



UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

*Middle Eastern  
&  
North African*

GRADUATION CELEBRATION

2023



OFFICE OF ACADEMIC MULTICULTURAL INITIATIVES  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



# Celebration Welcome Letter

Greetings,

It is with great pleasure that we congratulate the 2023 Middle Eastern/North African graduates of the University of Michigan!

This celebration highlights your accomplishments and the cultural significance you have made at the University of Michigan. We hope this special celebration not only honors you, but also inspires current and future students to reach their goals.

As we applaud this extraordinary graduating class, we are excited about the opportunities that await you. We are confident that you have the skills, talent, drive and commitment necessary to navigate and overcome the obstacles and challenges of life and to make a real difference in your communities and the world.

While the college process can be challenging for all students, you have endured through one of the most challenging times in the history of the University and of our broader society. We are humbled at your demonstrated resilience as a U-M student, and we hope that you're able to draw on the strength, knowledge, and wisdom you've developed and gained to meet future life challenges.

The Class of 2023 has made a significant impact during its time at Michigan. We are a better university for having the gifts, talents and contributions you have shared with the campus community. The University of Michigan will always be your home, and you will always be welcome.

While we recognize that this is an exciting time for you, your families, and your communities, it can also be a bittersweet moment and one of mixed emotions as you consider what is ending and what lies ahead. We often think of graduation as the conclusion of a long journey. However, the root of the word "commencement" is the act of beginning, starting, initiating. We wish you nothing but success and happiness as you now start these next steps of your life journey.

Go forth and do great things with what you have learned in whatever responsibilities and roles you take on – personally and professionally. Do them well and with integrity and joy.

And whatever you do, and wherever your journey takes you - Go Blue!



**Santa J. Ono**  
President



**Laurie K. McCauley**  
Provost & Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs



**Martino Harmon**  
Vice President for Student Life



**Tabbye M. Chavous**  
Vice Provost for Equity & Inclusion  
and Chief Diversity Officer

# Order of Program

**Masters of Ceremonies**  
**Sana Sharba and Rawan Antar**

*Undergraduate Students - College of Literature Science and the Arts*

Welcome

**Dr. Laurie McCauley**

*Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs*

Keynote Speaker

**Andrea Sahouri**

*Criminal Justice Reporter, Detroit Free Press*

Student Speaker

**Farah-Noor Saad**

*Undergraduate Student - College of Literature, Science, and the Arts*

Class Recognition

Closing

**Dr. Martino Harmon**

*Vice President for Student Life*

## Guest Speakers



### Laurie McCauley

Dr. Laurie K. McCauley is the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, William K and Mary Anne Najjar Professor of Periodontics, Professor of Dentistry, Department of Periodontics and Oral Medicine, School of Dentistry, and Professor of Pathology, Medical School.

Dr. McCauley earned her B.S., D.D.S., M.S. and Ph.D. (Veterinary Pathobiology) all from The Ohio State University. She has had several visiting scientist/professor appointments including the Institut de Genetique et de Biologie Moleculaire et Cellulaire, the École Normale Supérieure de Lyon, and the Center for Experimental Therapeutics and Reperfusion Injury, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School.



### Martino Harmon

Dr. Martino Harmon has served as Vice President for Student Life since March 26, 2020.

A longtime advocate for student success, he previously served as the senior vice president for student affairs at Iowa State University, where he provided strategic oversight for the student affairs division with a budget of more than \$300 million, 800 staff members and 36 departments.

He earned a bachelor of business administration degree in marketing management, a master of education degree in human resource development and educational technology, and a Ph.D. in higher education and administration, all from the University of Toledo.

## Keynote Speaker



### **Andrea Sahouri**

Andrea Sahouri is Palestinian American and a criminal justice reporter with the Detroit Free Press. Andrea is a Michigan native and grew up in the Flint area. She's an alumna of the University of Michigan, where she studied American Culture and Arab and Muslim American Studies, and Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism. She's passionate about local news, storytelling, and amplifying the voices of the diverse communities she serves. Her work, particularly her ability to connect with diverse communities, was recognized with the statewide 2021 Jay P. Wagner Prize for Young Journalists in Iowa, and the 2022 Harrison "Skip" Weber Investigative Reporting Award, among other state awards.

## Masters of Ceremonies



### **Sana Sharba and Rawan Antar**

*Undergraduate Students - College of Literature Science and the Arts*

## Student Speaker



### **Farah-Noor Saad**

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

*Major - Political Science*

*Minor - Middle Eastern Studies*

# Master's Graduates

## **Dalia Ali-Khan**

School of Social Work  
*Master of Social Work*

## **Hend Almunaidi**

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology*

## **Aseel Aloraine**

School of Social Work  
*Master's of Social Work*

## **Zainab Salman A Alramadhan**

Rackham Graduate School  
*Master of Science in Biomedical Engineering; Neural Engineering*

## **Saria Bechara**

School of Social Work  
*Master of Social Work*

## **Layla Berry**

College of Engineering  
*Biomedical Engineering; Medical Product Development*

## **Sara Kurdi**

School of Social Work  
*Master of Social Work; Interpersonal Practice in Integrated Health, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse*



# Bachelor's Graduates

## **Samrah Abbasi**

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Psychology*

## **Hadeel Abulenin**

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Computer Science*

## **Rawan Akhdar**

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Biopsychology, Cognition, and Neuroscience*

## **Rubba Al-Kafaji**

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Biopsychology, Cognition, and Neuroscience*

## **Reena Al-Sewari**

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Biology, Health, and Society*

## **Leanne Alawieh**

College of Engineering  
*Biomedical Engineering*

## **Noor Alesawy**

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Neuroscience*

## **Athraa Alghazaly**

School of Public Health  
*Public Health*

## **Seliman Ali**

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Biology, Health, & Society; Pre-Med*

## **Fatima Ali-Khodja**

College of Engineering  
*Biomedical Engineering*

## **Manar Aljebori**

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Biopsychology, Cognition, and Neuroscience*

## **Hadi Allouch**

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Biopsychology, Cognition, and Neuroscience*

## **Nasser Almallouhi**

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Neuroscience*

## **Leen Alnajjar**

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Statistics; Biology, Health, and Society*

## **Abdulrahim Alsubee**

School of Kinesiology  
*Movement Science*

## **Matthew Arteaga**

College of Engineering  
*Computer Engineering*

## **Abdou Atoui**

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Biopsychology, Cognition, and Neuroscience*

## **Mary Rose Azar**

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Neuroscience*



# Bachelor's Graduates

## **Yessine Baalouche**

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Neuroscience*

## **Hayat Bazzi**

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Biopsychology, Cognition, & Neuroscience*

## **Zeinab Bcharouche**

College of Engineering  
*Biomedical Engineering*

## **Adam Chalak**

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Biopsychology, Cognition, & Neuroscience;  
Arab and Muslim American Studies*

## **Ali Chami**

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Sociology: Law, justice, and social  
change; Islamic Studies*

## **Fatema Dohadwala**

School of Public Health  
*Public Health Sciences*

## **Sharifa Doudi**

Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy  
*Public Policy*

## **Larisa Elias**

School of Dentistry  
*Dental Hygiene*

## **Lorena Elias**

School of Dentistry  
*Dental Hygiene*

## **Ali Eter**

Stephen M. Ross School of Business  
*Business Administration*

## **Mohamad Eter**

College of Engineering  
*Computer Science*

## **Omar Eter**

College of Engineering  
*Mechanical Engineering*

## **Maya Faraj**

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Biology, Health, and Society;  
Gender and Health*

## **Reem Fawaz**

School of Public Health  
*Public Health Sciences*

## **Joseph Haddad**

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Neuroscience*

## **Maryam Haltam**

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Biopsychology, Cognition, and Neuroscience*

# Bachelor's Graduates

**Zara Hashmi**

School of Public Health

*Public Health Sciences*

**Ramez Ibrahim**

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

*Computer Science*

**Salwa Ibrahim**

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

*Biology*

**Izza Imran**

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

*Biopsychology, Cognition, and Neuroscience*

**Eliya Imtiaz**

Stephen M. Ross School of Business

*Business Administration*

**Akram Irshaid**

School of Public Health

*Public Health Sciences*

**Sami Issa**

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

*Biopsychology, Cognition, and Neuroscience*

**Abraham Jaafar**

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

*Biology Health and Society*

**Ammar Jboor**

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

*Economics*

**Batool Joudah**

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

*Psychology*

**Jerry Juratli**

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

*Biomolecular Science*

**Maya Kadouh**

Stephen M. Ross School of Business

*Business Administration*

**Amara Khalid**

Stephen M. Ross School of Business

*Business Administration*

**Grace Khouri**

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

*Cognitive Science*

**Peter Matarweh**

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

*Comparative Literature; International Studies*

**Eleyna Mosallam**

Stephen M. Ross School of Business

*Business Administration*

**Hussein Mustafa**

School of Kinesiology

*Movement Science*

**Zeina Reda**

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

*Political Science*

# Bachelor's Graduates

## **Farah-Noor Saad**

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Political Science; Middle Eastern Studies*

## **Hannah Salameh**

College of Engineering  
*Computer Science*

## **Rahmy Salman**

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Computer Science*

## **Sharif Salman**

College of Engineering  
*Electrical Engineering*

## **Ammar Saloum**

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Neuroscience*

## **Oase Sbei**

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Middle East Studies; Pre-Med*

## **Abdullah Shukeir**

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Biopsychology, Cognition, and Neuroscience*

## **Huda Shulaiba**

School of Information  
*Information, English minor*

## **Yasmine Slimani**

Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy  
*Public Policy*

## **Sara Taleb-Agha**

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Psychology; Biology, Health, & Society*

## **Haneen Tout**

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Computer Science*

## **Bashar Zidan**

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Computer Science*



## Planning Committee

Thank you to the offices, students, and staff that have supported the  
MENA Celebration throughout the years.

**Zeinab Alhashemi**  
**Ziad Fehmi**  
**Aya Assaf**  
**Rawan Antar**  
**Sana Sharba**  
**Zeina Reda**  
**Adam Chalak**

2023 MENA Celebration is coordinated by:

### **Héctor Galván**

Assistant Director, Office of Academic and Multicultural Initiatives  
A Unit of the Office of the Vice Provost for Equity, Inclusion and Academic Affairs  
3009 Student Activities Building  
515 East Jefferson Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-1316  
Phone: (734) 936-1055

## Regents of the University of Michigan

Santa J. Ono, *ex officio*, President  
Jordan B. Acker, Huntington Woods  
Michael J. Behm, Grand Blanc  
Mark J. Bernstein, Ann Arbor  
Paul W. Brown, Ann Arbor  
Sarah Hubbard, Okemos  
Denise Ilitch, Bingham Farms, chair  
Ron Weiser, Ann Arbor  
Katherine E. White, Ann Arbor



## Graduation Celebration History

The University of Michigan's first MENA graduation was held in 2015 with support from the Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives. This celebration was hosted in the Michigan Union Rogel Ballroom, and the number of students participating in the graduation continues to grow year after year. We are proud that the celebration continues to acknowledge the accomplishments of the Middle Eastern and North African students at the University of Michigan. The MENA celebration is one of seven cultural graduations hosted annually by the Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives.

## Graduation Celebration Mission

The Middle Eastern & North African Graduation celebrates the commonalities and differences that characterize the experiences of Middle Eastern, North African, and other students at the University of Michigan and serves as an example of the University of Michigan's commitment to diversity.

The ceremony acknowledges the value and uniqueness of the Middle Eastern and North African experience and serves to commemorate the accomplishments of those students that participate in the Celebratory. The graduation celebration recognizes faculty and staff who provide academic enrichments, research opportunities, programs, and activities that promote the communal striving and sense of accountability that help students to achieve.

The Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives, in partnership with the Middle Eastern & North African Planning Committee, institutes this annual celebration as an expression and tradition of valuing the University's cultural offerings and commitment to diversity.

## Statement of Freedom of Speech and Artistic Expression

The University of Michigan strives to create an open form in which diverse opinions can be expressed and heard. Members of the University community, speakers, artists, and other invited guests have a right to express their views and opinions, and the University will protect that right. The University also supports the rights of those with differing views to express their opinions. In the interest of protecting these rights for all, University representatives may warn anyone unduly interfering with a speaker or performer's freedom of expression, and if the warnings are not heeded, may remove those individuals from the building. The policy extends and affirms University policies set forth by our Civil Liberties Board in our Student Handbook; and in the U-M Standard Practice Guide; Regents Ordinance Article XII, Section 1; and state statutes.



## Land Acknowledgement

The University of Michigan is located on the territory of the Anishinaabeg people. The Ann Arbor campus currently resides on land ceded through the Treaty of Detroit in 1807. Additionally, in 1817, the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Bodewadami Nations made the largest single land transfer to the University of Michigan, ceded through the Treaty of Fort Meigs, with the agreement that their children would be educated in perpetuity.

We assert the sovereignty of tribal lands and acknowledge the painful historical and ongoing genocide, forced assimilation, and displacement of Native communities in the establishment of the University.

We affirm contemporary and ancestral Anishinaabeg ties to this land, the profound contributions of Native American peoples to this institution, and the University's commitment to educate the children of Native ancestors.

Acknowledging the land is an important first step towards healing that needs to be followed by further action. We invite all of you to think about how you can support Indigenous communities that surround you.

## Statement of Affirmative Action

The University of Michigan, as an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer, complies with all applicable federal and state laws regarding nondiscrimination and affirmative action, including Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The University of Michigan is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination and equal opportunity for all persons regardless of race, sex\*, color, religion, creed, national origin or ancestry, age, marital status, sexual orientation, disability, or Vietnam-era veteran status in employment, educational programs and activities, and admissions. Inquiries or complaints may be addressed to the Senior Director for Institutional Equity and Title IX/Section 504 Coordinator, Office for Institutional Equity, 2072 Administrative Services Building, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-1432, 734-763-0235, TTY 734-647-1388. For other University of Michigan information call 734-764-1817.



**OFFICE OF ACADEMIC MULTICULTURAL INITIATIVES**  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



These symbols represent the cultural graduation ceremonies that are coordinated annually through the Office of Academic and Multicultural Initiatives (OAMI).

Top left to right:

Black Celebratory, Native American Graduation, La Celebración Latina

Bottom left to right:

Middle Eastern & North African Celebration, First Generation Graduation, Asian & Pacific Islander Graduation

**[oami.umich.edu](http://oami.umich.edu)**



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UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

