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Countdown to Commencement: Stories About Our Graduates

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Countdown to Commencement: Stories About Our Graduates

Join RWU and RWU Law as we celebrate the Class of 2018 graduates



May 8, 2018 | Jill Rodrigues '05

BRISTOL, R.I. – They’ve studied hard, made lasting memories, grown together as a family, and created a meaningful impact through research and service in communities locally and around the globe. Now, they’re graduating together, sent off with cheers from faculty, staff and their families celebrating their Commencement.

In a time-honored tradition, the Roger Williams University Class of 2018 students will cross the Commencement stage and receive their degrees on Saturday, May 19. A day earlier, on Friday, May 18, the Class of 2018 law students will take part in the same tradition and collect their well-deserved degrees.

Here is just a small sampling of what this year's graduates have been up to:

- Victoria Davis – a science communication major – took a chance on developing her own academic journey, and now she'll seize the opportunity to offer parting words and inspiration to her peers as student Commencement speaker.
- For three years, Hien Ngo, a double major in applied math and bio with a minor in visual arts, worked on research that might contribute to NASA's next frontier of space exploration: bringing human expeditions to Mars. Not only did she collaborate on NASA-funded research to design a manned rover, she also partnered with RISD students to build a model of her spacecraft which is on display inside MNS.
- As their time at RWU came to a close, senior visual arts students partnered with Bristol Art Museum to display their works in an exhibition titled, "Unspoken Language: Silent Landscapes."
- During her junior year, Mary Dinnean, a double-major in public health and psychology and a student leader in the Food Recovery Network on campus, was honored as a Newman Civic Fellow, a national award recognizing students who create lasting change in communities around the world. With an interest in researching the intersection of education with public health, she'll continue addressing social justice issues at Boston University's master's in public health program.
- Before he's even graduated, Rosalvens Saint Jean, a double major in accounting and management, has already been offered a full-time position

with Ernst & Young.

- Plumbing the insights from her own experiences during her first years on campus, Emily Parratt, a psychology and American studies double major, shared that knowledge as a Peer Mentor helping this year's freshmen students navigate college life.
- Thanks to his experiences and connections at RWU, Christopher Pierce, a graduate student in public administration, was recently appointed student representative on the national board of the American Society for Public Administration.
- Mikayla Barnwell, a marine biology major and mathematics minor, will continue to connect her passion for creating change within communities to her research after she leaves RWU through a prestigious research internship with Roatan Institute of Marine Sciences, where she'll link her own coral reef lab and field research to conservation efforts.
- When Andrew Kong decided to change career paths, he found what he was looking for in the Career Pathway Program at the School of Continuing Studies. This May, he'll graduate from the Intro to Computers & Cyber Security pathway program, a 30-week program where students learn intensive computer and technological skills that prepare them for high-paying entry level jobs.
- At RWU Commencement and RWU Law Commencement respectively, Frank R. Rainieri, a visionary leader in the ecotourism industry and RWU Trustee, and Marielena Hincapié, director of the National Immigration Center, will deliver the keynote addresses for each ceremony.
- Visit the Social Hub at RWU page for all things #RWUgrad.

Check back regularly for more stories added in the weeks leading up to Commencement.

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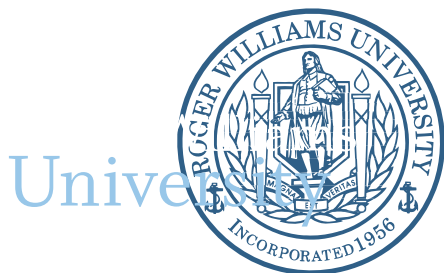
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