STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK COLLEGE OF
Environmental Science
and Forestry

Commencement

December 10, 2021
Hendricks Chapel
About ESF

Founded in 1911, ESF is one of the nation’s premier colleges focused exclusively on the study of the environment, developing renewable technologies and building a sustainable future.

ESF’s Syracuse campus occupies 18 acres and the College operates 25,000 acres of experimental and demonstration forests, field stations and research sites across Central New York and the Adirondacks. The ESF student body consists of more than 1,750 undergraduate and 450 graduate students.

The College offers 23 undergraduate and 30 graduate degree programs, including bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees in the environmental sciences, landscape architecture, forest and natural resources management, engineering and related areas of scholarship and transdisciplinary studies. Associates degrees are offered at ESF’s Ranger School in Wanakena.

ESF blends the personal attention of a small college with the world-class research of a doctoral degree-granting university and attracts truly exceptional students. Today’s graduates join a family of more than 22,000 alumni worldwide and represent the leaders of tomorrow.

Academic Regalia

During the Middle Ages, monks and students wore academic regalia as protection from the damp and drafty conditions of monasteries and castles. Through the years, regalia evolved to represent and celebrate scholarly achievement. The colors of the hoods and various trimmings symbolize the disciplines and institutional traditions.

Master’s Hoods

The colors of the ESF master’s hoods represent the colors of the College of Environmental Science and Forestry: forest green, white and gold. Hoods are black with gold velvet lining with green, white and gold satin chevrons on the inside lining.

Doctoral Hoods (Ph.D.)

The colors of the Ph.D. hoods represent the colors of the College of Environmental Science and Forestry: forest green, white and gold. Hoods are black, with navy blue velvet outer lining and white, gold and green satin chevrons on the inside lining.

Key to symbols

~ Denotes those who have completed requirements for the ESF Honors Program

^ Denotes a member of Alphi Xi Sigma, ESF Honor Society

# Denotes veteran of the United States Armed Forces

+ Denotes ESF in the High School participant

Σ Denotes a member of Sigma Lambda Alpha, Landscape Architecture Honor Society

Names of candidates listed are accurate as of Dec. 1, 2021, and are subject to change
Program

National Anthem
José “Peppie” Calvar
Syracuse University

Welcome and Introductions
Samuel B. Mukasa, Ph.D.
Executive Vice President and Provost

President’s Remarks
Joanne M. Mahoney, J.D.
President

Student Speaker
Bri’ajah’nae Hymes
Class of 2021

Presentation of Graduates of Distinction Awards
Samuel B. Mukasa, Ph.D.

Recognition of Degree Candidates
S. Scott Shannon, ’82, ’88
Associate Provost and Dean of the Graduate School

Conferral of Degrees

Alumni Welcome
Gary Lipp, ’86
President, ESF Alumni Association

Closing
Samuel B. Mukasa, Ph.D.

Organist
Joseph Downing
Syracuse University
Student Marshals

Mark Dunckel – Environmental Resources Engineering
Hubbardsville, New York

Mark Dunckel is an environmental resources engineering major with a minor in mathematics. His coursework focuses on water resources engineering, federal environmental regulations and legal framework. Mark is involved on campus as a member of the AXS Honor Society and an a capella group/music society. He is a first-team starter and treasurer for the Syracuse University men’s rugby team. Mark has worked on campus as a peer tutor helping undergraduate students in a variety of STEM-related classes and has been an undergraduate teaching assistant for classes including Introduction to Engineering Design and Mechanics of Materials. After graduation, Mark plans to attend law school with hopes of pursuing a career in environmental law.

Alexa Labossiere – Environmental Science
Lincoln, Rhode Island

Alexa Labossiere is an environmental science major with minors in applied statistics and marine science. Alexa is the head of programming for the Undergraduate Student Association and was the spring 2021 Earth Week coordinator. She has competed on the Syracuse University ballroom dance and swing team and is a member of the Orange Pulse Dance Troupe. Alexa has worked as a peer tutor and an undergraduate teaching assistant for Introduction to Environmental Microbiology. She is completing research on changes in coastal productivity in Arctic watersheds. After graduation, Alexa plans to attend graduate school to study marine biogeochemical modeling.

Student Speaker

Bri’ajah’nae Hymes – Environmental Biology
Rochester, New York

Bri’ajah’nae Hymes is a graduating senior majoring in environmental biology, with a focus on pre-health studies. She participated in the ESF in the High School program at the World of Inquiry in Rochester, New York. On campus, she served as the Environmental Biology Department Senator and the chief programming officer for the Undergraduate Student Association, a biology teaching assistant and the third baseman for the Syracuse University Club Softball Team. She also currently serves as an executive board member for the Syracuse University Chapter of the NAACP, a career ambassador in the Office of Career Services and the Education Opportunity Program teaching assistant. Off-campus, Bri’ajah’nae serves the homeless with We Rise Above the Streets and as a student mentor to BIPOC at Syracuse Nottingham High School. She will be a part of Upstate Medical University’s incoming class of 2022, focusing on geriatrics practices and cancer research.
Graduates of Distinction 2021

Incipiens Quercu
Susan Fassler ’12, ’14 – Environmental Studies

When you consider Susan Fassler’s impressive accomplishments since her graduation, it is clear why she is referred to as a “rising star” as the director of sustainable operations at ESF. Fassler has been instrumental in initiatives including the implementation of one of the largest and most affordable publicly accessible EV charging hubs in Syracuse, assisting in the creation of the College’s Center for Sustainable Materials Management and the development of a comprehensive and interdisciplinary zero-waste strategy. She took on an even greater role when she planned and executed safety measures during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic.

She represented ESF and United University Professions (UUP) via her testimony before the New York State Assembly’s Standing Committee on climate action. Fassler advocated for strengthening the waste management recommendations being considered for inclusion within the NYS Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act’s Scoping Plan. She was selected to serve as co-chair of UUP’s Environmental Issues and Advocacy Committee and also sits on the Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust Board of Directors.

Fassler’s commitment to sustainability has been a central component of her career, beginning in Hallandale Beach, Florida, where as the green initiatives coordinator, she assisted in achieving LEED certification for city buildings as well as developed the city’s Sustainability Action Plan. Fassler’s sustainability management skills were sharpened further as the project coordinator of Onondaga County’s green infrastructure program, Save the Rain.

For her commitment to promoting sustainable practices and her perseverance in providing a safe community for students during the pandemic, we proudly confer upon Susan Fassler the “Incipiens Quercu” Graduate of Distinction Award.

Notable Achievement
Dr. Ana Menezes ’08 – Environmental Science

Dr. Ana Menezes has dedicated her career to ending world hunger. She works to eradicate hunger through effective implementation and management of aquaculture and small-scale fisheries policies.

Through her work with the United Nations’ Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Menezes collaborates with Member States to develop and implement policies and strategies to farm aquatic species in sustainable and profitable manners.

Currently based at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy, she started working with the organization in Africa as a fisheries and aquaculture officer where her duties included policy drafting and advocacy for sustainable aquatic farming. Throughout her professional life, she has mobilized millions of dollars in financial resources, developed research tools to assess poverty and policy impact and worked tirelessly in the field to arm her constituents with as much knowledge as possible. Capacity development allied with sustainable production is her passion. Her focus is on how to meet the current global demand for food, increasing production and productivity while conserving the environment through the implementation of commercial aquaculture within eco-system-based approaches.

For her outstanding contributions in her field and her commitment to environmental conservation, we proudly recognize Dr. Ana Menezes as the 2021 Graduate of Distinction in the Notable Achievement category.
Graduates of Distinction 2021

Lifetime Achievement
Gary Hilderbrand ’79 – Landscape Architecture

Dignified. Elegant. Deceptively simple. These are the words used to describe the considerable opus of work designed by our Lifetime Achievement recipient, Gary Hilderbrand.

The influence that Hilderbrand has on the profession extends from the classrooms of Harvard—where he has taught since 1990—to some of the most prestigious museums in the world. His design work and personal artworks have been exhibited at the American Academy in Rome, the Isabella Stuart Gardner Museum and Sotheby’s New York.

He is a founding principal of Reed Hilderbrand, LLC, a firm that has been recognized with over 100 regional and national design awards, including the American Society of Landscape Architecture’s (ASLA) Firm of the Year in 2013. Widely published as an author and critic, his firm’s monograph “Visible Invisible” was recognized with ASLA’s Award of Excellence in Communications.

Hilderbrand’s designs are characterized by the unique integration of ecology, fine art and cultural values. He is the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions, including the ASLA Design Medal, the Emerging Voices Award and the Rome Prize Fellowship. He is the Peter Louis Hornbeck Professor of Practice at Harvard Graduate School of Design.

For his influential, continuous and comprehensive body of work both in practice and in teaching, ESF proudly confers the Lifetime Achievement Graduate of Distinction Award upon Gary Hilderbrand.
Makoto Hagi’s interest in the landscape began at an early age. Growing up in an area surrounded by industrial sites generated an awareness of the negative impacts on natural systems and environmentally deteriorated landscapes. As a practicing landscape architect, Hagi incorporates ecological processes, remediation efforts and aesthetic design into natural and built environments while promoting public awareness of outdoor spaces.

After graduating in 2010, Hagi began his career working on several public space projects benefiting Western New York, including the multi-phased Geneva Lakefront Park and work on the Genesee Valley Park West master plan originally designed by Frederick Law Olmsted.

In 2014, Hagi and his team were awarded first place and winner of the certificate of merit for best overall project at the Slant Open International Design Competition. His team’s entry, “Safety Net,” focused on the development of a man-made living filtration component of the water cycle. In 2017 he was selected as a winner of the National Grant Competition for Emerging Professionals in Landscape Architecture.

Hagi’s active involvement in LEED projects is a tangible commitment to promoting biodiversity in urban environments. His contributions to projects in Seattle led to a design strategy that exceeded the municipality’s sustainability goal to support healthy vegetation and mitigate the impact on storm and wastewater treatment infrastructure.

For his outstanding contributions in the field of landscape architecture, we proudly recognize Mr. Makoto Hagi as our Graduate of Distinction in the category of Incipiens Quercu.

After receiving both his B.S. and Ph.D. in environmental and forest biology from ESF, Dr. Jeffrey Morrell began a distinguished career in the field of wood protection spanning over 35 years.

As a Distinguished University Professor in the Department of Wood Science and Engineering at Oregon State University, his research focused on identifying the fungi associated with the deterioration process, assessing the potential for biological control of decay, developing methods for improving wood treatments and systems for arresting decay once it has been initiated.

He successfully advised 60 master’s and Ph.D. students and published over 700 articles in the area of wood protection. Dr. Morrell served as the president of the American Wood Protection Association and the International Research Group on Wood Protection. He was a member of the editorial boards for Madera Sciencia y Tecnologia, Wood and Fiber Science, and Holzforschung. He is proud to work with the late Professor Robert Zabel at ESF to co-author a textbook on wood microbiology.

In 2018, Dr. Morrell moved to Australia, where he is currently the director of the National Centre for Timber Durability and Design Life, based out of the University of the Sunshine Coast. The Centre is an initiative led by Forest Wood Products of Australia, and is a partnership among industry, academia and government to put Australia at the forefront of international best practice. For his outstanding contributions in the field of wood preservation, we proudly recognize Dr. Jeffrey Morrell as the 2020 Graduate of Distinction in the Notable Achievement category.
Graduates of Distinction 2020

Lifetime Achievement Graduate of Distinction Award
Edwin J. Green '79 – Forest and Natural Resources Management

After earning his master’s degree in silviculture and forest influences from ESF, Dr. Edwin Green received his Ph.D. in forest biometrics from Virginia Tech. He then went to Rutgers University, where he began a lifelong career challenging the conventional method of approaching statistical analyses as it applies to forest ecology.

Dr. Green has been a pioneering member of the forestry community through his continuing efforts to develop, apply and raise awareness of Bayesian methods in forestry and ecology. Although Bayes’ Theorem was postulated in the 1700s, it remained largely of theoretical interest in ecological investigations prior to Dr. Green’s work utilizing Bayesian statistical methods in forestry research. He had a profound influence on the way statistical analyses are viewed in environmental and forestry applications and earned the highest regard of his peers in the biometrics community.

He has been elected as a Fellow of the Society of American Foresters and the American Statistical Association. He served as a National Science Foundation panel member and as a member of a Technical Advisory Committee for the USDA Forest Service.

Dr. Green is the author or co-author of more than 75 publications in peer-reviewed scientific journals. He co-authored a landmark publication in NATURE HUMAN BEHAVIOR titled “Redefine Statistical Significance”, which has the potential to have wide influence regarding the measures of statistical significance and how such measures should be interpreted by statisticians and scientists.

For his outstanding contributions to the field of forestry, we proudly recognize Dr. Edwin Green as the 2020 Lifetime Achievement Graduate of Distinction award recipient.
Class of 2021

**Students Receiving the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy**

Bonjorne de Almeida, Lilian
Ekoh, Susan Sharon
Heo, Namjoo
Mack, Stacey
Manderino, Rea
Nagle, Danielle
Newhouse, Andrew
Osborne, Teresa Rose
Wolcott, Scott Brew

**Students Receiving the Degree of Master of Professional Studies**

Adair, Fallon
Andriano, Maria
Collins, Daniel
Gladstone, Mariah
Maha Gamage, Madusha
Mcauliffe, Cecelia
Navares, Kawainohiaakalani
Wickersham, Patrick+
Ross, Andrea
Weinman, Cooper
Widrick, Gwennth

**Student Receiving the Degree of Master of Professional Studies and Master of Public Administration**

Wickersham, Patrick+

**Students Receiving the Degree of Master of Science**

Barry, Renée
Basanta, Lamsal
Cherofsky, Jess
Demro, Delaney
Dzielski, Sarah
Guang, Shaen
Hecking, Matthew
Kane, Meredith
Kucia, Samuel
Mak, Hosea
McCall, Laine
Minnick, Danielle
Morris, Erin
Pelletier, Lissa
Pilkey, Hannah
Regner, Michaela
Richmond, Taylor Lee
Romero, Moory
Zeitzer, Ilana

**Student Receiving the Degree of Master of Science and Master of Public Administration**

Zevin, Rachel

**Student Receiving the Degree of Master of Landscape Architecture**

Crespo, Ashley
Class of 2021

Candidate for the Degree of Bachelor of Landscape Architecture
Angelina, Vera

Candidates for the Degree of Bachelor of Science
Acampora, Samantha
Angeloro, Ryan Martin
Baldauf, Tristan
Barnes, James
Baumgarten, Kyle
Beazley, Darcy Renee
Berberich, Thomas
Bland, Jesse Adam
Bouillon, Hugo
Bunch, Ryan
Burnett, Foster Alexander
Burr, Bailey Ann
Carrier, Emma Ruth
Castrello, Matthew*
Compton, Jared M.
Connolly, Liam
Corrente, Julia*
Cosenza, Sara*
Cottrill, Jessi Elizabeth
Crowe, Savannah*
Davis, Trey
Edmonds, Christian A.
Eggenberger, Madeline
Evans, Alexandria
Farrell, Patrick
Feliciano, Doriana Rosemarie
Fischer, Lucas
Foote, Rachael
Fox, Benjamin Howard
Garrett, Makenzie
Geraci, Jacob
Giardini, Jacob*
Gower, Kylee M.
Graham, Andrew
Greco, Julia Anne
Haley, Aiden
Hanson, Ryan
Helms, Matthew
Hill, Anna
Hill, Zachary Jepson
Hillebrand, Mary Katherine
Hooven Jr., John M.
Howell, Isabeau
Hummel, Breanna
Hymes, Bri’ajah’nae*
Jerome, Amanda
Kelly, Lauren Olivia
Kleinhenz, Emily Rose
Korcza, Haley*
Kustas, Teresa
LaFaver, Noelle*
Lasselle, Jonathan R.
Lebeuf, Joshua
Madsen, Spencer
Marianacci, Jill
Maring, Claire Marie
Mark, Andrew
McAuliffe, Cecelia
Miller, Rebecca
Minnick, Danielle
Murray, Matthew
O’Brien, Maggie*
Opalecky, Robert A.
Opel, Sydney L.*
Osman, Noura*
Paley, Hannah
Patton, Daniel
Payette, Joseph
Pedersen, Kyle
Perry, Shenequa
Quigley, Cole
Rapav, Connell
Raucci Jr., Paul~
Reale, Nathaniel*
Regling, Karma
Regner, Michaela
Reilly, Emmie
Renker, Sophie
Reyngoudt, Molly Champei
Rivera, Ashley
Roemer, Sophia
Rogan, Carter
Roller, Thomas
Salamone, Richard
Salyam, Olivia
Schlecht, Abigail
Scofield, Robert
Seib, Caleb
Sheldon, Jordan
Shulock, Lindsay
Sipiora, Bryce
Smith, Ethan Michael
Stafford, Michael
Stevens, Harley R.
Sun, Yibo
Sunday, Maxwell+
Tagg, Cheyenne
Tortorelli, Jessica
Van Patten, Brett
Weisar, Virginia
Whitaker, Peter Anthony#
Wiart, Benjamin
Williams, Brandon
Wolcott, Scott
Zicari-Grant, Kyle
Welcome to the ESF Alumni Association

We are 22,000 strong and live all around the world. You were a student for a few years, but you are a graduate for life. The ESF Alumni Association congratulates you on your graduation.

Please stay in touch
Alumni@esf.edu • 315-470-6632 • www.esf.edu/alumni