



# **COMMENCEMENT**

**CELEBRATING OUR  
2020, 2021, & 2022 GRADUATES**

**Thursday, June 2, 2022 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 and the Joseph S. Murphy Institute for Worker Education**

## 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 in the community.

The School also collaborates with other units of CUNY 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 forums and conferences, and publishes a national journal, *New Labor Forum: A journal of ideas, analysis, and debate*.

SLU opened its doors in 2018 as an outgrowth of the Joseph S. Murphy Institute for Worker Education and Labor Studies, which was established by CUNY in collaboration with three New York City unions. Founded in 1984 with 52 students, the Murphy Institute was named in 2005 to honor former CUNY Chancellor Joseph Murphy, a tireless advocate for the labor movement and worker education.

Today, the leaders of 26 labor and community organizations serve on the SLU's Advisory Board, and more than 1,400 students are currently enrolled in its degree and certificate programs and in workforce development programs. The Joseph S. Murphy Institute continues as 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 will support a range of intellectual aspirations and practical needs and serve as a gateway to college for many workers and working-class communities.

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# THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

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**Associate Vice Chancellor for the Executive Office**

Dolly Martínez

# 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, School of Labor and Urban Studies  
Ruth Milkman, Labor Studies Chair, School of Labor and Urban Studies  
Steve London, Urban Studies Chair, 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)**

Gloria Middleton, President

\*Arthur Cheliotas, *Board Chair*

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

Henry Garrido, Executive Director

(alt. Barbara Ingram-Edmonds, Director of

Field Operations; alt. Stephen Johnson, Administrator, Education Fund)

### **Workers United (SEIU)**

Edgar Romney, Secretary-Treasurer

### **1199 SEIU United Healthcare Workers East**

George Gresham, President

(alt. Samantha Morales, Director of Education & Leadership Development)

### **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. Evelyn DeJesus, 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

### **Service Employees International Union (SEIU)**

Gerald Hudson, Executive Vice President

(alt. Mark Levinson, Chief Economist)

### **Local 32BJ, Service Employees International Union (SEIU)**

Kyle Bragg, President

(alt. Lenore Friedlaender, Assistant to the President;

alt. Linda Nelson, Director of Thomas Shortman Training Fund)

### **Transport Workers Union (TWU) Local 100**

Anthony Utano, President

### **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**

Eddie Rodriguez, President

(alt. Vincent Oliver, Special Business Operations Associate)

### **Professional Staff Congress (PSC)**

James Davis, President

### **Writers Guild of America, East (WGAE)**

Lowell Peterson, Executive Director

### **Region 9A, United Auto Workers (UAW)**

Beverly Brakeman, Director

(alt. Ken Lang, Sub-Regional Director for New York City)

### **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

(alt. Robert Master, Assistant to the Vice President)

### **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.

\* denotes Advisory Board Chair

## MESSAGE FROM THE LABOR AND COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD CHAIR



Congratulations, Graduates!

I am privileged to serve as Chair of SLU's Advisory Board, which is comprised of the leaders of 26 labor unions and community organizations that are stakeholders in the School and play a critical role in advancing its mission. On behalf of the Board, I am pleased to extend our warmest congratulations to you, the CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies Classes of 2022, 2021 and 2020!

I am especially pleased that we are celebrating your achievements together, in person, for the first time since 2019. The pandemic that wrought havoc in our city and our country, and across the globe, did not stop you from achieving your goals. You

found the strength and resilience to persevere, continuing your classes remotely via Zoom, and many of you also managed to work and care for your families at the same time. I and the entire Advisory Board salute your determination and fortitude.

New York's workers are the life's blood of the city. This School is about workers, and for workers. It exists because of workers and the organizations that represent and support them, the product of a special collaboration between the City University and those organizations, going all the way back to 1984. It is a unique institution and one that I am deeply proud of, as I know you are.

All of you are here because you wanted to make a better life for yourselves and for your families, to make a difference in your workplace, and to help others do the same. I encourage you to consider how you can give back to this School, support your union, and how you can contribute to our collective mission to make New York City a better place to live and work in. This School has given you the knowledge and the tools to make that contribution. We are all counting on you.

Again, congratulations.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Arthur Cheliotis".

Arthur Cheliotis,  
Advisory Board Chair

# CUNY SCHOOL OF LABOR AND URBAN STUDIES FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATION

**Gregory Manstios, Ph.D.,**  
*Founding Dean*

**Gladys Palma de Schrynemakers, B.A., M.S., P.D., M.A., Ed.D.**  
*Associate Dean of Academic Affairs*

**Burton Sacks, B.A., M.S., M.S., P.D.**  
*Associate Dean of Operations*

## FACULTY

**Ruth Milkman, Ph.D.**  
*Chair of Labor Studies*

**Steve London, Ph.D.**  
*Interim Chair of Urban Studies*

**Sofya Aptekar, Ph.D.**  
*Associate Professor*

**Kafui Attoh, Ph.D.**  
*Associate Professor*

**Juan Battle, Ph.D.**  
*Consortial Professor*

**Deepak Bhargava**  
*Distinguished Lecturer*

**Ellen Dichner, J.D.**  
*Distinguished Lecturer*

**Penelope Lewis, Ph.D.**  
*Associate Professor*

**Stephanie Luce, Ph.D.**  
*Professor*

**Heather McGhee, J.D.**  
*Distinguished Lecturer*

**John Mollenkopf, Ph.D.**  
*Consortial Faculty*

**James Rodriguez, Ph.D.**  
*Assistant Professor*

**Samir Sonti, Ph.D.**  
*Assistant Professor*

**Joel Suarez, Ph.D.**  
*Assistant Professor*

## ADMINISTRATION

**Dorothy Benson**  
*Director of Finance and Business Affairs*

**John Conway, M.P.A.**  
*Human Resources*

**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.**  
*Urban Studies Program Manager*

**Laurie Grimes, M.A.**  
*Enrollment Registrar Director*

**Estrella Redondo**  
*Director of Enrollment*

**Antoinette Isable-Jones**  
*Chief Communications & Marketing Officer*

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*Director of Institutional Advancement and External Affairs*

**Maureen LaMar**  
*Urban Studies Program Manager*

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*Manager of Student Support and Retention*

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

**Jeff Rickman**  
*Director of Technology*

**Elizabeth Sergile, M.A., Ph.D.**  
**Candidate**  
*Director of Institutional Research and Assessment*

## STAFF

**Alicia Arana, J.D.**  
*Public Programming*

**Betsy Avila-Fernandez**  
*Communications*

**Nana Ama Ampah, M.A.**  
*Administrative Executive Assistant*

**Orson Barzola, M.S. Candidate**  
*Enrollment Services Coordinator*

**Nelly Benavides, M.A.**  
*Deputy to Associate Dean*

**Sonia Bernstein, M.A.**  
*LTT Writing Consultant, Lehman College*

**Xalya Branch**  
*Marketing and Communications Assistant*

**Keenya Browne Skelton**  
*Worker Ed. Administrative Coordinator*

**Rob Callaghan, M.S.**  
*Enrollment Specialist*

**Shayna Cody**  
*LTT Coordinator, BMCC*

**Donna Contreras-Aguirre, M.S.W.**  
*Wellness Counselor*

**Iris DeLutro**  
*LTT Manager*

**Emily Eklund, M.F.A.**  
*Writing Consultant, Learning Hub*

**Suzette Ellington**  
*Finance Budget Specialist*

**Laura Flanders**  
*Dean's Office*

**Irene Garcia-Mathes, M.A., Ph.D.**  
**Candidate**  
*Graduate Senior Academic Advisor*

**Zenzile Greene-Daniel**  
*Administrative Assistant*

**Halsey Hazzard**  
*Program Assistant, Queens College*

**Eileen Hawkins Bauman, M.A.**  
*Senior Writer and Communications Officer*

**Jose Herrera**  
*IT Support Staff*

**Kelvin Huang**  
*IT Support Staff*

**Rose Imperato, M.A.**  
*Academic Scholarship and Awards Coordinator*

**Tunde Jakab, Ph.D.**  
*LTT Coordinator, CSI*

**Christina Johnson**  
*Institutional Research and Assessment*

**Crystal Joseph, M.A., Ed.D. Candidate**  
*Community Semester Program Coordinator*

**Elizabeth Kane, M.A.**  
*LTT Writing Consultant, Brooklyn College*

**Laurie Kellogg**  
*Special Program Assistant*

**Kitty Krupat, M.A., M.Phil./A.B.D. Staff**

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*Public Programming Coordinator*

**Aaron Lenchner**  
*Digital Multimedia Specialist*

**Heysel Rodas, M.A.**  
*Academic Advisor, Queens College*

**Martha Luna-Vega**  
*Operations*

**James Lunsford**  
*Office of the Bursar*

**Abraham Marcus, M.A.**  
*College Prep Program Coordinator*

**Joanne Mason**  
*Associate Director, Worker Education*

**Laura Meltzer, M.A.**  
*Alumni Coordinator*

**Diana Mercado**  
*Budget Analyst*

**Cherise Mullings, M.A.**  
*Assistant Director of Admissions*

**Nikki Neysmith, M.A.**  
*Career Specialist*

**Jaime Olmos, M.A., M.Ed.**  
*Academic Program Coordinator*

**Anita Palathingal, M.A., M.Phil**  
*Public Programming*

**Pablo Perez, J.D.**  
*LTT Program Specialist, Bronx Bor.*

**Katiana Pierre-Jean**  
*Enrollment Coordinator*

**Lisset Puello**  
*Program Assistant*

**Nadhia Rahman, M.S.**  
*Administrative Coordinator*

**Keysha Rodriguez**  
*Administrative Coordinator*

**Marie Romani, M.S.**  
*Administrative Coordinator*

**Walter Romney**  
*College Assistant*

**Jonathan Rubin**  
*LTT Program Specialist, Brooklyn Borough*

**Michael Rymer, M.A., M.F.A.**  
*Associate Director, Learning Hub*

**Francine Sanchez**  
*Admission Counselor, Queens College*

**Sassy Sasson**  
*LTT Coordinator -Brooklyn College*

**Carol Schwartz, M.S.**  
*LTT Advisor, Queens College*

**Andrea Selonick**  
*Managing Editor of the New Labor Forum*

**Samina Shahidi, M.A.**  
*Senior Academic Advisor, M.A. in Urban Studies & WDCO*

**Michael Shapiro**  
*LTT Advisor, Lehman College*

**Irene HongPing Shin, M.S.W.**  
*Coordinator of International Program for Labor, Climate, and the Environment*

**Kevin Simmons, M.A.**  
*Academic Program Specialist*

**Jean Sots**  
*Writing Consultant, Queens College*

**Sean Sweeney, Ph.D.**  
*Director of International Program for Labor, Climate and Environment*

**Daniel Tehrani, M.A.**  
*Learning Hub*

**Lucy Torres, M.F.A.**  
*Learning Hub*

**Ralph Tricoche**  
*IT Coordinator*

**Jed-Rene Tuliao**  
*IT Support Staff*

**Ann Tullio**  
*Registrar Assistant*

**David Unger, M.P.A. Candidate**  
*Academic Program Coordinator*

**Krafins Valcin**  
*Blackboard Specialist*

**Melanie Vargas**  
*Program Assistant, Queens College*

**Jeanne Wasilik, M.F.A.**  
*Supplemental Instruction Leader, Learning Hub*

**Cheneyere Williamson, M.S.**  
*Career Specialist*

**Jiajing Xu, M.A.**  
*International Enrollment Specialist*

**Nathanie Yaskey, M.F.A. Candidate**  
*Digital Specialist, Learning Hub*



## MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDING DEAN



Congratulations, Graduates!

The CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies traces its roots to 1984, when The City University of New York collaborated with three New York unions to bring higher education opportunities to the City's working adults. Nearly forty years later, in 2018, CUNY's Board of Trustees established SLU as a self-standing school and the only one in the University system explicitly dedicated to public service and social justice. You are now part of that historic fabric.

This is a unique School that serves workers, union members, adult learners as well as traditional students seeking knowledge, skills and credentials to launch or advance their careers and improve their economic well-being. And you are members of a very special group. You have already risen to the challenge of pursuing your education—most of you doing so while working full-time and managing your families and personal lives—and you have demonstrated courage, fortitude and tenacity in the undertaking. You have proven that you are capable of facing hard truths and doing the hard work of making change.

As graduates of this School, the mantle you wear going forward carries a challenge, and that challenge is this: to use what you have learned here to confront the rising inequity across our city, our nation and the world. Use your new knowledge and skills to organize and motivate others. Apply your education to promote the kind of prosperity that benefits everyone and builds a cohesive community and a strong society. Your thoughtfulness and demonstrated activism make you well prepared for the struggle. Every single one of you has a role to play, and we need you to play it well.

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, that make you seek a life of meaning and consequence. Honor this great University by bringing your best self into the world every day. I ask you to walk this path because I know that you can, and for the sake of our city and our country, I hope that you will.

Finally, I encourage you to come back to SLU, and to CUNY. Come back to one of our public forums, conferences or other events. Come back to share your voice and your experiences. Come back to continue learning. Our mission here goes forward, and we invite you to be a part of it.

With warmest congratulations and best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Mantsios". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Gregory Mantsios, Ph.D.  
Founding Dean

# **ORDER OF CEREMONY**

**Rose Imperato**  
*Commencement Master of Ceremonies*

## **PROCESSIONAL**

**Deepak Bhargava**  
*Commencement Grand Marshal*

## **ANTHEMS**

**The Star-Spangled Banner**  
*Words by Francis Scott Key (1779–1843),  
Melody by John Stafford Smith (1750-1836)  
Performed by The United States Marine Band*

**Solidarity Forever**  
*Words by Ralph Chaplin (1915),  
Melody by John Brown's Body and The Battle Hymn of the Republic  
Al Hemberger, The Loft Recording Studios  
Nicole Alifante, Vocals  
Karry Faselt Hopwood, Vocals and Guitar*

## **MOMENT OF SILENCE**

## **PRESIDING**

**Dr. Gregory Mantsios**  
*Founding Dean*

## **GREETINGS FROM THE CUNY TRUSTEES AND CHANCELLERY**

**Michael Arvanites**  
*Trustee, City University of New York*

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

## **SALUTATORIAN ADDRESS**

**Tania Caldwell**

*Candidate, Bachelor of Arts in Urban & Community Studies*

## **MESSAGE TO GRADUATES**

**Violeta Gomez-Uribe**

*Student Speaker*

## **COMMENCEMENT GUEST SPEAKER**

**Craig Steven Wilder**

*Barton L. Weller Professor of History,  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology*

## **DEAN'S SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS**

**Joshua Freeman, Ph.D.**

*Distinguished Professor of History*

**Iris DeLutro**

*Leap-to-Teacher Coordinator*

**Stephen Brier, Ph.D.**

*Professor of Urban Education*

## **DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENT**

**Kerwin Simon**

*Assistant Director, NYC Health + Hospitals*

## **PASSING OF THE TORCH**

**Samina Shahidi**

*Senior Academic Advisor*

**Walter Romney**

*College Assistant  
Author, "Passing the Torch"*

**Theresa Ramos-Villega**  
*Candidate, Master of Arts in Labor Studies*

**Marlon Bailey**  
*Student, Master of Arts in Urban Studies*

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

**Dr. Gregory Mantsios**  
*Founding Dean*

**Dr. Gladys Palma de Schrynemakers**  
*Associate Dean of Academic Affairs*

**CLOSING REMARKS**

**Deepak Bhargava**  
*Commencement Grand Marshal*

**RECESSIONAL**

## 2022 COMMENCEMENT



### **TRUSTEE OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK MICHAEL ARVANITES**

Michael Arvanites, B.A., was appointed a Trustee of the City University of New York by Mayor Bill de Blasio, effective July 1, 2017 for a term that ends in 2024.

Over the past two decades, Mr. Arvanites has served as campaign manager, deputy campaign manager, field and vote coordinator on election campaigns, including those for President, Mayor, Congress, Borough President, State Senate, Assembly, Council and Judgeships. He is a member of the Executive Committee of the Richmond County Democratic Party and serves as the President of the North Shore Democratic Club.

Mr. Arvanites is a member of Community Resources for the Developmentally Disabled Foundation Board, a board member of United Activities Unlimited, which runs 19 after school programs and 12 cost-free summer day camps.

After graduating from all public schools (PS 29, IS 27, Wagner High School and SUNY Cortland) Mr. Arvanites was hired as Staten Island Assemblyman Eric Vitaliano's Deputy Chief of Staff in February of 1999. In 2002, he began working for Councilman Michael McMahon at City Hall and, in 2006, City Council Speaker Christine Quinn hired him as her Staten Island and South Brooklyn Liaison. He also served as Deputy Chief of Staff for State Senator Diane Savino, who represents the North Shore and South Brooklyn. Mr. Arvanites currently runs the Safety Professional Association INC., a safety advocacy trade association.

Mr. Arvanites serves as a member of the Board's Committee on Facilities, Planning and Management and the Committee on Faculty, Staff and Administration.

## 2022 COMMENCEMENT



### **CHANCELLOR FÉLIX V. MATOS RODRÍGUEZ**

Chancellor Matos Rodríguez's distinguished career spans both academia and the public sector: He is a scholar, teacher, administrator and former Cabinet secretary for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

Dr. Matos Rodríguez is a dedicated champion of accessibility, inclusion and excellence in higher education. He built a diverse team of tested leaders to serve on his cabinet, and as administrators. During his first year in office, he appointed pioneering leaders such as Dr. S. David Wu, as president of Baruch College, who became the first Asian-American to serve as a college president at CUNY starting in July 2020. In keeping with his ambition to grow access for traditionally underrepresented firms to CUNY, he unveiled a comprehensive plan to bolster business opportunities for firms owned by women, minorities and service-disabled veterans.

Responding to the crisis of the coronavirus pandemic in March 2020, Dr. Matos Rodríguez oversaw within a week the transition of nearly all of CUNY's 50,000 course sections to distance education. To ensure the success of CUNY students who lacked the resources to participate in distance modalities, the University quickly purchased thousands of laptops and tablets, and paused classes on most campuses to safely distribute the devices to those who needed them.

In April 2020, the University announced the Chancellor's Emergency Relief Fund to provide urgent support to students facing financial hardship amid the pandemic. Launched with \$3.25 million in initial donations, the fund has provided grants of \$500 each to thousands of CUNY students, including undocumented students who were excluded from financial relief by the federal government.

Prior to his appointment as Chancellor, Dr. Matos Rodríguez was president of CUNY's Queens College from 2014 to 2019 and of CUNY's Eugenio María de Hostos Community College in the Bronx from 2009 to 2014, making him one of a select few U.S. educators who has led both a baccalaureate and a community college.

While at Queens College, Matos Rodríguez introduced "QC in 4," an initiative that helps students complete their bachelor's degrees within four years; he significantly increased the college's endowment; and he created accelerated graduate programs that allow students to save time and money as they work toward master's degrees.

At Hostos, Matos Rodríguez and his leadership team were responsible for dramatically improving the college's retention and graduation rates and doubling its fundraising. These accomplishments made Hostos one of the finalists for the prestigious Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence in 2014.

From 2006 to 2008, Matos Rodríguez served as Puerto Rico's Cabinet secretary of the Department of Family Services. In this position, he formulated public policy and administered service delivery in such programs as Child Support Enforcement, Adoption and Foster Care, and Child and Elderly Protection. He oversaw a \$2.3 billion budget and over 11,000 employees. Earlier, he had been Senior Social Welfare and Health Advisor to the Governor of Puerto Rico.

A cum laude graduate in Latin American Studies from Yale University, Matos Rodríguez received his Ph.D. in history from Columbia University. He has taught at Yale, Northeastern University, Boston College, the Universidad Interamericana de Puerto Rico, City College and Hunter College, and was affiliated with the History department at the CUNY Graduate Center. At Hunter, he also directed the Center for Puerto Rican Studies, one of the largest and most important Latino research centers in the United States.

Dr. Matos Rodríguez has used his extensive regional and national networks and board memberships to advance the visibility and recognition of CUNY. A member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the Chancellor sits on the governing board of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU). In 2021, he joined the board of the Association for a Better New York (ABNY) and was named co-chair of the New York City Regional Economic Development Council (NYCREDC). He also serves on the boards of Phipps Houses and the United Way of New York City, and he is a member of the Research Alliance for New York City Schools steering committee. In 2020, the Chancellor was named by the American Council on Education (ACE) to a national task force focused on improving transfer of credit practices and to New York City's Education Sector Advisory Council, which is to guide the reopening of schools and other aspects of the city's pandemic response.

Dr. Matos Rodríguez has an extensive publication record in the fields of Women's, Puerto Rican, Caribbean and Latino Studies, and Migration. He is the author of "Women and Urban Change in San Juan, Puerto Rico, 1820-1868"; co-author of "Pioneros: Puerto Ricans in New York City, 1896-1948"; editor of "A Nation of Women: An Early Feminist Speaks Out / Mi opinión sobre las libertades, derechos y deberes de la mujer by Luisa Capetillo"; co-editor of "Puerto Rican Women's History: New Perspectives"; co-editor of Blackwell Reader on the Americas; and co-editor of "Boricuas in Gotham: Puerto Ricans in the Making of Modern New York City."

The Chancellor received the Albert J. Beveridge Award of the American Historical Association and his work has been published in such peer-reviewed journals as the Journal of Urban History, The Public Historian, Latin American Research Review, Centro Journal, Revista de Ciencias Sociales, and the Boletín de la Asociación de Demografía Histórica, in addition to having chapters in several anthologies. He was the founding editor of the series New Directions in Puerto Rican Studies, published by the University Press of Florida.

He is married to Dr. Liliana M. Arabía, a dentist, and they have two sons.

## 2022 COMMENCEMENT



### VALEDICTORIAN INDEEVARI KUMARASINGHE

Indeevari Kumarasinghe, B.A. Urban & Community Studies, is a Principal Administrative Associate II at New York City HRA, Office of Quality Assurance & Fiscal Integrity. During her 12 year career with the City of New York, she has also served as an Eligibility Specialist at Medical Insurance and Community Service Administration. She also worked as a Certified Application Counselor for the New York State of Health Market Place and as a Clerical Associates III at New York City HRA, SNAP Fair Hearing.

Indeevari was born in Sri Lanka, where she completed high school in BioScience. Her passion to participate in community projects led her to join the Ministry of Youth Affairs of the National Youth Services Council of Sri Lanka and the International Association of Lions Clubs District 306A Sri Lanka.

Indeevari says that by being a city employee, she continues to follow in her parents' footsteps but on a different continent: In Sri Lanka, Indeevari's mother was a public school teacher, and her father was a government transit worker.



## 2022 COMMENCEMENT



### **SALUTATORIAN TANIA CALDWELL**

Tania Caldwell, B.A. Urban & Community Studies, participated in SLU's Community Leadership Semester program in the spring semester of 2020 and subsequently enrolled in the B.A. in Urban & Community Studies program. Tania is a recipient of the 2020 Joseph S. Murphy Scholarship for Diversity in 2020. She subsequently participated in CUNY Women Public Services program and received a fellowship at the office of New York State Senator Toby Ann Stavisky.

Tania served as secretary of the SLU student union this semester and represented SLU as a delegate to the City University Student Senate. She will continue her service to the School as Co-Chair of the Student Union in the Fall 2022 semester, when she will begin the Master's program in Urban Studies.

In addition to being a student leader at SLU, Tania is a mother, wife and full-time employee. She currently is a community outreach assistant at the Korean American Family Services Center, working with the Latin immigrant community in Queens.

## 2022 COMMENCEMENT



### **STUDENT SPEAKER VIOLETA GOMEZ-URIBE**

Violeta Gomez-Urbe graduates with a Bachelor's degree in Urban Studies.

Violeta is a past recipient of SLU's Joseph S. Murphy Scholarship for Diversity in Labor. And, in 2021, she was recognized for both her academic achievement and community activism with the National Society of Leadership and Success Award.

Violeta served most recently as Deputy Director of Outreach in the NYC Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, where, during the height of the pandemic, she supported the efforts of a multi-agency immigrant COVID-19 vaccine outreach campaign that placed vaccine buses in the most disenfranchised neighborhoods, conducted outreach that led to over 200,000 newly vaccinated New Yorkers, and organized vaccine information town halls in 13 languages granting thousands of New Yorkers vaccine information directly from prominent health experts and physicians.

Born in Toluca, Mexico, Violeta traces her family lineage to the Otomi, an indigenous people inhabiting the central Mexican Plateau. A DACA recipient, she settled with her family in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, at the age of 15. Like so many other "Dreamers," Violeta grew up with a strong desire for education, intent on achieving academic excellence at each step up the education ladder. Along the way, Violeta became a socially conscious activist, rallying to protect the most marginalized members of her community. In a speech delivered at the New York Coming Out of the Shadows rally in March 2011, Violeta delivered a stirring declaration: "My name is Violeta and I am undocumented, unafraid, and unapologetic, but mostly I am a dreamer." Since then, Violeta has earned a reputation as a forceful immigrants' rights leader in New York. With a deep commitment to issues of equity and social justice, as well as to movement-building, she has volunteered with Sanctuary Homes and with Get Organized Brooklyn. And she worked as a volunteer on Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's campaign for Congress.

Presently, Violeta serves as a board member at Hand in Hand Domestic Employers Network, a national network of employers of nannies, house cleaners, and home attendants working for dignified and respectful working conditions that benefit the employer and worker alike. She is a member of Social Service Employees Union Local 371.

Violeta is dedicated to helping others rise and creating "pipelines for other immigrant women of color."

## 2022 COMMENCEMENT



### GUEST SPEAKER CRAIG STEVEN WILDER

Craig Steven Wilder is a historian of American institutions and ideas.

Professor Wilder's most recent book is *Ebony & Ivy: Race, Slavery, and the Troubled History of America's Universities* (New York: Bloomsbury, 2013), which Kirkus Reviews named one of the best nonfiction books of the year and which won multiple book awards. It inspired the Grammy Award-winning artist Esperanza Spalding's song, "Ebony and Ivy" in "Emily's D+Evolution" (2016). A book titled *Ebony & Ivy* was featured in the film "Dear White People" (2014). He is also the author of *A Covenant with Color: Race and Social Power in Brooklyn* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2000/2001); and *In the Company of Black Men: The African Influence on African American Culture in New York City* (New York: New York University Press, 2001/2004).

His recent essays include: "War and Priests: Catholic Colleges and Slavery in the Age of Revolution," in Sven Beckert and Seth Rockman, eds., *Slavery's Capitalism* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2016); and "'Driven . . . from the School of the Prophets': The Colonizationist Ascendance at General Theological Seminary," the inaugural essay in the digital journal *New York History*.

In 2004, Columbia University awarded Craig Steven Wilder the University Medal for Excellence during its 250th Anniversary Commencement.

Professor Wilder is a senior fellow at the Bard Prison Initiative, where he has served as a visiting professor, commencement speaker, and academic advisor. For more than a decade, BPI has given hundreds of men and women the opportunity to earn college degrees during their incarcerations in the New York State prison system.

He has advised and appeared in numerous historical documentaries, including Ken Burns' "Race Man" (2016), which explores the transformative career of Jackie Robinson; "The Central Park Five," which received the 2013 Peabody Award; Kelly Anderson's groundbreaking and acclaimed exploration of gentrification, "My Brooklyn"; the History Channel's "F.D.R.: A Presidency Revealed"; and Ric Burn's prize-winning PBS series, "New York: A Documentary History."

Professor Wilder serves on the board of the Lapidus Center for the Historical Analysis of Transatlantic Slavery at the Schomburg Center, New York Public Library. He has directed or

advised exhibits at regional and national museums, including the Brooklyn Historical Society, the New-York Historical Society, the Chicago History Museum, the Brooklyn Navy Yard's BLDG 92, the Brooklyn Children's Museum, the Museum of the City of New York, and the Weeksville Heritage Center. He was one of the original historians for the Museum of Sex in New York City.

Professor Wilder began his career as a community organizer in the South Bronx. He has taught at Dartmouth College, Williams College, and Long Island University, and has been a visiting professor at the New School University and University College London.

## 2022 COMMENCEMENT

### DEAN'S SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS



**JOSHUA FREEMAN**  
**DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR OF HISTORY**

Joshua Freeman, Distinguished Professor Emeritus in History at CUNY's Graduate Center and Queens College and a member of SLU's consortial faculty, has written extensively about the history of labor, industry, modern America, and New York City. His books include *Behemoth: A History of the Factory and the Making of the Modern World*; *Working-Class New York: Life and Labor since World War II*; *American Empire: The Rise of a Global Power, the Democratic Revolution at Home* (New York City Book Award 2000); and *In Transit: The Transport Workers Union in New York City, 1933-1966* (Philip Taft Labor History Book Award 1989). He is the co-editor (with Steve Fraser) of *Audacious Democracy: Labor, Intellectuals, and the Social Renewal of America*. Dr. Freeman has appeared in several television documentaries, including a 2015 PBS *American Experience* episode, "Blackout," "Nightmare in the City that Never Sleeps" (BBC Current Affairs, 2007), and Ric Burns' *New York* (2000). In 2019 he edited a collection of essays, *City of Workers, City of Struggle; How Labor Movements Changed New York* and supervised the curation of an associated exhibit at the Museum of the City of New York. In 2019, the Hillman Foundation awarded Dr. Freeman its Sol Stetin Award for Labor History.

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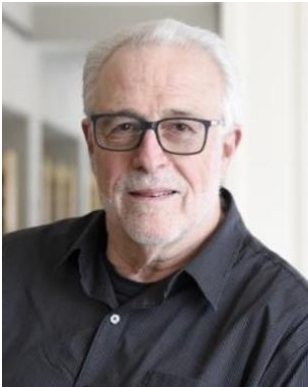


**IRIS DELUTRO**  
**LEAP-TO-TEACHER COORDINATOR**

**Iris DeLutro** has spent more than thirty years in public higher education, working with non-traditional and under-represented adult and traditional-age students. In 1984 she was on the ground floor of building the Labor Education and Advancement Program (LEAP) at Queens College. She also developed and served as Senior Counselor for the LEAP-to Teacher program

(LTT) at The Murphy Institute, which assists paraprofessionals wishing to become certified teachers or otherwise pursue higher education goals. Under Iris's leadership, LTT has now expanded to six colleges across the CUNY system. Iris is also an active member and recognized leader of the PSC-CUNY, where she has served as Vice President of Cross Campus Units, Vice Chair of the Higher Education Officer (HEO) Chapter, and on the Board of Directors of the New York State United Teachers (NYSUT). Iris has received numerous awards including NYSUT Higher Education Member of the Year, the New York League of Puerto Rican Women Lifetime Achievement Award, and the NYC AFL-CIO's Chapter of the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA) Award for contributions to the labor movement in higher education.

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**STEPHEN BRIER**  
**PROFESSOR OF URBAN EDUCATION**

Stephen Brier is Professor Emeritus of American Studies, Urban Education, Liberal Studies, Digital Humanities and Interactive Technology and Pedagogy at the CUNY Graduate Center, and a former member of the consortial faculty at SLU and its predecessor, The Murphy Institute, where he taught labor history. Dr. Brier is a historian who has published widely on issues ranging from U.S. social and labor history and the history of public higher education to the uses of digital technologies and tools to improve academic teaching, learning, and research. He was the founding director of the Graduate Center's American Social History Project/Center for Media and Learning, which he headed for 18 years, and the executive producer of the project's award-winning "Who Built America?" multimedia curriculum, including textbooks, videos, and CD-ROMs. He has co-produced other award-winning websites, including "History Matters," the "September 11 Digital Archive," and the "CUNY Digital History Archive."

## 2022 COMMENCEMENT



### **DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENT KERWIN SIMON**

Kerwin V. Simon earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Urban and Community Studies, and a Master of Arts Degree in Urban Studies, class of 2021. Kerwin's career in healthcare began at NYC Health + Hospitals, where he worked first as a Rehabilitation Technician, then as Coordinating Manager and finally in his current position – Assistant Director. As Assistant Director, Kerwin is involved in several projects that focus on improving patient care and is a proud member of CWA Local 1180.

**CERTIFICATES AND DEGREES:  
NAMES OF CANDIDATES AND GRADUATES**

*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.*



## 2022 COMMENCEMENT

### CERTIFICATES – DEPARTMENT OF URBAN STUDIES

#### CERTIFICATES IN COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

##### FALL 2021 GRADUATES

###### ADVANCED CERTIFICATE

Billie-Rae Johnson

##### SPRING 2022 CANDIDATES

###### CERTIFICATE

Yaneysi Yamilet Cabral  
Shaliyah Faith Johnson I  
Star D. Wilson

###### ADVANCED CERTIFICATE

Cyassandra G. Frith  
Gina Katherine Mlanga  
Elizabeth Beaty O'Ferrall  
Michelle Pierrepaul  
Daisy Rodriguez

#### CERTIFICATES IN HEALTHCARE ADVOCACY

##### FALL 2021 GRADUATES

###### ADVANCED CERTIFICATE

Eugene J. Patron

##### SPRING 2022 CANDIDATES

###### ADVANCED CERTIFICATE

Nicole A. Nester  
Sandra Wilson

#### CERTIFICATES IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND PUBLIC POLICY

##### FALL 2021 GRADUATES

###### ADVANCED CERTIFICATE

Dionne Marie Gray

Shakia M. McMillan  
Shauna Patrick  
Miriam Christine Phillip-Joseph  
Charisma Rodriguez  
Diamond Shammgod

##### SPRING 2022 CANDIDATES

###### CERTIFICATE

Yolanda Perez  
Jacqueline M.Y. Roberts

###### ADVANCED CERTIFICATE

Bolaji Ayorinde  
Julian M. Coca  
Lakesha G. Foster  
Aislinn Faye Klein  
Melissa J. Minnich  
Myrto Pierre  
Kellinda C. Reed  
Nino Tinikashvili

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

##### SPRING 2022 CANDIDATES

###### ADVANCED CERTIFICATE

Lesly Nicol Calle  
Paulo H. Lellis  
Tessa P. Maffucci  
Tobias Sheppard Bloch

##### SUMMER 2022 CANDIDATES

###### ADVANCED CERTIFICATE

Samantha Norris

## 2022 COMMENCEMENT

### CERTIFICATES – DEPARTMENT OF LABOR STUDIES

#### CERTIFICATES IN LABOR RELATIONS

##### FALL 2021 GRADUATES

###### CERTIFICATE

Jonathan Carl Ager  
Chong Chan  
William Wai Kwan  
Mark A. Mazella  
Liam Ambrose Mccabe  
Barry Walters

###### ADVANCED CERTIFICATE

Brian Gaugler  
David Noven

##### SPRING 2022 CANDIDATES

###### CERTIFICATE

Rachel Alba  
Alyssa Motschwiller  
Christopher Olmsted  
Deirdre L. Verne

###### ADVANCED CERTIFICATE

Matthew Brunner  
Graham Carter  
Maria Nelly N Giraldo  
Christine Keating  
Ruel Minott  
Maria S. Uruchima

#### CERTIFICATES IN LABOR STUDIES

##### FALL 2021 GRADUATES

###### CERTIFICATE

Brian David Hunt  
Nadia Vitek

###### ADVANCED CERTIFICATE

Corey Dan  
Christopher James Natoli  
Isaac Brian Reese

##### SPRING 2022 CANDIDATES

###### CERTIFICATE

Haley N. Zink

###### ADVANCED CERTIFICATE

Emily J. Andresini  
Tiffany Marie Clark  
Logan James Dolamore  
Max David Fisher  
Aflon Rosetta McIver  
Aidan Sian McNally  
Laura Mistretta  
Jeffrey Vandervennet

## 2022 COMMENCEMENT

### DEGREE PROGRAMS

#### **BACCALAUREATE IN URBAN AND COMMUNITY STUDIES**

##### **FALL 2021 GRADUATES**

Violeta Gomez Uribe  
Indeevari M. Kumarasinghe  
June Mentore

##### **SPRING 2022 CANDIDATES**

Tania C. Caldwell  
Angelique Yasmin Dejesus  
Bryan Mctiernan  
Laura Penaranda-Currie

##### **SUMMER 2022 CANDIDATES**

Michael A. Blaizes

#### **MASTER OF ARTS IN URBAN STUDIES**

##### **FALL 2021 GRADUATES**

Arnaldo Bernabe  
Dionne Marie Gray  
Prameet Kumar  
Joey Marmol  
Yasmina Moore  
Veronica Peters  
Miriam Christine Phillip-Joseph  
Shaune D. Robinson  
Ulrielle Oceanne Souffrant  
Sabrina Wallington  
Kenesha C. Williams

##### **SPRING 2022 CANDIDATES**

Troy Barnes  
Ashlyn Behrndt  
Aislinn Faye Klein  
Antonia Kuhr  
Myrto Pierre  
Nalinie Nadia Ramjit  
Ricardo Rivera

Kehinde B. Sanni  
Stuart James Wong

##### **SUMMER 2022 CANDIDATES**

Lalitha Sarma

#### **MASTER OF ARTS IN LABOR STUDIES**

##### **FALL 2021 GRADUATES**

Robert Ascherman  
George Cadkin  
Kyndra Chante` Fowler  
Verhay K. Gill-Lewis  
Maria Nelly Giraldo  
Glen M. Guild  
Noelle Hill  
Marly L. Noel  
Alanna Salwen  
Kayleigh E. Truman  
Jolisel E. Vargas Lopez  
Amy Elizabeth Wilson

##### **SPRING 2022 CANDIDATES**

Virgilio O. Aran  
Tameeka N. Brown  
Yvette Burkeforehand  
Kevin Patrick Curtin, Jr.  
Alan B. Eiland  
Pedro A. Freire  
Kisha M. Greene  
Andrew Hubbard  
Alasia Laureano  
Christopher Mejia  
Nicolas Pineda  
Theresa Ramos-Villega  
Cameron Michael Still  
Robbin Thompson  
Cherise Windley

**SUMMER 2022 CANDIDATES**

Sean Arshia Esrafily  
Frida Cecilia Garza Garcia  
Liana Kallman  
Xiomara Loarte  
Lana C. Lovell  
Jules A. Neuman  
Gabriela Quintanilla

## **2022 COMMENCEMENT**

### **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 was proposed 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 Marshal, 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**

**Deepak Bhargava**

*Distinguished Lecturer, Urban Studies*

## MUSICAL LYRICS

### THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

*Words by Francis Scott Key (1779–1843)  
Melody by John Stafford Smith (1750-1836)*

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

*Words by Ralph Chaplin (1915)  
Melody by 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**

**Marlon Bailey**

*Enrolled, Master of Arts in Urban Studies*

**Tania Caldwell**

*Candidate, Bachelor of Arts in Urban & Community Studies*

**Glen Guild**

*Master of Arts in Labor Studies*

**Nicolas Pineda**

*Candidate, Master of Arts in Labor Studies*

**Theresa Ramos-Villega**

*Candidate, Master of Arts in Labor Studies*

**Kevin Wilson**

*Enrolled, Master of Arts in Labor Studies*

### **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES ON THE ACADEMIC GOVERNING COUNCIL**

**Thomas Glenn**

*Enrolled, Master of Arts in Labor Studies*

**Nicolas Pineda**

*Candidate, Master of Arts in Labor Studies*

**Sabrina Wallington**

*Master of Arts in Urban Studies*

**Violeta Gomez-Urbe**

*Candidate, Bachelor of Arts in Urban & Community Studies*

**Fitzroy Searles**

*Master of Arts in Urban Studies*

# **SPECIAL THANKS**

## **COMMENCEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**Rochel Pinder**

*Director of Student and Community Affairs*

**Dr. Gladys Palma de Schrynemakers**

*Associate Dean of Academic Affairs*

**Burton Sacks**

*Associate Dean of Operations*

**Nana Ama Ampah**

*Executive Assistant to the Founding Dean*

**Deepak Bhargava**

*Distinguished Lecturer, Urban Studies*

**Nelly Benavides**

*Deputy to Associate Dean & Chairperson*

**Ellen Dichner**

*Distinguished Lecturer, Labor Studies*

**Irene Garcia-Mathes**

*Senior Academic Advisor*

**Dr. Stephen Greenfeld**

*Urban Studies Program Manager*

**Laurie Grimes**

*Enrollment Registrar Director*

**Eileen Hawkins Bauman**

*Senior Writer and Communications Officer*

**Rose Imperato**

*Academic Scholarship and Awards Coordinator*

**Antoinette Isable-Jones**

*Chief Marketing and Communications Officer*

**Michael Lalan**

*Public Programming Coordinator*

**Laura Meltzer**

*Alumni Coordinator*

**Padraig O'Donoghue**

*Student Support and Retention Manager*

**Nadhia Rahman**

*Administrative Coordinator, Center for Public Engagement*

**Michael Rymer**

*Associate Director of the SLU Learning Hub*

and

**ALL SLU STAFF, FACULTY, AND  
PARENTS, FAMILY, AND FRIENDS  
THAT SUPPORTED OUR GRADUATES ALONG THE WAY**



**CONGRATULATIONS  
CLASS OF 2020, 2021, AND 2022!**

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