

## 2025 Award Recipients

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### Academic Achievement Award

*Highest grade point average in the graduating class*

**Sarah Pouladdej,**  
MIA, BA-MIA

**Hyewon Yu,**  
MAS-IA

**Gözde Açıköz,**  
MPP, BA-MPP

**Yutong Wu,**  
MCEPA

### Ruth Adams Award

*Recognizes the best analytical paper (qualitative)*

**Julia Torokhova**

### Econometrics Prize

*Recognizes the best empirical paper (quantitative)*

**Chisako Yoshigae**

### Policy Memo Award

*First year GPS student who wrote the best policy memo paper for a course*

**Abraham Wu**

### Language Achievement Award

*Outstanding achievement in language study at GPS*

**Ashley Singh**

### Joseph Grunwald Memorial Award

*Significant contributions in the promotion of Inter-American understanding*

**Manuel Aguilera-Prieto**

**Breana Sigchos Bósquez**

### Faculty Recognition Award

*Awarded and voted on by the Class of 2025*

**Craig McIntosh**

### Dean's Teaching Award

*Best curriculum teaching assistant or tutor as voted by the Class of 2026*

**Skyler Fesagaiga**

**Lingzhi Zhou**

### Commencement Speaker Award

*Chosen by the Class of 2025 to deliver the Commencement address*

**Sincéré Blackmon**

**Matthew Tillyer**

### Ayal Margalith Memorial Award for Leadership

*Graduate student who has shown leadership, excellence and devotion to the GPS student body as voted by the Class of 2025*

**Keikilani Cabus**

### MAS-IA Peer Award

*For professionalism, scholarship, collegiality, integrity and service*

**Eric Martorano**

### Doming Liu Award

*Significant contribution and leadership to student life within their first year at GPS as voted by the Class of 2026*

**Tiffany Liu**

### EDI Award

*Meaningful impact on student life and well-being through student-initiated Equity, Diversity and Inclusion activities*

**Eugene Parrish**

**Jessica Villatoro**



## School of Global Policy and Strategy

University of California San Diego

## 2025 Commencement Exercises

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Friday, June 13, 2025  
10 a.m.

LionTree Arena



Scan the QR code to learn more about the 2025 Award Recipients.

## Graduating Class of 2025

### Master of Advanced Studies in International Affairs

Christopher Capistrano Jonathan Chau	Jiho Eom Hyun Ah Kim	Horyeong Lee Alex Hyungtae Lim	Eric Martorano Nicholas Previc	Hyewon Yu
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### Master of Chinese Economic and Political Affairs

Yingcheng Guo* Yinda Hu Sihao Huang	Nihat Lokman William MacMillan Payton Morlock	Yuhe Gloria Mu* Yifeng Sun Xiaoyang Wang	Yutong Wu Yutong Zheng
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### Master of International Affairs

Okilbek Abdumavlanov Manuel Aguilera-Prieto Khaled AlFoudari Jorge Felipe Alves Dietrich Rezvan Atena Baghbanian Kayla Elizabeth Becker Matthew Alexander Burditt* Keikilani Ezra Cabus Tian Carabello Benjamin Castro Martinez* Danielle Chao Amy Chen Yun-Jheng (Celia) Chiu Erh-Ting (Isla) Chuang	Youngwook Chun Reveca Quevedo Contreras (Thayer) Karen Jiaqi Dam* Stephen Deyo* Minh Do Ixtzel Tonatzin Durán Jackson Dutra Miles Felker Jocelyn Angelique Guerrero Roberto Hernández Rodriguez* Riley (Guy) Ittidecharchoti Sejin Kim Evan Kang-Chiao Lam Lauren Dorn Lapporte	Henry Cheng Li Yuyang Li Yin Min Lim Renwei Liu Yiyi Liu Yan Lu Nitin Mamidi Jason Melz Natalie Mesplay Anna Marie Misenti Naeirika Neev Jade Nettrour* Anthony Quang Nguyen Fucong Niu Alexander Norling Lindsey Nicole Olamendi Smith	Hiroaki Ozaki Armand Haig Pigeon Sarah Jessica Hibbard Pouladdej* Kelly Quan Valentina Reali Jackson Rice Lisa Lee Romstadt Breana Giselle Sigchos Bósquez Ashley Singh Jeehaey Sohn Matthew William Tillyer* Xochilt Tlaseca Julia Torokhova Mimi Marie Trawinski Vittoria Trupiano	Sethy Tsoungui Alexander Ushakov Qinxia Wang Xiaoran Wang Andrew Ward Xin Wei Yuxuan Wu* Zhuolun Wu Maria Teresa Yacamán Méndez* Jianping Yao Kyunghwan Yun Manqing Zheng Lingzhi Zhou* Yinda (Harry) Zhu Xinyi Zhuo
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### Master of Public Policy

Gözde Açıköz İlyas Aktiken Daniel Anton Rodrigo Barra* Yavuz B. Basaran Sinceré Lashawn Lavell Blackmon Qiyao Cai Yanmei Cai Seda Cebeci Sebastian Chavez Jiyuan Che	Meilin Chen Yuchen Chen* Nissa Marlen Diaz Xiaowei Fan Skyler Leilua Fesagaiga* Kelsey Elizabeth Gans Wenyang Gao Wanjing Gong Lyric Greif Edwin Hernandez Armenta	Julia Hill Christopher King Yu Lan Ke Li Ningjuan Li Shuotong Li Akihiro Masuda Kotoko Matsuzoe McKenna Maxwell* Shelah Rochelle Ott Eugene La'mont Parrish	Aiden Rosas Apollo Rosas Carina Ruscitti Sabrina Camille Sanchez Sarah Schroeder Briana Scott* Thomas Shi Jessica Villatoro* Danyi Wang Xinlin Xie Yuxuan Xiong	Zhisen Yang Wanru Yi Xuecong Yin Chisako Yoshigae Menghan Yu Lening Zhang Yujing Zhang Shang Zhao
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\* Dean's Fellow

## Commencement Exercises

Welcome  
*Caroline Freund, Dean*

Commencement Address  
*Barry Naughton,  
So Kwan Lok Chair of Chinese International Affairs*

Class Commencement Address  
*Sinceré Blackmon, MPP, Class of 2025  
Matthew Tillyer, MIA, Class of 2025*

Hooding of Degree Candidates  
*John Ahlquist, Associate Dean and Professor  
Liz Lyons, Associate Professor*