



COMMENCEMENT

CELEBRATING OUR 2023 GRADUATES

Thursday, June 1, 2023, at 4:00 P.M.

**Celeste Bartos Forum
New York Public Library – Stephen A. Schwarzman Building
476 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10018**

CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies

ABOUT THE CUNY SCHOOL OF LABOR AND URBAN STUDIES

The CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies (SLU) offers undergraduate and graduate degree programs in Labor Studies and Urban Studies that are designed to meet the needs of working adults as well as traditional-age college students seeking to learn more about the challenges confronting poor and working-class populations in the workplace and the community.

The School also collaborates with other CUNY schools to offer a range of college-credit programs designed to provide workers with the academic and technical skills they need for professional advancement. Its faculty includes distinguished scholars in the social sciences as well as expert practitioners in government, labor, and public service. In addition to its academic programs, SLU sponsors research, organizes public forums and conferences, and publishes a national journal, *New Labor Forum: a journal of ideas, analysis, and debate*.

In 2018 SLU opened its doors as a self-standing school, an expansion of the Joseph S. Murphy Institute for Worker Education and Labor Studies, named for the former CUNY Chancellor and tireless advocate for the labor movement and worker education. The Institute traces its roots to 1984, when CUNY collaborated with three New York City unions to establish a worker education program at Queens College. That program started with just 52 students.

Today, more than 1,500 students are enrolled in SLU's degree and certificate programs and in workforce development programs across the University, and the leaders of 27 labor and community organizations serve on SLU's Advisory Board. The Joseph S. Murphy Institute continues to be an integral element of the School, focusing on education for workers and union members and serving as a research and resource center for publications and public programming.

The vision for this School derives from its core values: access to education, diversity at every level, social justice, and equality for all. Its goals are to expand higher education opportunities for workers; prepare students who aspire to careers in public service and movements for social justice; promote civic engagement; provide leadership development for union and community activists; and help workers achieve greater economic security. Its perspective is unique, addressing the needs of its constituents while helping New York City and State fulfill their needs for a well-educated, highly skilled workforce.

To accomplish its goals, the School has four foundational pillars: Labor Studies, Urban Studies, Workforce Development, and Community Service. Of equal importance, these pillars support a range of intellectual aspirations and practical needs, and serve as a gateway to college for many workers and working-class communities.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

About the CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies	1
CUNY Board of Trustees and Chancellery	3
CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies Faculty and Administration.....	4
Message From the Founding Dean	5
CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies Labor and Community Advisory Board	6
Message From the Labor and Community Advisory Board Chair	7
Order of Ceremony	8
Commencement Speakers and Honorees.....	11
CUNY Board of Trustees Vice Chairperson	11
City University of New York Chancellor	12
Valedictorian	13
Salutarian	14
Student Speaker	15
Keynote Speaker and Honorary Degree Recipient	16
Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient	17
Names of Graduates and Candidates.....	18
Certificates in Community Leadership.....	19
Certificates in Healthcare Advocacy.....	19
Certificates in Public Administration and Public Policy	19
Advanced Certificate in Workplace Democracy and Community Ownership	20
Certificates in Labor Relations	20
Certificates in Labor Studies	20
Bachelor of Arts in Urban and Community Studies	21
Master of Arts in Urban Studies	21
Master of Arts in Labor Studies	21
Commencement Traditions and Symbols	22
Musical Lyrics	23
Special Thanks	24

THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

William C. Thompson, Jr., B.A.

Chairperson

Sandra Wilkin, B.S., B.S.,
Vice Chairperson

Michael Arvanites, B.A.

Henry T. Berger, B.S., J.D.

Una S. T-Clarke, B.S., M.S., C.D.

Lorraine Cortés-Vázquez, B.A., M.P.A.

Fernando Ferrer, B.A., M.P.A.

Kevin D. Kim, B.A., M.A., J.D.

Mayra Linares-Garcia, B.A.

Robert F. Mujica, B.A., M.G.A., J.D.

Brian D. Obergfell, B.S., J.D.

Jill O'Donnell-Tormey, B.S. Ph.D.

Herminia Palacio, M.D., M.P.H.

Ken Sunshine, B.S.

Angelo Vivolo, B.S.

John Verzani, Ph.D.

Ex-Officio - Chair of the University Faculty Senate

Salimatou Doumbouya

Ex-Officio – Chair of the University Student Senate

CHANCELLERY

Chancellor

Félix V. Matos Rodríguez

Executive Vice Chancellor & University Provost

Wendy Hensel

Executive Vice Chancellor & Chief Operating Officer

Hector Batista

General Counsel &

Senior Vice Chancellor for Legal Affairs

Derek Davis

**Special Counsel & Senior Vice Chancellor for
Institutional Affairs and Strategic Advancement**

Glenda Grace

Sr. Vice Chancellor for Labor Relations

Vacant

**Interim Vice Chancellor for Budget and Finance &
Chief Financial Officer**

Christina Chiappa

Vice Chancellor of Human Resources

Doriane K. Gloria

**Vice Chancellor for Facilities Planning,
Construction and Management**

Mohamed Attalla

Vice Chancellor for Communications and Marketing

Maite Junco

Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

Denise B. Maybank

Interim Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management

Reine T. Sarmiento

**Vice Chancellor for Technology &
University Chief Information Officer**

Eusebio Fomoso

Vice Chancellor for University Advancement

James D. Gallo

**Senior Advisor to the Chancellor &
Secretary of the Board of Trustees**

Gayle M. Horwitz

Chancellor's Chief of Staff &

Associate Vice Chancellor for the Executive Office

Dolly Martínez

CUNY SCHOOL OF LABOR AND URBAN STUDIES FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATION

Gregory Manstios, Ph.D.
Founding Dean

Gladys Palma de Schrynemakers, M.S., P.D., M.A., Ed.D.
*Senior Associate Dean of Academic Affairs
Chief Academic Officer & Chief Diversity Officer*

Burton Sacks, M.S., M.S., P.D.
*Associate Dean of Finance,
Administration and Operations*

Meghan Moore-Wilk, Ph.D.
Interim Assistant Dean for Strategic Initiatives and Chief of Staff

FACULTY

Ruth Milkman, Ph.D.
Distinguished Professor & Chair of Labor Studies

Steve London, Ph.D.
Associate Professor & Chair of Urban Studies

Sofya Aptekar, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Urban Studies

Kafui Attoh, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Urban Studies

Juan Battle, Ph.D.
*Presidential Professor, Graduate Center &
Consortial Faculty*

Deepak Bhargava
Distinguished Lecturer of Urban Studies

Ellen Dichner, J.D.
Distinguished Lecturer of Labor Studies

Alethia Jones, Ph.D.
Distinguished Lecturer of Labor Studies

Penelope Lewis, Ph.D.
Professor of Labor Studies

Stephanie Luce, Ph.D.
Professor of Labor Studies

Heather McGhee, J.D.
Distinguished Lecturer of Urban Studies

John Mollenkopf, Ph.D.
*Distinguished Professor, Graduate Center &
Consortial Faculty*

James Rodriguez, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Urban Studies

Samir Sonti, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Urban Studies

Joel Suarez, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Labor Studies

ADMINISTRATION

Nelly Benavides, M.A.
*Deputy to Associate Dean of Finance, Administration
and Operations*

Dorothy Benson
Director of Finance and Business Affairs

Maryam (Sara) Esfarayeni, Ed.D.
Director, Worker Education & Workforce Development

Paula Finn, M.A.
Director of the Center for Public Engagement

Michael Giliberti, M.P.A.
Bursar

Stephen Greenfeld, Ph.D.
Retention and Prior Learning Assessment Manager

Laurie Grimes, M.A.
Enrollment Registrar Director

Antoinette Isable-Jones
Chief Communications & Marketing Officer

Jennifer James, M.P.A.
*Interim Director of Institutional Advancement and
External Affairs*

Maureen LaMar, M.S.
Manager of Institutional and Academic Partnerships

Rochel Pinder, M.P.A., Ed.D. Candidate
Director of Student and Community Affairs

Jeff Rickman
Director of Technology

Estrella Redondo, M.A.
Interim Director of Enrollment

Elizabeth Sergile, M.A., Ph.D. Candidate
*Director of Academic Affairs and Institutional
Effectiveness*

MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDING DEAN



Dear SLU Class of 2023:

Congratulations to you and your families on this milestone achievement in your lives!

When CUNY's Board of Trustees established the School of Labor and Urban Studies in 2018, they created a unique institution with a diverse student body including union members, community activists, and others with scholarly interests in social change and social justice. Our students are members of a very special group--people who want to make a difference in the world even as they seek to deepen their knowledge and advance their careers.

Each graduate here has persevered despite the myriad challenges of the last few years: a global pandemic, the proliferation of hate crimes and horrific acts of gun violence, increasing inequality and an upsurge in white supremacy, and shocking attacks on our democracy. During this very difficult time, not only did you show extraordinary resilience, but a determination to pursue the common good and contribute to a more just society. The education you have received here has empowered you with the knowledge and skills to do just that. You will honor this great University and our School by taking a leadership path in the struggle for social justice, and to make the world a better place for every worker and every working-class community, everywhere.

I urge you to never lose your optimism, your eagerness to learn, and your commitment to making an impact. These are the traits that brought you to SLU in the first place and that led you to seek a life of meaning and consequence. Finally, I encourage you to remain an active member of the CUNY and SLU communities. Commit to life-long education by participating in SLU's public forums and conferences; help others succeed academically by sharing your experiences. Be a part of the ongoing legacy of the School of Labor and Urban Studies.

Again, my warmest congratulations and best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gregory Mantsios". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gregory Mantsios, Ph.D.
Founding Dean
CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies

CUNY SCHOOL OF LABOR AND URBAN STUDIES LABOR AND COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD

University Representatives

Félix V. Matos Rodríguez, Chancellor, The City University of New York
Stephanie Luce, Chair, Academic Governing Council, CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies
Ruth Milkman, Labor Studies Chair, CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies
Steve London, Urban Studies Chair, CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies

New York State AFL-CIO

Mario Cilento, President

New York City Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO

Vincent Alvarez, President

Local 1180, Communications Workers of America (CWA)

* Arthur Cheliotis, *Board Chair*

Gloria Middleton, President

District Council 37, American Federation of State, County, & Municipal Employees (AFSCME)

Henry Garrido, Executive Director

(alt. Barbara Ingram-Edmonds, Dir. Field Operations;
alt. Stephen Johnson, Education Fund)

Workers United (SEIU)

Edgar Romney, Secretary-Treasurer

1199 SEIU United Healthcare Workers East

George Gresham, President

(alt. Samantha Morales, Director of Education)

1199 SEIU Training and Upgrading Fund

Sandi Vito, Executive Director

(alt. Vilma Linares Vaughn, Deputy Executive Director)

United Federation of Teachers (UFT)

Michael Mulgrew, President

(alt. Mary Vaccaro, Vice President of Education)

Public Employees Federation (PEF)

Wayne Spence, President

(alt. Darlene William, Vice President)

Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA), Region 2

Lester Crockett, President

(alt. Matthew D'Amico, Political Action Coordinator)

Local 237, International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT)

Gregory Floyd, President

(alt. Bertha Aiken, Director of Education)

Consortium for Worker Education (CWE)

Joseph McDermott, Executive Director

(alt. Deborah Buxton, Deputy Director of Education)

New York State Nurses Association

Nancy Hagans, President

Local 32BJ, Service Employees International Union (SEIU)

Manny Pastreich, President

(alt. Lenore Friedlaender, Assistant to the President;
alt. Linda Nelson, Director of Shortman Training Fund)

Transport Workers Union (TWU) Local 100

Vacant

Local 94, International Union of Operating Engineers

Kuba Brown, Business Manager/Financial Secretary

(alt. Howard Styles, Director of Training)

Local 1549, NYC Clerical-Administrative Employees

James Howell, Administrator

(alt. Benjamin Borges-Hernandez, Deputy Admin)

Professional Staff Congress (PSC)

James Davis, President

Writers Guild of America, East (WGAE)

Lowell Peterson, Executive Director

Region 9A, United Auto Workers (UAW)

Brandon Mancilla, Director

(alt. Ken Lang, Director, Higher Education Sector)

Local 371, Social Service Employees Union (SSEU)

Anthony Wells, President

District 1, Communications Workers of America (CWA)

Dennis G. Trainor, Vice President, CWA District 1

New York Committee on Occupational Safety and Health

Charlene Obernauer, Executive Director

Community Voices Heard

Juanita Lewis, Executive Director

New York Communities for Change

Jonathan Westin, Executive Director

New York Immigration Coalition

Murad Awawdeh, Executive Director

State & Broadway, Inc.

Richard Winsten, Esq.

The NewsGuild

Susan DeCarava

* denotes Advisory Board Chair

MESSAGE FROM THE LABOR AND COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD CHAIR



Congratulations, Graduates!

I have been privileged to serve as Chair of the Advisory Board of CUNY's School for Labor and Urban Studies since SLU was established in 2018. The Board, which is comprised of the leaders of 27 labor unions and community organizations, has partnered with University leaders and distinguished scholars to create a unique School with a unique mission.

Working women and men are the lifeblood of our city and nation. SLU is a reflection of that essential truth. Our goal has always been to expand educational opportunities for workers and working-class communities and to provide education for social justice and social change. Over the years, the organizations represented on our Board have provided the resources that make it possible for union members and activists to achieve their dreams of completing an education.

We are here today to celebrate the class of 2023 and to thank all those who have supported you over the last several years. The global pandemic that wrought havoc on our city and our country did not stop you from achieving your goals. You found the strength and resilience to persevere, even though the learning community was fractured, and classes were remote. The majority of you also managed to work and care for your families at the same time. Some of you even lost loved ones. I and the entire Advisory Board salute your determination and fortitude along with your academic achievements.

We are very proud that you chose SLU. It says that you want to make a difference—you want a better world for yourself and your family; better working conditions for you and your colleagues; and an end to the racism and economic inequality that plague our society. Armed with the degrees and certificates you have earned, you have an opportunity to become leaders in your unions and community organizations and to participate more fully in the political process. We urge you on! Making your contribution to social justice is the ultimate way to give back to the School of Labor and Urban Studies.

Again, congratulations.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Arthur Cheliotis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Arthur Cheliotis,
Advisory Board Chair

COMMENCEMENT 2023
ORDER OF CEREMONY

Rose Imperato
Commencement Master of Ceremonies

PROCESSIONAL

Samir Sonti
Commencement Grand Marshal

ANTHEMS

The Star-Spangled Banner
United States Marine Band

Solidarity Forever
Nicole Alifante, vocals
Karry Faselt Hopwood, vocals and guitar
Al Hemberger, The Loft Recording Studios

MOMENT OF SILENCE

PRESIDING

Gregory Mantsios
Founding Dean

**GREETINGS FROM THE
CUNY TRUSTEES AND CHANCELLERY**

Sandra Wilkin
*Vice Chairperson, Board of Trustees of the
City University of New York*

Félix V. Matos Rodríguez
Chancellor, City University of New York

VALEDICTORIAN ADDRESS

Emily Warshauer
Bachelor of Arts in Urban and Community Studies

**COMMENCEMENT 2023
ORDER OF CEREMONY (CONT'D)**

MESSAGE TO GRADUATES

Nazli Tamer
Student Speaker

CONFERRING OF THE HONORARY DEGREE

Gregory Mantsios
Founding Dean

Steve Phillips
Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER AND
HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT**

Steve Phillips
*National political leader, bestselling author, and columnist;
Founder of Democracy in Color*

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENT

Jonah Furman
Communications Director, UAW

PASSING OF THE TORCH

Walter Romney
Receptionist; Author, "Passing the Torch"

Kevin Simmons
Academic Program Specialist

Marlon Bailey
Master of Arts in Urban Studies

Carole Beyinda
Master of Arts in Labor Studies

Tania Caldwell
Master of Arts in Urban Studies

Anna Tresvalles
Bachelor of Arts in Urban and Community Studies

COMMENCEMENT 2023
ORDER OF CEREMONY (CONT'D)

**PRESENTATION OF THE GRADUATES AND
CONFERRAL OF DEGREES**

Gregory Mantsios
Founding Dean

Gladys Palma de Schrynemakers
Senior Associate Dean of Academic Affairs
Chief Academic Officer & Chief Diversity Officer

CLOSING REMARKS

Samir Sonti
Commencement Grand Marshal

RECESSIONAL

COMMENCEMENT 2023

SPEAKERS AND HONOREES



CUNY BOARD OF TRUSTEES VICE CHAIRPERSON SANDRA WILKIN

SANDRA WILKIN, B.S., B.S., was appointed by Governor Kathy Hochul on March 17, 2022 as vice chairwoman of the Board of Trustees of The City University of New York. Ms. Wilkin has been serving as a member of the Board since June 15, 2016, when she was appointed by Governor Andrew Cuomo to a term that ends in June 2023. She is the first female graduate of both a CUNY community college – Kingsborough – and a senior college – Hunter – to serve as vice chairwoman.

Ms. Wilkin is chief executive officer of Bradford Construction, the construction management firm she founded in 1989, based on a mission to optimize services and operations on complex, large-scale building projects. Over the past three decades, she has grown the company into one of New York’s premier women-owned business enterprises (WBE). To support the infrastructure and sustainability needs of emerging minority- and women-owned business enterprises (MWBE), she has developed critically important mentoring programs.

Ms. Wilkin co-founded the Women Builders Council – an organization that advances the role of women in the building industry – with a campaign “to break the concrete ceiling.” She is also a member of the NYS and NYC MWBE Advisory Councils and NYC School Construction Authority Diversity Board. In 2013, she helped spearhead the passage of NYC Local Law 1, landmark legislation that increases MWBE participation goals in government contracting.

Ms. Wilkin was the first woman to serve on the executive board of the New York Building Congress’ Foundation and the first woman to serve on the executive board of the Regional Alliance for Small Contractors. Her contributions have been recognized with numerous awards and honors, including the Kingsborough Community College Wall of Fame, the Hunter College Hall of Fame and Exemplary Service Citations on behalf of the State of New York Executive Chamber and the City of New York for eradicating barriers for MWBEs and in recognition of distinguished leadership. She also shares a unique distinction with Golda Meir of being the only women to receive the Lubavitch Youth Organization’s Woman of Valor Award for her “commitment and dedication to helping people of all ages, regardless of race, religion, color or creed, find meaning and direction in life.”

A New York City native, Ms. Wilkin is a graduate of Kingsborough Community College who went on to earn a B.S. in Business and Public Administration at New York University (NYU) and a B.S. in Nursing from Hunter College, and she is a graduate of the Construction Management Certificate Program from New York University.

Ms. Wilkin serves as vice chair of the Board’s Committee on Facilities Planning and Management, the Committee on Student Affairs and Special Programs and the Subcommittee on Investment. She chaired the search committees for a new dean of the William E. Macaulay Honors College and new presidents of Queensborough Community College and Kingsborough Community College, and she served as a committee member for several other presidential searches.

COMMENCEMENT 2023 SPEAKERS AND HONOREES



CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK CHANCELLOR FÉLIX V. MATOS RODRÍGUEZ

Félix V. Matos Rodríguez is the eighth Chancellor of The City University of New York (CUNY), and the first educator of color and the first Latino to lead the nation's largest urban public university, which serves 243,000 degree-seeking students across 25 New York City campuses.

An accomplished and award-winning historian who worked at three CUNY campuses before his appointment as chancellor on May 1, 2019, Matos Rodríguez is driven by his belief in CUNY's unparalleled effectiveness in propelling students up the economic ladder, along with the interconnected role the University plays in lifting New York.

To build on CUNY's unrivaled role as an engine of economic mobility, Matos Rodríguez has focused on removing barriers to students' success. The Chancellor has redoubled CUNY's emphasis on the career outcomes of its graduates, developing a series of public-private partnerships with some of New York's largest employers and new pipelines for students to enter the workforce.

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic during the first year of his tenure, the Chancellor oversaw the system's swift pivot to remote learning and worked to guide the University through the many challenges that emerged. The Chancellor's Emergency Relief Fund, launched in April 2020, provided grants to thousands of CUNY students, including undocumented students who were excluded from financial relief by the federal government. Using federal Higher Education Emergency Relief funds, CUNY erased more than \$100 million in unpaid tuition and fees for more than 57,000 students and ended the practice of holding transcripts of students with outstanding balances.

Driven by a deeply held commitment to accessibility, inclusion and excellence in higher education, Matos Rodríguez has built a diverse team of tested leaders to serve on his cabinet and has appointed a diverse, highly accomplished group of 14 college presidents and deans.

A historian, he has served the University for nearly 25 years as a member of the faculty at Hunter College and director of Hunter's Center for Puerto Rican Studies (CENTRO), and as president of Hostos Community College and Queens College. He left CUNY for several years in 2005, returning to his native Puerto Rico to serve as an adviser to the governor and, later, as Secretary of the Department of Family Services. Matos Rodríguez holds a B.A. from Yale University and a doctorate in history from Columbia University.

**COMMENCEMENT 2023
SPEAKERS AND HONOREES**



**VALEDICTORIAN
EMILY WARSHAUER**

Emily Warshauer lives in Brooklyn with their partner of 7 years, Elliot, and their dog, Bean. Emily grew up in Fort Wayne, Indiana with their parents, Bruce and Holly, and their 2 younger brothers, Ross and Miles.

Prior to attending SLU, Emily studied sociology at Hamilton College in Clinton, NY. After leaving Hamilton, Emily began their career in social services through an internship with Denver's Harm Reduction Action Center, a syringe access program. Emily has continued to build their social services career since moving to New York 5 years ago. In their first job in the city, they worked as a case manager in supportive housing for adults with mental illness. Emily held this role from 2019-2021, working in person during the height of the COVID pandemic. Their experiences in this role during COVID motivated them to return to school and complete their B.A. with the ultimate goal of completing a Master of Social Work.

Emily currently works part-time as a housing navigator with Trinity Place Shelter, a homeless shelter serving queer young adults. Already one step closer to their career goals, Emily will pursue their MSW at Hunter College's Silberman School of Social Work in the fall.

COMMENCEMENT 2023 SPEAKERS AND HONOREES



SALUTATORIAN PATRICK MILORD

Patrick Milord first began his academic journey with CUNY SLU in the School's Certificate in Labor Studies program in the Fall of 2017, and subsequently enrolled in the B.A. in Urban and Community Studies program.

In addition to being a recipient of the Joseph S. Murphy Scholarship for Diversity in 2020, Patrick was also recognized for his academic achievement and union activism with the National Society of Leadership and Success Executive Leadership Award in 2023.

Patrick also works as a Station Agent of 25 years with the Metropolitan Transportation Authority and also serves as a union steward for the Transport Workers Union Local 100, which represents the agency's hourly employees. In 2016, Patrick was awarded the Certificate of Recognition for Excellent Customer Service by the MTA.

Patrick recently became a member of the Flatbush Tenants' Coalition, an advocacy group which advocates the rights and empowerment of tenants living in rent stabilized apartments in the Flatbush, East Flatbush, and Crown Heights sections of Brooklyn.

**COMMENCEMENT 2023
SPEAKERS AND HONOREES**



**STUDENT SPEAKER
NAZLI TAMER**

Nazli Tamer is an experienced labor communicator, partnering with dozens of labor unions and advocacy organizations to take on some of the toughest social and economic justice fights of our day.

As a seasoned campaigner, Nazli specializes in online-to-offline organizing and narrative change through digital action. Nazli led union communications campaigns at the agency-level and at 32BJ SEIU. She has been a trusted advisor on national corporate accountability campaigns and has worked with a wide range of nonprofits and advocacy groups.

A Turkish immigrant, Nazli is a University of Michigan alumna and CUNY SLU Master of Arts in Labor Studies candidate.

**COMMENCEMENT 2023
SPEAKERS AND HONOREES**



**KEYNOTE SPEAKER AND
HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT
STEVE PHILLIPS**

Steve Phillips is a national political leader, bestselling author, and columnist. He is the author of The New York Times bestseller *Brown Is the New White: How the Demographic Revolution Has Created a New American Majority* and the newly released national bestselling book *How We Win the Civil War: Securing a Multiracial Democracy and Ending White Supremacy for Good*.

He is a columnist for The Guardian and The Nation, and an opinion contributor to The New York Times. He is also the host of “Democracy in Color with Steve Phillips,” a color-conscious podcast on politics. He is the founder of Democracy in Color, a political media organization dedicated to race, politics and the multicultural progressive New American Majority.

Phillips is a graduate of Stanford University and University of California College of the Law, San Francisco and practiced civil rights and employment law for many years. Phillips has appeared on multiple national radio and television networks including NBC, CNN, MSNBC and C-SPAN.

**COMMENCEMENT 2023
SPEAKERS AND HONOREES**



**DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI
AWARD RECIPIENT
JONAH FURMAN**

Jonah Furman is an organizer, communicator, former journalist, activist, and a catalyst of change of many aspects of the labor movement. Currently serving as Communications Director at the United Auto Workers, Jonah is a 2016 graduate of the NY Union Semester Program, holding an Advanced Certificate in Labor Studies.

Jonah has worked across multiple sectors in the labor movement, from teachers to Teamsters, as well as on the political campaigns of Bernie Sanders and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. Most recently, Jonah was a staff writer with Labor Notes, an organization that believes worker power is best built from within the ranks of union members. He is a proud member of the “Troublemakers Union.”

You can find him tweeting about corporate greed at the Big Three (auto manufacturers) or encouraging every person he knows to take a semester to learn and live in the labor movement by enrolling in SLU’s NY Union Semester program.

NAMES OF GRADUATES AND CANDIDATES

Note: As printing of this program is placed in advance, the lists of certificate and degree candidates are tentative. A student's transcript is the official record of the School.

**COMMENCEMENT 2023
CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS**

DEPARTMENT OF URBAN STUDIES

**CERTIFICATES IN
COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP**

Fall 2022 Graduates

CERTIFICATE

Batina Bamba
Saundrea Coleman
Aissata Diaby
Juan Goris
Rasheed Hart
Renee Keitt
Amanda McKenzie-Roberts
Calvin Phillips
Mustafa Shakur
Shavonna Smith
Tyree Stanback
Moses White

ADVANCED CERTIFICATE

Miguel Davila
Nicole Greaves
Agnes Pak
Rebecca Tokofsky

Spring 2023 Candidates

CERTIFICATE

Onesia Thorman

ADVANCED CERTIFICATE

Marisa Bischof
Taikischa Buie
Kathleen Castillo
Herlita Clarke
Dennis Dias
Elvira Gonzalez
Alexandra Haridopolos
Nicole King
Sophia Lackens
Amanda McKenna
Cherisma Middleton
Matthew Perloff
Vanda Polokova

Shyla Rivera
Bernicia Superville
Olivia Swisher
Christina Theodoro
Winter Watson
Ariel Zambelich

**CERTIFICATES IN
HEALTHCARE ADVOCACY**

Fall 2022 Graduates

CERTIFICATE

Michelle Kilkenny

ADVANCED CERTIFICATE

James Beckford
Dionne Williams

Spring 2023 Candidates

ADVANCED CERTIFICATE

Anastasiia Kartsev

**CERTIFICATES IN PUBLIC
ADMINISTRATION AND PUBLIC POLICY**

Fall 2022 Graduates

ADVANCED CERTIFICATE

Elena Chon
Daniel Kaminsky
Tessa Pantuso

Spring 2023 Candidates

ADVANCED CERTIFICATE

Allison Ball
Sonia Clarke
Rachel Freeman
Jenna Gogan
N.m.esa Khan
Courtney Malburg
Abraham Tejada

**COMMENCEMENT 2023
CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS**

**ADVANCED CERTIFICATE IN
WORKPLACE DEMOCRACY AND
COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP**

Fall 2022 Graduates

ADVANCED CERTIFICATE

Natasha Joseph
Eleanor Kahn
Androniki Lagos
William Oberkehr

Spring 2023 Candidates

ADVANCED CERTIFICATE

Benjamin Snyder
Nina Stender

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR STUDIES

CERTIFICATES IN LABOR RELATIONS

Fall 2022 Graduates

CERTIFICATE

Alistair Bascom
Benjamin Hague
Michael Lacerenza
Nicholas Masi
Juanita Pair
Myishia Taylor

ADVANCED CERTIFICATE

Jodie Reaver
Steven Williams

Spring 2023 Candidates

CERTIFICATE

Floribeth Arias

ADVANCED CERTIFICATE

Lakesha Foster
Marie Francois
Yendi King
Christine Rowland
Pawel Szostak

CERTIFICATES IN LABOR STUDIES

Fall 2022 Graduates

ADVANCED CERTIFICATE

Gabriel Feldman-Schwartz
Gina Grattan
Kathryn Levitt
Edward McDermott
Ryan Montalto
Jacob Nardone
Rohan Palacios
Andrew Parkinson

Spring 2023 Candidates

CERTIFICATE

Mackenzie Harden
Joshua Parsons

ADVANCED CERTIFICATE

Thomas Cook
Joseph Garofalo
Truitt Layman

COMMENCEMENT 2023 DEGREE PROGRAMS

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN URBAN AND COMMUNITY STUDIES

Fall 2022 Graduates

Patrick Milord *

Spring 2023 Candidates

Michael Blaizes
Natalie Cassar
Tonia Hucey
Alynda Johnson
Caressa Ogletree
Jasmin Sanchez*
Adrienne Sykes
Emily Warshauer

MASTER OF ARTS IN URBAN STUDIES

Fall 2022 Graduates

Marlon Bailey
James Beckford
Sandra Brown
Jessica DePasquale
Robin Kalap
Shalena Lindsey
Ben Louie
Krystal Padilla
Hidelise Pena
Kerry Pfaff
Thomas Prisco
Camila Rivadeneyra-Pedemonte
Britney Taylor
Mingxia Xu

Spring 2023 Candidates

Ihab Yousef Izzeldeen Omar Aldaqqaq
Mohammed Amnay
Bisola Bakare
Denise Baker
Justin Roop Bridgemohan
Sachaly De Leon
Aimee Feasel

Eileen Gonzalez
Monique Granados
Indeevari Kumarasinghe
Henrietta Osagie
Jaleel Parchment
Paul Sanabria
Sarah Watson
Royada Widdi
Quinella Williams

MASTER OF ARTS IN LABOR STUDIES

Fall 2022 Graduates

Akia Allen
Joanne Borts*
Sean Esrafilly
Frank Gattie
Cassandra Klewicki
Lana Lovell
Jodie Reaver

Spring 2023 Candidates

Robin Batson
Carole Natacha Beyinda
James Bosco
Dexter Braithwaite
Cylantra Dees*
Dan Knishkowsy
Melanie Kruvelis*
Andrew Pezzullo
Maria Santana*
Tanisha Smith*
Nazli Tamer*

* Joseph S. Murphy Scholarship for Diversity in Labor

COMMENCEMENT TRADITIONS AND SYMBOLS

ACADEMIC REGALIA

The academic regalia dates back to the Middle Ages, when learned persons at the time wore long hooded cloaks to fend off the cold within rock castle walls. The traditional attire was transported to this world when Kings College, Columbia University, first began using it for its commencement ceremony. This practice was codified in 1895 by the National Conference on Academic-Costume and Ceremony and a plan known initially as the “Intercollegiate System” was formally adopted. Today, commencement exercises across American universities all carry on the traditional costume and conduct the ceremony with three essential elements: the academic procession, the conferring of degrees, and the Commencement address.

Those with doctoral degrees wear the longest hood. The intermediate length designates a master’s degree and a shorter length, a bachelor’s degree. Medieval practice associated certain colors with specific academic pursuits. The silk-lined hoods represent a specific field of study with an official color trim (Citron: Labor and Urban Studies).

THE SCHOOL SEAL

The School seal is in a circular shape, with silver and warm red hues. The School name circles around the logo, and inside the seal, is an open book, with the left page highlighting a gear, and the other urban life. These symbols represent the core values of the School: access to education, diversity at every level, social justice, and equality for all.

THE MACE

The Mace, carried by the Grand Marshall, dates back to 12,000 B.C., when it was used as a weapon during battle. Today, the mace is carried at all academic ceremonies and is used to represent the responsibility to protect our education institutions and often times represents the core values of an institution. The Grand Marshal, carrying the Mace at Commencement and Convocation, heralds the arrival of the academic procession and concludes the ceremony.

GRAND MARSHAL

Samir Sonti
Associate Professor, Urban Studies

MUSICAL LYRICS

THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

Lyrics by Francis Scott Key (1814), Music by John Stafford Smith (c. 1773)

O say can you see by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.
O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

SOLIDARITY FOREVER

*Lyrics by Ralph Chaplin (c. 1915), Music by Traditional
Sung to the tune of "John Brown's Body" and "The Battle Hymn of the Republic"*

When the union's inspiration through the workers' blood shall run,
There can be no power greater anywhere beneath the sun;
Yet what force on earth is weaker than the feeble strength of one,
But the union makes us strong.

Solidarity forever,
Solidarity forever,
Solidarity forever,

For the union makes us strong.

Is there aught we hold in common with the greedy parasite,
Who would lash us into serfdom and would crush us with his might?
Is there anything left to us but to organize and fight?
For the union makes us strong.

It is we who plowed the prairies; built the cities where they trade;
Dug the mines and built the workshops, endless miles of railroad laid;
Now we stand outcast and starving midst the wonders we have made;
But the union makes us strong.

All the world that's owned by idle drones is ours and ours alone.
We have laid the wide foundations; built it skyward stone by stone.
It is ours, not to slave in, but to master and to own.
While the union makes us strong.

They have taken untold millions that they never toiled to earn,
But without our brain and muscle not a single wheel can turn.
We can break their haughty power, gain our freedom when we learn
That the union makes us strong.

In our hands is placed a power greater than their hoarded gold,
Greater than the might of armies, magnified a thousand-fold.
We can bring to birth a new world from the ashes of the old.
For the union makes us strong.

SPECIAL THANKS

SLU STUDENT UNION

Tania Caldwell

Bachelor of Arts In Urban and Community Studies, Co-Chair

Miriam Uribe

Master of Arts in Labor Studies, Co-Chair

Lakesha Foster

Certificate in Public Administration, Steering Committee

Kevin Wilson

Master of Arts in Labor Studies, Steering Committee

Carlos Sanchez

Certificate in Labor Relations, Treasurer

Carole Beyinda

Master of Arts in Labor Studies, Treasurer

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES ON THE ACADEMIC GOVERNING COUNCIL

Thomas Glenn

Master of Arts in Labor Studies

Tania Caldwell

Bachelor of Arts In Urban and Community Studies

Miriam Uribe

Master of Arts in Labor Studies

Kevin Wilson

Master of Arts in Labor Studies

SPECIAL THANKS

COMMENCEMENT AMBASSADORS

Michelle Akyempong
Kechea Brown
Wanda Nunez
Daysha Padia
Nicolas Pineda

COMMENCEMENT MARSHALS

Dorothy Benson
Zara Cadoux
Suzette Ellington
Zenzile Greene
Stephen Greenfeld
Cody Kalina
Kitty Krupat
Maureen LaMar
Aaron Lenchner
Martha Luna
Joanne Mason
Jaime Olmos
Pablo Perez
Lisset Puello
Estrella Redondo
Cory Rohr
Jonathan Rubin
Kevin Simmons
Keysha Rodriguez
Walter Romney
Keela Santiago
Elizabeth Sergile
Samina Shahidi
Mejbah Uddin
Hector Vasquez
Chris Washington
Anna Zak

SPECIAL THANKS

COMMENCEMENT COMMITTEE

Rochel Pinder, Chair

Director of Student and Community Affairs

Gladys Palma de Schrynemakers

Senior Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and Chief Diversity Officer

Burton Sacks

Associate Dean of Finance, Administration and Operations

Kafui Attoh

Associate Professor of Urban Studies

Nelly Benavides

Deputy to Associate Dean of Finance, Administration and Operations

Xalya Branch

Marketing and Communication Associate

Irene Garcia-Mathes

Senior Academic Advisor

Laurie Grimes

Enrollment Registrar Director

Eileen Hawkins Bauman

Senior Writer and Communications Officer

Rose Imperato

Academic Scholarship and Awards Coordinator

Michael Lalan

Public Programming Coordinator

Laura Meltzer

Labor Program Manager

Meghan Moore-Wilk

Interim Assistant Dean for Strategic Initiatives and Chief of Staff

Padraig O'Donoghue

Student Services Manager

Nadhia Rahman

Administrative Coordinator, Center for Public Engagement

Michael Rymer

Associate Director of the SLU Learning Hub

Pearl Shavzin

Departmental Administrative Specialist

Samir Sonti

Associate Professor, Urban Studies

**and the SLU staff and faculty, family and friends
who supported our graduates along the way.**

**CONGRATULATIONS,
CLASS OF 2023!**

Show off your graduation on social media! Tag us at [#CUNYSLUgrad23](#)