# Roger Williams University DOCS@RWU

School of Law Commencement (1996-)

Archives & Law School History

5-2024

# 2024 School Of Law Commencement Information And Photographs

Roger Williams University School of Law

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# **2024 School of Law Commencement**

Friday, May 17, 2024 7:00am - 3:00pm RWU Bristol Campus



RWU Law Alumni - Class of 2023

We invite law school graduates and their guests to visit the Roger Williams University <u>Commencement 2024 webpage</u> for the most up to date information on the 2024 Commencement Ceremony and related events. The website was built to be a one-stop information center for all graduates and their families. This website should be your go-to source for all Commencement related information. **Please be sure to share the website with your loved ones!** 

As detailed on the Commencement Website, the School of Law ceremony will be in Wave II and will be held outside in the Global Heritage Tent. Tickets will not be required.

Congratulations, RWU Law Class of 2024!



# **Class of 2024 Commencement**

University Commencement Class of 2024 Schedule - Friday, May 17, 2024

#### There are NO tickets for Commencement - seating is first come first served.

Main Commencement Ceremony

#### Main Athletic Field behind the Campus Recreation Center, Bristol Campus

7:00 AM – ALL gates open on the Athletic Field for guests to be seated.

\*Guests must be seated by 8:30 AM

8:00 AM – Students report to Fieldhouse in the Campus Recreation Center

8:15 AM – Instructions given to students in Fieldhouse

**8:30** AM - Processional begins from the Fieldhouse to Athletic Field (please note: there is no tent.)

9:00 AM – Ceremony begins

10:00 AM - Recessional

Ceremonies for individual schools begins.

2024 Commencement – Individual School Ceremony Schedule

Wave I 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM (11:00 AM – Students & Faculty report to their designated meet-up locations)

School of Arts, Humanities and Education – GYM School of Social and Natural Sciences – Practice Soccer Field Tent University College – QUAD Tent Gabelli School of Business – Global Heritage Hall Tent

Wave 2 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM (1:30 PM – Students & Faculty report to their designated meet-up locations)

School of Justice Studies – Practice Soccer Field Tent School of Law – Global Heritage Hall Tent School of Engineering, Computing and Construction Management – GYM Cumming's School of Architecture – QUAD Tent

For those that cannot attend in person, the Main Ceremony will be live streamed on the university website. The link will be provided in May. Individual school ceremonies will be videotaped and published on the Commencement website at a later date.

#### **Ceremony & Meetup Locations:**

All students, faculty, and platform parties MUST report to their meetup location 30 minutes **prior** to their school ceremony.

Ceremony Site	Meetup Location
Practice Soccer Field Tent	Practice Soccer Field - Back of Tent
Global Heritage Hall Tent	GHH Atrium
Quad Tent	Outside of Architecture Gallery
Gymnasium	Field House

#### **Commencement BBQ for Graduates**

Thursday, May 16th (following rehearsal, see information regarding rehearsal below)

Graduating students (including Graduate, School of Law, and University College students) will enjoy a barbecue in front of the Marine and Natural Sciences Building.

The Alumni Office will sponsor; live music, The Adam Go Band from 1PM - 3PM, and a Vigilant Brewery cash bar!

This event is free to students only participating in the commencement ceremony, no guests will be allowed.

Rain Location: Upper Commons

#### **Commencement Concessions & Food Trucks**

We will have a variety food trucks for concessions and lunch during Commencement! This new addition was a hit last year and we're excited to expand the options this year!

- Food trucks will be parked in front of the Marine & Natural Sciences building and other locations throughout campus.
- There will be picnic tables in front of MNS for folks to enjoy their food. There are also numerous places to eat outside or inside throughout campus.
- Graduates & Guests will be responsible for paying for their food from the food trucks

#### **Food Trucks**

- <u>A Mano Pizza & Gelato</u>
- <u>Axelrod's Fry Shack</u>
- <u>Alaina's Mobile Food Truck, Catering, & Events</u>
- Atomic Blonde Ice Cream
- Ball or Nothing
- Big Dog Eats Food Truck
- Binge BBQ Food Truck
- Bird's Nest Italian Street Food
- Black Dog Donuts
- Blount Clam Shack
- Boru Noodle Bar
- <u>Casa Tia Rosa</u>
- Friskie Fries
- Hometown Poke
- Hot Potato Food Truck
- <u>lggy's</u>
- Incred-A-Bowl
- <u>Ja Patty</u>
- Matilda RI

- <u>Mings Asian Street Food</u>
- Moving Dough Pizza Co.
- <u>Pa'l Monti</u>
- Palagi Bros Ice Cream
- Patruno's Place
- Presto Strang O Coffee
- <u>RaRa's</u>
- <u>Tacofied</u>
- <u>Twisted Ts Stuffed Bread Cones</u>
- Vegan Suga
- Wally's Wieners

#### **Other Concessions on Campus**

Hawk's Nest (Campus Recreation Center) and the Global Cafe (bottom floor of the Global Heritage Hall) will be open for anyone wishing to purchase a beverage or food throughout the day.

There will also be two concession tents on campus selling drinks and snacks that you can purchase!

#### **Commencement Rehearsal**

On Thursday, May 16, 2024 at 12:00 PM, there will be a rehearsal in the Campus Recreation Center Fieldhouse for ALL graduates participating in the ceremony on Friday, this includes, **School of Law, Graduate, and University College Students**. Important instructions will be given at the rehearsal, including arrival time, procession and recession into the tents, and school ceremonies.

Rehearsal is NOT mandatory!

The student speakers and national anthem singer rehearsal will be at the Main Athletic Field stage at 3:30PM!

#### Handicapped Accessible Dropoff and Parking

On Thursday, May 16, 2024 at 12:00 PM, there will be a rehearsal in the Campus Recreation Center Fieldhouse for ALL graduates participating in the ceremony on Friday, this includes, **School of Law, Graduate, and University College Students**. Important instructions will be given at the rehearsal, including arrival time, procession and recession into the tents, and school ceremonies. Rehearsal is NOT mandatory!

# The student speakers and national anthem singer rehearsal will be at the Main Athletic Field stage at 3:30PM!

#### FAQ's

Q: Will it be livestreamed?

A: The Main Ceremony will be the only livestreamed ceremony.

Q: When will I receive my diploma?

A: Diplomas will be mailed to you during the summer. Please make sure your address is up to date with the Registrar's Office.

Q: What is the Commencement Fair? Do I have to attend?

A: Commencement Fair is coordinated by your Class Officers to provide information regarding Commencement and Commencement Ball. Students will be emailed with the various offices and services that will be at the Fair. Students do not need to attend the fair.

Q: What is the attire for Commencement?

A: \*Most ceremonies will take place outside on fields. Please dress accordingly for the weather and be sure to wear appropriate shoes.

\*please check the schedule to see what 2 schools ceremonies will be inside the Gym.

Q: What if it rains on Commencement?

A: Commencement will happen rain or shine!

Q: Once my graduate's name is called and he/she crosses the stage, can we leave?

A: No. Out of respect for the other graduates, all graduates and their guests are expected to stay until the ceremony is over.

Q: Can I decorate my cap?

A: YES! Your cap is yours to keep. We kindly ask that you be mindful and respectful in your decorations.

#### Q: How will I be notified about Commencement happenings?

A: You will receive Commencement information and updates on your RWU email. Please make sure to communicate this information to your families!

#### Q: If I cannot attend will my name still be listed in the program?

A: Yes. Graduates who would like their name to appear in the Commencement Program must have all paperwork required to update your graduation status in to the Registrar's Office and be cleared for graduation by March 1. Anything received after that date may not be included in the printed program because of print deadlines.

#### Q: How long does the ceremony last?

A: The main ceremony will be 1 hour and the individual school ceremonies will be 1 hour.

#### Q: How do I know if I am eligible to graduate?

A: Students should check Roger Central on eligibility for graduation. Students can Participate in Commencement with no more than two remaining courses including Incompletes. Please discuss any questions you may have with your faculty advisor or Dean's office.

School of Law students should look for communications from the office of SFR.

#### Q: Will my picture be taken? How will I get my pictures?

A: Please go to the expandable Photography section on this webpage for this information!

#### Graduation Eligibility – Undergrad/Grad/UC

Students intending to graduate and/or participate in the May 2024 commencement ceremony must apply to graduate in RogerCentral in the Graduation Overview tab. Students may only participate in the commencement ceremony if they will complete all of their degree requirements by the end of the Spring 2024 semester or be 2 courses/8 credits short of completing their requirements (undergraduates) or 1 course short of completing their requirements (graduates).

# May 2024 graduation applications were due on March 1, 2023. If you have not submitted your application, please do so immediately.

Completing your graduation application notifies the University of your intention to graduate which:

- Gets your name on the official graduation list
- Provides us with the name that will go on your diploma

- Provides us with the address your diploma will be sent to
- Allows the registrar's office to evaluate your progress towards degree completion

Students who complete degree requirements in the Winter Intersession will have their degrees conferred in May. If you previously applied to graduate at the end of the Spring 2023 semester and find that your plans have changed, please email <u>graduationcoordinator@rwu.edu</u> so that your record can be updated.

*Please note*: graduates who would like their name to appear in the commencement program must apply to graduate and be cleared to participate in the commencement ceremony by March 1, 2024. Students that apply to graduate after this date may not be included in the commencement program due to printing deadline dates.

#### Graduate and Law Students

This Ceremony is for the full University Community - undergraduate, graduate and law. All graduate students will participate in the Main Commencement Ceremony. You will process for your degree in your respective school ceremony in Wave I or Wave II as indicated in the schedule above.

All eligible graduating students, including University College, School of Law and Graduate student only (no guests) are invited to the Presidential Reception.

Please note that you are eligible to apply as the Commencement National Anthem singer as well as the Graduate Student Speaker, see expandable sections for more details.

#### **National Anthem Singer**

ALL graduates are encouraged to apply to sing the National Anthem on their Commencement Day! All students who have been cleared for graduation are eligible to apply.

#### National Anthem Singer Applications are available

Requirements and auditioning information are included on the applications.

If you have questions regarding this application process, please call 401-254-3166 or email <u>events@rwu.edu</u>

The student speakers and national anthem singer rehearsal will be at the Main Athletic Field stage at 3:30PM on 5.17.24!

#### **Parent and Family Resources**

#### Hotels

Please visit the <u>University's Accommodations page</u> for a full list of hotels and bed & breakfasts in the area.

#### Concessions on Campus

There will be 20-30 food trucks that you can purchase concessions from!

Hawk's Nest (Campus Recreation Center) and the Global Cafe (bottom floor of the Global Heritage Hall) will be open for anyone wishing to purchase a beverage or food throughout the day.

There will also be two concession tents on campus selling drinks and snack that you can purchase!

#### Florist

<u>Commencement Flowers Inc.</u>, a professional florist, will be on hand before and during Commencement. They will be located near the front entrance to the tent on the field. For your convenience, you can pre-purchase and reserve flowers ahead of time and have them available for pick-up at Commencement.

#### Food Trucks

See expandable section for more details!

#### Book Store

More details to come!

#### Photography

Island Photography is our official Commencement Photographer for 2024. They will be providing professional photo coverage for every graduate as they are recognized during the ceremony. Proofs will be delivered via email within 48-72 hours after the ceremony. Please contact their customer service team if you have any concerns or questions. <u>custserv@islandphoto.com</u> or Phone # 800-869-0908

Additional professional photographers will also be on site during and after the ceremony to take photos of graduates, These photos will be shared on the website after Commencement for families to view and download.

Families are encouraged to take photos of their graduate before and after the ceremony. No standing at seats and/or blocking aisles will be allowed during the ceremony.

#### **President's Reception for ALL Graduates**

All eligible graduating students, including University College, School of Law and Graduate student only (no guests) are invited to the Presidential Reception.

Tuesday, May 14, 2023 the President and his wife will be hosting a reception for the 2024 graduates at the President's Residence from 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm. Please email <u>events@rwu.edu</u> by 5.2.24 to RSVP.

#### **Questions?**

If you cannot find your answer on this webpage or need further help, please see the departments below to contact:

Question	Department	Email/Website	Phone
General Commencement Information	Commencement Office/Special Events	<u>events@rwu.edu</u>	401- 254- 3166
Caps & Gowns, Rings, Frames, Graduation Announcements	Bookstore	bksrw@bncollege.com	401- 254- 3036
Outstanding Bills	Bursar	bursar@rwu.edu	401- 254- 3520
Lavender Graduation	Intercultural Center	mwalsh@rwu.edu	401- 254- 3591

Question	Department	Email/Website	Phone
Degree Applications, Graduation eligibility, Diploma questions, Address Change, Honors Tassels	Registrar	graduationcoordinator@rwu.edu	401- 254- 3151
Student Commencement Speaker Application	Student Life	ncosta@rwu.edu	401- 254- 3151
Senior Events, Commencement Fair	Student Programs & Leadership	<u>classof2024@g.rwu.edu</u>	401- 254- 3042
Senior Portraits	Student Programs & Leadership	<u>studentprograms@rwu.edu</u>	401- 254- 3088

#### Regalia, Tassels, Cords & Honors – Undergrad/Grads ONLY

#### Regalia

Only students eligible to graduate (confirmation by Registrar's office) and cleared by the Bursar's office to order and/or pick up their regalia. The bookstore will have a list of students that have been cleared for their regalia. Students who have outstanding bills with the Bursar's Office are considered "not cleared" and cannot pick up their regalia until they meet with the Bursar's Office and make amends. Upon doing this, the Bursar's Office will give the student a "CLEARED" note to give to the Bookstore to pick up their regalia.

#### Please note - you do NOT need to order your regalia.

- Plan to pick-up regalia in person in the bookstore, date to be announced!
- The bookstore will be open for regalia pick-up M-Th 9am 5pm, Fri 9am 4pm, and Sat 10am 2pm.
- Regalia pick-up begins this week but will continue through the day of commencement.
- The bookstore will be open for pick on Thursday before and after rehearsal and on Commencement morning at 7am.
- Any other questions please reach out via e-mail to sm551@bncollege.com

#### Tassels and Cords

Tassels and cords are distributed by the graduates respective honor society or organization. Graduates should make sure they contacted their respective supervisor or organization to secure their cords and have them prior to Commencement.

The only tassels given out on the morning of Commencement will be for high honors (summa cum laude -- 3.8 GPA, magna cum laude -- 3.6 GPA, and cum laude -- 3.4 GPA). Those graduates receiving high honors will have the honor listed on the name card they pick up when they check-in for their scheduled Grad Walk. These honors are based on fall semester cumulative averages. Students must have completed at least 54 credits at RWU to be eligible to receive these honors.

#### Honors Tassels & Name Cards for Commencement

- Students' name cards will be available for pickup in the Field House the morning of commencement, beginning at 8:00am.
  - If you are NOT attending the Main Ceremony there will be name reader cards and blanks at every school ceremony as well!
- Students that have earned Latin Honors will be given an honors tassel when they pick up their name cards.
- It is extremely important that students that have earned Latin Honors pickup their name cards in the Field House prior to the start of the main commencement ceremony as honors tassels will not be available at any other location.

#### Honors

Students' honors will be calculated based on their cumulative GPAs at the end of their final semester. Please see the "Graduation with Honors" section under Academic Regulations and Policies in the <u>Academic Catalog</u> for questions regarding the calculation of honors. Honors tassels will be distributed by the Registrar's Office.

#### Questions regarding Honors tassels? Contact the Registrar's Office.

#### **Security Notice**

#### **Fire Regulations**

Fire regulations prohibit anyone from standing in the aisles under the tent. All egress paths must remain free and clear of obstructions.

#### **Prohibited Items**

Large bags, balloons, signs, noisemakers, confetti, bullhorns, alcohol, and any other object and/or substance that would prove disruptive to your fellow guests will NOT be allowed at any ceremony.

#### Pets

Only service animals specifically trained to assist a person with a disability are permitted at Commencement. The service animal must wear its credentials. No pets are allowed.

#### Student Speakers – Undergraduates & Graduates

There will be 2 Commencement student speakers this year!

- Undergraduate Student Speaker undergrad & University College students can apply for this
- Graduate Student Speaker Graduate and Law students can apply for this
- Speeches should be no longer than 3 minutes
- For questions regarding this application process, please call 401-254-3042 or email <u>rwustudentlife@rwu.edu</u>.
- <u>Student Speaker Application</u>

# The student speakers and national anthem singer rehearsal will be at the Main Athletic Field stage at 3:30PM on 5.17.24!

#### Submit your Phonetic Spelling

Please pick up your name reader card in the Fieldhouse before the Main Ceremony! If you are NOT attending the Main Ceremony there will be name reader cards and blanks at every school ceremony as well!

#### To add Phonetic Spelling online

Log into Roger Central

- 1. Click on Graduation Overview
- 2. Under Application Status, click Application submitted
- 3. Graduation Application, add Phonetic Spelling and Save

# Students that graduated in August or December should contact <u>graduationcoordinator@rwu.edu</u> to input your phonetic spelling

#### Seating

The gates to the Athletic Field where the Main Commencement Ceremony takes place open at 7:00 AM. It is recommended that guests are in their seats by 8:30 AM if they would like to be seated before the processional enters the field. While we encourage guests to arrive early, no one is allowed onto the field before 7:00 AM.

Please, for the courtesy of others, there is no excessive seat saving.

# Please note that the ceremony does take place outdoors on the main athletic field with no tent. We urge all guests to be prepared and dress accordingly for the weather.

There is accessible seating at all Commencement Ceremonies!

#### **Transportation & Parking**

Please plan to arrive early. Graduates living on campus must park in the parking garage only. Guests and graduates arriving from off campus must enter through the North Campus Access road and will be directed by Public Safety to appropriate parking lots. If you are entering campus via Metacom Ave you will be directed to park at Mt. Hope Farm. Public Safety will be present to direct guests to the appropriate lot.

#### **Accessible Parking**

Public Safety will allow curbside drop off for those needing special assistance to attend the main Commencement Ceremony. There will be officers directing traffic and helping guide folks to this drop off location.

The drop off point will be located at the circle drive between the Law School and Performing Arts Center, Lot 10. Guests will enter the campus through the north Campus entrance. Guests will be dropped off and then the driver will be directed to Lot D.

Every parking lot on campus has designated accessible parking spaces.

This year we are excited to announce that we will have 6, 6 passenger golf carts dedicated to helping folks get around campus. These golf carts will be located at the Main Ceremony / Handicapped drop off location, North Campus and various locations throughout the day.

#### If you require any special assistance to attend Commencement please email events@rwu.edu.

#### **Day of Commencement Parking Restrictions**

#### \*\*\*\*\*Parking restrictions for Commencement 2024\*\*\*\*\*

#### The following lots will be closed Thursday, May 16, at 6:00 pm:

- Lot 1 (Alumni & Admissions Center)
- Lots 11 & 12 (East of the mailroom)
- Lot 13 (Bayside Sea breeze)
- Lot 10 (behind School of Law and near Performing Arts Center)
- Lot D (North Lot, Law School Student Parking Lot)
- Lot C (across from tennis courts on North Campus Road)

# Effective Thursday, May 16, at 6:00 pm, all students remaining on campus will be required to park near their Residence Hall.

#### Friday, May 17: COMMENCEMENT

Faculty and staff are required and must park at off-site locations at either Mount Hope Farm on Rt. 136 (Metacom Avenue) or the Baypoint Inn and Conference Center on Anthony Road in Portsmouth. Shuttles will be run continuously to and from these off-site locations beginning at 5:00 am until 6:00 pm. University employees are encouraged to carpool to these locations. Please allow yourself enough time to park and ride a shuttle to campus. Please note: there will be no vehicular traffic from North Campus Residence Hall to Willow Residence Hall. Those who choose not to adhere to parking off-site will be stuck on campus until vehicular traffic has resumed.

- Mount Hope Farm pick up Metacom Avenue and drop off at Admissions. Return trips will be from the Main Shuttle Stop located between the School of law and Admissions.
- Baypoint Shuttle pick up in front of Baypoint Inn & Conference Center and drop off at Admissions. Return trips will be from the Main Shuttle stop.
- Windhill 55 Ferry Road, Bristol, RI You will need to walk to campus from this location. Park here if you'll be on campus before 8am. This lot will fill up quickly.

Exceptions to the above will only be approved by the Office of Special Events and those faculty and staff will be notified by their office via email.

Parking on campus will be reserved for ALL graduates and their guests. This is especially important this year given the size of the graduating classes.

Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Public Safety

Oak Hall Regalia Ordering Information

# Congratulations Roger Williams University School of Law Graduates!

Roger Willaims University has partnered with Oak Hall to provide you with some of the finest caps and gowns, tassels, and hoods available.

Our commencement regalia is made from 100% post-consumer recycled plastic bottles.

In an effort to increase environmental responsibility, the line of graduation wear named **GreenWeaver**<sup>®</sup> is made of fabric spun from molten plastic pellets.

With an average of 25 plastic bottles going into the manufacture of every cap and gown, your commencement regalia helps keep waste out of landfills.

#### IT'S TIME TO ORDER YOUR CAP & GOWN!

To help commemorate your hard work and commitment, you can pick up your regalia at the Bookstore or have it shipped directly to your home.

# There is an \$15.95 shipping and handling charge for domestic shipping (\$60.00 International)

# There are no charges to have your regalia order shipped to the Bookstore on Campus.

#### **IMPORTANT DATES:**

Last Day to Order Regalia to Ship to the Bookstore - Sunday, March 31, 2024

#### Last Day to Order Regalia for Ship to Home – Sunday, April 21, 2024

#### Commencement - Friday, May 17, 2024

### We wish you all the best, Graduates.

\*Please note: Group orders will not be accepted. Only one complete package may be purchased per order.\*

\*\*Please note: You may return your souvenir regalia unopened within 30 days and we will gladly refund you the purchase price less shipping. All returned items must be unopened and in their original packaging.\*\*

- Event
- Products
- Cart
- Shipping & Handling
- Address
- Preview

# **Choose event**

Event

Event date

Last order date

Juris Doctor Package - Ship to Bookstore

5/17/2024

3/31/2024

Juris Doctor Package - Ship to Home

5/17/2024

4/21/2024

# Package or items

**Complete Package:** allows you to order your cap, gown, hood (when applicable), and tassel as a complete set

Individual Products: allows you to order pieces individually

**Choose Products** 



# **Choose accessories**

The complete package includes your tam, gown, hood, and tassel.

The accessories on this page are **<u>EXTRA/OPTIONAL</u>** souvenir/add-on items that are **<u>NOT REQUIRED</u>** for graduation.

#### Accessories



### FIRST GENERATION STOLE

31.98



# LGBTQA+ RAINBOW STOLE

47.98



### **KENTE STOLE**

47.98

•



#### **SERAPE STOLE**

47.98



#### MILITARY STOLE

47.98



### INTERNATIONAL STOLE: Choose Your Country

47.98



### KEY CHAIN TASSEL

6.98



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### TRANS STOLE

47.98



#### **GRADUATION STOLE FRAME**

59.98

Quantity

# **Roger Williams University Law School Collection**

# **COLLEGE CLASS RINGS**

19 Items

Spread Your Ring Payments over 3 months for more flexibility.

Roger Williams University Law School Collection

1. Traditional

## 2. <u>Clear All</u>

# 1. Add to Wish List



Men's Legend Ring

### **VIEW PRICE OPTIONS**



# Women's Symphony Ring

### **VIEW PRICE OPTIONS**



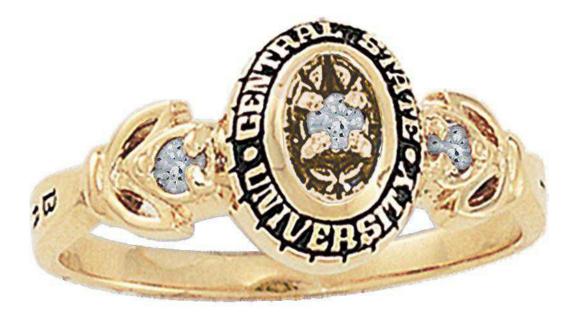
## Women's Twilight Ring

### **VIEW PRICE OPTIONS**



Men's Monarch Ring

### **VIEW PRICE OPTIONS**



### Women's Twilight Ring with Diamond Top

### **VIEW PRICE OPTIONS**



Men's Seahawk Ring

### **VIEW PRICE OPTIONS**



Women's Enlighten Ring

### **VIEW PRICE OPTIONS**



**Women's Signature Ring** 

### **VIEW PRICE OPTIONS**



# Women's Lady Legend Ring

# **VIEW PRICE OPTIONS**



Women's Highlight Ring

# **VIEW PRICE OPTIONS**



Women's Noblesse Ring

# **VIEW PRICE OPTIONS**



Women's Trellis Ring

# **VIEW PRICE OPTIONS**



Women's Illusion Ring

### VIEW PRICE OPTIONS



Men's Departure I Ring

#### **VIEW PRICE OPTIONS**



Women's Departure II Ring

#### **VIEW PRICE OPTIONS**



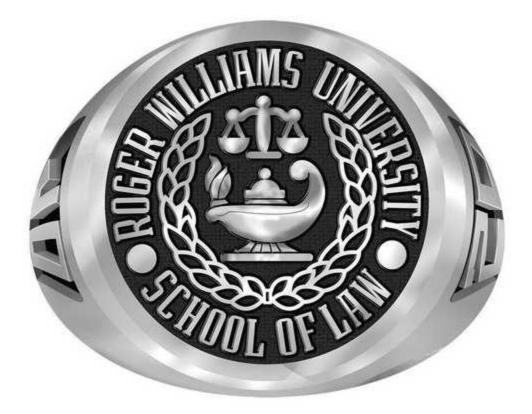
# Women's Windswept Ring

### **VIEW PRICE OPTIONS**



# Men's Diplomat Ring

# **VIEW PRICE OPTIONS**



**Roger Williams University Law School Men's Ashton** 

# **VIEW PRICE OPTIONS**



# Large Traditional Ring

#### **VIEW PRICE OPTIONS**

#### Category

1. O Jewelry 19 items

Collection

- 1. Traditional 19 items
- 2. Journey 13 items

Price

Min to Max

#### Gender

- 1. <u>Men's 6 items</u>
- 2. 🖾 Women's 12 items

#### President's Core Values Medallion - Recognizing Graduating Students - Call for Nominations

Dear RWU Community,

The call for nominations for the President's Core Values Medallion selection process (Undergraduate, Graduate and School of Law Commencement 2024) has begun. We will once again need your assistance in selecting this year's award winners.

### President's Core Values Medallion ~ Commencement 2024

The President's Core Values Medallion was established in 2007 to recognize graduating students who best exemplify the core values of the institution. Each student awarded this honor has truly embraced the University's core values in meaningful ways. Please refer to summary below for a full description of the core values inherent in a Roger Williams University education.

Each of the schools, together with the University President, will select this year's class of Presidential Core Value Medallion winners. Honorees will be presented with a unique medallion depicting the core values to be worn at Commencement.

One graduating student will be selected from each of the following schools: Cummings School of Architecture; Mario J. Gabelli School of Business; Justice Studies; Engineering, Computing and Construction Management. Two graduating students will be selected from the Feinstein School of Humanities, Arts, and Education, two will be selected from the Feinstein School of Social and Natural Sciences and two from University College. In addition, Core Values Medallion recognition will be conveyed to one graduate from the School of Law and one graduate student from Graduate Studies.

## Criteria for Selection

Impressive, broad, and meaningful individual student experiences congruent with our core values must be articulated in the nomination materials and the selection process within the schools. Examples of student outcomes related to our University core values include:

**Transformative:** Respectable to outstanding G.P.A., academic rigor and critical thinking, demonstrated commitment to collaboration and community engagement that enriches

students, the University and the broader society; commitment to fulfill their potential as lifelong learners, professionals and citizens.

**Engaged:** Engagement both within and outside of the campus community. Examples may include student club and organization involvement, academic honor societies, demonstrated leadership in involvement, and participation in the academic and co-curricular life of RWU.

**Experiential:** Demonstrated experience bridging theory and practice, enhancing the ability to fulfill their potential and contribute to society. Examples may include research collaboration with faculty members that contribute to scholarly work or research, completion of an internship, participation in CPC, the Law Clinic or other community focused projects.

**Inclusive:** Actively promote inclusion and demonstrates ability to thrive in culturally diverse and global society. Examples may include participation in study-abroad experience, commitment to foreign language proficiency, campus-based activities, volunteer leadership or academic work in support of equity, justice and inclusion.

**Innovative:** Demonstrated creative thinker. Entrepreneurial nature. Willingness to think outside of the box and propose unique and adaptable solutions and programs.

#### Nomination & Selection Process

Faculty & Administrators may nominate seniors *no later than March 21, 2024* directly to Nancy Costa at <u>ncosta@rwu.edu</u> in the Office of Student Life. The nomination should include supporting materials. Education majors can be considered by both schools they hold majors in but are only eligible for one award. *Each school must select honoree(s) prior to or before April 12, 2024*. In the event of a tie or a difficult decision – only ONE name can be forwarded as an honoree (with the exception of FCAS). Materials from nominees not selected by schools will be reviewed by President Miaoulis, this ensures that all nominees will be included in the final review process resulting in a limited number of at-large selections.

Individual students are also provided the opportunity to nominate themselves (or peers) for award consideration by forwarding supporting materials directly to Nancy Costa at <a href="mailto:ncosta@rwu.edu">ncosta@rwu.edu</a> no later than *March 18, 2024.* This is a supplemental approach designed to broaden the process and make it more inclusive. However self-nominations are not being solicited to replace or diminish the role of faculty and administrators as the primary nominating body.

Deans may also solicit names from faculty and Assistant/Associate Deans along with a summary of the nominee's qualifications pertaining to the above criteria.

In any case, all nominations must contain a written summary of qualifications pertaining to the Core Values most highly demonstrated by the student and should also include major and minor,

internships, study abroad, leadership, community engaged learning, service, co-curricular involvement, distinctive awards and honors, and future plans – career, service and/or graduate school related.

Questions can be directed to Nancy Costa at <u>ncosta@rwu.edu</u> or John King at <u>jjking@rwu.edu</u> in the Office of Student Life.

Thank you.

# Good Morning

Commencement 2024 is just around the corner, and we will be placing orders for faculty and staff regalia if you choose to march this year. **Everyone MUST** fill out the form below regarding commencement. If you choose to not attend, there is an option on the form for you to say so. I need everyone's responses by **Wednesday March 20**.

https://forms.gle/FfCBaynMxEKERHfEA

Thank you and have a great day!

Best

Shirley

2024 RWU Law Commencement Regalia

The School of Law's Graduation will be held on Friday, May 17, 2024. We will be working with the University Events office regarding your regalia. If you are processing, please indicate if you will need a robe, cap, hood, or have your own. I will also need the name of the institution in

which you received your highest degree and what your degree is.

If you are marching, please indicate which ceremonies you will participate in: Main University Ceremony, School of Law Ceremony or both Ceremonies. Your response is needed on or before Wednesday, March 20, 2024.

The most up to date schedule can be <u>found here</u>. The School of Law ceremony is in Wave 2 at 2:00 P.M.

#### Main Commencement Ceremony:

Main Athletic Field behind the Campus Recreation Center, Bristol Campus

7:00 AM – ALL gates open on the Athletic Field for guests to be seated.

\*Guests must be seated by 8:30 AM

8:00 AM - Students report to Fieldhouse in the Campus Recreation Center

8:15 AM – Instructions given to students in Fieldhouse

8:30 AM - Processional begins from the Fieldhouse to Athletic Field (please note: there is no tent.)

9:00 AM – Ceremony begins

10:00 AM - Recessional

Ceremonies for individual schools begins.

#### School of Law Ceremony - Wave II

(1:30 PM – Students & Faculty report to Global Heritage Hall)

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM School of Law Ceremony – Global Heritage Hall Tent

For those that cannot attend in person, the Main Ceremony will be live streamed on the university website. The link will be provided in May. Individual school ceremonies will be videotaped and published on the Commencement website at a later date.

#### **Ceremony & Meetup Locations:**

All students, faculty, and platform parties MUST report to their meetup location 30 minutes prior to their school ceremony.

\* Indicates required question

First Name \*

Last Name \*

Which ceremonies are you participating in? \*

Law School ONLY

BOTH Law School and Main University

Neither - Not Attending

University President's Reception Honoring 2024 Graduates



# President Ioannis N. Miaoulis

#### cordially invites you to a reception in honor of your graduation

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

5:30 pm – 7:00 pm

The University Residence

45 Ferry Road

Bristol, Rhode Island

Kindly RSVP by May 7, 2024

Laura Kutsaftis at <u>events@rwu.edu</u>

Eligible graduating students only; no guests are allowed.

Please include requests for any special assistance needed to attend this reception.

Business attire is required.

A shuttle will run continuously from the Alumni & Admissions Center to the University Residence

# Roger Williams University OFFICE of the PRESIDENT

Dear RWU community,

I am proud to announce the keynote speaker and distinguished recipients of honorary degrees for the 2024 Commencement ceremony. Roger Williams University will honor leaders in education, environmental conservation, and the law, who have demonstrated incredible vision and unwavering commitment to social and environmental justice. As we celebrate the extraordinary contributions of the exceptional leaders in our Commencement ceremony, we reaffirm RWU's commitment to fostering inclusivity, diversity, and empowerment within our university community and beyond.

**Shabana Basij-Rasikh**, the first and only remaining boarding school dedicated to educating Afghan girls in the world, will serve as our keynote speaker and receive an honorary degree for her visionary leadership in girls' education. Basij-Rasikh has made it her life's mission to enable girls' education in her home country, <u>coordinating the escape and relocation of her school to Rwanda</u> when the Taliban returned to power in 2021 to continue to provide educational access to Afghan girls. [<u>Watch a 2013 CNN</u> interview where Shabana discusses attending secret school.]

In addition to Basij-Rasikh, our distinguished honorary degree recipients include Elizabeth Moore, a conservationist and philanthropist who has supported environmental conservation efforts and science education in New England and the Gulf Coast, and current board member and past president of the TREE Foundation; and to Arlene Violet, the former Rhode Island Attorney General and the first woman to become an attorney general in the United States, and a trustee emeritus of the Roger Williams University Board of Trustees.

The RWU School of Law will present honorary degrees to **Anita Earls**, Associate Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court, who has led a distinguished career in civil rights legal advocacy and litigating voting rights and other civil rights cases; and to **William E. Smith**, Judge of the U.S. District Court of Rhode Island, who has served on the state's federal bench since 2002, and will complete more than a decade of service on the RWU Law Board of Directors this spring, including six years as board chairperson. Justice Earls will serve as the keynote speaker in the School of Law ceremony.

These remarkable leaders will serve as an inspiration to our Class of 2024, as they prepare to head out and become the changemakers and leaders our world needs next.

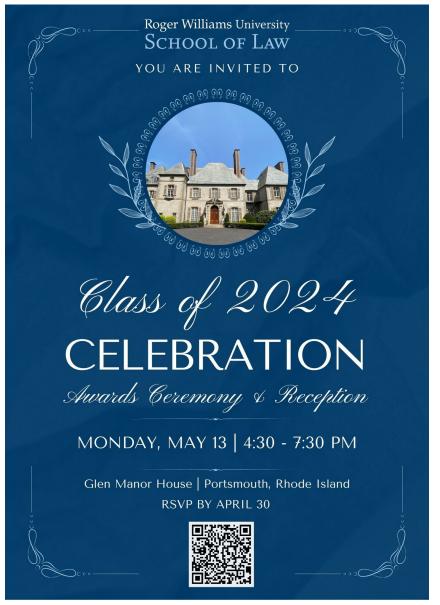
**Commencement ceremony on Friday, May 17**, will be a wonderful celebration of our graduates, with all the families, friends, classmates, faculty, and staff that have supported them throughout the years!

For more about our speakers and honorary degree recipients, read <u>Afghan Women's</u> <u>Rights Leader, Shabana Basij-Rasikh, to Deliver Roger Williams University</u> Commencement Address.

Sincerely, Yannis Miaoulis

# ATTN: RWU Law Class of 2024

# Please join Dean Gregory W. Bowman at an Awards Ceremony & Reception honoring the law school Class of 2024.



The program will be held Monday, May 13, 2024, from 4:30 - 7:30 PM

at the beautiful <u>Glen Manor House</u>, on the Sakonnet River in

Portsmouth, Three Frank Coelho Drive, Rhode Island.

4:30 - 5:30 PM Awards Ceremony

5:30 -7:30 PM Class of 2024 Reception

I hope that you will be able to join members of the Class of 2024, as well as members of the faculty, adjunct faculty, and staff, to celebrate.

Kindly <u>RSVP</u> by April 30

# Afghan Women's Rights Leader, Shabana Basij-Rasikh, to Deliver Roger Williams University Commencement Address

May 17 ceremony to celebrate leaders in education, environmental justice, and the law

March 27, 2024J ill Pais '05



Shabana Basij-Rasikh, a changemaker and founder of the School of Leadership Afghanistan (SOLA), the first and only remaining boarding school dedicated to educating Afghan girls in the world, will deliver the keynote speech and receive an honorary degree at the RWU Commencement ceremony on Friday, May 17.

**BRISTOL, R.I.** – Roger Williams University announces that <u>Shabana Basij-Rasikh</u>, a changemaker and founder of the School of Leadership Afghanistan (SOLA), the first and only remaining boarding school dedicated to educating Afghan girls in the world, will deliver the keynote speech and receive an honorary degree at the RWU Commencement ceremony on Friday, May 17.

This year's RWU Commencement exercises will celebrate leaders across diverse fields, from education and women's rights, law and diplomacy to environmental science and social activism, as the university's distinguished recipients of honorary degrees.

Basij-Rasikh, 34, began her fight for girls' education when she was six years old. Growing up in Kabul under the Taliban's rule, she and her sister courageously attended hiddenschools despite the risk of severe reprisal from the regime. After the Taliban's fall in 2001, Basij-Rasikh traveled to the U.S. through the State Department's Youth Exchange Studies program to attend high school and college, and during this time, she co-founded SOLA with the mission of providing access to formal education for girls across her homeland. When the Taliban seizedpower following the U.S. military withdrawal in 2021, she coordinated a harrowing escape for her students and re-established the school in Rwanda. As the world has watched the Taliban eradicate women's rights once again and force girls out of school, Basij-Rasikh's SOLA has remained the sole school that provides an education to Afghan girls anywhere in the world.



Shabana Basij-Rasikh (right) speaks with RWU Provost Margaret Everett during a presentation on the Bristol campus in 2021.

During her visit to Roger Williams University in 2021, Basij-Rasikh spoke about women's rights and access to girls' education in Afghanistan. At that time, RWU committed to providing full-tuition scholarships and secured philanthropic donations to fund room and board for two SOLA students to attend the university, and the Afghan women are currently enrolled at the university.RWU will welcome another two SOLA students under full scholarships, room and board, in the 2024-25 academic year.

"Shabana Basij-Rasikh is the embodiment of how an individual's passion and perseverance can make a profound impact on our world," said RWU President Ioannis Miaoulis. "As we celebrate the extraordinary contributions of the exceptional leaders in our Commencement ceremony, we reaffirm RWU's commitment to fostering inclusivity, diversity, and empowerment within our university community and beyond. These remarkable leaders will serve as an inspiration to our Class of 2024, as they prepare to head out and become the changemakers and leaders our world needs next."

At the Commencement ceremony, RWU will also present honorary degrees to Elizabeth Moore, a conservationist and philanthropist who has supported environmental conservation efforts and science education in New England and the Gulf Coast, and current board member and past president of the TREE Foundation; and to Arlene Violet, the former Rhode Island Attorney General and the first woman attorney general in the United States, and a trustee emerita of the Roger Williams University Board of Trustees.

The RWU School of Law will present honorary degrees to Anita Earls, Associate Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court, who has led a distinguished career in civil rights legal advocacy and litigating voting rights and other civil rights cases; and to William E. Smith, Judge of the U.S. District Court of Rhode Island, who has served on the state's federal bench since 2002, and will complete more than a decade of service on the RWU Law Board of Directors this spring, including six years as board chairperson. Justice Earls will serve as the keynote speaker in the School of Law ceremony.

This year's Commencement ceremony recognizes trailblazers who are making a collective impact across the globe. Guided by the belief that an education has the power to change lives and transform communities, Roger Williams University provides students with real-world learning opportunities focused on social and environmental justice that empower them to make a real-world impact. With leadership in the blue economy, coastal resiliency, and education, and as home of the only law school in Rhode Island, RWU harnesses the power of our faculty, staff and students in collaborative work with community partners and meaningful research that creates change for our region and the world.

The university-wide Commencement celebration for undergraduate, graduate and law students of the Class of 2024 will be held on Friday, May 17. The university ceremony will take place on the main athletic field. The processional steps off at 8:30 a.m. with the ceremony beginning at 9 a.m. Individual school ceremonies will follow throughout the day.

RWU will celebrate 1,154 graduates in the Class of 2024, conferring 61 associate degrees, 806bachelor's degrees, 114 master's degrees, 161law degrees, and 13certificates.

RWU will provide a livestream enabled for broadcast and radio recording of the main university ceremony. A link to the RWU Commencement livestream will be posted on the <u>Commencement</u> website.



The U.S. District Court's William E. Smith is slated to receive an honorary degree from Roger Williams University School of Law. - FILE PHOTO

# Local judge, NC Supreme Court justice to receive honorary degrees at RWU Law commencement

By: R.I. Lawyers Weekly Staff//March 29, 2024//

Roger Williams University School of Law has announced that it will present honorary degrees at its commencement ceremonies to Anita Earls, a justice on the North Carolina Supreme Court, and to U.S. District Court Judge William E. Smith, who has served on the federal bench since 2002 and has been a member of the RWU Law board of directors for a decade, including six years as its chair. Earls, whose career has focused on civil rights legal advocacy and litigating voting rights and other civil rights cases, will be the keynote speaker at the May 17 law school commencement.

Roger Williams University, meanwhile, has announced that Shabana Basij-Rasikh, founder of the School of Leadership Afghanistan, or SOLA, the first and only remaining boarding school dedicated to educating Afghan girls in the world, will deliver the keynote speech and receive an honorary degree at the RWU commencement.

During her visit to RWU in 2021, Basij-Rasikh spoke about women's rights and access to girls' education in Afghanistan. At that time, RWU committed to providing full-tuition scholarships and secured philanthropic donations to fund room and board for two SOLA students to attend the university. The Afghan women are currently enrolled at the university. RWU will welcome another two SOLA students under full scholarships, room and board, in the 2024-2025 academic year.

RWU will also present honorary degrees to Elizabeth Moore, a conservationist and philanthropist who has supported environmental conservation efforts and science education in New England and the Gulf Coast, and to Arlene Violet, the state's former attorney general and the first woman AG in the United States.

# **Rooted in Commitment: Geovanny Amaya** L'24

Growing up as a first-generation American, Geovanny Amaya thought there was a strong chance he would go into immigration law. But when he arrived at RWU Law three years ago, he thought he should keep an open mind to other options that might present themselves.

April 4, 2024

Michelle Choate



Geovanny Amaya L'24

Growing up as a first-generation American, Geovanny Amaya thought there was a strong chance he would go into immigration law. But when he arrived at RWU Law three years ago, he thought he should keep an open mind to other options that might present themselves. Initially, he worked in housing law with the Indigent Help Desk and the Pro Bono Collaborative, both of which he found rewarding enough to consider going into housing law after graduation. But during his 2L externship with the Central American Refugee Center (CARESEN) his passion for immigration law was reignited—and he has not looked back since. "I believed immigration law was the path that suited me best," says Amaya. "As the bilingual child of immigrants, I knew it would be a great way to give back to my community."

Amaya's passion and commitment make perfect sense given his family background. His parents and grandparents retreated to the US from El Salvador to escape civil war. His parents were children when they immigrated, and in part because of their youth, they were able to assimilate fairly well to life in the US, and both earned higher educational degrees. But others in Amaya's family and his larger community had different experiences—and required a great deal more help to adjust and thrive in their new home. The challenges faced by the people around him made Amaya consider how those same challenges might be impacting others in the wider world. "I realized many people have faced issues that have made them want or need to leave their original country," says Amaya. Learning more about how to help those people gives me a sense of purpose and allows me to support other people in a way that other immigration attorneys assisted my family."

Recently, Amaya received an Immigration Justice Core Fellowship from CARESEN, and will be returning there post-graduation to work assisting unaccompanied children. He explains, "I will be working with undocumented children who arrive in the US. Sometimes they arrive here by themselves or with siblings, often to escape abusive parents and situations. I'll be helping them in seeking special immigrant juvenile status, which entails petitioning for them to remain in the

US. We also work to pair them with a guardian, such as a grandparent or an aunt or uncle, and then begin the process of getting the children green cards."

As he prepares to bid RWU Law goodbye, Amaya wants other students to understand how valuable it can be to spend time in the Immigration Clinic, even if they are not interested in immigration law. "Having the clinic here in the school is definitely a great experience for students who want to get trial experience in general. Our professor, Deborah Gonzalez, really allows us to be hands-on student attorneys," says Amaya. "And we don't just go to immigration court; we go to family court and probate court. Many of the special immigrant juvenile cases start in family court, so just being able to appear in front of a judge in that way can really improve your confidence."

While he is already taking steps toward his future, Amaya has taken his own advice to heart and remains highly engaged with the Immigration Clinic. "I'm still at the clinic right now," he says. "It is stressful work, but I still enjoy it. I spend a lot of time here just so I can be the most effective student attorney I can be."

# The Power of Yes: Stefanie Fischer L'24

3L Stefanie Fischer reflects on life, law school, and the path not taken

April 10, 2024

Suzi Morales



Stefanie D. Fischer L'24 Image Credit: Justin Case

You might say Stefanie Fischer's success in law school started with sled dogs.

Fischer is a member of the Roger Williams University School of Law Class of 2024. As a teaching assistant for multiple courses and editor-in-chief of the *Roger Williams University Law Review*, she has excelled at every opportunity offered to her as a law student.

But she credits her accomplishments at least in part to one chance she didn't take.

#### **Dogs and horses**

After graduating from the George Washington University in three years, Fischer briefly considered law school but chose a more adventurous path. In 2011, she moved to Seward, Alaska to work for the Seavey family, a multi-generational dogsledding family that included two champions of the famous Iditarod sled race. She did everything from administrative assistance to mushing for the family's racing and tour company. After a few months, they offered to sponsor her for an Iditarod training team.

But Fischer's parents, concerned about the danger as well as the time commitment of around four years, talked her out of the Iditarod. A lifelong equestrian, she instead began training horses and giving riding lessons, eventually becoming the co-owner of her family's horse farm.

Far from settling for a fallback option, Fischer thrived. "I was the happiest person in the world as a horse trainer," she says. In 2019, she began leasing a horse farm in Rehoboth, Massachusetts. When the pandemic started, "my income completely stopped; my expenses didn't." Looking for a secure career path, she circled back to the idea of law school that she'd stepped away from a decade before.

#### "A lot of yesses"

Fischer applied only to RWU Law because she wanted to stay in state. In law school, she wanted to distinguish herself in a competitive career. She also had the Iditarod in the back of her mind and didn't want to say no to another chance.

"I didn't ever want to turn down an opportunity and regret it later. Part of that was that I was coming to this as a second or third career and at a much older age," Fischer says. "I really wanted to make sure that I put my all into it so I said lots of yesses to things and ended up getting super involved in lots and lots of things."

As a teaching assistant, Fischer enjoyed mentoring the students in her classes, who were around the same age as many of the riders she'd coached at her horse farms. She also appreciated the intellectual challenge. "I love the idea of the law being a puzzle and you having to figure out a system and a way to work the knowledge into a framework that you can understand and apply," she says.

Around the time she was preparing to go to law school in 2020, Fischer also started a master's program in psychology at Pepperdine University. She will graduate in June 2024. Studying psychology helped her manage a *Law Review* team of around sixty high achievers.

"It made me a much more empathetic person," Fischer says. "I was much more able to step back from something and say, 'Okay, what is this person thinking? What are they feeling like?' ... That sounds really simple, but it's really hard to do."

After graduation, Fischer will clerk for Chief Justice Paul Suttell of the Rhode Island Supreme Court. Eventually, she would like to work for a large law firm in the Boston area.

While she was working at the sled dog facility, Fischer bought her parents a Christmas ornament from the onsite gift shop. When she visits over the holidays, she often points out the ornament and gently teases them for dissuading her from the Iditarod.

While Fischer doesn't know what might've happened if she took a different path, she knows the power of saying yes. As she looks forward to embarking on her law career, that power will continue to propel her to new challenges.

# **Honorary Degree Recipients**

Honorary Degree Recipients 2024

2024 Commencement Speaker and Honorary Degree Recipient

#### Shabana Basij-Rasikh

Doctor of Humane Letters, *Honoris Causa* Founder of School of Leadership Afghanistan

Shabana was 6 years old when the Taliban seized power in 1996. Under their regime, women could travel outside the home only while wearing the burqa and when accompanied by a male chaperone, and girls were completely forbidden from attending school.

Yet in cities and villages across Afghanistan, secret schools began to open. Often located in the living rooms of private homes, these schools were run by women and were open to girls whose families were ready to risk fierce retribution at the hands of the Taliban for educating their daughters.

Shabana's family was among those ready, and Shabana and her older sister attended several of these secret schools in Kabul. Shabana's sister was of an age where she could not be out in public without a burqa and a male chaperone – so Shabana dressed as a boy and accompanied her sister to these secret schools, both of them hiding their schoolbooks in shopping bags and varying their daily routines so as not to draw suspicion from the Taliban.

The regime's fall in 2001 allowed girls to return to school openly in Afghanistan, and Shabana later attended a year of high school in the U.S. through the State Department's Youth Exchange Studies program before enrolling at Middlebury College in Vermont.

It was in 2008, as a student at Middlebury, that Shabana co-founded SOLA with the mission of providing access to quality education for girls across her homeland. SOLA remained a priority throughout her college years and became her lifelong commitment upon graduating Middlebury magna cum laude in 2011 with a degree in International Studies and Women & Gender Studies. Shabana has since earned a Master in Public Policy degree from Oxford University and has received honorary doctorates from SOAS University of London (2016) and Cedar Crest College in Pennsylvania (2019).

At Middlebury, Shabana was awarded a Davis Peace Prize with which she built wells outside of Kabul; was selected as one of Glamour Magazine's Top 10 College Women of 2010; and received the Vermont Campus Compact 2011 Madeline Kunin Public Service Award for leadership and service to others.

In 2014, Shabana was named one of CNN International's Leading Women and one of National Geographic's Emerging Explorers. She is a global ambassador for Girl Rising, a call to action seeking investment in girls' education worldwide.

In 2018, Shabana was awarded the Malalai Medal, one of Afghanistan's highest national honors, for her work in promoting girls' access to education. In 2019, she was named to the Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia list in the social entrepreneurship sector; in 2021, The Washington Post named her a contributor to their Global Opinions section; and in 2023, she received the Rolex National Geographic Explorer of the Year award from the National Geographic Society.

In August 2021, days after the fall of Kabul to the Taliban, Shabana led the evacuation of the SOLA community from Afghanistan to Rwanda. This is where SOLA has re-established its operations and now exists as the only boarding school for Afghan girls operating on Earth.

Under the Taliban's rule, Afghanistan in 2023 has once again become as it was during Shabana's youth, with women's rights profoundly restricted and girls forbidden from completing their educations. Shabana's commitment is to the girls of Afghanistan, girls still in their homeland and girls scattered in the worldwide diaspora, and she is driven to make SOLA a place of hope and promise – a place where Afghan girls will always be free to learn.

#### 2024 Honorary Degree Recipient

#### **Elizabeth Moore**

Doctor of Humane Letters, *Honoris Causa* Conservationist and philanthropist

Elizabeth Moore is a conservationist and philanthropist with special interest in environmental and conservation issues and science education. She is well-known in southwest Florida conservation and philanthropic circles as a woman fiercely devoted to not just championing but also committed to funding initiatives that protect the planet and provide education about the environment, particularly for youth. Elizabeth has supported conservation efforts in New England as well as Florida. Moore serves on the boards of several environmentally focused organizations and sees her role as a connector building relationships among all. Some include the TREE Foundation, where she is currently a Board Member (from 2020 through 2023, she served as TREE's board president); the Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast; and the Lemur Conservation Foundation. She serves as an advisor for the Museum of Science in Boston, the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Mass., and the Museum of the Rockies in Bozeman, Mont. Elizabeth is a founding director of the Climate Adaptation & Mitigation Center, which focuses on sea level rise, hurricanes and climate-induced health issues. She previously served on the boards of WUSF Public Media and the Boys and Girls Club of Manatee County.

Born in Syracuse, N.Y., Elizabeth grew up in Manchester-by-the-Sea, Mass. She earned an MA in international affairs from American University and a BA in economics & French literature from Denison University (OH). In addition to being an avid tennis player, Elizabeth's other interests include gardening, skiing, scuba diving, ballroom dancing, studying paleontology and reading books on evolution and anthropology.

Since becoming a resident of Florida in 2007, she transferred much of her attention to Florida's environment. In the past seven years, she's donated significantly to Florida nonprofits.

At RWU, Moore has been a member of the President's Circle since December 2022.

She has five children: William, 31, a farmer in North Carolina using regenerative practices that enrich the soil; Nicholas, 29, an entrepreneur in Nigeria; Peter, 26, a Tufts University grad; Merry, 24, a student at the University of Southern California majoring in biochemistry with a minor in marine biology; and Grace, 24, an NYU grad and founder of The Global Center for Community Regeneration.

#### 2024 Honorary Degree Recipient

Arlene Violet Doctor of Humane Letters, *Honoris Causa* Trustee Emerita

Arlene Violet is a native Rhode Islander. She completed her undergraduate studies at Salve Regina University, and she received her Juris Doctor from Boston College Law School. She was a Sister of Mercy for 23 years working on behalf of the poor in many areas including the inner city of Providence. She was a public interest attorney practicing consumer law, environmental law and developmental disability law. The case precedents, which she established, along with her election as the first female Attorney General in the United States, earned her a place in a book titled, "The Fifty Most Influential Women in American Law." She is featured in the book, along with Hillary Clinton and Supreme Court Justices Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsberg. For almost 18 years, she has been a top talk show host. She was selected as one of the top 100 talk show hosts (out of more than 4,000) in the U.S. along with Don Imus, Rush Limbaugh, and Sean Hannity. She was a member of the inaugural class for induction into the Rhode Island Radio Hall of Fame.

She regularly appeared as a legal and political commentator on the NBC, CBS, and ABC TV local affiliate, WPRO. She is a guest commentator on NPR radio and PBS television. She was featured on "Sixty Minutes," "Larry King," and "Crossfire." Random House published her autobiography, "Convictions" in 1988. Her book regarding the witness protection program, "The Mob and Me," was published in 2010 by Simon and Schuster. She writes a weekly political column, thus extending her viewpoints to reach all media.

Her community work includes participating on many diverse Boards of Directors including The R.I. Family Shelter, Opera Providence, Initiative to Educate Afghan Women, The Gamm Theatre, The Board of Governors of Rhode Island Hospital, Board of Trustees at Roger Williams University, and the Advisory Board of the Japan-American Society of Rhode Island. She has been selected as "Woman of the Year" by numerous organizations. Among her awards, she was the first recipient of the Jefferson Award for Public Service, and she received the local NAACP Humanitarian Award. She was inducted into the R.I. Hall of Fame in 1996; in 2007, she was elected to the Board of Directors of said Hall of Fame. She served on the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the Woman's Campaign School at Yale University's Law School. While she was Attorney General, her colleagues in the United States Department of Justice honored her as the law enforcement professional of the year. Her pocket manual on search and seizures was provided to every R.I. police officer, and it became a model for other Attorneys General to use.

As an adjunct professor in a joint program at RISD and Brown University, she taught environmental law. She co-authored the first manual and school curriculum on law, which was used in many Rhode Island high school classes.

We are pleased to share the names of graduating RWU Law students who have completed the Honors Program for the Class of 2024. Professor Michael J. Yelnosky, Faculty Director of the program, had this to say: "I know I speak for all of my colleagues when I congratulate these graduates for their accomplishments and wish them all the best in whatever comes next for them. We all look forward to watching them continue to grow as lawyers and hope they will keep in touch." View the full list via <a href="https://law.rwu.edu/academics/honors-program">https://law.rwu.edu/academics/honors-program</a>

#RWU2024 #HonorsProgram #rwulaw #commencement2024



CLASS OF 2024 Congratulations to the graduating members of the

# HONORS PROGRAM

EXCELLENCE IN ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

# **Program Outline**

Honors students take special Honors Perspective Courses in their second and third years. Registration in these courses is limited to Honors students, unless the course is cross-listed. Students must complete three Honors Perspectives Courses to fulfill the requirements of the Honors Program.

Honors Perspectives courses recently offered include: September 11 Litigation, U.S. Supreme Court Cases, Torture and American Lawyers, Election Law and Campaign Finance, The Nature of the Judicial Process, Southern Slavery and the Law, The Tea Party and Popular Constitutionalism, and Voice of the Child.

Honors students are also invited to participate in a variety of other academic and social events with faculty and members of the bench and bar.

Upon graduation and successful completion of the Honors Program, students receive an Honors certificate and enjoy a special graduation reception in their honor. A note of completion is also placed on their law school transcript.

**Contact Information** 

For information about the activities of the Honors Program, please contact Faculty Director of the Honors Program, Professor Michael Yelnosky at <u>myelnosky@rwu.edu</u>.

# **Class of 2024 Honors Program**

"I know I speak for all of my colleagues when I congratulate these graduates for their accomplishments and wish them all the best in whatever comes next for them. We all look forward to watching them continue to grow as lawyers and hope they will keep in touch." -- <u>Michael J. Yelnosky, Professor of</u>

Law

The following students have completed the requirements of the Honors Program:

- Alyssa Almeida
- Angela M. Amaral

- Todd Derek Amaral
- Martin R. Biancuzzo
- Spencer Borden
- Danielle Marie Brackett
- Timothy Brian Caplan
- Olivia Margaret Cannizzaro
- Manuela Carmona
- Matthew Cavanagh
- Nicholas Alexander Celico
- Ruth Coccio
- Isabella Maria Colapietro
- Michaela Ann Conley
- Rebecca A. Costello
- Linda Marie Cowen
- Elisabeth D'Amelio
- Evan William Dandrea
- Gabriela Dupuis
- Kyle T. Easton
- Logan Faucher
- Madeleine A. Fenderson
- Stefanie D. Fischer
- Miguel A. Garcia Jr.
- Jose R. Garcia II
- Samantha Lynn Gervasio
- Tyler Haas
- Jacklyn Henry
- Margaret E. Jacobs
- Katherine S. Kazarian
- Samantha Larkin
- Keith Lefevre
- Hilary L. Levey Friedman
- David Marks
- Katharine Lewis Wininger McCorkle
- Julia Teresa Peare
- Pia Piscitelli
- Emily Frances Rodriguez Johnson
- Amanda Rotimi
- Julia Alexandra Stern
- Cornelius Tyson
- Jessica Viel
- Andrew Nadal Walsh
- Mark Weeden

### Class of 2024 Recognition For Pro Bono Service

The class of 2024 completed over 17,000 hours of direct pro bono legal service, with over half of our graduates doubling their 50-hour requirement. Why this matters: Pro bono legal service increases access to justice for underserved clients while allowing students to gain valuable experience.

Please join us in congratulating these hardworking graduates! The full list may be viewed via <u>https://law.rwu.edu/.../pro-bono-experiential-learning...</u>



"A lot of students say that doing their pro bono service has altered the course of their professional aspirations. We've had students say that their experience was the defining moment of their law school journey. It's been very powerful."

- Eliza Vorenberg, Director of Pro Bono & Community Partnerships

The following graduating students completed one hundred hours or more of pro bono legal service:

- Alfred V. Acquaviva, II
- Morgan L. Alger
- Alyssa Almeida
- Geovanny Amaya
- Gabrielle S. Angevine
- Anna Arakelian
- Michelle Sung Bae
- Taylor Alexis Bains
- Chandler K. Ballantine

- Kathleen Marie Baptista
- Lindsay Saraii Bazile
- Colton Joseph Patrick Boyden
- Danielle Marie Brackett
- Timothy Brian Caplan
- Amanda Marie Caron
- Jordyn Carpenter
- Joseph Chakif
- Romer Walter Cisneros
- Isabella Maria Colapietro
- Andrew Blackstone Colton
- Michaela Ann Conley
- Rebecca A. Costello
- Linda Marie Cowen
- Alexis DaCruz
- Robert Daniel
- Alicia Delaney
- Amy Elizabeth DeLong
- Sophia Louise Dooley
- Kyle T Easton
- Jessica Jamie-Ann Erspamer
- Kevin Truman Farmer
- Jordan T. Farnsworth
- Stephen Adalberto Fleitas
- Miguel A. Garcia Jr.
- Jose R. Garcia II
- Tyler Haas
- Emily Hogan
- Emily Hughes
- Margaret E. Jacobs
- Hilary L. Levey Friedman
- Abby Elena Mansolillo
- Raffaelo R. Manzo
- Katharine Lewis Wininger McCorkle
- Jonté Tyree McKenzie
- Camila C. Morell Burgos
- Savanna Lee O'Neal
- Brittney Brianna Ortiz
- Julia Teresa Peare
- Olivia Joan Pellegrini
- Birica-Bikira Pierre-Louis
- Pia Piscitelli
- Emily Frances Rodriguez Johnson
- Amanda Rotimi
- Leakha Devi Saytoo
- Hannah Jane Schilling

- Andrea Isobel Staehelin
- Daniel Starr-Tambor
- Julia Alexandra Stern
- Molly Anne Todd
- Leonore Elaine Tripler '23
- Cassidy Tuohy
- Jessica Viel
- Jakia Larnelle Warren
- Keilly J. Wickham
- Nasama Winters
- Anthony Bernardo Zainyeh

#### **Announcing Commencement 2024 Student Speakers**

May 8, 2024

Dear Faculty, Staff, and Students,

On behalf of the 2024 Student Commencement Speaker selection committee, I am pleased to announce that Samuel Trieber and Elisabeth D'Amelio have been selected as the commencement speakers. Samuel is the undergraduate speaker and Elisabeth will be representing graduate students.

Sam is participating in the Master of Science in Criminal Justice 4+1 program. Samuel graduated in December 2023 with a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice and minors in History and Psychology. Sam was a member of the Honors LLC, including Honors curriculum and course load. During his time at Roger Williams, he held the position of Treasurer for the Roger Williams Art Club. He was also a part of the Birss Fellowship as a research and data analyst where he did physical archival research of author Carson McCullers in Columbus, Georgia. His work was then developed into a presentation, web page, and library display within Bristol, Rhode Island.

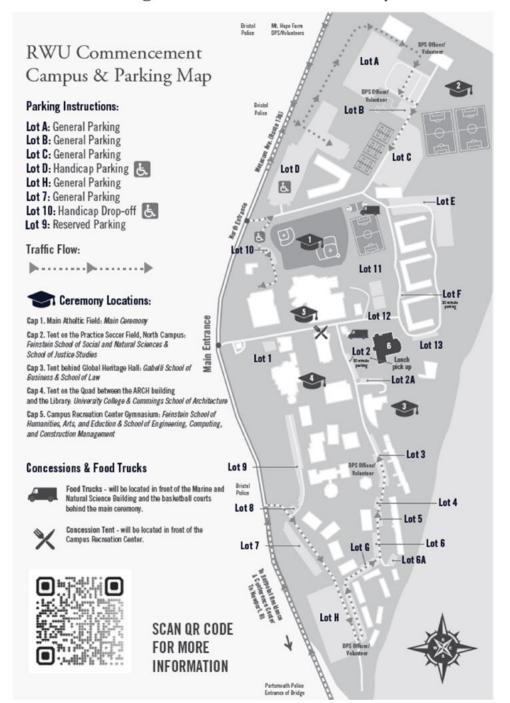
\*\*\*Elisabeth is graduating with a Juris Doctorate from the School of Law and Master of Arts in Cybersecurity. While a student, Elisabeth was involved as an oral advocate for both the Admiralty Moot Court and Cyber Crimes Moot Court, and as a torts teaching assistant. She also served as a Judicial Extern at the United States District Court in the District of Rhode Island. \*\*\*

This year there were a record number of impressive and capable applicants to consider, and the Committee identified two outstanding finalists for both undergraduates and graduates to choose from. The speeches were well-written with great messaging, making the decision extremely challenging. This is a testament to the quality of the experience the class of 2024 has created and shared during their time at RWU, as they met every challenge along the way.

The Student Commencement Speaker Committee members include Bob Blackburn, Molly Brigan, Nancy Costa, Hannah Ilagan, Kiki Jacobs, Leanda Miranda, Jen Stanley, Derek Zuckerman, and student representatives Taylor Pierre '25, and Kevin McGaughey '24. We thank each of them for their efforts and note that the Committee had the enjoyable, yet incredibly difficult task of selecting the 2024 Student Commencement Speakers.

Please join us in congratulating Samuel and Elisabeth! We also look forward to celebrating the accomplishments of all of our graduates at the general and school-specific ceremonies planned for Commencement on May 17.

## Roger Williams University



#### **ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW**

#### SCRIPT FOR COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES FRIDAY, MAY 17, 2024 – 2:00 PM

Processional will begin at 1:50 PM from the GHH Atrium to the GHH Tent.

Mace Bearer, Professor Monica Teixeira de Sousa, will lead the procession.

#### **Order of Procession**

Mace Bearer, Professor Monica Teixeira de Sousa

[SINGLE FILE]

Faculty Marshal 1–Liz Colt Students [Valedictorian in first 19 seats] Faculty/Administration **Doug Peterson** Kathy Sulentic Jackie Rolleri Jodi Haley Lorraine Lalli Mark Gemma **Steve Maguire Brett Beaubien** James Ruggeri **Colleen Brown Doris De Los Santos** Linn Freedman The Hon. Paul Suttell **Nicole Benjamin** The Hon. O.Rogeriee Thompson HDR The Hon. William Smith HDR The Hon. Anita Earls The Hon. Brian Stern

**Dean Gregory Bowman** 

## PROCESSION

[Mace Bearer, Professor Monica Teixeira de Sousa will lead the procession. The Faculty Marshal, Liz Colt, will march immediately behind the Mace Bearer. (Single File - See marching order above.) The Mace Bearer will lead the procession from the GHH Atrium, following the paved path to the entrance to the tent behind GHH where the ceremony will be held.

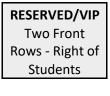
Once the Mace Bearer reaches the tent entrance, the Mace Bearer will continue down the center aisle, up on to the stage and stand in front of the center podium. The Mace Bearer will display the Mace by holding it up and out toward the audience. The Faculty Marshal will **stop in front of the Graduate Seating** and direct the students into seating. There are ten rows of graduate seating. We will front fill. [Barbra Supsky and Grizzel Clemetson will assist with the student seating. NOTE: Valedictorian, Stefanie Fischer should be in the first row of 19 students.]

Once the graduates are all in the rows, the Faculty Marshall Liz Colt will guide the remaining processional party into their seats on the floor (32 members). Once the Faculty Marshal, Liz Colt, meets Doug Peterson, Liz will take her seat on the aisle. Doug Peterson will continue forward to the stage stairs. Doug Peterson will proceed onto the stage and find his seat in the second row, stage

Friday, May 17 @ 2 PM						
GHH TENT -	School of Law Ceren	nony			-	
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STAGE LEFT						
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BROWN	DORIS De Los SANTOS	LINN FREEDMAN	PAUL SUTTELL	BENJAMIN		BOWMAN
					-	
ROW 2						ROW 2
						MACE BEARER
						MONICA
DOUG				LORRAINE		TEIXEIRA de
PETERSON	KATHY SULETNIC	JACKIE ROLLERI	JODI HALEY	LALLI		SOUSA

FACULTY MARS	SHAL - Liz Colt	
PROCESSIONAL - Sir order	ngle - No particular	
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Allen	Tara	
Barron	Laurie	
Barylick	John	
Chung	John	
Colt	Elizabeth	
Daniel	June	
Dyszlewski	Nicole	
Farwell	Ellen	
Freamon	Bernard	
Gomez	Tatiana	
Gonzalez	Debbie	

Govednik	Jane	
Gutoff	Jonathan	
Harrington-Steppen	Suzanne	
Heyman	<del>Susan</del>	
Horwitz	Andy	
lafrate	Carly	
Jordan	Brianna	
Joseph	Martysl	
Kishbaugh	Justin	
Koso	Lindsay	
McConnell	Sarah	
Milonas	Olivia	
Peltz-Steele	Misty	
Ortiz	Raquel	
Quinlan	Patrick	
Sagna	Dr. Safie	
Schiff	Jamieson	
Spacone	Andrew	
Teitz	Louise Ellen	
Varyani	Natasha	
Vorenberg	Eliza	
Wims Hashway	Jenna	
Wyman	Julia	



# Faculty/Admin 2 rows

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All Day	Social/PR
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	Faculty/Ad
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Professor David A. Logan	line.
2-The Honorable Harold Metts and Dayas Metts (guests)	HDR
1-The Honorable Charles D. Walton (her husband)	HDR
1-Christine Smith (Wife)	HDR
	Robir
8-Griffin Family	Griffi
6-Kutsaftis Family	Laura
	GHH

NOTES:	
	All those wo pick up a box Box lunches Floor Faculty
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	173 Law Stud Law Board o and/or GHH

Commencement Awards for Faculty/Staff 2024

Posted to Facebook 5/26/24

One of the highlights of our end-of-school-year celebration was the recognition bestowed by the 2023-2024 Student Bar Association. Professor of the Year was awarded to Monica Teixeira de Sousa, Adjunct Professor of the Year to Collin Mathew Geiselman, and Staff Person of the Year to Shirley Staskiewicz. President Jonté McKenzie, on behalf of the SBA, presented these honors. Each year, the SBA invites law students to vote and select the honorees. #rwulaw #studentbarassociation #professoroftheyear #adjunctprofessoroftheyear #staffpersonoftheyear



Prof. Monica Teixeira de Sousa - SBA Professor of the Year, SY 2023-2024



Prof. Collin Mathew Geiselman - SBA Professor of the Year, SY 2023-2024



Shirley Staskiewicz - SBA – Staff Person of the Year, SY 2023-2024



The 2023-2024 SBA Officers with RWU Law Dean Gregory W. Bowman and Roger Williams University President Ioannis (Yannis) Miaoulis



2023-2024 SBA President Jonté McKenzie and Prof. Monica Teixeira de Sousa, Professor of the Year.



2023-2024 SBA President Jonté McKenzie and Prof. Collin Mathew Geiselman, Adjunct Professor of the Year.



2023-2024 SBA President Jonté McKenzie and Shirley Staskiewicz, Staff Person of the Year.

RWU Excellence in Teaching Award to John Barylick 2024

Posted to Facebook 5-22-24

John Barylick, Chief Justice Weisberger Visiting Professor of Law, has been honored with an RWU Excellence in Teaching Award for his commitment to engaged teaching and learning. Prof. Barylick was selected for this prestigious award by the Roger Williams University Faculty Development Committee of the Faculty Senate. The Excellence in Teaching Award acknowledges exceptional pedagogical achievements among faculty, with recipients chosen based on various criteria, including pedagogical knowledge, innovative teaching approaches, subject expertise, contributions to curriculum development, ability to inspire students and colleagues, and preparation of students for advanced study, professional practice, and civic responsibility.

Professor Barylick, a graduate of Brown University and Boston University School of Law, brings over forty years of experience in complex litigation, including mass tort and professional malpractice. At RWU Law, Professor Barylick teaches Torts, Advanced Torts, and Complex Litigation.

Roger Williams University <u>#rwulaw #lawprofessor #excellenceinteaching #recognition #RWU</u> #rogerwilliamsuniversity















# Roger Williams U SCHOOL OF





