St. John’s University

The Lesley H. and William L. Collins College of Professional Studies

Graduate Commencement Exercises

2021-2022

Friday, May 20, 2022
6 p.m.
Carnesecca Arena, Queens Campus
St. John’s University is Catholic, Vincentian, Metropolitan, and Global.

As a university, we commit ourselves to academic excellence and the pursuit of wisdom which flows from free inquiry, religious values, and human experience. We strive to preserve and enhance an atmosphere in which scholarly research, imaginative methodology, global awareness, and an enthusiastic quest for truth serve as the basis of a vital teaching-learning process and the development of lifelong learning. Our core curriculum in the liberal arts and sciences aims to enrich lives as well as professions and serves to unify the undergraduate experience. Graduate and professional schools express our commitment to research, rigorous standards, and innovative application of knowledge. We aim not only to be excellent professionals with an ability to analyze and articulate clearly what is, but also to develop the ethical and aesthetic values to imagine and help realize what might be.

St. John’s is a Catholic university, founded in 1870 in response to an invitation of the first Bishop of Brooklyn, John Loughlin, to provide the youth of the city with an intellectual and moral education. We embrace the Judeo-Christian ideals of respect for the rights and dignity of every person and each individual’s responsibility for the world in which we live. We commit ourselves to create a climate patterned on the life and teaching of Jesus Christ as embodied in the traditions and practices of the Roman Catholic Church. Our community, which comprises members of many faiths, strives for an openness which is “wholly directed to all that is true, all that deserves respect, all that is honest, pure, admirable, decent, virtuous, or worthy of praise” (Philippians 4:8). Thus, the university is a place where the Church reflects upon itself and the world as it engages in dialogue with other religious traditions.

St. John’s is a Vincentian university, inspired by St. Vincent de Paul’s compassion and zeal for service. We strive to provide excellent education for all people, especially those lacking economic, physical, or social advantages. Community service programs combine with reflective learning to enlarge the classroom experience. Wherever possible, we devote our intellectual and physical resources to search out the causes of poverty and social injustice and to encourage solutions which are adaptable, effective, and concrete. In the Vincentian tradition, we seek to foster a world view and to further efforts toward global harmony and development by creating an atmosphere in which all may imbibe and embody the spirit of compassionate concern for others so characteristic of Vincent.

St. John’s is a metropolitan and global university. As a metropolitan university, we benefit from New York City’s cultural diversity, its intellectual and artistic resources, and its unique professional educational opportunities. With this richness comes responsibility. We encourage the metropolitan community to use our resources to serve its needs. As a global university, we are one of our nation’s most diverse institutions of higher education, enriched by a mixture of cultures, which complements an internationalized curriculum. Through collaboration with other institutions around the world, study abroad opportunities, and online courses and degrees, our outreach spans the globe. In educating students we pledge to foster those qualities needed for our alumni to become effective leaders and responsible citizens in a vibrant city and dynamic world.

Mission Statement of St. John’s University, New York. Approved by the Board of Trustees, December 1991
Order of Academic Procession

Grand Marshal and Bearer of Mace
Basilio G. Monteiro, Ph.D.
Associate Professor and Chair
Division of Mass Communication
Director, Institute for International Communication
The Lesley H. and William L. Collins College of Professional Studies
St. John’s University

Student Marshal
Eric Ching ’20CCPS
Candidate, Master of Science
The Lesley H. and William L. Collins College of Professional Studies
Class of 2022

Degree Candidates

Faculty Marshal
Joan E. DeBello, Ed.D.
Associate Professor and Chair
Division of Computer Science, Mathematics, and Science
The Lesley H. and William L. Collins College of Professional Studies
St. John’s University

Faculty and Administration

President’s Society
Board of Trustees
Ceremony Speaker
Dean
Provost
President
Presiding
Rev. Brian J. Shanley, O.P., Ph.D.
President
St. John’s University

Musical Prelude
Cosmopolitan Brass Quintet

Trumpet Announcement

Processional*
Cosmopolitan Brass Quintet

Master of Ceremonies
Opening of Ceremony
Lawrence F. Pitilli ’69CBA
Associate Professor
Division of English and Speech
The Lesley H. and William L. Collins College of Professional Studies
St. John’s University

The National Anthem
Hailey V. Pomara
Candidate, Bachelor of Science
The Lesley H. and William L. Collins College of Professional Studies
Class of 2023

Invocation
Angela Seegel ’98Ed, ’04GEd, ’17Ed.D.
Director of Vincentian Service Leadership and Social Justice
Office of University Ministry
St. John’s University

Dean’s Remarks
Glenn Gerstner, Ed.D. ’81SVC
Dean and The Lesley H. and William L. Collins Distinguished Chair
Associate Professor, Division of Sport Management
The Lesley H. and William L. Collins College of Professional Studies
St. John’s University
CEREMONY ADDRESS
Yenniry “Jenny” Alonzo ’87SVC
Media Executive and Independent Producer
Member, Collins College of Professional Studies Advisory Board
Member, Board of Governors, St. John’s University

RECOGNITION OF ACADEMIC DEANS AND FACULTY
Frank Servas, Jr., M.Phil.
Associate Professor
Division of Computer Science, Mathematics, and Science
The Lesley H. and William L. Collins College of Professional Studies
St. John’s University

STUDENT ADDRESS
Meaghan Marin Ruelas Mendoza ‘20CCPS, ’22GCCPS
The Lesley H. and William L. Collins College of Professional Studies

CERTIFICATION OF CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES EARNED IN COURSE
Simon G. Møller, Ph.D.
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Office of the Provost
St. John’s University

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES
Rev. Brian J. Shanley, O.P., Ph.D.
President

PRESENTATION OF GRADUATES FOR DEGREES EARNED IN COURSE
Simon G. Møller, Ph.D.
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Office of the Provost

READING OF GRADUATE NAMES
**Closing of Ceremony**
Lawrence F. Pitilli ‘69CBA
Associate Professor
Division of English and Speech
The Lesley H. and William L. Collins College of Professional Studies

**Benediction**
Rev. Michael J. Cummins, C.M.
Assistant Dean and Director of Internal Research and Enrollment Management
The Lesley H. and William L. Collins College of Professional Studies
St. John’s University

**St. John’s Alma Mater—“Old St. John’s”**
Hailey V. Pomara
Candidate, Bachelor of Science
The Lesley H. and William L. Collins College of Professional Studies
Class of 2023

Thy children here today, galore,
Old St. John’s! Our dear St. John’s!
And true will they be ever more,
Old St. John’s! Our dear St. John’s!
Thy colors bright, the Red and White,
We’ll wave aloft from morn ‘til night,
Victorious, we’ll show our might,
Old St. John’s! Our dear St. John’s!
From fervent hearts we breathe our prayer,
Old St. John’s! Our dear St. John’s!
As we commend thee to His care,
Old St. John’s! Our dear St. John’s!
That He will guard thee by His might,
And be thy shield in every fight,
Thou champion of sacred rite,
Old St. John’s! Our dear St. John’s!

Words by Rev. Carroll S. Rosensteel, C.M., and Rev. Thomas F. Ryan, C.M.

**Recessional**
Cosmopolitan Brass Quintet

* The audience is requested to stand during the academic procession and to remain in place until all participants in the academic recession have left the area.
Commemorative Program

Thank you for attending St. John’s University’s The Lesley H. and William L. Collins College of Professional Studies Graduate-Level Commencement Exercises. In keeping with the University’s sustainability initiative, the University has produced this streamlined program for all guests of the ceremony to view online. Graduates will receive a commemorative program that includes a full list of graduate names when they pick up their diplomas.

Diplomas

Diplomas can be picked up from your dean’s office beginning on Monday, July 18. Please call your dean’s office beforehand; order date determines diploma availability.

St. John’s University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or any other characteristic protected by law in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: Danielle Haynes, Interim Director of Equal Opportunity and Compliance and Title IX Coordinator, Office of Human Resources, University Center, 8000 Utopia Parkway, Queens, New York 11439, 718-990-2660; haynesd1@stjohns.edu.
“God makes use of the humblest servants for the extraordinary operation of His grace.”

—St. Vincent de Paul
Founder of the Vincentian Community