

Fay Jones School of
Architecture and Design

**2026
COMMENCEMENT
CEREMONY**





UNIVERSITY OF
ARKANSAS

Fay Jones School
of Architecture + Design

Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design
2026 Commencement Ceremony

Barnhill Arena, University of Arkansas

Saturday, May 9, 2026

Program

Processional March

Call to Order

Dean MacKeith

“National Anthem”

Welcome

Dean MacKeith

**Recognition of the
Golden Graduates**

Dr. Goodstein-Murphree

**Greetings from
Vice Chancellor McCabe**

Margaret Sova McCabe

**Special Recognitions,
Awards and Honors**

Dr. Goodstein-Murphree

Introduction of Senior Scholar

Prof. McCown

Senior Scholar Address

Dean Zakrzewski

**Introduction of
Commencement Speaker**

Prof. Matthews

Commencement Address

Sloan Aulgur

Awarding of the Degrees

Dean MacKeith and
Dr. Goodstein-Murphree

Architecture

Prof. Folan

Interior Architecture and Design

Prof. Matthews

Landscape Architecture

Prof. McCown

**Closing Remarks and
Announcements**

Dean MacKeith

Recessional March

The Official Party

Peter B. MacKeith
Dean

Dr. Ethel Goodstein-Murphree
Associate Dean for
Academic Affairs

Margaret Sova McCabe
Vice Chancellor for
Research and Innovation

Dr. Carl Smith
Associate Dean for
Research and Faculty
Development

Carl Matthews
Department Head
Interior Architecture
and Design

John Folan
Department Head
Architecture

Dean Zakrzewski
Senior Scholar
Landscape Architecture

Ken McCown
Department Head
Landscape Architecture

Sloan Aulgur, B.I.D. '20
Architectural Designer
Rockwell Group

Retired Col. Nathaniel
"Nate" Todd
University of Arkansas
Board of Trustees

Commencement Speaker



Sloan Aulgur

B.I.D. 2020, University of Arkansas

M.Arch. 2024, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Architectural Designer, Rockwell Group, New York

Sloan Aulgur is a designer, researcher and playwright whose work explores the space between narrative and lived experience. Born and raised in Arkansas, she graduated from the Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design in 2020 with a Bachelor of Interior Design. Since then, her work has spanned art, interior design, architecture, exhibition and scenic design, treating interiors as performative sites for collective inquiry. She believes the most profound thing we do as human beings is gather in person to tell stories, grounding her practice as a designer.

Following her undergraduate studies, Aulgur worked with practices across Northwest Arkansas, including Somewhere Studio, Blue Crane, and Marlon Blackwell Architects. She went on to receive a Master of Architecture from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where she served as a Research and Design Lead at Matter Design, exploring how stories from the humanities past can inform future environments. This work developed her approach grounded in narrative, material histories, and collective modes of reading and staging.

Her recent work includes exhibition design for *The Next Earth: Computation, Crisis, Cosmology*, a collateral event of the 19th Venice Architecture Biennale, and *MIT Face to Face*, a campus-wide drawing project inspired by Es Devlin. Her performance work, *Green Herrings in a Yellow Room: A Counter-Production of The Yellow Wallpaper*, debuted Off-Off Broadway at the Dream Up Festival in New York. She is currently an architectural designer at Rockwell Group in New York, creating spaces between hospitality and performance, and continues to build a practice that makes underrepresented and underexplored conversations, places and stories accessible to broader publics.

Senior Scholar



Dean Zakrzewski **Bachelor of Landscape Architecture**

Dean Zakrzewski is a graduating senior from North Little Rock, Arkansas, earning his Bachelor of Landscape Architecture. He initially enrolled as an architecture major but, through early experiences and interactions from landscape architecture faculty, chose to pursue a degree in landscape architecture. During his academic career, Zakrzewski has received the Judy Byrd Brittenum Cultural Landscape Award in both 2024 and 2025, reflecting his interest in and passion for cultural landscape preservation. He was also awarded the Presidential Scholarship in 2025 and named the Fay Jones School Senior Scholar in 2026.

Throughout his time on campus, Zakrzewski has been actively involved in several organizations. As a freshman, he performed with the Arkansas Razorbacks Marching Band, playing the tuba in both marching and concert seasons. He later became deeply involved in the Arkansas Student Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, attending three national ASLA conferences and serving as Student President during his senior year. In addition, Zakrzewski worked as a teaching assistant for landscape architecture history courses during his third year and is a member of Tau Sigma Delta Honor Society and the Honors College, where he is completing his capstone this spring.

In the summer of 2024, Zakrzewski spent 10 weeks studying in Rome, exploring the city through the lens of design. The following summer, he worked as a Landscape Design Intern with TBG Partners in their Dallas office, gaining valuable insight and professional experience. After graduation, Zakrzewski plans to return to the Dallas–Fort Worth area to begin his career as a Landscape Designer with CCA Landscape Architects in McKinney, Texas. He credits much of his success to the relationships he built with faculty and peers, which supported his growth and helped shape his path in design.

Special Recognitions

Fay Jones School Academic Honors

Alpha Rho Chi Medal

For the final-year student who has shown leadership ability, performed willing service for the school and demonstrated promise of professional merit through attitude and personality

Rylee Ball (ARCH)

Michael J. Buono Sustainability Award

For the advanced or graduating student who has demonstrated the greatest concern in design studios, cognate courses and the community for environmental, ecological and energy conservation issues

Aspen Regan (ARCH)

University of Arkansas Presidential Scholarship±

For the student with a high academic record from the school

Genevieve Brainard (IARD)

Senior Scholar

For the graduating seniors from the Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design with the highest-grade point average

Dean Zakrzewski (LARC)

Architecture Academic Honors

AIA Medal for Academic Excellence

For the first-ranked, final-year architecture student in recognition of scholastic achievement, character, leadership and promise of high professional ability

Will Sutton

Barbara C. Crook Award

For the final-year student who has achieved the highest record in coursework in the architectural technology group

Darci Burris

C. Murray Smart Award

For the final-year architecture student or students with the highest scholastic record in the study of history and theory of architecture

Grace Shoemaker

Edward Durell Stone Award

For the final-year architecture student with the highest overall grade point average in design studio work

Will Sutton

John G. Williams Joy of Architecture Award

For the graduating senior who exhibits a devotion to the profession and a positive work ethic, and who demonstrates promise of professional success

John Blake

Interior Architecture and Design Academic Honors

Interior Architecture and Design Award of Excellence

For the first-ranked, final-year interior design student in recognition of scholastic achievement

Claire Callaway

Interior Architecture and Design Award for Excellence in Material Exploration

For a final-year interior design student who has demonstrated curiosity, research capabilities, creativity and sophisticated application of materials in studio design projects

Halley Garcia

Interior Architecture and Design Award for Sustainable Design

For the final-year student who has demonstrated commitment to issues of sustainable design

Lindsay Deramus

Landscape Architecture Academic Honors

The Verna C. Garvan Award

For a senior student of landscape architecture who, through performance in the studio sequence, has demonstrated outstanding design ability

Honor: Ana Barnett and Erin Dolan

The Verna C. Garvan Award

For a senior student of landscape architecture who, through performance in the studio sequence, has demonstrated outstanding design ability

Sara Svensson

Awarding of the Degrees

Bachelor of Architecture

Sydney Babbitt
Kennedy Evan Baird
Rylee Ball *Magna Cum Laude*
John Blake *High Distinction*
Walden Wheeler Blankenship
Darcia Burris *Highest Distinction*
Olivia Caban
Wyatt Charles
Lyric Cooksey
Haley Czeschin *Distinction*
Ema Nicole Djukic *Distinction*
Carlyn Duperroir
Adam Eugene Engelke
Thomas C. Fisher *High Distinction*
Edward M. Franklin *Cum Laude*
Jordan Gerling
Hunter T. Goad
Michka Gordon *Distinction*
Aaron Edward Gust
Bowen Truckee Heidger
Joseph MacGlashan Hill
Ken Ho *Distinction*
Brennan Hoad *Distinction*
Micah Hook *High Distinction*
Kierstin Lee Hoover
Tatum P. Howard *Distinction*
Seth Philip Johnson
Rory Jones *Distinction*
Grace Ann Kaempfe
Mary Krasovec
William W. Langston *Distinction*
Maggie E. Lee *Distinction*
William Gabriel Long
Alice MacDonald
Andrew Mardell
Kathelyn McHaney *Magna Cum Laude*
Robert Melton
Ineza Amaury Ndagijimana
Abigail Panneck
Hailey Pease
Skyler Ashton Perryman
Ruth Prenzler *Magna Cum Laude*
Whitley Paige Raney *Distinction*
Aspen Regan *Summa Cum Laude*
Layla Riley
Evan Richard Roberts *High Distinction*
Hailey Rodriguez
Erica Roman
Caleb Rothell *High Distinction*
Claire Sanders
Matthew Brady Schroeder *Distinction*
Austin Seay
Grace Ann Shoemaker *High Distinction*
Morgan Solomon
Katherine Stanek *Magna Cum Laude*
Mackenzie N. Stevens
Hallie Stiff *Magna Cum Laude*

Will Sutton *Summa Cum Laude*
Margarita Torres *Distinction*
Javier Vidales, Jr.
Katherine Voss *Distinction*
Macy McKay Watson
Bradley O. Weimer
Kara White
Sydney Winkler *Distinction*
Kara Jean Young
Hasen Gaia Zimmerman

Bachelor of Science in Architecture Studies

Melanie Guadalupe Castrejon
Brooke Elizabeth Criner
Caitlyn Rose Davis
Benjamin Mitchell Enloe
Patrick Paul Gattelaro
Weston Moore
Caleb Oliva
Anna Isabella Sanders
Daniel Tracey

Bachelor of Interior Architecture and Design

Kathryn M. Ballard
Carrie Denise Ballenger
Sydney Bommarito
Macy Paige Brady
Burton Brandt
Blakely Anne Brighton *Distinction*
Parker Brobston *Magna Cum Laude*
Emmalyn Burns *Magna Cum Laude*
Claire Callaway *Highest Distinction*
Sofia Chiartosini
Brennah Clubine *Distinction*
Finley Grace Condon
Riley Cook *Distinction*
Alexandra Costley
Caroline Margaret Dabney
Lindsay Deramus *Distinction*
Kenleigh Rhea Embrey *Cum Laude*
Emerson S. Foley
Halley Garcia *Magna Cum Laude*
Sydney Claire Gaston *Distinction*
Savannah Goodwin
Katie E. Hill *Magna Cum Laude*
Macey J. Howard
Eryn Marisa Hughes
Kate Jernigan
Turner Kane
Madelyn Rose Kennish *Distinction*
Emerson Lundien
Saylor Elizabeth Maloney
Mary Virginia McNeil
Gavin McWethy
Brandi Lynn Meredith
Brianna D. Jones Mosby
Caroline Rose Normand
Campbell Osier

Olivia Phelan *Distinction*
Macie Pointer *High Distinction*
Taylor Elizabeth Rice
Madilyn Louise Riley
Lauren Grace Romero
Savannah Avery Rye
Isabella Grace Sanchez
Mikala M. Sexton *Magna Cum Laude*
Drew Joseph Shillings
Caroline Simpson
Andrea Lee Smith *Distinction*
Audrey F. Swan *Distinction*
Caitlin Swanson *High Distinction*
Anna Claire Wall *High Distinction*
Avery Cate Webb
Ann-Elizabeth R. Williams
Grace Katherine Wixson
Margaret P. Yelverton
Abigail Kathleen Young
Emma Zenthoefter *High Distinction*

Bachelor of Landscape Architecture

Ana Barnett *High Distinction*
Sophia Bobzien *High Distinction*
Kadin Alexander Broussard
Zeacus M. Brown *Distinction*
Grace E. Cali
Erin R. Dolan *Highest Distinction*
Isaac J. Dyer
Lauren Irwin *Distinction*
Audrey Bea Jackson
Natalie Lentz *Magna Cum Laude*
Abigail McDonald *Magna Cum Laude*
Raegan J. Meyer *High Distinction*
Andrew Pehlman *Magna Cum Laude*
Sara Svensson *Summa Cum Laude*
Lauren Beth Wright *Magna Cum Laude*
Harper G. Yingst *Distinction*
Dean Zakrzewski *Summa Cum Laude*

Commencement Committee

Ethel Goodstein-Murphree
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

Melinda Smith
Director of Student Services

Michelle Parks
Sr. Director of Communications and Marketing

Amy Shell
Chief of Staff

Carlin Macomber
Administrative Specialist

Sheri Lynn Brown
Senior Academic Counselor

Madeline Bray
Academic Counselor

Rachel Callahan
Creative Services Manager

The Fay Jones School community wishes to express its appreciation for the assistance of all people who helped make the Spring 2026 Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design Commencement Ceremony a success.

Congratulations to the Class of 2026!

Unless otherwise noted, students listed in the Commencement program are candidates for graduation. Appropriate degrees and honors will be awarded following Commencement to the candidates who successfully complete all requirements. This is not an official list of graduates.

FAY



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