



COMMENCEMENT  
EXERCISES  
2015



THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

# COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND

SIXTY-SIXTH COMMENCEMENT

*Alumni of the College of Staten Island are rooted in the first commencements of Staten Island Community College in 1958 and Richmond College in 1969, our two predecessor institutions, which merged in 1976 and were renamed the College of Staten Island. Today, we honor the legacy of all our alumni and celebrate the proud history of our College as the only public institution of higher education in the borough.*

THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2015 at 9:30AM

GREAT LAWN

2800 VICTORY BOULEVARD  
STATEN ISLAND, NY 10314



## **PROGRAM**

Interpreters: Doreen Capofari, Anna Carter, Elizabeth McNelis

### **PROCESSIONAL**

### **PRESENTATION**

Grand Marshal  
George Emilio Sanchez  
*Professor and Vice Chair of College Council*

### **PRESIDING OFFICER**

Fred Naider  
*Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs*

### **NATIONAL ANTHEM**

Damian LaRocca '15  
BA, Music  
(Signing by Students in the College of Staten Island  
American Sign Language Class)

### **INVOCATION**

Reverend Nicholas P. Petropoulakos  
*Pastor, Holy Trinity-St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church*

### **WELCOME**

William J. Fritz  
*President*

### **GREETINGS**

Rita DiMartino '76  
*Trustee, The City University of New York*  
On behalf of the Board of Trustees  
  
Matthew Sapienza  
*Vice Chancellor for Budget and Finance*  
On behalf of The City University of New York  
  
Deborah Popper  
*Professor of Political Science and Global Affairs*  
On behalf of the College of Staten Island Faculty

### **CONFERRING OF HONORARY DEGREE**

William J. Fritz  
  
Sally W. Williams  
Doctor of Humane Letters

### **RECOGNITION OF PRESIDENTIAL MEDALS**

William J. Fritz  
  
Linda M. Baran  
James McBratney '05  
Irving K. Robbins  
Jean G. Roland

### **INTRODUCTION OF VALEDICTORIAN**

Fred Naider

### **VALEDICTORIAN ADDRESS**

Kawsar Ibrahim '15  
BS, Psychology

### **INDUCTION OF ALUMNI**

Arthur Merola '85  
*President, College of Staten Island Alumni Association*

### **PRESENTATION OF DEGREE CANDIDATES**

Fred Naider

### **CONFERRING OF DEGREES**

William J. Fritz

### **RECESSIONAL**

Departmental Exercises will immediately follow the Ceremony.  
A reception for graduates and guests will be held in the  
Campus Center at noon.



## COLLEGE HONORS

**CSI Valedictorian** Kawsar Ibrahim '15  
**CSI Salutatorian** Lucinda Zawadzki '15

## COLLEGE AWARDS

**Arleigh B. Williamson Liberal Arts Award**  
Jessica Wolchak

**Clara and Arleigh B. Williamson Award**  
Sophia Jordan

**Phi Beta Kappa Associates Awards**  
Jurandir Chan, Juan Clarin, Rossana Cruciata,  
Marian Cunsolo, Abeer Husein,  
Kawsar Ibrahim, Sophia Jordan, Olivia Klahr,  
Kristina Wing Yee Lam, Stephanie Layburn,  
Elena Markov, Adriane Musacchio, Kelly Reebe,  
Nicole Rivardo, Benyomin Schofield,  
Abdo Semaan, Ilona Stoyko, Oksana Tsekot,  
Lucinda Zawadzki, and Rosalie Zawadzki

## SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

**BUSINESS** *School of Business Faculty Award  
for Excellence*  
Jozef Zapotoka

*Andrew Esterly Award for Excellence*  
Tatsiana Milashevich

*Burton S. Player Award  
for Academic Excellence*  
Salvatore Giannone

*Wall Street Journal Achievement Award*  
Priscilla Torres

*CSI Auxiliary Services Corporation Award  
for Academic Excellence in Business*  
Mei Pui Chan

**ACCOUNTING AND  
FINANCE** *Beverly Curry Memorial Award*  
Kristina Belotskaya

*Professor Laura S. Nowak Award for  
Academic Excellence in Finance*  
Chandramauli Adikari  
Michael Siozios

*Charles Pinzolo Award*  
Ksenia Kiseleva

*New York State Society of Certified Public  
Accountants Award (Bachelor's Degree)*  
Jie Fei

**ECONOMICS** *Oded Remba Memorial Award  
for Excellence in Economics*  
Alonzo Smith

*CSI Auxiliary Services Corporation Award  
for Academic Excellence in Economics*  
Shenuque Tissera

**MANAGEMENT**

*Lorraine and Gordon DiPaolo  
Management Awards*  
Mark Brogna  
James Kollie  
Adam Moy

**MARKETING**

*Lorraine and Gordon DiPaolo Marketing Awards*  
Anthony DiAngelo  
Joseph Guzzo

*International Business Alumni Award*  
Megan Kohlsaat

*Dr. Libero Giovanni Moretti Award*  
Steven Woolverton

*Thomas Tellefsen Marketing Award*  
Mohammad Chughtai

**SCHOOL OF EDUCATION****EDUCATION**

*Kopple C. Friedman Commencement Award*  
Liyang Chang

*Harris Goldberg Memorial Award*  
Thomas Vuolo

*Judith Summerville Memorial Award*  
Natalie Tamarez

*CSI Auxiliary Services Corporation Award  
for Academic Excellence in Education*  
Kristin Russo Colasanto

**SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES****NURSING**

*AAS Award in Nursing*  
Shani Jankelevits

*BSN Award in Nursing*  
Rosalind Weiss

*CSI Auxiliary Services Corporation Award  
for Academic Excellence in Nursing*  
Ingrid Prince

**PHYSICAL THERAPY**

*Physical Therapy Department Faculty Awards  
for Service in Physical Therapy*  
Rebecca Bullen  
Ann Mackey  
Maureen McDonough  
Nicole Savarese  
Brian Sherman  
Denise Uttaro

*New York Physical Therapy Association  
Brooklyn-Staten Island District Meritorious  
Student Achievement Award*  
Brian Sherman

*Physical Therapy Faculty Award for  
Excellence in Physical Therapy*  
Ann Mackey



## DIVISION OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

### ENGLISH

*Grace S. and Thomas Feola Award*  
Lyndell Matteo

*Earl Jacobs Memorial Award*  
Alixandra Petersen

*Creative Writing Award*  
Michael Santiago

*English Department Linguistic Awards*  
Medine Kovacevic  
Melynda Kuppler

*English Department Literature Award*  
Stephanie Layburn

*Ely Stock Memorial Award*  
Marie Amato

*Rebberg Memorial Award for  
Academic Excellence in Poetry*  
Danielle Fletcher

*Speech Science Research Award*  
Jessica Spensieri

*CSI Auxiliary Services Corporation Award  
for Academic Excellence in English*  
Anthony Bongiorno

### HISTORY

*Professor Herbert Foster-James  
Sturm-Don Hausdorff Memorial Award*  
Gregory Giordano

*Francois Ngolet Memorial Awards*  
Abeer Husein  
Adriane Musacchio

*Stanley Plastrik Memorial  
Commencement Award*  
Brian Murphy

*CSI Auxiliary Services Corporation Award  
for Academic Excellence in History*  
Samantha Coppola

### MEDIA CULTURE

*Media Culture Department Award:  
Cinema Studies*  
Alonzo Smith

*Media Culture Department Awards:  
Communications*  
Raechel Eliassen  
Samantha Endrom  
Stacey Gitto  
Laura Lagoudis  
Steven Martinez  
John McCarthy  
Theresa Pessolano  
Yasmine Rimawi

*Elliot Rubenstein Memorial Award*  
Christi Boland

*CSI Auxiliary Services Corporation Award  
for Academic Excellence in  
Media Culture*  
Jenna Rubertone

**PERFORMING AND  
CREATIVE ARTS**

*Performing and Creative Arts  
Department Award: Art*  
Victoria Hertel

*Performing and Creative Arts  
Department Awards: Dramatic Arts*  
Mellonnie Davis  
Ayasha Sampson

*Performing and Creative Arts  
Department Awards: Music*  
Sara Dupre  
Jose Mendez  
Jane Saunders  
Benyomin Schofield

*Andrea Batista Award*  
Daniela Favaloro

*Ted McIrvine Memorial Award*  
Patrick Nowak

*Margaret Ricciardi Commencement Award  
for Studio Art*  
Brian Ortiz

*CSI Auxiliary Services Corporation Award  
for Academic Excellence in  
Performing and Creative Arts*  
Jane Saunders

**PHILOSOPHY**

*Donna Mayer Award  
for Academic Excellence*  
James Fahey

*Excellence in Philosophy Awards*  
Christopher Damitz  
Mohammed Naser  
Charles Prestigiacomo  
Nyah Smith

**POLITICAL SCIENCE  
AND GLOBAL AFFAIRS**

*Laura Schwartz Memorial Award  
for Excellence in Political Science*  
Ahmed Ahmed

*Robert J. Schwenk Political Science Awards*  
Michael Nappi  
Alyssa Olivo

**PSYCHOLOGY**

*Psychology Departmental Awards*  
Hana Moustapha  
Vincent Wong

*Mark Guterman Memorial Award*  
Lisa Gniewkowski

*Anya Gabriela Koppersmith Memorial Award*  
Divina Wiley

*Deitch Psychological Studies Awards  
for Evening Students*  
Keegan Fernandes  
Genevieve Montevicchi

*CSI Auxiliary Services Corporation Award  
for Academic Excellence in Psychology*  
Kawsar Ibrahim

**SOCIAL WORK**

*CSI Auxiliary Service Award for Academic  
Excellence in Social Work*  
Nicole Locricchio

**SOCIOLOGY AND  
ANTHROPOLOGY**

*Sociology and Anthropology Department  
Faculty Award*  
Anita Duka

*Judith Balfe Memorial Award*  
Alexis Viruet

*Angela Peña-Ayala Memorial Award*  
Tanya Desmond

*Emil Oestereicher Memorial Award*  
Tanya Faye

*CSI Auxiliary Services Corporation Award  
for Academic Excellence in Sociology  
and Anthropology*  
Nicole Rivardo

**WORLD LANGUAGES  
AND LITERATURES**

*World Languages and Literatures  
Department Award for Excellence in Italian*  
Jurandir Chan

*World Languages and Literatures  
Department Award for Excellence in Spanish*  
Sandra Flores Hernandez

*CSI Auxiliary Service Award for Academic  
Excellence in World Languages and Literatures*  
Jurandir Chan

**DIVISION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

**BIOLOGY**

*Biology Department Faculty Awards*  
Lucinda Zawadzki  
Rosalie Zawadzki

*Biology Department Faculty Awards  
for Research*  
Rossana Cruciatu  
Kristina Wing Yee Lam

*Biology Department Faculty Awards  
and the Joseph and Eileen Carlton Memorial  
Fund for Service to the Biology Department*  
Justin Atos  
Christian Crespo

*Melvin Baumel Memorial Award  
in Medical Technology*  
Albert Chow

*Paris Garcia Memorial Award*  
Robert Pashayan

*CSI Auxiliary Services Corporation Award  
for Excellence in Biology*  
Elena Markov

*Joseph Vagvolgyi Memorial Award*  
Irena Jmukhadze

**CHEMISTRY**

*Chemistry Department Awards*  
Getuarb Duka  
Edward He  
Kevin Lee

*Patricia A. Nolan Award*  
Abdo Semaan

*CSI Auxiliary Services Corporation Award for  
Academic Excellence in Chemistry/Biochemistry*  
Ilona Stoyko

**COMPUTER SCIENCE**

*Maung Aung Memorial Awards*  
Ardita Musovic  
Justin Van Wygerden

*Warren G. Simmons Memorial Award*  
Mohammad Butt

*Computer Science Department Awards*  
Islam Allan  
Fateeha Amjad  
Justin Bastawrose  
Robert Dacunto  
Louis Gaeta  
Paul Guglielmetti  
Sungji Ha  
Thomas Kurian  
Michael Ruffe  
Quang Tran  
Jonathan Zimmer

*CSI Auxiliary Services Corporation Award  
for Outstanding Service in Computer Science*  
Amy Luo

**ENGINEERING SCIENCE  
AND PHYSICS**

*Giovanni S. Impeduglia Memorial  
Commencement Award*  
Thomas Vuolo

*CSI Auxiliary Services Corporation Award  
for Academic Excellence in  
Engineering Science and Physics*  
Evgeniya Koshelyaevskaya

**ENGINEERING  
TECHNOLOGIES**

*Henry Huang Memorial Award*  
Tahir Hussain

*Morris E. Levine Memorial Award*  
Kewin Tham

*John Mulligan Memorial Awards*  
Constantin Bercov  
Joseph Konczynski

**MATHEMATICS**

*Sberry Blackman Memorial Award*  
Angelo Rago

*Louis Blake Memorial Award*

Danielle Auriti

*Benedict Carlat Memorial Award  
for Outstanding Work in Mathematics*

Argeta Benis

*Mabel Szeto Memorial Award*

Justin Van Wygerden

*CSI Auxiliary Services Corporation Award  
for Academic Excellence in Mathematics*

Lydia Chung

## **GRADUATE AWARDS**

### **SCHOOL OF EDUCATION**

*Louise Colavito Award in Education*

Ian Feldman

*MS Award In Education*

Nelli Smirnova

### **SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES**

*MS Award in Nursing*

Mary Saputo

### **HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

*MA Award in English*

Laura D'Anna

*Federick M. Binder MALS Award for  
Outstanding Scholarly Achievement*

Rocco Astore

*The Richard Gid Powers Award in  
American Studies*

Kevin Gomez

*Michael Greenberg, Sadrul A. Khan, and  
Stephen J. Stearns Memorial Award*

Ryan Eisenbraun

*George Custen Memorial Awards  
in Cinema and Media Studies*

Ximena Aliaguilla

Laura Christiansen

*Clinical Mental Health Counseling Award  
in Psychology*

Jianna Barhoum

*MA Award in Social Work*

Alexa Donnelly

### **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

*MS Awards in Biology*

Alzahraa Amer

Sari Katzen

Kristi Russo

Ella Viola

*MS Awards in Computer Science*

Srikari Sindhoori Datla

Endrit Kokunja

Roman Lavrov

*Environmental Science Award*

Padmi Ranasinghe

*Neuroscience MS/Doctoral Program Awards*

Elsie Arce  
Emelyne Baucicaut  
Gabriella Colonna  
Nicole LaMassa  
Cristen Melfi

**INTERDISCIPLINARY AWARDS**

*CORE 100 Award*

Carey Leiterman

*Honors in Science, Letters, and Society*

Jaelyn Miceli

*International Studies*

Asmaa Elamrousy

**DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS**

*Percy Ellis Sutton SEEK Program Award for  
Academic Achievement and Service  
to the Program*

Kevin Gomez

*John Conway Memorial Award*

Jamie Sterner

*Billy Fraser Achievement Award*

Marc Weitzman

*James Ortiz, Jr. Memorial Award*

Allen Rivera

*Melvin Baumel Memorial Basketball Award*

Kevin Swanberg

*Female Athlete of the Year Award*

Brittany Smith

*Male Athlete of the Year Award*

Alfonso Castaneda

*Student Government Student Service  
Awards/Students*

Sarah Ahmad  
Newton Brooks  
Jurandir Chan  
Katrina Hannan  
Mitchell Harris  
Rana Mohammad  
Ibrahim Sangare

**SAUNDRA FRANKEL MEMORIAL AWARDS**

*Medical Technology (Bachelor's Degree)*

Gracie Cai

*Nursing (Associate's Degree)*

Olga Kubash

*Nursing (Bachelor's Degree)*

Francesca Messina

*Physical Therapy (Bachelor's/Master's Degree)*

Ann Mackey

## OTHER AWARDS

### *CSI Alumni Association Outstanding Student Leadership Awards*

Sarah Ahmed  
Kelly Woodford  
Vincent Wong

### *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges*

Gino Agneses  
Ahmed Ahmed  
Salsabeel Allan  
Steve Arriaga  
Justin Atos  
Zana Barrow  
Cathy-Ann Borges  
Christopher Buonocore  
Aissata Camara  
Brandon Cardella  
Arthur Cardinale  
Jurandir Chan  
Francis Colonna  
Faith D'Alessandra  
Christina Daquieno  
Lucia Edwards  
Kaitlyn Egan  
Hassan Fares  
Christine Fisher  
Diana France  
Mirna Germano  
Elena Ghelan  
John Gioeli  
Leidona Gjonovic  
Erica Golin  
Joelle Grunblatt  
Sue Ann Herrera  
Laura Hollingsworth  
Stephen Hongach  
Abeer Husein  
Maryann Ibrahim  
Alexandra Imbesi  
Alexander Improta  
Praisey Jacob  
Stephanie Jara  
Kopro Jo-Joe  
Christopher Jones  
Kellie Joseph  
Farzeen Kanwal  
Sari Katzen  
Luiza Kayumova  
Megan Kohlsaar  
Evgeniya Koshelyaevskaya  
Dona Wasana M. Navinna Kottage  
Dennis Lam  
Kristina Lam  
Rin Zhi Larocque  
Xue Qing Liang  
Laura Lund  
Sally Mach  
Victoria Manzo

Dorothea Martin  
Malcolm McPherson  
Renee Merritt  
Natallia Murzich  
Adriane Musacchio  
Bassem Nawar  
Anita Ohemenggyan  
Christina Olsen  
Maria Pagani  
Richard Pallarino  
Dakota Paxton  
Amanda Percaccio  
Rachel Postiglione  
Anthony Raguso  
Merlin Raj  
John Rubino  
Hana Sajjad  
Ibrahim Sangare  
Omolola Saula  
Danielle Scozzari  
Danielle Sicilia  
Dajah Smith  
Karolina Truchel  
Emmanuella Ulas  
Erica Villamar  
Ella Viola  
Robert White  
Masha Wickramasinghe  
Gail Wodkiewicz  
Irma Karina Cruz Velez  
Inessa Zahkariashvili  
Peipei Zhang  
Luyao Zheng



## **DOLPHIN AWARDS**

*Outstanding Scholarly Achievement  
by a Member of the Full-Time Faculty*  
Deborah Popper

*Outstanding Teaching  
by a Member of the Full-Time Faculty*  
Sondra Brandler

*Outstanding Service and Contribution to the  
College by a Member of the Full-Time Faculty*  
Gordon DiPaolo

*Outstanding Teaching  
by a Member of the Adjunct Faculty*  
Anthony Romano

*Outstanding Service and Contribution to the  
College by a Member of the Non-Instructional  
Staff in HEO Title*  
Lillian McGinn

*Outstanding Service and Contribution  
to the College by a Member of the  
Non-Instructional Staff in CLT and OIT  
Specialist Title*  
Gabriel Cynowicz

*Outstanding Service and Contribution  
to the College by a Member of the  
Non-Instructional Staff in Clerical Function*  
Elaine Rocco

*Outstanding Service and Contribution to the  
College by a Member of the Non-Instructional  
Staff in Maintenance, Operations, Security  
Services, and Support Functions*  
Lucy Tirado

*Outstanding Service and Contribution  
to the College by a Member of the  
Part-Time, Non-Instructional Staff*  
Donna Sipp

*Outstanding Service and Contribution  
to the College by a Currently Enrolled Student*  
Erica Golin

## **HONORARY DEGREE**

### **Sally W. Williams**

You are a native Staten Islander and lifelong champion of our community, following in the footsteps of your father, Dr. Arleigh B. Williamson, one of the founders of our predecessor institutions, Staten Island Community College and Richmond College, without which we wouldn't be here today. Your education spans from Curtis High School to Cornell University, where you received a degree in Government.

Your professional career, all in the federal government, spanned 35 years. You began your tenure with the Civil Service Commission in Washington, DC. Then, you worked for several years for the Department of the Army in Boston before moving to Japan.

Eventually, you returned to Staten Island and resumed your career with the U.S. Civil Service Commission, which later became the Office of Personnel Management, a few years later, serving in the New York Regional office. Subsequently, you moved to Commission offices in Buffalo, where you were the first woman to run the office; San Francisco, where you worked to establish that office; and Newark, before landing in Philadelphia, where you became Chief of the Staffing Services Division, overseeing the agency's field offices throughout the Northeast, and Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. You retired from this position.

You also served as the former President of the New York State Chapter of the International Personnel Management Association and the New York Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration, and National Chair for ASPA's Section for Personnel and Labor Relations.

In an effort to continue your father's commitment to the community, you have served in a number of high-profile roles on Staten Island. You are a founding member and past President of the College of Staten Island Foundation, where you continue to serve on the Board of Directors. You are also past President of the Greenbelt Conservancy, where you facilitated the opening of the Greenbelt Nature Center, and a current Board member; former Vice President and Treasurer of the Staten Island Botanical Garden; and former President of the Staten Island Citizens' Planning Committee of the Freshkills Landfill. You continue your work today as a community activist.

In recognition of your passionate commitment to our College and community, the faculty of the College of Staten Island of The City University of New York awards you the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters.

In pursuance of the authority vested in me by law and on the recommendation of the faculty, in accordance with the action of the Board of Trustees of The City University of New York, I now confer upon Sally W. Williams the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, with all the rights, privileges, honors, responsibilities, and immunities.

## **PRESIDENT'S MEDALS**

### **Linda M. Baran**

Linda M. Baran is President and CEO of the Staten Island Chamber of Commerce, where she has worked for the past 28 years. In May 2004, Ms. Baran was elected by the Chamber's Board of Directors as the first woman President and CEO of the organization. Prior to that, she served as the Interim President for seven months and held the position of Vice President of Finance and Resources. She has worked in many areas of the Chamber, including Finance and Operations and Membership Development, Community Relations, and Special Events, as well as Government and Legislative Affairs. Ms. Baran also serves on the Board of the Chamber Alliance of New York State (CANYS) and plays an active role in the Five Borough Chamber Coalition. She has served on Governor Cuomo's Community Rising Planning committee, where she has worked tirelessly in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy to provide resources and information to affected Staten Island businesses, and she currently serves as the President of the Staten Island Rotary Club, as a board member of Notre Dame Academy, and as an advisory board member for the Small Business Development Center at the College of Staten Island. Ms. Baran has received a number of awards for her service, including a CSI College Award in 2005. She is a native Staten Islander who grew up in Midland Beach, and currently resides in Great Kills with her family.

### **James McBratney**

James McBratney is the President of the Staten Island Restaurant and Tavern Association, and owner of Jimmy Max Bar and Restaurant. A self-described "passionate Staten Islander," he was educated in the NYC public school system and briefly attended the University of Miami and Wagner College before enrolling at CSI, where he graduated in 2005 with a BS in Business Management. In 1989, Mr. McBratney and his grandfather John Denino co-founded Jimmy Max, which recently celebrated its 25th anniversary. He is a former CSI Alumni Association Board member, has served as the Chairperson of the CSI Alumni Association's annual Savor the Flavors event since its inception in 2010, and is also on the Board of Management at the West Brighton YMCA. Today, much of his time is dedicated to coaching baseball at Snug Harbor Little League, soccer for Our Lady of Good Counsel, and football for the 911 flag football Raiders. Mr. McBratney is the proud father of five: James, Jenna, Mark, Kayla, and Liam. He is married to Kathleen McBratney (Driscoll) who received her undergraduate, master's, and administrative certificate all from CSI. They reside in West Brighton in Staten Island. His four grandparents were all born on the North Shore of the Island.

### **Irving K. Robbins**

Irving K. Robbins is an Associate Professor of Engineering and Physics at the College of Staten Island, and Director of CSI's Astrophysical Observatory. He received a BS in Physics and Mathematics from The City College of New York and an MS in Physics from New York University. Prof. Robbins has been very active in his more than 46 years at CSI. The founder of the College's Astrophysics program, his research has led to the confirmed discovery of a minor planet, five potential

discoveries, and the recovery of two lost asteroids. Most recently, he has been involved in the active tracking and discovery of asteroids. Prof. Robbins has also served as a mentor to STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) undergraduate students in research techniques, has organized and hosted numerous day and evening viewing events at the CSI Observatory for our students and the general public, and has given frequent lectures throughout the area on “Asteroid and Comet Impacts with Consequences for Planet Earth” and other space science topics over the years. Prof. Robbins has received extensive recognition for his scholarship and dedication to his field including a CSI Dolphin Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1997, a Chancellor’s Certificate of Recognition in 2002, a Performance Excellence Award from PSC-CUNY and CSI in 1999, and a Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics Fellowship in 1993, as well as grants from the National Science Foundation and NASA.

### **Jean G. Roland**

Jean G. Roland is a native Staten Islander, a published poet, and a fervent supporter of the Staten Island community and the College of Staten Island. She has served in a number of capacities, such as former board member of the Staten Island Museum, the Staten Island Mental Health Society, and Staten Island Historical Society. Beyond her literary pursuits, where she participated in writing workshops at The New School and the Noble Maritime Collection, Ms. Roland has also studied sculpture with Alexander Archipenko, and William King at the Brooklyn Museum, as well as welding at Pratt Institute. She was married to the late Dr. Albert Roland, a graduate of Curtis High School, The City College/CUNY, and New York University Dental School, who eventually served as President of the Richmond County Dental Society. Although Dr. Roland was an alumnus of City College, the Rolands have been supporters and good friends of the College of Staten Island because it was the CUNY institution in their community. Ms. Roland has continued that support and dedication to this day.

# *Degree Candidates 2015*

The listing of names, degrees, and honors to be conferred, appearing herein, is subject to such changes, deletions, and additions as may be necessary to conform to the final and official records of the College of Staten Island. This listing includes potential candidates for graduation and is not an official list of graduates. Awarding of degrees and honors is contingent upon certification by the Registrar pending receipt of final grades.

*Latin Honors are granted pending determination by the Registrar's Office that candidates have satisfied the requirements.*

- \*\*\* summa cum laude (GPA of at least 3.90)
- \*\* magna cum laude (GPA of at least 3.75)
- \* cum laude (GPA of at least 3.50)



## JANUARY 2015

### *Associate in Applied Science*

Sarah Abraham  
David Acosta  
Ruslan Antonich  
Iulia Blagodar  
Samantha Casco  
Joanne Ciccone  
Juliana Crifasi  
Preston Daniel  
Anastasia Deluca  
Nicholas Dolcemaschio  
Victoria Filippazzo  
Daniel Gantman  
Melissa Gelardi  
Roksolyana Gladoun  
Christine Gorman  
Anya Govia  
Fitore Halili \*  
Kevin Hosmer  
Maegan Hotchkiss  
Stephanie Hunt  
Praisey Jacob \*  
Shani Jankelovits \*\*  
Olga Kubash \*\*  
Helen Lashiker  
Philip Lee  
Danielle Lentini  
Jillian Lisi  
Georgiy Lyzhin \*  
Sarhara Mahomed  
Kimete Maskuli  
Zakaria Merfouk  
Jennifer Merz  
Tara Messina \*  
Thomas Notaro  
Amanda Noto \*\*  
Okechukwu Okoronkwo  
William Olsen  
Rosanna O'Mallon \*  
Lori Pagano  
Joyce Pisanti \*\*\*  
Jasmine Redman  
Kaitlyn Rosendorf  
Joseph Russo  
Lisa Samuel  
Omolola Saula \*  
Anna Soubbotina  
Diana Tlatenchi \*  
Cristal Torres  
April Vanwagoner  
Xin Wang  
Jack Xu  
Alesia Zhuk  
Tatyana Zinchenko \*  
Dimitra Zorbass

### *Associate in Arts*

Manar Abdelaziz \*\*

Morire Akindutire  
Alexa Anderson  
Salmana Bah  
Frida Balla  
Matthew Basile  
Tiffany Beasley  
Morgan Benggio  
Brianna Benitez  
Olivia Braccio  
Tilson Brito-Urena  
Vladyslav Budnik  
Nicole Caccavale  
Genesis Camacho  
Kristina Checchia  
Nicolle Cillis  
Amanda Cipolla  
Ramanda Clarke  
Ashley Cruz  
Susan Delpino  
Michelle Depietro  
Tatiana Dragunskiy  
Iman Elramsisy  
Moses Esuola  
Daniel Falero  
Christina Fillbrunn  
Anthony Fontana  
Michael Forquignon  
Victor Forte  
Joanne German \*  
Amirah Ghanem  
Jennifer Gitter  
Donna Green  
Bianca Hayes  
Jose Hernandez  
Brian Hozer  
Angel Irizarry  
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Alexandra Maida  
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Jessica Zito \*  
Rose Zrake

*Bachelor of Fine Arts*  
Stephanie Betances

*Bachelor of Science*  
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Ameer Ahmad  
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Liudmila Aliakseichyk  
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Yuting Zheng  
Tongyan Zhou  
Wenmei Zhu \*

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Laura Christiansen

### *Master of Arts in English*

Anthony Bongiorno

### *Master of Arts in History*

Matthew Bartels

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Barbara Leskowicz

Matthew Navarria

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Jianna Barhoum

Rita Caputo

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Jacqueline Imbemba

Leana Leon

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Azadeh Shirgir

Victoria Smushko

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Lauren Suleiman

Nicholas Tamborra

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Stephanie Torres  
Gail Wodkiewicz

### ***Master of Science in Adult- Gerontology CNS***

Ellen Cooper  
Mirna Germano

### ***Master of Science in Biology***

Alzahraa Amer

### ***Master of Science in Computer Science***

Venkat Davuluri  
Srikanth Reddy Yadaram

### ***Master of Science in Environmental Science***

Sarah Clark

### ***Master of Science in Neuroscience***

Salem Bn-Mohsen

### ***Master of Science in Education- Adolescence Education***

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Michael Balzano  
Vincent Dellatacoma  
Sandra Mastellone  
Daniel Pfeiffer

### ***Master of Science in Education- Childhood Education***

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Christine Gentiluomo  
Priscilla Scarpati  
Jessica Schroeder

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Danielle Blazewicz  
Jonida Dosti  
Giovanna Giurdanella  
Irina Grigoryan  
Scott Heller  
Paulina Krasnik  
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Elizabeth Mancini  
Edwin Mau  
Elizabeth Milone  
Jessica Naylor  
Jill Neary  
Amanda Putzer  
Rachel Rudoff  
Anna Savona

Kellyann Susino  
Mimoza Teplani  
Paulina Zygarlicka

### ***Post Master's Dual Certificate in Leadership in Education- School Building Leader and School District Leader***

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Christopher Diforte  
Kellyanne Gallo  
Daniel Greenberg  
Maureen Heimenrath  
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Melissa Mcbratney  
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Nechama Averick \*\*  
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Gabrielle Devoti  
Christina Dibella  
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Luis Espinal  
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David Desantis  
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*Associate in Science*  
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Danish Qamer  
Fjolla Qorrolli  
Vincent Ricciardi  
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Veronika Stefanishina  
Kareem Wilson

### *Bachelor of Arts*

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Sade Eastmond-Brown  
Jayson Edmund  
Yara Edrees



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Lia Gamble \*  
Carmen Gamez  
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Michael Garcia  
Chelsea Garland  
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Isaac Garrido  
Gregory Garvin  
Jonathan Gavidia  
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## THE ACADEMIC PROCESSION

Ceremonies at American colleges and universities go back to ceremonies at the universities of medieval Europe, which were closely linked with religious orders. Most teachers were members of the clergy; many students expected to take holy orders.

Academic costumes are derived from clerical dress. They also reflect rank: as ordinary clergymen wear less elaborate costumes than bishops, so undergraduates wear less elaborate costumes than professors. Then, academic costumes, worn every day, were functional: hoods, for example, protected the head from cold and from inclement weather and dropped back onto the shoulders when not needed. Now, hoods are ceremonial.

American academic costumes can be “read” for information. Bachelors’ gowns are simple, with modestly gathered sleeves that extend to the wrist. Masters’ gowns have long kimono-like sleeves. Doctors’ gowns have full gathered sleeves with velvet bands. Bachelors’ hoods are small, masters’ hoods are somewhat larger, and doctors’ hoods are knee-length. Today, instead of receiving hoods at commencement, undergraduates shift the tassels on their mortarboards from right to left when their degrees are conferred.

Most hoods have velvet borders whose color designates the academic fields of the wearers, as follows:

white	arts and letters
drab	business administration
copper	economics
light blue	education
orange	engineering
brown	fine arts
purple	law
lemon	library science
green	medicine
pink	music
blue	philosophy (and other liberal arts)
sage green	physical education
gold	science
scarlet	theology

Colored velvet also trims the front edges of doctors’ gowns.

Hoods are lined with the colors of the schools that grant the wearers’ degrees, sometimes a single color, sometimes two, one a field color and the other a chevron-shaped stripe. The colors of the College of Staten Island are gray and CSI blue; its masters’ hoods have gray as the field color, College blue as the chevron color.

In recent years, universities have adopted colored doctoral gowns to take the place of black gowns. Ordinarily, these gowns use the field color of the institutions’ doctoral hoods: Columbia and Yale university gowns are a pale blue and a medium blue, for example, Harvard and Rutgers university gowns are crimson, New York University gowns are violet, Princeton University gowns are orange, and The City University of New York gowns are dark blue.

Academic processions, like religious processions, are organized hierarchically. Bachelor’s degree candidates come first, then master’s degree candidates, then faculty, then administrators, trustees, and honorary degree candidates. The president, who comes last, is preceded by a mace bearer. This order is reversed in recessionals.

The College of Staten Island’s mace, dedicated in 1986 to mark the tenth anniversary of the College, was made by a Finnish American silversmith, Veikko Huotari. The College’s seal is at the top above four ornaments: the seals of Staten Island Community College and Richmond College (its predecessor institutions), the symbol of the borough of Staten Island, and dolphins, the College’s mascot. The College’s motto, “Opportunity and Challenge,” encircles the neck of the mace’s shaft.









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