

COMMENCEMENT
EXERCISES
2016



THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND

SIXTY-SEVENTH 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, JUNE 2, 2016 at 9:30AM

GREAT LAWN

2800 VICTORY BOULEVARD
STATEN ISLAND, NY 10314



With deep ties to Staten Island and New York City, the College of Staten Island celebrates ***A Proud Tradition of Excellence since 1956*** with a year-long 60th Anniversary celebration. From the establishment of Staten Island Community College in 1956 as the Borough's public institution of higher education of The City University of New York, to the formation of the progressive Richmond College in 1967, which offered interdisciplinary courses leading to baccalaureate and master's degrees, the College of Staten Island was born in 1976 when these two academic institutions merged. In 1993, the College of Staten Island moved to its current 204-acre Willowbrook campus, opened CSI Merrill in 2014 to offer Continuing Education and Professional Development opportunities, and will open CSI St. George in fall 2016 to provide expanded access to excellent higher education courses at the heart of the Island's transportation hub.

The College's 60th Anniversary logo, which is featured on the front of the Commencement program, was designed by Robert Weber, Class of 2016. A Communications major with a minor in Design and Digital Media, Weber graduates Magna Cum Laude with a 3.8 GPA. A graduate of Susan Wagner High School, Weber holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management from St. John's University and has studied Information Security and Forensics for two years at Rochester Institute of Technology. During the summer of 2016, he will intern with the CNET property of CBS Interactive in New York.

PROGRAM

Interpreters: Anna Carter, Elizabeth McNelis, Nicole Safford

PROCESSIONAL

PRESENTATION

John Verzani

Professor of Mathematics and Vice Chair of College Council

PRESIDING OFFICER

Gary W. Reichard

Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Faith Walton '16

BS, Music

*(Signing by Students in the College of Staten Island
American Sign Language Class)*

INVOCATION

Monsignor Peter Finn '71

Pastor of Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Church

WELCOMING REMARKS

William J. Fritz

President

GREETINGS

Jill O'Donnell-Tormey

Trustee, The City University of New York

On behalf of the Board of Trustees

Brian Cohen

Vice Chancellor and University Chief Information Officer

On behalf of The City University of New York

Richard Flanagan

Professor of Political Science and Global Affairs

On behalf of the College of Staten Island Faculty

CONFERRAL OF HONORARY DEGREES

William J. Fritz

Khalid Iqbal

Doctorate of Science

John Douglas Thompson

Doctorate of Humane Letters

RECOGNITION OF PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL RECIPIENTS

William J. Fritz

Edward Burke

Christine D. Cea '88

Cesar J. Claro

Wilma P. L. Jones

INTRODUCTION OF VALEDICTORIAN

Gary W. Reichard

Valedictorian Address

RinZhi Go Larocque '16

BS, Biology

INDUCTION OF ALUMNI

Carole Gervasi '02

President, College of Staten Island Alumni Association

PRESENTATION OF DEGREE CANDIDATES

Gary W. Reichard

CONFERRAL 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 12:30pm.

COLLEGE HONORS

CSI Valedictorian RinZhi Go Larocque '16
CSI Salutatorian Tyler Franco '16

COLLEGE AWARDS

Arleigh B. Williamson Liberal Arts Award
Sr Disni Sayakkara

Clara and Arleigh B. Williamson Award
Frank Bonadonna

Phi Beta Kappa Associates Awards
Gino Agnese, Frank Bonadonna,
Naomi Edwards, Sergio Mendoza Gallardo,
Aileen Krotz, RinZhi Go Larocque,
Adriana Lupo, Edward O'Shea,
Joseph Palumbo, Vyshnavi Rajendra,
Edward Ruffe, Peter Scasny,
Brendon Ursomanno, Matthew Vuotto,
and Nadia Zaki

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

BUSINESS *School of Business Founding Dean's
Leadership Award*
Mallory Baio

*School of Business Faculty Award
for Excellence*
Robert Spampinato

Andrew Esterly Award for Academic Excellence
Devon Oliva

*Burton S. Player Award
for Academic Excellence*
Christine Obermaier

Wall Street Journal Achievement Award
S. Tharuki Perera

**ACCOUNTING AND
FINANCE** *Beverly Curry Memorial Award*
Geethmi Mapatunage

*Professor Laura S. Nowak Awards for
Academic Excellence in Finance*
Steven Czerniawski
Anthony Libutti

Charles Pinzolo Award
Ramy Zakir

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

*CSI Auxiliary Services Corporation Award
for Academic Excellence in Accounting
and Finance*
Stacey Weiner

ECONOMICS

*Oded Remba Memorial Award
for Excellence in Economics*
Matthew Basile

*CSI Auxiliary Services Corporation Award
for Academic Excellence in Economics*
Shelby Sanchez

MANAGEMENT

*Lorraine and Gordon Di Paolo
Management Awards*
Joshua Goldman
John Grieco
Christina Sobrado

*CSI Auxiliary Services Corporation Award
for Academic Excellence in Management*
Shumaila Irshad

MARKETING

*Lorraine and Gordon Di Paolo
Marketing Award*
Yuheng Liao

International Business Alumni Awards
Veronica LaManna
Luyao Zheng

Dr. Libero Giovanni Moretti Award
Elisa Csorba

Thomas Tellefsen Marketing Award
Jonathan Saquisili

*CSI Auxiliary Services Corporation Award
for Academic Excellence in Marketing*
Guilian Lin

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

Kopple C. Friedman Commencement Award
Michelle Korn

EDUCATIONAL STUDIES

Harris Goldberg Memorial Award
Xue Qing Liang

Judith Summerville Memorial Award
Lokyee Victoria Wong

*CSI Auxiliary Services Corporation Award
for Academic Excellence in Education*
Nicholas Questel

SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES

NURSING

AAS Award in Nursing
Elizabeth Khmel'nitsky

BSN Award in Nursing
Jeanette Beloy

*CSI Auxiliary Services Corporation Award
for Academic Excellence in Nursing*
Stacy Appiah

PHYSICAL THERAPY

*Physical Therapy Department Faculty Awards
for Service in Physical Therapy*

Shiney David
Kerry McPartlan
Amanda Percaccio
Emily Reid

*New York Physical Therapy Association
Brooklyn-Staten Island District Meritorious
Student Achievement Award*
Paul Nasri

*Physical Therapy Faculty Award for
Excellence in Physical Therapy*
Kerry McPartlan

*Physical Therapy Department Faculty Award
for Excellent Research Capstone Project*
Luke Dixon
Mohamed Ibrahim
Danielle Santora

DIVISION OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**ENGLISH**

Grace S. and Thomas Feola Award
Manar Abdelaziz

Earl Jacobs Memorial Award
Joseph Palumbo

Creative Writing Award
Fion Wu

English Department Linguistic Award
Elinora Gruber

English Department Literature Award
Lucia Rossi

Ely Stock Memorial Award
James McGowan

*Rebberg Memorial Award for
Academic Excellence in Poetry*
Jennifer Pierce

Speech Science Research Award
Nadia Zaki

*CSI Auxiliary Services Corporation Award
for Academic Excellence in English*
George Setteducato

HISTORY

*Professor Herbert Foster-James
Sturm-Don Hausdorff Memorial Award*
Nicholas D'Onofrio

Francois Ngolet Memorial Awards
Peter Galati
Louis Minakakis
Edward O'Shea
Peter Scasny
Jennifer Williams

*Stanley Plastrik Memorial
Commencement Award*
Aileen Krotz

*CSI Auxiliary Services Corporation Award
for Academic Excellence in History*
Adriana Lupo

MEDIA CULTURE

*Media Culture Department Award:
Cinema Studies*
Kreshnik Marke

*Media Culture Department Award:
Communications*
Jennifer Pierce

Elliot Rubenstein Memorial Award
Alexander Roldan

*CSI Auxiliary Services Corporation Award
for Academic Excellence in
Cinema/Communications*
Masha Wickramasinghe

**PERFORMING AND
CREATIVE ARTS**

*Performing and Creative Arts
Department Award: Art*
Laura Hollingsworth

*Performing and Creative Arts
Department Award: Music*
Faith Walton

Ted McIrvine Memorial Award
Faith Walton

*Margaret Ricciardi Commencement Award
for Studio Art*
Ruth Li

*CSI Auxiliary Services Corporation Award
for Academic Excellence in Performing
and Creative Arts*
Ruth Li

PHILOSOPHY

*Donna Mayer Award
for Academic Excellence*
Temitope Sofeso

Excellence in Philosophy Awards
Lisa Gangemi
Candy Mantilla
Nicholas Questel

*CSI Auxiliary Services Corporation Award
for Academic Excellence in Philosophy*
Temitope Sofeso

**POLITICAL SCIENCE
AND GLOBAL AFFAIRS**

*Laura Schwartz Memorial Award
for Excellence in Political Science*
Naomi Edwards

Robert J. Schwenk Political Science Award
Matthew Vuotto

*CSI Auxiliary Services Corporation Award for
Academic Excellence in Political Science*
Nicholas McDonnell

PSYCHOLOGY

Psychology Departmental Award
Amanda DeSantis

Judith Balfe Memorial Award
Blerim Cukovic

Anita Conte Memorial Award
Gino Agnese

Mark Guterman Memorial Award
Andrew Russo

Anya Gabriela Kuppermith Memorial Award
Ashanti Boston

*CSI Auxiliary Services Corporation Award
for Academic Excellence in Psychology*
Ben Cheriyan

SOCIAL WORK

*CSI Auxiliary Service Award for Academic
Excellence in Social Work*
John Murray

**SOCIOLOGY AND
ANTHROPOLOGY**

*Sociology and Anthropology Department
Faculty Award*
Danielle Yhap

Emil Oestereicher Memorial Award
Kellie Joseph

Angela Peña-Ayala Memorial Award
Inga Gurevich

*CSI Auxiliary Services Corporation Award
for Academic Excellence in Sociology
and Anthropology*
David Jordon

**WORLD LANGUAGES
AND LITERATURES**

*World Languages and Literatures
Department Award for Excellence in Italian*
Jaclyn Trotta

*World Languages and Literatures
Department Award for Excellence in Spanish*
Maria Rodriguez

*CSI Auxiliary Service Award for Academic
Excellence in World Languages and Literatures*
Sergio Mendoza Gallardo

DIVISION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**BIOLOGY**

Biology Department Faculty Awards
Robert Feingold
Don Wisidagama

*Biology Department Faculty Awards
in Research*
RinZhi Go Larocque
Brendon Ursomanno

*Biology Department Faculty Awards
and the Joseph and Eileen Carlton Memorial
Fund for Service to the Biology Department*
Penina Safier

*Melvin Baumel Memorial Award
in Medical Technology*
Lakshmi Gamage

Paris Garcia Memorial Award
Sara Haidery

Elena C. McCoy Memorial Award
Andrea Ronille Puno

Joseph Vagvolgyi Memorial Award
Giuseppe Minniti

*CSI Auxiliary Services Corporation Award
for Excellence in Biology*
Salsabeel Allan

CHEMISTRY

Chemistry/Biochemistry Department Awards
Jasmine Calle
Xue Qing Liang
Susannah O'Shea
Vyshnavi Rajendra

Patricia A. Nolan Award
Dennis Lam

*CSI Auxiliary Services Corporation Award for
Academic Excellence in Chemistry/Biochemistry*
Christopher Buonocore

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Maung Aung Memorial Awards
Matthew Chiappa
Gabriel Goldstein

Warren G. Simmons Memorial Award
Austin Krauza

Augustin Tuzbilin Memorial Award
Rana R.J. Mohammad

Computer Science Department Awards
Fateeha Amjad
David Brady
Matthew Chiappa
Patrick Kettle
Evette Khalil
Ousmane Kone
Austin Krauza
Danny Lin
Helen Lin
Bassem Nawar
Swathi Satty
Dennis Shpits
David Ng Wu

*CSI Auxiliary Services Corporation Award
for Outstanding Service in Computer Science*
Fateeha Amjad

ENGINEERING SCIENCE AND PHYSICS

*Giovanni S. Impeduglia Memorial
Commencement Award*
Ishmam Haque

*CSI Auxiliary Services Corporation Award
for Academic Excellence in
Engineering Science and Physics*
Vincent Kaykaty

**ENGINEERING
TECHNOLOGIES**

Henry Huang Memorial Award
Michael Matteo

Morris E. Levine Memorial Award
Tyler Franco

John Mulligan Memorial Award
Daniel Fontana

MATHEMATICS

Mathematics Department Faculty Award
Lilani Seneviratne

Sherry Blackman Memorial Award
Qiuxia Yang

Louis Blake Memorial Award
Bassem Nawar

*Benedict Carlat Memorial Award
for Outstanding Work in Mathematics*
Keith Thompson

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

GRADUATE AWARDS

**SCHOOL OF
EDUCATION**

Louise Colavito Award in Education
Lily Huang

*Curriculum and Instruction
Educational Studies Award*
Todd Stein

**SCHOOL OF
HEALTH SCIENCES**

MS Awards in Nursing
Svetlana Basina
Ada Sage

**HUMANITIES AND
SOCIAL SCIENCES**

English Award
Sharifa Hampton

*Frederick M. Binder MALS Awards for
Outstanding Scholarly Achievement*
Kristen Addressi
Erica Catalano

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

Stephen J. Stearns and Sandi E. Cooper Award
Faith D'Alessandro

Cinema and Media Culture Award
Spencer DeBenedictis

George Custen Memorial Award
Spencer DeBenedictis

PSYCHOLOGY

Clinical Mental Health Counseling Award
Dana DeRosa

SOCIAL WORK

Social Work Award
Erica Potter

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Biology Awards
Hector Aguilan
Joseph Nwokocha
Salvatore Rotondo
Vasiliki Stergioula

Biotechnology Awards
Ahmed Almaflehi
Farah Colassaint
Keegan Fernandes
Leonella Gatti
Irena Jmukhadze
Mays Jumah
Erxin Li
Elena Markov
Koswattage Perera

MS Awards in Computer Science
Moon Lee
Stafford Osore
Geethanjali Padmaperuma
Anna Panicker
Pawel Rokoszak
Brian Wong

Environmental Science Award
Doruntine Rexhepi

Neuroscience MS/Doctoral Program Awards
Javier Gomez
Laura Leone
Robina Osmani
Kiseok Yang

INTERDISCIPLINARY AWARDS

CORE 100 Award
Jason Andrade

*The Richard Gid Powers Award in
American Studies*
William Carey

*CSI Auxiliary Award for Academic Excellence
in Honors in Science, Letters, and Society*
Alexandria Scali

International Studies Award
Lina Movchan

Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Award
Ingrid Marshall

DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

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

John Conway Memorial Award

Rose Mooney

Billy Fraser Achievement Award

Chanelle Scott

James Ortiz, Jr. Memorial Award

Ben Cheriyan

Melvin Baumel Memorial Basketball Award

Kevin Swanberg

Female Athlete of the Year Award

Sabrina Bragerton-Nasert

Male Athlete of the Year Award

Greg Manassa

WSIA Student Service Award

Krystal Lake

Student Government Student Service Awards

Fateeha Amjad

Ben Cheriyan

Andrea Dalzell

Demi Gonzalez

Pierre Ovalles

Erin Richards

SAUNDRA FRANKEL MEMORIAL AWARDS

Medical Technology (Bachelor's Degree)

Su Ying Ma

Nursing (Associate's Degree)

Ryan O'Gara

Nursing (Bachelor's Degree)

Swapna Moses

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

Paul Nasri

OTHER AWARDS

CSI Alumni Association Outstanding

Student Leadership Awards

Fateeha Amjad

Ousmane Kone

Rachel Torres

DOLPHIN AWARDS

*Outstanding Scholarly Achievement
by a Member of the Full-Time Faculty*
Daniel McCloskey

*Outstanding Teaching
by a Member of the Full-Time Faculty*
Patricia Brooks

*Outstanding Service and Contribution to the
College by a Member of the Full-Time Faculty*
Jane Marcus-Delgado

*Outstanding Teaching
by a Member of the Adjunct Faculty*
Susan Rocco

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

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

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

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

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

*Outstanding Service and Contribution
to the College by a Currently Enrolled Student*
Rana R.J. Mohammad

HONORARY DEGREES

Khalid Iqbal

Dr. Iqbal is Professor and Chairman, Department of Neurochemistry at the New York State Institute for Basic Research in Developmental Disabilities on Staten Island. He received his PhD in Biochemistry in 1969 from the University of Edinburgh. He is a world-renowned Alzheimer's disease researcher who, along with Dr. Inge Grundke-Iqbal, has made groundbreaking discoveries in the battle against this debilitating disease. Dr. Iqbal is the recipient of many prestigious honors and awards, including the Potamkin Prize for Alzheimer's disease research from the American Academy of Neurology, and the Zenith Award from the Alzheimer's Association, USA. He founded and chaired the biennial International Conference on Alzheimer's disease from 1988 to 2008. In 2007, the Alzheimer's Association, USA established the Khalid Iqbal Lifetime Achievement Award for Alzheimer's Disease Research, which is given out annually at the International Conference on Alzheimer's Disease (ICAD) to a senior established Alzheimer's disease researcher. Dr. Iqbal has authored more than 300 scientific papers in prestigious American and international scientific journals, and edited seven books on research advances in Alzheimer's disease and related neurodegenerative disorders. He currently serves on the editorial boards of several journals.

In recognition of his passionate commitment to our world, the faculty of the College of Staten Island of The City University of New York awards Dr. Khalid Iqbal the degree of Doctor of Science.

John Douglas Thompson

Mr. Thompson is a distinguished and highly acclaimed classical actor who has made several visits to the College to speak to students taking courses in Shakespeare. He has performed in all of Shakespeare's plays as well as plays by Eugene O'Neill, Henrik Ibsen, and others.

Mr. Thompson's journey to prominence follows a trajectory similar to that of many of our students. After working for several years as a traveling computer salesman, at the age of 29, he lost his job. While scouring the classifieds, he came across an ad for an acting audition. Recalling how moved he was when he saw a performance of August Wilson's *Joe Turner's Come and Gone* a few years earlier, he decided to give acting—about which he knew nothing—a try. His natural talent eventually led him to the Trinity Repertory Theatre in Providence, Rhode Island, where he earned an MFA in Acting; then to Shakespeare and Company in Lenox, Massachusetts, for more training; and finally to New York City.

Mr. Thompson moves audiences with his psychologically realistic, emotionally open, and poetically refined acting, and he has dedicated his career to breaking down racial barriers and unconscious biases, paving the way for a younger generation, while helping to transform the present one.

In recognition of his passionate commitment to our College and the performing arts, the faculty of the College of Staten Island of The City University of New York awards Mr. John Douglas Thompson the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters.

PRESIDENT’S MEDALS

Edward Burke

Edward Burke is the Staten Island Deputy Borough President, appointed by Borough President James S. Oddo. Mr. Burke has served in government on Staten Island for 30 years.

As Deputy Borough President, Mr. Burke works closely with the Borough President and his staff on public policy, community issues, and special projects for the office, including parks and recreation, cultural attractions, and youth and quality-of-life issues.

Mr. Burke also specializes in promoting Staten Island’s special places, advancing the Island’s motto as a “The Borough of Parks.” In addition, he coordinated Borough President Oddo’s recent Young Writers Roundtable, encouraging students to hone their writing skills. This endeavor was a collaboration with the College of Staten Island, which hosted the event in the Williamson Theatre.

In 2009, Mr. Burke served on the New York City Board of Education as the Staten Island representative when the Board was briefly reconstituted by the Mayor. Mr. Burke has been Staten Island Deputy Borough President since November 2006, and has been a member of the staff in the Borough President’s office since 1990.

He has served on numerous boards for organizations like United Activities and the Staten Island Zoological Society. He has been honored by the St. George Theatre and the Greenbelt Conservancy, among others.

From 1985 to 1989, he served as Press Secretary for then Congressman Guy V. Molinari.

Mr. Burke earned his undergraduate degree in English from Wagner College in 1980 and his Master’s degree in Public Administration from Baruch College in 1997.

Christine D. Cea, PhD, ‘88

Christine D. Cea, PhD, ‘88, received a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology (with honors) from the College of Staten Island (CSI), obtained her Doctoral degree in Developmental Psychology from Fordham University, and completed a post-doctoral fellowship as Associate Director of the Developmental Disabilities Project at Fordham’s Center for Ethics Education. At present, she is a research scientist at the New York State Institute for Basic Research in Developmental Disabilities (IBR) on Staten Island.

Dr. Cea’s work has been varied and extensive, and primarily focused on the education and well-being of persons with disabilities for which she gained national recognition.

On Staten Island, Dr. Cea is a member and past Chair of the Staten Island Developmental Disabilities Council. She is a member of the Borough President’s Advisory Council on Disability, a member of the Staten Island Mental Health Society Board of Directors, and has served on the local Office of the Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities Human Rights Committee on Informed Consent. She is also a member and past President of the Friends of CSI and currently sits on the Board of Trustees of the College of Staten Island Foundation, having served for three years as immediate past President.

In April 2009, Dr. Cea was elected by a joint session of the New York State Legislature to serve as a member of the New York State Board of

Regents. In 2014, she was reelected to the Board and is currently serving her second five-year term.

Dr. Cea has received numerous awards for her work and community service, including CSI's Distinguished Alumni Award and was inducted into the Alumni Hall of Fame, among others.

Cesar J. Claro

Cesar J. Claro was born and raised in Fort Greene, Brooklyn and is a graduate of St. John's University.

Mr. Claro manages two high-profile, not-for-profit organizations on Staten Island, NY. He is President and CEO of the Staten Island Economic Development Corporation (SIEDC) and Executive Director of the Richmond County Savings Foundation (RCSF).

As President and CEO of the SIEDC for the past 20 years, Mr. Claro forges links between the private and public sectors on Staten Island to promote economic development opportunities. SIEDC's primary focus is to attract new investments that create new jobs on Staten Island. Under his leadership, the SIEDC has attracted more than \$900 million in private investment to Staten Island, created more than 12,000 new jobs, and redeveloped more than 6,000 acres of previously vacant property.

As Executive Director of the RCSF since 1998, Mr. Claro is a philanthropic leader, managing an \$80 million endowment created by the Richmond County Savings Bank in 1998. The Richmond County Savings Foundation has awarded grants totaling \$55 million to more than 500 local not-for-profit organizations since its inception.

Mr. Claro served on Mayor-Elect Michael Bloomberg's transition team and Mayor Bill de Blasio's Workforce Training Committee, and is currently Governor Andrew Cuomo's Staten Island appointee to the NYS Regional Economic Development Council.

He began his career in economic development working out of a storefront in Red Hook, Brooklyn. From 1990 to 1992, he was Director of Economic Development for the South Brooklyn Local Development Corporation.

Wilma Pamela Lesley Jones

Dr. Wilma Pamela Lesley Jones has been Chief Librarian since 2002 and a member of the faculty since 1992 at the College of Staten Island.

As the Chief Librarian, Jones is responsible for the administration of the College Library, which serves more than 14,000 students, and the overall supervision of library faculty, professional library technology staff, and more than 40 support staff members.

Dr. Jones earned full professor rank in 2010 and was later appointed as Associate Dean in 2014. In addition to her Master's in Library and Information Studies, Jones has a second Master's in Arts in English with a specialization in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) from Northern Illinois University and a PhD in Higher Education Administration from New York University. As a tenured faculty member, Jones's research and scholarship interest falls under two areas: library administration and assessing the impact of integrating new and emerging advanced technologies in the academic environment, and African women writers and the African community in New York City.

Dr. Jones has served on many College-wide committees including the Diversity Council, the Institutional Planning Committee, and the Board of the Friends of CSI. Within CUNY, she is the third-longest-serving Chief Librarian and has demonstrated leadership in chairing the Systems Advisory Committee, Personnel Committee, and Space Planning Committee, and in coordinating several special projects. In the Staten Island community, she is active in an immigrant support group for Africans, the treasurer of the NY Urban League/Staten Island Chapter, and recently completed six years of service as an elected member of the Staten Island Community Board #1. In 2005, she was recognized by the NAACP Staten Island Chapter with the William A. Morris Humanitarian Award.

Degree Candidates 2016

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 2016

Associate in Applied Science

Inna Abramyuk
Marufa Adams
Diana Alongi
Fateeha Amjad *
Stacy Appiah *
Ashley Argentine
Jessica Barabtko *
Anna Bilar *
Betsy Carrion
Marina Ceserano
David Chen
Hayleigh Ciprello
Jeniffer Clemente
Camile Cole-Crawford
Adam Czulak
Bianca D'Aguanno
Mustafa Dajbabi
Vitaly Davidzon
Judith Diyarza
Ysmelda Dollison
Johane Dormeus
Greata Dreyzina *
Luis Espinal
Michael Febbraro
Jenny Feygin
Kimberly Genau **
Caitlin Gonzalo
Shanique Green
Ali Hassan
Lesya Hrytsiv
Alexis Kim
Yeansun Kim *
Esin Koc
Klaudia Komenda
Oscar Krol **
Rebecca Larkin
Sam Leung
Cathy Marra *
Carla Musacchio
Abdel-Fattah Najjar
Hina Naveed
Talitha Nix
Kristian Nunez
Dana Pistilli
Jessica Post
Almira Ramovic
Jaclyn Rauchut **
Joy Riegler
Mayra Rivera
Ariel Rodriguez
Eleftheria Roussopoulos *
Stephanie Santori
Amy Shao *
Edward Shukhat
Kristin Singh
Tsz Wing Tang
Jacqueline Travolino
Esmeralda Jasmine Tsai *

Sonya Tsiring
Guzel Vinnitsky *
Inessa Zakariashvili *
Breana Zavala

Associate in Arts

Alicia Adamo
Kevin Agudelo
Omar Aguilar
Eyad Ahmad
Krystal Alamo
Fateeha Amjad *
Steven Ammirato
Natalia Antczak
Brian Arocho
Annabelle Asare
Lejla Bajrami
Gisselly Balcacer
Lisa Bosco
Christopher Bray
Keyla Brazao
Jennifer Calero
Brianna Cangro *
Michael Capizzo
Nino Carnesi
Joseph Castiglione
Helene Castillo
Yaik Kar Chow
Amanda Concetta Clyne
Shayna Coker
Peter Colon *
Thomas Cosares
Michele Cosenza
Christopher Cossean
Michael D'Agostino
Jesse Dambrosio
Jenna D'Amico
Gabriella Davila
Andres De Jesus
Marcus Delvalle
Vito Demattia
Jacqueline Diaz
Anthony Difrancesco *
Daniel Dileo
Francesca Dimeglio
Evelyn Dominguez
Taylor D'Orazio
Shanice Dyer
Jada Earl
Madonna Elgamal
Alfat Elsaadi
Obdulia Famania
Christian Faro
Kimberly Figueroa
Alexa Fisher
Erica Fonseca
Alissa Fonte
Amir Gadelsayed
Diana Garcia

JANUARY 2016

Shpresa Gashi
Brianna Giasi
Ginamarie Giordano
Gabrielle Gnall *
Erica-Irene Godoy
Marie Gomes
Peter Guidetti
Christopher Guzman
Louay Hajabed
Jose Haley
Amal Hamdan
Rosita Harris
Sanny Huang
Dinukshi Jayasinghe
Tierra Johnson
Edward Jorge
Qendrim Kelmendi
Courtney Kennemur *
Mary Kenny
Andrea Laird
Lisa Lavara
Jill Levenberg *
Alison Lopez
Julliana Lorcy
Gabriella Madonia
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Master of Science in Neuroscience

Sheby Abraham
Shahria Ashraf
Javier Gomez
Laura Leone
Dinali Obeysekera
Robina Osmani
Fatmazohra Ouaz
Ulfat Shahzad
Kiseok Yang

Master of Social Work

Ramat Bakinson
Alesha Caldwell

Marissa Conlon
Alondra Coronado
Ardita Daci
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Nikka Dela Cruz
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Tiffany Alvino	Zaghloul Ahmed
Shiney David.....	Zaghloul Ahmed
Luke Dixon	Maria Knikou
Michael Erickson	Jeffrey Rothman
Michelle Esposito.....	Chang Hui Shen
Joseph Filippazzo	Emily Rice
Justin Gelesky.....	Jean Berteau
Chelsea Gendvil.....	Zaghloul Ahmed
Dylann Germann.....	Jean Berteau
Christina Gioeli.....	Wei Zhang
Mohamed Ibrahim.....	Maria Knikou
Paulina Konarzewska	Chang Hui Shen
Haifu Ma	Vadim Oganessian
Noorelhoda Mahmoud	Michael Chiacchiero
Amanpreet Manchanda	Michael Kruk
Zhantong Mao	Alan Lyons
Kerry McPartlan	Wei Zhang
Bikash Mondal.....	Alan Lyons
Paul Nasri.....	Jeffrey Rothman
Ashley Ozelski.....	Lisa Manne
Amanda Percaccio.....	Jean Berteau
Joseph Quinn.....	Abhijit Champanerkar
David Perrotto	Jeffrey Rothman
Marc Razzano.....	Michael Chiacchiero
Emily Reid.....	Wei Zhang
Danielle Santora	Maria Knikou
Rachelle Schick.....	Jean Berteau
Hyoung-Suk Shim.....	Jonathan R. Peters
Francoise Sidime.....	Abdeslem Elidrissi
Nicholas Spizzirri.....	Tobias Schaefer
Karen Tischler.....	Michael Chiacchiero
Matthew Turturro	Wei Zhang

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Jamel Jones
Joe Mark Santiago

Associate in Arts

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Domenick Caracappa
Yacine Diop
Michael Gabriele
Billy Ng
Daniella Sicilia
Safiya Vera *
Shaquana Waldron

Bachelor of Arts

James Ashley
Kayla Aspromonte
Jillian Caffrey
Ashley Canning
Alexis Caramante
Alexandra Caroleo
Christopher Cossean
Daniela Crespo
Kayla Cruz
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Kaitlyn Pellicano
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Bachelor of Fine Arts

Jessica Schoberl

Bachelor of Science

Nadia Abdelatif
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Kelly Deangelis *
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Master of Science in Adult-Gerontology NP

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Jennifer Kurulgan

Master of Science in Biology

Farah Colassaint

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Master of Science in Environmental Science

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Peter Crowley

Maria Ivanova

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Master of Science in Neuroscience

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Master of Social Work

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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.



2800 Victory Boulevard
Staten Island, NY 10314
www.csi.cuny.edu

