



THE PENNINGTON SCHOOL

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PENNINGTON, N.J., June 1, 2024—The Pennington School held its 183rd Commencement Exercises on Saturday, June 1. Head of School William S. Hawkey, Ph.D. granted diplomas and certificates to the 104 members of the Class of 2024, which includes students from six states and five countries outside the United States. The Commencement speaker was Dr. Jacob N. Shapiro, professor of politics and international affairs at Princeton University. Senior prizes were awarded on May 31. Polaris Hayes of Trenton and Zixi Yu of Belle Mead were valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively.

Hayes earned The George Parnos Award for Excellence in Science which is awarded for individual excellence in scientific challenges. She also shared The Howard Cressman Memorial Award for Excellence in Mathematics with Yu. Additionally, both Hayes and Yu earned certificates in applied science and were recognized as members of the Cum Laude Society. In the fall, Hayes will attend California Institute of Technology and Yu will attend Princeton University

On Friday evening, preceding graduation, a separate award ceremony was held for seniors presided over by Dean of Academic Affairs Scott Peeler. The following prizes were awarded:

The Edgar B. Roesch Award for Excellence in English to Maya Meehan-Ritter

The Terry Burns Award for Citizenship and Commitment to the Pursuit of English to Ziyi Wang

The Dr. E. F. Hann Memorial Award for Excellence in World Languages to Maya Meehan-Ritter (for German and Spanish) and Sophia Farajallah (for French and Spanish)

The Pennington School Award for Citizenship and Commitment to the Pursuit of World Languages to Mar Ndiaye (for French and Spanish)

The Howard Cressman Memorial Award for Excellence in Mathematics to Polaris Hayes and Zixi Yu

The Pennington School Award for Citizenship and Commitment to the Pursuit of Mathematics to Caleb Li

The Pennington School Award for Excellence in Computer Science to Shinyi Li and Edward Molner

The George Parnos Award for Excellence in Science to Polaris Hayes

The Pennington School Award for Citizenship and Commitment to the Pursuit of Science to Gabriella DiRusso

The Dr. Ralph Appleton Memorial Award for Excellence in History and Social Studies to Jai Raman

The Pennington School Award for Citizenship and Commitment to the Pursuit of History to Benjamin Graziano-Kastner

The William Alford Award for Distinctive Service in Music to Mia Seyfarth (Vocalist) and Jiani Wan (instrumentalist)

The Kersey Award for the Student Showing Most Promise in Art to Maryam Darwish (Visual Artist) and Riya Mehra (lens-based)

The G. Arthur Campbell Award for Distinctive Service in Drama to Sanjana Padmanabhan

The Pennington School Award for Excellence in Technical Theatre to Owen Doughty

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The William Mastrosimone '66 Award for Excellence in Writing and Directing an Original Play to Owen Doughty, Shayna Mehta, Sanjana Padmanabhan, Teagan Walsh, Jiani Wan

The Pennington School Award for Distinguished Achievement in Applied Science to Justin Davidyock

The Pennington School Award for Distinguished Achievement in Global Studies to Sandhya Mahadevan

National Merit Scholarship to Jai Raman

National Merit Finalist Recognition to Shinyi Li

Special Presentation for Appointment to the United States Military Academy to Justin Davidyock

Special Presentation for Appointment to the United States Naval Academy to Keane Brown

The Charles G. Bennett '59 Memorial Award for School Spirit to Catie Kain and John Thomas Shamsey

The Pennington School Award for International Citizenship to Michael Thierry Chandrasaputra

The Pennington School Award to the Senior Outstanding in Volunteer Service to Lia Taranto

The Pennington School Award to the Senior who exemplifies the Development of Individual Excellence to Micah Bowser and Adam Fisher

The Pennington School Award for Outstanding Citizenship to Tyler Hope

The Brigid Kilfoyle '91 Memorial Award to the Senior Girl Making the Greatest Contribution to Pennington School Athletics to Hailey Adamsky

The William E. Long Award to the Senior Boy Making the Greatest Contribution to Pennington School Athletics to Ishan Gupta

The Pennington School Award for Outstanding Athletic Achievement to Morgan Kotch and Morgan Matthews

The Monique Visser '88 Memorial Award to Cassidy Zelt

The Community Life Award to Quaadir Durden and Sophia Murphy

The Head of School Prize for the Best All-Around Student to Shinyi Li

Gateway Prizes, which are given to the students who best exemplify Pennington's core values of honor, virtue, and humility, were awarded to five seniors: Drew Bridges, Dowon Zio Kim, Samantha Lambdin, Nkechinyelum Nwoye, and Paloma Rose Szyfer.

Cume Laude Society students were acknowledged in two groups: Fall 2023 initial inductees: Sophia Farajallah, Polaris Hayes, Qingcheng Li, Shinyi Li, Maya Meehan-Ritter, Shayna Mehta, Natsuki Miller, Edward Molner, Nkechinyelum Nwoye, Hengchao Xia, and Zixi Yu; and Spring 2024 inductees: Emily Howe, William Hyndman, Kieran Karp, Dowon Zio Kim, Samantha Lambdin, Gavin Leeds, Caleb Li, Ananya Madireddy, Mia Seyfarth, and Felix Shapiro.

Applied Science Certificate Students were recognized at the award ceremony: Shahrin Akhtar, Jack Bluni, Ashton Bridges, Mei Mei Castranova, Ian Childrey, Justin Davidyock, Olivia Davis, Sebastian Drezek, Rishi Duggal, Benjamin Graziano-Kastner, Ishan Gupta, Polaris Hayes, Raymond Heaton, William Hyndman, Dowon Zio Kim, Nicolette Kirikian, Mackenzie Kotch, Samantha Lambdin, Alexander Lee, Gavin Leeds, Caleb Li, Shinyi Li, Ananya Madireddy, Kendall Malmros, Mason Meyerson, Natsuki Miller, Edward Molner, Sophia Murphy, Sanjana Padmanabhan, Yingying Peng, Jai Raman, Hunter Shaffer, Lucas Sweetman, Ziyi Wang, and Zixi Yu.

Global Studies Certificate Students were also acknowledged: William Arthur, Onan Benedith, Micah Bowser, Maya Brooke, Keane Brown, Broderick Coddington, Gabriella DiRusso, Sophia Farajallah, Aiden

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Haase, Anna Hallgren, Emily Howe, Catie Kain, Kieran Karp, Qingcheng Li, Sandhya Mahadevan, Riya Mehra, Shayna Mehta, Emma Nelson, Samantha Rajan, Charlotte Reinhardt, Ian Sendak, Mia Seyfarth, Hunter Shaffer, Ava Surtz, Paloma Szyfer, Lia Taranto, Teagan Walsh, and Cassidy Zelt.

Several teaching prizes were presented to members of the faculty. *The Henry and Selma Otte Distinguished Teacher Award*, given annually to a full-time teacher with at least five years of teaching experience at The Pennington School, was given to Ryan Vogt. Tyhesha Elmore was presented the *Robert E. Martini Award for Distinguished Teaching*, given to one whose teaching takes students' individuality into account and who makes a significant impact on students' lives. In addition, Stephanie Cohen was given the *Kie and Hija Ahn Award for Peace and Global Understanding* and Bernie Guirck was awarded the *United Methodist Church Exemplary Teacher Award* for a demonstrated commitment to value-centered education and service to students, the institution, and the community.

The members of the Pennington School Class of 2024 (alphabetical order):

Hailey Marie Adamsky, Shahrin Naeem Akhtar, William Joseph Arthur, Lina Ballmann, Onan Javier Benedith, Jack Alexander Bluni, Micah Breyanna Bowser, Alexander Atwell Brackin, Ashton Gabrielle Bridges, Drew Chadwick Bridges, Maya Marie Brooke, Keane Hawthorne Brown, Pablo Carnicer Cozar, Mei Mei Li Castranova, Jonah William Celentana, Michael Thierry Chandrasaputra, Helmut Haolun Chen, Ian Christopher Childrey, Broderick Roy Coddington, Thomas Wilder Craig, Maryam Darwish, Justin Charles Davidyock, Olivia Elena Davis, Gabriella Grace DiRusso, Owen Scott Doughty, Sebastian Drezek, Rishi Hirsch Braham Duggal, Quaadir Saheem Durden, Nicholas Matthew Esposito, Sophia Farajallah, Adam Fisher, Conlan Folino, Benjamin Michael Graziano-Kastner, Adina Ann Gregson, Ishan Gupta, Aiden Jonah Haase, Anna Jane Hallgren, Garrett Marshall Hardt, Polaris Chaena Hayes, Haichuan He, Raymond William Heaton, John Frederick Hillman, Tristan Remi Hocquaux, Tyler Robert Bryant Hope, Emily Elizabeth Howe, William Hyndman VI, Nicolas Avery Janvier, Catie Marie Kain, Kieran Ryan Karp, Dowon Zio Kim, Nicolette Boyana Kirikian, Mackenzie Ann Kotch, Morgan Elizabeth Kotch, Samantha Joan Lambdin, Alexander Yoonseo Lee, Gavin Nicholas Leeds, Caleb Jesse Li, Qingcheng Li, Shinyi Li, Matthew Jude Lynch, Jr., Hadrian Lynn, Ananya Reddy Madireddy, Sandhya Bala Mahadevan, Kendall Martha Malmros, Morgan Alexis Matthews, Jack Edmond McCune, Bryce Robert Meccage, Maya Meehan-Ritter, Riya Chatha Mehra, Shayna Mehta, Mason Hammer Meyerson, Natsuki Miller, Edward Samuel Molner, Brett Samuel Morr, Sophia Marie Murphy, Brandon Christopher Napoleon, Mar Ndiaye, Emma Rose Nelson, Nkechinyelum Ellen Nwoye, Sanjana Jyothy Padmanabhan, Yingying Ulrica Peng, Alexander Wise Philbrick, Samantha Leonor Rajan, Jai Pranav Raman, Charlotte Leigh Reinhardt, Elias Sebti, Ian Willaim Sendak, Mia Catherine Seyfarth, Hunter Christian Shaffer, John Thomas Shamsey, Felix Waite Shapiro, Ava Marie Surtz, Lucas Matthieu Sweetman, Paloma Rose Szyfer, Lia Beverly Taranto, Makayla Veronica Tudor, Teagan Ceri Walsh, Jiani Wan, Ziyi Wang, Hengchao Xia, Chenxu Xu, Zixi Yu, Tess Gabrielle Zabele, Cassidy Downs Zelt.

The members of the Class of 2024 (by state or country of residence and hometown):

(* indicates an additional award or honor conferred upon the graduate; awards are listed above)

CALIFORNIA

Fremont: Maryam Darwish*



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NEW JERSEY

Basking Ridge: Dowon Zio Kim*

Belle Mead: Zixi Yu*

Bordentown: Ashton Gabrielle Bridges, Ananya Reddy Madireddy*

Branchburg: Tyler Robert Bryant Hope*

Cresskill: Brett Samuel Morr

Crosswicks: Matthew Jude Lynch, Jr.

Ewing: Onan Javier Benedith, Micah Breyanna Bowser*, Jonah William Celentana, Samantha Joan Lambdin*, Cassidy Downs Zelt*

Flemington: Shayna Mehta*

Hamilton: Mackenzie Ann Kotch, Morgan Elizabeth Kotch*

Lambertville: Makayla Veronica Tudor

Lawrence Township: Tristan Remi Hocquaux

Lawrenceville: Hailey Marie Adamsky*, Shahrin Naeem Akhtar, Broderick Roy Coddington, Sebastian Drezek, Sandhya Bala Mahadevan*, Morgan Alexis Matthews*, Mason Hammer Meyerson, Sophia Marie Murphy*

Maplewood: Adam Fisher*, Aiden Jonah Haase

Monmouth Junction: Jai Pranav Raman*, Mia Catherine Seyfarth*

Pennington: Alexander Atwell Brackin, Drew Chadwick Bridges*, Pablo Carnicer Cozar, Mei Mei Li Castranova, Thomas Wilder Craig, Owen Scott Doughty*, Ishan Gupta*, Anna Jane Hallgren, Emily Elizabeth Howe*, Kieran Ryan Karp*, Shinyi Li*, Bryce Robert Meccage, Sanjana Jyothy Padmanabhan*, Lucas Matthieu Sweetman, Teagan Ceri Walsh*

Piscataway: Nkechinyelum Ellen Nwoye*

Princeton: William Joseph Arthur, Maya Marie Brooke, Benjamin Michael Graziano-Kastner*, Hadrian Lynn, Maya Meehan-Ritter*, Natsuki Miller*, Alexander Wise Philbrick, Felix Waite Shapiro*

Princeton Junction: Jack Alexander Bluni, Olivia Elena Davis, Gabriella Grace DiRusso*

Ridgewood: Elias Sebti

Robbinsville: Sophia Farajallah*, Ava Marie Surtz

Skillman: Rishi Hirsch Braham Duggal, John Thomas Shamsey*

South Orange: Adina Ann Gregson

Stockton: John Frederick Hillman

Summit: Charlotte Leigh Reinhardt

Trenton: Polaris Chaena Hayes*, Brandon Christopher Napoleon

West Orange: Paloma Rose Szyfer*

West Windsor: Jack Edmond McCune

NEW YORK

New York City: Edward Samuel Molnar*

NORTH CAROLINA

Charlotte: Ian Christopher Childrey



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PENNSYLVANIA

Furlong: Tess Gabrielle Zabele

Langhorne: Raymond William Heaton, Hunter Christian Shaffer

New Hope: Keane Hawthorne Brown*, Nicolette Boyana Kirikian, Kendall Martha Malmros, Ian William Sendak, Lia Beverly Taranto*

Newtown: Justin Charles Davidyock*, William Hyndman VI*, Gavin Nicholas Leeds*, Riya Chatha Mehra*

Philadelphia: Quaadir Saheem Durden*, Catie Marie Kain*

Washington Crossing: Caleb Jesse Li*

Yardley: Nicholas Matthew Esposito, Garrett Marshall Hardt, Alexander Yoonseo Lee, Emma Rose Nelson, Samantha Leonor Rajan

SOUTH CAROLINA

Chapin: Conlan Folino

CHINA

Guangzhou: Helmut Haolun Chen

GuiYang: Ziyi Wang*

Hangzhou: Qingcheng Li*

Nanjing: Jiani Wan*

Ningbo: Yingying Ulrica Peng

Shanghai: Haichuan He, Hengchao Xia*

GERMANY

Eichelsbach: Lina Ballmann

INDONESIA

Jakarta Selatan: Michael Thierry Chandrasaputra*

SENEGAL

Thies: Mar Ndiaye*

UNITED KINGDOM

Bromley: Nicolas Avery Janvier

The members of Pennington's Class of 2024 will be attending the following colleges and universities: Arizona State University (Tempe), Babson College, Bard College, Barnard College, Bentley University, Boston College, Boston University, Brown University, Bucknell University, Bucks County Community College, California Institute of Technology, Carleton College, Carnegie Mellon University, Chapman University, Coastal Carolina University, Colgate University, College of the Holy Cross, Commonwealth University (Bloomsburg), Dickinson College, Drexel University, Duquesne University, Emory University, Florida Institute of Technology, Fordham University, George Washington University, Georgetown University, Hamilton College, Hampden-Sydney College, Hampshire College, Howard University, James Madison University, Loyola Marymount University, Marist College, Monmouth University, New York University, Northeastern University, Oberlin College, Penn State University

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(University Park), Princeton University, Purdue University, Quinnipiac University, Rutgers University (New Brunswick), Salisbury University, San Diego State University, Southern Methodist University, Stevens Institute of Technology, Syracuse University, The American University of Paris, The College of New Jersey, The College of Wooster, The University of Tampa, The University of Tennessee (Knoxville), Trinity College, United States Military Academy at West Point, United States Naval Academy, University of Bristol, University of California (Los Angeles), University of Chicago, University of Colorado Boulder, University of Delaware, University of Maryland (College Park), University of Miami, University of North Carolina Wilmington, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, University of Pennsylvania, University of Pittsburgh, University of South Carolina, University of Southern California, University of St Andrews, University of Virginia, Ursinus College, Vanderbilt University, Villanova University, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Washington University in St. Louis, William & Mary, and Williams College.

The Pennington School is an independent coeducational school for students in grades 6 through 12, in both day and boarding programs. The curriculum is college preparatory, with an emphasis on individual excellence, fostering the development of the whole student through academics, athletics, community service, and the creative and performing arts.

Caption for photo: The Pennington School Class of 2024