
Honored Students

*The following students were chosen by their departments as exemplary student representatives.
The speakers and prayers have been selected from among these students.*

Alyssa May Baer, from Holladay, Utah, is graduating summa cum laude in public health with an emphasis in health promotion and a minor in digital humanities and technology. She is the daughter of Steven and Heidi Baer. Alyssa is a member of the BYU Honors Program and defended an undergraduate honors thesis which explored the orphan crisis in Zambia and led to the design of an interdisciplinary social impact and public health program evaluation for Mothers Without Borders. She has been a teaching assistant and research assistant in the Public Health Department and also completed the Ballard Scholar for Social Impact program. She was recognized as the Public Health: Health Promotion Student of the Year in 2020. Alyssa competed in the national Society for Public Health Education student case competition, where she and her teammates received second place. She loves to combine her passion for community development and women's health issues with her love for graphic design to create effective educational materials. Her long-term goals are rooted in a desire to facilitate better communication and collaboration between the nonprofit, business, and government sectors to inspire innovative, research-based progress on social issues. After graduation, she will continue as the impact evaluation specialist for Mothers Without Borders and will pursue a graduate degree in public health. She hopes to focus her graduate education on maternal and child health issues and evaluation methods.

Amanda Aamodt Barrett, from Pleasant Grove, Utah, is graduating summa cum laude in biological science education. She is the daughter of Cherylnn Johnson Aamodt and the wife of Jonathan Barrett. Amanda served in the Illinois Chicago Mission. She received the Abrelia C. Hinckley scholarship for academics and service. She was a teaching assistant in evolutionary biology and in the molecular biology lab. She was also a research assistant in biological science education. Amanda has always enjoyed working with youth, which is why she chose to become a teacher. She is particularly passionate about helping young women become interested in STEM careers. In her free time, Amanda enjoys baking, biking, and visiting national parks with her husband. After graduation, she will work as a teacher in Utah County and will start a family.

Christina Michelle Blackmon, from Everett, Washington, is graduating summa cum laude in exercise science. She is the daughter of Albert and Ramona Blackmon. Christina received full-tuition academic scholarships as well as other outside funding to pursue her education. She is constantly amazed by how the human body works, and anatomy and physiology were her favorite college classes. Christina competes as a heptathlete on the BYU track team. She thanks God every day for the opportunity she has had to live out her dream as she attends BYU and progresses as an athlete. She is a firm believer that the keys to success in life are faith, charity, and hard work. She lives by the adage "If you can dream it, you can do it." After graduation, she will begin the BYU master's program in exercise sciences.

Kristina Lyn Cass, from Batavia, Ohio, is graduating cum laude in environmental science with a minor in geospatial science and technology. She is the daughter of Roger and Melissa Cass. Kristina came to BYU as a National Merit Scholar and received other scholarships, including the Abrelia C. Hinckley scholarship. She worked in an environmental research lab and was included as a coauthor on a journal article published in *Restoration Ecology*. She was an officer of the Environmental Science Club for three years. Kristina's hobbies include doing word puzzles and making music and art. After graduation, she plans to move back east and become an environmental scientist, researching plant invasions and how geographic information systems can be used to monitor and mitigate them.

Alexis Marie Gardner, from Henderson, Nevada, is graduating summa cum laude in nutritional science. She is the daughter of Kelly and Sara Gardner. Alexis worked as a teaching assistant in the anatomy lab. She was also involved in mentored research and received three CURA grants and two Undergraduate Research Awards from BYU. She presented her research in nutrition at the 2020 ObesityWeek international conference. She also participated in cancer research and was a fellow of the BYU Simmons Center for Cancer Research. Another opportunity she enjoyed was a Public Health Department study abroad program in Uganda to learn about the health care system there. After graduation, she plans to pursue an advanced degree in the health care sector.

Emma Stucki, from Yakima, Washington, is graduating summa cum laude in microbiology with a minor in Italian. She is the daughter of Dan and Julianna Stucki. Learning a second language was an important goal for Emma, and she participated in the study abroad program in Siena, Italy. She also interned at a nonprofit for refugees in Rome. She learned to love Italy and its culture and spent three years as the Italian Club president. Emma was also a member of the Yoga Club and taught a weekly yoga class for the club after becoming a certified yoga instructor. Her other interests include hiking, skiing, cooking, and hanging out with her chocolate lab, Freddie. After graduation, she will take some time off before applying to medical school. She would eventually like to deliver high-quality medical care to rural communities in Washington.

Benton Christopher Tullis, from Spokane, Washington, is graduating summa cum laude in physiology and developmental biology. He is the son of Christopher and Stacey Tullis and the husband of Madeleine McWhorter Tullis. Benton served in the Germany Berlin Mission. He is a member of Phi Kappa Phi. He has been involved in research since his freshman year and received a CURA grant and a Physiology and Developmental Biology Department scholarship for his work in the lung and placenta research lab. He has had the opportunity to publish his research multiple times. One of his favorite and most rewarding experiences was being a teaching assistant in organic chemistry, biochemistry, and reproductive physiology. He was awarded the Garth L. Lee Teaching Scholarship for receiving top reviews from students and professors. In his free time, he loves going on trail runs with his wife, playing basketball with his two younger brothers, and reading a good book. After graduation, he will attend medical school.

Music Performers

Joseph Landon Beales, from Roosevelt, Utah, is graduating in nutritional science. He is the son of Jason and Amy Beales. Joseph served in the Chile Santiago North Mission. He was a teaching assistant in organic chemistry and genetics and was also a research assistant. He received several academic awards, including the National Merit Scholarship, the College of Life Sciences Research Award, and other scholarships from the Nutrition, Dietetics, and Food Science Department. As the second of 11 children, he enjoys spending time with family and friends as well as participating in sports such as soccer, tennis, and running. After graduation, he plans to apply to medical school.

Chad Angel Mourino, from the Woodlands, Texas, is majoring in nutritional science. He is the son of Brian Mourino and Leila Jensen and the husband of Olivia Mellor. Chad served in the Australia Melbourne Mission and taught at the Provo Missionary Training Center. He is a member of the BYU Concert Choir. Chad is also involved in mentored research on diabetes. He and Olivia were married in February of this year, and they love to cook and eat good food together. He also plays tennis and relaxes on the weekends. He recently started learning Spanish and hopes to attend medical school and use his future career to help people of all cultures.

Scholastic Recognition

Students who received or will receive scholastic honors (summa cum laude, magna cum laude, and cum laude) will have this designation on their diplomas and transcripts after final grades are posted to their transcripts.

University Honors

Students graduating with university honors have completed several interdisciplinary general education courses, performed educational service or studied in a foreign setting, written an interdisciplinary essay and a thesis, and defended their thesis in their major discipline.

DECEMBER 2020

Skyler Franklin Van Horne
Major: Biophysics
Thesis: Biological Pretreatment of Biomass for Enhanced Biogas Production

APRIL 2021

Alyssa May Baer
Major: Public Health
Thesis: Mothers Without Borders Program Evaluation: Establishing Effective Program Evaluation and Assessing the Impact of Holistic Orphan Care

Michaela Anne McCown
Major: Genetics, Genomics, and Biotechnology
Thesis: Lymphocyte Proteomics for Monitoring Long-Term Immune System Dynamics

JUNE 2021

Gerardo Gamino
Major: Physiology and Developmental Biology
Thesis: Racial/Ethnic Minority Representation and Reporting in Guideline-Informing Heart Failure Clinical Trials

Gabriel Said Ghanadan
Major: Public Health
Thesis: Is a Social Determinants of Health Screening Tool Beneficial to Informing Physicians at Utah Family Practice Clinics?
Joseph Paul Sherman
Major: Physiology and Developmental Biology
Thesis: Biology and Sociology: Organic Links in Maternal Morbidity and Mortality

Linda Loyda Ida Tovar
Major: Public Health
Thesis: Qualitative Analysis of Caregivers Receiving an Educational Intervention on RHD in Samoa
Abbey Johann Whitcomb
Major: Public Health
Thesis: What Impact Did Non-Health Professionals Make in Sierra Leone During the Ebola Outbreak of 2014–2016?

Nancy Rebecca Cox Wilson
Major: Molecular Biology
Thesis: On the Relationship of Diabetes and Sleep Apnea: Evolution and Epigenetics

AUGUST 2021

Nathaniel Joseph Barton
Major: Genetics, Genomics, and Biotechnology
Thesis: A Heart-Specific Forward Genetic Screen Using CRISPR in Zebrafish

Phi Kappa Phi

DECEMBER 2020

Samuel Blake Boggess
Damian Taylor Crow
Marlee Ray Evans
Zachary Troy Hamilton
Kameron Smith Ho Ching
Emily Katherine Hyde
Bradley James McNeely
Allison Xanthe Michas
Tanner Karl Nelson
Lauren Elizabeth Ney
Skyler Franklin Van Horne

APRIL 2021

Spencer Harris Asay
Tien-Chi Chang
Chandler Luke Eyre
Garrett Cort Griffin
Joseph Allen Hanny
Samuel Ray Himes
Matthew Grant Bybee
Holdaway
Ethan Clark Izu
Michaela Anne McCown
Nathan Bruce Mella
Matthew Jack Mervis
Ella Louise Nysetvold
Samantha Layton Palmer
Bo Marshall Parker
Spencer Reece Peterson
Cardon James Porter
Sarah Janette Ricks
Daniel Armen Rose
Theran Jacob Selph, Jr.
Benton Christopher Tullis

JUNE 2021

Scott Dean Garrett
Lindsey Kathleen Olsen
Jamie Van Slooten
Holly Lesser Yuan

ROTC GRADUATES

Air Force ROTC

APRIL 2021

Hunter Layne Johnson

Army ROTC

APRIL 2021

Michael McBain Hagues
Parker LaMont Paramore

Graduates

DOCTORAL DEGREES

Biology

BIOLOGY

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

APRIL 2021

Bryn Ellen St. Clair
Advisor: Jamie Jensen

JUNE 2021

Brandon Dallas Pickett
Advisor: Perry Ridge

AUGUST 2021

Scott Fillerup George
Advisor: Byron Adams

Dustin Brad Miller

Advisor: Stephen Piccolo

Trevor J Williams

Advisor: Jerry Johnson

Microbiology and Molecular Biology

MICROBIOLOGY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

DECEMBER 2020

Michael Andrew Olson
Advisor: David Erickson

APRIL 2021

Daniel Kurt Arens
Advisor: Julianne Grose

Antonio Solis Leal
Advisor: Brad Berges

Edwin Jesús Velázquez
Espinoza

Advisor: Kim O'Neill

Physiology and Developmental Biology

PHYSIOLOGY AND DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

AUGUST 2021

Ted Brenton Piorczynski
Advisor: Jason Hansen

Ya-Fang Tsai

Advisor: Juan Arroyo

Plant and Wildlife Sciences

WILDLIFE AND WILDLANDS CONSERVATION

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

JUNE 2021

Rebekah Louise Stanton
Advisor: Sam St. Clair

AUGUST 2021

Steven Bentley Bates
Advisor: Randy Larsen

David Richard Burchfield
Advisor: Steve Petersen

Hector Genaro Ortiz Cano
Advisor: Ryan Stewart

MASTER'S DEGREES

Biology

BIOLOGY

MASTER OF SCIENCE

DECEMBER 2020

Robert James Erickson
Advisor: Seth Bybee

Joshua Clark Gilman
Advisor: Rick Gill

Nathan Richard St. Andre
Advisor: Mark Belk

JUNE 2021

Emily Lorine Davis
Advisor: Roger Koide

Natalie Anne Saxton
Advisor: Seth Bybee

Emily Marissa Aranda
Weatherhead

Advisor: Roger Koide

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE EDUCATION

MASTER OF SCIENCE

JUNE 2021

Samantha Rae Wasson
Advisor: Liz Bailey

Exercise Sciences

EXERCISE PHYSIOLOGY

MASTER OF SCIENCE

DECEMBER 2020

Jaysen Alani Hatch
Advisor: Aaron Johnson

AUGUST 2021

Jessica Rose Collins
Advisor: Jayson Gifford

Jamie Puanani Brun

Kaluhiokalani

Advisor: Robert Hyldahl

EXERCISE SCIENCES

MASTER OF SCIENCE

APRIL 2021

Ciera Lynne Bartholomew
Advisor: Bruce Bailey

Kimberly Jaye Evans-
Lindstrom

Advisor: Ron Hager

JUNE 2021

Lauren Rose Williams
Advisor: Dustin Bruening

AUGUST 2021

Lauren Ashley Renee Adams
Advisor: Ulrike Mitchell

HEALTH PROMOTION

MASTER OF SCIENCE

APRIL 2021

Klarissa Rae Wilkinson
Advisor: Larry Tucker

Microbiology and Molecular Biology

MICROBIOLOGY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY

MASTER OF SCIENCE

DECEMBER 2020

Alexander Keith Erikson
Advisor: Joel Griffitts

APRIL 2021

Benjamin Hawthorne Ogilvie
Advisor: Rich Robison

Nutrition, Dietetics, and Food Science

DIETETICS

MASTER OF SCIENCE

DECEMBER 2020

Jessica Bailey Ashton
Advisor: James
LeCheminant

Annalisa Nora Freire

Advisor: Susan Fullmer

Amanda Karleen Gheen

Advisor: Pauline Williams

Mckenna Rachel Jones

Advisor: Emily Patten

Maria Melinda Morco Sieng

Advisor: Rickelle Richards

APRIL 2021

Stacie Heather Fleischer

Advisor: Susan Fullmer

Kaylee Cook Hickman

Advisor: Nathan Stokes

Nhi Tran

Advisor: Sarah Bellini

JUNE 2021

Sharee Leany Osborne

Advisor: Pauline Williams

FOOD SCIENCE

MASTER OF SCIENCE

DECEMBER 2020

Muriel Mercedes Allen

Advisor: Mike Dunn

Sydney Diver Szabo

Advisor: Laura Jefferies

APRIL 2021

Benjamin Todd Woodward

Advisor: Mike Dunn

NUTRITIONAL SCIENCE AND DIETETICS

MASTER OF SCIENCE

APRIL 2021

Megan Michelle Austin

Advisor: Susan Fullmer

JUNE 2021

Emily Suzanne Krueger

Advisor: Jeff Tessem

Plant and Wildlife Sciences

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

MASTER OF SCIENCE

DECEMBER 2020

Elisa Anne Woolley

Advisor: Bryan Hopkins

APRIL 2021

Isak Lars Larsen

Advisor: Neil Hansen

JUNE 2021

Austin Paul Hopkins

Advisor: Neil Hansen

Gabriella Marie Lawson

Advisor: Zach Aanderud

AUGUST 2021

Brian Charles Brown

Advisor: Ben Abbott

GENETICS AND BIOTECHNOLOGY

MASTER OF SCIENCE

JUNE 2021

Samuel Arnold Decker

Advisor: Craig Coleman

Kyle Charles Rawlinson

Advisor: Paul Frandsen

Emma Kate Wilcox

Advisor: John Chaston

WILDLIFE AND WILDLANDS CONSERVATION

MASTER OF SCIENCE

DECEMBER 2020

Benjamin William Hoose

Advisor: Matthew Madsen

Ryan Gary Howell

Advisor: Randy Larsen

Drew W Retherford

Advisor: Randy Larsen

APRIL 2021

Spencer Chad Camp

Advisor: Matthew Madsen

Ryan James Shields

Advisor: Steve Petersen

Mitchell Grant Thacker

Advisor: Matthew Madsen

JUNE 2021

Sydney Lamb

Advisor: Brock McMillan

Daniel W Sallee

Advisor: Brock McMillan

Heather Shipp

Advisor: Loreen Allphin
Flinders

James Daniel Whittle

Advisor: Randy Larsen

AUGUST 2021

Elizabeth Marjorie Baum

Advisor: Todd Robinson

Mikiah Rayne Carver

McGinn

Advisor: Steve Petersen

Public Health

PUBLIC HEALTH

MASTER OF

PUBLIC HEALTH

DECEMBER 2020

Emmalene Beckstead

Advisor: Lori Spruance

Lauren Eliza Broadbent

Advisor: Robbie Chaney

Emily Kay Chahal

Advisor: Jim Johnston

Shelly Marie Cooper

Advisor: Alisha Redelfs

Kiersten Brooke DeCook

Advisor: Josh West

Paola Gabriela Donoso

Naranjo

Advisor: Benjamin

Crookston

Josephine G McGhie

Advisor: Ali Crandall

Ryan Craig Moffat

Advisor: Jeff Glenn

Rachel O'Brien

Advisor: Lori Spruance

APRIL 2021

Emily Diane Allen

Advisor: Steve Thygerson

Natalie R Bennion

Advisor: Evan Thacker

Alexis Cheree Blackwelder

Advisor: Josh West

Sarah Kirsten Butler

Callaway

Advisor: Ray Merrill

Malyne Cottam

Advisor: Chantel Sloan

Chantel Lundgren Daines

Advisor: John Beard

Evangeline Friedbaum

Advisor: Brianna

Magnusson

Margaret McMullin Fullmer

Advisor: Cougar Hall

Danica Nicole Gibson

Advisor: Len Novilla

McKayla Marin McConkie

Advisor: Alisha Redelfs

Noyra Melissa Quintana

Advisor: Carl Hanson

Britton Troy Reher

Advisor: Michael Barnes

JUNE 2021

Mindy N Jensen

Advisor: Randy Page

Wye Yow Teh
Benton Christopher Tullis
Conner Mitchell Ulrich
Bryson Scott Walker
Aaron Richard Wendt

JUNE 2021

Sara McKell Bailey
Abraham R Coomer
Gerardo Gamino
Scott Dean Garrett
Matthew David Goff
Daniel Robert Goold
Rachel Anne May
Jason Rulon Olcott
Colton Van Shepherd
Joseph Paul Sherman

AUGUST 2021

Garrett Robert Coyle
Aubrey Elizabeth Feinour

**Plant and Wildlife
Sciences**

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

DECEMBER 2020

Emmalyn Barker
Saida Rubi Vera
Christian Thomas Welling

APRIL 2021

Macey Bell
Kristina Lyn Cass
Savannah Renee Fahning
Cecilia G Foster
James Joseph Graff
Kimberly May Hansen
Emma Leah Miller Horton
Yang Li
Ethan Adams Lowe
Emilee Lyn Severe
Samantha Rose Shumate
Samuel Hamilton Stapley
Dion Jordan Tapahe
Carson Don Thompson

JUNE 2021

Chelsea Lizzette Abrahamian
Mendez
Christina Marie Grimes
Kameesha Morris Kiefer

**GENETICS AND
BIOTECHNOLOGY**

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

DECEMBER 2020

Laura Kate Christensen

APRIL 2021

Kevin Wendel Barton

**GENETICS, GENOMICS,
AND BIOTECHNOLOGY**

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

DECEMBER 2020

Emily Ann Balden
Jacob Morgan Bowman
Andrew T Hill
Haley Suzanne Hilton
Dallas John Larsen

APRIL 2021

Eric Roger Ball
Megan Marie Biesinger
McKenzie Lynn Brewer
Madeline Grace Bursell
Bethanie C Cordero
Olivia May Fordiani
Sarah Jiyoung Gottfredson
Warren Reed Guajardo
Gweneth Claire Gustafson
Sara Lynne Stubben Hansen
Samuel Richard Hirst
Daelin Michael Jensen
Shalyn E Kent
McKenzie Lott
Michaela Anne McCown
Nicholas Robert Nilsson
Joshua Kurtis Parker
Adam Mark Taylor
Tanner Bruce Tidwell

JUNE 2021

Chloe Ann Chatwin
Emily Elizabeth Coenen
Julie Ann Goddard
Brittany Lauren Henderson
Kyle Vance Hendricks
Brendon Andrew Hogge
Skyler Grant Lemmon
Lindsey Kathleen Olsen
Jacob Scott Taylor

AUGUST 2021

Nathaniel Joseph Barton
Alyssa Claire Parker
Ethan Richard Tolman

LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

DECEMBER 2020

Carter Mark Heslop
Jaimie Laura Mortensen
Tyler Kenneth Otto
Kathryn Allegra Selfaison
Zachary Thomas Wright

APRIL 2021

Emma Elizabeth Andrews
Jessa Gardner Bergstrom
Whitney Beth Bolingbroke
Hannah Celeste Boyce

Gabrielle Fabienne Ethier
Derek Alan Herbst
Karin Brea Johnson
Peter Weston Maughan
Alley Nicole Peo
Kennedy Ann Traveller
Eliza Rose Whatcott
Karaline Renae White

JUNE 2021

Morgan Taylor Ivancovich

**WILDLIFE AND WILDLANDS
CONSERVATION**

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

DECEMBER 2020

William Anson Ault
Anna Marie Bruce
David Daniel Lariviere
Cassandra Leavitt-Lytle
Megan Anne Llewellyn
Daniel Alsek McGregor

APRIL 2021

Megan Noelle Ackerman
Kainoawaiuanuhea Noriko
Ah Quin
Martin Ignacio Batalla
Valerie Bliler
'Aukai Keli'iaipaha Camacho
Natalie Cash Clark
Mallory Estelle DeFord
Otto William De Groff
Jessie Emily Draper
Kaylee Ruth Draughon
Allison Lee Francis
Holly Marie Gibson
Lindsey Rees Henrie
Riley Douglas Porter
Aspen Gwen VanDerwerken
Teresa Kay Whitesell
Christopher Joseph Wilcox
Anna Merkley Willyerd

JUNE 2021

Eva Tess Carlock
Sara Summerhays Crandall
Stella de Oliveira Fragoso
Scott Perry Duncan
Leena Rose McKinney
Katie Sue Merrill

AUGUST 2021

Brianna Ashell Hardy
Maren Anne Hatch
Emily Anna Thueson