



2021

110TH ANNUAL
COMMENCEMENT
CEREMONY

MAY 19-20, 2021

GEORGIAN COURT UNIVERSITY

THE MERCY UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

PRESIDING

Joseph R. Marbach, Ph.D.
President

MACE BEARERS

Ashley Elmore, Ph.D.^{1,4}
*Associate Professor of Business and
Director of the Communication and
Digital Marketing Program*

Sarita Nemani, Ph.D.³
Professor of Mathematics

Bonnie J. Ross, Ed.D.²
*Associate Professor of Nursing and
Chair of the B.S.N. Program*

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 Liana Hollendonner, accompanied by Robert MacReynolds

INVOCATION

Jeffrey Schaffer^{1,2}
Director of Campus Ministry

Rev. Msgr. Casimir H. Ladzinski^{3,4}
GCU Trustee

WELCOME

Joseph R. Marbach, Ph.D.
President

SALUTE TO THE FACULTY

Joseph R. Marbach, Ph.D.

President

Presentation of the Virginia Graham '31 Award for Teaching Excellence

This award is presented to a faculty member, nominated by fellow faculty members, who demonstrates outstanding leadership, teaching, and mentoring skills and a strong commitment to inspiring and helping students.

WELCOME FROM THE DEAN²

Theresa Wurmser, Ph.D.

Dean of the Georgian Court–Hackensack Meridian Health School of Nursing

GREETINGS²

Sora F. Bulka

Dean, The New Seminary

Theresa M. Brodrick, Ph.D.

Executive Vice President and Chief Nursing

Executive, Hackensack Meridian Health,

and GCU Trustee

PRESENTATION OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS^{1,2,3}

Amani S. Jennings

Dean of Students

The **Academic Excellence Award** is presented to the senior who has attained the highest grade point average for four years.

The **Kingdon Gould Jr. Award** is presented to the senior who, in the opinion of fellow classmates, contributed the most to the general welfare of Georgian Court University.

ADDRESS ON BEHALF OF GRADUATES

Brianna Griffin '21^{1,3}

Immediate Past President of the Student Government Association Executive Board

B.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies Candidate

Cindy Reinman '21²

B.S.N. in Nursing Candidate

Laura Burns '21⁴

M.A. in Administration and Leadership Candidate

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR HONORARY DEGREES AND INTRODUCTION OF COMMENCEMENT SPEAKERS

Alicia Cook '08¹

Poet and Activist

Introduced by Jennifer J. Edmonds, Ph.D., Dean of the School of Business and Digital Media

Judith M. Persichilli, RN²

New Jersey Commissioner of Health and Vice Chair of the GCU Board of Trustees

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

Annie Hanna Cestra '73³

Executive Vice President and COO of Howard Hanna Real Estate Services

Doctor of Business Administration

Presented by Mary Chinery, Ph.D., '86, Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences

Marlene Laó-Collins⁴

Executive Director of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton

Doctor of Public Service

Presented by Amuhelang Magaya, Ph.D., Acting Dean of the School of Education

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

Janice Warner, Ph.D., *Provost*^{1,2,3,4}

Mary Chinery, Ph.D., '86, *Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences*^{1,3,4}

Jennifer J. Edmonds, Ph.D., *Dean of the School of Business and Digital Media*^{1,4}

Amuhelang Magaya, Ph.D., *Acting Dean of the School of Education*^{3,4}

Theresa Wurmser, Ph.D., *Dean of the Georgian Court–Hackensack Meridian Health School of Nursing*²

NURSING PINNING²

Theresa Wurmser, Ph.D.

Dean of the Georgian Court–Hackensack Meridian Health School of Nursing

PRESENTATION OF SPECIAL NURSING AWARDS²

Kathryn E. Fleming, Ph.D.

Professor-in-Residence and Assistant Dean of the Georgian Court–Hackensack Meridian Health School of Nursing

ALUMNI WELCOME

Alice Bosies Velez '84, '93^{1,2}

President of the Alumni Association

Mary Chinery, Ph.D., '86^{3,4}

Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences

BLESSING OF THE HANDS²

Vincent M. Chelli '20
B.S.N. in Nursing Graduate

NIGHTINGALE PLEDGE²

Kathleen Patricia Scalzo '20
RN to B.S.N. in Nursing Graduate

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 Liana Hollendonner, accompanied by Robert MacReynolds

RECESSIONAL

“National Emblem March” Edwin Eugene Bagley

¹Ceremony 1
²Ceremony 2

³Ceremony 3
⁴Ceremony 4



*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.*

ANNIE HANNA CESTRA '73



Annie Hanna Cestra '73 is the executive vice president and chief operating officer (COO) of Howard Hanna Real Estate Services, the nation's largest family-owned and operated real estate firm. She was named COO in 1986, after 12 years of serving as treasurer and guiding the fiscal policies of the company from the beginning of its remarkable expansion. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Georgian Court University and a Master of Education degree from the University of Pittsburgh. Ms. Cestra currently holds a real estate broker and an insurance license in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and New York.

Ms. Cestra's current responsibilities include directing the administrative operations of Hanna Holdings and its affiliates, including Howard Hanna Real Estate. This involves developing and implementing policies and procedures that serve the needs of the corporation, the employees, and licensees to ensure professional standards of consistency and integrity.

Ms. Cestra is a former member of the Pennsylvania State Real Estate Commission, on which she served for 15 years. In 2007, then Pennsylvania Governor Edward G. Rendell appointed Ms. Cestra as chair of the Real Estate Commission. She also served as a director of the Realtors Association of Metropolitan Pittsburgh's Executive Committee and a delegate to the National Association of Realtors.

An active and involved member of the community, Ms. Cestra is currently serving as chair of the Board of the Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh. She previously served as president of St. Lucy's Auxiliary to the Blind and vice president of Pittsburgh Hearing, Speech and Deaf Services. She also served on the Board of the Winchester Thurston School and as treasurer of Fox Chapel Country Day School's Board of Trustees.

National Relocation and Real Estate Magazine honored Ms. Cestra as One of the Most Powerful Women in Real Estate in 1999. Carlow College recognized her as a Woman of Spirit in 1994. She was also honored in Washington, D.C., at the Second Annual Working Woman 500 Congress. In 2008, the Howard Hanna family was recognized by LaRoche College as the recipient of the Ad Lucem Award in honor of the Hanna family's vision, leadership, and determination.

Georgian Court University proudly awards Annie Hanna Cestra the degree of Doctor of Business Administration, *honoris causa*, for her immense success in the world of real estate and her commitment to giving back to her community.

ALICIA COOK '08

Alumna Alicia Cook '08 is the poet behind 2016's bestselling book of poetry, *Stuff I've Been Feeling Lately*, 2018's *I Hope My Voice Doesn't Skip*, and 2020's *Sorry I Haven't Texted You Back*.



After working in higher education for 12 years, she is currently director of communications for the American Guild of Musical Artists (AGMA), the labor union of professional singers, dancers, and stage staff in opera, choral performance, and concert dance.

Ms. Cook dedicates much of her life to shedding light on how drug addiction impacts the mental health of families. She released a collection of essays on the topic entitled *Heroin Is the Worst Thing to Ever Happen to Me*. An essayist and speaker, her activism to fight the opioid epidemic is far-reaching and has garnered a worldwide readership and her own episode on the PBS series *Here's the Story*.

In 2016, her debut poetry collection was named a finalist in the Goodreads Choice Awards. Ms. Cook was the recipient of the 2017 Everyday Hero Award from NJTV and the 2018 Women with Voices Award from the Women with Voices Foundation. She was named a 2019 Healthcare Hero finalist by *NJBiz*. Her writing in higher education earned her three MarCom awards and one Communicator award. Her songwriting has been recognized by *American Songwriter Magazine*. In 2020, her latest poetry book was named a semifinalist in the Goodreads Choice Awards. That same year, Georgian Court named her its Distinguished Alumni of the Year.

Ms. Cook received an M.B.A. from Saint Peter's University and a B.A. in English from Georgian Court University.

In recognition of her creative body of work and her activism in fighting the opioid epidemic, Georgian Court University proudly welcomes Alicia Cook as a Commencement speaker.

MARLENE LAÓ-COLLINS



Marlene Laó-Collins is executive director of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton, a faith-based, social-impact organization that works to prevent homelessness, reduce hunger, stabilize people with mental and substance use disorders through integrated health services, address trauma and domestic violence in specialized children's and family services, and provide legal immigration services. While predominantly in Mercer, Burlington, Monmouth, and Ocean counties, Catholic Charities offers ancillary behavioral health programs in South Jersey, a statewide human trafficking prevention and

recovery program, and statewide reunification services for unaccompanied minors. Ms. Laó-Collins provided leadership during arduous, unprecedented times such as Superstorm Sandy and the COVID-19 pandemic. She and her leadership team remained focused on keeping the doors open for those who rely on Catholic Charities' services while also ensuring staff safety.

Ms. Laó-Collins previously served as director for social concerns for the New Jersey Catholic Conference, the public policy organization for the Catholic Bishops of New Jersey. There, she made recommendations to the bishops on public policy issues; testified at legislative hearings; and worked collaboratively with numerous state agencies and statewide advocacy groups on affordable housing, public assistance, poverty, child care, child welfare, health care, and immigration. Ms. Laó-Collins had 10 years of experience in state government, where she helped manage state-run programs such as Medicaid and oversaw reforms in healthcare access for public assistance, child care, and other programs.

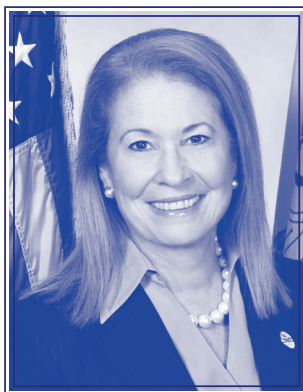
Ms. Laó-Collins, who holds a B.A. in Business Administration from Rutgers University in New Brunswick, has served on numerous boards, including the Trenton Board of Education; New Jersey Advocacy Network to End Homelessness; St. Francis Medical Center, Trenton; New Jersey Regional Equity Coalition; Anti-Poverty Network of New Jersey; and the New Jersey Immigration Policy Network. She was co-founder and member of the Mercer County Hispanic Association and the Latina Women's Council. She currently serves as vice chair on Catholic Charities USA's Board of Directors and on the board of Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, Hamilton.

Georgian Court University proudly awards Marlene Laó-Collins the degree of Doctor of Public Service, *honoris causa*, for her tireless efforts to improve lives and make a difference throughout New Jersey as executive director of Catholic Charities and her commitment to volunteerism.

JUDITH M. PERSICILLI, RN

Judith M. Persichilli, RN, began serving as Acting Commissioner of Health in August 2019 and was confirmed by the State Senate in January 2020.

Prior to leading the department, Ms. Persichilli served as the acting CEO of University Hospital in Newark. She is president emerita of CHE Trinity Health, the health ministry formed by the consolidation of Catholic Health East and Trinity Health of Livonia, Michigan, having previously served as the interim president and CEO.



Ms. Persichilli previously served as president and CEO of Catholic Health East, which she joined in 2003 as the executive vice president of the Mid-Atlantic Division. Prior to joining CHE's System Office, she served for eight years as CEO at St. Francis Medical Center in Trenton.

Ms. Persichilli received her nursing diploma from the St. Francis Hospital School of Nursing, a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Rutgers University, and a Master of Arts in Administration from Rider University. She also received an honorary Doctor of Health degree from Georgian Court University in 2009 and an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Connecticut, in 2011.

Ms. Persichilli co-founded the Catholic Foundation of Greater Philadelphia, which provides fund-raising support to organizations throughout the Greater Philadelphia region.

In 2006, Ms. Persichilli was inducted into the New Jersey State Nurses Association Hall of Honor. She received the Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton's highest honor, the Richard J. Hughes Humanitarian Award, in 2008. In 2011, Ms. Persichilli was named one of the 50 most powerful people in New Jersey health care by *NJ Biz* and received KYW Newsradio's Women's Achievement Award and the Edward J. Ill Excellence in Medicine Award for Outstanding Medical Executive. In 2011, Ms. Persichilli was also awarded the Benemerenti Medal, a papal honor bestowed on her by Pope Benedict XVI, and the Lifetime Achievement Award from *Philadelphia Business Journal's* Healthcare Innovation Awards program. She was named to Becker's Hospital Review's "300 Hospital and Health System Leaders to Know" list in 2012, which recognizes individuals leading prominent American health care organizations. *Modern Healthcare* named her to its 2013 list of Top 25 Women in Healthcare.

In recognition of her extraordinary ability to guide people and manage processes to help save lives in the state of New Jersey and beyond, Georgian Court University proudly welcomes Judith M. Persichilli as a Commencement speaker.

CLASS OF 2021

Candidates for Undergraduate Degrees

SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Bachelor of Arts

Sandra Alvarez†	Allyson G. Ferry
Melissa Rose Antonowicz‡	Brianna Fox‡
Martha Arthur	Batsheva Gewirtz†
Hannah Astone	Julia Gies‡
Shoumica Barthelemy	Courtney Rosemary Giles
Heather Paige Basmagy‡	Porscha A. Glisson
Alondra Guadalupe Bautista	Brianna Griffin
Luke Bellucci^	Kimberlie Guillaume
Keyon Norelle Billie^	Jessica Heim^
Krista Bilowus‡	Ciara Hill
Aubrey Binkley	Nicole E. Hillwig
Jennifer Blonder-Cacciarelli	Kaitlyn Schaller Inderwies
Charisma Bosley	Samantha A. Jaslow
Taylor A. Bowen‡	Courtney Rose Jones†
Michael J. Boyle‡	Shamaine Jones-Haynes
Nicole Judith Bruno†	Maren Elizabeth Kirk
Anthony Salvatore Calco	Mary Katherine Klecko‡
Erica Noelle Caleca	Elizabeth Kopelakis
Hunter Calvetto	Michelle Lynn Kugelman
Stephanie A. Cannon	Aaron Kurkowski
Aidan Sheeran Carney†	Mary Kathleen Lane
Lindsay Castro	Ester Levinson†
Paula Cespedes	Sarah Elizabeth Locklear‡
Dora Cipicic‡	Jasbeth Lopez
Madison Cole‡	Diana Carolina Lopez-Munoz‡
Randy Jay Collins	Juliana LoVaglio‡
Kirstin Nicole Connor	Chloe V. Mador
Kayvonna Daniel	Luke Mador
Patience Dennis†	Chynna Rose Maglio‡
Mary DePietro‡	Julianne Nicole Marchese‡
Laura Ann DiMartino‡	Ashley Nicole Mazza
Kelly Brianna Drake†	Edmund McSherry
Christina Epp^	Shania Gail Mejia
Danielle Evangelista‡	Caitlin Meyer‡
Tatum Evans^	Stacy Lynn Mignosi^
Mary Fedak	Stephanie Jesenia Moreno
Bethany Feinstein‡	Ashley Nanette Andrade Moya^

Briana Nicole Nespoli‡
Dawson B. Nguyen
Kennedy Miroro Omari‡
Daniel O'Reilly‡
Joshua Orgel
Marjorie Pawlowicz‡
Michael R. Perosi‡
Emily Blaise Peterson-Mansfield‡
Rebecca Lynn Pigott
Margaret M. Policastro‡
Alissa Popo^
Camilla Francesca Principe‡
Kayla Rodriguez
Lindsay Marie Roemer‡
Alan Orlando Rosales
Kelsey Eileen Ryan
Daniel Sangermano
Mariya Shagalova
Angela Sherman‡
Michelle M. Smith‡
Brianna Paige Sosdian‡

Philip J. Strobel‡
Kathleen Donna Antoinette Sweeney‡
Victoria Rose Tanna
Jacqueline Jeanette Teitelbaum
Marion Thomas‡
Tyler Thomas
Ryan R. Tjarks‡
Courtney B. Tobio‡
Jennifer Tregillies^
Gianna Marie Tufaro‡
Jamie L. Tvrdik‡
Laura Vaccaro‡
Lisa Dibo Van Hooijdonk
Carolina M. Vasquez
Julianna Maria Viscuso‡
Haylee D. Vitale^
Briana Nicole Walsh‡
Faigy Wiedert‡
Elizabeth Wines
Sarah Jenny Woodruff
Caroline Elizabeth Zonis

Bachelor of Fine Arts

Brandon Christopher Conte

Bachelor of Science

Marco Ballarin
Malaya Joyce Black
Malia Patrice Black
Shariya S. Brown
Amy Gabriella Bruno
David Isaiah Clark‡
Victoria Lynn Diaz
Morgan Dinse
Tiara Edwards^
Sarah Jean Gansereit
Brittany Taylor Giles
Amanda Giovacco‡
Hailee Gordon
Octave Hesloin^
Jamie Hickey
Morgan Houlihan‡
Heather Frances Huchko
Shannon Marie Kazenmayer‡
Gabriella Marie Leotsakas‡

Emily Ann Lynch
Jamaal Lynwood‡
Devin Martin
Abigail Mae Miller‡
Dianna Montemarano
Gavin Robbert Murphy
Yuliya Myrovych‡
Ashley Pierson
Ryan Armand Roger
Ashley Rosales
Matthew A. Rosas
Katelyn Rossi
Madison Sconzo
Sabrina M. Valerio
Juliana Marie Varela
Leah Wieland‡
Kayla Wilson
Deandra Lee Zerbo

Bachelor of Social Work

Emily Bautista-Martinez
Ditorra D. Brisbane
Jenni Rose Brown
Jocelyn Candelaria
Jaylynn O. Canseco
Adriana Castro
Brianna Elizabeth Chrzan
Tyrek Lamont Cooper
Madison Sadie Craig^
Kamauri Tre'Shonne Davis^
Rachel Ann Dillard
Kayly Donovan
Allysa R. Ellis
Yvonne Gale
Nancy Gonzalez
Rochelle Lynn Gonzalez
Xiomara Gonzalez
Alexis Lynnette Goodwin
Britney Dolores Jones

Toni Marie Kauffman^
Katie LaBrutto†
Terri L. Langlois
Zyeira Jza'Nae Mallory
Jeremy J. Marshall
Arianna Camille Ocansey
Nicolette Palazzo
Denise M. Rivera^
Melissa Santana†
Jaleeyah Saunders
Julia Saxton
Aileen Seda
Mandeep Singh‡
Tonette Stubbs
Breanna Sage Suppi
Kathy Guadalupe Villanueva^
Erin Elizabeth White
Ciara Marie Zdanowicz

SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES IN A TEACHER CERTIFICATION PROGRAM *Bachelor of Arts*

Orion Joseph Abrams‡
Tara Nicole Acquaviva
Alexandra Paige Adler
Troy Alexander Bass
Jenna Baumann
Brina Lynn Book
Kaitlyn Elizabeth Bragen
Kassandra Bucci
Bethany Lynn Budner‡
Ciara Grace Cavanagh
Cameryn E. Cimirro
Nicolette Cooper
Casey Joan Coulahan^
Sydney Nicole Crawford
Jennifer N. DePalo
Alyssa DiStefano‡
William F. Donahue Jr.†
Ashley Field
Dana M. Fontana
Antoinette Hynes
Caroline Rose Keller
Chungah Kim‡

Rebecca S. Ladin‡
Kimberly Ann Lee
Jake A. Lukenda†
Tinamarie Manning
Samantha Joanne McClelland
Bryanna Leigh Mendes‡
Taylor Alexa Moslowitz
Erin Mary O'Boyle
Danielle Ann Pappagallo
Sophia Penaherrera
Kylie M. Porzl
Molly Read‡
Jonathan Mitchell Rose
Kelsi M. Sanfilippo-Crennan
Marissa Seely‡
Anna Danielle Shotzberger
Mary Alyce Turner
Caitlin Valmas
Jade Mackenzie Warner
Jacqueline Nicole Wetzell
Vanna M. Willbergh

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND DIGITAL MEDIA

Bachelor of Arts

Jessica Lynn Konish‡
Casey Joshua Krish
Taylor O'Keefe

Matthew Pimm
Gabiella Angelica Ramirez‡
Randolph Simmons^

Bachelor of Fine Arts

Brian Daniel Larkin
Meaghan Ruth Moore

Stephanie Anne Reed
Amy Marie Szwed

Bachelor of Science

Dennis Michael Barbarise III
Anthony Michael Bortono†
Nerea Brajac
Allison D. Brunner-McBurnie
Nicholas Caldes
Richard Casperson‡
Emily Anne Cavallero
Giovanni Ciocca-Vasino‡
Bryce J. Council
Hunter A. DePietro‡
Michael Christopher Desarno‡
Paige Jennifer Eckert
Juliana Esposito
Nicholas Anthony Evanego
Barbara-Gene Garrell
Gianna L. Giezey
Nicholas Joseph Gill
Madison Heck
Shelby N. Housley‡
Nicholas A. Hudacko‡
Caitlin B. Hughes
Steven James Johnson‡
Bethuel Kipngetchi‡
Vito Licciardi
Elisa Michelle Lopez

Maria D. Lopez
Helaine McPaul‡
Tyler Joseph Micallef
Nicholas John Moran
Thomas Moran^
Kyle Jadon Muir
Maria Virginia Narvaez‡
James G. Navalance‡
Kenny Navas
Alyssa M. Nichols
Patrick Pantina
Christopher Partyka‡
Joel Quist
Savannah Marie Ruotola
Shady H. Saad^
Alexa Kyle Salva
Peter Anthony Saracino
Luca Nicolas Schad
Frank Scivoletto Jr.
Kim Justice Speller
Eric M. Stuhler
Taleeya V. Terrell‡
Brandon Walsh
Anthony Zollo

GEORGIAN COURT–HACKENSACK MERIDIAN *HEALTH*
SCHOOL OF NURSING
Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Alexandra May Acerra‡
Nicole V. Alicakos
Devorah Barenholtz
Madeline Barrale
Austin C. Biemuller‡
Renee Billiy
Yakov Shlomo Boroosan
Alyssa N. Bostock†
Arianna P. Cabezas‡
Blanca Maria Cajas‡
Nicolas A. Campagnolo‡
Nicholas J. Cardaio
Ethan A. Carpenter
Lourdany Castro-Castillo‡
Nicole Cetrulo
Vincent M. Chelli‡
Sean David Clarkson‡
Regina Antonella Colonna
Karly Covelli
Jacqueline Rose Crono
Bahar Degirmenci
Deniz Ebru DeGirmenci
Kerri Ann Dennis‡
Shoshana Yehudis Devor
Angelica DiPippa
Amanda Marie D'Orsogna
Shannon Bridget Dunn
Hindy Eisner
Kayla N. Estrella
Luana T. Falavinha‡
Rochel Feldman
Morgan Alexa Felger
Rachel Ferber
Yehudis Florans
Victoria R. Frascino‡
Kimberly Germershausen‡
Sara H. Gold
Hannah Goldberger
Sophia Rose Grandilli‡
Carol Grunstein
Tova Frayda Heimlich
Blimi Izsak
Racheli K. Jacobovits
Miriam Kahan
Shevaun Mary Keegan‡
Elinor King
Joanna Kirkicka
Chava Kirshner
Britani Kramer*
Elisheva B. Krupka
Justine LaGuardia
Kristen Nicole Lister
Amie Rose Lombard
Nicole Catherine Lonigro
Gabriela Lugos
Julie Lynne Mannon
Anna Marcotte
Kathryn R. McCue‡
Christine McHugh‡
Shannon Marie McRory‡
Danna M. Meier
Anita M. Menture
Samantha Grace Nelson
Tina Marie Nerau
Khuyen B. Nguyen‡
Juliet Nueva‡
Erin L. O'Neill
Mili U. Patel
Filipa M. Pereira‡
Veronica I. Pickering
Lauren E. Pousson‡
Brocha Prager
Jennifer E. Price‡
Julie Rai
Megan Reinhold
Cindy Reinman
Alissa Marie Rescigno
Rachel C. Rex
Sara B. Rex
Samantha Rodriguez
Esther Rubin
Devorah Sack
Samantha Josephine Salomon‡
Kathleen Patricia Scalzo‡

Miriam Schmulowitz
Christina Marie Shehata
Briana Ashley Sicoli
Chasya Spira
Samantha Rose Stanley
Julia Strother
Mirel Swiatycki
Rosie Tesler

Tzivia Bracha Trop
Chana Ahuva Wagner
Hannah Rose Werner
Juli Ann White‡
Magdalena Karolina Wiernasz
Samantha R. Wight
Yudith Yackie Ysidro
Alyssa Zambardi‡

CLASS OF 2021

Candidates for Graduate Degrees

SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Master of Arts

Elizabeth Anderson†
Miriam Anemert†
Shannon Marie Angley
Norelle Bondar
Callie Elizabeth Brown‡
Maeve Burg†
Kathleen Carr‡
George Chemaly
Janelle Lynn Christian^
Tiffanie Coby
Skye Thompson Cotler†
Amanda Crowley‡
Karen Lynn Davis
Marilyn El-Abidin†
Michelle Marie Esposito
Jaclyn Maria Fabrizio‡
Jasmine Garcia
Robert Golden
Grace P. Kurywczak
Paul Christopher La Plante
Joseph J. Laurie
Avraham Raphael Levy†
Marianne LoGrasso
Shannon Mahon
Louis Mayer
Vanessa Santos Meier^

Zahava Milstein†
Caitlin Minnich
Joseph Montone
Dolores M. Mozzillo
Josephine Michaela Murphy
Kirsten Carolyn Knight Nardini‡
Steven Olsen‡
Mark Francis Palmieri
Erika Lynn Pettersen‡
Ashley S. Plummer
Angelina Maria Powers†
Yanna Katrina Pressimone†
Tara Lennon Rempel†
William James Ross
Gina Marie Santoriello
Juliana Stolker^
Morgan Sweeney‡
Danielle Veit‡
Emily Kathryn Vore†
Monica Wacewicz‡
John L. White
Thomas Wieczerek
Elisabeth Katharina Wiedemann‡
Chana Witty†
Amanda Nicole Wojnar†

Master of Science

Theresa F. Censoplano‡

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND DIGITAL MEDIA

Master of Business Administration

Sean Ricardo Cajas-Reyes†
Bujene Celikadam
J'Son Jerome Clark^
Nicole Frances Degenhardt
Michael E. Fleischer
John Giordano
Dylan V. Gonis
Cynthia Graca
Laura Elizabeth Grodzinski
Terra Guaba
Sammy Haidi†
Scott Edward Healy

Natalie Maria Hnath
Lauren Elizabeth Holton
Savannah S. Kolesa†
Andrea Nicole Migliore
Ryan Mosser
Kristina Marie Ortiz
Amanda Perez^
Nicholas Rjedkin†
Deseria Sanders
Sergio Vergara†
Mikaela Wendolek^

Master of Science

Tanner Court Lee^
Courtney Ann Marcucci^

Amirah Onte Pierce^
Amanda Rose Warner^

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Master of Arts

Carol Priscilla Addeo^
Marya Baeta‡
Kristin Boczany^
Laura Marie Burns^
Jennifer Christ‡
Joseph W. Clark†
Corey Cohen†
Alexandra Crockett
Christina Dekovics‡
Ashley Nicole Delgado-D'Amore^
Jamie Brooke Diamond‡
Michael Dougherty‡
Renea Duval‡
Yurika Ebata^
Nicole Fiorletti‡
Kelley Gilligan‡
Melissa Ann Girkesht†
Catherine M. Golden‡
Kristen Goode†
Clyde Griffith

John Orlando Gross Jr.‡
Merritt Hoadley
Robert Kascint†
Colleen Kenny†
Shannon Keogh^
Vivien Scarlet Kok‡
Jennifer Marie Lebel†
Steven Joseph Lemoine‡
Alexandra Liguori†
Antonio Lopez†
Brittany Lyon‡
Jeffrey Madonna†
Stephanie Maestri
Kristen Maiello‡
Nicole Mandry‡
Sandra Marmolejos
Valerie McKenna^
Gwendolyn Anne Morris†
Marisa Ashley Moses^
Judith Ann Murawski

Melissa Neves
Maureen Ellen Pace†
Jimmy Pineda^
Sarah Stout Polakowski‡
Leah Roberts‡
Jeffrey Roche‡
Marissa Alexa Satzman‡
Danielle Scipione‡
Gina Marie Sette^
Lauren Marie Slodowski†

Denise Miele Sullivan^
Christine Susino‡
Adam Tivald†
Maria Tran-Carrie^
Eric Trast‡
Lauren Vasile‡
Daniele Eleanor Washington^
Jennifer Yeung†
Lauren Zerillo‡

Master of Arts in Teaching

Rachel M. Delgado
Laura Eggolt
Kristi Gambino
Kayla Fallon Harney
Michael T. Hurley‡
Cheyenne Renee Kroeger
Adam Mastapeter

Brianna Kristen Merriman
Derek Osedach
Emily Pirrotta
Laura H. Praschil‡
Kathleen Marie Samuel
Tiffany Stevens‡
Lucy Jayne Tamke

Master of Education

Brittany Alicastro‡
Jacqueline Almeida-Ramilo‡
Christine Bice†
Diane Bizien†
Erin Jean Blaney
Ashleigh Britton‡
Laura Bruzek
Marianne Buccigrossi†
Bruna Sofia Cale
Ciara Clayton‡
Lisa Coster†
Melissa DelPlato‡
Alexa Depietri†
Alicia Fernandez
Donna M. Ferreira†
Jhaad Trey Fowler
Tara Michelle Friedman
Alma Garrity‡
Barbara Gaud
Taneesha Gillard‡
Matthew Robert Grenger

Andrea Hayes†
Nancy Hernandez
Erika Karu‡
Christina Koleniak‡
Michele Lyn LaValle‡
Jennifer Matone
Jenna Elizabeth Meshirer
Michelle Ann Nagle
Quynhkhuyen Nguyen†
Steven Onorevole†
Egnita Pardo‡
Madison Perkins†
Danielle Puzzo†
Francis Rovelli‡
Madeline Nicole Ryan†
Sarah Sakowski‡
Sarah Savva†
Brittany Steele‡
Jennifer Stevens‡
Rachel Alyssa Stollar†
Nyra Marie Toby

† Degree conferred August 2020

‡ Degree conferred December 2020

^ Degree anticipated to be conferred in August or December 2021

* Degree awarded posthumously

SPECIAL UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS

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

SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

ART AND VISUAL STUDIES

First Award in Art & Visual Studies Brandon Christopher Conte
Honorable Mention in Art & Visual Studies..... Anna Danielle Shotzberger
First Award in Art Education..... Nicolette Cooper
*Ocean County Cultural & Heritage
Commission Award (Art)*..... Chloe V. Mador

BIOLOGY

First Award in Biology Ciara Grace Cavanagh
Honorable Mention in Biology Victoria Lynn Diaz
Joshua Orgel

CRIMINAL JUSTICE, ANTHROPOLOGY, SOCIOLOGY, AND HUMAN RIGHTS

First Award in Criminal Justice Alan Orlando Rosales
Honorable Mention in Criminal Justice Hannah Astone
Jasbeth Lopez

DANCE

First Award in Choreography..... Tyler Thomas
Most Accomplished Dancer Allyson G. Ferry

ENGLISH

First Award in English..... Caroline Elizabeth Zonis
Honorable Mention in English..... Kaitlyn Schaller Inderwies
Marissa Seely

HISTORY AND POLITICS

First Award in History Tinamarie Manning
Honorable Mention in History..... Luke Mador
*Ocean County Cultural & Heritage
Commission Award (History)*..... Jonathan Mitchell Rose

INTEGRATIVE HEALTH AND EXERCISE SCIENCE

- First Award in Exercise Science*Kayla Wilson
- Honorable Mention in Exercise Science*.....Jamie Hickey
- First Award in Health Profession Studies*..... Kelsey Eileen Ryan
- First Award in Health Sciences*.....Brittany Taylor Giles

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

- First Award in Interdisciplinary Studies*..... Kirstin Nicole Connor

MATHEMATICS

- First Award in Mathematics*.....Kaitlyn Elizabeth Bragen
Faigy Wieder
- Honorable Mention in Mathematics*..... Alyssa DiStefano

PSYCHOLOGY AND COUNSELING

- First Award in Psychology*.....Jacqueline Jeanette Teitelbaum
- Honorable Mention in Psychology*Kelsi M. Sanfilippo-Crennan

RELIGIOUS STUDIES, THEOLOGY, AND PHILOSOPHY

- First Award in Religious Studies*..... Erin Mary O’Boyle

SOCIAL WORK AND GERONTOLOGY

- First Award in Social Work*.....Jenni Rose Brown
Ciara Marie Zdanowicz
- Mercy and Social Justice Award* Adriana Castro
Alexis Lynnette Goodwin
- Outstanding Performance in Field*..... Kayly Donovan
Aileen Seda

WORLD LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

- First Award in Spanish*.....Alan Orlando Rosales

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND DIGITAL MEDIA

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

- First Award in Accounting*..... Kyle Jadon Muir
First Award in Business..... Patrick Pantina
Honorable Mention in Business..... Allison D. Brunner-McBurnie
First Award in Finance..... Luca Nicolas Schad
First Award in Marketing..... Gianna L. Giezey
Honorable Mention in Marketing..... Tyler Joseph Micallef

COMMUNICATION, GRAPHIC DESIGN, AND MULTIMEDIA

- First Award in Digital Communication*..... Casey Joshua Krish
Honorable Mention in Digital Communication..... Taylor O’Keefe

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

EDUCATION

- First Award in Education* Samantha Joanne McClelland
Honorable Mention in Education Ciara Grace Cavanagh

GEORGIAN COURT–HACKENSACK MERIDIAN HEALTH SCHOOL OF NURSING

NURSING

- First Award in Nursing* Cindy Reinman
Vincent M. Chelli

SOROPTOMIST INTERNATIONAL OF TOMS RIVER

*This volunteer service organization for professional women
awards one senior who has been accepted into a
graduate school program for the following semester.*

Alyssa M. Nichols

KAPPA GAMMA PI NATIONAL CATHOLIC COLLEGE GRADUATE HONOR SOCIETY

*The administration selects members from among undergraduate students
graduating with scholastic distinction, outstanding service, and leadership.*

Jennifer Blonder-Cacciarelli

Kaitlyn Elizabeth Bragen

Jenni Rose Brown

Jaylynn O. Canseco

Allyson G. Ferry

Erin Mary O'Boyle

Kayla Rodriguez

Aileen Seda

Ciara Marie Zdanowicz

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 Parel
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 Loretto 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 Parlapanides, Ed.D., '00
- 2019** Brian Gragnolati, FACHE
Justice Anne M. Patterson, J.D.
Michael A. Pontoriero, M.D., FACS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2020–2021

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M. Deborah Hanley Williams '68



OUR MISSION

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.

Nightingale Pledge

I solemnly pledge myself before God and
presence of this assembly;

To pass my life in purity and to practice
my profession faithfully.

I will abstain from whatever is deleterious
and mischievous

and will not take or knowingly administer
any harmful drug.

I will do all in my power to maintain and elevate the
standard of my profession

and will hold in confidence all personal matters
committed to my keeping

and family affairs coming to my knowledge in the
practice of my calling.

With loyalty will I endeavor to aid the
physicians in their work,

and devote myself to the welfare of those
committed to my care.

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