



2024 113TH ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT

GRADUATE CEREMONY

MAY 9, 2024

GEORGIAN COURT UNIVERSITY
THE MERCY UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY

GRADUATE COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

5:00 PM

PRESIDING

Joseph R. Marbach, Ph.D.
President

MACE BEARER

Michael Wortley, Ph.D.
*Associate Professor of Exercise Science and
Chair of the Faculty Assembly*

PROCESSIONAL

“Pomp and Circumstance”Edward Elgar

OPENING

Janice Warner, Ph.D.
Provost

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

“The Star-Spangled Banner”F. Scott Key
John Stafford Smith
Led by Natalie Moradian '26,
accompanied by Robert MacReynolds

INVOCATION

Jeffrey Schaffer
Executive Director of Mission & Ministry

WELCOME

Joseph R. Marbach, Ph.D.
President

SALUTE TO THE FACULTY

Joseph R. Marbach, Ph.D.
President

REMARKS ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Michele Teresa Aronica, RSM, Ph.D.
Chair of the Board of Trustees

ADDRESS ON BEHALF OF GRADUATES

Julie Elizabeth Matthew '23
M.Ed. in Reading/Literacy Specialization

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATE FOR HONORARY DEGREE

Doctor of Business Administration
John E. Harmon, Sr., IOM

Presenter: Jennifer J. Edmonds, Ph.D.
Dean of the School of Business and Digital Media

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

John E. Harmon, Sr., IOM
Founder, President, and CEO, African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

Janice Warner, Ph.D., *Provost*
Mary Chinery, Ph.D., '86, *Dean of the School of Arts, Sciences and Education*
Jennifer J. Edmonds, Ph.D., *Dean of the School of Business and Digital Media*
Theresa Wurmser, Ph.D., *Dean of the Hackensack Meridian Health School of Nursing and Wellness at GCU*

ALUMNI WELCOME

Stephanie Dalton '94, '02
President of the Alumni Association

CLOSING REMARKS

Joseph R. Marbach, Ph.D.
President

ALMA MATER

"Hail to the Blue and Gold" Alice Piper Kuser '27,
Hermine Carpentier Stein '29, and others
Led by Natalie Moradian '26, and Priscilla Polizzi '28,
accompanied by Robert MacReynolds

RECESSIONAL

"National Emblem March".....Edwin Eugene Bagley

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Please turn off all cell phones so as not to interrupt this celebratory but solemn event. We ask that you kindly respect all roped-off areas. Due to state regulations, guests should remain at their seats during the ceremony. This program is not the official list of graduates; it is based on the information available at the time of publication.

If any items in this program have been displayed incorrectly, please send an email to marketing@georgian.edu so that we can update the online version.

JOHN E. HARMON, SR., IOM



In 2007, John E. Harmon, Sr., IOM recognized the growing need for a statewide organization that could align government and business interests to advocate for New Jersey's Black entrepreneurs and their communities. That led him to establish the African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey, recognized as the leading voice for business development and economic empowerment for the state's Black-owned businesses.

As President and CEO of AACCNJ, Mr. Harmon advocates on behalf of New Jersey's 1.2 million African American residents and the over 88,000 Black-owned businesses statewide to ensure policy on the municipal, county, and federal level provides fairness, equity, and access to a level playing field in the marketplace. He hosts the organization's Gold Telly Award-winning monthly television show, "Pathway to Success," "The Chamber Perspective," and its weekly radio show, "The Empowerment Hour."

Mr. Harmon serves on the Boards of Directors for many leading organizations, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce, Hackensack Meridian Health, Jersey Central Power & Light, and the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities.

Mr. Harmon is the Founder, CEO, and Chairman of the New York State Black Business Alliance; a Board Member and Former Chairman of the National Black Chamber of Commerce; a member of the Economic Community Advisory Council of the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia; and a member of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Committee of 100 and the American Chamber of Commerce Executives.

Throughout his career, Mr. Harmon has been honored and recognized by many media outlets, trade associations, and programs, including NJBIZ, ROI-NJ, NJBIA, the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, South Jersey Journal, the National Football League, the United States Army, and the Department of Defense.

Mr. Harmon holds an associate degree in Business Administration from Mercer County Community College and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Management from Fairleigh Dickinson University.

He received an honorary associate degree in Business Administration from Rowan College of Burlington County in 2014 and an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters (L.H.D.), honoris causa, from Fairleigh Dickinson University in May of 2022.

CLASS OF 2024

Candidates for Graduate Degrees

.....

SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Doctor of Psychology in School Psychology

Raquan Kendell Clinton
Jillian Garbolino
Tiffanie Helen Kurtz
Dana McGee
Leslie Anne Miles

Nicole Muraski
Angela Raghib
Zahava Taragin
Chana Witty
Emily Zupkus

Master of Arts

Mary Kate Corbisiero
Kristen Catherine Aufiero‡
Madison Saige Baez‡
Brett Mckenna Benedetti‡
Micaela Marie Defelice‡
Tyler McGann‡
Francesca Rose Santaromita‡
Morgan M. Underhill^
Sarah Jenny Woodruff‡
Sergey Alexander Huber
Heather P. Basmagy†
Kelly Marie Camastra†
Aidan S. Carney†

Grace Donahue†
Caroline Gallo†
Alexis Christine Gray†
Kaley Anne Haibert†
Lauren R Horbacewicz†
Summer Lorryne Lampinen†
Marleny Lopez†
Breanne Perna†
Samantha Nicole Salvato†
Bethelen Ana Sanchez†
Julia Scheuttig†
Brooke Elizabeth Trotta†
Sandra Lynn Walder†

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND DIGITAL MEDIA

Master of Business Administration

Priscilla E. Alicea^
Waill Ayoub‡
Daniel W. Burnham†
Andrew Marc Candino†
Noelle A. Chant†
Francisco Xavier Corral
Anthony V. DePietro†
Heather Devaney†
Kasha Ana Elzinga
Salvatore Frazzetto†
Alexandra Kupecz‡

Aristides George Papoutsakis
Isela Rosas^
Meghan Amanda Ruales‡
Cade J. Siddron^
Lisa M. Slover‡
Marissa Anne Suarez
Alec Brendan Valle^
Gina Lucia Veltry‡
Brooke Venet
Valeska Maria Yaninas^

Master of Science

Kyle Edward Dodge^
Taylor Griffith^

Kaitlin Theresa Halpin^
Kyle Nardine^

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Master of Arts

Pierre Abd+
Charles Bauer+
Joel Bermudez+
Jeffrey Scott Brown^
Yanelis Cabaleiro-Rempusheski^
Tara Carlisle+
Danielle Casciano+
Kristen Ann Cecchini+
Amber Davis^
Tamara Ehrgood‡
Perri Fuerst+
Victoria Gemma+
Kelly Godfrey‡
Diane Gonzales^
Jennifer Greener‡
Amanda Jedrusiak+
Christopher Johnston+
Blair Kiss‡
Kindle Kuriscak‡
Mary Ellen Laubsch+
Daniel Locandro+

Ricky Maldonado^
Erica Marotta‡
Kerri Lee McQueen+
Meghan Molinaro‡
Angela R. Mosbrucker+
Brittany Nilsen+
Alyssa Pappas^
Carrie Lee Parent^
Nicole E. Del Popolo+
Lisa Marie Reiser+
Jessica Rogers‡
Rebecca Romanko+
Stacey Saul‡
DeAnna Scott+
Steven Sedano^
Nicole Skulitz+
Valerie Smith+
Joseph A. Truisi^
Jillian Walsh^
Larry Zuares‡

Master of Arts in Teaching

Hailee R. Kissanet
Ariana H. Wolf
Lindsey Victoria Flake
Kerrin Prybylski

Olivia Rose Drago
Katelyn Ann Hooker+
Juliette Lily Margolies
Victoria Rose Smith‡

Master of Education

Victor Joseph Bayers+
Anthony Salvatore Calco+
Heather Colleen Constantino
Victoria Lynn Dellapietro
Summer Nicole Gigerian

Gerard Longo
Samantha Meeker
Breanna G. Meglio
Andrea Claire Montague
Briana Nicole Nespolti+

Morgan Marie Pietrangelo
Danielle Marie Ruffino
Catherine Scaramuzzino‡
Emily Gallatin Snyder
Gabrielle Vivona
Luis Diaz
Catherine Gomber
Crystal Sheree Mays
Yensy Mesa
Leydi Navarro^
Noemi Olavarria+
Catherine A. Botti‡
Lisa Michelle Chapman‡
Paula L. Chaussepied†
Melinda De Chellis†
Jenna Lucia Criscuolo†
Meredith Derkack†
Wendy Faria†
Nicole Farrell^
Althea George†
Christina Hampton‡
Cindy M. Joyce†
Brooke Korfin^
Asheley Krakowski^
Marissa Larramendia†
Amanda Margaret Linder†
Donna Lindsay^
Julie Elizabeth Matthew‡
Stacy McClintock‡
Kelly Mount‡
Melanie Muska^
Lindsay La Neve†

Tracy Newton‡
Amanda Mae O'Neill‡
Samantha Papa‡
Krystal Rose Ramsen†
Kimberly Rego†
Andrea Lynn de los Santos†
Sophia Marie Savage†
Valentina Seramba‡
Suzanne Simione-Klagholz†
Michelle Spinella†
Patricia Ellen Tighe-DeGennaro^
Caitlin Valmas†
Nicole Velasco‡
Jenna Widener†
Joyce Witter†
Danielle Zipp^
Shanay Kornegay^
Harriet Adu
Nigel Kwame Agyemang
Chelsie Cirz†
Margaret Czech
Tiaheshia Dublin^
Nicole Lynn Fazzi‡
Judy-Ann Francine Thomas
Howe^
Amanda Ianucilli†
Regina S. Jimenez†
Emily Catherine Kaminski†
Michelle Leadem†
Samantha Seliga†
Claudia Simon
Jessica Leigh Somma

HACKENSACK MERIDIAN *HEALTH* SCHOOL OF NURSING AND WELLNESS AT GCU

Master of Arts

Diana Guiomar Artunduaga
Danielle Alise Bilder
Kysha Angela Daniel†
Lenka Fenclova Ferry†
Milan Filipovich
Amber Mae Horvath†

Sydney Joyce Kulenguski
Cheryl Ann Lemanski-Farawell
Gianna Marie Macera†
Heidi Ann McDonough‡
Sheila Irene McNeil‡
Diego Rosas Vazquez^

† Degree conferred August 2023 ‡ Degree conferred December 2023

^ Degree anticipated to be conferred in August or December 2024

SPECIAL GRADUATE AWARDS

Faculty grant awards in recognition of outstanding ability and achievement in the student's major field.

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SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS

First Award in Applied Behavior Analysis.....Mary Kate Corbisiero

CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING

First Award in Clinical Mental Health Counseling Tyler McGann

Honorable Mention Award in Clinical Mental Health CounselingBrett Benedetti

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY, M.A.

First Award in School Psychology M.A. ProgramKaley Haiber

Honorable Mention Award in School Psychology M.A. Program Heather Basmagy

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY, PSY.D.

First Award in School Psychology Psy.D. Program Chana Witty

Honorable Mention Award in School Psychology Psy.D. Program ... Zahava Taragin and Leslie Miles

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND DIGITAL MEDIA

*School of Business and Digital Media Executive Advisory
Council Emerging Leader Award*..... Valeska Yaninas

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (M.B.A.)

First Award in MBA Valeska Yaninas

COMMUNICATION AND DIGITAL MARKETING

*First Award in Communication and
Digital Marketing*..... Kyle Dodge

*Honorable Mention Award in Communication and
Digital Marketing*..... Kaitlin Halpin

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

ADMINISTRATION AND LEADERSHIP

*First Award in Administration
and Leadership* Stacey Saul

*Honorable Mention Award in Administration
and Leadership* Jeffrey Brown and Jennifer Greener

INSTRUCTIONAL ENDORSEMENT WITH M.ED.

*First Award in M.Ed.
(English as a Second Language)* Yensy Mesa

READING/LITERACY SPECIALIZATION

*First Award in Reading/
Literacy Specialization*..... Samantha Papa

SCHOOL COUNSELING

First Award in School Counseling Emily Snyder

*Honorable Mention Award in
School Counseling*..... Summer Gigerian and Shanay Kornegay

TEACHING (M.A.T.)

*Honorable Mention Award in
Teaching (M.A.T.)*..... Ariana Wolf and Juliette Margolies

HACKENSACK MERIDIAN *HEALTH* SCHOOL OF NURSING AND WELLNESS AT GCU

INTEGRATIVE HEALTH

First Award in

Integrative Health Diana Artunduaga and Sheila McNeil

THE PRESIDENT'S MEDALLION

The President's Medallion, which is also called the lavalier, depicts the seal of the university on the front and the cross of the Sisters of Mercy on the reverse. It is worn by the president at official university functions of high solemnity, such as the Inauguration, Convocation, and Commencement. The seal of Georgian Court University features the Cross of Christ, which symbolizes true Christian character. This character is enlightened by the lighted lamp and illustrates the virtues of truth and goodness. These virtues are fostered through the Book of the Arts and Sciences by which Georgian Court students achieve intellectual development. The lion signifies moral and physical fortitude united by the laurel wreath, the Greek symbol of victory and triumph.

The name of the school is inscribed in English, accompanied by the founding date, 1908.

Bonitas, Disciplina, Scientia—goodness, discipline, and knowledge—are the virtues through which Georgian Court graduates will triumph in the formation of their characters.

THE UNIVERSITY MACE

The history and tradition of the mace is rooted in medieval times. Over time the mace was used for royal ceremonial purposes and eventually became intertwined with the idea of a scepter, made with precious metals and encrusted with jewels. The mace evolved into a symbol of authority, order, and pomp in academic ceremonies, reflecting the mission and values of the institution. A new mace was crafted for Georgian Court after the institution became a university in 2004.

The university mace symbolizes the commitment of the faculty and administration of the university to excellence in education, and to the Mercy core values of justice, respect, integrity, service, and compassion. The fluted walnut staff bears the gold seal of Georgian Court surrounded by blue enamel, which is positioned above a bronze plate engraved with the Mercy core values. The mace is proudly carried by the mace bearer, traditionally the incoming chair of the Faculty Assembly.

ACADEMIC REGALIA

Today’s academic regalia has its origins in medieval English custom, where styles of gowns, mortars, and hoods conveyed the loyalties, disciplines, and achievement levels of the wearers. These academic costumes arrived in America in the 1700s and have been made uniform by two 20th-century examinations by a commission for the American Council on Education.

The color of the gown is commonly black, with no trim for the bachelor’s or master’s degrees. The doctor’s gown is faced along the front with broad velvet panels and has full bell-shaped sleeves each bearing three horizontal bars of velvet; it may be worn open or closed. The bachelor’s gown has pointed sleeves in contrast to the master’s gown, which is distinguished by the long oblong sleeve with a square cut. The hood worn around the neck and draped down the back displays the colors of the institution which awarded the degree, as well as the colors of the degree subject. Bachelor’s degree hoods are optional. Tassels for caps or mortars are black, though gold is most often worn by those with doctoral degrees. The cords, sashes, and stoles worn by some of the graduating students are provided by the academic honor societies or programs to which they belonged. The colors and lettering of the honor regalia are those of the honor society or program.

The official Georgian Court University gown is worn by the president, trustees, honorary degree recipients, and Commencement speaker. The royal blue gown is embellished with black velvet panels on the front, on which the Georgian Court University seal is embroidered in gold, and black velvet chevrons on the sleeves. The hoods are Georgian Court’s school colors of blue and gold, and the black velvet tams are adorned with gold silk tassels.

HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS

- 1963** John F. McCarty
1964 The Hon. Margaret Chase Smith
1966 Helen Hayes
1967 The Hon. Mildred Barry Hughes '23
1973 The Most Reverend George W. Ahr, S.T.D., D.D.
1975 Loretta Young
George Gallup Sr.
George Gallup Jr.
1976 Ralph Nader
1980 Buckminster Fuller
1982 The Hon. Alan J. Karcher
1983 Rosemary Haughton
Gov. Thomas H. Kean
The Hon. James J. Howard
1984 Rev. J. Bryan Hehir
1985 Mary Alice Williams
1986 The Hon. Theodore J. Lebreque
Hortense Kessler Green
Col. Guion S. Bluford Jr.
1987 Mary Little Parell
1988 Joyce Carol Oates
1991 Dorothy K. Light
Daniel P. Weadock
Douglas E. Johnson
1992 Deborah P. Wolfe, Ed.D.
1994 Mary Higgins Clark
1995 Mary Ann Martin
Jay Cleveland Harbeck
Edward B. Connolly
1996 H. George Buckwald
1997 The Most Reverend John Charles Reiss, D.D., J.C.D.
1999 Mary Loretta Snite Dillon '37
Kingdon Gould Jr.
2000 Helen F. Boehm
Lucille Bongiovanni
Jack Ford
2001 Laurence M. Downes
Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C.
JoAnne Kane
The Hon. Robert W. Singer
2002 Dorothy J. Marron '36
The Hon. Christopher Smith
Msgr. Leonard R. Toomey
2003 Bruce Feiler
Hirair Hovnanian
Eleanor Weisbrod '44
2004 Joseph Buckelew
Joyce Armstrong Carroll, Ed.D., '59
2005 Virginia S. Bauer
Ellen Mullane Gallagher '64
Gerald R. Gallagher
2006 Rosalie Bertell, GNSH, Ph.D.
Marlene Lynch Ford, J.D., '76
Ruth B. Mandel, Ph.D.
2007 Elizabeth Christopherson
Mary E. Morris Powell '45
Zeni Fox, Ph.D.
2008 Margaret Cleary '51
María Elena González, RSM
Patricia B. Licuanan, Ph.D.
Anne Milgram, J.D.
Grace Nolan, RSM, '57
The Hon. Eugene D. Serpentelli, J.S.C.
2009 Rev. Daniel Berrigan, SJ
Rev. Ann Struthers Coburn '72
Judith M. Persichilli
The Most Reverend John M. Smith, J.C.D., D.D.
Mary C. Sullivan, RSM, Ph.D.
2010 Barbara Ellen Black, D.P.S.
The Hon. Honora O'Brien Killgallen, J.D., J.S.C., '82
Kevin Ryan, J.D.
2011 Helen Hanna Casey '71
Major General Maria Falca-Dodson
Assemblyman Joseph R. Malone III
Tim McLoone
2012 Richard Hader, R.N., Ph.D., FAAN, CHE, NE-BC, CPHQ
The Hon. Rochelle R. Hendricks
William R. Johnston
Elizabeth Schmalz Ferguson

- 2013** Mary Patrice Brown, J.D.
The Hon. Frank J. Guarini, J.D.
Amy Joseph Habib '60
The Most Reverend David M.
O'Connell, C.M., J.C.D.
- 2014** The Hon. Thomas F. Kelaher, J.D.
Maryann Cusimano Love, Ph.D.
Tracey Severns, Ed.D.
Francis X. Wentworth Jr.
- 2015** Mary Louise Miller, RSM, Esq.
Karen Schneider, RSM, M.D.
Father Alphonse Stephenson
Robert J. Wicks, Psy.D.
- 2016** John R. Garbarino
John K. Lloyd, FACHE
Rose Martin, RSM
Maria Cordis Richey, RSM,
Ph.D., '50
- 2017** Deacon James J. Knipper '15
Adam Lowy
Richard Rohr, OFM
Barbara Williams, RSM, '63
- 2018** Elisabeth Fontenelli
Jon F. Hanson
Triantafillos Parlapapanides,
Ed.D., '00
- 2019** Brian Gragnolati, FACHE
Justice Anne M. Patterson, J.D.
Michael A. Pontoriero,
M.D., FACS
- 2021** Annie Hanna Cestra '73
Marlene Laó-Collins
- 2022** Robert C. Garrett, FACHE
- 2023** Father Gregory Boyle
Carol Stillwell

BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2023-2024

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Joseph R. Marbach, Ph.D., *University President*

The Honorable
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George Destafney
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Elizabeth M. Schmalz H'12, '16
Julia A. Upton, RSM, Ph.D.

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Patricia E. Koch, Esq., '69
Amelia Alonso McTamaneay '67
Elizabeth Healey Mulvihill '66
Linda M. Orlando '07
M. Deborah Hanley Williams '68



OUR MISSION

Georgian Court University, founded by the Sisters of Mercy of New Jersey in 1908 and sponsored by the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas since January of 2007, provides a comprehensive liberal arts education in the Roman Catholic tradition. The university has a special concern for women and is a dynamic community committed to the core values of justice, respect, integrity, service, and compassion, locally and globally.

Georgian Court University provides students with:

- a curriculum broad enough to be truly liberal, yet specialized enough to support further study and future careers;
- an environment for the entire university community to grow through shared educational, cultural, social, and spiritual experiences; and
- the will to translate concern for social justice into action.

ALMA MATER

“Hail to the Blue and Gold”

Hail to the Blue and Gold
Dear Georgian Court
'Mid stately pines so old
Ideals you brought to us
Of honor and loyalty,
Faith staunch and true;
We pledge fidelity and love
To you.

So through the years to come
Your name will be
Symbol of faith and love
And constancy, dear G.C.!
Here in these hallowed halls
Pledge we anew
Our hearts' devotion to the
Gold and Blue.

GEORGIAN COURT UNIVERSITY
THE MERCY UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY