



Peabody College

COMMENCEMENT • AWARDS CEREMONY

Undergraduate Student Awards

May 8, 2025 | 4:00 p.m.

Peabody College

COMMENCEMENT • AWARDS CEREMONY

Opening Remarks

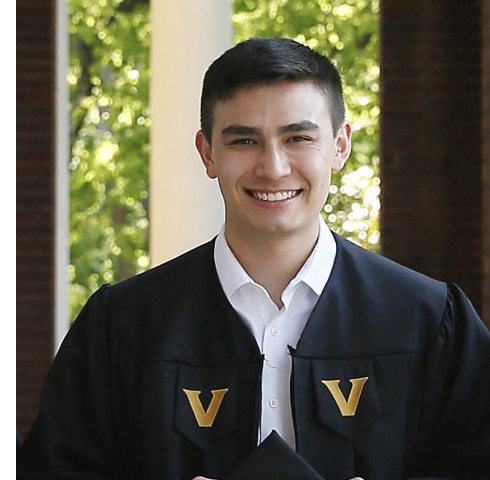
Dean Camilla Benbow

Senior Associate Dean Anita Wager

Founders Medal for First Honors

Presented by: Anita Wager

Cornelius Vanderbilt's gifts to the university included an endowment for this award, given since 1877, for first honors in each graduating class.



Samuel Elliott Lu
(Little Rock AK)

Samuel will be an elementary school teacher in the Wake County Public School System in Raleigh, North Carolina.

The Banner Bearer

Presented by: Anita Wager

Each college's banner, with a field in the appropriate academic color, is decorated with the Vanderbilt logo and is used during Vanderbilt's commencement ceremony. In recognition of Peabody's extended history, a Peabody Centennial Medal in a round walnut frame is mounted above the banner.



Chenyu He
(Yuelu Dist Changsha, China)

After graduation, Chenyu will join BlackRock as an Analyst in the Atlanta office.

The Peabody Alumni Award

Presented by: David Chambliss

Awarded by the Peabody Alumni Association to a member of the graduating class who has demonstrated outstanding qualities of scholarship and leadership.



Danielle Elizabeth Bernstein
(Los Angeles, CA)

Danielle will be moving to Washington, D.C. to begin a two-year management rotational program at Capital One, where she will gain cross-functional experience in leadership, social impact, and business strategy.

The Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award

Presented by: Sharon Shields

This award recognizes a student who has demonstrated noble character and acted as a humble servant, placing service to others before self-interest.



Emily Elizabeth Waechtler
(Wilmette, IL)

After graduation, Emily is participating in Teach for America in Boston.

The Willis D. Hawley Award

Presented by: Anita Wager

This award recognizes a student who exemplifies Peabody's commitment to service to others.



Jamison D Gordon
(Bethesda, MD)

Following graduation, Jamison will be continuing his research investigating child development in the Vanderbilt Stress and Early Adversity Lab as he prepares to apply to a PhD program in Clinical Psychology. He hopes to become a licensed clinician working with children and families struggling with mental health challenges.

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Human and Organizational Development Departmental Awards

HOD Capstone Impact Award

Presented by: Kristen Tompkins

Established in 2011 to recognize the human and organizational development senior whose overall capstone performance had the most significant impact within their host internship organization, as determined by nominating faculty, peers, and site supervisors.



Veshal Konnar
(Meridian, MS)

Veshal will join Capital One this fall as a Business Analyst at their headquarters in McLean, VA.

Honors In Human And Organizational Development

Presented by: Doug Perkins

Honors in HOD is conferred to outstanding and highly motivated, GPA-qualified students admitted to the Honors Program who complete and present an approved empirical Honors thesis based on intensive original research supervised by a faculty member over two semesters. This year, Honors was earned by:

Christine Faith Cabusay
(Staten Island, NY)

“Creative Healing: Examining Emotional Expression in Ukrainian Refugee Children through 2D and 3D Art Therapy” (Advisors: Ashmeet Oberoi and Heather Lefkowitz)

**Connor Vincent
Campbell**
(Staten Island, NY)

“The Impact of High-Level High School Sports on the College Readiness of Young Student-Athletes ” (Advisor: Ashmeet Oberoi)

**Elizabeth Eghonhon
Ebhogiaye**
(Marietta, GA)

“Enhancing Students’ Possible Selves at Silverton School: Rural Cultural Wealth and Critical Social Capital Approach ” (Advisors: Andrew Nalani & Ziyu Zhao)

Samantha Gardner Fern
(Greenwich, CT)

“Cognitive and Behavioral Impacts of Bible Story Cartoons on Second Grade Students in Religious Education ” (Advisor: Heather Lefkowitz)

Honors In Human And Organizational Development

(Cont.)

Honors in HOD is conferred to outstanding and highly motivated, GPA-qualified students admitted to the Honors Program who complete and present an approved empirical Honors thesis based on intensive original research supervised by a faculty member over two semesters. This year, Honors was earned by:

Geneghee Kim
(Middleton, WI)

“Score Reliability and Validity of a Mexican Dialect Spanish Translation of the Satisfaction with Life Scale with Mexican Earthquake Survivors” (Advisor: Bradley Erford)

Zachary Bryan Klinger
(Mount Vernon, WA)

“Pursuing Mutuality: Centering Neurodiverse Voices in Service-Learning Partnerships ” (Advisor: Leigh Gilchrist)

Amanda Joy Morin
(Charlotte, NC)

“Testing the Norm: A Qualitative Study on HIV Testing Behavior, Social Perceptions, and Marital Status in Rural Uganda” (Advisor: Jessica Perkins)

Richard Reid Noonan
(Lexington, KY)

“How Do Gay Men at Vanderbilt Perceive and Experience Campus Support when Building Resistance Against Stigma and Discrimination?” (Advisor: Ashmeet Oberoi)

Honors In Human And Organizational Development

(Cont.)

Honors in HOD is conferred to outstanding and highly motivated, GPA-qualified students admitted to the Honors Program who complete and present an approved empirical Honors thesis based on intensive original research supervised by a faculty member over two semesters. This year, Honors was earned by:

**Prisha Chandan
Punjwani**
(Mumbai, India)

“Building Bridges, Facing Barriers: The Formation and Challenges of Refugee- and Immigrant-serving” (Advisor: Rong Wang)

Yiwen Shan
(Shanghai, China)

“What Characteristics of Bona Fide Group Help to Facilitate Team Performance? A Case Study on HeroX” (Advisor: Rong Wang)

Highest Honors In HOD

Presented by: Doug Perkins

The strongest Honors theses are nominated and read by the faculty of the HOD Honors Committee and selected by the Committee to receive Highest Honors in HOD. This year, Highest Honors was earned by:

**Elizabeth Eghonhon
Ebhogiaye**
(Marietta, GA)

“Enhancing Students’ Possible Selves at Silverton School: Rural Cultural Wealth and Critical Social Capital Approach ” (Advisors: Andrew Nalani & Ziyu Zhao)

Geneghee Kim
(Middleton, WI)

“Score Reliability and Validity of a Mexican Dialect Spanish Translation of the Satisfaction with Life Scale with Mexican Earthquake Survivors” (Advisor: Bradley Erford)

Best Honors Thesis In HOD

Presented by: Doug Perkins

Best HOD Honors Thesis is awarded by vote of the HOD Honors Committee. This year, Best Honors Thesis was earned by:

**Elizabeth Eghonhon
Ebhogiaye**
(Marietta, GA)

“Enhancing Students’ Possible Selves at Silverton School: Rural Cultural Wealth and Critical Social Capital Approach ” (Advisors: Andrew Nalani & Ziyu Zhao)

HOD Anchor Award: (Domain 1 Award)

Presented by: Leigh Gilchrist

The HOD Anchor Award recognizes steadfastness and depth in the individual/interpersonal domain. This student is committed to knowledge and skill development that directly promotes human flourishing, evident through both their coursework and application.



Emily Elizabeth Waechtler
(Wilmette, IL)

After graduation, Emily is participating in Teach for America in Boston.



Haneol Lee
(Olympia, WA)

Haneol will be pursuing independent filmmaking after graduation. He is currently in postproduction for two short films and in development for his first feature film.



Theodore Jasper Perl
(New York, NY)

Next year, Theodore be heading to London where he will be continuing the work of his non-profit, Tomorrow in Focus, while studying AI Ethics and Society at Cambridge.

HOD Navigator Award: (Domain 2 Award)

Presented by: Leigh Gilchrist

The HOD Navigator Award reflects purposeful leadership and direction-setting in the group/organizational domain. This student is engaged in context-driven strategic work that enhances both form and function, evident through both their coursework and application.



Daniel Paul Sak
(Shelby Township, MI)

Upon graduation, Daniel will be seeking full-time employment in business strategy.



Yiwen Shan
(Shanghai, China)

After graduation, Erin plans to focus on growing her marketing company, Lumiverse, which specializes in cross-border e-commerce and influencer marketing.

HOD Voyager Award: (Domain 3 Award)

Presented by: Leigh Gilchrist

The HOD Voyager Award encapsulates broader community impact and visionary understanding in the policy/community domain. This student is immersed in developing analytic and imaginative intentions for wide-reaching impacts, evident through both their coursework and application.



Eric Joseph Connelly
(Danville, CA)

After his time at Vanderbilt, Eric will be moving to Washington DC, where he will be working in healthcare consulting and is excited about jumping into his next adventure!



Samantha Gardner Fern
(Greenwich, CT)

After graduation, Samantha will move to New York City to pursue a career in media partnerships. She aims to develop innovative brand strategies at a leading entertainment company, combining creativity with strategic impact.

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Psychology and Human Development Departmental Awards

Psychology and Human Development Undergraduate Honors Award

Presented by: Leigh Scheer

Established in 1997 and awarded to the graduating senior who has successfully completed the undergraduate Honors Program in cognitive studies, child studies, or child development and who has produced the best overall honors project.



Natalie Rose Andreoli
(Wyckoff, NJ)

Natalie plans to take a gap year while applying to law school. For now, Natalie is excited to continue working in research on campus after graduation!

Excellence in Child Development Award

Presented by: Leigh Scheer

Established in 1997 and awarded to the graduating senior majoring in child development whose work in the opinion of the faculty of the Department of Psychology and Human Development exemplifies academic excellence.



Jamison D Gordon
(Bethesda, MD)

Following graduation, Jamison will be continuing his research investigating child development in the Vanderbilt Stress and Early Adversity Lab as he prepares to apply to a PhD program in Clinical Psychology. He hopes to become a licensed clinician working with children and families struggling with mental health challenges.

Excellence in Child Studies Award

Presented by: Leigh Scheer

Established in 2007 and awarded to the graduating senior majoring in child studies whose work, in the opinion of the faculty of the Department of Psychology and Human Development, exemplifies academic excellence.



Jacob Riley Macek
(Baltimore, MD)

After graduation, Jacob will be moving back home to Baltimore, Maryland and working with kids in an elementary or early childhood education setting.

Excellence in Cognitive Studies Award

Presented by: Leigh Scheer

Presented annually by the Department of Psychology and Human Development to the graduating senior who most clearly exemplifies the goals of the Cognitive Studies program.



Amelia Caroline Murray
(Winchester, MA)

Amelia will be going to Northwestern University to start her PhD in Communication Sciences and Disorders next year.

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Special Education Departmental Awards

Distinguished Teacher of Excellence in Special Education – High Incidence Disabilities Track

Presented by: Alexandra Da Fonte

Established in 1999 and awarded annually to the graduating student who has demonstrated the highest level of excellence in teaching in the area of special education.



Megan Clara Paek
(Hendersonville, TN)

Distinguished Teacher of Excellence in Special Education – Severe Disabilities Track

Presented by: Alexandra Da Fonte

Established in 1999 and awarded annually to the graduating student who has demonstrated the highest level of excellence in teaching in the area of special education.



Chloe Grace Manasco
(Hendersonville, TN)

Chloe will be teaching a middle school self-contained special education classroom at her alma mater, Ellis Middle School in Hendersonville, TN, where she will support students in grades 6 through 8 with various intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Distinguished Service in Special Education Award: Severe Disabilities Track

Presented by: Alexandra Da Fonte

Presented annually to the graduating senior who exemplifies the highest commitment to professional service in special education to support, guide, or advocate in the field.



Shelby Faith Manasco
(Hendersonville, TN)

Shelby will begin Vanderbilt University's Department of Special Education's masters program in Applied Behavioral Analysis. She is excited to become an official double dore, and continue serving individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

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Teaching and Learning Departmental Awards

Dorothy J. Skeel Award for Outstanding Professional Promise in Elementary Education

Presented by: Jeanne Peter

Presented annually to a graduating senior who shows exceptional promise as a teacher at the elementary school level.



César Palacios
(Los Angeles, CA)

Cesar will launch their career as a 4th Grade English Language Arts and Social Studies Teacher at Metro Nashville Public Schools.

Kevin Longinotti Award

Presented by: Rebecca Peterson

Named in 1999 by the Department of Teaching and Learning to honor the memory of Kevin Edward Longinotti, an outstanding secondary education major (Mathematics '98). Presented annually to a graduating senior who shows exceptional promise as a teacher at the secondary school level.



Sofia Bennett Farmer
(Danville, KY)

Sofia will be living and working in the education sector in Dublin for the next school year before returning to the United States. Upon her return to the US, Sofia will teach secondary math and science full time.

Undergraduate Award for Service in Out of School Settings

Presented by: Catherine McTamaney

Presented to a graduating senior who has demonstrated exemplary service out of the classroom in diverse settings.



Kylie Vitelli Frame
(Mill Valley, CA)

After graduation, Kylie will return to California for the summer to direct Kids Across Marin Perform, the theater camp she founded in 2019. Following KAMP, she will move to New York to develop marketing strategy for Broadway productions. She hopes to continue designing imaginative, impactful experiences for young audiences.

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Peabody Office of Student Life Awards

Peabody Student Life Compass Graduation Award

Presented by: Meaghan Mundy

Presented to a Peabody undergraduate student who demonstrates the following PSL values through their leadership and service:

- Advocating for positive change
- Building communities of belonging
- Co-creating meaningful co-curricular programming
- Developing future global leaders and change-makers
- Fostering student well-being
- Supporting student-led initiatives



Natalie Rose Andreoli
(Wyckoff, NJ)

Natalie plans to take a gap year while applying to law school. For now, Natalie is excited to continue working in research on campus after graduation!

Peabody Student Life Compass Annual Award for Staff

Presented by: Nicole Joseph

Presented to a Peabody staff member who demonstrates the following PSL values through their leadership and service:

- Advocating for positive change
- Building communities of belonging
- Co-creating meaningful co-curricular programming
- Developing future global leaders and change-makers
- Fostering student well-being
- Supporting student-led initiatives



Mononika (Sha) Howard
(Henderson, TN)

Mononika "Sha" Howard, is the Teaching Learning and Curriculum librarian at Peabody Library. As the outreach liaison at Peabody Library, Sha is honored to be receiving the Peabody Student Life Compass Award for Staff!

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Peabody Office of the Dean

The Peabody Scholars Honors Program

Presented by: Megan Saylor

The Peabody Scholars Honors Program was established in 2000 to offer particularly promising undergraduates at Peabody College opportunities for holistic flourishing through intellectual adventure, community service, and research. Emphasizing a theme of personal, professional, and civic creativity, the program is designed to foster full blooming of students' potential by offering both breadth, by exposing students to a variety of academic and social experiences in different domains, and depth, by engaging in service-learning and independent research.

Gabriela Andrea Acevedo (Matthews, NC)

Danielle Elizabeth Bernstein (Los Angeles, CA)

Karolina Zofia Bisiak (Niles, IL)

Felix Walter Alain Choussat (Birmingham, MI)

Carolina Legier Delmer, (San Antonio, TX)

Jamison D Gordon (Bethesda, MD)

Charlotte Adaire Graham (Tampa, FL)

Thao Huong Hoang (Ha Noi, Vietnam)

Chloe Grace Manasco (Hendersonville, TN)

Shelby Faith Manasco (Hendersonville, TN)

Olivia Ellsworth McGoey (Metairie, LA)

Sophie Alexandra Minick (Dallas, TX)

Delaney Marie Weimer (Portsmouth, NH)

Vanessa Renee Weis (Powell, OH)

Peabody Commencement Marshals

Presented by: Anita Wager

Bemenut Mesele Asfaw

Danielle Elizabeth Bernstein

Lauren Ashley Boundy

Christine Faith Cabusay

Sue M Chung

Michael Irel Ciszewski

Quinn Charles Darmand

DeChateauvieux

Elizabeth Eghonhon

Ebhogiaye

Samantha Gardner Fern

Kylie Vitelli Frame

Charlotte Adaire Graham

Aaron Thomas Graham

Abigail Jane Hopper

Zachary Bryan Klinger

Geneghee Kim

Veshal Konnar

Yida Lu

Jordan McKay Lucas

Maria Keziah Manabat

Olivia Ellsworth McGoey

Younes Reda Moursal

Daniel Paul Sak

Esther Destiny Ukachukwu

Soumia Sai Vellanki

Emily Elizabeth Waechtler

Cornelius Vanderbilt Scholars Honors Program

Presented by: Anita Wager

The Cornelius Vanderbilt Scholarship began in 2007 with a gift from the Sartain Lanier Family Foundation of Atlanta designated to unite and strengthen Vanderbilt's existing full-tuition academic merit scholarships under the aegis of a coordinated and cohesive scholarship. The scholarship honors the vision of Vanderbilt University's founder, Commodore Cornelius Vanderbilt, who endowed the university in 1873 with a gift of \$1 million to "contribute to strengthening the ties which should exist between all sections of our common country." Cornelius Vanderbilt Scholars continue that mission, bringing intellectual and community leadership to the Vanderbilt campus where they forge interdisciplinary and interpersonal connections that unite people and ideas across the world.

Caroline Legier Delmer (San Antonio, TX)

Emily Morgan Feingold-Fisher (Skokie, IL)

Nicholas Thompson McCoy (Schaumburg, IL)

Olivia Ellsworth McGoey (Metairie, LA)

Peabody Summa Cum Laude

Presented by: Anita Wager

Jungyun (Emily) Choi

Antonio Joseph Clemente

Carson Woodrow Dixon

Quinn Charles Darmand

DeChateauvieux

Emily Feingold Fisher

Charlotte Adaire Graham

Ellen Gebremeskel Habteyonas

Logan Hiskes

Victoria Hannah He

Abigail Jane Hopper

Alexa Rose Kay

Carolyn Alexia Keen

Samuel Gunwoo Kim

Camille Elizabeth Liska

Jonathan D. Lorenz

Samuel Elliott Lu

Yida Lu

Chloe Grace Manasco

Olivia Ellsworth McGoey

Sarah Ware Norwood

Jacqueline Mallon Riordan

Nicholas Yew Hong Tan

Zachary Lewis Ufberg

Emily Elizabeth Waechtler

Ziqi Wang

Vanessa Renee Weis

Jordan Weinstock

Chloe Bella Weissman

Christian David Westphal

Nan Hu

Sara Citrin West

Yelin Xu

