

Notre Dame of Maryland University



COMMENCEMENT

TUESDAY, MAY NINETEENTH,
TWO THOUSAND & TWENTY-SIX

Mission

Notre Dame of Maryland University educates leaders to transform the world.

Embracing the vision of the founders, the School Sisters of Notre Dame, the University promotes the advancement of women and provides a liberal arts education in the Catholic tradition.

Notre Dame challenges women and men to strive for intellectual and professional excellence, to build inclusive communities, to engage in service to others, and to promote social responsibility.



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for accessible format



Program

Prelude Music and Processional Academic Procession

Nicolas T. Armstrong-Wright, M.S., Associate
Vice President of Student Life & Dean of Students

SCHOOL MARSHALS

Morgan Williamson, Class of 2026, School of Arts,
Sciences & Business

Ying Cheng, Class of 2026, School of Education

Elena Rodriguez, Class of 2026, School of Nursing

Jessica Erb, Class of 2026, School of Pharmacy &
Health Professions

Deidra Lavera Alexander, Class of 2026, School of
Integrative Health

FACULTY MARSHAL

Mary Packard, Ph.D., Associate Professor, School of
Nursing

Faculty and Administrators

Members of the Board of Trustees

Marylou Yam, Ph.D., President

Invocation

Disomi Okie, Class of 2026, School of Arts, Sciences
& Business

The National Anthem

Presentation of Candidate for Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa

PRESENTER

Marylou Yam, Ph.D., President

RECIPIENT

Denise Koch, Anchor/Reporter, WJZ CBS News Baltimore

Commencement Address

INTRODUCTION

Carroll D. Galvin, Ph.D. D'23, Vice President of
Institutional Advancement & University Communications

SPEAKER

Denise Koch

Presentation of President's Medal

PRESENTER

Marylou Yam, Ph.D., President

INTRODUCTION

Martha Walker, Ph.D., Provost & Vice President for
Academic Affairs

RECIPIENT

Christina M. Sax, Ph.D., Higher Education Leader
& Innovator

Presentation of Mullan Distinguished Teacher Award

Martha Walker, Ph.D., Provost & Vice President for
Academic Affairs

Presentation of Candidates for Degrees

Martha Walker, Ph.D., Provost & Vice President for
Academic Affairs

Bachelor of Arts & Bachelor of Science
Master of Arts & Master of Science
Certificate of Advanced Study in Education
Doctor of Acupuncture
Doctor of Clinical Nutrition
Doctor of Occupational Therapy
Doctor of Pharmacy
Doctor of Philosophy

Conferral of Degrees

Marylou Yam, Ph.D., President

Investiture in Academic Hood

Marylou Yam, Ph.D., President

Grace Ekalle, Class of 2026, School of Arts, Sciences
& Business

Bestowal of Degrees

Marylou Yam, Ph.D., President

Evelyn Spratt, Ph.D., Interim Dean, School of Arts,
Sciences & Business

Juliann Dupuis, Ph.D., Dean, School of Education

Deneb Falabella, D.O.M., Interim Dean, School of
Integrative Health

Kathleen Wisser, Ph.D., Dean, School of Nursing

Matthew Shimoda, Pharm.D., Dean, School of Pharmacy
& Health Professions

Student Response

Lujain Zain, Class of 2026, School of Integrative Health

Closing Address

Marylou Yam, Ph.D., President

Benediction

Nistha Ray, Class of 2026, School of Arts, Sciences
& Business

Fidelia Pereira Rivera, Class of 2026, School of Education

Alma Mater

Jacqueline Johnson, Class of 2028, School of Arts,
Sciences & Business

Scarlet Dare, Class of 2026, School of Nursing

Recessional

Bachelor of Arts & Bachelor of Science, School of Arts, Sciences, & Business

Rita Oluchi Agala	+ Jackelin Abigail Gutierrez-Hernandez <i>summa cum laude</i>	Disomi Krystal Okie
+ Hector A. Alvarez	Lilyian E. Hafner	Abisola Rachel Omoyeni
+ Sadya Amany	Lela Ally Hall <i>cum laude</i>	Princess Destiny Favour Osagie <i>cum laude</i>
+ Amari Jaylen Bell	+ Holly Ann Hand	Luke Anthony Plummer
+ Ciarra A. Bockstie	+ Erica Victoria Harris <i>summa cum laude</i>	Corinna Alexandra Plunkett
Christopher J. Brockett	Terrionne G. Hart	Nisttha Khushi Ray <i>magna cum laude</i>
Tiffany Karen Rodriguez Calva <i>cum laude</i>	+ Collette M. Hayes-Williams	Fathima Zulfa Razak
Ashlee Teresa Chapman	+ Lemma A. Hejazi	Barbara Jean Reese
Nancy Julissa Chavez <i>magna cum laude</i>	* Monet Alexis Herbert	+ Makaylah A. Reyes <i>magna cum laude</i>
+ Aiyana Renee Cobbs	De'liam G. Hill	* Amy Seck
Nicole Amber Crockett	Jayden Orlando Holland	Megan Elizabeth Shoop
Brittany Nicole Crowder	Leila Nichole Howard	Jasmine Lisette Simon-Rivera
Kennedy D. Curtis	* Tanya N. Jacobs <i>cum laude</i>	* Katelyn Elizabeth Stephenson
Jasmine Nicole Diacoloukas	+ Alyssa Renee Johnson <i>summa cum laude</i>	Andrew Francis Aquino Subida <i>summa cum laude</i>
Katya Noemi Diaz <i>cum laude</i>	Chandler M. Johnson	* Marilyn L. Tandy
+ Laura Sutorius Dinder <i>summa cum laude</i>	Chandler Victoria Johnson	Charlene Torres
+ Dominique M. DiRienzo	* Lauren E. R. Kaufman <i>magna cum laude</i>	Eti-Ini Solomon Udom <i>summa cum laude</i>
Tiffany C. Easton	+ Andrea Marie Kearns <i>cum laude</i>	Bianca R. Viellot <i>cum laude</i>
* Lakera D. Edwards	Tracy Mahine Koui	+ Mon'Yae La Saan Walker
Grace-Daril Megha Ekalle <i>cum laude</i>	* Benjamin Levi Kreitman	* Rosa Isabel Warsaw
Jordan N. Foster	Dylan Chase Long	Morgan Christine Williamson <i>summa cum laude</i>
+ Allana M. Green	Dianna Angelina Lopez	~Donna Marie Willig
Hailey Abigail Guerrier <i>magna cum laude</i>	Chelsea Renee Martin	Anthony C. Wright
Mateo Gularte <i>cum laude</i>	Lauren Olivia Milbourne	Amanda Gabrielle Wrightson
	Scarlett S. Miller <i>magna cum laude</i>	Seena D. Yonas
	Rosemary Ann O'Brien	

Bachelor of Arts, School of Education

Yvette Judith Bobb	+ Mary Elizabeth Dowdell <i>summa cum laude</i>	Kristina Kathryn Pusinsky
+ Megan Elizabeth Bredlow <i>summa cum laude</i>	Shirley A. Edwards	Rebecca P. Reese
+ Karen Cecilia Cabrera <i>summa cum laude</i>	+ Meagan Elisabeth Pugh <i>summa cum laude</i>	+ Jessica Nicole Webster
~Maureen Maregmen De Jesus		

Bachelor of Science, School of Nursing

Jaylin N. Ackerman	Julie May Freeland	Emma Alexandria Mueller <i>cum laude</i>
* Nafisa Adam	David Thomas Frey	+ Jennifer Lee Murphy
* Iris Nadia Agossou	Wyndell Blessing Gobah	* Marcela Mwandu
* Gold Olukayode Akin Abu	Ava Elizabeth Goeller	* Bernice Muthoni Mwangi
+ Muhammad Jahangir Alam	+ Adriana De Araujo Gray	Chiamaka Blessing Nwaiwu
* Elsa Amaya	+ Lindsey Marie Green	+ Teresa Margaret Aoko Okello
* William Clarence Anderson, Jr.	+ Meredith Young Grigg	Ifeoma Courtney Okwara
Olivia B. Arnoux	* Toluwalase Esther Gureje	Ngozi Celestina Onyemeh
* Keyerra Latreece Banks	+ Kaitlyn Rose Hevey	Sierra Noel Peiffer
Raechel Anne Bauer <i>cum laude</i>	+ Jazmine Walker Highsmith	* Allison Susan Perrelli
+ Priscilla M. Beaubrun	+ Rachael Elise Hummel	Kenly Elizabeth Piombino
+ Cassie Ann Blyth	+ Courtney Eryn Hurst	+ Rachel B. Ridgley
Erin Renee Bobango <i>magna cum laude</i>	+ Fabienne Joanis	+ Brooke Alexandra Riggle
+ Erica Dana Boroshok	Veronica Johnson	Elena Jazmin Rodriguez <i>cum laude</i>
Crystal E. Chambers	Isabella Simone Justice	Noelia Marta Salazar
Amy Chen	+ Leiya Shalom Kasahun	William Brian Sanders
Dilys N. Chofong	Jasleen Kaur <i>cum laude</i>	Amope M. Shafar
+ Kemba Arlene Christopher	Stephanie Keefe	* Victoria Ann Shipley
Haylee Darlene Conn <i>cum laude</i>	+ Logan Margaret Kosar	+ Scott Ryan Smoot
+ Andrea Covarrubias	Aikaterini Lagadinos	* Aryeh Y. Sobol
Anastasia E. Cozmo	Danaesha Dayna-Taylor Lee	+ Carli Elizabeth Taymans
Christina Rose Maria Dargakis	Tyler William Lee	* Michael Carroll Ter Avest
<i>magna cum laude</i>	Laura Ann Longeway	Jamie Lee Wallace
+ Sally Jane Dent	+ Peyton Anne Loughead	Kevin L. Wallace
Ines C. Djampa	* Jennifer Melissa Lozano	* Bronte Washington
* Kevin M. Doyle	+ Megan Rose Mangione	+ Jenelle G. Williams
* Morgan Simonne Dufoe <i>cum laude</i>	+ Nicholas Andrew Martin	Sophia Emma Williams
Esmeralda Encinas Hernandez	Caroline Elizabeth Millenburg	+ Alessandra E. Youth
<i>cum laude</i>	Jodi Paige Miller	
	* Danielle Yap Moralde	

Master of Arts & Master of Science, School of Arts, Sciences, & Business

James Edward Arrow	Jacob Davis	James Glenn Huff
Kristle Venisse Posadas Hawkins	* Shamayne C. Edmonds	* Caro Ingle
Beaudet	* Lily C. Ertel	* Meredith Kristina Kelly
David Edward Byczek	Cabot Revere Fowler	Thomas Uzziah Lamb
~Whitney Nicole Clemmons	+ Deborah Lynn Gardner	Leanna Martin
Brown	Stephanie Gates	* Karen V. Miller
* Anja Kristina Elizabeth Corin	~Gabriel Gendarme	+ Ana Morris
Opsahl	+ Laura Hirmas	Norah Moturi

Master of Arts & Master of Science, School of Arts, Sciences, & Business (cont.)

+ Emma Ruth Nicholson	~ Mandy Suntag	Alexandra M. Voight
* Christian Olakunle Olaniran	Paul Edward Szempruch	+ Twana G. Waters
* Abigail Elizabeth Shaver	Cassandra Alexis Thompson	* Jacqueline Dow Wheeler
* Che Young Shin	* Alexandra Jacoba Van Wagenberg	~ Joellen Wojcik

Master of Arts, School of Education

+ Omowonuola Omotayo Abiodun-Folorunsho	* Shama Soraya Connor-Fallin	Sierra M. Johnson
+ Sharon S. Adekoya Israel Olusola Aikulola Latasha Denetta Allen Shannon P. Allen Stacie Al-Mahrouq	+ Kristin Creegan Yuqi Cui Batlehem Daniel Brandon Taylor Demers Ilesha Monet Dennis	Jenna Jorgensen Melissa Jean Kammerer William J. Kane Jessica Keppley Emily Lynn Kreutzer Kristi Lacefield
* Amber Dawn Ancarrow Moustapha Alagi Bah Andi S. Bailey Keyla Chanel' Baisey	+ Shiqiang Dong Monica Boyden Francis	+ Celeste Lambert Jennifer L. Larson Aihong Li Jingjuan Li Qing Li Shanshan Li Yanfang Li Ziwei Li Kalisha Renée Little-Rice Bowen Liu Qiuling Long
* Sean Michael Bateman + Zane W. Bedford * Benjamin E. Beloni LaFayette Boone, Jr. Karlene A. M. Bravo-Bowen Shanon Alisha Brown	+ Xuling Gan Saisai Gao Myeshia T. Gayden Tenin Djogbe Gbane Jack Getty + Yanfen Gong Dana L. Green * Laura Mandy Greer Haiyan Guo	+ Bonna Lopez Di Lu Xiaoying Lu Jessica Lee Luskin Haiqing Ma Yana Ma + Bryan A. Matthews + Mitchell Mattox + Xinfang Mei Kelly Monet Miller Kia Monique Miller Shanice Annmarie Miller Jia Min + Bethany T. Mitchell
* Lori Renee Calloway + India Carson + Kimberly Cartelli + Diane Carter Reginal Theodore Carter Min Chen Qiongxuan Chen Simin Chen Tingting Cheng Xuefei Cheng Ying Cheng Emily Chetelat Yu-Hsiung Chou	+ Tiyona A. Gupton William Warren Halbritter, Jr. Amber Hall Sharne Diondra Harris Yasmeen Hasan Maria Adelaide Romano Hauge Preston Davis Henigan Marianne Alexandra Hilgert * Hunter Holland Estefania Nohemi Holler Wei Hu Wenjuan Huang Zhen Huang Amanda Wadsworth Idleman	
+ Angela C. Schmitt Cintron Erin Christine Clifford + Kristin L. Coleman * Tiffany A. Collins	+ Michelle Frances Imperato Ting Jin Patrice Marie Johnson	

Master of Arts, School of Education (cont.)

Lakeisha T. Moore	+ Arame Ndiaye Richardson	Emma Kaitlyn Walsh
+ Daryl Wayne Morris	Lynda Anne Rodgers	Ningwei Wang
* Romesa Mustafa	Annabel Lee Russell	+ Danielle C. Washington
Emily Elizabeth Mutchler	• Victoria Sarem	Jingjing Wei
Seth Anderson Myers	* Kristina Satterlee	+ Lauren Welch
Ayamani Nelson	Joseph A. Scott	+ Ashley Marie White
+ Nazje K. Norton	+ Marissa Mone Scrivens	Erin Paige Wiggins
Taylor M. Odokara	+ Dawn Renee Shaw	+ Elizabeth Williams
Edith O. Onaolapo	+ Kathleen M. Shriver	Kyrah Daishawn Williams
Alison Cecilia O'Neill	Gekiara R. Spann	+ Mackenzie Alice Windsor
Rachel Johana Ortiz	Adam Dean Stark	* Katy E. Wolfe
Taylor Anne Elizabeth Paziienza	Nitika Talwar	Kristen Wright
Yue Peng	Grece Alliance Tegam Taffo	Fengjuan Wu
+ Fidelia Pereira Rivera	Louish Linus Thomas	Hui Xu
Rui Piao	Peggy Thurman	Ting Yang
Bettie Fayette Pierre Michel	Hongmei Tian	Na Zhang
Mary Megan Byrnes Quinn	Michelle Truss	Tingting Zhang
Alanna Denise Randolph	Yolanda Vargas Barba	Yingyan Zhang
Rachael A. Reid	Ceilidh Anna Wagner	Chuan Zhou
Amber Danielle Reider	+ Magdalena Irena Walendowska	Yuantong Zhou
Jennifer Eileen Reyna	Amrit Walha	Nazanin Zori

Master of Arts & Master of Science, School of Integrative Health

• Cathleen Marie Agler	• Aimee Braxton	• Stanley Currier
~Deidra Lavera Alexander	• Schewanda Brown	+ Morgan Jaymes Daniel
• Nina Quiana Allen	• Kora Burchard	+ Sarah Elizabeth Davidson
• Amber Renee Baird	Aimee Paulette Butler	+ Heather Antoinette Davis
• Jennifer Renee Ballou	• Catherine Gloria Campbell	• Ryan E. Deal
• Chloe ElleMarie Barbul	+ Cash Casia	• Denise Dewhurst
+ Martha M. Barge	• Kimberly M. Cestero	Arianna Dinardi
+ Marlene C. Bauer	• Dilenia M. Chireno	+ Anna M. Doogan
• Sedef Fortaci Behar	• Ifeanacho U. Chuba	• Rashauna Doublin
Kylie Marie Belville	~Gina Renee Ciarcia	Nancy R. Douglas
• Tonja Sunflower Bennett	~Shantres Clark	Janay Radina Dunn
Alia Bhimani	Kenneth Samuel Conklin	• Elaine Dusetzina
Claudia M. Bolden	+ Nicole Marie Cormier	• Elizabeth Lauren Epstein
+ Annalise Caroline Brawley	+ Christiana Cortina	Shanell Ewean Erhunmwunse

Master of Arts & Master of Science, School of Integrative Health (cont.)

Immaculee Lude Gina Fabre	Rebekah Inestroza	Tongela Q. Pope
Hiba Fasih	• Katherine C. Jones	Amber Evelyn Prassenos
~ Kelly Miles Fassano	Myra O. Jones	• Jennifer Prevost
+ Kevin Feldman	+ Isabelle Khouri Moukhaiber	+ Erika Quezada
~ Ivonne A. Feliciano Ruiz	• Brian Young Kimutis	+ Julia Meskill Quinn
+ Alanah Rose Filion	• Dinah Kleyman	• Sebrina Rawley
Paula A. Foster	Nicole Paige Koenig	+ Laura Contessa Futrell Reigel
• Swanelle Louise French	• Janet Koprnik	Rachel Ann Rice
• Leah Anna Frankel	• Carrie Leigh Lamberson	~ Virginia Rose Ritchie
• Clarissa Jeanne Freeman	Shoshana LeVine	+ Adrienne Nicole Rivers
+ Adrienne Galang	+ Joseph E. Lin	+ Tekiyah A. Robinson
• Sharon D. Gamblin	Elizabeth E. Lyde-Cajuste	+ Gail Avericia Rogers Williams
+ Sarah Amelia Gaskell	• Rocio Lucy Malone	Teresa Marie Rosa
Aviya Gavra	+ Kathryn McCann	+ Jennifer Rua
+ Zoe M. Gobourne-Anumgba	+ Michele Marano Merkel	Paula Rubio Leano
• Cheryl Yvonne Godwin	+ Lyndon Neil Merritt	Hailey Virginia Russell
Scheri Elissa Goff	+ Stephanie Rhodes Miller	+ Katie Nicole Saylor
• Monica Zender Gonzales	Hajnalka Módis	~ Shanequa Renee Singletary
+ Mary Gordon	+ Sandra Ashleigh Moore	Demetro D. Stephens
• Rachel Claire Greve	Patricia Morelli	• Aneka Street
Alexis Alola Griffin	+ Courtney Silas Mosley	+ Samantha Michele Swatek
+ Lisa M. Grine	+ Adrienne Murray	• Mika Teragouchi
Rachel Lee Gussman	• Maria Paula Navas	Anna Maeve Thistel
Gail Garcia Gutierrez-Kim	+ Shamika L. Neely	Katherine Romney Thorn
• Lindsay Marin Hammerle	Julianne Elizabeth Newkirk	Francesca Rose Tragni
+ Brittany DeShae Hardy	• Terri Christine Noble	• Malia Vandewalle
+ Rice V. Haunstrup	+ Linda Nicole Owl	+ Erica Marie Villafuerte
+ Chelsea Hawk	+ Jordan Kyle Passwaters	+ Nicole Toppino Welsh
+ Carrie Hebert	Kristin Sabrina Peterson	~ Tiffany Aimee White
+ Kami Dianne Hector	• Trang Dai Vu Ho Thu Mong Pham	+ Emily Kay Wielemaker
Beira Lan Ho	• Krystal La'Trese Pinckney	• Melvin L. Williams
Christina J. Holmes	+ Lara Udell Pizzorno	+ Jessica Jane Wood
• Crystal A. Hoyte	Marie Cecilia Poling	• Shin Yune
Barbara Ann Iachini		

Master of Science, School of Nursing

+ Marion Claire Beck April L. Boss	+ Laila Marie Davis + Sylviann S. Horden	Kia Hope Shine Haley Simonds
+ Liina Brathwaite	+ Kenyon Coston Johnson	Chanel M. Tyson
* Catherine Marie Cano Scarlet Dare	Myroslava Sofia Kotyk Shawntee Lynnette Saulet	Jacel ZaKiya Watkins-Ali + Cheryle Lyn Wintermyer

Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies School of Pharmacy & Health Professions

+ Callie Allen	+ Jenna Elaine Lepus	+ Shivani Patel
+ Alyssa Anne Bantay	+ Isabel Anna Licata	+ Natalie Storey Phillips
+ Melanie Faye Block	+ Suzannah J. Lipstein	+ Jason Santos
+ Samantha M. Chenoweth-Rill	+ Julia Anne Markley	+ Conor Vincent Somers
+ Aminata Kaba Conde	+ Jennifer S. Miller	+ Sarah Theyagaraj
+ Maham Dasti	+ Jessica Heather Mundell	+ Gabrielle Marie Trimp
+ Marquia Lameise Eaddy	+ Jenna Julianna Notaro	+ Samantha N. Turner
+ Rachel Julia James	+ Michelle Pais	+ Allison Elizabeth Wade

Certificate of Advanced Study in Education, School of Education

Alexus C. Applegate Kierra W. Kemper	+ Terri Lashae Newsome Shakiyla V. Shockley	+ Maria Sorrentino + Sabryna Valen
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Doctor of Acupuncture, School of Integrative Health

+ Joseph E. Lin	+ Lola Samou Njawe
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Doctor of Clinical Nutrition, School of Integrative Health

Fatemeh Ahangarzadeh Vicki Thomas Allen	Fernanda dos Santos Copeland Chelsea Marie Danna	Traci L. Freeman Nisaa Jayla Hamilton-
• Samara L. Bates	Christy Jean Donat-Germain	Muhammad
Melissa Ruth Brannon	Jacqueline Elnahar	Debbie Hayes
Katherine Joann Brock	Sanaa Farran	Kisha R. Henry

Doctor of Clinical Nutrition, School of Integrative Health (cont.)

John Michael Jordan	Sophie Clarke Purke	Michelle Audrey Solis
Caitlin Siobhan Kirkpatrick	Amber Key Reed	Maria Elizabeth Tadic
Sara Christine Morris -Green	Noor Hani Salem	Teonna T'Keyah Thomas
Desiree L. Murray	Sarah Elizabeth Sanford	Shaelyn Kapualaha'ole Watson
Oluwatosin Tolulope Oluokun	Sarita Sharma	Latisha Patrice Wormely
Jennifer Anne Orleow	Yana V. Sifford	Lujain Zain
Catherine Belle Pettie	Niki Dee Ann Smith	

Doctor of Occupational Therapy, School of Pharmacy & Health Professions

~Brooke Ann Boyland	* Courtney L. Elick	~Siani Vance
* Kristina Lily Boykin	~Gabrielle Layne Miller	

Doctor of Pharmacy, School of Pharmacy & Health Professions

Henry A. Adjei <i>cum laude</i>	Daljit Kaur <i>cum laude</i>	Ashley Rogers
Shahad Aladham	Mlaika Malik	Delilah Harris Spencer
+ Alvin Chidike Alamba	» Philip Benyella Mfonfu	Vincent Englebert Ty Sy-siong <i>magna cum laude</i>
Mariangelica Aponte Ortiz <i>cum laude</i>	Jadah-Toni Ada Mitchell	Getachew Asfaw Tariku <i>summa cum laude</i>
Mariham M. Beshay	Aline Kamaliza Mizero <i>cum laude</i>	Madianis Tristani Blasini
Richard Buggingo <i>cum laude</i>	Chika Vivian Nonso-Izugha	Fabiola Enid Vazquez Del Valle <i>cum laude</i>
Minhwan Cho <i>summa cum laude</i>	Veronique Batong Nzams <i>cum laude</i>	Eidaliz Velazquez Pagan
Cynthia L. Clark	Funmilola O. Olateru-Olagbegi <i>magna cum laude</i>	Jasra Noor Zaheer
Jessica Elizabeth Erb <i>summa cum laude</i>	Krystal Valeria Ortiz Madera	Masooma Zainab
Megan Hope Jones <i>cum laude</i>	Rose Pascal	
Nyakeh Vandy Kamara <i>magna cum laude</i>	Erick Gerardo Rivera Santos <i>summa cum laude</i>	

» Expected December 2026

Doctor of Philosophy, School of Education

+ LAUREN R. BEHRINGER DUNCAN

The Relationship Between Teacher Academic and Behavioral Ratings of Students Involved in Extracurricular Activities and their Relationship to Academic Self-Concept
Chair: Dr. Chretien Guidry

+ TODD BURROUGHS

Personal, Social and Emotional Impacts of Participation in a Music Performance Based Ensemble During COVID 19
Chair: Dr. Kevin Ensor

THOMAS ROBERT CAMPBELL

Teacher Retention: A Qualitative Examination of Significant Factors in Teacher Satisfaction and Decision to Remain in the Profession
Chair: Dr. Yuewei Shi

KEVIN R. CARR

Secondary School Administrators and the School Resource Officer Experience: Does it Contribute to a Safe and Supportive School Environment?
Chair: Dr. Kevin Ensor

SCOTT ALFRED COOPER

Baltimore's English-German Schools 1836-1917
Chair: Dr. Evelyn Spratt

+ TIFFANY RENEE DOWELL

The Impact of Experiential Learning or Career and Educational Planning on Employment Stability and Satisfaction: Socioeconomic Variation in Workforce Preparedness Among High School Students
Chair: Dr. Sharon Oliver-Whitehurst

WILLIAM GREGORY FORD

Bridging Beauty and Belonging: The Paradox of Art Education and Social Reform at Hull- House
Chair: Dr. Evelyn Spratt

ALLYSON A. HALEY

Perceived Impact of a High School Magnet Visual Arts Program on Postsecondary Outcomes for Graduates with Autism Spectrum Disorder: A Qualitative Case Study of Communication Skills, Social-Emotional Development, and Post High School Life
Chair: Dr. Angela Snyder

SONJA DAVENPORT HAMILTON

Beyond the Margins: The Contributions of Black Women to the Practice of Psychology in Schools
Chair: Dr. Evelyn Spratt

KATHERINE D. HAUSER

Finding the Right Fit: Examining How Educational Placement and Emotional Comfort Shape Learning and Behavior in Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder
Chair: Dr. Angela Snyder

JENNIFER HERNANDEZ

What Inspires Teachers to Remain in the Profession: An Analysis of SASS Data
Chair: Dr. Mark Fenster

+ RENEE ANTANETT JENKINS

Managing Teacher Attendance: Associations Between Principal Leadership Style and Practices
Chair: Dr. Rachel Durham

TANIA JOHNSON-RACHKOSKIE

Student Success in a Master of Public Health Program: A Study of Admissions Predictors
Chair: Dr. Mark Fenster

* ROBERT D. KENLAW

The Articulation, Evolution, and Formulations of Cultural Material and Mass Media Dissemination as the Foundations of White Supremacy Among Changing Populations
Chair: Dr. Angelo Letizia

MELODY MARIE LOCKE

The Alternatively Certified Teacher: An Analysis of Novices' Perceptions of Preparedness for the Management of Classrooms and Student Behavior
Chair: Dr. Lauren Mauriello

+ KATIE LYNCH MCDONALD

You Have the Right to Remain Stylish: A Historical and Legal Analysis of Maryland Public School Dress Code Policies in Relation to Changing Demographics
Chair: Dr. Angelo Letizia

* KIMBERLY ANN MCGRATH

General Educator Perceptions of Co-Teaching with an ESOL Teacher-A Phenomenology
Chair: Dr. Kathryn Doherty

JENNIFER ASIEDU MERCER

Barriers or Pathways? An Examination of the Impact of Affirmative Action Bans on College Choice for Black Students in Urban High Schools
Chair: Dr. Kevin Ensor

+ KARA MINCHIN

The Impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) on Third Grade Reading Scores

Chair: Dr. Angelo Letizia

SHERRY MOORE

Emotional Engagement in Pharmacy Co-Curricular Education: A Mixed Methods Study of Cost and Value Through the Situated Expectancy Value Theory Lens

Chair: Dr. James M. Culhane

SR. GRACE OKON, SSND

Beyond the Classroom: A Holistic Development of High-Achieving Female Students in an Independent Catholic School

Chair: Dr. Angela Snyder

FOLUKE GRACE OLUNUGA

African Immigrant Perception of Gender, Learning Interest, and Intention to Pursue Mathematics-Related Careers

Chair: Dr. Emmanuel Robinson

CHRISTINE NARMADA PAUL

Asian American Educator Perceptions of Challenges and Supports Experienced in PK-12 Schools

Chair: Dr. Stephanie Savick

THOMAS F. PORTER

Implementing Apprenticeship Maryland on the Eastern Shore: A Mixed Methods Examination of Coordinator Roles, Responsibilities, and Obstacles

Chair: Dr. Rachel Durham

AMBER LEIGH REAMY-HEDRICK

Building Smarter Firefighters: Integrating Stress Exposure and Decision-Making Models into Entry Level Training

Chair: Dr. Laura N. Foerster Puglisi

MATTHEW JEFFREY RISTAU

The Mindful Classroom in a Special Education Setting: A Quantitative Pilot Study of "Happy Teachers Change the World" Mindfulness-Based Curriculum

Chair: Dr. Angela Snyder

+ ALEKSANDAR SANTRAC

Ethics of Affirmative Action: Toward the Hybrid Justice Theory

Chair: Dr. Kathryn Doherty

FREDDIE DEAN SMITH

Examining the Impact of I-Ready Formative Assessment to Predict End of Year Student Performance on the State of Maryland Summative Assessments

Chair: Dr. Mark Fenster

+ TRICIA RENEE STAGGERS

Early College Participation: Motivation and Student Voice as Inspiration for Goal Setting and Programmatic Design

Chair: Dr. Rachel Durham

SHANDRIA MARIE BEATRICE TURNER-PROCTOR

An Examination of Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) on the College and Career Readiness of Hispanic Students in Maryland Public Schools

Chair: Dr. Kevin Ensor

ADRIENNE N. WESTLAKE

Student Grouping Decisions, Latina Multilingual Learners, and Middle School Mathematics: Motivation, Self-Concept, and Achievement

Chair: Dr. Lisa Pallett

MINAH WOO

Pathways and Resources for US Educated Language Minority (US-LM) Students to Promote a Successful Completion of Freshman Composition

Chair: Dr. Christa deKleine

Honorary Doctorate



Denise Koch

Anchor/Reporter, WJZ CBS News Baltimore

Denise Koch is an Emmy Award-winning anchor and reporter for WJZ CBS News Baltimore, where she has worked for more than 40 years. She has the distinction of being the longest-serving anchor in Baltimore. She started at WJZ in 1982 as a lifestyle/entertainment reporter covering the arts and culture in the Baltimore region. She was soon promoted to weekend anchor, and a few years later, she began serving as a main evening anchor. A beloved and respected journalist, she has reported on the consequential news of the day, including the Beltway sniper crisis, 9/11, and the aftermath of the tragic death of Freddie Gray, while focusing on the people and stories that impact the lives of Marylanders.

She has dedicated herself to the community, serving on the boards of the TurnAround (service provider for people impacted by sexual violence, intimate partner violence, and human trafficking), Maryland Committee for the Children, United Way of Central Maryland's Tocqueville Society, Howard County Arts Council, Success in Style (clothing women re-entering the workforce), and Camp Opportunity (a camp for abused children).

Her commitment to the community includes volunteer leadership at NDMU, where she has promoted and elevated women and families. She has served as an advisory board member and speaker for the Women of the World (WOW) Festival Baltimore, hosted by NDMU. Most recently, Koch moderated an inspiring conversation with Olympic gold medalist Dominique Dawes at NDMU's 2025 WOW Festival Baltimore. She also serves as a member of NDMU's President's Roundtable.

She is an Emmy Award-winning anchor whose stories have also earned eight Emmy nominations. Koch also received an Edward R. Murrow Award from Radio Television Digital News Association for WJZ's coverage of the tragic Key Bridge collapse. The National Capital Chesapeake Bay Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (NATAS) recognized her outstanding achievements with the Governor's Award, its most prestigious honor, as well as the Silver Circle for those who have made significant contributions to the field for 25 years or more.

The Daily Record recognized Koch's professional leadership and lasting community impact with its Icon Honors Award, Influential Marylander Award, and Maryland's Top 100 Women Award. She has also received numerous statewide and national awards from the Society of Professional Journalists, the National Teachers Association, the U.S. Postal Service, Maryland House of Delegates, and the Girl Scouts of Central Maryland.

Koch graduated from the California Institute of the Arts and received a master's degree from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

FOR HER PIONEERING AND INFLUENTIAL CAREER IN LOCAL JOURNALISM, IMPACTFUL COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP, AND UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE IN HER PROFESSIONAL AND SERVICE ENDEAVORS, NOTRE DAME OF MARYLAND UNIVERSITY IS PLEASED TO AWARD THE DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS,

***Honoris Causa, to
Denise Koch***

ON THIS 19TH DAY OF MAY 2026

President's Medal



Christina M. Sax, Ph.D. *Higher Education Leader & Innovator*

Dr. Christina M. Sax is a nationally recognized higher education trailblazer, consultant, speaker, and author with more than 35 years of experience advancing institutional quality, innovation, and student success.

Dr. Sax has held senior executive, administrative, and faculty roles across diverse institutional contexts. She served as the Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs and then Interim President at the former Maryland University of Integrative Health prior to its merger into Notre Dame of Maryland University (NDMU). Following the merger, she served as the inaugural Dean of the NDMU School of Integrative Health. Previously, she served as the

Associate Provost and Dean of Academic Outreach and Innovation at Shippensburg University (PA) and held multiple leadership roles at the University of Maryland Global Campus. She has also served as an adjunct faculty member with the United Nations Educational, Scientific, Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Foundation for the Advancement of Education in the Sciences at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), University of Maryland Baltimore County, and Chulabhorn Research Institute in Thailand.

Dr. Sax was at the forefront of online education in 1998 when she developed one of the first online science courses in the United States. She was the founding Co-Director of the Quality Matters program, an internationally recognized quality assurance framework for online education that has since been adopted by over 1,300 institutions in more than 30 countries.

An award-winning leader, Dr. Sax has received numerous national, regional, and state honors, including the UPCEA's Julius M. Nolte Award for Extraordinary Leadership, U.S. Distance Learning Association 21st Century Best Practice Award, and the Maryland Distance Learning Association Distance Educator of the Year Award. Dr. Sax's collaborative nature is seen in the more than 65 sustained partnerships she has forged across organizations. She is a frequently sought-after presenter for higher education and leadership conferences and events. She is the author of 46 peer-reviewed scientific research articles. She holds a Ph.D. in Human Genetics from the Medical College of Virginia at Virginia Commonwealth University and a B.S. in Microbiology from the University of Rochester.

Congratulations Graduates!

Board of Trustees

Cathryn Curia '69

Chair

Thandee Maung '04

Vice Chair

Kelly Barth '97

Kathleen Beres '70

Christina Bolmarcich, Esq. '97

Lauren Cellucci

Mary D'Ascanio

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John Keenan

Debra Keller-Green '95

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Charmaine Krohe, SSND '75

Mary Lennon, SSND

Debbie Liesen, SSND

George Martin

Mark Meyers

Dan Miscavige

Patricia Murphy, SSND '69

Anthony O'Brien

Amanda Rumsey-Ballard '10, D'16

Jane Schlegel

Sherita Thomas

Vernon Wright

Grace Zaczek '70

Alumni Council

The Alumni Council is a leadership board representing the entire alumni community. On behalf of the community, we extend our sincere congratulations to each graduate. You have just joined a family of exceptional local, national, and global leaders. As everyone is engaged in using their degree to the fullest, we also strive to pay it forward. There are many ways in which you will find meaning in your new graduate status: perhaps it is attending Alumni Weekend or a campus program, staying in touch with your professors, or helping out a current student. However you choose to be involved, we look forward to getting to know you.

Stay up to date on all things NDMU by sharing your contact information with the Office of Alumni Engagement. Simply email ndmalum@ndm.edu. We are thrilled you have joined our ranks. Welcome to the family!

Notre Dame of Maryland University

Mace

In November 1979, Mary John Bersch, SSND '52, professor of art, designed and carved a mace for Notre Dame of Maryland University.

On the top of the mace, the original seal is carved in sweet gum wood, taken from Fourier Hall. The obverse of the seal is a stylized design of the Caroline Hall tower. The handle of the mace is made of white oak, the Maryland State tree. Inserted in the handle is a brass key from an original door of Caroline Hall.

The base of the holder is an ornamental part of the original marble altar in Marikle Chapel. The brass part of the holder is from a door fixture in Rice Hall.

The University

For more than 130 years, Notre Dame has educated leaders who make a difference in their professional careers, their communities and the world. Founded by the School Sisters of Notre Dame, Notre Dame of Maryland University has anticipated and met contemporary needs with visionary educational programs since 1895. Rooted in the Catholic tradition, with an emphasis on the liberal arts, a Notre Dame education challenges students to strive for intellectual and professional excellence, build inclusive communities, engage in service to others and promote social responsibility.

September 9, 2011 marked a historic institutional milestone, as the College of Notre Dame of Maryland became Notre Dame of Maryland University. The university designation reflects Notre Dame's growing number of graduate-level degree options and strengthens its long-standing tradition to provide exceptional academic programs that address the goals of contemporary students and the workplace needs of a global economy. The University is organized into five distinct and distinguished schools—Arts, Sciences & Business; Education; Integrative Health; Nursing; and Pharmacy & Health Professions. Also, in 2025, the University established the School of Integrative Health after the acquisition of the former Maryland University of Integrative Health. All of which offer rigorous academic programs and exceptional advising and support. In the Fall of 2023, Notre Dame of Maryland University became gender-inclusive at all academic levels. This transformative step is an extension of Notre Dame's mission to education leaders to transform the world.

Today, Notre Dame's mission is as vital and relevant as it was in 1895. Our motto, *Veritatem prosequimur* (We pursue truth), has sustained and strengthened the University, and will continue to inspire us as we educate leaders to transform the world.

Notre Dame of Maryland University

Honors Designations

Degrees with Latin honors are conferred on students who achieve the following grade point average based on at least 60 credit hours completed at Notre Dame:

3.90 for the distinction *summa cum laude*

3.70 for the distinction *magna cum laude*

3.50 for the distinction *cum laude*

Graduate degrees (except for Pharmacy) do not carry Latin honor designations. Latin honors listed are based on credits and grades earned as of Fall 2023. Once degrees are officially certified, Latin honors on the diploma and transcript will be based on all credits and grades earned at Notre Dame of Maryland University.

Academic Dress

The custom of wearing academic dress stems from the Middle Ages, when scholars were also clerics and wore the apparel of their monastic order. The hood was originally a cowl attached to the gown, which could be slipped over the head for warmth. The cap was originally round but has evolved to the varieties that we see today.

The gown varies for the respective degrees. The bachelor's gown can be distinguished by its long, pointed sleeves. The master's gown is designed to be worn with the arms through the slits in the elbows of the sleeves. The doctor's gown has full, bell-shaped sleeves with three horizontal bars stitched across the elbows of the sleeves. There is a velvet panel draped around the neck and stitched down the front edges. This velvet trimming may be either black or the same color as the velvet border of the hood.

The hood also varies for the respective degrees. The bachelor's and master's hoods are of the same design, pointed at the base. The bachelor's hood is three feet long; the master's hood is three and a half feet long. The doctor's hood is four feet long, of fuller shape and rounded at the base.

The silk lining of the hood represents the institution that granted the degree. The hood is bordered with velvet, the color of which indicates the field of study in which the degree was earned.

Senior Class Gift

The Senior Class Gift is an opportunity for graduating seniors to come together and start their legacies as NDMU alumni leaders, with a gift this year of \$20.26. In recognition of their investment in their alma mater, participating students earned the distinction of wearing navy and gold cords at commencement. These cords represent the graduates' support of future generations of NDMU students. Students wearing the Senior Class Gift cords epitomize the NDMU mission through their generosity.

Notre Dame of Maryland University

Hood Color

Acupuncture & Herbal Medicine:	Kelly Green
Administration & Supervision for Changing Populations:	Navy Blue
Analytics in Knowledge Management:	Gold
Bachelor of Art:	White
Business:	Drab
Certificate of Advanced Study in Education (CASE):	Light Blue
Contemporary Communication:	White
Economics:	Copper
English Literature:	White
Gifted & Talented Education:	Light Blue
Health Promotion:	Gold
Health & Wellness Coaching:	Gold
Herbal Medicine:	Kelly Green
Instructional Leadership for Changing Populations:	Light Blue
Integrative Health Studies:	Gold
Leadership & Management:	Drab
Leadership in Special Education:	Light Blue
Leadership in Teaching:	Light Blue
Non-Profit Management:	Drab
Nursing:	Apricot
Nutrition:	Kelly Green
Occupational Therapy:	Blue & White
Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies:	Kelly Green
Pharmacy:	Olive
Radiological Sciences:	Gold
Risk Management:	Drab
Teaching:	Light Blue
Yoga Therapy:	Kelly Green

Cord Color

Association for Women in Communications:	Gold
Bonner Leaders:	Light Blue & White
Campus Activities Board (CAB) Executive Board:	Gold & Silver
Desk Assistants:	Forest Green & Purple
Exemplary Service to the Academic Community:	Teal & White
Industry Pharmacists Organization (IPhO):	Maroon & Gold
Kappa Gamma Pi:	Brown & Ivory
Kappa Delta Pi, International Honor Society in Education:	Jade Green & Violet
Leadership & Entrepreneurship Certificate in Pharmacy:	Royal Blue & Gold-Pharmacy
Phi Lambda Sigma, Pharmacy Leadership Society:	Gold & Green
Resident Advisors:	Gold, Purple & White
The Rho Chi Society, Academic Honor Society in Pharmacy:	Purple & White
Senior Class Gift:	Navy & Gold
Sigma, Honor Society in Nursing:	Orchid & White
Student Ambassadors:	Light Blue & Gold
Student Association of Nurses at Notre Dame (SANND):	Light Blue, Navy Blue & White
Student Government Association (SGA) Executive Board:	Gold & Silver
Trailblazers Program, First Generation Undergraduate Students:	Gold, Royal Blue & White
Undergraduate Class Council:	Emerald Green, Royal Blue & White



Alma Mater

We raise our voices proudly,
dear Notre Dame, to your name.
How rich is the heritage
your students claim!
The years have made you glorious
to those who seek after truth,
Answering the challenge
you set for our youth.
Founded in a great tradition,
strong in wisdom's might,
You bear the colors of Our Lady—
her blue and white;
And we who share these college years,
spirited or calm,
Pledge our love forever to you,
Notre Dame.

