



Honors Convocation

*College of
Liberal Arts
& Education*

March 28, 2021

Presider

Victoria L. Mantzopoulos, Ph.D., Acting Dean
College of Liberal Arts & Education

Welcome

Invocation

Si Hendry, S.J.
Director, Catholic Studies Program

Dudley Randall Poetry Reading

Conferring of Awards

Presidential Scholars
Kappa Gamma Pi
Leadership Awards
Graduate Student Awards - Department
Undergraduate Student Awards - College
Undergraduate Student Awards - Department
Dean's Gold Key Awards
Dean's Awards

Dudley Randall Poetry Prizes

First Place

"RED PACKETS" BY SARAH KO

The Windy City blows against the red lanterns outside,
Tendrils from the awaiting hot pot waft through the air,
With withered hands, a thick crimson packet is handed
to me,
Grandpa smiles, eyes twinkling.

Such a generous gift,
He said in his old age of 86, he found himself very lucky,
To share such special moments like this,
Safe, warm, with family.
Small, crinkled, rectangular paper cannot amount to it.

Months later,
Grandpa did not travel around the sun for the 87th time,
he moved on to the stars.
Grieving, but at peace that he went forth,
from a tranquil place.

A new day in San Francisco,
Perfect for a walk, thinks the stranger,
His eyes shining, oh how lucky to be here,
living so close to family.

Tentative shuffles into the sunlight,
Exercise is important for old men like me, he thought.
84 times traveled around the sun,
a life that is blessed, prosperous,
--- unassuming

Pavement is cool in the shadows,
last moments,
a whirlwind of motion, the ground and sky realigned.
The cold, hard, unrelenting cement,
then nothing.

Both coming forth from the lands of their ancestors,
outlining new lives for their descendants,
only for them,
to be looked upon as a virus,
something of contamination,
lumped into an assumption,
rewarded with violence.

Friends,
may this be a year of resilience.
The lives they have sown like oxen,
rightfully exist in memory.
Brothers and sisters from all walks of life,
dignity and respect,
that's all we ask.

In tribute to Vicha Ratanapakdee, his family, and those victimized by the recent attacks against the elderly Asian community.

Second place, tied: "Ballad of Atlanta" by Taylor Bays

Second place, tied: "Muslim Not Muzlum" by Nurzahan Rahman

Third place: "A Letter to Olga" by Mehar Soni

Read these poems at udmercy.edu/dudley.

*University
Honors
Program*

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS

Presented to students who have completed the University Honors Program curriculum, volunteered community service and achieved a minimum grade point average of 3.75.

Thomas R. Mueller

**HONORS SCHOLARS
CUM LAUDE**

Students who have completed the Honors Program curriculum, volunteered a minimum of 100 hours of community service and achieved a minimum grade point average of 3.50.

Natalia Gomez

Membership in Kappa Gamma Pi, the national Catholic college graduate Honor Society, is awarded to students whose lives exemplify excellence in leadership, scholarship, faith and service.

Benjamin J. Westphal

The Emerging Leaders Program (ELP) is designed to educate, engage and empower all Detroit Mercy students. Using the Social Change Model, the ELP offers the opportunity to explore student leadership potential and abilities through involvement in programs, events and activities that include learning, leadership, spirituality and service on and off campus.

*Institute for
Leadership
& Service*

LEADERSHIP PIN AWARD

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & EDUCATION

Ongoing involvement in student organizations, spirituality workshops, leadership workshops, mentoring and 100 hours of community service.

Dalonzo T. Curges

Kenneth W. Donaldson

Edwin Jurado

Melissa Stein

LEADERSHIP MEDALLION AWARD

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & EDUCATION

These individuals have met the requirements of the Leadership Pin Award, have additional involvement in student organizations, spirituality retreats, completed leadership coursework and have performed 200 hours of community service.

Dalonzo T. Curges

Kenneth W. Donaldson

Edwin Jurado

**THE JOHN DANIELS
STUDENT SERVANT LEADER OF THE YEAR**

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & EDUCATION

The student awarded the John Daniels Student Servant Leader of the Year award has shown outstanding growth throughout their undergraduate career at Detroit Mercy and have distinguished themselves by exemplary commitment in the role of servant leader. This award is named for John Daniels, director of the Institute for Leadership & Service from 2001-2009.

Dalonzo T. Curges

Kenneth W. Donaldson

Edwin Jurado

Graduate Student Awards

DEPARTMENT

EXCELLENCE IN INTELLIGENCE ANALYSIS

Presented to a student who is completing a Master of Science in Intelligence Analysis and whose work in the program has shown dedication and competence at the highest level.

Emily R. Ramos

RICHARD H. L. MARSHALL AWARD

FOR GRADUATE EXCELLENCE IN INFORMATION ASSURANCE

Presented to a graduate student in the Master of Science in Information Assurance Program who has exhibited the highest degree of academic achievement and leadership potential within a governmental, business or educational organization. Given in the name of Richard Henry Lee Marshall to honor his contributions to the security of the nation.

Tabice Ward

COMPUTER & INFORMATION SYSTEMS GRADUATE AWARD

Presented to a graduate student in the Master of Science in Computer & Information Systems Program who has demonstrated outstanding scholastic achievement and shows exceptional promise as a scholar in this field.

Yacoub Iseid

MARCIA A. DAVIS LIBERAL STUDIES AWARD

Presented to a graduating Master of Arts in Liberal Studies student for outstanding, inspirational, academic and life achievement.

Daniel P. Loyd

Undergraduate Student Awards

COLLEGE

CLARENCE J. McLEOD AWARD

Presented in memory of Congressman Clarence J. McLeod to a junior with the highest academic average after five semesters in the College of Liberal Arts & Education.

Delaney N. Alward

EDMUND MILLER, S.J., SERVICE AWARD

Presented to a graduating senior in the College of Liberal Arts & Education for outstanding service to the College. The recipient's name is also inscribed on a plaque in Briggs Building.

Nurzahan Rahman

Undergraduate Student Awards

DEPARTMENT

ROBERT AND GENEVIEVE SAGE ADDICTION STUDIES AWARD

Presented to the graduating senior with the highest cumulative grade point average in the Addiction Studies Program.

Bradley L. Collins

COMMUNICATION EXCELLENCE AWARD

Presented to a graduating communication studies senior who has demonstrated academic excellence and who has applied communication competence to benefit the community.

Isaiah S. Warren

CYBERSECURITY & INFORMATION SYSTEMS UNDERGRADUATE AWARD

Presented to the undergraduate student in the Cybersecurity & Information Systems Program who has demonstrated outstanding scholastic achievement and shows exceptional promise as a scholar in this field.

Nathan J. Wodwaski

MALCOLM CARRON, S.J., EDUCATION AWARD

Presented to the graduating senior with the highest grade point average in the Education Program for seven semesters.

Laura I. Garcia

HOWARD WALSH MEMORIAL AWARD

Presented to the English major who has demonstrated the greatest proficiency in English language and literature; the award was founded in 1927 by Annie Doheny Walsh.

Bek A. Hirschmann

Nurzahan Rahman

CATHERINE A. CARAHER HISTORY PRIZE

Presented to a history major in recognition of outstanding academic achievement. The award is named in honor of the former chair of the Department of History.

Justin M. Koch

POLITICAL SCIENCE AWARD

Presented to a graduating senior for commitment to academic excellence and service in political science.

Dalonzo T. Curges

LEGAL STUDIES AWARD

Presented for academic excellence and outstanding service to the legal community.

Kenneth W. Donaldson

ECONOMICS AWARD

Presented to a student majoring in economics or financial economics who shows exceptional promise in the field.

Wen He

JOHN J. MULLER PSYCHOLOGY AWARD

Presented to an outstanding undergraduate to pursue an advanced degree in psychology.

Sarah C. Lucas

JEROME ROZYCKI CRIMINAL JUSTICE STUDIES AWARD

Presented to the graduating senior with the highest grade point average in the Criminal Justice Program for seven semesters.

Alexandra Sinani

SOCIAL WORK AWARD

Presented annually to the graduating senior with the highest overall grade point average with demonstrated leadership in the Social Work Program.

Jennifer L. Lafon

THEATRE ARTS AWARD

Presented to theatre majors who combined scholastic achievement with outstanding artistry and service to the Detroit Mercy Theatre Company.

Kaelyn A. Johnson

Dean's Gold Key Award

Presented annually to honor freshmen with at least 15 hours in residence who have achieved a 4.0 grade point average; sophomores and juniors with 30 or more hours in residence who have achieved at least a 3.9 grade point average; and seniors with 30 or more hours in residence who have achieved at least a 3.8 grade point average.

SOPHOMORES

Payton. DeWitt
James W. Huffman
Kaytlin R. O'Herron

JUNIORS

Delaney N. Alward
Abigail E. McDowell
Isabella L. Scaccia

SENIORS

Hannah Alexis
Francis R. Doud
Olivia S. Elby
Laura I. Garcia
Dominick S. Gorsline
Natalia A. Grasso
Wen He
Airess A. Hill
Bek A. Hirschmann
Jennifer L. Lafon
Sarah C. Lucas
Mycah Mattox
Thomas R. Mueller
Marlene L. Nelson
Nurzahan Rahman
Kurt J. Romkema
Mina Spryszak
McKenna N. Tanguay
Nathan J. Wodwaski

Dean's Award

Presented to undergraduate students who are not Dean's Gold Key recipients and who have earned a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or better through Term I of this academic year.

FRESHMEN

Liam J. Gilbert
Megan C. Gill
Zhenyu Guo
Jayanthesh G. Kalmat
Alexa M. Krauth
Nevada N. Larson
Erin A. Letourneau
Joseph S. Liedel
Paige C. Myers
Chengjun Ren
Matthew A. Touma
Lan Wang
Zhicheng Yang
Jacob G. Yasso

SOPHOMORES

Tyler J. Allis
Annika K. Corcoran
Charlotte H. Dale
Kolbe S. Eurick
Heather R. Keery
Mone T. Knowles
Kristin M. Murphy
Kaileigh M. Nuessgen
Ryan M. Rutkowski
Sonya J. Simmons
Brock A. Vandenheede
John J. Weglarz
Kara R. Wolfbauer

JUNIORS

Ahmed M. Ben Haj Ali
Lawrence C. Blicharz
Jordyn M. Chapman
Camryn D. Chavis
Maghan M. Davis
Allison M. Falk
Abraham Jan
Nathaniel R. Kelly
Cristina Martinez
Tyler F. Mette
Maxine R. Moore
Elise V. Pannemann
James C. Ramirez
Madelyn M. Rush
Isabel R. Ryzenga
Loreal Salter-Dodson
Hawah N. Teah
Dana M. Vitale
Kaela Webb

SENIORS

Zahraa M. Al-Talakani
Angeline Anthony
Adrian E. Arrington
Max J. Becker
John D. Boyak
Lindsay L. Brandon
Isabella M. Calcaterra
Tanaja K. Campbell
Christina Capling
Jasmine B. Clark

Bradley L. Collins
Laysha M. Cooks
Katie M. Crimens
Samantha R. Dick
Kenneth W. Donaldson
Kelli E. Doyle
Claudia Garcia
Amelia Rose G. Glenn
Natalia Gomez
Miranda M. Gorges
Mario Hakeem
Michelle D. Hill
James S. Hofmann
Tianhao Huang
Kyri L. Jackson
Lou A. Jordan Waters
Justin M. Koch
Guanyi Mao
Ray Michael McCallum
Andre J. Moon
Avaneesh S. Ojha
Oladipupo Oyamuso
Rachel R. Russo
Claire E. Sandau
Alexandra Sinani
Melissa M. Stein
Rosalyn T. Tansil
Victoria H. Taylor
Zachary P. Turk
Benjamin J. Westphal
Aysha J. Young

*College of
Liberal Arts
& Education*
1877

The College of Liberal Arts & Education prepares students to participate in a diverse and changing world in the Jesuit and Mercy traditions as “men and women for others.”

The College provides a student-centered education in an urban context which stimulates a desire for the life-long exploration of the intellectual, spiritual and ethical dimensions of what it means to be human.

Visit our Honors Convocation web page at:
liberalarts.udmercy.edu/HC2021

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