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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Steve London, Urban Studies Chair, School of Labor and Urban Studies

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(al. Deborah Buxton, Deputy Director of Education)

New York State Nurses Association
Nancy Hagans, President

* 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.

Arthur Cheliotes,
Advisory Board Chair
CUNY SCHOOL OF LABOR AND URBAN STUDIES
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Founding Dean

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

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Director of Institutional Advancement and External Affairs
Maureen LaMar
Urban Studies Program Manager
Padraig O'Donoghue
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

Michael Lalan  
Public Programming Coordinator

Aaron Lenchner  
Digital Multimedia Specialist

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

Martha Luna-Vega  
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College Prep Program Coordinator

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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

Nadha 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
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,

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
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.
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.
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.
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.
Violeta Gomez-Uribe 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 lead 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.”
Craig Steven Wilder is a historian of American institutions and ideas.


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.
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.

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.”
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

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

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

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
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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
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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
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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 Chanté Fowler
Verhay K. Gill-Lewis
Maria Nelly Giraldo
Glen M. Guild
Noelle Hill
Marly L. Noel
Alanna Salwen
Kayleigh E. Truman
Jolise E. Vargas Lopez
Amy Elizabeth Wilson

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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 servitude 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-Uribe  
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

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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!

Feel free to use #CUNYSLUgrad for all social media communications.