



Brigham Young University

David M. Kennedy Center for International Studies

Convocation

April 27, 2023

2:00 p.m.

Music Building Concert Hall

Teach ye diligently and my grace shall attend you, that you may be instructed more perfectly in theory, in principle, in doctrine, in the law of the gospel, in all things that pertain unto the kingdom of God, that are expedient for you to understand;

Of things both in heaven and in the earth, and under the earth; things which have been, things which are, things which must shortly come to pass; things which are at home, things which are abroad; the wars and the perplexities of the nations, and the judgments which are on the land; and a knowledge also of countries and of kingdoms—

That ye may be prepared in all things when I shall send you again to magnify the calling whereunto I have called you, and the mission with which I have commissioned you.

—Doctrine and Covenants 88:78–80

Program

University Representative	Renata A. Forste International Vice President
Organist	Sheri Peterson
Welcome	V. Stanley Benfell Director of the Kennedy Center
Invocation	Ellie Ostvig Maguet
Student Address	Lydia Shaw
Performance "Igre Iz Šumadija"	BYU International Folk Dance Ensemble
Alumni Address	Elizabeta Jevtić-Somlai, Class of 2003
Performance "Ganesha"	BYU International Folk Dance Ensemble
Presentation of Diplomas	Administration and Faculty Coordinators
Benediction	Hunter Huillet

Convocation Program Notes

Ellie Ostvig Maguet, daughter of Tex and Donna Ostvig, is from Long Lake, Minnesota, and is married to Zane Maguet. She is a Latin American Studies major with minors in International Development and Nonprofit Management. After graduation Maguet plans to move to Atlanta, Georgia, where she will work full-time for a nonprofit/social impact organization. She is excited to go forth to serve! While at BYU, Maguet was the head delegate for the BYU Model Organization of American States, earned the BYU Spanish Language Certificate, and was an author for the Ballard Center. When she is not in school, she enjoys travel, cooking, musical theater, dance, and history.

Lydia Shaw, daughter of Justin and Lauri Shaw, is from Bountiful, Utah. Shaw is a Middle East Studies/Arabic major. After graduation she will attend MIT where she plans to earn a PhD in Political Science (Comparative Politics with a focus on the Middle East). Shaw was selected as a Kennedy Scholar and the Phi Kappa Phi Kennedy Center Outstanding Student of the Year. She served as the president of the Middle Eastern Studies/Arabic Student Association and editor-in-chief of the BYU student journal of Middle East Studies, *Al-Buhuuth*. For three years Shaw has been a fellow in the Global Politics Lab and worked as a research assistant studying the relationship between identity and democracy in the Middle East. Shaw loves living in the Middle East and is an avid thrift shopper.

“Igre Iz Šumadija” comes from the central region of Šumadija, which is considered to be the heartland of Serbia. Known for its rolling hills, dense forests, and fruit orchards, its pastoral landscapes have heavily influenced the cultural lifestyle. This representation is set in a village square where the young men and women gather to dance with the Kolo musicians.

Choreography: Milorad Runjo

Restaging: Michael Malich

Music: “Baričko Kolo,” “Kriva Kučka,” “Osmica,” “Žikino Kolo,” “Rudnicanko,” and “Gadica” (traditional), recorded by Old Serbian Sounds

Elizabeta Jevtić-Somlai has worked for over 15 years in international security, humanitarian efforts, and education. She currently teaches at a high school in Arizona, where she was hired to build their social sciences and international relations track courses. She is associate director and thought leadership coordinator for Their Story Is Our Story, a humanitarian organization focused on refugees. Dr. Jevtić-Somlai graduated with a BA in International Relations, with a focus on law and diplomacy, from the Kennedy Center. She also holds an MA from BYU in German, with a focus on the persecution of Roma during WWII. She earned a PhD in International Conflict Analysis from the University of Kent, in Canterbury, UK, where she researched international law and the reintegration and rehabilitation of child soldiers. She was visiting professor of Political Science at BYU from 2015 to 2020, during which time she taught courses in international security and European studies and mentored the Model European Union team, receiving a teacher of the year award. She previously worked with the Preparatory Commission for the Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), in Vienna, Austria, for 10 years. As a CTBTO employee, Dr. Jevtić-Somlai was tasked with the development of policy, procedures, and operations to facilitate nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament. She is married and has a very active 5-year-old. Native to the former Yugoslavia and a refugee herself, she knows that trials are part of the journey and that life is precious.

“Ganesha” is a folk-fusion piece from India based on Lord Ganesha (the lord of good luck, who is half elephant, half human), who is celebrated in the state of Maharashtra. This piece depicts how he is worshipped in the home and celebrated in the streets for 10 days every year during the festival of Ganesh Chaturthi.

Choreography: Vaishali Sagar

Music: Traditional; performed by Asfak Khawra (dhol) and Samir Langa (singer); recorded by Nitin Wadekar

Hunter Huillet, son of Adam and Karin Huillet, is from DuPont, Washington. Huillet is an International Relations major with a second major in Arabic Language. After graduation he will travel to Germany and plans to pursue a career in financial planning. As a student, Huillet was recognized on the Kennedy Center Dean’s List, received the prestigious Boren Scholarship from the Defense Language and National Security Education Office, and completed a capstone year in Morocco through the Arabic Flagship Program. Outside of school, Huillet enjoys hiking, board games, guitar, cooking, and ultimate Frisbee.

Graduates

BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

Ancient Near Eastern Studies

BACHELOR OF ARTS

DECEMBER 2022

Derek Kenton Baker
Spencer Ray Clark

APRIL 2023

Nicholas A. Axt
Paul Christian Bryner
Christopher K Cox*
Charles Ronald Masino
Emily Mehr

JUNE 2023

Nicole Francis

Asian Studies

BACHELOR OF ARTS

DECEMBER 2022

Nathaniel Glen Hanna
Ashley Tucker Pitts

APRIL 2023

James L. Allred
Adam Keith Jacobson
Jaafe Cy Kellis
Kiner Kwok*
Julie Madalyn Larsen
Natalie Kay Shields
Lucas Ryan Van De Graaff
Natasha Shao-Wei Wang

AUGUST 2023

Samuel Masato Mckinley
Hanamaikai

European Studies

BACHELOR OF ARTS

DECEMBER 2022

Clare Augusta Hamn

APRIL 2023

Brooke Lauren Burningham
Claire Marguerite Farnsworth
Dallin Cutler Hughes
Katherine M. Johnson
Margret Ann Morris

JUNE 2023

Catherine Helen Marcheschi

AUGUST 2023

Annalisa Cleveland
Maria Isabelle Lyon*

International Relations

BACHELOR OF ARTS

DECEMBER 2022

Rachel Sheila Murdock
Bullock
Jacob Gerald Crandall
Nicole Christina Earnshaw
Hyein Jee
Jin Hyuk Kim
Evelyn Sita Maeser

Jody Lianxi Messick
Daniel Kenneth Stephens
Olivia Wallgren
James Dean Williams
Tate William Wilson
Ryan Elizabeth Woodbury
Bethany Mabel Yang

APRIL 2023

Gwyneth Johnson Allen
Dayson Albert Barra
Mikayla Tai Cheng
Robert Jack Cherrington
Youjing Cui

Isaac Donsavanh Flake
Diana J Gonzales Gonzales
Rachel Marie Gore

Carter David Haddock
Taylor Tonga Hansen
Madeleine May Helvey
Eli Jeffrey Holmstead
Sariah Lan Hwa Hong
Hunter Dale Huillet*

Brenna Rochelle Johnson
Joshua Michael Matthews
Bryant Merrill McConkie
Morgan Alyssa Smith
Joseph Stafford Tingey
Shun Watanabe
Dallin Michael Webb
Erica Sanders Wood

JUNE 2023

Bryce Christian Barton
Amance Jeanne Louise
Stéphanie Deray
Sarah Read Mitchell
Emma Victoria Smith

AUGUST 2023

Alanna Anderson
Elizabeth Akosua Adobea
Danso
Isabelle Ashley Stoddard

Latin American Studies

BACHELOR OF ARTS

DECEMBER 2022

Newel Andrew Brown
John Leroy Hardy
Ellie Christine Ostvig
Maguet*
Derek Christian Romney
Selvin Estuardo Solórzano
Castillo

APRIL 2023

Izzie Emily Davis
Natalie Lizbeth Macias
Ryan Thomas Moore
Raquel Alicia Williams

JUNE 2023

Alexis Marie Ploeger Burrola
Kristen Haws
Jennifer Caroline Rowe

AUGUST 2023

Zachary Tyler Montez

Middle East Studies/ Arabic

BACHELOR OF ARTS

DECEMBER 2022

Laura Elizabeth Andersen
Austin Dennison Cloninger

APRIL 2023

Andrew Philip Bonney
Grant Stephen Church
Lillian Gwenyth Jensen
Zachary Isaac Knudson
Daniel Glenn Lewis
Elisabeth Brynn Morse

JUNE 2023

Shelby Jo Huey
John Ryan McHenry
Lydia Rose Shaw*

AUGUST 2023

Nicholas Arthur Heil
Garrett Royal Maxwell

*Program Valedictorian

Candidates listed for graduation will be awarded degrees subject to the successful completion of program requirements.

Scholastic Recognition

Congratulations to our students who will earn the academic honors summa cum laude, magna cum laude, and cum laude at the culmination of their undergraduate degree. These recognitions will be posted to their official transcript.

University Honors

Diana J Gonzales Gonzales

Major: International Relations

Thesis: The Politics of DACA: The Role of Electoral Concerns in Republican Support for DACA

Lydia Rose Shaw

Major: Middle East Studies/Arabic

Thesis: A State of Refuge

Isabelle Ashley Stoddard

Major: International Relations

Thesis: Islamophobia: The Effect of Personal Interactions and the Media on Arab Prejudice in Spain

Phi Kappa Phi

Gwyneth Johnson Allen

Claire Marguerite Farnsworth

Jody Lianxi Messick

Lydia Rose Shaw

