Undergraduate Commencement Exercises

2022-2023

Sunday, May 21, 2023
10 A.M.
Great Lawn, 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.

Order of Academic Procession

Grand Marshal and Bearer of Mace

Student and Faculty Marshals of the Schools and Colleges of the University

Degree Candidates of the Schools and Colleges of the University

St. John’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

The School of Education

The Peter J. Tobin College of Business

College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

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

Faculty of the Schools and Colleges of the University

President’s Society

Graduating Members of the President’s Society

University Leadership

Deans of the Schools and Colleges of the University

Provost

Board of Trustees

Honored Guests

President
Commencement Program

Presiding
Rev. Brian J. Shanley, O.P., Ph.D.
President
St. John’s University

Musical Prelude
Trumpet Announcement
Processional*
The Nassau Pops Wind Ensemble under the direction of Louis Panacciulli

Grand Marshal
Sharon R. Marshall
Associate Professor and Coordinator, First-Year Writing, Institute for Core Studies
St. John’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
St. John’s University

Opening of Ceremony
Simon G. Møller, Ph.D.
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
St. John’s University

Presentation of Colors
St. John’s Army Reserve Officers’ Training Corps Battalion

The National Anthem
Lauren Orrell
Candidate, Bachelor of Science
St. John’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Class of 2023
St. John’s University

Invocation
Most Reverend Robert J. Brennan ‘84C
Bishop of Brooklyn
Presidential Remarks
Rev. Brian J. Shanley, O.P., Ph.D.
President

Presentation of the Candidates for Honorary Degrees and Gold Medal and Reading of Citations
Simon G. Møller, Ph.D.
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Conferral of the Degree of Doctor of Humane Letters
upon
Sr. Regina M. Bechtle, S.C.
Charism Resource Director
Sisters of Charity of New York

Conferral of the Degree of Doctor of Commercial Science
upon
Pascal Desroches ’86CBA
Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
AT&T Inc.

Presentation of the Gold Medal
to
His Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan, Ph.D. ’10HON
Archbishop of New York

Commencement Address
His Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan, Ph.D. ’10HON
Archbishop of New York

Recognition of the Academic Deans and Faculty and Recognition of the Graduating Members of the United States Military
Simon G. Møller, Ph.D.
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Presentation of the President’s Academic Gold Medals
Simon G. Møller, Ph.D.
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Presentation of the Vincentian Mission Awards
Executive Vice President for Mission
Office of University Mission
St. John’s University

Presentation of the Outstanding Student Achievement Medals, Senior Class Gift, and Student Speaker
Sarah Jean Kelly, J.D.
Vice President for Student Success and Retention Strategy
St. John’s University

Student Address
Jethro Casie
Candidate, Bachelor of Science
The Peter J. Tobin College of Business
Class of 2023
St. John’s University

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

Graduating Members of the President’s Society
Natalia Raquel Acevedo
St. John’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Gabriella V. Alcamo
The School of Education

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

Juan Arrieta
The Peter J. Tobin College of Business

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

Ethan A. Burrell
St. John’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Jenna Dina Charles
St. John’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

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

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

Alissa de Sousa D’Vale
St. John’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Anthony Evangelou
The Peter J. Tobin College of Business

Gianna Flora
The Peter J. Tobin College of Business

Julianna LoMonte
St. John’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Andrew Patrick McGrory
The Peter J. Tobin College of Business

Shelby Andre Meristil
St. John’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

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

Evan R. Naumann
The Peter J. Tobin College of Business

Sofia Selene Ortega
The Peter J. Tobin College of Business

Jack C. Palamaro
St. John’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Ignacio Prieto Ruiz de Ojeda
The Peter J. Tobin College of Business

Charles Kingsley Schubert
The Peter J. Tobin College of Business

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

Joseph Wisidagama
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

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

Deans of the Schools and Colleges of the University

Teresa Delgado, Ph.D.
St. John’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

James D. Wolfinger, Ph.D.
The School of Education
Faculty Marshals of the Schools and Colleges of the University

Robert Forman, Ph.D. ‘68C
Professor, Department of English
St. John’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Jennifer Shanks ‘16GED
Adjunct Instructor, Department of Curriculum and Instruction
The School of Education

Nina T. Dorata, Ph.D.
Associate Dean, Strategic and External Partnerships, and Professor, Department of Accountancy
The Peter J. Tobin College of Business

Louis D. Trombetta, Ph.D.
Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences
College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

James A. Croft, Esq.
Director, Legal Studies Program, and Assistant Professor,
Division of Criminal Justice, Legal Studies, and Homeland Security
The Lesley H. and William L. Collins College of Professional Studies

Student Marshals of the Schools and Colleges of the University

Reem Nemmassi
Candidate, Bachelor of Arts
St. John’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Michael Crescenzo Pacheco
Candidate, Bachelor of Science in Education
The School of Education

Hager E. Khedr
Candidate, Bachelor of Science
The Peter J. Tobin College of Business

Zara Marsh
Candidate, Bachelor of Science
College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

Roy Dennis
Candidate, Bachelor of Science
The Lesley H. and William L. Collins College of Professional Studies
Reading of Graduate Names**

Closing of Ceremony
Simon G. Møller, Ph.D.
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Benediction
Executive Vice President for Mission

St. John’s Alma Mater—“Old St. John’s”
Natalia Raquel Acevedo
Candidate, Bachelor of Arts
St. John’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Class of 2023
Member, 2022–2023 President’s Society

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.

Celebratory Confetti and Recessional*
The Nassau Pops Wind Ensemble

* 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.

** To ensure that the name of each graduate is heard, the audience is requested to refrain from prolonged applause. Graduate names will be scrolled on the large viewing screens as a graduate’s name is announced.
Commemorative Program

Thank you for attending the Undergraduate Commencement Exercises. In keeping with St. John’s University’s sustainability initiative, this streamlined program has been produced for all guests of the ceremony to view online.

A digital commemorative program that includes a full list of graduate names will be available for graduates and their families and friends to view, print, or download by visiting the Commencement section of the University’s website starting on Monday, June 26.

Diplomas

Diplomas will be available after Friday, July 14, depending on the date the diploma was ordered. Students should contact their dean’s office for more information.

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, Director of Equal Opportunity and Compliance and Title IX Coordinator, Office of Human Resources, University Center, 8000 Utopia Parkway, Queens, New York 11439, 718-990-1865, press 4; 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