Staten Island

COMMENORATIVE BOOK

2019-2020
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.

Dear St. John’s Graduate,

On behalf of the faculty, administration, and staff of St. John’s University, we are delighted to offer our warmest congratulations on your graduation. You can take pride in knowing that, by earning your degree, you bring your years of study and hard work to a successful conclusion.

Today, you are now among the more than 190,000 St. John’s alumni who are permanent and proud members of the St. John’s family.

We hope that the knowledge and skills you have acquired will enable you to enjoy great personal and professional success. We hope that you practice the University’s Vincentian mission of service and caring for those less fortunate. Such compassionate concern both enriches your own life and, indeed, makes the world a better place.

The friendships and professional relationships you have developed during your years at St. John’s will remain valuable assets to draw upon as you begin your career. As a lifelong member of our University community, you are encouraged to visit campus to participate in the many alumni activities held throughout the year and to keep abreast of the continuing development of our programs and facilities. We are available should you require career counseling or assistance in pursuing additional academic opportunities or programs that engage your passion for learning.

Thank you for being a member of our St. John’s University community. Please accept our very best wishes on your graduation, and be assured of our prayers for your continued success.

Sincerely,

Conrado “Bobby” Gempesaw, Ph.D.
President

Simon G. Møller, Ph.D.
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Graduating Members of the 2019–2020 President’s Society

Najee B. Adams ................. The Lesley H. and William L. Collins College of Professional Studies
Taylormarie Capoziello.......... The Lesley H. and William L. Collins College of Professional Studies, Staten Island
Celeste Alana Daniel .......... The Peter J. Tobin College of Business
Elvira Garcia .................... The School of Education, Staten Island
Daniel C. Haynes .............. The Lesley H. and William L. Collins College of Professional Studies
Bethanie R. Jones ............. The Lesley H. and William L. Collins College of Professional Studies, Staten Island
Jordan Kamp ............... St. John’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Matthew D. Macatula ......... The Lesley H. and William L. Collins College of Professional Studies
Dimitri Mendrinos .......... The Lesley H. and William L. Collins College of Professional Studies
Marlo Mitchell ............... The Lesley H. and William L. Collins College of Professional Studies
Thomas Moore ............... St. John’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Brendan Myers ............... The Lesley H. and William L. Collins College of Professional Studies
Riley J. Parker ............... The Lesley H. and William L. Collins College of Professional Studies
Deven Rodriguez .......... The Peter J. Tobin College of Business
Giselle Athena R. Rosario .... The School of Education
Erin Shoul ..................... St. John’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Daniel Sparrow ............. St. John’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
David Targett ............... The Peter J. Tobin College of Business
Emily Sarah Morrissey Tovar ... St. John’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Nicholas E. Wunsch .......... The Peter J. Tobin College of Business
Aarij Shakil Zubair ......... St. John’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Class of September 2019

Jeffrey W. Fagen, Ph.D., Dean

The Degree of Bachelor of Arts
Joseph E. Bellantuono
Jillian G. DeMarco

The Degree of Bachelor of Science
Karlo L. Arce
Peter McNamee, *cum laude*

†Graduate Certificate of Excellence  ♦Honors Program  *McNair Scholar  ♦Ozam Scholar  ♦Catholic Scholar
The Degree of Bachelor of Arts

Sarah M. Alkhanbeshi
Jennifer R. Dragoy
Jordan A. Garrett
Sarah Kahany
Nicole R. Kaye, magna cum laude
Marissa A. Oginsky
Samantha M. Rizzo, magna cum laude
Ciaris L. Rodriguez, summa cum laude ♦

The Degree of Bachelor of Science

Thomas P. Ceci
Joseph D. Morrone
The Degree of Bachelor of Arts

Majda Ahmetasevic  
Toluwalope M. Akintade, *cum laude*  
Amanda Aurilia, **summa cum laude** ◆  
Odran Branley  
Chelsea Breslin, *cum laude*  
Matthew L. Bruzzese, *cum laude*  
Victoria Burgarella, **summa cum laude** ◆  
Michael A. Callahan, **summa cum laude** ◆  
Samantha M. Casella, *cum laude*  
Angelica R. Chirco, **magna cum laude**  
Natalie M. Ciavola  
Kayla Marie Circolone, **summa cum laude** ◆  
(Softball Medal)  
Salissa Crespo, *cum laude*  
Kayla Croner  
Christina M. Cullen, *cum laude*  
Alexis Dada  
Francesca Del Maestro, **summa cum laude** ◆  
Cassandra Devine  
Amanda R. DiBerardino  
Gabriella Dominguez  
Samantha Esposito, **magna cum laude**  
Mikayla A. Fiumano  
Allison R. Gass, **magna cum laude** ◆  
Marlene George, **summa cum laude** ◆  
Theresa L. Giambanco  
Gianna Giaquinto, **magna cum laude**  
Brianna Gravagna  
Hayley M. Hancock, **summa cum laude**  
Juline M. Hanna, **summa cum laude** ◆  
Kayla L. Ilund, **magna cum laude**  
Gabriella M. Imperato, **magna cum laude**  
Brianna-Marie A. Joerger, **magna cum laude** ◆  
Nicolette T. Johnston, **magna cum laude**  
Brendan J. Kain, *summa cum laude*  
Matthew J. Kramer  
Kyrene J. Le  
Amanda Lowery, *summa cum laude*  
Alexandra Macri, **magna cum laude**  
Mia A. Marcucilli, **magna cum laude** ◆  
Allison J. McGarvey, **magna cum laude** ◆  
Marisa N. Milone, **magna cum laude**  
Alexandra Monaco  
Alyssa Mustacchia, **summa cum laude** ◆  
Emine Nalbat  
Angelica Orzillo, **magna cum laude**  
Amanda Pluchino, *cum laude*  
Jessica T. Reneri, **magna cum laude**  
Amanda M. Seaman, *cum laude*  
Alyssa C. Solari  
Madison L. Spinelli  
Liana J. Sprance  
Amanda R. Susi  
Gwyneth Swinburne, **summa cum laude** ◆◆  
Vivian L. Terziario, *cum laude*  
Gia Tilatitsky, **summa cum laude**  
Sara Trepa, **summa cum laude** ◆  
(Bronze Medal)  
Dina M. Tsimaras, **summa cum laude** ◆  
(Silver Medal)
Class of May 2020

Jeffrey W. Fagen, Ph.D., Dean

The Degree of Bachelor of Science

Keegan L. Chaney, summa cum laude
Matthew F. Cipriani, magna cum laude
George E. Dunphy
Matthew Gissi, magna cum laude ♦

Mutasim Mim, summa cum laude ♦
Yuriy Shkvarok
Dorian Vejuka
Khalil Wood

†Graduate Certificate of Excellence 
◆Honors Program
*McNair Scholar 
◆Ozanam Scholar
◆Catholic Scholar
Class of January 2020

David L. Bell, Ed.D., Dean

The Degree of Master of Science in Education

Robert J. Cammarata
Christine N. Cormican
Meaghan Denesopolis
Francesca DiCanio
Class of May 2020

David L. Bell, Ed.D., Dean

The Degree of Master of Science in Education

Gabrielle M. Adinolfi †
Jeanette V. Alvarez
Nicole J. Breslow
Teresa M. Cannon †
Sophie W. Cheung
Priscilla M. Cicero
Brendan Clancy
Alexandra Conanan
Ellen M. Copeland
Salina Cruz
AnnaMaria Demonte †

Deanna L. DiGiallonardo
Jessica Fiorentino
Amber N. Guzzo †
Sabrina A. Huie
Tkeyah M. Kennedy
Tiffany A. Muscio †
Matthew D. Newberry
Victoria L. Reinhardt
Alexandra Sillaro
Gabrielle L. Vega †
Class of September 2019

David L. Bell, Ed.D., Dean

The Degree of Bachelor of Science in Education

Michael Rangel ♦
Class of January 2020
David L. Bell, Ed.D., Dean

The Degree of Bachelor of Science in Education
Priscilla M. Cicero
Class of May 2020
David L. Bell, Ed.D., Dean

The Degree of Bachelor of Science in Education

Albert A. Buchholz, summa cum laude
Erica M. Catalano, summa cum laude
Lexi M. Darcy, summa cum laude,
(Silver Medal)
Ariana M. Didonato, cum laude
Joey C. Eskenazi, summa cum laude
Gianna N. Federico, magna cum laude
Katelyn A. Feminella
Erika Franchi, summa cum laude
Elvira Garcia, magna cum laude
Adriana L. Guarino, magna cum laude
Anthony V. Guglielmo, magna cum laude
Juliette Lippo
Jenna R. Marrazzo, summa cum laude

Julia M. Milisci, cum laude
Ashleigh Molinaro, cum laude
Samantha M. O’Leary, magna cum laude
Jocelyn Parra, magna cum laude
Lucia R. Piatkowski, summa cum laude
(Bronze Medal)
Jennifer H. Policastro, summa cum laude
Rabah A. Rabah
Joey Lynn Rasile, summa cum laude
Barbara A. Ruggiero, magna cum laude
Marianna Scaringella, cum laude
Monica B. Suggs, cum laude
Amanda R. Thompson, summa cum laude
(Gold Medal)
Class of May 2020
Norean R. Sharpe, Ph.D., Dean

The Degree of Master of Science

Danniel V. Acosta
Vincent J. Amoia
Tyler J. Bruce
Thomas N. Caiazzo
Megan Chadwick
Desiree N. Ciccone
Christine M. Connors
Manpreet Dhillon
Leah DiSpirito
Nicolas J. Donadio
Dominique G. Fischella

William R. Gunderson
Jake M. Larsen
Samantha M. Mancato
Michael C. Mascarelli †
Josely Matamoros
Amneek K. Nagra
John J. Struthers
Konstantine T. Tettonis
Leonard H. Tusa
Joseph R. Vann
Salvatore A. Vecchione
Class of January 2020

Norean R. Sharpe, Ph.D., Dean

The Degree of Bachelor of Science

Chase C. Lemma
Vincent Palmisano

Fernando A. Placencia
The Degree of Bachelor of Science

Alan V. Abramzon
Joseph Acri
Rickey J. Affronti
Derrrik Ajay, magna cum laude
Spiro A. Andrianos
Michael P. Assenza
Paul V. Bajada
Tony T. Balyan, cum laude
Deion Barnes
John V. Bartocci
Joseph Bertone ♦
Justin P. Blank
Salvatore V. Bommarito
Thomas P. Bonviso, cum laude
Randy Briscoe
Gabriella Camilleri
Noah Canderozzi
John J. Castellane
Joseph A. Cavalcante
Briana Ciechalski, magna cum laude
Thomas C. Coluccio, cum laude
Nicolette Comello
Charles F. Corrado
Connor J. Creagh

Anthony Cunsolo
Matthew J. Dambakly
Jordyn D’Amico
Frederick L. Davis
Chrysovalanti M. Demetriades
Sabrina W. DiGennaro, magna cum laude
Joseph W. Dimeo
Danielle M. Drugan
Bjondina Duka
Ahmed Elmhohands
Alexander Figueroa
Christopher M. Filippides
John Fominykh, cum laude
Michael T. Giudice, cum laude
Lauren Gonzalez, cum laude
Sara G. Gottlieb, summa cum laude ♦
(Bronze Medal)
Allyson Grant, cum laude
John Grieci
Nicholas N. Hindy, cum laude
Robert D. Jones
Xhejsi Kamenica
Shahannah Z. Karim
Brenda Kien, magna cum laude
The Degree of Bachelor of Science

Nicholas S. Konoiko, cum laude ♦
Samantha P. Leax, magna cum laude
Juliana Licciardi, magna cum laude ♦
Andrew J. Lombardo
Brendan Lynch
Julianne Marsala
Stephon Mathieu
David J. Megaro, summa cum laude, (Silver Medal)
Robert J. Meli
Anthony F. Molinaro, magna cum laude ♦
Khant T. Mon
Andrea G. Moodie
Christina Nasella
Joseph P. Neville, magna cum laude ♦
Dana-Marie Nickolauk, summa cum laude
Matthew J. O’Byrne
Anthony N. Ognibene
Taylor A. Orsino
John Michael Padovano

Frank E. Popper, magna cum laude ♦
Alexa R. Portaro
John Privracky
Giovanni M. Rizzo, cum laude
Sean K. Rodriguez
Chase M. Rosato
Olivia J. Russell
Corrine Scimeca
Marco A. Settinieri
Stephen C. Shannon, cum laude
Zachary Sicurelli, magna cum laude
Thomas C. Smith
Nicole M. Supino
Alyssa N. Taranto, magna cum laude
Jessica L. Testaverde
Nicole E. Thompson, summa cum laude
Brandon M. Trefcer, cum laude
Joseph Zamalkany
Nicholas A. Zangrillo, summa cum laude ♦
(Gold Medal)
Class of May 2020
Glenn Gerstner, Ed.D., Interim Dean

The Degree of Master of Professional Studies

Eric A. Capizzi  
Eric B. Levin †

Peter R. Quercia
Class of September 2019

Katia Passerini, Ph.D., PMP, Dean

The Degree of Bachelor of Arts

Jordan J. Della Rocca

The Degree of Bachelor of Science

Andrew J. Barbaro
Taylor Block
Patrick J. Costantino, summa cum laude
Raymond S. McAuliffe

James M. Murphy
Nicole Sabella
Sarena Salonia, cum laude
The Degree of Bachelor of Arts
Karmela Alperez

The Degree of Bachelor of Science
Joseph A. Basile
Jared M. Brown
Lijeda Demko, cum laude
Alexa L. Donofrio, cum laude
Tara M. Duffy
Brian D. Finn, summa cum laude

Justine Jacobs
Taylor L. Martello
Briana T. Pietanza
Justin Scalera, magna cum laude
Joseph G. Todaro, magna cum laude
Alessandra Tormenia, magna cum laude
The Degree of Associate of Science

Anthony J. Mangi
Steven J. Smithwick

The Degree of Bachelor of Arts

Nicholas J. Vitale, magna cum laude
The Degree of Bachelor of Science

Perla A. Acevedo
Courtney R. Ahern, magna cum laude
Alexandra Arlia
Kristin E. Auld, cum laude
Kyrillos Awad, cum laude
John J. Azzato, cum laude
Christopher J. Bivetto
Steven Bivona
Katelyn Blyn, magna cum laude
Nicholas M. Bocchino, cum laude
Nicholas J. Bowzeres
Elias J. Brenes
Taylormarie Capoziello, cum laude
Maryrose A. Caria, magna cum laude
Justine P. Cavello
Andrew V. Cimmino
Christin D. Corradi
Kaysea L. Criscuolo, summa cum laude ♦
(Bronze Medal)
Matthew C. Crocitto
Anthony J. D’Ambrosio
Mahjouba Dazzazi
Alyssa DeFillipo

Amanda M. DeMeo, summa cum laude ♦
Alexandra C. DiMauro, magna cum laude
John A. DiPietro, cum laude
Mark Echevarrieta
Vincent Esposito, summa cum laude
Maegan A. Eustaquio, summa cum laude ♦
(Silver Medal)
Caitlin J. Faustner, cum laude
Giuseppe Fiorentino, cum laude
Andrea M. Fiorica, summa cum laude
Olivia Fleming
Amanda Flores, magna cum laude
Carol A. Giordano
Brittany E. Haneman, cum laude
Matthew D. Johansen, magna cum laude
Bethanie R. Jones, summa cum laude ♦
(Gold Medal)
Timothy J. Kenney, magna cum laude
Christopher A. Kettyle, cum laude
Ryan P. Lawrence, cum laude
Victoria R. Lorenzo
Andrea J. Lozano, summa cum laude
Nicholas Maalouf, cum laude
The Degree of Bachelor of Science

Brianna N. Maiorano, *cum laude*
Anthony Martinez
Michael Mascarella
Louis Matrone
Antonio Pecoraro, *cum laude*
Kimberle R. Rader
Janinka Ranasinghe, *magna cum laude*
Teresa M. Reinhardt, *magna cum laude*
Allan J. Rodriguez
Chelsea B. Ryan, *magna cum laude*
Danielle R. Santora-Casuccio, *cum laude*

Jonna M. Scopellito, *magna cum laude*
Sophie E. Selwood, *summa cum laude*
Allison K. Sisto, *cum laude*
Alison M. Taradash, *summa cum laude*
Nicholas R. Teutonico, *cum laude*
Adam Varela, *magna cum laude*
James T. Vega
Mateo Velez
Robert J. Venezia
Mengli Yang, *magna cum laude*
Gregory N. Zagorski, *magna cum laude*
Academic Regalia

The caps, gowns, and hoods worn at college and university functions date back to the Middle Ages. Monks and students of those days wore them to keep warm in the damp and drafty 12th-century castles and halls of learning.

The gown for the bachelor’s degree has a semi-stiff yoke; long, pleated front; and intricate shirring across the shoulders and back. It is primarily distinguished by its long, pointed sleeves.

The holder of a master’s degree wears a gown with the same yoke effect as the bachelor’s. The gown, however, is worn open, and the very long sleeve is squared and closed at the end, the forearm coming through a slit near the elbow.

The gown for the doctor’s degree is also worn open. It has broad velvet panels down the front and three velvet bars on the large, bell-like sleeves. This velvet trimming may be either black or the color distinctive of the field of learning to which the degree pertains.

Generally, all caps may be of serge or broadcloth. In addition, doctor’s caps may be of velvet and adorned by a gold tassel.

The hood gives color and distinction to the academic costume. The hood—a black shell-like affair of varying size for the three degrees and material to match the gown—is silk-lined, stressing the colors of the institution conferring the degree. The hood is then bordered with velvet of the color signifying the respective fields of learning.

The colors indicative of the various fields of learning are as follows:

- Arts, Letters and Humanities ...................... White
- Audiology ........................................ Spruce Green
- Business Administration .......................... Drab
- Education ......................................... Light Blue
- Fine Arts .............................................. Brown
- Law ...................................................... Purple
- Library Science ................................. Lemon
- Pharmacy ............................................ Olive Green
- Philosophy ........................................ Dark Blue
- Public Health ................................. Salmon Pink
- Science ........................................ Golden Yellow

It is important to note that the field of learning having prior mention in the conferment of a degree, and not the department governing the major work, determines the color that is proper for the velvet of the hood. The doctor of philosophy degree requires the dark blue velvet, irrespective of the major field. If more than one degree is held, the gown and hood of the highest degree are worn.
Alma Mater

“Old St. John’s”
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 ‘till 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. Carl Rosensteel, C.M., and Rev. Thomas F. Ryan, C.M.
“God makes use of the humblest servants for the extraordinary operation of His grace.”

—St. Vincent de Paul

Founder of the Vincentian community