

University of Michigan's

MIDDLE EASTERN NORTH AFRICAN

Celebration Viewbook



OFFICE OF ACADEMIC MULTICULTURAL INITIATIVES
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

GREETINGS



Greetings,

It is with great pleasure that I congratulate our Middle Eastern/North African (ME/NA) student graduates.

This celebration highlights the accomplishments and the cultural significance of our ME/NA communities while inspiring future students to reach their goals.

As we honor this extraordinary graduating class, I am enthusiastic about the opportunities that await them and am hopeful they will always remember that this university - their university, is better for having them as students.

In commemorating this milestone, I am confident that this great university - their university, is better for having them as students. As graduates begin the next phase of their lives, I am confident they are empowered with the skills and determination to overcome the challenges that await them in our greater world.

While we recognize this is an exciting time for students, graduation can also be bittersweet. It is a time where nostalgia is met with mixed emotions for what lies ahead.

While graduation often signifies the conclusion of a long journey, the root of the word commencement is not to end, but to begin.

Please join me in congratulating the class of 2020 and their families for their outstanding accomplishments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert M. Sellers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Robert M. Sellers
Vice Provost for Equity and Inclusion
Chief Diversity Officer

GREETINGS



Wolverines, congratulations on your graduation!

Today, we celebrate not just this moment, but the countless moments, big and small, that have brought you to now. The late nights of studying, the pin-drop silence of tough exams, your active engagement in perhaps one of our 1,400 student organizations, your contribution to this educational community, and the laughter and giddiness of meeting friends on the Diag...

There have been times of joy, and times of heartache. But throughout all the ups and downs, you have never let your circumstances define who you would become. Instead, you have persevered in the face of uncertainty.

You have made Michigan your home. You have invested in helping others feel part of the UM community. And today, you have joined a community of over 500,000 alumni, alumni who will continue to support and uplift you on your journey.

You might feel just as nervous as you feel excited about your next steps. You might wonder if the choices you're making as you graduate are truly leading you onward and upward. What is the right path? What is the right choice?

Let me tell you a secret. There are no wrong turns, only unexpected paths. Just as you have defined "Leaders & Best" in your own special way during your educational journey with us, you will also make this next leg of your journey the right one for you. Remember that your path is yours, not anyone else's. Make it your own. Embrace the questions that you ask deep in your heart. Do not fear the answers, but trust in yourself. You are wiser and stronger than you know.

You are a Victor, after all.

I once heard an interesting story about our Fight Song. "The Victors" is the only fight song that does not exhort the team to win, fight harder, or decimate an opponent. It does something much better; it actually congratulates and celebrates the win already achieved. It celebrates the Victors—Victors like you.

Your graduation is a victory, as is each and every moment that has led you to now. And as you go forth and continue to triumph, doing great things and good things, remember that you are not alone. We will still be here, cheering you on. Always welcoming you back. No matter where you go, here at the University of Michigan, there will always be a place for you.

Hail to the Victors, valiant!

Simone Himbeault Taylor

Simone Himbeault Taylor
Interim Vice President for Student Life

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The University of Michigan was founded through the Treaty of Fort Meigs in 1817, when the Anishinaabeg - the Three Fires Confederacy of the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi - along with their neighbors, the Seneca, Delaware, Shawnee, and Wyandot nations ceded portions of their land so that their children could be educated.

Through these words of acknowledgement, their ancestral, traditional, and contemporary ties to this land and the founding of the University are renewed and reaffirmed.

STAFF, FACULTY, AND ADMIN

Mark Schlissel, President, University of Michigan

Rob Sellers, Vice Provost for Equity, Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer

Dilip Das, Assistant Vice Provost, Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Gloria Taylor, Director, Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives

Nadia Bazzy, Multi-Ethnic Student Affairs (MESA) Director

Samer Ali, Associate Professor of Middle East Studies

Su'ad Abdul Khabeer, Associate Professor and Director of the Arab and Muslim American Studies Program

Mary Rose, Program Manager, Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Matthew Stiffler, Researcher, Arab American National Museum and Lecturer in American Culture, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

MESSAGE TO ME/NA COMMUNITY

Dr. Matthew Stiffler



Matthew Stiffler is both Lecturer II in the Program in Arab and Muslim American Studies, as well as Research and Content Manager at the Arab American National Museum in Dearborn, MI. Matthew also leads a national research initiative through ACCESS, the largest Arab American community non-profit in the country, to secure better data about the Arab American community. Matthew received his Ph.D. in American Culture from the University of Michigan in 2010, where he serves as a lecturer in Arab and Muslim American Studies. He is currently a board member and treasurer of the Arab American Studies Association and serves on the board of Michigan Humanities.





BACHELORS



BACHELORS



Abdullah Abdullah

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; *Biopsychology, Cognition, and Neuroscience*

Go Blue!



Laila Al-Jerdi

School of Kinesiology; *Movement Science*



Tala Al-Saghir تالا الصغير

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; *Gender and Health, Biomolecular Science*

!الف مبروك و هيا يا ازرق



Ayat al-tamimi آيات التميمي

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; *Political Science*

BACHELORS



Jalal Almallouhi جلال الملوحى

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Biomolecular Science

Thank you my fellow ME/NA graduates for making the better half of our senior year the most enjoyable one yet. I love you all, congratulations, and GO BLUE.



Jenna Chami جنى شامى

School of Public Health; Public Health

Keep following your passion and mission in life and do not let anyone tell you otherwise!



Mohammed Charara

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Biopsychology, Cognition, and Neuroscience

Obviously, this is not the commencement that most of us were hoping for, but our time will come. We should all try and hold on to the belief that through every dark night, there is a brighter day. I wish you all good luck on your future endeavors and am looking forward to watch you all do amazing things in life! Also looking forward to seeing many of you down the line for a proper reunion!



Maysa Damen

School of Public Health; Public Health Sciences

BACHELORS



Nourel-Hoda Eidy نورل هدى عیدی

School of Public Health; Community and Global Public Health

We are our ancestor's wildest dreams



Yara El-Tawil يارا الطويل

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts;
Computer Science; Biopsychology, Cognition, and Neuroscience

*I've been very inspired by this strong community throughout college.
Thank you!*



Arwa Gayar أروى جيار

Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy; Public Policy

*I've been very inspired by this strong community throughout college.
I've been so lucky to have such an amazing and supportive community on campus. My classmates are the reason i have grown into who I am today and I couldn't have done half of the things I achieved if I didn't have the constant support of my community behind me. I am so thankful for them and hope that generations after us get to share such an experience as well.*



Layla Hak لیلی حق

School of Public Health; Public Health

BACHELORS



Mohammed Hammoud محمد حمود

School of Public Health; Public Health Sciences

Day after day I learn more about myself and one day I realized, it's not all about me.



Ellen Khoury إلين خوري

College of Engineering; Chemical Engineering

Thank you to all my friends that supported me during my time at Michigan. I hope one day we can all reunite and celebrate properly once all of this is over.



Ayah Kutmah آية قطمة

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; International Studies, Political Science



Jannah Mandwee جنة مندوي

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Computer Science

Thank you for allowing me to learn from you and giving me a space to share myself. My heart is so full from your kindness and compassion. These past four years have been an absolute privilege with you all. <3

BACHELORS



Amira Mandwee أميرة مندوي

Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy; *Public Policy*

I am so lucky to have been part of a community from whom I've learned so much and who wanted to learn from me. Thank you for your empowerment and support and for helping me feel like I can make a difference.



Amir Mashni

School of Kinesiology; *Movement Science*



Elsy Nouna

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; *Biopsychology, Cognition and Neuroscience*

You all are truly some of the most inspiring people I know and will all do amazing things in the future. I'm lucky to have known you and to be graduating with you.



Nicola Nunu نيكولا نونو

College of Engineering; *Biomedical Engineering*

I hope your dreams take you to the corners of your smiles, to the highest of your hopes, to the windows of your opportunities, to the most special places your heart has ever known!

BACHELORS



Zoya Zalatimo

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Near East Studies

I'm so lucky to be graduating with a class of such inspiring, hardworking people who showed me how to stand up for what's right and be proud of where I'm from.



Dunia Zawideh دنيا زوادة

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Middle Eastern Studies



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MASTERS

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MASTERS



Muriel Bassil

School of Public Health; *Public Health*



Noor Sulieman نور سليمان

**Rackham School of Graduate Studies
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts;
*Biomedical Engineering MSE, DEI***

It's all about perspective. Work on what you have to do to finish and go to the next step during this quarantine.

WORDS OF ADVICE

Appreciate what you have to offer, and try to participate. You will be happier by doing so.

-Abdullah Abdullah

It's great to have goals and plans but be flexible! You never know where life will take you.

-Muriel Bassil

Strength is drawn from knowledge, our education is our greatest weapon.

-Nourel-Hoda Eidy

Find your community. They make college worth it!

-Yara El-Tawil

Awaken your heart to kindness and mercy for the people and love and tenderness for them, because people fall into two categories: they are either your brothers/sisters in faith or your equals in humanity.

-Mohammed Hammoud

Stand strong by the truth and what you believe in!

-Laila Al-Jerdi

Be true to yourself! Get involved with student organizations, you will not regret it!

-Jenna Chami

They say there is nothing like family. Always hold on to that while understanding that your MENA community is your family. They will always be your support system, study buddies, and the people you will celebrate your greatest achievements. Use the time you have now to get close with one another and keep on striving to make each other great.

-Mohammed Charara

Your community is the one thing that will always be there for you on campus. Lean into them, build from within, change it for the better and then we can all grow together. We may have our differences, but the loyalty, support, and organization I see in our community is really unmatched. That's a rare thing, make sure you cherish it while it's there.

-Arwa Gayar

If the rules don't work for you, change them!

-Amira Mandwee

WORDS OF ADVICE

It's important to take advantage of every minute you have at university. Beyond studying for your classes, there are so many opportunities you can take advantage of and learn from. Whether that's discovering your passions through different organizations on campus, getting into research or connecting to recruiters to get a job. There is so much university offers beyond a degree in your major. It's also important to make connections! And to keep an open mind. Your plan might change 50 different times and that's okay. Take time to find yourself and know what you like and don't like. Don't just do what everyone else is doing, although that might seem like the easier option. Follow what YOU want to do, even if it seems impossible.

-Ellen Khoury

Be involved in your community and clubs. Speak for what you believe in and do what you love beyond academics. Also, take this time to build your network with mentors and to pursue the opportunities that are offered by the university. Finally, enjoy your time at this university and cherish the moments with your friends because it goes by really fast.

-Elsy Nouna

I love quotes so this one is my favorite that kept me motivated during this time: "The true test of character is how we behave when we don't know what to do." - John Holt Make sure when people say to work hard that you also work smart. Smart work to make the heart work <3 Do your best while balancing what you have inshaAllah.

-Noor Sulieman

There is no such thing as too much diversity. If you believe that, you've left someone out.

-Jannah Mandwee

Be as busy as possible during college but remember to make time for friends. These are the years where you will look back on the memories you made and smile. For that reason, make as many of those memories as you can with as many people as you can.

-Amir Mashni

Just love and appreciate the person in front of you, and the rest will take care of itself!

-Nicola Nunu

Go easy on yourself, you are doing much better than you may realize. Be proud of yourself, you have gotten yourself this far and you will go much further. It is okay to struggle, no one is perfect, learn from your mistakes and grow from them.

-Dunia Zawideh

2020 ME/NA CELEBRATION PLANNING COMMITTEE



Nourel-Hoda Eidy

School of Public Health; Bachelors in Community and Global Public Health

Nourel-Hoda Eidy is graduating with a B.A in Community and Global Public Health from the School of Public Health. She has been a part of the ME/NA Celebration Committee for four years and it has been one of her favorite ways to celebrate her community. Being a part of this community impacted her experience at U-M in the best of ways, thank you for all the flashdabke's, midnight breakfasts, and of course Arab Xpressions. After graduation, she will be going to graduate school to receive her Master's degree. Congratulations Class of 2020, and Go Blue!



Bushra Habbas-Nimar



Nora Sharba

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Neuroscience; International Studies (minor)

Nora Sharba is a second year student of Syrian descent. As an active member of many organizations on campus that represent MENA communities, she greatly enjoyed working on the graduation committee because it is a way to give back and celebrate the achievements of our graduating students. Nora is dedicated to increasing the representation of MENA students at UMich and would like to thank all of our leaders who have helped to do so in the past, especially the Class of 2020.



Amira Mandwee

Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy; Public Policy; Middle East Studies (minor), French (minor)

Amira Mandwee is a graduated senior having majored in Public Policy, with a focus area in Peace Negotiation and Conflict Resolution, and minored in Middle East Studies and French & Francophone Studies. She was President of the Iraqi Student Association, and worked to amplify the Iraqi voice in the Michigan community while spreading awareness of contemporary issues. She was also involved in the MENA community as a choreographer for the Arab Xpressions Dance Troupe and previous Undergraduate Student Coordinator for Arab Heritage Month. Her future goals include mitigating the conflicts in Iraq and fostering a better relationship between Iraq and the United States.

SPECIAL THANKS

Cari Neubrand

Multimedia Coordinator, Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Joseph Goddeeris

Marketing Coordinator, Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives

Mike Morland

Communications Manager, Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Staff of the Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives

Sharon Burch, Assistant Director

Mai Eltahir, Program Coordinator & Success Coach

Angela Espinosa-Gould, Administrative Assistant

Hector Galvan, Program Coordinator & Success Coach

Grant Grimard, Research Associate

Joseph Goddeeris, Marketing Coordinator & Success Coach

Lumas Helaire, Associate Director

Alan Hernandez-Solis, Success Coach

Adan Hussain, First Generation Project Manager

Carole Lapidos, Program Manager & Success Coach

James Logan, Program Coordinator & Success Coach

Gloria Derr Taylor, Director

Gregory O. Thomas, Program Manager & Success Coach

Chandani Wiersba, Program Coordinator & Success Coach

Christine Wylie, Assistant Director

Chelsea Zhang, Research Associate

Regents of the University of Michigan

Jordan B. Acker, Huntington Woods

Denise Ilitch, Bingham Farms

Michael J. Behm, Grand Blanc

Ron Weiser, Ann Arbor

Mark J. Bernstein, Ann Arbor

Katherine E. White, Ann Arbor

Paul W. Brown, Ann Arbor

Mark S. Schlissel (ex officio)

Shauna Ryder Diggs, Grosse Pointe

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN STATEMENT OF AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

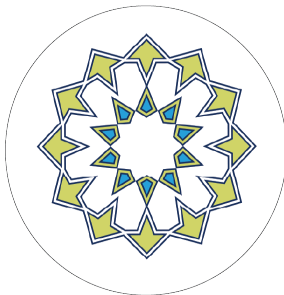
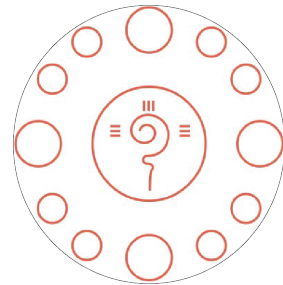
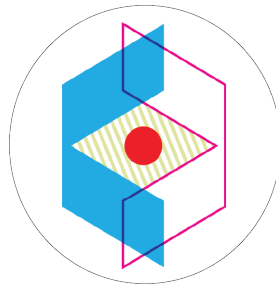
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FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND ARTISTIC EXPRESSION

The University of Michigan strives to create an open form in which diverse opinions can be expressed and heard. Members of the University community, speakers, artists, and other invited guests have a right to express their views and opinions, and the University will protect that right. The University also supports the rights of those with differing views to express their opinions. In the interest of protecting these rights for all, University representatives may warn anyone unduly interfering with a speaker or performer's freedom of expression, and if the warnings are not heeded, may remove those individuals from the building. The policy extends and affirms University policies set forth by our Civil Liberties Board in our Student Handbook; and in the U-M Standard Practice Guide; Regents Ordinance Article XII, Section 1; and state statutes.



OFFICE OF ACADEMIC MULTICULTURAL INITIATIVES
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



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These symbols represent the cultural graduation ceremonies that are coordinated annually through the Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives.

Top left to right: Black Celebratory, Native American Graduation, La Celebración Latina

Bottom left to right: Middle Eastern/North African Graduation, First Generation Graduation, Asian/Pacific Islander Graduation

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MIDDLE EASTERN/NORTH AFRICAN CELEBRATION IS COORDINATED
BY THE OFFICE OF ACADEMIC MULTICULTURAL INITIATIVES
A UNIT IN THE OFFICE OF
DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION



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