

Spring 2018
Outstanding Graduate & Outstanding Master's Finalist
Graduate Awards Ceremony

- I. **Welcome** (Jennifer LeMeunier)
- II. **Introduction of Dr. Savoie** (Kyle Bacon)
- III. **University Greeting** (Dr. Savoie)
- IV. **Recognition of Outstanding Graduates** (Kyle Bacon)

The Outstanding Graduate Award is one of the highest honors bestowed upon an undergraduate during each commencement ceremony. The award has been given since 1929 and is awarded to an exemplary Bachelor's degree seeking student in recognition of outstanding academic and extracurricular achievements. The Association's Awards Committee interviewed each candidate before selecting the overall winner.

Members of the Alumni Executive Board will assist with introduction of each colleges' spring 2018 Outstanding Graduate. We invite the Dean or Dept. Head to come up for a picture after we announce each Outstanding Graduate from each college.

Bachelor's Degree Introductions

College of the Arts – Willie Leday

Good evening, my name is Willie Leday and I am Vice President of University Relations on the Alumni Executive Board. It is my pleasure to introduce to you this evening the Outstanding Graduate for the College of the Arts, **Samuel Riehl**.

Samuel is an Industrial Design major and maintained a 3.9 GPA. **Samuel's** academic achievements and scholarships include being on the Dean's and President's List, recipient of the Dean's Scholar Award, recipient of numerous scholarships, a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success, member of Alpha Lambda Delta Honors Society, and a UL Honors Student.

Samuel earned an NIH Certification by the National Institute of Health – Office of Extramural Research. He was also integral in establishing a sponsored project between Red Bull Co. and the UL Industrial Design Program to design and build a flight case for one of their sponsored athletes.

Honors and Awards that **Samuel** has received include being a 2018 IDSA Student Merit Award Finalist, having multiple pieces of college work on display at the Lafayette Science Museum. He received the 2015-2016 Design Excellence Award, and the 2016-2017 Design Merit Award from the School of Architecture and Design. He has written and published articles on blacksmithing and metalwork in several publications, including The Washington Times.

Samuel's university organizations and activities include being a Soul Camp attendee, Freshman SGA President 2014-2015, College of the Arts Senator 2015-2016, College of the Arts President 2017-2018, member of the Industrial Designers Society of America Student Chapter, LLC Community Assistant – UL Office of Residential Life 2015, UL Campus Tour Guide, Graphic Designer for the Office of Undergraduate Admissions and Recruitment 2015-2016, Served as a designer, builder, planner, and performer for ArtTech Fusion 2016, Student Volunteer at ArtTech Fusion 2018, 2016 UL Lafayette Study Abroad participant and UL School of Architecture and Design Student Ambassador.

Samuel's community service and activities include working alongside the Office of Sustainability, The Big Event, The Lafayette Consolidated Government, and Project Frontyard. He made a trip to San Jose, Costa Rica to rebuild a recreational area/skate park for an under-privileged community, served as the Chair of Community Service and Outreach for the Student Government Association, current member of SGA Campus Affairs and Sustainability Committee, participated in Campus Cleanup multiple times during college career, began an initiative, with the support of the College of the Arts, to document and digitize the history of the Industrial Design program as well as the personal works and history of Jerry Malinowski, senior level professor of Industrial Design. Samuel worked in cooperation with the UL Office of Communicative Disorders to design products for stroke victims. He worked in conjunction with Civicside to design, build and install community funded water fountains in the Lafayette area, worked alongside The Outreach Center for Women and Children to design a program for their annual event Palates and Pate 2016-2017. He has demonstrated public blacksmithing at Festivals Acadiens et Creoles and at the Experience Louisiana Festival, spearheaded "Design Day at Olde Tyme" (an initiative/fundraiser to help educate the community on what Industrial Design is and the role it plays in society), and created and led an initiative to beautify the ID studios of Fletcher Hall by designing a set of aluminum panels, sourcing funding, having them printed, and coordinating the installation.

Samuel's leadership roles include being Vice President of the Louisiana Metalsmith's Association 2013-2016, Board member of the Louisiana Crafts Guild representing metals 2014-2018, a member of the Education Committee within the Louisiana Crafts Guild, Metal and wood shop technician for the College of the Arts 2014-2017, Summer Internship at Focal Point Lighting in Chicago, IL., and participated in the Red Bull "Can You Make It?" competition where college students must use their ingenuity, charisma and charm to make it across the continent with only Red Bull as a form of currency.

After graduation, **Samuel** plans to move to Chicago, IL and begin working with Focal Point Lighting as a Product Designer! His long term goal is to teach at the collegiate level and earn his doctorate.

Samuel is the son of William and Angela Riehl of Lafayette, Louisiana.

Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in congratulating, **Mr. Samuel Riehl**.

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B. I. Moody III College of Business Administration – Troy Hebert

Hi, my name is Troy Hebert and I am Vice President of Facilities on the Alumni Executive Board. It is my privilege to introduce to you this evening the Outstanding Graduate for the B.I. Moody College of Business, **Healy Carden**.

Healy is an Accounting major and has maintained a 3.94 GPA. She has been on the Dean's and President's list for several semesters, received numerous scholarships, and is a member of Sigma Alpha Pi, National Honor Society. Her honors and awards include Sigma Chi – Chapter Sweetheart 2016-2018 and the Kappa Delta Panhellenic Positive Award.

Healy's University organizations and activities include being a member of Kappa Delta Sorority where she held the office of Assistant VP of Finance, Student Orientation Staff Leader, SGA College of Business President, Recruitment Counselor for UL's Panhellenic Council, VP of Judiciary for UL Lafayette Panhellenic Council, Student Advisory Committee to the Dean of the College of Business and member of the Society of Louisiana Certified Public Accountants.

Healy's community service and activities include volunteering with Girl Scouts of America, fundraising for Prevent Child Abuse America and Faith House of Acadiana, participating in the Big Event, and supporting Sigma Chi with raising funds for Huntsman Cancer Institute. Healy was a Student Intern at Thibodaux, Hebert, Deshotels, LeBlanc, CPA Firm and a Student worker for Administrative Services here at UL Lafayette.

After graduation **Healy** is considering pursuing a Master's in Business Administration. These additional credit hours will allow her to be one step closer to qualifying for her CPA license. She hopes to become a partner or start her own firm in public accounting.

Healy is the daughter of Chip and Kelly Carden of Wetumpka, Alabama.

Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in congratulating, **Ms. Healy Carden**.

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College of Education – Troy Hebert

Now, it is my honor to introduce to you the Outstanding Graduate for the B.I. Moody College of Business, **Elizabeth Ruehl** is the Outstanding Graduate for the **College of Education**. She is an Exercise Science major with a 3.93 GPA.

Elizabeth has been on the President’s List and has been awarded numerous scholarships. Her honors and awards while a student included being nominated for UL Distinguished Freshman in 2014, won Best Seminar in UL Honors College Seminar in 2015 for “The History of Prosthetic Legs”, and 2016 for “The Process of Making Prosthetic Legs. She also received Best First Year Counselor at Paddy Rossbach Amputee Youth Camp in 2016.

Elizabeth’s University organizations and activities included being a member of the UL Kinesiology Professional Association, member of UL Honors College, participated in the Big Event service day, officer in Tri Delta Sorority, Body Image Coordinator, New Member Educator for 2016, and Vice President of Chapter Development for 2017. She assisted Tri Delta chapter at UL in raising money for their national philanthropy, St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. She also attended Tri Delta’s National Collegiate Leadership Conference in 2016 and 2017 and was a student worker for UL Administrative Services from 2015 to 2017.

Elizabeth’s community service and activities included being an intern at Alabama Artificial Limb and Orthopedic Services when on breaks from UL at home in Alabama, camp counselor at the Paddy Rossbach Amputee Youth Camp over the summers, was a volunteer Test Subject for studies done at Alabama State University on different prosthetic feet, donated time to the American Cancer Society at a golf tournament in Kenner, Louisiana as a runner. She attended the Abbeville Rotary Club Patties Day Comedy for a Cure in 2015 and 2016 and helped with auction and also spent time at the Driven to Give fundraiser put on by Carol Trosclair through UL KPA in 2017.

After graduation **Elizabeth** plans to attend Northwestern University (Chicago, IL) Feinburg School of Medicine – Masters of Prosthetic and Orthotic Program starting Fall 2018. After receiving her masters, she will complete an 18 month residency where she will become a Certified Prosthetist/Orthotist.

Elizabeth is the daughter of Lt. Col. William and Raquel Ruehl of Prattville, Alabama.

Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in congratulating, **Ms. Elizabeth Ruehl**.

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College of Engineering – Chris Richard

Good evening, my name is Chris Richard and I am Vice President of Community Affairs on the Alumni Executive Board. It is my pleasure to introduce to you this evening the Outstanding Graduate for College of Engineering, **Matthew Furka**.

Matthew is an Electrical Engineering major with a 4.0 GPA. He has been on the President's Lists all 8 semesters. He was the Eta Kappa Nu Vice President and has received numerous scholarships. He received the Knights of Columbus award for continued excellence in faith formation and is a second degree Knight of Columbus.

Matthew's University organizations and activities include being a member of the Louisiana Engineering Society, Boilin' Bash volunteer for Our Lady of Wisdom, IEEE local member, participant in both intramural softball and basketball, and he presented research to the young students during Engineering and Technology week.

Matthew's community service and activities include helping with Hurricane Sandy clean up. He went on a mission trip to Poland and Austria for World Youth Day and gave witness talks to youth in Poland and other international students. He created a Bible Study for engineers and brought the Bible Study to the engineering building so that there would be more opportunity for engineers to join, participated in liturgical activities by being an Extraordinary Minister, a lector, and altar server. He created a rosary society that recited the rosary each day. Matthew worked 20 hours per week at Harris Corporation while maintaining a full course workload in addition to continuing his 10 hour per week campus job.

After graduation **Matthew** plans to move back to New Jersey and begin his full time employment with Harris Corporation in the electronic warfare division as a systems engineer.

Matthew is the son of Joseph and Marie Furka of High Bridge, New Jersey.

Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in congratulating, **Mr. Matthew Furka**.

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College of Liberal Arts – Jennifer LeMeunier

Hi again, I have the honor of introducing the Outstanding Graduate for the College of Liberal Arts, **Mary McMahon**. She is a Speech Pathology and Audiology major and maintained a 4.0 GPA.

Mary has been on the President's List, member of Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, UL Lafayette's Honor's Program, Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society, participated in Eye-Tracking Research with Dr. Ryan Nelson at the UL Speech Language and Hearing Center, member of UL

Lafayette's National Student Speech, Language, and Hearing Associations and she presented a seminar on the Perceptions of Stuttering. She is a recipient of numerous scholarships.

While at UL, **Mary** received many honors and awards which include being initiated into the Rho Lambda Leadership Society, member of the Alpha Class of the Emerging Leaders Summit, Tri Delta – Phi Nu Chapter's Freshman of the Year, Tri Delta – Phi Nu Chapter's Involvement Award, UL Lafayette Homecoming Court, and the Office of Student Engagement and Leadership: 5 Star Chapter Excellence Award for Tri Delta.

Mary's University Organizations and activities included being Student Government Association President, Vice President, Liberal Arts Senator, Finance Committee Chair, Freshman Senator, Delta Delta Delta Fraternity, Social Mentor for UL Learning is for Everyone (LIFE) Program, Ragin Cajun Catholics Greek Ministry Team, UL Lafayette SOUL Camp Mentor, UL Lafayette Up Til Dawn Team Leader, UL Lafayette College of Liberal Arts Day volunteer, UL Lafayette Student Leadership retreat, Ragin' Cajun Catholics Greek Retreat, UL Lafayette Krewe of Roux Duchess, SOUL Camp Volleyball Tournament Fundraiser, SOUL Camp Day of Service in the Lafayette community, volunteer of The Big Event, SOUL Camp Move-In Day, Freshman Move-In Day, SGA-UPC Casino night, served on input committees for the Office of Student Affairs, and interviewed Homecoming Court applicants.

Mary's Community Service and activities included volunteering at Our Lady of Wisdom Catholic Church, St. Francis de Sales Cathedral, attending the Fellowship of Catholic University Students Student Leadership Summit and National Seek Conference, St. Jude Walk/Run to End Childhood Cancer, Down Syndrome Association of Acadiana Buddy Walk, collected monetary donations and planned and executed a donation drive with Second Harvest Food Bank for those affected by Hurricane Harvey, The Lucky Few Book Launch team promoting Down Syndrome awareness and adoption, Collaborated with NAACP to host a water drive for St. Joseph, Louisiana, and organized clothing donations for the Lafayette flooding.

After graduation **Mary** is planning to attend graduate school. She would like to work at a Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Home or work with Early Steps in Louisiana.

Mary is the daughter of Philip and Lynn McMahan of Houma, Louisiana.

Ladies and gentlemen, please join me congratulating **Ms. Mary McMahan**.

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College of Nursing & Allied Health Professions – Fred Credeur

Good evening, my name is Fred Credeur and I am Vice President of Special Events on the Alumni Executive Board. It is my pleasure to introduce to you this evening the Outstanding Graduate for the College of Nursing & Allied Health Professions, **Mallory Landry**. She is a nursing major and maintained a 3.56 GPA.

Mallory has been on the President's List and received numerous scholarships. She was inducted as a member into the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing.

Mallory's University organizations and activities included being a member, Marketing Chair and President of the UL Student Nurses' Association, member of the National Student Nurses' Association, member of the Delta Eta Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, Class Representative, UL Student Nurses' Association Representative, Dean's Advisory Board, and Student Representative for the UL College of Nursing Program Evaluation Committee.

Mallory's community service and activities included being involved with St. Ignatius School Fall Carnival, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Walk for Childhood Diabetes, Service Crew for Steubenville South Catholic Youth Conference, Women's and Children's Hospital book drive, Acadiana Celebrates Nurses, Maison Teche Nursing Home Fall Carnival, St. Joseph Hospice volunteer, Cornerstone Village South Mardi Gras celebration, Our Lady of Fatima School Girl Scout basic first aid training, and Night to Shine at One Church of Lafayette hosted by the Tim Tebow Foundation. In addition, Mallory attended the Louisiana Association of Student Nurses annual convention and served as a House of Delegates Representative for UL Lafayette. She completed several projects such as the Community as Client project, Capstone Project on the country of Haiti, and the Evidence-Based Practice project on obstetric triage. She taught swimming lessons and water safety skills to children ages 2-12, was selected to participate in the Accelerated Clinical Enhancement Program at Our Lady of Lourdes Regional Medical Center in Lafayette on the oncology unit. Mallory is certified by the American Heart Association in Basic Life Support and is enrolled to receive her Advanced Cardiac Life Support Certification.

Mallory will begin her nursing career at Lafayette General Medical Center in the oncology unit. Oncology is her passion and she would eventually like to become a leader and educator in Nursing. Additionally, she would like to pursue a graduate degree in either nursing education or advanced nursing practice.

Mallory is the daughter of Kevin and Kim Landry of New Iberia, Louisiana.

Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in congratulating **Ms. Mallory Landry**.

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Ray P. Authement College of Sciences – Willie Leday

Hi again. It is my privilege to introduce to you this evening the Outstanding Graduate for the the Ray Authement College of Sciences, **Jaden Danos**. He is a Biology major with a 4.0 GPA.

Jaden was on the President’s List, member of the UL Honors program, completed 9 credit hours in UL’s study abroad program in Florence, Italy, Academic Honors Convocation, and the College of Sciences Dean’s List.

Jaden has received the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students Honors Award, the Distinguished Freshmen Scholarship, has been a member of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, Honor Society, Sigma Alpha Lambda Leadership and Honors Organization, and completed a Co-op program with The Walt Disney Company in Orlando, Florida. He received Two 4-Keys Cards for Outstanding Customer Service while with The Walt Disney Company and a Certificate of Excellence for an exceptional presentation in one of his courses in Florence, Italy.

While a student, **Jaden’s** University Organizations and Activities included being a member of the UL Pre-Professional Society, UL National Society of Leadership and Success and Our Lady of Wisdom.

Jaden’s community service and other activities included being a volunteer for Mother Teresa Missionaries of Charity, after school care and Summer Camp programs, Flood relief and cleanup, the Zydeco Marathon, Geaux Big Baton Rouge, and the book sale for Live Oak Elementary. Jaden helped with the University clean up days, serving meals at St. Joseph’s Diner, and helped sort and store canned goods for the St. Joseph Church food pantry. He has also been able to shadow and observe numerous general dentists and an orthodontist.

Jaden plans to attend Louisiana State University School of Dentistry. After completion of dental school, he is considering furthering his education to specialize in a specific area of dentistry. Currently his goal is to open a general dentistry practice and eventually expand and pursue teaching opportunities.

Jaden is the son of Emmett and Stacey Danos of Breaux Bridge, Louisiana.

Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in congratulating, **Mr. Jaden Danos**.

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University College – Chris Richard

I have the privilege to introduce to you this evening the Outstanding Graduate for University College, **Anne Catherine LeBlanc**. **Anne Catherine** is a General Studies major with a concentration in Behavioral Science who has maintained a 3.93 GPA.

Anne Catherine has been on the President's List, a member of UL Honors Program, SLCC Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society, received Certificate of Achievement for Academic Excellence through Honors Convocation, invited to the Society for Collegiate Leadership & Achievement at UL, and graduated with Honors from South Louisiana Community College.

Anne Catherine's awards and scholarships include numerous scholarships, Vermilion Parish Farm Bureau Queen in 2014, Louisiana State Farm Bureau Pageant Top 10 and chosen to represent Vermilion Parish at Louisiana State Farm Bureau Talent Competition in 2015 and 2016.

Anne Catherine's University Organizations and activities while a student included being a member of Collegiate 4-H, UL Honors Program, Co-Founder of the South Louisiana Community College Speech and Debate Team where she served as President, Ragin' Cajun Catholic at Our Lady of Wisdom Campus Ministry, member of Book Study – "Girls Group" at Our Lady of Wisdom, participant in Live Stations of the Cross at Our Lady of Wisdom, Adult Volunteer for Louisiana State 4-H Performing Arts Board, Volunteer Judge for Abbeville High Speech and Debate, and Vermilion Parish 4-H Demonstration Day, Mistress of Ceremonies for 4-H Talent Show, Talent Chairperson/Volunteer of the Jr. Leader Club Saint Jude's Steak Dinner Benefit, and Staff Coordinator at Faith Camp. She was very involved with Abbey Players Community Theater as a member of the Board of Director's, Chairperson of the Membership Committee, volunteer lighting Tech and actress, assistant director, student director and playwright, station leader, and Green Room Fundraiser. She was a volunteer Choir Member of Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church, Youth group Leader for Steubenville South, volunteer music minister for Our Lady of the Lake Confirmation retreat, volunteer for Autism Walk and babysitter for prayer group.

After graduation, **Anne Catherine** plans to start working full-time for Faith Camp.

Anne Catherine is the daughter of Steven and Manique LeBlanc of Abbeville, Louisiana.

Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in congratulating, **Ms. Anne Catherine LeBlanc**.

V. Recognition of Outstanding Master's Graduate Award Finalist (Kyle Bacon)

This award has been established to honor one student each semester who will earn a Master's degree. Each graduate program at the University had the opportunity to nominate a student for the award, based on leadership, scholarship, service and research. The Association's Awards Committee then interviewed each finalist before selecting the winner. We would like to invite the Dean of the Graduate School, Dr. Mary Farmer-Kaiser to come up for a picture after we announce each outstanding Master's Graduate Finalist.

Master's Graduate Finalist Introductions

Jennifer van Alstyne – Jennifer LeMeunier

Jennifer van Alstyne is a **finalist for the Outstanding Master's Graduate Award**. She is a **Master's of English** candidate in the College of the Liberal Arts and maintained a 3.75 GPA. She received her B.A. from Monmouth University in English-Creative Writing, and her Masters of Fine Arts from Jack Kerouac School at Naropa University in Writing and Poetics.

Jennifer's awards and honors include the Departmental Professional Writing/Recruitment Assistantship from UL Lafayette, the Departmental Teaching Assistantship from UL Lafayette, the UL Lafayette Alumni Association Graduate School Scholarship in 2016-2017, and the Graduate School Master's Fellowship from UL Lafayette. She was a finalist for The Comstock Writers Group Contest, finalist for Paper Nautilus Vella Chapbook Prize, winner for The Glenn Gould Foundation's Aria of the Goldberg Variations Contest for "The Ear," "Maestoso," and "Theme", Creative Writing Award from Monmouth University 2012 and 2013, and received the Chautauqua Writers Festival Grant in 2012.

Jennifer has published two peer-reviewed articles in literary journals during her time at UL Lafayette. In addition to academic writing, Jennifer is an accomplished poet, having published twelve poems in the past three years. She has served as editor or associate editor on four publications. She was recruited to take the lead as the First Professional Writing and Recruitment Graduate Assistant for the English Department. In this position she worked with Dr. Randy Gonzales to improve the department's use of digital communications, social media and marketing for both the Professional Writing M.A. and the English Graduate Program.

Jennifer is a student with notable academic achievements and demonstrates impressive level of maturity, humility and enthusiasm to help others, she serves with faculty on three Departmental committees: the English Majors Committee, the Diversity Committee and the Recruitment Committee.

Jennifer's future plans include continuing her education towards a Ph.D. in interdisciplinary medieval studies where she plans to focus her research on humans in the natural environment.

Jennifer is engaged to Matthew Pincus of Lafayette, Louisiana.

Ladies and gentlemen, please join me congratulating **Ms. Jennifer van Alstyne.**

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Jesse DelGizzi – Fred Credeur

Jesse DelGizzi is a **finalist for the Outstanding Master's Graduate Award.** He is a **Master's of Music** candidate in the College of the Arts and maintained a 4.0 GPA. He received his B.A. degree with a double major in International Studies and Music from The College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia.

Jesse's awards and honors include the Graduate Assistantship scholarship, Phi Kappa Phi honor society, Dean's list, National Society of Collegiate Scholars member, studied abroad with The College's program in Florence, Italy, published research paper, "Maghreb to Milan: An Analsis of Arab Immiration into Italy" in The College's academic journal The Monitor. Jesse foreign language skills include French, Italian and Arabic where he can read, write, listen and speak proficiently.

Jesse has been a Graduate Assistant in the Music Department where he taught three undergraduate music history and theory courses and assisted music department professors with organizational and logistical tasks.

From 2012-2016, **Jesse** was an analyst for Cyber Intelligence in Reston, Virginia where he was frequently responsible for high-priority deliveries, supporting national-level intelligence agency missions, and special investigations of criminal activity, personnel or facility threats, crime networks and cyber terrorism during major world events. Jesse provided language support, analysis, and translation as a Foreign Language Intelligence Analyst with the Global Intelligence Division in French and Italian languages.

After graduation, **Jesse** plans to spend this coming summer at an intensive language program in the Middle East to continue his study of the Arabic language. After returning to the U.S. he aspires to work as a Foreign Media or Intelligence Analyst with an American Governmental agency or a Foreign Service Officer or Cultural Officer with the Department of State.

Jesse is the son of Ronald and Denise DelGizzi of Springfield, Virginia.

Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in congratulating, Mr. Jesse DelGizzi.

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Elizabeth Larmann – Troy Hebert

Elizabeth Larmann is a **finalist for the Outstanding Master's Graduate Award**. She is a **Master's of Criminal Justice** candidate in the College of the Liberal Arts and maintained a 4.0 GPA. She received her Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice with a minor in Anthropology from UL Lafayette in 2015.

Elizabeth's honors and awards include being the Outstanding Graduate for Criminal Justice in 2015, receiving the Molett prize in Fall 2011 and runner up in spring 2011, Best Honors Seminar, Honors Academic Scholarship from 2011-2015, received the Oran Robert Perry Burke Memorial Scholarship, TOPS Honors Award and being on the President's List.

Elizabeth's research interests include Drug Policy, Gendered Reentry, Drug Markets and Subcultures, Street Crime and Vice Crime. Her thesis deals with social preferences for synthetic marijuana. Elizabeth spent the summer interviewing local individuals who were or are addicted to synthetic marijuana. The results will offer new insights into a growing crisis. She is also co-authoring a manuscript with the department head on the growing use of cannabidiol (a cannabis compound).

Elizabeth is very active volunteering for duties with the Criminal Justice summer forensic camp for high schoolers, mentoring new graduate students, assisting in answering questions of potential applicants to the program, and attending national criminal justice conferences. She has guest lectured in The Introduction to Criminal Justice course, a senior capstone course, and the drugs and crime course. She is a Graduate Ambassador for the Master's program, speaking to senior-level classes about the graduate program in Criminal Justice to aid in recruitment. Elizabeth is the representative in the Graduate Student Organization, and is a member of the Southern Criminal Justice Association.

Elizabeth has been accepted by the doctoral program in Criminology and Criminal Justice at Georgia State University where they will fully fund her tuition and also award her a fellowship based on her application and portfolio. Her plan is to obtain a Ph.D. and return to Louisiana to teach and conduct research.

Elizabeth is the daughter of Bernard and Dianne Larmann of Covington, Louisiana. She is engaged to Jeffery Wichers.

Ladies and gentlemen, please join me congratulating **Ms. Elizabeth Larmann**.

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Jordan Richardson – Chris Richard

Jordan Richardson is a **finalist for the Outstanding Master’s Graduate Award**. He is a **Master’s of Public History** candidate in the College of Liberal Arts and **has** maintained a 3.82 GPA. He received his B.A. in History with a minor in Sociology from LSU in 2014 and his Master of Arts in History from Southeastern Louisiana University in 2016.

Jordan’s honors and awards include Cleo quill editor, Louisiana LOUIS users conference presenter, Edith Garland Dupre Library Outstanding Educator Award, Phi Alpha Theta History Fraternity, Best Overall Undergraduate Case Study winner, Freshmen Orientation Advising & Preregistration Best Team Player award, and a member of Phi Sigma Pi Honor Fraternity from LSU (Gamma Theta Chapter) from 2011-2013.

Jordan’s research includes the history of Rex Parade and Cajun Country Mardi Gras for an exhibit on history of Mardi Gras, the historical narratives of “The Orphan Trains”, the desegregation case of SLI to present day UL Lafayette, the origins and formation of colonial Natchitoches to discover subject matter upon the Cane River Creole population and the Meyoyer family, Colonial New Orleans Louisiana and the various populations that co-existed, Compared the Creoles of Color in New Orleans to the Natchitoches populations, antebellum Southern History in Natchitoches, and various historical events and happenings in Morgan City. **Jordan** is currently working on a potential publication about “The Orphan Trains” where poor children were brought from the East Coast to Louisiana in the early twentieth-century.

Jordan has been a graduate assistant at Dupre Library here at UL Lafayette where he developed online micro-lessons for using library catalog and databases, developed three virtual tours for the Library for researching History, English and Art classes, and developed a Finding Aid for researching History at UL using the libraries databases.

Jordan’s ultimate goal is to become a museum curator. He has a fondness of the Museums in Washington D.C. and will be applying for internships and jobs for museum collections manager positions after graduation.

Jordan is the son of Marvin Dewey and Judy Richardson of Amelia, Louisiana.

Ladies and gentlemen, please join me congratulating **Mr. Jordan Richardson**

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VI. **Announcement of Spring 2018 Outstanding Graduate & Outstanding Master's Graduate Award Recipients** (Kyle Bacon)

And now Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in congratulating our spring 2018 **Outstanding Graduate Award Winner, Matthew Furka** from the College of Engineering.

Matthew, please come forward to accept your award.

Also, please join me in congratulating our spring 2018 **Outstanding Master's Graduate Award Winner Jesse DelGizzi** from the College of Arts.

Jesse, please come forward to accept your award.

VII. **Closing Comments & Group Photos** (Kyle Bacon)

Recognize Willie Leday as the chair of the Alumni Association's Award Committee and thank the committee members for their work all year, especially Mary Galyean and Theresa Gaspard.

Group photos of our honorees will be taken. Please gather at the front of the room for a photo.

Our photographer, Courtney Bergeron, will be on hand to take other candid photos of families along with whatever other photos you'd like to have.

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