



COMMENCEMENT
CEREMONY
2023



 **FRANKLIN**
UNIVERSITY SWITZERLAND



“

FRANKLIN EMBRACES THE
PUREST VERSION OF WHAT IT
MEANS TO LIVE AND LEARN IN
AN INTERCULTURAL WORLD
WHILE HAVING THE STUDENT
AT THE CENTER.

”



SAMUEL MARTÍN-BARBERO, Ph.D

President, Franklin University Switzerland

TABLE OF CONTENTS

4	ORDER OF CEREMONY
6	DR. IGNAZIO CASSIS COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER
7	KEVIN W. MCNEELY '73 HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT
8	GREGORY WARDEN, Ph.D HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT
9	CONNER CRAWFORD '12 ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENT
10	MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE CANDIDATES
10	MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE CANDIDATES
11	BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE CANDIDATE
11	BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE CANDIDATES
15	VISITING STUDENT FROM EMERSON COLLEGE
16	A MASTER'S DEGREE AT FRANKLIN: A LOOK TOWARDS THE FUTURE
24	ACADEMIC AWARDS
25	UNIVERSITY AWARDS
26	PLATFORM PARTY
27	“BEYOND BORDERS” ACADEMIC TRAVEL DOCUMENTARY

ORDER OF CEREMONY

PROCESSIONAL

Pomp and Circumstance, Sir Edward Elgar
Gaudeamus igitur

WELCOME

Samuel Martín-Barbero, President

OPENING REMARKS

Kim Hildebrant, Chairman, Board of Trustees

FRANKLIN VALUES AWARDS

Academic Excellence

Gerta Holman

Outstanding Graduate Student Leadership

Presidential Leadership

Presented by Deborah Knaust,
Dean of Student Life and Engagement

Fabio Ferrari, Professor of Comparative Literature
& Cultural Studies and Italian Studies

EMERITUS RECOGNITION

Presented by Andrew Starcher,
Vice President of Academic Affairs

CONFERRING OF HONORARY DEGREES

Kevin W. McNeely '73

Presented by Kim Hildebrant,
Chairman, Board of Trustees

P. Gregory Warden

Presented by Andrew Starcher,
Vice President of Academic Affairs

ACADEMIC TRAVEL

Presented by Armando Zanecchia,
Professor Emeritus of Political Science
and International Management

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Ignazio Cassis

Swiss Federal Councillor,
Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
Presented by Fulvio Pelli, Trustee

CONFERRING OF DEGREES

Samuel Martín-Barbero, President
Andrew Starcher, Vice President of Academic Affairs
Giulia Miniero, Academic Director
for the MSIM program
Andrea Terzi, Director, Master in Political
Economy of Money and Development
Rachel Simpkin, Registrar

GRADUATE STUDENT ADDRESS

Paige Arellano

Introduced by Giulia Miniero,
Academic Director for the MSIM program

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT ADDRESS

Majda Halim

Introduced by Caroline Wiedmer, Professor
of Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION WELCOME

Emily Boynton,

Class of 2009 and President, Alumni Council
Introduced by Diana Tedoldi, Associate Director
of Advancement

URSULA GENTILE LOWERRE OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

Conner Crawford, Class of 2012

Presented by Emily Boynton,
Class of 2009 and President, Alumni Council
and Diana Tedoldi, Associate Director of Advancement

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Samuel Martín-Barbero, President

RECESSIONAL

Rondeau, Jean Joseph Mouret

*A reception for the Class of 2023 will follow
the ceremony*

SOPRANO VOICES

Laura Bevacqua, Maria Guffi, Beatrice Pellegrino

*In collaboration with Scuola Universitaria di Musica
del Conservatorio della Svizzera Italiana.*



DR. IGNAZIO CASSIS

Swiss Federal Councillor,
Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs

Ignazio Cassis (FDP), elected by the United Federal Assembly on 20 September 2017, took up his post as head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) on 1 November 2017.

For two years prior to his election to the Federal Council, Mr Cassis was president of the parliamentary group of the FDP. The Liberals, of which he was a member since his election to the National Council in 2007. From 2015, he chaired the National Council's Social Security and Health Committee. He was also vice-chair or chair of various parliamentary groups. His political career began in 2004 with his election to the legislative authority of the Ticino municipality of Collina d'Oro.

After graduating in medicine from the University of Zurich in 1987, Ignazio Cassis obtained a doctorate from the University of Lausanne in 1996 and a master's degree in public health from the University of Geneva the same year.

From 1988 to 1996 he worked as a doctor, specialising in internal medicine and in prevention and public health. From 1997 to 2008 he was cantonal physician for the Canton of Ticino. From 2008 to 2012 he held the office of Vice-President of the Swiss Medical Association and since 2012 has held the office of various organisations in the health sector (Curafutura, CURAVIVA, EQUAM, RADIX, etc.).

His university teaching activities (in charge of courses) have taken him to various universities, such as Università della Svizzera italiana, Université de Lausanne, Universität Bern and Universität Zürich.

Ignazio Cassis was born 1961 in Sessa, in the Malcantone region (TI), and is married.



KEVIN W. MCNEELY '73

Director Emeritus and a Co-Founder of the Sonoma International Film Festival (SIFF)

Kevin McNeely is Director Emeritus and a Co-Founder of the Sonoma International Film Festival (SIFF), of which he previously served as its long-term Executive Director from 2008 to 2022. SIFF is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the best independent film and filmmakers from around the world, inspiring savvy film lovers, and introducing the power of film to student filmmakers. Blending a program of international film, food, wine and fun, SIFF hosts its annual five-day festival each March, as well as special events such as selected films, advance screenings and special guests year-round.

Mr. McNeely has served as a Trustee of the Franklin University Switzerland Board of Trustees since 2005, and his dedicated leadership and involvement over the years have been invaluable to the university. In 1973 he attended a semester abroad at Franklin, which had a profound impact on his future and reinforced his love of travel and the enjoyment he derives from experiencing life and education in a multicultural environment. Based on his life-changing experience, he was determined to support Franklin's development from a small college into a top university where students become receptive to the challenges of today's global world while developing the skills and knowledge needed to succeed.

Philanthropy has been an important and gratifying part of Kevin's life. He is a family Trustee of the Manitou Fund which supports global causes ranging from social justice, health & wellness, education, as well as arts & culture. A beneficiary which he is most proud of is Franklin University Switzerland.

Mr. McNeely holds a BA in Economics from Claremont McKenna College.

Mr. McNeely is married to Rosemary McNeely and they reside in California, USA. They have a daughter, Hannah Rose McNeely, who is a 2023 graduate of Franklin University Switzerland.



GREGORY WARDEN, Ph.D

Mark A. Roglán Director of the Custard Institute for Spanish Art and Culture at Southern Methodist University (SMU)

Dr. Warden served as the fourth president of Franklin University Switzerland from July 2012 to June 2022. During his tenure, Franklin accomplished numerous goals and improvements.

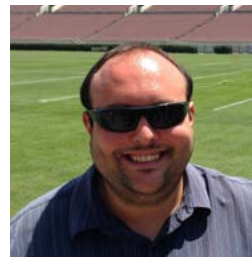
In 2014 Franklin was granted University status in Switzerland and changed its name to Franklin University Switzerland. In 2013 a new mission statement was collaboratively created that recognises the importance of social responsibility. To that end, Franklin's established its first BSc in Environmental Science, a new major in Social Justice and Sustainability, and initiatives such as Scholarships Without Borders. Additionally, an enhanced curriculum offered new programs in Pre-Health, Legal Studies, and Film Studies. Under his leadership, an endowed professorship of psychology was granted. Franklin was also ranked for the first time by the World's Universities with Real Impact.

Dr. Warden joined Franklin after an eminent 30-year teaching career at Southern Methodist University, where he was named Meadows Foundation Distinguished Teaching Professor in 1995 and Altschuler Distinguished Teaching Professor in 2011. In addition to serving as associate dean for research and academic affairs for the Meadows School, he was chair of the Art History Department for six years, interim director of the Meadows Museum, and interim chair of the Division of Arts Administration for two years. He co-founded and directed the SMU-in-Italy program for more than 20 years. In 2011, the National Endowment for the Humanities awarded a grant in support of a summer institute for college teachers, led by Dr. Warden, to examine Etruscan and Roman culture on-site in Italy. In 2011 he was inducted into the "Order of Italian Solidarity" and given the title of Knight (Cavaliere) by the Republic of Italy for his efforts on behalf of Italian culture.

In addition, Dr. Warden has authored or co-authored seven books as well as over 100 articles and reviews on areas ranging from Greek archaeology to Etruscan art, archaeology, and ritual, and Roman architecture. He has lectured internationally and in 2007 delivered the Lorent Memorial Lecture at the British Museum. He organized the exhibit Greek Vase Painting: Form, Figure, and Narrative-Treasures of the National Archaeological Museum in Madrid at SMU's Meadows Museum in 2003. In 2009 he coordinated, edited, and wrote part of the catalogue for the Meadows Museum exhibit From the Temple and the Tomb: Etruscan Treasures from Tuscany.

Dr. Warden received a BA in Anthropology from the University of Pennsylvania and MA and Ph.D. degrees in Classical and Near Eastern Archaeology from Bryn Mawr College. He taught at the University of Pennsylvania, Bowdoin College, and the University of Texas at Arlington before joining SMU.

Dr. Warden is married to Dr. Diane Warden and they reside in Texas, USA.



CONNER CRAWFORD '12

Funds Officer, FUS Alumni Council

Conner has been working closely with Franklin, in one area or another, for almost 15 years. After graduating in 2012 with a major in History and Political Science, the University has been one of the constants in his life.

While at Franklin he sought an active role; serving four years in the student government and its various committees and the final year as its President. These experiences within the SGA taught Conner a great deal and he was thrilled to be able to work alongside some of the most dedicated students Franklin has had. Given the Outstanding Freshman award, he worked tirelessly to assist a number of Franklin clubs while also serving on the editorial board of the campus paper. Time was also spent working internally as a LLLS scholar for both the IT and Registrar's office.

After graduation Conner followed his longtime interest in politics by joining a nearby congressional race working on the campaign as a field organizer. Over the years he has worked on half a dozen political campaigns at both the state and local level around Southern California. In 2017, he moved into property management furthering a lucrative side career; while overseeing construction, renovations and upkeep at four local properties. He has since taken a break from the work and is looking forward to finally taking some time to go on some long put off travels while he plans for his next opportunity.

Conner joined the Franklin Alumni Council in 2012, immediately after graduation, and since 2016 has served as its funds officer. In addition to the biannual fundraising appeals, he is charged with supporting the annual Day of Giving, overseeing the Councils budget as well as taking part in the 2021-2022 Alumni Council redesign. He is the Chair of the Franklin Club of Southern California, serves as an admissions ambassador, and in 2019 was honored to be asked to serve as the alumni representative on the University's VIEW Committee to establish and articulate Franklin's core values.



MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE CANDIDATES

Paige Arellano

Denver, Colorado - USA
International Management with
an Emphasis in Climate Action

Rahman Babayev

Ashgabat, Turkmenistan
International Management with an
Emphasis in Digital Transformation

Jonathan Bystrowski

Granby, Connecticut - USA
International Management with an
Emphasis in Digital Transformation

Ginevra Chiara Indelicato

Catania, Italy
International Management with an
Emphasis in Digital Transformation

Alaesha Gaedke

Oak Grove, Minnesota - USA
International Management
with an Emphasis in Climate Action

Marco Permunion

Varese, Italy
International Management
with an Emphasis in Climate Action

Marlene Schmid

Rheinland-Pfalz, Germany
International Management
with an Emphasis in Climate Action



MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE CANDIDATES

Charlene Barclay

Charlotte, North Carolina - USA
Responsible Arts Management

Swasti Contractor

Rajkot, Gujarat - India
Responsible Arts Management

Petra Anastasia Gnoato

Cittadella, Padua - Italy
Responsible Arts Management

Donna Mashat

Makkah, Saudi Arabia
Responsible Arts Management

Sean Burch

Franklinton, North Carolina - USA
Political Economy of Money and
Development



BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE CANDIDATE

Madeline Espinoza

San Diego, California - USA
Environmental Science major
Psychology and History minors
Honors Program Graduate
cum laude



BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE CANDIDATES

Wahbi Alabdaly

Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
Communication and
Media Studies major

Timur Babaev

Saint-Petersburg, Russia
International Management major

Grace Bacon

Minneapolis, Minnesota - USA
Comparative Literary and Cultural
Studies major
Art History and Visual Culture, French
and Postcolonial Studies minors
Honors Program Graduate
magna cum laude

Anushka Bagde

Edmonton, Canada
Finance major
International Economics major

Saeeda Bano

New York, New York – USA/
Pakistan
International Relations major
History and Italian Studies minors

Jeremie Belokrinickij

Berlin, Germany
International Management major
Germanic Studies minor

Angelica Berrios Nieves

Aguas Buenas, Puerto Rico
Communication and
Media Studies major
Comparative and Literary Cultural
Studies and Italian Studies minors

Nour Binzagr

Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
Visual and Communication Arts major
Psychology minor

Rebecca Bohmann
Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany
International Relations major
Germanic Studies and History minors

Destiny Kayla Brown
Dallas, Texas - USA
Comparative Literary and Cultural
Studies and Political Science
combined major

Lexine Renee Cantoria
Norco, California - USA
International Marketing
Management major
Psychology minor

Philip Harper Christian
Austin, Texas - USA
Political Science major
History minor

Faisal Dakkak
Amman, Jordan
Communication and
Media Studies major

Salah Dakkak
Amman, Jordan
Communication and
Media Studies major

Gianfranco De Pinto
Maracaibo, Venezuela
Finance major

Nathan Decarli
Minusio, Switzerland
International Management major
with an Emphasis in Finance
Economics and French minors
cum laude

Lara DeCastecker
Solon, Ohio - USA
International Relations major
History and Postcolonial Studies
minors
Honors Program Graduate
cum laude

Noah Guerin
San Clemente, California - USA
International Relations major

Majda Halim
Ifrane, Morocco
International Marketing
Management major

Aram Harutyunyan
Kyiv, Ukraine
Finance major

Yara Hassoubah
Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
Communication and
Media Studies major
Fashion Studies major

Rosemary Hickman
Bellingham, Washington - USA
International Relations major
Postcolonial Studies minor
Honors Program Graduate
magna cum laude

Christopher Jeffries
Berkeley, California - USA
Political Science major

Jenna Jordan
Napa, California - USA
Communication and
Media Studies major
Comparative Literary and
Cultural Studies minor
cum laude

Sophie Kendrick
Bellingham, Washington - USA
Environmental Studies major
French minor
Honors Program Graduate
cum laude

Arpi Khachatryan
Yerevan, Armenia
Comparative Literary and
Cultural Studies major
Film Studies, French and
History minors
Honors Program Graduate
magna cum laude

Kristina Konyukhova
Magnitogorsk, Russia
Art History and Visual Culture major
Italian Studies and Studio Art minors
cum laude

Spencer Landry
Commerce Township, Michigan - USA
Political Science major
Germanic Studies, History, Italian
Studies and Legal Studies minors
Honors Program Graduate
cum laude

Emily Larson
Grand Rapids, Michigan - USA
Comparative Literary and Cultural
Studies major
Psychology minor

Stephanie Lohmann
Curitiba, Brazil
Art History and Visual Culture major
Honors Program Graduate
cum laude

Adam Lovasz
Sacramento, California - USA
International Banking and
Finance major

Gabriela Malavenda
Key Biscayne, Florida - USA
International Management major
with an Emphasis in Marketing

Gretchen Manderfeld
St. Michael, Minnesota - USA
Comparative Literary and
Cultural Studies and Visual and
Communication Arts combined major
magna cum laude

Rim Maslouh
Casablanca, Morocco
Environmental Studies major
with an Emphasis in Science
Psychology major
French minor

Bear Matthews
Basalt, Colorado - USA
Economics and History
combined major

Kendall McAllister
Charlestown, New Hampshire - USA
International Relations major
History minor
cum laude

Hannah Rose McNeely
Sonoma, California - USA
Communication and
Media Studies major
Studio Art minor

Kristina Merkulova
Moscow, Russia
International Banking and
Finance major
International Economics major

Alexandra-Elena Mitu
Bucharest, Romania
Environmental Studies major
with an Emphasis in Science
Psychology major
summa cum laude

Britton Morrell

Dallas, Texas - USA
Communication and
Media Studies major
Political Science major
Italian Studies minor
Honors Program Graduate
magna cum laude

Florence Müller

HCMC, Vietnam/Lausanne,
Switzerland
Environmental Studies major
French and Psychology minors
cum laude

Saverio Multin

Lugano, Switzerland
Communication and
Media Studies major

Cathryn Noble

Hershey, Pennsylvania - USA
Political Science major
Germanic Studies minor

Francesco Pagani

Lugano, Switzerland
International Economics major

Oleksandr Pryimak

Chernivtsi, Chernivtsi Oblast,
Ukraine
International Banking and
Finance major
International Economics major
Applied Mathematics minor
Honors Program Graduate
magna cum laude

Rolands Repetto

Riga, Latvia
Finance major
Applied Mathematics minor
cum laude

Elizaveta Reznitskaya

Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, Russia
Communication and Media Studies
and Management combined major
Italian Studies and Psychology minors

Chloe Richards

Shreveport, Louisiana - USA
Art History and Visual Culture and
Comparative Literary and Cultural
Studies combined major

Cameron Rodriguez

New Orleans, Louisiana - USA
Finance major
Applied Mathematics and
Environmental Science minors

Samuel Sarno

Cirié, Italy
Communication and
Media Studies major
Psychology minor

Mateo Segura Rivadeneyra

Barcelona, Spain
Environmental Studies major

Prerna Singh

Atlanta, Georgia - USA/India
Psychology major
Environmental Science minor

Alexandra Starykh

Moscow, Russia
Communication and Media Studies
and Management combined
major Psychology minor

Haya Tarawneh

Milan, Italy/Jordan
Communication and
Media Studies major
Psychology minor

Nuki Toradze

Tbilisi, Georgia
International Management major
with an Emphasis in Marketing

Aigerim Tulzhanova

Astana, Kazakhstan
Finance major
cum laude

Jahan Ukwatte

Colombo, Sri Lanka
Management and Visual and
Communication Arts combined major

Darin Usupova

Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
Finance major

Vitalii Volkov

Lviv, Ukraine
International Management major
with an Emphasis in Finance

Zain Khalid Wahbo Badr

Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
Communication and
Media Studies major
Psychology minor

Jayne-Evelyn Warren

St. Johnsbury, Vermont - USA
Art History and Visual Culture major

Sophie Yaldas

Washington, District of Columbia -
USA
Fashion Studies major
magna cum laude



VISITING STUDENT FROM EMERSON COLLEGE

Amaury Alexander Basora Gomez

New York City, New York – USA
Emerson College
Study Abroad Student

All degree candidates have been confirmed by the faculty as eligible to graduate in December 2022, May 2023 or August 2023. In accordance with university policies and procedures, diplomas, honors, and award status will be conferred upon final verification that all degree requirements have been met.

FOCUS ON YOUR FUTURE

GET READY FOR A FUS MASTER'S PROGRAM

The Master of Science in International Management is a one-year graduate program that equips you with a rigorous education in business. By taking a transdisciplinary approach rooted in the liberal arts tradition of Franklin University Switzerland, the program provides you with a managerial skill set. You will get cutting-edge management training rooted in personalized teaching that bridges theory and practice through multiple institutional partnerships. Thanks to three tracks of specialization – Arts and Luxury Management, Digital Transformation, and Business and Sustainability – you will deepen your expertise in specific disciplinary areas while connecting with industry experts. In the summer, through in-company training and personalized, advisor-led learning, you will become career-ready!

BOOK YOUR
ONE-TO-ONE
MEETING WITH
A COUNSELOR



“ As a student in the Business and Sustainability program, I've gained valuable hands-on experience navigating the complex intersection of business, climate change, and global markets. By learning from experts in the field, I've developed the skills and knowledge needed to make a real impact on the international stage. This program has prepared me to act in the face of the urgent climate crisis and to drive sustainable solutions on a global scale.

Marlene Schmid '23

”



PROGRAM STRUCTURE

FALL

FOUNDATION COURSES
TRANSDISCIPLINARY MANAGEMENT COURSES

SPRING

ARTS AND LUXURY
MANAGEMENT



DIGITAL
TRANSFORMATION



BUSINESS AND
SUSTAINABILITY



SUMMER

INDIVIDUAL LEARNING JOURNEY
IN-COMPANY TRAINING
THESIS

“

This master's program has made me grow on a personal and cultural level, but most of all it has given me the opportunity to meet fantastic people from all over the world who are now a second family to me.

Ginevra Chiara Indelicato '23

”



90 ECTS



12 MONTHS, FULL-TIME



3 SPECIALIZATION TRACKS



ENGLISH LANGUAGE



SMALL-SIZED CLASSES



INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS



STARTING DATE:
28 AUGUST 2023



ARTS AND LUXURY MANAGEMENT

The arts and luxury industries are growing every day. Companies are investing to find ways to keep business profitable while satisfying the complex needs of an expanding and increasingly sophisticated set of demands. Understanding the management principles and industry practices particular to these sectors is fundamental for success and sustainability in the long run. This track offers a cutting-edge approach by tailoring management theories to the intrinsic peculiarities of the arts and luxury domains while connecting you with international experts.

Is this track for you?

If you have a passion for art and luxury products, and if you want to learn how to make the work of craftsmen and artists known to the public while making a business profitable and sustainable, this track is for you. You will learn how to apply the most innovative management theories to the peculiarities of these industries while interacting with experts and managers in the field.



GIULIA MINIERO

*Chair of the Academic Division of Business and Economics
Associate Professor, Marketing*

gminiero@fus.edu

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

Digital transformation is quickly changing how private businesses and public institutions organize and operate daily business activities. This track will help you become a future business leader by equipping you with the knowledge, skills, and tools necessary to tackle the challenges of digitalization in a changing business landscape.

Is this track for you?

If you enjoy taking courses and workshops in digital finance, digital marketing, or in artificial intelligence and would like some hands-on experience in digital transformation by working on real-world projects, this track is the right one for you. It will enable you to learn about digitalization from different perspectives.



DAVID SULEIMAN

*Assistant Professor,
Finance*

dsuleiman@fus.edu



BUSINESS AND SUSTAINABILITY

On the Business and Sustainability track, you will learn about the social and environmental challenges that multinational corporations face daily. Track-specific courses will introduce you to the business approach to climate change and how to deal with severe and often unforeseeable consequences for human life and business conduct.

Is this track for you?

If you are curious about what makes multinational corporations sustainable, have a global mindset, and are committed to working in multicultural teams, you will get the most out of this track. Our partnership with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) lets you see into the work of a UN agency during a six-week practical experience. After finishing this track, you'll be set for a career at the intersection of business and international organizations.



MARIO SCHULTZ

Assistant Professor,
International Management

mschultz@fus.edu

ARE YOU READY?

TAKE THE NEXT STEP WITH A FUS MASTER'S PROGRAM



“

This master gave me the opportunity to meet a diverse array of new cultures.

Petra Anastasia Gnoato '23

”



BOOK YOUR
ONE-TO-ONE
MEETING WITH
A COUNSELOR

ACADEMIC AWARDS



Art History and Visual Culture
Stephanie Lohmann

Applied Mathematics
Oleksandr Pryimak

Communication and Media Studies
Britton Morrell

Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies
Grace Bacon
Gretchen Manderfeld

Economics
Oleksandr Pryimak

Environmental Studies
Madeline Espinoza
Alexandra Mitu

Finance
Aigerim Tulzhanova

French
Arpi Khachatryan

German
Spencer Landry

History
Claire Marie Sullivan

International Management
Gabriela Malavenda

International Marketing Management
Majda Halim

International Relations and Political Science
Spencer Landry

Italian
Angelica Berrios Nieves

Psychology
Perna Singh

Visual and Communication Arts
Gretchen Manderfeld



UNIVERSITY AWARDS



Class Valedictorian 2023
Alexandra-Elena Mitu

Presidential Leadership
Spencer Landry

Academic Excellence
Grace Bacon

Gerta Holman
Arpi Khachatryan

Outstanding Graduate Student Leadership
Paige Arellano

Outstanding First-Year
Cassidy Gorrigan

SGA Student Engagement
Arpi Khachatryan

Alumni Council Student Art Competition
Calysta Warner

Excellence in Professional Engagement
Bernd Bucher
Marcus Pyka

Excellence in Service
Tracie Mac Kenzie

Excellence in Teaching
David Suleiman

Adjuncts Faculty Appreciation
Vera Dianova



Samuel Martín-Barbero,
President,
Franklin University Switzerland

Kim Hildebrant,
Chairman, Board of Trustees

Ignazio Cassis,
Swiss Federal Councillor, Federal
Department of Foreign Affairs

Kevin W. McNeely,
Trustee

P. Gregory Warden,
Former President of Franklin
University Switzerland

Cabell West,
Vice-Chair, Board of Trustees

Fulvio Pelli,
Trustee

Theo Brenner,
Co-Founder and Former President of
Franklin University Switzerland

Andrew Starcher,
Vice President of Academic Affairs

Tomaso Rizzi,
Vice President for Finance and
Administration

Deborah Knaust,
Dean of Student Life and Engagement

Lucila Perez-Mollo,
Vice President of Admissions and
Enrollment Management

Satomi Sugiyama,
Professor of Communication
and Media Studies

Clarice Zdanski,
Instructor, Art History and Studio Art

Fabio Ferrari,
Associate Professor of Italian and
Comparative Literary and Cultural
Studies

Armando Zaneccchia,
Professor Emeritus of Political
Science and
International Management

Caroline Wiedmer,
Professor of Comparative Literary and
Cultural Studies

Giulia Miniero,
Academic Director for the MSIM
program

Patrick Della Croce,
Associate Professor of Environmental
Sciences

Bernd Bucher,
Associate Professor of Political
Science

Branko Sain,
Director of the Taylor Institute and
Dean of Executive Education and
Innovation

Davide Gai,
Director of Marketing and Strategy

Diana Tedoldi,
Associate Director of Advancement

Rachel Simpkin,
Registrar

BEYOND BORDERS

ACADEMIC TRAVEL DOCUMENTARY



This documentary has been produced by Adjunct Professor Elettra Fiumi's Fiumi Studios, and tells the story of experiential learning offered at FUS through the Academic Travel program, the most distinctive element of the Franklin curriculum. It enables students to embark on extended visits to study on location every semester and return to the classroom with different eyes, new knowledge, and perspectives.

The documentary shows, straight from the beating heart of our community, how this opportunity profoundly changes the student learning experience and gives them a chance to connect with their professors on a whole new level.

“

Academic Travel is the highlight of my education. It's not just about visiting new places and exploring different cultures, but also about the hands-on learning opportunities that we get to experience.

Sofia Chiusano '25

”



Special thanks to all the Franklin staff and administration, as well as the LAC Team, who contributed in the planning, execution, and coordination of this year's Commencement activities.