

MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT



AUGUST TWENTY-FOURTH, TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE

2023

WEST LONG BRANCH, NEW JERSEY



Founded in 1933, Monmouth is a private, mid-sized, comprehensive university with a broad commitment to the liberal arts. Monmouth University offers 33 bachelor's, 24 master's, and four doctoral degree programs.

Students benefit from a rigorous academic experience, small classes, and professors who meet the highest standards for scholarship and teaching. Our students participate in more than 120 active clubs and organizations, including 14 fraternities and sororities, four media organizations, and an NCAA Division I athletics program fielding 24 teams.

Monmouth's beautiful 170-acre coastal campus, close to New York City and Philadelphia, includes a blend of historic landmarks and state-of-the-art facilities.

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CLASS OF 2023 OFFICERS

Maria Monzon, *President*
Elisa Ramos, *Vice President*
Gabiella Conroy, *Secretary*
Dianelys Garcia, *Treasurer*

MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT

August 24, 2023

**Richard Veit, Ph.D., RPA, Interim Provost and
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, Presiding**

PROCESSIONAL

Pomp and Circumstance, Sir Edward Elgar

PROVOST'S WELCOME

GREETINGS

CONFERRAL OF DOCTORAL DEGREES

School of Education

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES IN COURSE

Wayne D. McMurray School of
Humanities & Social Sciences

Marjorie K. Unterberg School of
Nursing and Health Studies

School of Education

School of Science

Leon Hess Business School

School of Social Work

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

ALMA MATER

RECESSIONAL

Trumpet Voluntary, Henry Purcell

All commencement participants and guests are requested to remain in their seats
until all of the ceremony participants process out.

DISTINGUISHED TEACHER AWARD 2023 RECIPIENT

Kathryn Ann Lionetti, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Biology

Kathryn Ann Lionetti, Ph.D., received her doctoral degree in Genetics from the Department of Microbiology at SUNY Stony Brook in July of 1990. She began teaching as a member of the Department of Biology at Monmouth University in August 1990, and was promoted to associate professor in 1996.

Lionetti has long been recognized for teaching effectiveness and course development. She was instrumental in developing the highly sought-after Molecular Cell Physiology concentration for Biology students. In 2006, she created a Molecular Cell laboratory to provide capstone experience in molecular and cellular techniques, and fill the gap as faculty-directed research opportunities were still emerging. She continues to teach and foster the development of the Introduction to Cell and Molecular Biology, a first-year foundational course. Her commitment to helping students adjust to college, and the challenges of a demanding major, was recognized in 2010 with the First Year Seminar Trailblazer Award for developing Meet the Microbes, the pioneering first year seminar course for the University. She has been at the forefront of transitions in general education, developing a new natural science course option, Mighty Microbes, in 2018, and helping the department move to an Introductory to Biology Major Seminar. In line with her interests in education, Lionetti helped develop syllabi for the three required biology courses for the Interdisciplinary Studies for Elementary Educators (ISEE) major and regularly taught Introduction to Structure and Function of Living Systems. As a major part of her teaching commitment, Lionetti has taught and undertaken major revisions in teaching both general and applied microbiology for biology majors, as well as students interested in nursing and health. When the COVID pandemic forced remote learning, Lionetti remained closely connected to the American Society for Microbiology. She developed innovative ways to accomplish lab learning outcomes for students taking the General Microbiology lecture and lab course remotely. She published this work titled, "Teaching Microscopy Remotely: Two Engaging Options," in the Journal of Microbiology and Biology Education in 2022. Lionetti is a member of the American Society for Microbiology, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the National Association of Biology Teachers. Her current research interests center around the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning.

Along with teaching, advising is a true passion. Early in her career, Lionetti received the 1992-93 Life and Career Advising Center Award for her contributions and dedication to students. She has served as department advising coordinator since its inception in 1997, served on school and University wide advising committees and task forces, and has been a First Year Advisor. In 2018, Lionetti received the Jean Judge Transfer Champion Award in recognition of exemplary dedication to transfer student service and advocacy at Monmouth University. Her commitment to students' well-being led to selection for the Board of Trustees Student Life Committee, now part of the Academic and Student Experience Committee, amid a wide range of other service commitments on behalf of students and faculty colleagues.

Lionetti resides in Ocean Township with her husband Jeffrey, is the proud mother of two sons, and grandmother of one grandson.



Message to the Graduating Class of 2023 from Kathryn Ann Lionetti, Ph.D.

Congratulations Class of 2023! It has been a pleasure to watch you grow and reach this milestone in your lives! In your college experience, you've faced challenges unique to this time in history. You overcame them to be here celebrating today. When obstacles cross your path again, remember that you have already proven that you have the skills and fortitude to push through them. Facing adversity has also taught you the importance of understanding, kindness, and caring. Take these lessons to heart. Let your strength, passion, and power fuel you to fulfill your life in the way that best suits you and no one else. With pride and excitement, I, and your Monmouth University community, look forward to celebrating your future accomplishments!



UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE CANDIDATES

Honors for August undergraduate candidates and highest-ranking degree recipients by department are included in the commencement program insert and published online at monmouth.edu/commencement.

WAYNE D. McMURRAY SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

Jonathan K. Amador, <i>BS</i> , <i>Homeland Security</i>	Jonathan Shea MacLean, <i>BA</i> , <i>Communication</i>	Brenna Victoria Rodrigues, <i>BS</i> , <i>Homeland Security</i>
Liza M. Amador, <i>BA</i> , <i>Criminal Justice</i>	Meadow C. Magnani, <i>BA</i> , <i>English</i>	Jabril I. Shakur, <i>BA</i> , <i>Communication</i>
Gregory Joseph Bersey, <i>BA</i> , <i>Communication</i> ★	Perry Robert Merse, <i>BA</i> , <i>Communication</i> †	Nicole Tapia, <i>BA</i> , <i>Criminal Justice</i>
Delaney Sierra Buday, <i>BA</i> , <i>English</i>	Julia Marie Raiola, <i>BA</i> , <i>Psychology</i>	Janet Tomiann Teufel, <i>BA</i> , <i>Political Science</i>
Max Dandrea, <i>BA</i> , <i>Psychology</i>	Evan Charles Reichenbach, <i>BS</i> , <i>Homeland Security</i>	Jarvis Antonio Vaughan, <i>BA</i> , <i>Communication</i>
Calum John Ferguson, <i>BA</i> , <i>Communication</i>	Christina Marie Rivera, <i>BA</i> , <i>Criminal Justice</i>	Dylan Thomas Welsh, <i>BA</i> , <i>Music</i>
Erin N. Fowler, <i>BA</i> , <i>English</i> ▲		
Gabriella Noel Galotto, <i>BA</i> , <i>Psychology</i>		

MASTER'S DEGREES

Frederick Otto Altenburg, <i>MA</i> , <i>Anthropology</i>	Karolann Kemenosh, <i>MA</i> , <i>Addiction Studies</i>	Taylor Lynn Robertson, <i>MA</i> , <i>Communication</i>
Nicole E. Bowers, <i>MA</i> , <i>Anthropology</i>	Briana Lexi Lair, <i>MS</i> , <i>Clinical Mental Health Counseling</i>	Derek S. Rose, <i>MA</i> , <i>History</i>
Holly Catherine Burns, <i>MA</i> , <i>Communication</i>	Gregory Andrew Laurinavicius, <i>MA</i> , <i>Criminal Justice</i>	Hannah Rae Schiavo, <i>MA</i> , <i>Addiction Studies</i>
Daniella Nicole Cangiano, <i>MA</i> , <i>Criminal Justice</i>	Elizabeth Claire Marsicano, <i>MA</i> , <i>Communication</i>	Cheryl Schlagenhaft, <i>MA</i> , <i>Anthropology</i>
Francesca Nicole Canzoneri, <i>MS</i> , <i>Clinical Mental Health Counseling</i>	Kate Elisabeth Massa, <i>MS</i> , <i>Clinical Mental Health Counseling</i>	Luke Shefski, <i>MA</i> , <i>Anthropology</i>
Dionela M. Cruz, <i>MA</i> , <i>Criminal Justice</i>	Ronnie Meador, <i>MA</i> , <i>Anthropology</i>	Ashley Beth Siliverdis, <i>MA</i> , <i>Addiction Studies</i>
Jack Walter Daly, <i>MA</i> , <i>Criminal Justice</i>	Reagan Elizabeth Miller, <i>MA</i> , <i>Anthropology</i>	Graciela Victoria St. Onge, <i>MA</i> , <i>Anthropology</i>
Claudia Rose DiBenedetto, <i>MS</i> , <i>Clinical Mental Health Counseling</i>	John Tyler Morano, <i>MS</i> , <i>Clinical Mental Health Counseling</i>	Rita Stenavage, <i>MS</i> , <i>Clinical Mental Health Counseling</i>
Alyssa M. Dowd, <i>MA</i> , <i>Criminal Justice</i>	Taylor Marie Porcello, <i>MA</i> , <i>Criminal Justice</i>	Ariana N. Yeager, <i>MS</i> , <i>Clinical Mental Health Counseling</i>
Andrew Wilson Duswalt, <i>MA</i> , <i>Communication</i>	Matthew Robert Pringle, <i>MA</i> , <i>Criminal Justice</i>	
Abigail R. Halprin, <i>MS</i> , <i>Clinical Mental Health Counseling</i>	Erica Pulido, <i>MS</i> , <i>Clinical Mental Health Counseling</i>	

BA: Bachelor of Arts
BS: Bachelor of Science
MA: Master of Arts

MS: Master of Science
★ *Summa Cum Laude*

† *Magna Cum Laude*
▲ *Cum Laude*



SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

DOCTORAL DEGREES

Sikaya Jey Alston, *EdD, Education*
Janine T. Arciero, *EdD, Education*
Keon Nicholas-Aaron Berry, *EdD,
Education*

Edward J. Bucior, *EdD, Education*
Jessica DeLisa, *EdD, Education*
Samantha J. Hageman, *EdD, Education*
Joan Melissa McNichol, *EdD, Education*

Megan Anne Okuniewicz, *EdD, Education*
Pericles Scaranni, *EdD, Education*

MASTER'S DEGREES

Luke Balina, *MEd, Education*
Mary Nicole DeGregorio, *MEd,
Education*
William Otto George, *MEd, Education*
Dean Lamberti, *MAT, Education -
Elementary K-6*
Renee Andrea Marshall, *MSEd,
Education - Principal*

Michelle Frances McPleasant, *MEd,
Education*
Taylor M. Mistretta, *MEd, Education*
Natalie Magdalena Pasilis, *MEd,
Education*
Christina L. Ratajczak, *MSEd,
Education - Special Education*

Cassondra Paige Runko, *MAT,
Education - Elementary K-6*
Brittney Sarnecky, *MEd, Education*
Elissa S. Stanik, *MSEd, Education -
Principal*
Christina M. Urban, *MSEd,
Educational Counseling*



LEON HESS BUSINESS SCHOOL

BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

Georgette Burrell, *BS*,
Business Administration
James Andrew Byrnes, *BS*,
Business Administration
Matthew James DeFilippis, *BS*,
Business Administration
Dominick J. DiStefano, *BS*,
Business Administration
Sarah Lorraine Giaimo, *BS*,
Business Administration
Evan Anthony Guirguis, *BS*,
Business Administration

Kevin Richard Hewitt, *BS*,
Business Administration
Jack Tyler Holmstrom, *BS*,
Business Administration ★
Nicholas V. Matos, *BS*,
Business Administration
Brennan L. Orsucci, *BS*,
Business Administration
Giverny Aerin Risse, *BS*,
Business Administration
Nick Aloysius Rogers, *BS*,
Business Administration

Daniel David Shapiro, *BS*,
Business Administration
Dale E. Sieczkowski, *BS*,
Business Administration
Jake William Stackhouse, *BS*,
Business Administration
Giorgi Tvauri, *BS*,
Business Administration
Marissa Gabriella Warwick, *BS*,
Business Administration

MASTER'S DEGREES

Michaela Rose Baker, *MBA*,
Business Administration
Tahlia Botha, *MBA*,
Business Administration
Matthew L. Griffin, *MBA*,
Business Administration
Jeff Gue, *MBA*,
Business Administration

Erin Marie McQuade, *MBA*,
Business Administration
Ryan Patrick Morris, *MBA*,
Business Administration
Daniel Michael Rosenthal, *MBA*,
Business Administration
Alex M. Torre, *MBA*,
Business Administration

Kaila Luanne Tortorelli, *MBA*,
Business Administration
Scott Merritt Whiteside, *MBA*,
Business Administration



**MARJORIE K. UNTERBERG
SCHOOL OF NURSING AND HEALTH STUDIES**

BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

Michael Andrew Conley, *BS,
Health Studies*

Miranda Rose Franco, *BS, Health Studies*
Megan Corby Kelleher, *BS, Health Studies*
Gia Maria LaRocca, *BS, Health Promotion*

Micaela Joanne McAllister, *BS,
Health Promotion †*

Andrew Timothy Menture, *BS,
Health Studies*

Jinali Rajesh Patel, *BS, Health Studies*
Patrick John Trezza, *BS, Health Promotion*

MASTER'S DEGREES

Danielle Joy Alexieff, *MSN, Nursing*



SCHOOL OF SCIENCE

BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

Nolan Edward Beagell, *BS,
Computer Science*

Talia Ester Ciciyasvili, *BS, Biology*
Zechariah Benjamin Edmonds, *BS, Biology*
Dante Lamar Kielt, *BS, Biology*

Patrick C. O'Connell, *BS, Chemistry*
Gerald Pinto, *BS, Clinical
Laboratory Sciences*

Kostandinos N. Poniros, *BS, Medical
Laboratory Science*

Ryan Trent, *BA, Computer Science*
Kieran T. Watters, *BS, Biology*

MASTER'S DEGREES

Adam Michlin, *MS, Computer Science*



SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

Adriana Nicole Costa, *BSW, Social Work*

Nicole Ann Ducey, *BSW, Social Work* ✦

Michelle Geraldi, *BSW, Social Work*



HONORS SCHOOL

BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

Jack Tyler Holmstrom, *BS, Business Administration* ★

Giverny Aerin Risse, *BS, Business Administration*

Monmouth University Alma Mater

Music by: Beethoven
Lyrics by:
Louis P. Nappen '90, '92

Moderato



1. Sym - bol of our skills and vir - tues her - ald of our
2. Gro - wing with each ge - ne - ra - tion, for - ming ties that



di - gni - ty; with these prai - ses we sa - lute you
will re - main. For - ging true our lives foun - da - tions



Mon - mouth U - ni - ver - si - ty Soar - ing from the
with each goal that we at - tain.



Jer - sey shore u - pon the wind, our wings un - furl'd.



High a - bove the o - cean's roar, the Blue Hawks rise to meet the world.

ACADEMIC REGALIA

The history of academic dress reaches far back into the earliest days of the oldest universities. A statute of 1321 required that all “Doctors, Licentiate, and Bachelors” of the University of Coimbra wear gowns. In England, in the second half of the 14th century, the statutes of certain colleges prescribed the wearing of a long gown. In the 16th and 17th centuries in Europe, the wearing of a robe often signified a degree candidate’s political or religious affiliation; in the northern universities and those of the British Isles, the robes signified that tuition and boarding fees of the wearer had been paid and also entitled them to special immunities in civil law, as well as providing them warmth at lectures and chapel.

When American colleges and universities desired to adopt some suitable system of academic apparel, a conference held at Columbia University in 1895, made up of representatives from various institutions, drew up a “By-Law, Regulation, or Statute” for the establishment of a suitable code of academic dress for colleges and universities in the United States. This code, with modifications made in 1959 by the Committee on Academic Costumes and Ceremonies of the American Council on Education, is still in force; the costumes and colors, trimmings, and patterns you will see are traditional, and interpret both the degree and field of learning. The bachelor’s gown, designed to be worn closed, has pointed sleeves; the master’s gown, which may be worn open or closed, has an oblong sleeve open at the wrist that hangs down in the traditional manner. The rear part of its oblong shape is square cut, and the front part has the arc cut away. The doctoral gown has bell-shaped sleeves. It may be worn open or closed.

Black is the recommended color for all academic gowns. Bachelor’s and master’s gowns are untrimmed. Doctoral gowns are faced with black velvet, with three bars across the sleeves; the color of the velvet may also be that which is distinctive to the degree, agreeing with that of the edging of the hood. In the 1960s, many American land-grant universities adopted the British and the Scottish tradition of using the official school color(s) for the robes of their doctoral recipients—for instance, Yale: sky blue; Harvard: crimson; University of Pennsylvania: scarlet and blue; Columbia: slate gray; Rutgers: scarlet and black.

The colors you will see in the hoods of our faculty represent the various fields in which the degrees were taken:

Apricot: <i>Nursing</i>	Orange: <i>Engineering</i>
Brown: <i>Fine Arts</i>	Pink: <i>Music</i>
Citron: <i>Social Work</i>	Purple: <i>Law</i>
Crimson: <i>Journalism</i>	Sage Green: <i>Physical Education</i>
Dark Blue: <i>Philosophy</i>	Salmon Pink: <i>Public Health</i>
Golden Yellow: <i>Science</i>	Scarlet: <i>Theology</i>
Green: <i>Medicine</i>	Yellow-Brown: <i>Commerce, Business, Accountancy</i>
Lemon-Yellow: <i>Library Science</i>	White: <i>Arts, Letters, Humanities</i>
Light Blue: <i>Education</i>	

The hoods, differing in length for the three degrees—bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral—are lined with the official colors of the university or college conferring the degree, usually with one color forming a chevron pattern over the other. Hoods are edged and bound with velvet or the color appropriate for the degree. You will see in our procession many hoods edged with dark blue, representing doctor of philosophy.

Mortarboards are the approved headgear. The tassel, worn on the left side of the cap, may be gold if the holder has a doctoral degree.



Dear Members of the Class of 2023:

On behalf of the Monmouth University Alumni Association, welcome to the alumni family—a vibrant network that boasts over 58,000 Hawks in 50 states.

Today marks a new and exciting chapter in your connection to Monmouth University—one that will continue to grow with your professional and personal development. We want you to remain engaged with your alma mater, and share in your accomplishments, no matter where your achievements take you.

Stay connected by creating and updating your alumni contact record at monmouth.edu/stayconnected to receive the Monmouth Monthly alumni e-newsletter, invitations to alumni events and networking gatherings, and alumni discounts. Visit monmouth.edu/careerdevelopment to search for job opportunities and build your professional network.

Congratulations once again and we look forward to welcoming you to the alumni association.

Bayaan Oluyadi

Bayaan Oluyadi, '13

President, Alumni Association Board of Directors





WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED

Upcoming Events for Alumni

It's never too soon to come home. Visit monmouth.edu/alumni-events to celebrate your alumni status. Save the date for Homecoming to start a new tradition with your fellow alumni!

Homecoming: Saturday, September 30, 2023

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[MONMOUTH.EDU/STAYCONNECTED](https://monmouth.edu/stayconnected)

alumni@monmouth.edu



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