gallatin. While here, she studied the sociocultural influences behind the sustainability movement, with a focus on how race, class, and culture shape the way we view and practice sustainability. At Gallatin, she completed several short studies on sustainability and inclusion and environmentalism as resistance and was honored with an award from the Horn Family Fund for Environmental Studies.



Graduate Interdisciplinary Academic Excellence Award

Given to students who have done outstanding interdisciplinary work.



Ross Edwards received a bachelor's in music from NYU's Jazz Performance Program in 2010 and spent several years as a professional musician and teacher. In 2017, he returned to NYU to earn an MA from Gallatin, studying the intersection of religion, philosophy, and literature, focusing specifically on a reading of non-Cartesian selfhood in James Joyce's *Ulysses*. Ross spoke at 2019's Gallatin Systems Conference on the challenge horror films present to totalizing systems and was scheduled to speak at three more conferences in 2020, all on topics combining narrative analysis with topics in religious philosophy. Ross currently works in sponsored research at NYU's Courant Institute and continued his studies in the fall of 2020 at New School's philosophy program.



Born and raised in New York City, **Viktoria Pashtriku** received her BA in Literature, Language, and Criticism and Philosophy, Politics, and Society from Hunter College. She builds on her diverse educational background at Gallatin, where she examined the collective memories of postwar spaces, the role of women in the transitional justice process, and the utilization of art, architecture, literature, and film as tools of controlling or disrupting narratives. Her thesis considers the ways women's stories of wartime sexual violence are evolving the collective memory of postwar Kosovo. As a 2019 Gallatin Global Fellow in Human Rights, Viktoria spent a summer in Kosovo conducting research for her thesis and exploring the ways women's voices encourage Kosovo's public to openly discuss the topic of wartime sexual violence. Following graduation, she plans to pursue her research at the doctorate level.



Patrick Scorese received his BA from Muhlenberg College and completed his MA at Gallatin. His work, supported by the Gallatin Student Resource Fund, studies the application of live performance as means of historio-graphic research. He has performed original works at theaters, museums, galleries, bars, parks, and street corners throughout New York City. A collaboration with his partner, Allison Brzezinski, was published in *Emergency INDEX*. His own writing has been featured in *Ex Nunc*, *The Clyde Fitch Report*, *Cultbytes Magazine*, *Culturebot*, and others. Patrick also serves as the associate director of education at the Jamaica Center for Arts and Learning (JCAL) in Queens. He intends to continue testing the limits of the methodology for an embodied historiography that he developed at Gallatin.



Isaac Slone is a two-time Gallatin alumni, who returned after completing his undergraduate degree to work on a master's thesis with Bradley Lewis. Isaac's MA thesis considers developments and challenges in contemporary psychoanalysis, approaches to understanding psychoanalytic technique as framed by performance studies, and the ways in which these fields can continue to inform each other. Isaac came to performance studies after writing about intersubjective illumination, self-inquiry, and fan practices. He writes and lectures on James Joyce, Bob Dylan, and the rock bands the Grateful Dead and Phish. After leaving Gallatin, Isaac will undergo institute training in psychoanalysis.



Morghan P. Williams earned her BA in Art History, Visual Arts, and Africana Studies from Sarah Lawrence College. During her time as an undergraduate student, she studied abroad in London for an academic year and attended Central Saint Martins and Queen Mary University of London. Morghan received her MA in Visual Arts Administration and Africana Studies from Gallatin. During her time here, she served as a member of the NYU Grey Art Gallery Student Friends Committee and a member of the Graduate Dean's Team and completed an external curatorial internship at K. Caraccio Printing Studio. Morghan is invested in communicating personal and collective experience through visual arts and examining the ways in which various artists across the African diaspora have conveyed themes related to racism, identity, and sexuality. After graduating from NYU, Morghan will pursue a career as a curator with an interest in nonprofit organizations and artist-run spaces.

More About Our Awards

Several of Gallatin's graduation awards are named for people who were especially formative to the development of the School or of New York University. These include:

Art historian **Léo Bronstein** (1902-1976) was mentor to Laurin Raiken, Gallatin's Founding Professor Emeritus. Professor Raiken is President of the Léo Bronstein Trust and literary executor of Bronstein's work. Bronstein came to the United States in 1932 from Europe, teaching first at the Iranian Institute of Art and Archaeology and, from 1952 to 1967, at Brandeis. He is the author of *Lutte et Reconciliation*, *Altichiero*, *El Greco*, *Fragments of Life*, *Metaphysics and Art*, and *Five Variations on the Theme of Japanese Painting*.

Clyde Taylor taught at Gallatin from 1997 to 2008. A cultural historian by training, he founded the San Francisco Bay Area's African Film Society in 1976. His awards include a Fulbright Fellowship as well as grants from the Ford and Rockefeller Foundations. The author of *The Mask of Art: Breaking the Aesthetic Contract in Film and Literature*, Taylor was inducted into the National Hall of Fame of Writers of African Descent in 1999.



Albert Gallatin (1761-1849, b. Geneva, Switzerland) helped found New York University in 1831. An immigrant to the United States, he served as a US senator from 1793 to 1794, member of the House of Representatives from 1795 to 1801, secretary of the Treasury from 1801 to 1814, minister to France from 1816 to 1823, and ambassador to the United Kingdom from 1826 to 1827. He was the longest-serving secretary of the Treasury, serving under presidents Jefferson and Madison. Gallatin held the iconoclastic view that a university should not be an elitist institution. He believed New York City needed a college that would serve a varied urban population and the children of immigrants and artisans. It was to be a school that would “elevate the standard of learning and . . . render knowledge more accessible to the community at large.”

NYU Gallatin School of Individualized Study

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