

Commencement

SUNDAY, AUGUST 29, 2021 | 21 ELUL 5781





Our Mission

Gratz College provides a pluralistic education and engages students in active study for professional growth and personal enrichment. Gratz offers graduate and undergraduate degree and certificate programs, as well as learning opportunities for adults and teens. Through productive partnerships, the College also seeks to maintain and expand its institutional and academic relationships in Philadelphia, North America and worldwide.

Many of Gratz's programs reflect the College's historic focus on Jewish studies and education. With a broad commitment to the intellectual and professional growth of diverse constituencies, the College creates access for students everywhere to become leaders in their professions and communities.

President's Message 121st Commencement



Paul Finkelman, Ph.D.

Commencement is the single greatest aspect of my role as President of Gratz College. This day marks the culmination of a long, but infinitely rewarding process. It has not been easy. Each of you has been on your own unique journey, with family, friends, and colleagues who have supported and encouraged you to reach for greater heights than you may have ever dreamed possible. It is truly an honor for

me today to be a part of your journey and to congratulate you as you complete it. I wish we were in person, and yet, at the same time, by doing this online, we can all participate, no matter where we live and work. We are an international community. I congratulate all of you, from throughout the United States, across Canada, in Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East.

We hope to hear from you in the future, hearing about your accomplishments and careers. Some of you will return to Gratz for another degree. Our door is open if you should want to learn more from us.

It is my great pleasure to welcome our students, honorees, alumni, guests, and friends to our community. I offer heartfelt congratulations to all of our graduates. I happily welcome you to your new status as alumni of Gratz College. Come back and visit us.

Sincerely,
Dr. Paul Finkelman
President

Gratz College 121st Commencement

Processional

Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1 in D Major by Sir Edward Elgar
(1857-1934)

Master of Ceremonies

David Malter, M.A., Director of Enrollment Management and
Marketing; Director, M.S. in Camp Administration and Leadership

National Anthem

Star Spangled Banner

Welcome

Paul Finkelman, Ph.D., President

Welcome from the Gratz College Board of Governors

Kathy Elias, M.A.J.S., Chair

Conferring of Honorary Degree

Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa

Spencer Crew, Ph.D.

Paul Finkelman, Ph.D., President

Kathy Elias, M.A.J.S.

Joseph M. Davis, Ph.D.

Commencement Address

Spencer Crew, Ph.D.

Conferring of Degrees and Presentation of Diplomas

Paul Finkelman, Ph.D., President

Honour Moore, Ed.D., Dean of the College

Gratz College 121st Commencement

Hooding of Doctoral Candidates

Stacey Butler, Ed.D., Jewish Education

Paul Finkelman, Ph.D., President

Joseph M. Davis, Ph.D., Professor of Jewish Thought

Stephanie Blake, Ed.D.

Paul Finkelman, Ph.D., President

Philip Moore, Ed.D., Director, M.A. in Education

Emily Bengels, Ph.D.

Paul Finkelman, Ph.D., President

Ruth Sandberg, Ph.D., Director, Center for Holocaust Studies and Human Rights

Student Remarks

Brent Osborne, M.S. in Camp Administration and Leadership

Faculty Remarks

Philip Moore, Ed.D., M.F.A., Director, M.Ed and M.S. in Teaching Practice

Alumni Remarks

Alyssa Cipriano, M.Ed.

Incoming President Remarks

Zev Eleff, Ph.D.

HaTikvah

Led by Saul P. Wachs, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus in Jewish Education,
(lyrics, page 13)

Benediction

Rabbi Lance J. Sussman, Ph.D., Emeritus Chair, Board of Governors

Closing Remarks

David Malter, M.A.

Video/photo montage from faculty, staff and Board of Governors

121st Commencement Speaker/Honoree



Spencer Crew, Ph.D.

Spencer Crew has worked in public history institutions for more than twenty-five years. He served as president of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center for six years and worked at the National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution for twenty years. Nine of those years he served as the director of NMAH. At each of those institutions he sought to make history accessible to the public through innovative and inclusive exhibitions and public programs. Crew has published extensively in the areas of African American and Public History.

Crew is an active member of the academic and cultural communities, serving on many boards that work to generate enthusiasm for history among the general public. He graduated from Brown University and holds a master's degree and a doctorate from Rutgers University. In 2003 he was inducted into the Rutgers Hall of Distinguished Alumni.

Candidates for Degrees

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN HOLOCAUST & GENOCIDE STUDIES

Emily Alexandra Bengels
Jason Hensley
Kerri J. Malloy
Richard Quinlan

DOCTOR OF EDUCATION IN LEADERSHIP

Stephanie Elaine Blake
Michael N. Steklou
Scott Straub
Moshe Abraham Vaknin

DOCTOR OF EDUCATION IN JEWISH EDUCATION

Stacey Allyson Butler
Chaya Friedmann
Eliezer Sneiderman

MASTER OF ARTS IN HOLOCAUST & GENOCIDE STUDIES

Lesley Cole
Michelle Felice Edgar
Janet Lorene P. Hall
Jeffrey Josef Kelman
Lisa N. Wiater
Rebecca S. Zanardi

MASTER OF ARTS IN JEWISH EDUCATION

Stacey Meredith Lasky
Judith Elana Mizrahi

MASTER OF ARTS IN JEWISH PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

Rochelle Caviness
Alex Richard O'Connor

MASTER OF ARTS IN JEWISH STUDIES

Rachel Batya Cohen
Ed Fride
Ivayla Ivanova

Candidates for Degrees

MASTER OF EDUCATION

Dylan Anthony Abrams
Kristen Andre
Lisa Samuela Appel
Karen Avant-Cooke
Pamela H. Ballard
Jenna Patricia Bedekovich
Gayle Bitan
Rachael Blaydon
Scott Cesare Blaydon
Julia Bokunewicz
Jenne M. Boyle
Tina Marie Carpinello
Michael Carroll
Julie Anne Chiodo
Lara C. Cini
Chaya Sarah Cunin
Christine A. Doyle
Lauren Glynn
Dale Dempsey Godleski
Jaime Good
Olivia Jean Goodwin
Nakia Green
Maya Greenshpan
Marissa Hall
Lauren Bieber Hallenbeck
Marian Dock Hendershot
Matthew J. Hummel
Stephen Jude Johnson

Nichole Kaercher
Danielle Keaser
Sheryl Kratzer
Katelyn A. Lawrence
Nicolette Patricia Magee
Nicholas James May
Mackenzie Meyer
Carrie Lynn Michael
Rachel Minkin
JoAnn Daniels-Montalvo
Burgandy Marie Naglak
Amy M. Parsons
Alicia Phillips
Jared Colman Quigley
Samantha Singer
Margaret E. Ridge
Chase Rieger
David Sanchez
Anne Elizabeth Schmidt
Renee Ashley Smith
Stephanie Jane Smith
Abby Grace Thieroff
Anthony Salvatore Vizzini
Laurel K. Werner
Annabella Wiemer
Megan Nicole Young
Daniel Zickler
Kevin Joseph Zwick

Candidates for Degrees

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CAMP ADMINISTRATION AND LEADERSHIP

Justin Donald Hicks
Jared Kaufman
Wesley Randall Long
Sara Kate Nussbaum
Brent Osborne

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NONPROFIT MANAGEMENT

Patrick Allen Bielecki
Mallory Gayle Kovit
Barrie Lee Glasberg Mittica
Jennifer Strear Rich
Michal Schulman
Melissa Vola
Carly Erica Wallenstein
Haley Ann Wessel
Macy E. Zhelyazkova

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN JEWISH PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

Reyna Beth Hartman

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN JEWISH STUDIES

Hannah Lillian Demick

Prize Recipients

L. Bernard Rabinowitz Memorial Award

Mallory Gayle Kovit

Rabbi Joel S. and Sylvia Mintz Geffen Prize in Contemporary Jewish Studies

Rachel Batya Cohen

The Jonathan and Susan Rosenbaum Prize for Academic Excellence

Emily Alexandra Bengels

Gratz College Award

Jason Hensley

Samuel and Bessie Starr Memorial Prize

Jeffrey Josef Kelman

GRADUATE SUBJECT PRIZES

Educational Leadership

Stephanie Elaine Blake

Jewish Education

Chaya Friedmann

Maya Greenspan

Holocaust and Genocide Studies

Emily Alexandra Bengels

Michelle Felice Edgar

Jewish Professional Studies

Reyna Beth Hartman

Alex Richard OConnor

Jewish Studies

Hannah Lillian Demick

Ivayla Ivanova

Hebrew

Dylan Anthony Abrams

Education

Jenna Patricia Bedekovich

Camp Administration and Leadership

Lauren Glynn

Nonprofit Management

Haley Ann Wessel

Scholarship Recipients

Benjamin and Dorothy Abrams
Memorial Scholarship

Michelle Felice Edgar

Lena and Anna Abramson Scholarship

Janet Lorene P. Hall

The Moishele Bursztyn Memorial
Scholarship for Holocaust Studies

Lesley Cole

Belle and Sidney Druitt Memorial
Scholarship

Ivayla Ivanova

Barton E. Ferst Fellowship

Richard Quinlan

Leon Fisher Scholarship

Lesley Cole

Jason Hensley

Norman E. Friedman Scholarship

Justin Donald Hicks

Brent Osborne

Rebecca and David Karavin Scholarship

Stacey Meredith Lasky

Carly Wallenstein

Landes Scholarship Fund

Eliezer Sneiderman

Anna and Isidore Roseman Scholarship

Jeffrey Joseph Kelman

Scott Straub

Carly Wallenstein

William B. and Sylvia L. Rudenko
Scholarship

Carly Wallenstein

UPS Foundation Inc. Scholarship

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Barbara Wachs Scholarship

Stacey Allyson Butler

Elsie Chomsky Scholarship

Jeffrey Josef Kelman

Hyman Gratz Scholarship

Emily Alexandra Bengels

Kerri J. Malloy

Rebecca Gratz Scholarship

Stephanie Elaine Blake

Michael N. Steklof

Scott Straub

Moshe Abraham Vaknin

President's Scholarship

Haley Ann Wessel

Lisa N. Wiater

JCC Partnership Scholarship

Jared Kaufman

**Gratz College gratefully acknowledges
the generosity of the Midcareer
Fellowship in supporting the
education of professionals in the
Jewish community.**

Master of Education -
Jewish Instructional Education

Dylan Anthony Abrams

Gayle Bitan

Stacey Meredith Lasky

Judith Elana Mizrahi

Master of Science in Nonprofit
Management

Barrie Lee Glasberg Mittica

Jennifer Strear Rich

Melissa Vola

Master of Science in Nonprofit
Management - Jewish Educational
Administration

Mallory Gayle Kovit

Michal Schulman

Gratz College Community

Program Directors

- Deborah Aron, B.A. (Brandeis University); M.S.W.; (Yeshiva University);
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- *Joseph M. Davis, A.B. (Brown University); Ph.D. (Harvard University);
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- *Dina Maiben, B.A. (University of Utah); M.A.J.S. (Gratz College);
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- *David Malter, B.S. (James Madison University); M.A. (Montclair State University);
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- *Philip Moore, B.A. (Syracuse); M.F.A. (Goddard College); Ed.D (Gratz College);
Director, M.Ed and M.S. in Teaching Practice
- *Ruth N. Sandberg, B.A. (Bryn Mawr College); Rabbi (Reconstructionist Rabbinical College);
Ph.D. (University of Pennsylvania); Director, Center for Holocaust Studies and Human Rights;
Director of Holocaust and Genocide Studies Programs; Assistant Professor; Leonard and Ethel Landau Professor of Rabbinics;
Director, Interfaith Leadership Program

*Full-time Faculty

Executive Staff

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- Naomi Housman, Ed.M., Director of Institutional Advancement
- David Malter, M.A., Director of Enrollment Management & Marketing
- Suzette Martinez-Quilles, M.B.A., Director of Technology & Security
- Scott Minkoff, M.A., Registrar
- Honour Moore, Ed.D., Dean of the College
- Trisha Swed, M.Ed., Director of Gratz Advance

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Executive Committee

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Arthur J. Wolak, Ph.D. '13, Member

National Anthem of Israel: HaTikvah

Kol od balevav p'nimah
Nefesh Yehudi homiyah,
Ulfa'atey mizrach kadimah,
Ayin l'tzion tzofiyah,
Od lo avdah tikvatenu,
Hatikvah bat shnot alpayim,
L'hiyot am chofshi b'artzenu,
Eretz Tzion (v)'Y(e)rushalayim

An eye still gazes toward Zion
Our hope is not yet lost,
The hope of two thousand years,
To be a free people in our land,
The land of Zion and Jerusalem

כל עוד בלב פנימה
נפש יהודי הומייה
ולפאתי מזרח קדימה
עין לציון צופיה.
עוד לא אבדה תקוותינו
התקווה בת שנות אלפיים
להיות עם חופשי בארצנו
ארץ ציון וירושלים



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Member of the Association of Colleges
of Jewish Studies



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