





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  
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### *Associate in Arts*

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Kar Liew  
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### *Bachelor of Fine Arts*

Laura Hollingsworth \*

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Roda Aguilar  
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Ahmad Alkabbani  
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Yiwen Zhang  
Tatyana Zinchenko \*

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Nouf Arige  
Sharifa Hampton

### *Master of Arts in History*

Faith D'Alessandro

### *Master of Arts in Mental Health Counseling*

Kristi Basile  
John Campione

Faith Carbonaro  
Michael Dacunto  
Dana Derosa  
Massiel Farrell  
Christina Grenoble  
Laura Hare  
Ralph Herrera  
Gina Martino  
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Yozmine Modeste  
Athanasios Nioplias  
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Megan Thompson  
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### *Master of Science in Accounting*

Vincenzo Fauci  
Elena Ghelan  
Christopher Giordano

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

Hajung Lee  
Iranthi Peiris  
Ada Saqe

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

Indira Bashic  
Dixza Boswell  
Joungran Kim  
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### *Master of Science in Business Management*

Olga Rius

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Sai Prajwala Avula  
Pavani Garikapati  
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### *Master of Science in Education- Adolescence Education*

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

Amanda Romano

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

Jessica Arena  
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Mai David  
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Danielle Iacurto  
Jessica Kochanski  
Michelle Korn  
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Jetmira Popovic  
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### *Master of Science in Neuroscience*

Dinali Obeysekera

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Christine Bowman  
Jonathan Bowman (posthumous)  
Jasmine Bryan  
Gabriella Calcaterra  
Robert Campanella  
Francesca Candela  
Genevieve Cannistraci  
Kyra Canovas  
Christina Capurso  
Christopher Carillo  
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Ramata Diallo  
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Angel Velandres  
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Pasini Withanage \*\*  
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Philip Yu  
Shuying Zhao  
Samsara Zidor

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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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