



# CONVOCATION

**AUGUST 26, 2021**

**GEORGIAN COURT UNIVERSITY**

THE MERCY UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY



## OUR MISSION

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Georgian Court University, founded and sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy, 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.

# CONVOCATION 2021

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MASTER OF CEREMONIES  
Janice Warner, Ph.D., *Provost*

MACE BEARER  
Sarita Nemani, Ph.D., *Professor of Mathematics &  
Chair of the Faculty Assembly*

## PROCESSIONAL

“Trumpet Voluntary” ..... Jeremiah Clarke

### Order of Procession

*Student Government Leaders*  
*Upperclass Award Recipients*  
*New Students (Class of 2025 and Transfers)*  
*Faculty, Administration, and Trustees*

## THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

“The Star-Spangled Banner” ..... F. Scott Key,  
John Stafford Smith

Led by Lily Antonowicz '20, accompanied by Robert MacReynolds

## INVOCATION

Led by Carly Cohen  
*Campus Minister*

## WELCOME

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

## CONVOCATION ADDRESS

Sachiko Komagata, Ph.D., P.T., *Associate Professor of  
Integrative Health, Chair of the Department of Integrative Health &  
Exercise Science, & Recipient of the 2021 Virginia Graham '31  
Award for Teaching Excellence*

ANNOUNCEMENT OF DEPARTMENTAL & SPECIAL AWARDS

Mary Chinery '86, Ph.D., *Dean, School of Arts & Sciences*

Jennifer J. Edmonds, Ph.D., *Dean, School of Business & Digital Media*

Amuhelang Magaya, Ph.D., *Acting Dean, School of Education*

Theresa Wurmser, Ph.D., *Dean, Georgian Court–Hackensack Meridian Health School of Nursing*

Amani S. Jennings, *Dean of Students*

INTRODUCTION OF STUDENT GOVERNMENT

ASSOCIATION LEADERS

Giayana Feliciano '23, *President, Student Government Association*

STUDENT PLEDGE & PINNING OF NEW STUDENTS

Administered by Giayana Feliciano '23, *President, Student Government Association*

GREETINGS FROM A RECENT ALUMNA

Casey Stoya '19, *Alumni Representative*

GREETINGS FROM THE OFFICE OF MISSION INTEGRATION

Paul DaPonte, Ph.D., *Executive Director for Mission Integration & Special Assistant to the President*

A SPECIAL BLESSING OF NEW STUDENTS

Jeffrey Schaffer, *Director of Campus Ministry*

WELCOME OF NEW STUDENTS TO COMMUNITY OF SCHOLARS

Janice Warner, Ph.D., *Provost*

ALMA MATER

“Hail to the Blue and Gold” ..... Alice Piper Kuser '27,  
Hermine Carpentier Stein '29, and others  
Led by Lily Antonowicz '20, accompanied by Robert MacReynolds

RECESSIONAL

“Trumpet Tune in D” ..... Jeremiah Clarke

# DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS

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## SCHOOL OF ARTS & SCIENCES

Mary Chinery '86, Ph.D., *Dean*

### **ART & VISUAL STUDIES: AWARD OF EXCELLENCE IN STUDIO ART**

*This award recognizes outstanding achievement in studio art.*

Samantha Lynn Colvin

### **BIOLOGY: ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT IN BIOLOGY AWARD**

*This award honors the best performance in junior-level biology.*

Jessica Bis & Yitzchok Glancz

### **CHEMISTRY & BIOCHEMISTRY: ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD IN CHEMICAL SCIENCES**

*This award recognizes academic achievement by a chemistry or biochemistry major.*

Emily Humphries

### **COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEMS ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

*This award recognizes academic achievement by a computer information systems major.*

Rachel Hope Pausz

### **CRIMINAL JUSTICE: LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARD**

*This award is given to a junior or senior criminal justice student with a concentration in law enforcement who has at least a 3.5 gpa in the major and/or has demonstrated integrity, ethical leadership, and a concern for social justice that can have a global impact.*

Briann Maikisch

### **DANCE: SCHOLAR AWARD**

*This award honors extraordinary scholars in the performing arts and recognizes the artistic and technical growth of a faculty-nominated sophomore, junior, or senior who has the potential to become a professional dance scholar, performer, or choreographer.*

Alonzo-Augustine Magsino

### **ENGLISH: GAIL JUDGE CLASS OF 1957 MEMORIAL AWARD**

*This award, named for alumna Dr. Gail Judge, is given to an English major with excellent academic standing and great potential in writing.*

Brandon Downey

**EXERCISE SCIENCE: LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE AWARD**

*This award is given to a student who has demonstrated both leadership and service to the field.*

Trilby Kite

**HEALTH PROFESSION STUDIES ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

*This award recognizes academic achievement by a health profession studies major.*

Faith Bennett

**HEALTH SCIENCES ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

*This award recognizes academic achievement by a health sciences major.*

Connor Maher

**HISTORY: GLOBAL AWARENESS AND PERSPECTIVES AWARD**

*This award is given to a history major who has expressed global awareness and perspectives in coursework and in one or more of the following: discussion, travel, and/or service.*

Haylee Vitale

**INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES: ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

*This award recognizes academic achievement and modeling of the Mercy core values by an interdisciplinary studies major.*

Anthony Carofalo

**MATHEMATICS: SISTER STEPHANIE SLOYAN AWARD**

*This award, named for a former mathematics department chairperson and university president, recognizes academic achievement by a mathematics major.*

Aliya Canfield

**PSYCHOLOGY: AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN ACADEMICS,  
RESEARCH & COMMUNITY SERVICE**

*This award recognizes a psychology student who demonstrates academic excellence, interest in research, and community involvement.*

Hanna Thrainsdottir

**SOCIAL WORK: ETHICAL LEADERSHIP IN SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARD**

*This award is given to a social work student who demonstrates ethical leadership in social justice.*

Chukwuebizie Anuamadi & Aida Serrano

**SPANISH: DR. MANUEL SALAS MEMORIAL AWARD**

*This award, named for a former professor of Spanish, recognizes a student with proficiency in Spanish, plans to teach Spanish, or plans to travel in Spain.*

Josselin Ruiz

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SCHOOL OF BUSINESS & DIGITAL MEDIA

Jennifer J. Edmonds, Ph.D., Dean

**ACCOUNTING: ROBERT A. PANTEN AWARD**

*This award, named for a former professor of accounting, is given to a student who shows a desire to choose accounting as a career and demonstrates a love of the subject as well as an aptitude for it.*

Javier Lopez

**BUSINESS: DELTA MU DELTA-EPSILON ZETA CHAPTER BOOK AWARD**

*This award, from the business honor society, is given to the senior business student with the highest GPA.*

Daniel Burnham

**DIGITAL COMMUNICATION: LEADERSHIP AWARD**

*This award recognizes a digital communication major who consistently demonstrates leadership and teamwork and exhibits a positive attitude, initiative, and a desire to apply the Mercy core values in everyday life.*

Tiffany Quinby

**DIGITAL DESIGN: EXCELLENCE AWARD**

*This award recognizes academic excellence in digital design.*

Christina Grasso

**FINANCE: ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD**

*This award recognizes academic excellence of a finance major.*

Daniel Burnham

**GRAPHIC DESIGN & MULTIMEDIA: DESIGN LEADERSHIP AWARD**

*This award is given to the student who has made the most academic progress in the fields of graphic design and multimedia during the previous year.*

Emily Dziekan

**MARKETING: ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD**

*This award recognizes academic excellence of a marketing major.*

Tommaso Rio

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**SCHOOL OF EDUCATION**  
Amuhelang Magaya, Ph.D., *Acting Dean*

**EDUCATION: EARLY EDUCATOR AWARD BY LAMBDA CHAPTER OF THE  
NEW JERSEY STATE ORGANIZATION OF DELTA KAPPA GAMMA  
SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL**

*This financial award is intended to assist a rising teacher with the expenses incurred in obtaining a New Jersey state approved teacher certificate.*

Hannah Moran

**EDUCATION: SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICE AWARD**

*This award recognizes service in the field of special education.*

Anthony Forlizzi

**EDUCATION: TEACHER EDUCATION AWARD FOR BEST PERFORMANCE IN  
ELEMENTARY EDUCATION**

*This award is given to an elementary education student who demonstrates academic excellence, intellectual curiosity, positive attitudinal disposition, and level of creativity in instructional planning.*

Jaclyn Wetzels & Haylee Vitale

**EDUCATION: TEACHER EDUCATION AWARD FOR BEST PERFORMANCE IN  
SECONDARY EDUCATION**

*This award is given to a secondary education student who demonstrates academic excellence, intellectual curiosity, positive attitudinal disposition, and level of creativity in instructional planning.*

Samantha Colvin & Emily Schabacker

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**GEORGIAN COURT–HACKENSACK MERIDIAN HEALTH**  
**SCHOOL OF NURSING**  
Theresa Wurmser, Ph.D., *Dean*

**NURSING: EXCELLENCE IN CLINICAL PRACTICE AWARD**

*This award is presented to a nursing student who demonstrates strong clinical skills in the delivery of compassionate care to patients.*

Kelly LeTual

**NURSING: PROFESSIONALISM IN NURSING AWARD**

*This award is given to a student who demonstrates professionalism and service to the nursing profession.*

Yasmin Amaro-Garcia



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## SPECIAL AWARD

Amani S. Jennings, *Dean of Students*

### **ST. CATHERINE MEDAL—KAPPA GAMMA PI**

*The St. Catherine Medal for Student Achievement is an annual award for presentation at universities affiliated with Kappa Gamma Pi, the National Catholic College Graduate Honor Society. The medal is donated by Justyna Steuer Carlson '66, a past national president of KGP. It is presented to a student in recognition of leadership and service to the university.*

Yasmin Amaro-Garcia

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## RECOGNITION OF 2021 STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

### **Executive Board**

Giayana Feliciano, President

Yasmin Amaro-Garcia, Vice President

Meghan Castro, Secretary &  
Campus Activities Board President

Carissa Distefano, Treasurer

## SCHOLARSHIP AT GCU

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Georgian Court University is grateful to the many alumni, trustees, faculty, staff, parents, friends, and partner organizations that have made gifts in support of student success. These gifts fund scholarships and awards for students who meet the criteria, academic and otherwise, established by our generous donors. Georgian Court scholarships celebrate the relationship between our students and our most passionate supporters.

We recognize our students' academic excellence at the annual Convocation celebration. Students who represent the very best of Georgian Court will receive Convocation awards in their various fields of study, many funded with donations received by the Office of Institutional Advancement. These awards highlight students' achievements during the previous academic year, and we congratulate them on their success.

Convocation also is a time to celebrate the heart of the academic community—our faculty. Their commitment to teaching and their passion for scholarly pursuits are driving factors in our students' success. Much of the scholarly work they do is presented in this year's edition of *Faculty Focus*, our annual publication exploring faculty achievements and creativity. Visit [georgian.edu/faculty-excellence](http://georgian.edu/faculty-excellence) to read and download the latest issue.

Lastly, Georgian Court scholarships, made possible through the generosity of private donors who believe in the university's mission and values, are available to current and prospective students for future semesters. Interested students should visit [georgian.edu/scholarships](http://georgian.edu/scholarships) for information and the online application.

## STUDENT PLEDGE

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On my honor, as a Georgian Court University student, I do pledge:

1. To RESPECT the dignity of all persons and all life as gifts of God;
2. To be a person of INTEGRITY in my personal conduct and academic pursuits;
3. To exercise JUSTICE for human dignity in our attitudes and relationships with others;
4. To demonstrate COMPASSION through acts of solidarity within the GCU community;
5. To seek out opportunities to prepare for a life of leadership and SERVICE.



## *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.