

IN MEMORY



Jared Ashburn
Masters of International Policy
Peachtree City, Georgia

Maxwell C. Baffoe-Bonnie
Bachelor of Arts, Political Science
Douglasville, GA

STAY CONNECTED



spia.uga.edu



**UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA**
School of Public &
International Affairs

*Spring Convocation
May 8, 2026*

CONVOCATION PROGRAM



Friday, May 8, 2026

Processional
“Pomp and Circumstance”

Welcome Remarks
Matthew R. Auer

Dean & Arch Professor of Public and International Affairs

Alumnus Address
Clayton Cox (AB '10)
Senior Vice President of Federal Affairs
McGuireWoods Consulting

Candidate Address
Nishat Nayla
International Affairs, Economics & International Business

Convocation Address
Greg Bluestein (AB '04, ABJ '04)
Chief Political Reporter
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Recognition of Candidates

Presentation of the Class of 2026

Closing Remarks
Matthew R. Auer

ABOUT THE SPEAKER



Greg Bluestein is the chief political reporter for The Atlanta Journal-Constitution. He is an author who writes for the AJC, co-hosts the Politically Georgia podcast and contributes to the Politically Georgia morning newsletter. He's a frequent guest on local and national TV and radio, and serves as an analyst for NBC News and MSNBC.

Bluestein is the author of *Flipped*, an award-winning book on Georgia's epic 2020 election, and was honored as the South's top political journalist in 2024 and 2025 by the Society of Professional Journalists — though the title he might be the proudest of is Axios' “most dedicated” Bulldog fan at the 2023 national championship game.

A proud graduate of the University of Georgia with degrees in journalism and political science, Bluestein is a lifelong Georgian who serves on several metro Atlanta civic, educational and religious boards. He lives in Dunwoody with his wife and two daughters.

CLASS OF 2026

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN POLITICAL SCIENCE & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Minjin Choi
Aidan N. Gonzalez
Solbi Kim
Karlee Kimbrell
Hyun-joo Lee
Ashley Pieper

MASTER OF ARTS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Adam Buhmeyer
Guy H. Evertson
Mckinley Frees
Quinn O. Phillips
Elizabeth Stark

MASTER OF INTERNATIONAL POLICY

Jared Ashburn
Benjamin D. Barton
Katherine L. Brown
Daniel P. Burman
Ella C. Carver
Jenna K. Cole
Nora Crawford
Mariana E. Diaz
Piper D. Duncan ★§†◆
Cooper M. Furman
Simon D. Gersten
Nichita Gherasimenco
Sarah M. Gibeaut
Eryk T. Glod
Katherine Green
Ashleigh M. Hays
Addison W. Kiser
Jackson V. Looney
Larissa A. Lozano
Anvika V. Menon

Ella L. Miller
D'Jemecia J. Murdock
Lindsay H. Rappe
Leena Rayees Ahmed
Anitesh Sandhu
Zoe Shepherd
Anastacia S. Stoyanov
Dante M. Whitehead
Lydia Y. Wong

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION & POLICY

Miguel Antonio G. Estrada
Ji Hyeun Hong
Nayeong Kim

MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Comfort M. Aiyepada
Rakib Mohammad Avi
Leticia R. Baquerizo Baquerizo
Lauren E. Brenneman
Aaliyah B. Brooks
Moonill Choi
Cody A. Coffield
Brooke Curran
Ansley R. Davis
Saferino J. Dour
Leslie A. Garcia
William G. Gordon
Abigayle R. Isenbletter
Laura L. Kelley
SooHyun Kim
Clinton A. King
Eun Young Lee
Cole D. Lundy Caputo
Kristen A. Martin
Hamilton G. Mason
Damon P. McCarthy

Michela R. Monteiro
Ella R. Morris
Xavier R. Nance
Brooke E. Nitkowski
Mcaully K. Saxon
Elizabeth J. Schulze
Anna E. Scott
Micah D. Shannon
Grace A. Shockley
Corissa T. Simmons
Chaeli L. Solomon
Jill P. St George
Julia S. Straka
Brayden M. Titus*
Lauren E. Trinkwalder

BACHELOR OF ARTS & BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Blakely J. Abbott
Grayson Abbott ¶*
2d Lt. Jack C. Abreu, USAF § †
Reese E. Adams
Kate A. Adesanya
Emma C. Allen ◇
Adel A. Almazawi
Sydney N. Alpers ◆ *
Jasiah C. Anderson ◇ †
Nora P. Anderson
Alana M. Andrews ★
Ekta Ariyur
Donavan W. Arnold ¶◇†
Adia L. Ashley ¶
Alexandra C. Audrain ★†◆
Victor C. Avila
Trevor B. Ayotte
Puneet K. Bajwa*
Katie Baker
Kennedy H. Baker*
Aminata Balde
Zaina O. Bamidele
Makayla M. Bangoura ◆ *
Charlotte Barker
Branden S. Barlow

Jhaycee C. Barnes
Catherine E. Barney
Juan S. Barrera
Claybourne H. Barrineau
Colin A. Barry
Carys N. Bartlett
Adison T. Baughman
Benjamin M. Bednar
Kathleen A. Bell
Lyla E. Bellar
Jacob J. Benedict
Kelaiah A. Benjamin
Anabella M. Bianchini
Sarah E. Bittner
Hope J. Bless
Olivia S. Boags
David M. Bosire
Robert W. Bowles
Adam L. Brantley
Sydney S. Bregman
Hayden E. Britt ★
Audrey G. Brown
Barrett L. Bruce
Ella B. Bryan ◇†◆
Adam Buhmeyer
Briar C. Bundy
Cooper R. Burke
Gavin C. Bush

Tessa Q. Butterworth § †
Raquel Beatriz Caldas Laranjeira ★
Sophie J. Caldwell
Jefry Capinegro
Elizabeth R. Cardini*
Sadie M. Carpenter
Mallory F. Carter
Hailey G. Castano
Dillon T. Causby
Morgan I. Cellilli
Lauren C. Chan
Kameron A. Chappell ★
Arshia J. Charkhian
Cassie Jane E. Christiansen
Emily H. Chung
Tessa N. Cianfaglione ★

Cameron E. Coates
Grey R. Cohen ★S
Justin N. Cohen S ¶
Leon F. Cohen
Madeleine Cohen
Sean R. Collins
Hannah L. Combs
Herman Contreras
Kyleigh E. Cook ¶
Olivia I. Copeland ◆
Maston M. Corn
Nicole Cortes S
Carly E. Craig
Sierra B. Cross-Thompson
Grace A. Culpepper
Selah G. Czerwonka
Matthew R. Danzig
Manuv A. Datta
Julia R. Davidson
Ava E. DeBrizzi
Ava C. Del Viscio
Moyosoreoluwa I. Delano
Julia V. DePasquale*
Nupur J. Desai ★
Aaliyah E. Diaz
Matthew J. DiStefano
Talia E. Dobbins ★
Emilia Y. Dodson
Emma A. Donnelly
Heather C. Dorn
Emma G. Douglas
Aiden P. Duffy S
Piper D. Duncan ★S † ◆
Sibley E. Durisch
Norah J. Dusack
Nathan B. Ellison
Charlie M. Estabrook
Gabriella Etienne
Rommy Etzion
Ella G. Faircloth
Evan M. Falke
Molly B. Fearney
Emily R. Fegel

Brenden A. Feldman
Anthony A. Ferrara †
James M. Fiveash
Alexis T. Fletcher
Skye G. Florestal
Alexis C. Frazer
Quintin A. Gallardo
Jacob S. Garrard
Marshall E. Garrett
Piper A. Garrett
Delaney E. Gertz*
Joana Godinez
John R. Goldstein S
Kristalee N. Gonzalez-Perez S †
Ashlyn N. Goode
Sarah A. Gordon
Kyra I. Gould
Ann W. Graham ¶
Timothy H. Graham
Hayden E. Graves
Keely L. Gray ★
Taylor E. Greaves
Cierra S. Green
Jackson T. Greer
Tylar P. Gregg
Andrew S. Groover
Ailey S. Gustafson † ◆
Saahithya Gutta ◆
Teya L. Hagy
Victoria I. Halilu
Bailey Hardison*
Kaliyah Harper
Julia M. Hartman ★
Liam W. Harvey
Matthew D. Harvey
Christopher L. Haswell S
George W. Hatch
Chance L. Haye
John F. Heard
Chase J. Hegedus
Grace L. Heineman
Noah M. Herndon
Madison C. Hester

Cameron D. Hewatt
Leila A. Hobbs
Camden G. Horne
Mallory B. Houlihan S †
Thomas Hout ◇ †
Kristine S. Huaman
Jackson A. Hund
Charles B. Hussion
Sarah A. Iniguez-Ledezma †
Pranay Ippagunta
Chinelo C. Ireh S*
Angela F. Jacobs
Jack R. Jarashow
Layla Jeeth †
James C. Jones
Ethan H. Joyce
MacKenzie G. Juliette*
Fanta Kaba † ◆
Addisen M. Kameron
2d Lt. Joshua Kang, US Army †
Rose A. Kazak ¶
Iman Y. Khan S † ◆
Raawiya R. Khan
Joseph S. Khashan
Michael B. Kinsey
Colin S. Kolb
Olivia S. Kosobud ¶
Ella G. Kovalchik
Jensyn D. Kretschmar †
Taylor D. Kriesler †
Shweta Krishnan ¶
2d Lt. Mikayla M. Lachowicz, USAF S †
Naureen N. Lakhani ◆*
Hayden L. Lawson
Juan J. Lazo ¶
Amanda T. Le
Taylor H. Leathers
Logan L. Ledbetter
Adam Q. Lee
Alice Lee ◇
Jennifer Y. Lee
Lauren V. Leeds
Zachary C. Leggio

Mark C. LeRoy
Daniel L. Levine
Kira T. Liscombe
Zachary E. Livsey
Natalie M. Lomonto ◇
Elizabeth Lora † *
Talia L. Loventhal
Teresa E. Lu †
Lindsey G. Lumsdaine
Caleb J. Lux ★ ¶ ◇
Abigail C. Lyle
Emma E. MacDonald
Sasha M. Mahtani
Chloe I. Malcolm
Hannah M. Maldonado-Matos
Ariana Malik
Phoebe J. Mansker
Rene-Yves A. Manzi
Ethan G. Marcum
Francesca E. Mariano S ¶ †
Jeffrey N. Markowitz
Christopher M. Martin
Gabriella A. Martinez
Pablo Martinez
Ryan P. Marx
Rylee N. Matteson
Rebecca M. McAdam
Kemp R. McArthur
Holden B. McCann
Mark H. McClain
Meagan A. McColloch ★ ¶
Brooke M. McDermott
Caroline M. McQueen
Pedro Mejia
Ana C. Merino Correa †
Kendrick M. Milam
John D. Miles
Bridget C. Mills
Kate E. Minichiello
Emma W. Mixon
Jacob M. Moebes
2d Lt. Kaitlin G. Moebes, US Army S ¶ ◆ †

Zeena A. Mohamed
Isabella I. Molina
Isabelle L. Morriss
Thomas E. Mosley
Hunter C. Murray
Courtney K. Navarro † *
Nishat Nayla § †
Ava R. Neely
Camelia G. Nelson
Lindsey R. Nelson
Mehar D. Nemani
Maia J. Norman † ♦
Angelina M. Novelli
Ashanti Nyame-Gyebi
Avery J. Oldakowski
Sydney K. O'Leary
Emily Oleson
Hayes P. Orr*
William H. Pace
Cristina Padilla †
Savannah J. Pakebusch
John H. Palmer
Mackenzie G. Palmer
Andreas C. Papandreou
Lauren G. Park
Logan M. Parker
Kendal A. Parr ★
Diyana Patel
Misha D. Patel
Riya Patel
Shiya K. Patel
Bridget M. Peach
Makena F. Pearce
Lauren Pederson ¶
Swetha Pendela
Ashton R. Persall
Emma G. Peterson
Mattie G. Pickard
Ashley J. Pieper
Charles P. Pierce
Senait S. Pirani
Mia A. Pisani
Samantha V. Pixley*

2d Lt. Christian J. Poe, USAF †
Amelia O. Pollio ♦♦
Hallie A. Poole*
Margaret R. Pope
Kendall Porter-Tyson
Anna Rose M. Powell*
Mary E. Prusakowski
Abigail C. Puckett
Emily K. Puckett
Jenny J. Qiu
Kaleb A. Quince
Anna G. Rachwalski ¶
Anna E. Raicovi
Aidan S. Rainey §
Tarun Ramanathan ♦
William J. Randall
Alex S. Rau ★
Lucy A. Respess
Floyd A. Revolt
Vanessa Reyes-Olivo †
Aubrey L. Reynolds
Mayerlyn Rivera ♦
Ian A. Roberts
Anastasia S. Robinson †
Anna K. Robinson*
Rhenay C. Robinson
Daniel Rodriguez
Anika I. Roessel
Isabella Rojas-Alban
Carl T. Ross
John A. Rowland
Samuel H. Ruona
Damiano L. Salgado
John D. Salyers
Trinity S. Sampson
Daniela Sanchez §
Milo J. Sandfort
Shera S. Sarwar
Parker A. Saturday
Lauren J. Scaffidi
Evan R. Schenck
James P. Schopen-Davis
John M. Schramkowski

Aviella Schwartz
Meghan G. Seguin
Isabella Selcis
Joseph H. Sengpiel
Marco A. Sesmas-Tapia
Mia J. Shaw
Bridget E. Sheridan § †
Eric L. Sherman
Daniel D. Sherrer
Krista M. Shumaker
Ryan K. Simons
Reece J. Slater
David R. Smart
Elaine S. Smith
Johanna J. Smith ♦
Jordan M. Smith♦
Tobyn A. Smith
Alessandra E. Soler
Alan J. Sosa-Alfaro
Meera Srinivasan ¶ ♦ † *
Jisu O. Stanfield
Scott G. Stein
Sara G. Steinmeyer
Bennett W. Steinsberger
Sarah M. Stephens
Jacob M. Sterman
Katelyn L. Taylor
Anusha S. Tembe †
Kennadi F. Thomas
Lillian C. Thomas §
Emma C. Thompson
Gaines W. Thompson ♦
Tristan A. Thompson
Miles M. Thornton
Sydney A. Tipton
Elizabeth A. Trumpfheller §
Ethan S. Tucker
Addison Tyler
Ana M. Valencia § ¶ ♦
Shayna Van Glish
Paige M. VanGeison
Lillian D. Verma

Elizabeth L. Vershkov
Alexander N. Vrolijk
Mary E. Wahn § †
Caroline Wainer
Caroline L. Walther ¶
Grace E. Walton §
Jillian M. Ward
Aaron Watkins
Shelby L. Watson ★
Russell L. Wehrin
Noah D. Weiner
Jacob M. Weiss
Jacob I. Weiszer §*
Paul H. Westmoreland ★*
Caroline H. Weston
Shyneria J. Whatley ¶*
Alexander R. Whirley § †
Charlotte R. Wilkins
Elliana F. Williams
Judson R. Williams
William O. Wolgemuth
Anna G. Worsley
Andrew R. Wyatt
Emilia G. Yambrek
Elizabeth J. Yancey
Alexandra G. Young
Amelia V. Youngblood
Alexahy Zapata
Danielle E. Zeitlin
Andrew W. Zhu †

★ First Honors Graduate
‡ ROTC

§ Richard B. Russell Security
Leadership Program

¶ Public Affairs Professional
Certificate in Applied Politics
♦ Certificate in Data Analytics
in Public Policy

† Certificate in Global Studies

♦ GLOBIS Human Rights Research Lab
*SPIA Ambassador