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
Class of September 2019
Katia Passerini, Ph.D., PMP, Dean

The Degree of Master of Professional Studies
Xuanyang Chen
Jinquan Deng
Carlton Jerome Harris
Shequell Ashlee Higgs
Yashira Llanos
Cynthia L. Mendoza
Nicholas Edward Petrone
Muqerem Sina
Christopher Lee Suarez

The Degree of Master of Science
Anna Jadonath
Walker Gregory Stipe
Class of January 2020
Katia Passerini, Ph.D., PMP, Dean

The Degree of Master of Professional Studies

Naef Ahmed
Shoukat Ali
Joseph Armiento
Tyrone Raymond Bazelaire †
Rianna Gajadhar
Lamisa R. Habib
Joseph Dennis Hardeen
Charlene C. Holmes
Richard Huang
Caroline Jones
Lee Terry LaRosa
Yongliang Liu
Chad Michael McCutcheon †
Zhefu Peng
Christian Phillips Rodriguez
Ricky Sanchez
Jordan Christopher Sears
Chenoa Sebastian
Anthony Alan Treadwell †
Richard L. Wisor

The Degree of Master of Science

Ailifeili Aierken
David Ian Bierwirth
James Ryan Caruana †
Reyes Ceballos
Joseph Anthony Costantino
Kyle Robert Dehaney
Alexandria Anissa Dixon †
Corwin Mario Gladson
Huayue Guo
Zhanhao Huang
Sean Joseph Lukasiewicz
Yixian Lyu
Sheila T. Maguire
Yige Mao
Shadiomar Tania McPharlene †
Xiaohan Mu
Jorge Mario Restrepo
Christopher Bradford Rose
Andrew Paul Sharkey
Haiyun Wang
Class of May 2020
Glenn Gerstner, Ed.D., Interim Dean

The Degree of Master of Professional Studies

Michael Joseph Antonucci
Yvonne Elizabeth Becerra
Jacqueline Marie Canino
Darien Randy Charlemagne
Joseph Chester
Nicholas Cinquina
Cody Collins
Emilio Colon
George C. Daskalothanassis
Nicholas George Diamantis
Kimberly Elizabeth Dorismond
Kevin Gallagher
Marissa Gallo
Jason Nathaniel Glantz
Desmar A. Gomes
Peter Gomes †
Lingen Han
Robert Ryan Harriott
Carmela Elizabeth Hopkins
Kenneth Johnson
Jasmin Nicole Jones
Annessa Parveena Lall
Brad Robert Lupo
Christopher John Mesa
Zakiya A. Morris
Andras Zoltan Nemeth
Michael Antonio Ortoli
Evan Michael Padilla
Keisha M. Payne
Joseph Peschel
Joseph G. Pinto
Kaidan-Anthony Giovanni Puglisi
Hermes I. Quiroz
Christian A. Rodriguez
Geraldina Salcedo
Dominick Saldutti
Daniel Evan Selsky
Undre’ Jordan Shankle
Mohammad Shehadeh
Richard D. Sherer
Dylan M. Smith
Derek J. Southerland
Alexandra Michelle Tannous
Julia Varvaro †
Cindy A. Wibisono †
Jiyue Zhang
Yudi Zhao

†Graduate Certificate of Excellence
The Degree of Master of Science

Christopher O. Amojo †
Mallikarjunreddy Anireddy
Gohar Aznauryan
Curteeona Keylantra Zy’ Aire Brelove
Melanie Butron
Chi Weng Cheong
Quiana Katrina Criales
Gabrielle Renee Dancy
Haowei Deng
Ayushi Santosh Deshmukh
Hope A. DeVito †
Brendan V. Egan
Tiyana-Erin T. Farmbry
James P. Freeley
Jessica M. Grandberry
Raven Patrice Jackson

Jacky Li
Xinwei Liu
Melissa C. Rocco
Seraiah M. Romero
Hari Roshyara
Maria P. Salazar
Nancy Santos
Zachary Vincent Savino †
Marissa Ciera Serrano
Thomas Gabriel Shaker
Yanzhe Su
Savita Sukul †
Zijun Zhou †
Jenny Zhu
Shifang Zou

St. John’s University is not responsible for any omissions, errors, and/or changes in this Commemorative Book.

Degree conferral for the May list is pending the successful completion of all degree requirements.
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.
“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 ‘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. 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*