

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

*Middle Eastern
and
North African*

GRADUATION CELEBRATION

2 0 2 5



OAMI's Expression of Gratitude

To the Graduating Class of 2025,

Congratulations on your remarkable achievement! Your hard work, perseverance, and dedication brought you to this moment, and we are incredibly proud of all that you have accomplished. As you reflect on your time at the University of Michigan, we hope you carry with you fond memories of the friendships you made, the challenges you overcame, and the knowledge you gained.

We understand that as we celebrate, we must acknowledge the pain that many of you carry in the grief of the loss of family and friends throughout the Middle East and how this has deeply affected your personal and academic journey. Please know that we wish you peace, equality, and protection, and urge on the day when solidarity and respect can prevail all around the world.

We also want to emphasize the great deal of gratitude the University of Michigan owes to you. Your unique perspectives and experiences enriched our community and contributed to the diversity that defines Michigan. Your resilience is inspiring, and your persistence in uplifting your community, proudly defining your identity, and engaging in acts of self-expression are to be recognized as attributes of strength that will launch you forward into your future.

As you move forward, remember the values that have guided you thus far: integrity, resilience, and a commitment to social justice. Carry these values with you as you navigate the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead, and remember that you have the power to shape the world around you for the better.

Congratulations once again on your graduation! We wish you all the best in your future endeavors and look forward to seeing the amazing things you will accomplish.

With gratitude,

The Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives

Order of Program

PERFORMANCE

Laith Alattar

Oud player

OPENING

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Dr. Matthew Stiffler

Director of the Center for Arab Narratives

WELCOME

Dr. Tabbye Chavous

*Vice Provost for Equity & Inclusion
and Chief Diversity Officer*

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. Diana Abouali

Director of the Arab American National Museum

STUDENT SPEAKER

Alaa Alawamleh

CLASS RECOGNITION

CLOSING

Dr. Matthew Stiffler

Master of Ceremonies



Matthew Stiffler, Ph.D.

Director of the Center for Arab Narratives

Matthew Jaber Stiffler is the Director of the Center for Arab Narratives (CAN), a new national research institution of ACCESS, the largest Arab American community non-profit in the country. Matthew was previously the Research & Content Manager at the Arab American National Museum in Dearborn, MI. Matthew received his Ph.D. in American Culture from the University of Michigan in

2010, where he served as a lecturer in Arab and Muslim American Studies for 10 years. He is a former board member of the Arab American Studies Association and served on the executive board of Michigan Humanities. He writes about food and identity.

Welcome Speaker



Tabbye M. Chavous, Ph.D.

*Vice Provost for Equity & Inclusion
and Chief Diversity Officer*

Dr. Tabbye Chavous is the Vice Provost for Equity & Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer at the University of Michigan. She is also a professor of education and professor of psychology.

Dr. Chavous has held leadership roles at the department, college, and central administration levels during her almost 24 years at U-M. Most recently, she was the

director of the National Center for Institutional Diversity and associate dean for diversity, equity, and inclusion in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts. Prior to that, Dr. Chavous served as an associate vice president for research, associate dean for academic programs and initiatives in the Rackham Graduate School, and chair of the Combined Program in Education and Psychology. Across all of her roles, the values of diversity, equity, and inclusion have been central to her leadership approaches and practices and infused throughout the initiatives, programs, and practices she helped develop and implement.

Keynote Speaker



Diana Abouali, Ph.D.

Director of the Arab American National Museum

Diana Abouali is the director of the Arab American National Museum in Dearborn, Michigan. She joined the museum in 2019 and has since been spearheading numerous projects to improve AANM's digital capabilities, update exhibitions, expand research and outreach initiatives, grow the Museum's artist-in-residence program, and strengthen ties to the community.

Previously, she was an assistant professor at Dartmouth College, head of research and collections at the Palestinian Museum in Birzeit, Palestine and director of education, outreach and awareness at the Petra National Trust in Amman, Jordan. She serves on several boards and committees including the Citizens Advisory Committee at the University of Michigan- Dearborn, the general assembly of Taawon-Welfare Association (Palestine), and the Albright Institute Advisory Council at Wellesley College. Diana is Palestinian, was born in Toronto, Canada and grew up in Kuwait. She received her PhD in History and Middle Eastern Studies from Harvard University in 2004.

Student Speaker



Alaa Alawamleh

School of Public Health
Public Health

Doctoral Graduates

Arsha Ali
College of Engineering
Robotics

Master's Graduates

Abbas Ajami
Rackham Graduate School
Biomedical Engineering

Daniah Algburi
Rackham Graduate School
*Molecular & Integrative
Physiology*

Fatimah Alhawary
College of Literature,
Science, and the Arts
Transcultural Studies

Rawan Aljaber
College of Engineering,
Rackham Graduate School
Space Engineering

**Ahmad
Almansoor**
Marsal Family School of
Education
Educational Studies

Anwar Alsharaf
Rackham Graduate School
Civil Engineering

Zahraa Bazzi
College of Engineering,
Rackham Graduate School
Robotics

Sabah Boudalia
Stephen M. Ross School of
Business
Management

Master's Graduates

Zahraa Elghoul

School of Information
Information

**Mohamad
Fakhreddine**

Stephen M. Ross School
of Business
Business Administration

**Dianna
Hammoud**

Rackham Graduate
School
*Molecular & Integrative
Physiology*

Ashraf Jaber

Stephen M. Ross School
of Business
*Business Administration
– ESG Concentration*

Arad Lahiji

Stephen M. Ross School
of Business
EMBA

Rawa Najim

School of Dentistry
Oral Health Sciences

Farah Ossaimee

A. Alfred Taubman
College of Architecture
and Urban Planning
Architecture

Bachelor's Graduates

Grace Abbud

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

Jaafar Abdallah

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
Computer Science

Deena Aboul-Hassan

College of Literature, Science, and
the Arts, School of Kinesiology
*Movement Science; Writing; Pre-
Med*

Ruba Agour

College of Engineering
*Industrial and Operations
Engineering*

Nadin Agour

College of Engineering
Computer Science

Ammar Ahmad

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
*Honors Philosophy; Cognitive
Science*

Sukaina-Jean Al- Dhalimi

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
Psychology; Music

Fadil Al-Husseini

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
Linguistics; Middle East Studies

Alaa Alawamleh

College of Literature, Science, and
the Arts, School of Public Health
Public Health

Reayan Alawie

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
*Political Science; Gender Race and
Nations*

Saif Alesawy

College of Engineering
*Biomedical Engineering and
Computer Science*

Eaman Ali

College of Literature, Science, and
the Arts, Penny W. Stamps School
of Art & Design
Political Science and Art & Design

Bachelor's Graduates

Dua Ali

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

*Biology, Health, and Society:
Medical Anthropology*

Dania Ali

School of Kinesiology
Movement Science

Jennah Ali-Khodja

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

*Biopsychology, Cognition, and
Neuroscience*

Luna Alkassem

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

Communication and Media

Aamer Almansour

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

Computer Science

Ghadeer Alrubaye

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

Political Science

Abdullah Alsarraj

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

Biomolecular Sciences

Malak Alshayeb

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

*Biopsychology, Cognition, and
Neuroscience*

Shoaib Alshuja

A. Alfred Taubman College of
Architecture and Urban Planning

Architecture

Jood Altaii

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

Biology, Health and Society

Sarh Altaweel

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

*Biopsychology, Cognition, and
Neuroscience*

Salma Amin

College of Engineering
Biomedical Engineering

Bachelor's Graduates

Alaa Assi

College of Engineering
Biomedical Engineering

Ali Atoui

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

Zeinab Awada

College of Engineering
*Biomedical Engineering; Computer
Science Engineering*

Celina Bazzi

Stephen M. Ross School of Business
Business Administration

Mariam Bazzi

College of Engineering,
Stephen M. Ross School of Business
*Business Administration; Industrial
and Operations Engineering*

Noura Chahine

Stephen M. Ross School of Business
Business Administration

Sabrena Chedid

School of Information
User Experience Design

Lema Ebrahim

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

Rawan El-Husseini

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
Political Science; Honors Philosophy

Malak Elayyan

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

Naghah Eldroubi

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

Nadeen Elkordy

Marsal Family School of Education
*Secondary Education in Social
Studies; Political Science*

Hadi Fayad

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

Bachelor's Graduates

Yazan Felwa

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

Asma Gundy

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
Psychology; Creative Writing Poetry

Ibrahim H.

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

Adam Habash

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
Neuroscience

Sara Hammoud

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

Safa Hijazi

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
English

Jenna Jarjoura

A. Alfred Taubman College of
Architecture and Urban Planning
Architecture

Salma Jarouche

Stephen M. Ross School of Business
Business Administration

Ryan Jaroudi

College of Engineering
Biomedical Engineering

Dalia Karimi

School of Public Health
Public Health

Julia Kassab

School of Information
Information Science & Analysis

Ameer Khilfeh

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

Sarah Khreizat

School of Public Health
Public Health Sciences

Bachelor's Graduates

Reem Killawi

School of Public Health
*Community and Global Public
Health*

Razaan Killawi

Penny W. Stamps School of
Art & Design
Art and Design

Kamal Kuhail

School of Kinesiology
Movement Science

Reda Mazeh

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
Philosophy

Reina Mezher

College of Engineering
Robotics Engineering

Hannan Mozip

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

Mohsen Najar

School of Public Health
Public Health

Ibrahim Qamhie

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

Hana Rababeh

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

Sara Saaidi

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
Computer Science

Samar Saeed

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
Computer Science; Anthropology

Omar Said

College of Engineering
*Computer Science & Biomedical
Engineering*

Amira Said

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
Computer Science; Data Science

Bachelor's Graduates

Belal Sbei

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

**Maryam Shafie
Khorassani**

College of Engineering
Civil Engineering

Nicholas Shahin

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

Aya Sharabi

College of Engineering
Biomedical Engineering

Sana Sharba

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
*Molecular, Cellular, and
Developmental Biology; French and
Francophone Studies*

**Mohammad Sheikh-
Khalil**

School of Public Health
Public Health

Ayat Tolba

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
Political Science

Diana Wahba

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
Computer Science

Alicia Wu

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

*Middle Eastern & North African
Student Celebration
Planning Committee*

**Sana Sharba
Ahmed Elkhatib
Leyla Dumke
Hilda Fuentes Martinez**

The 2025 Middle Eastern & North African Student
Celebration is coordinated by:

Héctor Galván
Interim Co-Director, Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives

**Thank you to the offices, students, and staff
that have supported the ME/NA celebration
throughout the years.**

Letter of Thanks to Tabbye Chavous

Dear Dr. Chavous,

Thank you for being with us today to celebrate the incredible accomplishments of our Middle Eastern and North African student community. You have joined us in this celebration in the past, providing words of encouragement and wisdom, while thanking the family, friends, and support networks who have helped usher us to this point. Today, we'd like to take a moment to recognize you for your work and commitment to this university and its students.

You have been a leader, teacher, mentor, and advocate here at the University of Michigan for over 25 years. During this time, you have held influential roles at the department, college, and central administration levels, touching the lives of so many people in our community.

Throughout your time here, you have used your expertise and resources to help students feel welcomed and empowered to share their cultures with the broader community. With your oversight, the Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives has strengthened and expanded the student celebrations that allow students like us, along with our loved ones, to celebrate graduation in culturally meaningful and deeply personal ways.

This year is the 10th anniversary of the Middle Eastern & North African Student Celebration. It continues to grow and expand, just as our community continues to do on campus. We are extremely proud to further this legacy, recognizing the resilience and beauty of our diverse cultures and traditions and honoring our collective and individual achievements.

We are grateful for you to be here and support this essential moment of appreciation, reflection, and joy.

Sincerely,

The Middle Eastern and North African Student Celebration Committee

Student Celebration Mission

The Middle Eastern & North African Student Celebration celebrates the commonalities and differences that characterize the experiences of Middle Eastern, North African, and other students at the University of Michigan.

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 event.

The 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.

OAMI, 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 student communities.

Student Celebration History

The University of Michigan's first ME/NA student celebration 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 event 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 Middle Eastern & North African Student Celebration is one of eight hosted annually by the Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives.

Land and Labor Acknowledgment

The University of Michigan is located on the territory of the Anishinaabeg people. The Ann Arbor campus 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 establishing 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 educating the children of Native ancestors.

We further recognize that whether you are on campus in Ann Arbor or elsewhere in the United States, we stand on land developed at the often-fatal expense of forcefully enslaved Black people. We acknowledge that much of this country, including its culture, economic growth, and development has been made possible by the labor of enslaved Africans and their descendants who suffered the horror of the transatlantic trafficking, chattel slavery, and dehumanization through segregation and Jim Crow laws.

We remember those who did not survive the Middle Passage, those who were beaten and lynched, and those who are still suffering while fighting for their freedom. We are indebted to their labor and unwilling sacrifice, and acknowledge the violence throughout the generations and the resulting impact and generational trauma still felt today.

The fights against settler colonialism and anti-Blackness will always be inextricably linked. To the land, to the collective, and to the ancestors, we thank you, we thank you, we thank you.

Statement of Freedom of Speech and Artistic Expression

The University of Michigan strives to create an open forum 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, speech that breaks the law, violates the University of Michigan's code of conduct, or threatens harm to another person will not be tolerated. Persons engaging in such speech may be warned by University representatives, and if the warnings are not heeded, may be removed 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.

Nondiscrimination Policy Statement

The University of Michigan, as an equal opportunity/employer, complies with all applicable federal and state laws regarding nondiscrimination. The University of Michigan is committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all persons and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, disability, religion, height, weight, or veteran status in employment, educational programs and activities, and admissions. (Standard Practice Guide Policies)

Inquiries or complaints may be addressed to the Equity, Civil Rights, and Title IX Office, 2072 Administrative Services Building, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-1432. Phone: 734-763-0235, TTY 734-647-1388. Email: ecrtooffice@umich.edu.

For other University of Michigan information, call 734-764-1817.

OAMI Student Celebrations

OAMI Student Celebrations take place during graduation season to honor the achievements, shared experiences, and diverse backgrounds that shape our students' journeys.

All of OAMI's celebrations are open to all students at the University of Michigan, recognizing and honoring the diverse experiences and identities within our community.

Celebration Symbols

These symbols are used by OAMI and the organizing committees to represent the eight student celebrations:



**Native Student Celebration
La Celebración Latina**

**Black Celebratory
Asian Student Celebration
Oceania Student Celebration
Middle Eastern & North African Student Celebration**

**First-Generation Student Celebration
Undocumented Student Celebration**

oami.umich.edu/celebrations



OFFICE OF ACADEMIC MULTICULTURAL INITIATIVES
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN