



SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2019

WAGNER COLLEGE

Graduates celebrate journeys old and new



It was a day of celebration at Wagner College on Friday as 630 students received degrees during the school's 134th commencement ceremony at the Grymes Hill campus. It was also a bittersweet day for Dr. Richard Guarasci, who is retiring in June after serving as the school's president for 22 years.

Photos by Jan Somma-Hammel, Staten Island Advance



Dr. Richard Guarasci and his wife, Dr. Carin Guarasci, were honored for their contributions to the school.



A student makes an emotional gesture after receiving his diploma.

For more on the graduation ceremony, see Pages A8-9

GRYMES HILL

Wagner College graduates 630



Retiring Wagner College President Dr. Richard Guarasci holds hands with his wife, Dr. Carin Guarasci, as she is awarded an honorary degree during Friday's graduation ceremony. Photos by Jan Somma-Hammel, Staten Island Advance

Fond farewell: Retiring President Dr. Richard Guarasci honored

Caitlin Della Rocca For the Staten Island Advance

Wagner College's president, Dr. Richard Guarasci, told graduates at the school's 134th commencement ceremony on Friday that this generation will produce outstanding leaders the world needs today.

"As you know, for the past 22 years, Wagner College has had my heart and my mind. This is such a very special community and a special place," said Guarasci, who was awarded an honorary degree during the ceremony. "I know many of you personally, and I'm quite confident that you're going to achieve many milestones in your careers — and many of you will receive honors similar to this one that I'm so humbled to be awarded today. I have great faith in your generation to produce a substantial number of outstanding leaders, and I truly mean this. ..."

Guarasci has been the president at the college for 22 years, and announced earlier this year he will be retiring in June. He became provost at Wagner College in 1997, in which he led faculty in a major curricular reorganization that produced the Wagner Plan for the Practical Liberal Arts.

When Wagner College President Norman Smith announced his pending departure in 2002, Guarasci was tapped as his successor by the university's board of trustees. Guarasci was the keynote speaker at Friday's ceremony, stating that the graduates have developed important skills that will help them in their own careers.

"Today you are graduating from a fine college, a very fine college, and you are well-prepared in your next steps of pursuit of a successful career," he said.

"All of these experiences at Wagner have made you successful here. They form the foundation of success in your eventual profession and in your personal lives as well. They are your bedrock for success," said Guarasci.

Guarasci's wife, Dr. Carin Guarasci, the founder of the New Educators at Wagner mentorship and professional development program, also received an honorary degree at the ceremony.

This year's commencement was the 101st graduation ceremony held on Wagner College's Grymes Hill campus. The school was founded in Rochester, N.Y., and moved to its current address in 1918.

A total of 630 degrees were awarded, including bachelor's, master's, post-master's certificates and the first doctorate degrees.

Student speaker Kenya Z. Hyman, a business management major, explained how reluctant she was to try new things, but found the courage to make a difference.

During her time at Wagner, she joined the track and field team, Women's Professional Network, the Women of Color Dialogue Circle and the Black Student Union.

"To the Class of 2019, keep thriving and making positive changes in the world," said Hyman.

The second student speaker, Daniel S. Smith, a public policy and administration major, explained that being put out of your comfort zone opens your eyes to new ideas. Smith has been the leader of the LGBTQ+ student alliance organization, Iris Alliance, and described the college as a community of friends.

"Even though we all go separate ways, we're still a community. They were not friends, they are friends. They were not once home, they are home," said Smith.



It was a happy day for graduates Gabrilla Dutsar, left, Amanda Barysh and Emily Miller. All three received physician assistant master's degrees at the 134th Wagner College commencement, held on Friday on the Grymes Hill campus. Jan Somma-Hammel, Staten Island Advance photos



Speakers for the Class of 2019 were Kenya Z. Hyman and Daniel S. Smith.



Graduate John Dempsey, with his son, Grayson, 3, at the graduation ceremony.



A graduate waves to friends and family after receiving her diploma at the Wagner College commencement ceremony on Friday. Jan Somma-Hammel, Staten Island Advance photos

The graduates

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Liam Abate, J'Quan Adams-Napier, Amanda Akaliza, Corey J. Alberti, Gabrielle Amuso, Warren Asirwatham, Kevin Atwater, John Badagliacca, Gabrielle Baker, Henry Bill, Samantha Binn, Olivia Janelle Bishop, Zackary Tyler Blanchette, Jessica Carlucci, Nakylia Carter, Bailey Claffey, Cori-Lynn Clancy, Emily Cobb, Angela Cocuzza, Sarah Collier, Madeline Ellen Courtney, Roberto William Cruz, Erin Damers, Madison Darcey, Joseph DeSena, Kristy Donkin, Cassandra Dougherty, John Drinkwater, Matthew Drinkwater, Alexis Eldredge, Maggie Eley, Alexia Leigh Erdos, Tatiana Eriksen, Belinda Fida, Robert Fischetti, Dante Fotino, Kimberly Friedman, Mary Gad, Francisco George Gallo, Kellen Gaughan, Deyja Gentile, Victoria Gitten, Andrea Gustafson, Jonah Hale, Erica Hardy, Racha Hariai, Alyson Hathaway, Kelly Hedden, Hayley Hemminger-Martin, Daniel Scott Hughes, Antonella Iacono, Madilyn E. Joseph, Jacqueline Kaminsky, Spencer Kaufman, Natalie Kayton, Morgan Riddle Kimm, Dana Kluczyk, Kyra Lee, Jessica Annette Lieberman, Danielle Lopez, Gary Lumpkin, Ciera Desiree Luna, Lora Mae Margerum, Katherine Mazzotta, Anne Miele, Brett Miller, Kirsten Amanda Monte, Michelle Morris, Michael Motkowski, Meagan Naso, Albert Nelthroop, Zachary J. Norris, John Norton, Riley Joseph Owens, Jordan Pagan, Ashley Paik, Jane Marie Paris, Charles Anthony Poveromo, Karen Soss Prihoda, Davis A. Prince, Mikaela Pritchett, Willa Pruitt, Victoria Puza, Samantha Quinn, Cynthia Vanessa Rebeil, Anna Belle Reilly, Monica Rivera, Stephanie Roberts, Audrey Robinson, Rebecca Ilana Rozenbaum Cabeza, Lydia Rumowicz, Salman Saleem, Jenna Nicole Santoro, Robert Schleimer, Matthew Sefcik, Lauren Sellers, Lauren Marie Serrato, Ashley Shafman, Katrina Skidmore, Daniel S. Smith, Harry Wilson St. Cloud II, Victoria Steiner, Deryn Susman, Mahina Taglies, Pascale Tego, Antionette Timmerman, Katelyn Traut, Gabriel Trimbur, Tyler Unekis, Stephanie Upston, Isabeaut K. Valverde Machuca, Hope Alexandria VanEtten, Florence Vassallo, Katelynne Marie Vernooy, Katherine Viscardi, Jacob P. Vogel, Kathryn Wakeman, Olivia Kassidi Weiss, William Wetherbee, Cameron Bobby Woldt, Dominic Nicholas Zmarlicki.

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Neil J. Abbatiello, Janeen Abdeldayem, Faiz Abed, Mariel Acampora, Kristina Accardo, Mumtaz Ahmed, Khadija Akhtar, Juan Alanis, Jessica Aletta, Omar Alhagiko, Elias Aljunidi, Emily Amato, Noah Anastassatos, Alexandra Anzalone, Luther Ohene Appiah, Emily Austein, Victoria Marie Babson, Shannon Bailey, Rory Toby Ryan Baker, Neha Basnet, Leslie Ann Batri, Sandra Battista, Rina Baynes, Peyton Beck, Alexandra Bellisario, Briana Bettencourt, Benjamin Bifalco, Koby Bishop, Abigail Blackman, Samantha Nicole Bonello, Michael Nicholas Bonomo, Richard Bosco, Jeffrey Bost Jr., Karissa Bourbeau, Nicholas Manuel Bouzas, Kyle Brey, Alexander P. Brower, Matthew Christopher Brown, Morgan C. Brown, Shavel Brown, Julianne Bruen, Kristina Buccellato, Allison Buchanan, Nicholas Buhta, Daniella N. Buono, Nora Burns, Melissa Byrnes, Christina Ann Calabro, Vincent Michael Caldiero, Gavin Augur Callahan, Drew Caraballo, Chelsea Carbajal, Calli Carnavas, Kristen Catalano, Matthew Cechini, Angelica Rose Celona, Raymond Chang, Kayla Cienski, Joseph Cirrone, Megan Clark, Daniel Clifford, Thomas Coffey, Samantha Karen Colon, Anthony Comanda, Kelly Concerto, Andrew Cordani, Jenna Corona, Danielle Alexandra Crespo, Bridgett Page Criswell, Lina Cui, Jacqueline Cunningham, Myranda

Curto, Karina Cusumano, Nicole Cusumano, Teo Dadic, Maria D'Amico, Oksana Danilevsky, Connor Davis, Marlene Theresa Dela Cruz, Louis Delahanty, Linda Jeane Delfini, Nicole D. DeLuzio, Amanda Jayne DeMarinis, Siena Demes, Michele Louisa DiLella, Marisa DiMare, Michelle DiPaolo, Nicole Dipasquale, Anisa Djelosevic, Alexandra Dmytrow, Anna Dobelis, Kevin Doherty, Nicole Doherty, Alina Dolub, Abigail Dorcin, William M. Doyle, Megan Michelle Drum, Nicholas Durst, Sarah Ehrman, Lauren Estelle, Iman Eulinberg, Joseph Vincent Fabozzi, Kelly Fang, Kelly Faria, Lauren Fay, Daniel Faybyshev, Kelsey Lynn Fee, Alexandra Nicole Ferro, Alexis Lynne Ferro, Charmagne A. Flammond, Patrick Ford, Nicole Fracchiolla, Kristina Franco, Keaton T. Freire, Kevin Fremgen, Jenna Marie Frisolone, Ryan Fulse, Asthik Gabrilyants, Christian Jeffrey Gaeta, Jessica Lauren Gallo, Robert Gallo, Thomas Gambino, Darryl K. Gamble Jr., Eliza Garcia, Tristan Garcia-Rojas, Ariana C. Gargano, Caleigh A. Gawron, Brittany Nichole Genovese, Madison Gibbons, James Grady, Santoni W. Graham Jr., Kevin Gray, Alyssa Nicole Greco, Madison Grun, Meghan Kathleen Gunther, Evan Hall, Trisha Harumi Hirano, Bradley D. Hudik, Maria Humphries, Kenya Zakiya Malaika Hyman, Taylor Marie Iannicelli, Abby Lee Irving, Regina Ismaili, Ennis Jabara, Brianna Janiszewski, Margaret Jent, Thelma Jerome, William G. Johnson, Alexandra Joseph, Giselle Kalimullina, Caroline Kardaszewski, Kamal Kaur, Claire Rose Keefer, Ashley Taylor Kelly, Molly Kilker, Ilya Christian Knepfelhout, Allegría Elizabeth Knouse, Allison Nicole Krauza, Alexa Marie Kroczyński, Yan Kucheruk, Brandon Kuczabski, Laura Elizabeth Kyvik, Samantha Lee Kyvik, Gina M. La Sorsa, Janise LaBoard, Deanna Rose Lambiasi, Toniann Marie Lamirata, Jared Robert Lane, Anatoliy Lashkul, Kathleen Leavey, Alyssa Lederhos, Thompson Lee, Blake Xavier Lenk, Philippe Henry Lerebours, Ilana Levich, Eric Ligda, Devin Liggeons, Sarah Limanni, Yan Lin, Kalliopi Livanos, Sarah Lockwood, Nicole Loffredo, Joseph Lombardi, Alexander Louladakis, Sterling Lowry, Sylvia Lubak, Roldy Lucien, Grant Ludgar, Jan Lukasiewicz, Grace Lukasik, Ashley Marie Machado, Erin Malson, Cheryl Lynn Manole, Brooke Mason, Luke Matthew Massei, Matthew Mathai, Kelsey Mattil, Brittany Mayer, Clare Noelle McCaffrey, Julian McCleod, Taji McCullough, Sarah Lindsay McGee, Dorian McMenemy, Cindy Mei, Olivia Marie Melillo, Jennifer Michel, Ipek Miminoska, Angela Minuttilo, Justin Mirfield, Erica Mitnik, Douglas James Molnar, Andrew Mulholland, Janelle Mullen, Aida Ndir, Michael Occhiogrosso, Jaclyn Oddo, Devin O'Donnell, Elwira Onysko, Yamir Ortiz, Angelika Paczkowski, Michaela Paduch, Stefanie Nicole Pagan, Olivia Panarello, Marisa Papadakos, Marisa Patella, Urszula Pawka, Anthony Pecora, Alexander J. Pennise, Allison Virginia Peschel-Keel, Lauren Piro, Julia Piscopo, Lutfi Pocesta, Eric Poland, Elena Poppas, Anna Josephine Prince, Nicholas Priola, Svitlana Pushkar, Bryanna Qello, Jennifer Quercia, Shanna Raboy, Oriol Rafaelov, Acacia Raffle, Amina Rahimi, Ofelya Rakhamimova, Arlinda Reyes, Liana Marie Ribaud, Genesis Abigail Rivas, Lonnie Rivera, Joseph Rodriguez, Jessica Rosalbo, Nicholas Ruggiero, Amanda Russo, Frederick Sabido, Alyssa Marie Saggau, Julissa Salazar, Vincent Salerno, Alexandra Sanchez, Dale Sandy, Tyler Sanfilippo, Christina Sangiorgi, Kaitlyn Sarcone, Kelsey N. Savje, Kathryn Carmela Scarfo, Annemarie Schiff, Merna Shehata, Joseph Silvestrone, Andrew John Skinner Jr., Taylor Marie Smerina, Hayley Smith, Linda Maria Isabella Spatola, Richard J. Spinosa III, Amy Beth Staley, Maria Stankevitch,



The Wagner College Choir performs “America the Beautiful,” during the ceremony.

Connor Robert Starr, Nicoletta Stefanou, Justine Stough, Victoria Stroud, Oskar Sundberg, Taylor Swanberg, Ermin Tale, Michael Taveras, Kaela Teele, Sonal Thacker, Lance Xavier Thillet, Arun Thomas, Shilpa Thomas, Cheryl Tobia, Kaitlin Tobin, Dominick James Tomasuolo, Robert F. Toscanini, Jessica N. Trieste, Conor R. Trollo, Christopher Tropiano, Keivonna Tucker, Adam Ursomanno, Saury Isaac Valerio, Rebecca Hope Vaughan, Michael Viegas, Lindsey Margaret Von Elm, Ilana Vosk, Elyssa Wagner, Mary Walsh, Adrianna Catherine Warning, Shawn Westcott, Matthew Whalen, Lucille Elise Whisler, D'erren Wilson, James Wise, Christopher Mark Woodard, Melina Rosalie Woods, Erwin Yeung, Samuel Yoo, Jonnathan Isaac Young, Angela Zagami, Anna Zakharova, Leeanne Amy Zotynia, Manuela V. Zuluaga, Allison Janice Zupa.

MASTER OF ARTS

Desiree M. Braithwaite, William Coleman Buck, Arlette Cepeda, Jonathan Cooper Goldenberg, Shawn Lawson Jr., Joseph Calvin Revander Jr., Kathryn Elizabeth Rowan, Christopher Tooker, Olivia J. Wynn.

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Mandana Amiri, Jordan Anderson, Karlie Anne Brady, Louis R. Coniglio, Tanya de Souza, Maria Dellarat, Paul DeVita, Przemyslaw Filipek, Toni-Ann Fischetti, Tara Flynn, Sean Gray, Vindya Hettiarachchige de Silva, Aerika Lynn High, Nicole Hopton, Shannon Lulley, Fabia Maramotti, Teuta Markashevici, Daniel Marsh, Gina Marie Massaro, LaSalle McDonald, William P. McMenamin, Ryan Monaghan, Mary Mulrooney Cottingham, Tharika Munaweera, Justin Osuji, Wilner Paul, Emily Pereira, Vanessa Pettito, Justin Plataroti, Bryan Rafano, Bennett Reed, Robert J. Ren, Briana Milan Stevens, Raymond Stiles, Morgan Leigh Stratton, Nicholas R. Szymanski, Kiser Terry, Marcus Thatcher, Corey Torjesen, Anibal Vera, Thomas Walsh, Matthew Woody, Mariah Kate Young, Elias Youssef, Jordan Zoltowsky.

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Sydney Abajian, Alfred Adarkwah, Ibrahim Blihd R. Alotebi, Bianca Balsamo, Amanda Leigh Barysh, Liliya Belkina, Nicole Amber Bell, Nicole Bianco, Sabrina Boutros, Willie Bu, Nicole Cerrato, Shuai Chen, Maria Cirigliano, Melanie S. Cordero, Krystal Cromeyer, Amanda D'Amato, Trevor Daniels, Georgio Alfeche Dano,

Appu Daryl, Elijah Davis, Dominique DeMatteo, John Dempsey, Cassandra Deocera, Megan M. DiBenedetto, Alexis Dispensa, Andrew Duran, Gabriella Marisa Dutsar, Ahou Nina Eby, Julia Etlina, Crystal Farinha, Nicole Farkouh, Simone Faybyshev, Kaitlin Elizabeth Flaherty, Francesca Frasca, Gregory Friedman, Gianna Giordano, Heather Greco, Pamela Grillo, Quydiah Gustus, Alberta Hanan, Brandon Hart, Kristina Hartig, Ahmed Nasser A. Hazazi, Juliana Simone Hoff, Florina Jajaga, Jake Johnson, Olivia G. Josephsen, Eunice Go Eun Kim, Alexandra Kliger, Paula Kolodynski, Jordan Bryan Lefkowitz, Thomas Ralph LoPresti, Anna Luu, Rinny Mathew, Caitlin M. McGann, Patrick McMenamin, Madison J. McNichol, Anna Menza, Emily Miller, Amanda Molloy, Stephanie Montemarano, Jillian Mary Moran, George M. Mottola, James Napolitano, Alexa Nasti, Molla Meher Nawsher, Karlina Nguyen, Jeremy Nowakowski, Natalie Nicole Nye, Caitlin O'Donnell, Krystle Ogle, Izabela Okon, Christina Olivieri, Emily O'Regan, Daniel Michael Ostrowski, Jocelyn Padilla, Jacob Pawela, Alena Pazniak, Alexandra K. Pierce, Sweta Ramnani, Benjamin J. Rispoli, Lauren Elizabeth Roop, Kertje Rubenstein, Lance Sagesse, Ashley Santaite, Joseph Scala, Kristina M. Scherrer, Jamie Singer, Cameron Smith, Christopher John Sorrentino, Natalia Sroga, Ramilia Sukherman, Virginia Tiralosi, Megan Totaro, Jaclyn Trotta, Alexandra Valles, Tina M. Williams, Danielle Willis, Jessica Taylor Wilm, Katherine Yard, Alexander Peter Zelez, Luke Zocco.

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN EDUCATION

Erika Aanonsen, Stefanie Angeli, Stephen Baldo, Kathryn Criscuolo, Patricia A. Duffy, Michael Fischetti, Wendy Giang, Kathryn Grieci, Paige Grupico, Taylor Grupico, Anthony Guido, Salvatore Mascellino, Eman Metwally, Haleigh Moeller, Kathleen Palladino, Stephanie Piscopia, Rashon Pleasants, Melanie Rafael, Ayesha Sheikh, Christine Shouldis, Emma Sinnott, Christina Uccio, Eleni S. Vallas.

DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE

Diana Davydova, Lorrie DeSena, Patricia Michele Donoghue, Gwendolyn Hernandez, Brownson Irondi, Marcel Kaganovskaya, Cristina Lynn Klimasz Spina, Inga Melnikova, Luva M. Reeves, Mary Ann Ryan-O'Connor, Margery Ann Shane, Renata Zink. NOTE: As per Wagner College, this list of graduates is correct as of April 11, 2019.