



Guest speaker Richard Negrin addresses the graduates. Jan Somma-Hammel/Staten Island Advance photos



Dr. Warren R. Procci receives a doctor of humane letters as Dr. Richard Guarasci, president of Wagner College, looks on.



Graduates applaud during the 128th Wagner College commencement ceremony, held outdoors on the Grymes Hill campus on Friday.



Graduate Christiane Maliedje of New Dorp is all smiles.

GRYMES HILL

# A day to celebrate

Approximately 674 students were awarded degrees Friday at the Wagner College commencement on the Grymes Hill campus. Former NFL player, attorney and politician Richard Negrin was the guest speaker. Negrin received an honorary doctorate degree, as did Dr. Warren Procci, Class of 1968, who is chairman of Wagner's board of trustees. For a story on the day's events and a list of graduates, see Page A 7.



A graduate proudly claims her degree.



Dr. Richard Guarasci, president of Wagner College, welcomes the graduates, family members and friends.



The Gatto family poses for a photo with their graduate, Anna. From left are Joe, Katherine, Anna and Joanne.



A graduate expresses her delight at receiving her awards.



Dillon Quinn speaks on behalf of the Class of 2017.

# Wagner College graduates told 'adversity will make you stronger'

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Former NFL player, attorney and politician Richard Negrin told Wagner College graduates Friday their future will be tested by adversity, but adversity will make them stronger.

Negrin, a Wagner graduate, Class of 1988, who played briefly with the New York Jets (1989), and served as deputy mayor of Philadelphia, delivered the keynote address to the Class of 2017 during the 128th Wagner commencement on the Grymes Hill campus. He said success will depend on how graduates can handle their "A.Q. — adversity quotient — your ability to overcome adversity and keep moving forward."

Adversity will make them stronger, he told graduates. He related his own experience, when he was 13, of witnessing his father, a Cuban exile, being gunned down by assassins. He said his years at Wagner helped him push through the tragedy and ultimately made him stronger.

"You are ready to thrive, ready to make your mark," he told graduates. "Make your days count."

Negrin received an honorary doctorate degree, along with Dr. Warren Procci, Class of 1968, who is chairman of Wagner's board of trustees.

Procci is himself the son of a Wagner alumnus and native Islander, Waddie Procci, Class of 1936, whose parents immigrated from Italy. He said his liberal arts



A group of friends poses for a photo after the ceremony. Jan Somma-Hammel/Staten Island Advance photos

education at Wagner prepared him to understand and contextualize everything else he learned in medical school and professional training.

"Nearly 50 years after my Wagner days, my liberal arts education remains the single most valuable educational experience I have had," Procci said.

A total of 446 bachelor's degrees and 215 master's degrees were awarded. The college also awarded its first doctorate degrees; 11 earned doctor of nursing practice degrees. Two

post-master's certificates were also awarded. Graduates and their families sat outdoors for the ceremony, under a tent on Sutter Oval, shielded from the sun on one of the hottest days of the year so far.

Wagner President Richard Guarasci cited several graduates who will be pursuing higher-education degrees in myriad fields, from law to medicine. The Class of 2017, he said, is a class of "independent thinkers and compassionate citizens, who would use their education

to better themselves, establish excellence in their chosen professions, become people of social conscience and advance the democratic and inclusive mission of this nation."

Student speakers were Aspen Trautz, winner of the Dr. Donald A. Spiro Award for outstanding academic and co-curricular achievements, and Dillon Quinn and Gabryel Oloapu, who were the winners of a competition for student commencement speaker. Oloapu is a native of Auckland, New Zealand, who

will join the country's Olympic water polo team. "To all of my peers, as we venture out into the world, I challenge you to continue having conversations and confronting ideas that contradict your own," she said.

Quinn, of Chaska, Minn., served as Student Government president. "My experiences at Wagner shaped me, empowered me, and allowed me to transform my voice and use it to be an advocate for change," he said.

"The goals you set for yourself and what path you

take to reach your goals is entirely your own. But I know that Wagner has provided each and every one of us with the tools, knowledge, and understanding to go out there, forge our own path, and do great things," said Trautz, a biology major from Landsdale, Pa.

Graduates were elated about obtaining their degrees. Lauren Eisenbeis, of Stonington, Conn., who received a bachelor of science degree, showed off her mortarboard that proclaimed "Done with this B.S." — but said she'll be back in 10 days to begin studies for her master's degree. She wants to become a physician's assistant.

Sean Walrath of Fair Haven, Conn., was happy to receive his bachelor's degree in business administration and marketing. He said he plans eventually to get a master's degree in business administration, but said he plans to begin job hunting first.

Twins Mark and Chris Rucci of Sunnyside both earned bachelor's degrees. Mark earned a bachelor of science degree in arts administration, with a concentration in Italian, while Chris earned a bachelor of arts degree in theater. Both were eager to show off their mortarboards. Chris, a fan of "Guardians of the Galaxy" had "I am Groot" on his cap. His brother had a quote in Italian from astronomer Galileo: "You cannot teach a man anything; you can only help him find it within himself."

## The 2017 Wagner College graduates

### BACHELOR OF ARTS

Michael K. Aaman, Sophia Adsit, Katelyn Alcott, Mariah Hannah Amendola, Jacqueline Armao, Terrance Bailey, Nicholas John Barakos, Isabel Marie Barbosa, Danielle Christina Barrow, Jennifer M. Bentivegna, Addi Melissa Berry, Nicholas James Bolster, Randeé Boulay, Kendra Bramble, Alexandria Brown, Caralayah Brown, Wayne Brown, Taylor Aileen Butigiang, Melissa Calato, Nicole Calvagna, Jasmine Canziani, Lisa Condemi, Jacob Cowan, Marissa Crowe, Vanessa Dailey, Jasper Daly-Williamson, Meaghan A. Darwish, Lauren Dennis, Sourajit Jay, Deymin Diaz, Matthew Diaz, Connor M. Dobson, Anton Galaganov, Dito Gallicchio, Ryan Garbee, Connor Douglas Gibbs, Kelly Christine Glenn, Christian Joshua Gore, Nina Gabriela Gross, Timothy Charles Hayes Jr., Rachael Maxine Houser, Nija R. Howard, Anthony Hurtado, Gregory Ippolito, Kyle Johnson, Kelly Joule, Mari-ah Lynn Joy, Stephen Christopher Kallas, Darnell Kenney, Michael Kirby-McGann, Lauren Klein, Yarelis Lafuente, Kimberley Landstrom, Madison Anne LaSorda, Joshua B. Limage, A-Sar Long, Leslie J. Lopez, Emma Josephine MacDonald, Sylvia Maisonet, Skyler Malchiodi, Daniel J. Marconi, Dean Francis Marino Jr., Rebecca Leigh Martin, Ryan Matthew McConville, Catherine McGlynn, Matthias McKinnon, Jazmine Minner, Hadeel Tathi Mishal, Niki Mizrahi, Chandler M. Mok, Katrina Mooers, Gabriela Anaís Morales-Rivera, Brent Munyon, Katelyn Murphy, Rachel Alexandra Nace, Elihu Ekachuwu Ngodi, Gabryel Oloapu, Pamela S. Pangaro, Robert Alton Paul III, Brandon Peoples, Marisa Petrarcia, Stephanie Piscopia, Elizabeth Polizzotti, Kaitlin Quann, Melanie Rafael, Justin Reyes, Hayley Richards, Sarah Jean Riley, Alexander Joseph Roccamo, Samantha Lee Ross, Margaret Roth, Lyndsay Ann Rowe, Christopher John Rucci, Madison J. Ruff, Taylor Sackaris, Marquis Antonia Salmon, Carolyn Rose Savoia, Natalia J. Schaffer, Lauren Schueler, Casey Schweiger, Gregory Jules Senat, Sydney Mariah Session, Jeana M. Shea, Lauren Silver, Carissa Jeanne Sirrianna, Mari Skoultschi, Alexandra Marissa Stano, Zhane Stokes, Amanda Sutherland, Cody Brook Tarantini, Amanda Lee Taylor, John Walker Thacker, Clint Mad-

dox Thompson, Michael Bryan Tomao, Joseph N. Troina, Amelia Twork, Remington Vashisht, Michala Catherine Williams, Noah Wolthausen, Doo-Young Yoon, Ryan Joseph Zurawski, Ilana R. Zwerling.

### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Huda Abuzahrieh, Jorge Acevedo, Bolatito Agbabiaka, Michelle Lee Ahern, Hamza Ahmed Hesham Hadoud Ahmed, Mahmoud Ahmed, William Alibach, Christina Rose Alessio, Alexi M. Alikakos, Ali Alkhalawi, Marbe Hazel Alon, Aidan Alvarez, Nour Aly, Nicholas Anderson, Amanda Angri, John Appiah, Medina Ardolic, Jennifer Armenia, Deniz Arslan-Aguilar, Lukshmi Asirvatham, Nicole Aylmer, Sylwia Baginska, Forrest Michael Bailey, Jessica M. Bailey, Margaret Grace Baird, Dardan Bajraktari, Nicole Becker, Taylor Beeson, Nicole Amber Bell, Ashley Taylor Bellomo, Brendan Benecke, Elizabeth Bennett, Ryan Steven Bennett, Bridget Molloy Berry, James Black, Sabrina Bogen, Chelsea Ana Borsack, Emily Brantiz-Lenhardt, Kerri Bress, Nicholas M. Buchholz, Amanda Buck, Jessica Lynn Bulone, Kelsey Bunker, Ryan Burd, Jennelly Burgos, Julia Butler, Valbona Capani, Cira F. Cardaci, Courtney Lynne Carrillo, Christina Carrara, Merrysha Y. Castillo, Larisa Cazeau, Eric Cedeno, Shannon Audrey Cedenno, Rabije Cekovic, Cristina Centonzo, Alexey Clare Chandler, Melissa Chatoorang, Elena Chersky, Kenneth Christie, Monica Cipriani, Aishe Cira, Lauren Citarella, Katja Claesson, Evan Clark, Amber Coca, Matthew Louis Cohen, Nicholas Tyler Cole, Jordan Colonna-Fahey, Louis Coniglio, Tyler Cropley, Erin Curley, Brad E. J. Currao, Joshua A. Darwish, Adrienne Datta, Gabrielle Marie Davis, Vincent DeCicco, Madison P. Decker, Caroline Mary Della Ratta, Marielle Rae DeMara, Sydney Denault, Stephen J. DeSalvo, Michelle DeTomaso, Alexa Di Domenico, Alexandrea DiBenedetto, Christopher DiBenedetto, Elisa Jean Duvon, Vincent Dimare, Alexis Nicole Dispensa, Jacqueline Dluhi, Tayla Margaret Dominguez Richards, Victoria Theresse Dugay, Christopher Durazzo, Breanna Kathleen Earley, Zachary I. Edelman, Lauren Elizabeth Eisenbeis, Caroline Farella, Emily Farrell, Gabrielle Marie Felix, Ruzanna

Filenko, Samuel Flaxman, Devon J. Flint, Keith Foster, Stephanie Foster, Alfredo Frangella, Kellian Frank, Megan Fritz, Anton Frondelius, Tyler Tan Fung, Ariana Lee Furrie, Antonina M. Gambino, Anna L. Gatto, Wendi Anne Giang, Alexandra Margaret Giangrande, Alessia Giarracca, Hana Dawn Gilbert, Isaiiah Tyrone Gills, Austin Goeke, Jaclyn Ann Gomez, McKaleigh Goodale, Jessie Grandelli, Brooke Meli'i Elizabeth Granier, Denisha Green, Madison Joan Greif, Caitlyn Theresa Grima, Thomas A. Grimaldi, Gabrielle Guastamachio, Cindy Guevara, Alicia Guillemette, Kelsey Morgan Gwynne, Megan E. Haase, Armando Hamer, Brandon M. Hart, Dylan Hart, Sarah Hasselberger, Jennifer Haug, Katelyn Higgins, Aerika High, Emily Hoang, Victoria Hohmann, Francesca Hossman, Emily Hynes, Michele Ikone, Marlis Jacobi, Fiorina Jajaga, Mary Januzzi, Kayla Jardine-Vistocco, Marta Carrillo, Christina Osadchuk, Devon Jones, Adare Jordan, Penelope Jungreis, Russell W. Kadro, Courtney Kenyon, Camille T. Kiyota, Siara Kolpon, Nicholas Constance Koutelos, Matthew Ryan Kovalsky, Veronica Kram, Irina Kreymor, Devan M. Buchholz, Gina Massaro, Jain Matthew, Roshan Mathew, Teena Mathew, Stephen Audelis Matrangolo, Christian Mattera, Amanda Mazzarano, Alexandra McCahill, Christina McCormick, Eric McGough, Fiona M. McKeveny, Breanne McLaughlin, Trevor McMullin-Eldridge, Sydney Hanna McNutt, Gregory Mead, Sally Aaron Meli, Evan James Mellilo, Jacqueline Menna, Nada Metwalli, Rosa Michos, Jacqueline Miers, Olga Miltisina, Patrick Stephen Minogue, Ryan Monaghan, Angela Ann Montemaran, Anastasia Moore, Jessica Mouradian, Milot Muca, Ibrahim Abdurrahman Mugren, Theresa Mustacchio, Dynasia Myles, Cristina Nardulli, Rachel Lynn

Navatta, Alex Negrillo, Emily Newman, Bryee Ho'o-mav Anuhea Nihipali, Nicole A. Nittoli, Ashley Nocera, Kenneth Oker- eke, ToniMarie O'Neill, Jacob Robert Orvidas, Adam Paccione, Salvatore Parnese, Wilner Paul, Kurt A. Paul-Bazil, Madison W. Pautsch, Jessica Pavolko, Olivia Pea, Alexander Pietro Pecoraro, Cierra Pepin, Jeriana Loree Perez, Stacey Ann Perlongo, MauraAnne Peters, Genni Pimentel, Paulina Plaskon, Krista Polizzotto, Jessica Proscia, Morgan Prouse, Megan Marie Pulley, Dillon J. Quinn, Achshah Quow, Bryan C. Rafano, Zana Rashed, Karilyn Eliza Ratcliffe, Theresa Jo-Marie Reed, Eric Reider, Melanie Laine Reiser, Amanda M. Rey, Emily Margaret Reyes, David Matthew Ricciardi, Emily Ann Riddle, Erica Riley, Jessica Roberts, Alyssa Robidoux, Victoria Rose Rodriguez, Maria Rodriguez Velaides, Susan Ronis, Julianna Rosato, Christina Rosiello, Erik Rossetti, Mark Rucci, Andrew Ruspantini, Diana Saber, Avika Sagwal, Dana Salatino, Kristina Salerno, Robin Santoro, Lauren Michelle Savage, Christina Hilda Rani Savarim- uthu, Michael I. Sayad, Caleb Scepaniak, Thomas Richard Schwannecke III, Mark Scoff, Melisa Sejadinovski, Daniela Semilia, Alex Sharoykin, Viktoriya Slobodyan, Lloyd Smith, Rachael A. Smith, Boris Smurygin, Inessa Solovyanichik, Anthony Spano, Antonio Vincent Spina, Noah W. Sprock, Corinne Stackpole, Kaitlyn Ann Stines, Elizabeth Fritz Stirba, Olivia Streilein, James Sullivan, Salina Sultan, Benjamin G. Thomas, Andrew Tirelli, Courtney Lyn Titus, Aspen Trautz, Brianna Marie Tredway, Melanie Trinkwald, Jenna Tszuska, Anthony Tucker-Bartley, Frances Vattel, Vincent Vitulli, Danielle L. Vlachos, Elena Vurmo, Kelly Walsh, Yusi Wang, Andrew Tyler Weisenburger, Cassie Wenzel, Joseph Wightman, Brian Williams, Trevor Williamson, Erietta Wilson, Cynthia Rose Woolley, Shonika Wyllie, Anna Yavorsky, Andre Yevchinez, Rashad Young, Gabriella Jo Zarrelli, Alexandra Zawinsky, Joseph Zurica.

### MASTER OF ARTS

Gary P. DiClementi, Kevin Farrell, Eric Franklin, Steven Joshua Funk, Sofia Isabella Olavia Roman.

### MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

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### MASTER OF SCIENCE

Theresa Abdul-Massih, Joseph Agro, Brittni Aliberti, Kyle Allen, Ibrahim Alotebi, Omnia Alshahrani, Alaa Alsubyani, Grace Ambio, Estera Babayeve, Bjorn Baby, Christina Baglivo, Needa Bahkali, Bianca Balsamo, Abdulatif Mohammad Bamufleh, Lisa Belcastro, Liliya Belkina, Lisa Benedetto, Tara Marie Bennett, Jordan Beyar, Danielle Elizabeth Bonomo, Alexis Brest, Clare Brown, Rita Brusco, Kelly Butts, Robert Cain, Krista Lynn Carbonara, Jessica Carbone, Grace Carpinello, Barbara Casuso, Raphael Chihambakwe, Mark Daco, Briana Damora, Orsolina de Michiel, Thomas Delahanty, John Dempsy, Michelle Detka, Melissa DeTommaso, Katie Dion, Matthew R. DiVullo, Dianne Barbara Dougherty, Andrew Duran, Patricia Ednie, Julia Etlina, Simone Faybyshev, Georgia Ferrara, Erica Flynn, Gregory Friedman, Monica Gad, Eduardo J. Garcia, Caroline Gelling, Sunu George, Ayesha Ghaflar, Katherine Giannettino, KellyAnn Glorioso, Anthony Gonzalez, Dian Grandison, Andrea Greco, Keisandra Griffith, Natalie Gurvich, Alberta Hanan, Michael James Henrich, Michael Holden, Clara Betzabeth Irizarry, Devon Jones, Elena A. Katsanos, Jacqueline Kesler, Eugene

Kim, Julia Rose Koeber, Emma Konieczny, Ulyana Kozak, Kara Lacoste, Carly Jill Leventhal, Evangelos Livanos, Stephanie Lombardo, Julissa Zunilda Lora, Leslie Kendra Lynn, Evelyn Macareno, Christiane Maliedje, Candice Manetta, Allyson Paige Marchan, Anna Marchetta, Matthew Mason, Christine Mavaro, Ryan McAnuff, Victoria J. McGrath, Kerri McKeever, Kristina McQuade, Jessica Mendelsohn, Timothy Mendez, Nicole G. Mennona, Michael Migliorisi, Amanda Molloy, Patrick Murphy, Alexa Nasti, Aliyya Noor, Nicole Peduto, Tyler Pee, Elizabeth Romano, Corinne Rondina, Megan Rondina, Brianna Russo, Erin Salzillo, Jennifer Schneck, Paul Scrocco, Caitlin Shulman, Stephanie Sommers, Kleeedy M. St Surin, Amy Steinberg, Senada Steinman, Kelsey Shannon Suggs, Cheng Sun, Victoria Tague, Jean Tegelmann, Wilson Thomas, Daniel Tierney, Jacqueline Tighe, Kristen Trentacosta, Matthew Tymon, Alexandra Valles, Megan Vebber, Sabrina Vecchiarelli, Kyle Venturi, Amanda Rose Weinberg, Alyssa Willard, Danielle Willis, Brianna Worona, Janice Wright, Dmitry Yanovsky, Jeannette Yim, Christina Youssef, Donna Yu, Igor Zilberman, Arianna Zizza, Anna Zvagskaya.

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Samantha Lynn Bedker, Tara Catalano, Ryan Clinton, Catherine Elizabeth Curato, Mona L. Danziger, Stephanie Rose DeFilippi, Meaghan Duval, Daniel Ford, Patrick Gibbons, John Gorgia, Meaghan Heaney, Mary Ida, Amanda Imperato, Kellyanne Lynagh, Alexandria Magriples, Michael McMenamin, Shalena Mines, Kristina Moulman, Steven Panyu, Joseph Picca, Sidq Soulemana, SHONN O. SWEENEY, Nicole Weintraub. DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE Valbona Avdija, Kathleen Campos-Gatjens, Margaret Canjura, Jessica Cerulli, Diana Cosaglia-Danna, Kathleen Francis, Dina Gomegna, Nina Maresca, Cindy McVey, Kathleen Oberfeldt, Patricia Tooker.

### POST-MASTER'S CERTIFICATE

Lelieith Bailey-Williams, Jennifer Macchiarola.