

CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies
The City University of New York



2020
GRADUATION
CELEBRATION

Wednesday, June 3, 2020 / 5:00 PM on CUNY TV

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VIRTUAL GRADUATION CEREMONY

BROADCAST ON JUNE 3, 2020 AT 5PM ON CUNY TV

MASTERS OF CEREMONY

Penny Lewis
Associate Professor of Labor Studies

Kafui Attoh
Associate Professor of Urban Studies



THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

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

DEAN'S REMARKS

Gregory Mantsios
Founding Dean

SOLIDARITY FOREVER

Words by Ralph Chaplin (1915)
Melody by John Brown's Body and The Battle Hymn of the Republic

Performed by:

Al Hemberger, The Loft Recording Studios
with

Nicole Alifante: Vocals
Karry Faselt Hopwood: Vocals and Guitar

IN MEMORIAM

WELCOME TO THE CLASS OF 2020

Video Message: Congratulations!
Faculty and Staff of the School of Labor and Urban Studies

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

Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Senator, New York State

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Honorable Letitia James
New York State Attorney General

MESSAGE TO GRADUATES

KenDell Jackson

Candidate for Master of Arts in Urban Studies

2020 INAUGURAL STUDENT LEADER AWARD

Neonne Ameer

Candidate for Master of Arts in Urban Studies

2020 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDEES

Bradley Kolb

Labor Relations Certificate / BA Urban Studies 2018

Kristina Ramos-Callan

MA Urban Studies 2018

PRESENTATION OF HONORARY DEGREE

Arthur Cheliotis

Labor Leader

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES - PRESENTATION OF THE GRADUATES

Gladys Palma de Schrynmakers

Associate Dean of Academic Affairs

CLOSE OF SHOW

**IN MEMORIAM
OF THOSE WE LOST
2019-2020**

ABOUT CUNY SCHOOL OF LABOR AND URBAN STUDIES



The new CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies (SLU) opened its doors in September 2018. 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 new 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 is an outgrowth of the Joseph S. Murphy Institute for Worker Education and Labor Studies, named in honor of former CUNY Chancellor Joseph Murphy, a tireless advocate for the labor movement and worker education in 2005. The Institute was established in 1984 by CUNY in collaboration with three New York City unions and began with 52 students. Today, the leaders of 26 labor and community organizations serve on the SLU's Advisory Board, and more than 1,200 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 new 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

To the Graduates of the Class of 2020, their families and friends, and the broader SLU community.

I am very happy to extend my heartfelt congratulations on reaching this day—a very proud moment for us all. In recognizing your accomplishments, we also thank your families and friends for supporting you through your educational pursuits. As you know, this year's graduates will be receiving their diplomas in the mail. You will also be invited to walk in next year's graduation procession, on a real stage, with all the pomp and circumstance of an in-person commencement ceremony.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our extraordinary faculty and staff for their efforts in helping you get to this point—and especially for doing so in these most difficult of times. We have a faculty and support staff whose level of dedication to our students is unmatched anywhere in the academy.

That said, I want to take a minute to reflect on this moment in which we find ourselves and to ask, “What are the lessons learned from this terrible pandemic?” We are after all a school, so asking this kind of question comes naturally to us. We are also a school that is dedicated to public service and social justice, so let's look at these times through a lens that reflects our values. There are many lessons, but I want to focus on just three.

LESSON #1: THE BIG PICTURE IS ESSENTIAL

We constantly need to remind ourselves to view our personal and collective circumstances from 20,000 feet up. From that height, the big picture is clearer than it's even been. There is something fundamentally and structurally wrong with our system. When our health care system fails us despite the enormous resources at our disposal; when corporations and politicians put profits before people; when workers lose their jobs and suddenly do not have food to put on the table; and when the burdens of a disaster consistently—consistently—fall disproportionately on the poor and on black and brown people, then we have to say to ourselves, there is something fundamentally wrong with the socio-economic systems. It is my hope that your education at SLU has provided you with a bird's eye perspective for looking at the challenges we are facing.

LESSON #2: LEADERSHIP COUNTS

That hasn't always been so obvious in the past—especially when it came to politics. How often have we heard, “the candidates are all the same,” or “nothing will change,” (assuming it won't get better but ignoring the fact that it could get a lot worse). But those clichés just don't stand up when we are confronted with failure to respond to critical needs; failure to obtain and distribute resources to keep people alive; failure to make governmental appointments based on competency; and failure to shape the public discourse in a positive and inclusive way. All this, and so much more, have led to truly disastrous consequences. In our School, we have taught that knowledge of history, science, ideas, and research are all important for decision-making. We believe that practical skills and experience are just as important as theoretical learning. We think of ourselves as a School of scholars and practitioners, of thinkers and doers. But we have also taught that to do the right thing requires compassion, a moral compass, and a vision for a better world—one that is more equitable, just, and humane.

LESSON #3: ADVOCACY IS KEY

The pandemic has made it crystal clear that health care is a human right, one that must be available to everyone. Your access to life-saving care should not depend on whether or not you're a citizen or you have a job that happens to come with insurance. You shouldn't hesitate to seek medical care because the cost of care and medications are so expensive. You shouldn't have to choose between your health and paying the rent. There are so many societal ills that need to be remedied and so many structural problems that need to be addressed. And yet, even the most fundamental, humane considerations that go into the development and implementation of public policies are contested terrain. And this is where unions, community organizations, and social movements for change come into play. As this moment in our history makes clear, we need social justice advocates and mass mobilization more than ever. And that goes to heart of our mission at SLU: to prepare future leaders to become the change-makers of tomorrow.

Although the bird's eye view of society is important, the ground-level view is equally important. We hope you keep your eyes on both. And whether you are—or will become—a leader, a researcher, an organizer, or a worker in public service, we hope that you use the knowledge and skills you have gained at the School for Labor and Urban Studies to make our city, country, and world a better place.

You have persevered through unprecedented circumstances that no one could have foreseen even six months ago. Some of you have endured severe hardships and personal tragedies. But in the face of almost unimaginable obstacles, you have adapted on a dime and succeeded in reaching your goals. There are no words sufficient to express my admiration for you all.

This is a pivotal moment in our history. It is time for a paradigm shift that can empower poor and working-class people of this country to take action to ensure that the benefits of our society and our economy are distributed equitably to everyone, not just to the privileged few.

Every day, someone from this School and this University—someone like you—is out there changing the world in ways both big and small. You have the tools now. You have the knowledge. We are counting on you.

Congratulations, Classes of 2019 and 2020.



Gregory Mantsios, Ph.D.
Founding Dean

POST-SCRIPT AS OF JUNE 2, 2020

To our SLU Community:

I know that every person in our School community shares my anguish and rage over the senseless murder of George Floyd by a white police officer. Our hearts go out to George Floyd's family and friends. If there is any consolation in his death, it may be that his murder is a moment of reckoning with the political and moral chaos engulfing our country and the world right now.

George Floyd is only one of thousands of African Americans who have lost their lives to police brutality, and his is only the most recent in a string of racially motivated killings and incidents in the last few months. His murder comes in the midst of a pandemic that to date has cost hundreds of thousands of lives and sickened millions more, and has also created enormous economic hardship, both of which have fallen most heavily on people of color. America can no longer deny it—we have come face-to-face with the deep stain of racism that has haunted our nation since its founding.

George Floyd's tragic death may finally have brought our country to a tipping point. For one thing, it was brutal in the extreme; for another, it vividly exposed a state-sanctioned, military form of policing that is directed overwhelmingly at people of color. As a result, millions of people have taken to the streets to say, "Enough!" This is not the first time Americans have risen up in outrage to demand an end to racism. Let us hope that this time protest brings about meaningful and permanent change.

The principles of justice and equality for all lie at the heart of our mission as a School. In that sense, we are a partner in the ongoing struggle for social change; we can make a contribution in this fight to eradicate racism. I, for one, feel more determined than ever to help our School grow and fulfill its mission.

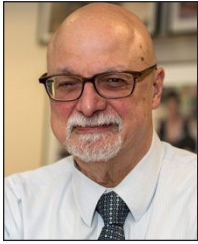
In solidarity,



Gregory Mantsios, Ph.D.

FOUNDING DEAN

GREGORY MANTSIOS



Dr. Gregory Mantsios was appointed Founding Dean of the CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies in January 2018. He previously served for 34 years as founder and director of CUNY's Joseph S. Murphy Institute for Worker Education, from which the new School was established and which remains an integral unit within the School.

For the past four decades, Dr. Mantsios has devoted himself to building programs in Labor Studies and establishing college-degree programs for non-traditional students, particularly those from poor and working-class backgrounds. These programs have provided thousands of adult learners and union members with an opportunity to earn college degrees. At the Murphy Institute, he also developed a center for public programming, civic engagement, and leadership training. The lead architect for the CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies, Dr. Mantsios was also the chief campaigner for establishment of the School.

The School of Labor and Urban Studies (SLU) was formally launched in 2018 as the 25th entity and 7th professional school within The City University of New York system. The School is the first of its kind created at a major U.S. university in more than forty years—a publicly-funded institution of higher education focused on social change and public service—with a unique mission: to address the needs of working-class and poor constituents and help them achieve greater economic security, while simultaneously helping the City and State by developing an educated, highly skilled workforce. SLU offers undergraduate and graduate degree programs in Labor Studies and Urban Studies 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 CUNY entities to offer a range of college-credit programs designed to help workers develop 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.

Prior to joining CUNY, Dr. Mantsios was a community organizer; an elected officer of AFT Local 1796; a member of the sociology faculty at William Paterson University; and the Director of Labor Studies at Empire State College, SUNY. He holds a B.A. in Sociology and an M.A. in Urban Studies from Queens College, and a Ph.D. in Sociology from the Union Institute and University. He writes on poverty, inequality, labor relations, and education, and is the editor of *A New Labor Movement for a New Century*, an anthology on the future of the labor movement. He is also the founder and publisher of *New Labor Forum*, a national journal of ideas, analysis and debate.

2020 KEYNOTE SPEAKER

HONORABLE LETITIA JAMES



Letitia “Tish” James is the 67th Attorney General for the State of New York. With decades of work, she is an experienced attorney and public servant with a long record of accomplishments. She is the first woman of color to hold statewide office in New York and the first woman to be elected Attorney General.

In 2013, Ms. James was elected Public Advocate for the City of New York and became the first woman of color to hold citywide office. As Public Advocate, Ms. James served as a watchdog over New York City government agencies and as an advocate for the City’s most vulnerable communities. She transformed the Public Advocate’s office to be a formidable engine for change.

Her office handled over 32,000 constituent complaints and passed more legislation than all previous Public Advocates combined, including a groundbreaking law that banned questions about salary history from the employment process to address the pervasive gender wage gap. Ms. James successfully took on the gun industry by pushing New York City’s largest pension fund to divest from gun and ammunition retailers. She fought in court on behalf of children and families on issues including children in foster care, children with disabilities, and tenant protection. New Yorkers overwhelmingly elected Tish James to a second term as Public Advocate in November 2017.

Prior to serving as Public Advocate, Tish James represented the 35th Council District in Brooklyn in the New York City Council for ten years. As a Council Member, she passed the Safe Housing Act, legislation that forced landlords to improve living conditions for tenants in New York City’s worst buildings. She helped uncover the corruption behind the Office of Payroll Administration’s CityTime contract, a scheme that cost New York City over \$600 million. She also pushed through a revolutionary recycling package that included expanding plastic recycling, a new clothing and textile recycling program, and increased access to recycling in public spaces.

Before her election to the City Council, Tish James served as head of the Brooklyn Regional Office of the New York State Attorney General’s Office. She resolved hundreds of consumer complaints and investigated predatory lenders who preyed on first-time homebuyers. She assisted the Civil Rights Bureau in its investigation of the NYPD’s stop-and-frisk policy and cracked down on firms engaged in deceptive business practices including violations of human rights, environmental laws, and scams targeting immigrants.

Tish James began her career as a public defender at the Legal Aid Society. A proud Brooklynite, she is a graduate of Lehman College and Howard University School of Law.

2020 HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT

ARTHUR CHELIOTES



Arthur Cheliotes was President of Local 1180, Communications Workers of America, AFL-CIO for 39 years, serving from 1978 to 2017. During his tenure, Cheliotes earned the respect of labor leaders and public officials as a progressive union leader willing to fight for his members and for the rights of all workers. Throughout his career, he has been a strong and vocal advocate for worker education, pay equity, and the enforcement of civil service laws.

Cheliotes now serves the members of Local 1180 as President Emeritus and Business Manager. In these roles he assists the Local's officers and executive board by serving as a Trustee, and managing the union's benefits funds. He also continues to participate in contract negotiations and legal matters.

Local 1180 is the first public worker local, and one of the largest locals within the Communications Workers of America (CWA), representing middle- and high-level administrative and supervisory employees in New York City Mayoral agencies, the Health and Hospitals Corporation, New York City Housing Authority, Metropolitan Transit Authority, and the State court system. Building on its achievements to protect workers' rights and raise their standard of living, Local 1180 is now organizing workers in the non-profit sector, and currently represents workers at more than a dozen not-for-profit organizations.

Under Cheliotes' leadership, Local 1180 worked tirelessly to advance the careers of its members employed by the City of New York. The union instituted and expanded a series of internal training programs, and collaborated with The Murphy Institute for Worker Education, a unit of The City University of New York, to provide opportunities for higher education to help workers develop the skills and critical thinking needed to be effective on the job and in their communities.

During Cheliotes' tenure, the union was also recognized as a leader on public policy issues. In 1994, Local 1180 developed a worker and community friendly economic development program to help maintain City services and bring equity to its tax structure. The union also launched an aggressive campaign in 2003 to ensure that public services are maintained through a progressive taxation system that takes the burden off working families and small business owners struggling to stay in the middle class. The union also created a retirees' division, offering programs for retired members to help them remain active and maintain good health.

Cheliotes has received honors and awards from the National Welfare Law Center for his work with the jobless. The Hunger Action Network also honored him for his work with the homeless. In 2004, Cheliotes received the Humanitarian Award from the Association for the Advancement of the Blind and Retarded, in recognition of his support for their work. In addition, he has been honored numerous times by various organizations including the NAACP Freedom Award (2004); the Civil Service Merit Council Leadership Award (2006 and 2017); the Greater New York Council—Boy Scouts of America "Good Scout" Award (2011); Medicare Rights Center Humanitarian Award (2012); Labor Council for Latin American Advancement Advocacy Award (2013); and the New York State Labor History Association Award for Leadership in Labor Education (2014).

Arthur Cheliotes has a long-standing and productive relationship with The City University of New York. As Chair of the advisory board of The Murphy Institute, he advocated passionately for the expansion of the Institute into a self-standing school. In 2017, the University's Board of Trustees created the new school, which opened its doors in 2018 as the CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies. Cheliotes continues to serve as Chair of the School's Labor Advisory Board and remains one of its most vocal and committed supporters.

2020 VALEDICTORIAN

GENA FAE FILLINGHAM

CANDIDATE FOR BACHELOR OF ARTS IN URBAN AND COMMUNITY STUDIES

3.976 GPA / SUMMA CUM LAUDE



Gena-Fae Fillingham was born and raised in a small farm town in Nebraska, where her mother taught her to care about the most vulnerable in her community. She worked as a certified nurses' aid throughout her Senior year in high school. After attending college in Nebraska as a theater major for two years, she moved to New York City to pursue acting and comedy. There, she attended nursing school where she graduated with honors and was certified as an LPN.

Afterwards, Fillingham worked as a charge nurse in a nursing home in Brooklyn, NY overseeing fifty-five residents and three nurses aids, while also volunteering for the charity "Hope For Kids," which sought to raise awareness and increase the number of children receiving up-to-date immunizations. She personally went into vulnerable communities going door to door signing up children for their immunizations and following up on the children's status for an entire year. In some cases, Fillingham accompanied children to the clinic for their vaccination appointment when the parents were unable to do so.

After changing her career path and entering into the corporate world as a legal secretary and obtaining her paralegal certification, Fillingham decided to return to a field of work that would allow her to engage more with the community and serve others. She realized that she wanted to teach English in Asia and decided to finally receive a college degree. CUNY School of Labor & Urban Studies was a perfect fit, as connecting and serving her community has always been a driving force in her life. She graduated from SLU in December of 2019.

Upon graduation, Fillingham started her online TEFL certification course with the International TEFL Academy based in Chicago. She completed her academic course in April 2020. Her TEFL internship was completed in association with the New Americans Welcome Center located at the Chinatown YMCA in lower Manhattan, where she worked with Chinese immigrants and started tutoring a Chinese student online. She was officially certified as an ESL teacher in May of 2020 and continues to serve as a volunteer English tutor online with the Chinatown YMCA.

Fillingham future plans are to move to Asia and work as an ESL teacher, utilizing the Urban and Communities Studies education she received inside and outside the classroom. The lessons she learned from Professor Kafui Attoh regarding urban life and planning, along with Professor Rebecca Lurie's educational foundation on the democratic economy, will help her to better engage with the residents, businesses, and communities she will be serving in Asia. One of the greatest lessons she has learned in life can be summed up by one of her heroes, Maya Angelou. "We are more alike, my friends, than we are unlike."

2020 SALUTATORIAN

KAREN MARDENBOROUGH

CANDIDATE FOR BACHELOR OF ARTS IN URBAN AND COMMUNITY STUDIES

3.900 GPA / SUMMA CUM LAUDE



Karen Gale Mardenborough hails from the beautiful twin island Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis. From an early age she had already developed a passion for reading. All throughout her childhood Karen had a vivid imagination and she made up stories on a whim. She also enjoyed track and field; the 1500 mm and the 800 mm were her two favorite races. Karen continued to excel in her education though-out her youth.

Karen went on to become an untrained elementary school teacher after graduating high school in 1997. The following year, at age 21, she had given birth to her first child, Shaquan. She spent just over one and a half years on the job before she migrated to America, moving to New York City in December 1999. She knew she needed more for her child so moving to America was not a difficult decision. She sacrificed her immediate education to raise her son.

Karen moved to Long Beach, California and she had her second child, Safiya, in 2002. Her children became her world. In the evenings she worked part-time at Blockbuster and at Walmart as a cashier, but she knew something was missing. She decided it was time to go back to school. In 2005, Karen started attending Cypress Community College in California. She loved every minute of it. However, after only two years, she and her children had to relocate back to New York in 2007. Though life was a struggle, she was able to get a part-time position as a College Assistant at Hostos Community College (HCC). She excelled at her new job and was encouraged to take the CUNY Office Assistant exam, which she did and passed. This opportunity provided her with a secure, permanent, and full-time employment position. In the midst of juggling being a single parent, working full-time, and attending classes, Karen became the legal guardian of her niece, Trevicia. Once more she rose to the occasion.

Currently, she continues working for HCC's Human Resources Department. Karen's job requires that she balance many responsibilities, such as customer service, payroll, health benefits, and so much more. Karen took advantage of the opportunity to pursue higher education by first earning an Associate's degree in Criminal Justice from Hostos, June, 2017. Karen realized that it is not only the Justice System that is broken, but there are so many disparities within her community that needs to be mended. She enrolled at CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies and two and a half years later, earned a bachelor's degree in Urban Studies in June, 2020.

Combining her work ethics with her education has given her a broader perspective on life challenges faced by people everywhere. Karen's relentless conviction that all people should be treated equally has deeply shaped her world view. She is passionate about finding a solution to the housing crisis in New York City. There is a mantra that Karen lives by, "If we want to see change, we must become that change we seek."

CLASS OF 2020 STUDENT SPEAKER

MR. KENDELL JACKSON

CANDIDATE FOR MASTERS OF ARTS IN URBAN STUDIES



Urban Studies MA graduate KenDell Jackson was selected as the student speaker for SLU's 2020 Virtual Graduation Ceremony. A Labor Management Consultant at 1199SEIU Training & Employment Fund and a lifelong Bronx resident, Jackson's Capstone project examined health disparities, social inequities, and social capital in his home borough. During his time at SLU, Jackson was the winner of a University Student Senate Peer Mentorship Scholarship, which recognized his work as a volunteer coach for the Velocity Track Club, where he coaches fifty young athletes, including his daughters, Tiarra and Karly.

CLASS OF 2020 INAUGURAL STUDENT LEADER AWARDEE

MZ. NEONNE AMEER

CANDIDATE FOR MASTERS OF ARTS IN URBAN STUDIES



Neonne Ameer established herself as a committed and passionate student leader soon after her arrival at SLU in the Fall of 2018 as a student in the Community Leadership Certificate Program. Since then, she has acted as a student representative on SLU's inaugural Academic Governing Council, helped organize our school's first student elections, and presented at new student orientations, among many other activities. A former middle school teacher, Ameer currently works as a College Readiness Specialist for the Harlem Children's Zone. Ameer is proud to be the first in her family to obtain a college degree. She plans to pursue a higher degree in Sociology within the next year.

2020 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDEE

MZ. KRISTINA RAMOS-CALLAN

MA URBAN STUDIES 2018



Kristina Ramos-Callan began her studies at SLU in the Healthcare Administration certificate program and completed a Master's in Urban Studies as a proud member of the class of 2018. Ramos-Callan's career in healthcare stretches back to her first job, at age 17, as a ward clerk at a neo-natal intensive care unit. Today, she serves as Program Manager at the United Hospital Fund, where she works to give voice to communities often left on the fringes. Recently, Ramos-Callan developed a collection of Covid-19 resources for pediatricians and families that have drawn national notice.

2020 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDEE

MR. BRADLEY KOLB

LABOR RELATIONS CERTIFICATE, BA URBAN STUDIES 2018



Representing the Labor Studies program is Bradley Kolb, an alumnus of both SLU's Undergraduate Certificate in Labor Relations and the BA in Urban and Community Studies. Having begun his career in the labor movement at age 16, as an organizer with the United Service Workers Union Local 74, Kolb is currently a representative at the Professional Employees Federation or PEF, where he supports workers at NY State hospitals as they battle each day to care for their patients. Currently pursuing an MA in Labor Studies, Kolb is a proud member of United Steelworkers Local 9265.

2019-2020 GRADUATE CAPSTONE PRESENTATIONS

FALL 2019 MASTER OF ARTS IN LABOR STUDIES CAPSTONE PRESENTATIONS

- Mark Casner, *Ageism in New York? Evaluating the Effectiveness of Anti-Discrimination Employment Policy*
Rachel Feldman, *Impacts of Profit Oriented Health Care Delivery on Frontline Caregivers:
Hospitals in New York City and Bedside Nurse Experiences*
Crystal Garcia, *Sisters in the Trades: How Effective Are Current Diversity Policies to Increase
Employment and Retention of Women in the NYC Construction Industry?*
Norma Heyward, *Homelessness in New York City: Assessing the Challenges and Solutions*
Robert Master, *Militancy and Memory: The 1971 New York Telephone Strike and its Legacy*
Mark Thornton, *What Happened in Wisconsin? Union Members and Political Choices in the 2016 Election Cycle*
Natasha Yee, *Diversity and Inclusion in the IBEW: An Assessment of Policies and Practices*

FALL 2019 MASTER OF ARTS IN URBAN STUDIES CAPSTONE PRESENTATIONS

- Vincent Apraku, *The Impact of Illegal Mining on Environmental Health at Tarkwa-Nsuaem, Ghana*
Ivan Araque, *Transparency, Participation and Collaboration in NYC Government Social Media*
Michael Blaizes, *Rethinking Traditional Work Structure: Implementing Working from Home
Through the Collective Bargaining Process*
Susann Braggs, *What is the Experience of African American Noncustodial Fathers in New York City Family Court?*
Kechea Brown, *How to Save a Soup Kitchen*
Sonja Burkholder, *Does A Good Health Insurance Policy Tether People To Their Jobs?*
Cheryl Elder, *The Federal Government's Role in the Distribution of Aid in the Rockaways, New York,
Post-Hurricane Sandy: How Disaster Aid Perpetuates Racial and Income Inequality*
Gena-Fae Fillingham, *The Constitutionality of Age Policies of Adoptive Parents*
KenDell Jackson, *Community Mirror: The Bronx*
Karen Mardenborough, *How Government Agencies Contribute to Wealth Inequality After the Occurrence of Natural
Disasters (Hurricanes)? Can Marginalized Communities Hold Said Agencies Accountable for the Wealth Inequality?*
Noella Matthew-Cambry, *Why Are Low-Income/Underserved Communities
Not Taking Advantage of the Citi Bikeshare System as They Should?*
Krystal Padilla, *The Big Rotten Apple: A look into New York City's response to Human Trafficking and Immigration*
Gary Ragoobeer, *The Impact of Social Skills on the Success of Caribbean College Students Studying in the United States*
Kehinde Sanni, *Climate Change Denial*
Carla Thompson Richards, *The Psychological & Behavioral Impacts:
Being Denied Body Contouring Surgery After Bariatric Surgery*
Michael Tiwari, *The Green Rush: Race and Regulation of the Cannabis Industry*
Yonathan Workalemahu, *How Do Private Prison Partnerships With Not-For-Profit Organizations
Help Reduce Recidivism Rates?*

SPRING & SUMMER 2020 BACHELOR OF ARTS IN URBAN STUDIES VIRTUAL CAPSTONE PRESENTATIONS

- Marie Cherenfant, *Biases in the Workplace Among Women and How That Impact Career Advancement*
Shelby Ketchum, *Transportation Governance in Chicago and New York*
Ebony Lloyd, *New York City's Vision for Integrating Drone Technology into
Emergency Management Operations in Government*
Stephanie Wong-You, *Small Business Longevity and Business Improvement District Efficacy;
Initial Findings with the Myrtle Avenue BID*

**SPRING 2020 MASTER OF ARTS IN LABOR STUDIES
VIRTUAL CAPSTONE PRESENTATIONS**

Sam Borgos, *Fickle Mistress; Union Democracy & the Landrum Griffin Act*
Janice Carter, *Barriers Affecting African American Women's Career Advancement*
David Cumberbatch, *Wage Theft in New York City's Construction Industry*
Nicholas Daka, *Actor's Equity & AGMA Responses to Non-Standard Work in
Live Entertainment & Ways to Move Forward...*
Brandon Davis, *Barriers to Women's Full Earning Potential in the New York City Department of Education*
Robert Hardmond, *What Role Do Unions Play in Teacher Retention?*
Margaret Kwateng, *Labor Education to Meet the Political Moment: A Case Study of Runaway Inequality*
Pablo Perez, *Job Satisfaction: A UFT Chapter Leader's Major Preoccupation*
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The Case of the New York City Airport Workers Campaign*
Lexi Sasanow, *\$15 and...a Union?: Case Studies in Food Sector Worker Organizing*
Toni Totten, *Limits & Possibilities of Community Boards*
Michael Velarde, *Between Rhetoric & Reality: Organizational Mission & the Politics of Staff
Unionism at Community-Based Organizations*

**SPRING 2020 MASTER OF ARTS IN URBAN STUDIES
VIRTUAL CAPSTONE PRESENTATIONS**

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Hiyabu Habtemichael, *Evaluating Municipal Compliance with
Affordable Housing Through the N7 Transit Village Initiative*
Jasmine Irizarry, *MTA Inaccessibility: The Effect of MTA Inaccessibility on the Mobility Impaired*
Tiffany Maynard, *Diabetes Care within NYC Public Schools*
Vernesa Mosley, *Mentally Ill men, Their Incarceration and Integration back into the community*
Thomas O'Callaghan, *Tom Employee Engagement at the New York City Department of Finance*
Kim Richardson, *What services are available for victims of sex trafficking in the Tri-State area?*
Alicia Robinson, *Views on Immigration Under the Trump Administration*
Condella Stewart, *Workplace Stress and Its Effect on Productivity and Job Satisfaction
Among Employees Working in New York City and Long Island*
Aditi Vaz-Bravstein, *A Qualitative Analysis of the Quality of Care within Urgent Care Centers when Compared to
Existing Healthcare Facilities Among New York City and Long Island Residents of New York"*
Carl Walton, *Morale and Productivity*
Veronica Windley, *The Effect of College-in-Prison Programs on Recidivism in the U.S.*

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As final action cannot always be taken by the time this program goes to press, these lists of degree recipients are tentative only. The student's transcript is the official record of the School.

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CERTIFICATE IN LABOR RELATIONS

Fall 2019

Ayala, Amanda
Fox, Christopher
Lamont, Nashanta E.
Maguire, Brian P.
Richter, Lovelina
Smith, Julia J.
Walwyn, Jacqueline

Spring 2020

Anwar, Sohail
Ayala, Rodrigo
Bailey, Ebony
Brown, Michelle I.
Dimen, John P.
Elliott, Jacqueline
Hunt, Brian D.
Nunez, Wanda
Prior, Trina
Ratliff, Miriam
Song, Yuyan
Suarez, Brunilda S.

CERTIFICATE IN LABOR STUDIES

Fall 2019

Wigfall, Bryan E.

Spring 2020

Dennis, Abby
Glaser, Violet
Hasak-Lowy, Ariel
Holt, Daniel G.

ADVANCED CERTIFICATE IN LABOR STUDIES

Fall 2019

Arievitch, Maria
Brown, Royce M.
Byers, Daniel
Davis, Rhys E.
Johnson, Brock
McGuire-Berk, Elijah S.
Nevada, Patrick

Spring 2020

Daro, Nina S.
Garza Garcia, Frida C.
Gattie, Frank
Kapinga, Silpha S.
Le, Anh
Leichenger, Matthew
Ramirez, Ambar
Reilly, Ethan
Rothman, Evan
Velasco, Gabriel
Wilkins, Terry N.

MASTER OF ARTS IN LABOR STUDIES

Fall 2019

Casner, Mark
Feldman, Rachel A.
Heyward, Norma
Thornton, Mark A.
Williams, Wanda

Spring 2020

Arceyut, Fabio
Borgos, Samuel H.
Carter, Janice R.
Cumberbatch, David
Daka, Nicholas T.
Davis, Brandon
Garcia, Crystal
Hardmond, Robert
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Master, Robert P.
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Rama, Arjeta
Sasanow, Alexa
Totten, Toni
Yee, Natasha L.

Summer 2020

Velarde, Michael

URBAN STUDIES

CERTIFICATE IN COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

Fall 2019

Bennett Johnson, Genora
Corbett, Elizabeth M.
Jones, Marcia B.
Martinez, Manuel
Massac, Margareth
Ortiz, Migdalia
Perez, Claudia A.
Pinkard, Tracey L.
Robinson, Vernell
Sexton, Veronica

Spring 2020

Caldwell, Tania C.

CERTIFICATE IN HEALTH CARE POLICY & ADMINISTRATION

Fall 2019

Khan, Jankie

CERTIFICATE IN PUBLIC POLICY ADMINISTRATION & PUBLIC POLICY

Fall 2019

Staples, Tameka

Spring 2020

Council, Imani
Gonzalez, Daisy
New, Michele R.
Thompson, Tameka L.

ADVANCED CERTIFICATE IN COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

Fall 2019

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Wall-Palmer, Towanda C.

Spring 2020

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Chong, April
Lindsey, Shalena

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ADMINISTRATION**

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Apraku, Vincent K.
Bryan, Dave
Diagne, Fary
Lam, Emerline
Smith-Moree, Eva M.
Tse, Aimmy

Spring 2020

Celestine, Darryl
Orlandi, Pilar C.
Sanabria, Paul
Tejeda, Janet L.

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IN PUBLIC POLICY
ADMINISTRATION &
PUBLIC POLICY**

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Cortez, Franklin
Culler, Yolanda A.
Goris, Juan P.
Mack, Joshua
Martinez, Dalida M.
Mason, Donna Y.
Osagie, Henrietta E.
Pereira, Elena
Walker, Audrey L.
Zhen, Qingyan

Spring 2020

Akande, Kehinde
Chardiwall, Mariam N.
Granados, Monique E.
Kumar, Prameet
Lara, Joseph E.
Peters, Veronica
Souare, Mamadou A.
Suttles, Jeffrey

**BACHELOR OF ARTS IN
URBAN & COMMUNITY STUDIES**

Fall 2019

Fillingham, Gena-Fae

Spring 2020

Cherenfant, Marie D.
Farrell, Wayne A.
James, Venicia
Ketchum, Shelby
Mardenborough, Karen G.
Padilla, Krystal
Tiwari, Michael
Wongyou, Stephanie L.

Summer 2020

Lloyd, Ebony

**MASTER OF ARTS IN
URBAN STUDIES**

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Araque, Ivan E.
Braggs, Susann L.
Burkholder, Sonja
Elder, Cheryl
Jackson, Kendell L.
Matthew-Cambry, Noella
Ragoobeer, Gary

Spring 2020

Ameer, Neonne
Brown, Kechea C.
Habtemichael, Hiyabu
Irizarry, Jasmine
Maynard, Tiffany L.
Mosley, Vernesa
O'Callaghan, Thomas
Pena, Hidelise G.
Richardson, Kimberly C.
Robinson, Alicia M.
Sanni, Kehinde B.
Stewart, Condella M.
Thompson Richards, Carla
Vaz, Aditi L.
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Windley, Veronica M.
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QUOTES FROM THE CLASS OF 2020

“Without my classmates emotional support getting through the COVID-19 period of isolation and alternate uni-verse atmosphere, I would probably have dropped the pursuit of the Masters Degree!”

“You will be hard pressed to find a more welcoming institution than this.”

“Union Semester was an incredible opportunity to learn more about the labor movement, New York City history, and the current political moment. Would recommend to anyone who’s interested in organizing or wants to learn more about it!”

“You are never too old to learn.”

“1 Kings 3:9 says: I ask that you give me a heart that understands, so I can rule the people in the right way and will know the difference between right and wrong. Otherwise, it is impossible to rule this great people of yours.” In God We Trust-One Nation Under God. Dedication, diversity, solidarity. The School of Labor & Urban Studies was a great experience.”

“Successful lives are motivated by dynamic PURPOSES. Without a purpose, there can’t be an achievement.”

“My learning experiences at SLU have taught me that it is never too late for a person to become what they could have been!”

“When you remove fear, and allow yourself to experience the journey, the end result is more powerful than you could ever imagine!”

“I arrived as a student with Murphy Institute and left as a graduate of SLU.”

“I learned about leadership and discovered a rich history that I barely understood in my earlier academic studies.”

“Hope is truly a guiding light. It can push you towards achieving the unthinkable. Have faith, dream big, serve others and apply these into action. You will be surprised by the growth you have made, and see around you.”

“Success doesn’t stop at learning new skills, it soars when you apply them.”

“Lasting changes in your life , and community began with a need.”

“Everything you need to help you succeed is already in your possession.”

“Taking one class at a time should not deter you from your dreams.”

“Never doubt whether you can. Of course, you can! Now, will you? That’s another story. Take your shot!”

“CUNY SLU has helped me become a better me. Thanks So Much :)”

“The best education for current career individuals looking for academic advancement!”

“Earning this degree was worth all the late nights spent studying and writing.”



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