

2026 Award Recipients

Academic Achievement Award

Highest grade point average in the graduating class

**Kurt Thomas
Johnston,**
MIA, BA-MIA

Blaine Worthington,
MAS-IA

Ofri Mantell,
MPP, BA-MPP

Abraham Wu,
MCEPA

Ruth Adams Award

Recognizes the best analytical paper (qualitative)

Henry Zhou

Econometrics Prize

Recognizes the best empirical paper (quantitative)

Rio Namegaya

Policy Memo Award

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

Priyanka Pandey

Language Achievement Award

*Outstanding achievement
in language study at GPS*

Ikki Kubo

Warren Gardner Williams

Joseph Grunwald Memorial Award

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

Gerardo Paredes Robredo

Faculty Recognition Award

Awarded and voted on by the Class of 2026

Craig McIntosh

Commencement Speaker Award

*Chosen by the Class of 2026 to deliver
the Commencement address*

Katrina M. Haidari

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 2026*

Tiffany Liu

MAS-IA Peer Award

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

Rentaro Tajima

Doming Liu Award

*Significant contribution and leadership
to student life within their first year
at GPS as voted by the Class of 2027*

Phil Maligsa

Dean's Teaching Award

*Best curriculum teaching assistant or tutor
as voted by the Class of 2027*

Juan Morfin de la Parra

Lauren Silver



School of Global Policy and Strategy

University of California San Diego

2026 Commencement Exercises

Saturday, June 13, 2026
9 a.m.

LionTree Arena



Scan the QR code to learn more about the 2026 Award Recipients.

Graduating Class of 2026

Master of Advanced Studies in International Affairs

Matthew Charles Blench	Jodi Lorene Cull-Host Halim Do	Robbie King Jane Momoko Kirkham	Kouichi Onoda Shuichi Sawada	Philip M. Sullivan Rentaro Tajima
Karl Bliven Thomas Bower Vincent Canada	Connor Joseph Patrick Doyle Arturo Elizaga Bores	Gantuya Larkins Jungmin Lee	Charles Brightman Skinner III	Myung Un Woo Blaine Worthington

Master of Chinese Economic and Political Affairs

Siyuan Fu Hongyuan Guo Zhenying Li	Patrick Luczak William Martindale Hengchi Shang	Jian Shu Yifu Teng Yixuan Wang*	Abraham Wu* Shiqi Wu	Junjie Zhang Xinchen Zhao
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Master of International Affairs

Abdirisak Mohammad Ali*	Jet Do Janelle Enriquez	Marisa Angelina Iannitto	Juan Morfin de la Parra Nathan Alexander	Ariel Rosario Benjamin Rosengard
Hyejee An* Paulina Andreani James Aseron Eunjoo Bae Valeria Becerra Angulo Blake Michael Becker Benicio Benavides-Garb Max Bieganski Carter Booth Kyle Essen Bouzida Kellen Brinton Kaylin Phuong Bui Jasmine Dania Carballo Esteban Javier Ceja Jr. Camarynne Chanthavong Alex Chen Audrey Coates Braden Allen Cornwall Eric De Haas	Kayla Carolyn Evans Xiaotao Feng Zachary Costales Fleming Tomoyuki Funada Natalia Elizabeth Garcia Abraham Garcia Nuñez Victoria Louise Gray Jimmy Andrew Guzman* Ko Hamada Holly Joan Lê Harwood* Travis Alexander Hayden* Lucas Hazen Daniel Louis Hersfield* Huiying Clara Huang Joseph Hurr	Kurt Thomas Johnston Abuduwarisi Kahaer Gloria Kalt Karyn Yu-Ting Kao Ryo Kataoka Michael Khan Ikki Kubo Yuqing Lei Sze Ching Leung Barry Li Canyu Li HyoungJin Lim Tiffany Liu* Monica Lopez Galarza Camila Luna Yige Luo Julian Ruben Mancillas Chloe Rae Margulis Hunter Markey Hafeez Merali Mateo Juliano Micucci	Thomas Nelson Angelique Nguyen Duy Nguyễn Sona Ovasapyan* Andres Pan Gerardo Paredes Robredo Sarah Pence Zoe Perera Tristan J. Perez Rosa Maria Perez Vasquez* Hana Phan Christian Phouasalith Kevin Ponceau Matthew Pritting Dishita Rajan* Anna Prata Reichmann Tavares Lyna Remadna	Salwa Sarpas Li Shen Natalia Stehlin Shengwei Sun Mo Tao* Claire Kirstine Turner Katie Tuttle Bohan Wang Jiayi Wang Yihan Wang Sarah Florence Weeks Yunyi Wei Warren Gardner Williams Alexander Wong William Alan Wong Ni Yang Lucas Zeng Andrew Zepeda Henry Zhou* Xinyi Zou

Master of Public Policy

Vincent Harry Alulu* Songmouy An James Maximilian Avramis Azalea Buch Yuejie Chen Hyoun-geun Cho Trinity Dubrow Rashmi Gajare Ciara Danielle Garcia Jeisson Andres Gomez Colmenares* Timothy Gove Ian Graves Xiaoja Guo	Carlos Gutierrez Hernandez Katrina M. Haidari Peiling He Yufei Hu Shotaro Ichikawa Ashima KC Chengrun Li Linxi Li Nian Li Yifan Li Xin Liu Yiyang Liu Yuqi Liu Nahaleh Lotfi Malakabadi*	Ofri Mantell Xinyu Meng Kendall Jamie Morris Rio Namegaya* Raquel Padilla* Angela Camille Passalacqua Jeremy Pearson Alexandrea Pestana Abhay Purewal Legha JiaYing Qiang Anisha Burns RajBhandary* Kota Sando Catherine Seippel	Nuo Shi Yutong Shi Lauren Makena Silver* Kalei Elizabeth Tano He Teng Rainie Tian Kate Wang Qiyuan Wang Yuwei Wang Ziyi Wang Kosui Watanabe Yevdokia Weil Tsz Yin Wong Chengxi Wu Jianyi Wu	Hanming Xiao Biyue Yan Ganyao Yan Junteng Yang Ruimeng You Lawrence Paul Youngblood Chenxi Zhang Jiayi Zhang Yining Zhang Zhiyun Zhang Zilu Zhang* Zihui Zhao Dumas Zhong
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* Dean's Fellow

This graduation program was printed prior to posting of final grades; inclusion is not an indication of degree completion.

Commencement Exercises

Welcome

Caroline Freund, Dean

Commencement Address

*Trac Pham, MPIA, Class of 1996
Board Director (PTC, UKG, and SiFive)
& Former CFO, Synopsys*

Class Commencement Address

Katrina M. Haidari, MPP, Class of 2026

Hooding of Degree Candidates

*Rafael Fernández de Castro, Professor
Craig McIntosh, Professor*