



Class of 2025 Celebration

and

Phi Alpha National Honor Society for Social Work

Pinning Ceremony



**Tuesday, the Twenty Seventh Day of
May Two Thousand and Twenty-Five
Four O'Clock in the Evening**

York College - CUNY
Cardinal Faculty Dining Room 2D01
Academic Core - Atrium
Jamaica, NY 11451

Keynote

Department of Social Work

Celebration Address

Durrell Malik Washington, Sr., PhD Candidate

York College 2017 Alumnus



Durrell Malik Washington, Sr. is a native of the Bronx New York and a York College Cardinal for life! Prof. Washington is an incoming assistant professor at Rutgers University School of Social Work. He is an abolitionist, an educator, author and an interdisciplinary social scientist trained as an interpretive methodologist and critical social work scholar. York alumnus Durrell's research examines the collateral consequences of youth incarceration—exploring how incarceration impacts not only young Black people but also the broader systems they belong to, including their families, communities, and social networks. Through this work, he aims to build theory and inform policies and practices that foster positive and equitable outcomes for formerly incarcerated Black youth and their families.

Before joining the faculty at Rutgers, his academic journey included earning a Bachelor's of Science (BS) in Social Work with a minor in Sociology from York College, City University of New York, where he served as Vice President of the Social Workers, Empowering, Encouraging Together (S.W.E.E.T.) Club and was an active member of the Male Initiative Program. He then completed his MSW from Columbia University School of Social Work with a concentration in Policy Practice and Contemporary Social Issues. Currently, he is pursuing his PhD from the University of Chicago School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice, with his dissertation defense scheduled just nine days after this keynote presentation. He will graduate the day after his defense.

During his Doctoral Studies, Scholar Durrell won numerous awards and fellowships including a Council of Social Work Education Minority Fellow, a American Society of Criminology Ruth D. Peterson Fellow. He was the first person to ever be inducted as a fellow for the Society for Social Work and Research (a distinction usually held for early and mid career faculty) while just an emerging leader.

Program

PROCESSION	“Ain’t No Stoppin’ Us Now” by McFadden and Whitehead
WELCOME & THANK YOU	Dr. Selena T Rodgers, <i>Professor, MSW Program</i> <i>Founding Director & Chairperson, Department of Social Work</i>
OPENING REMARKS	Dr. Claudia V Schrader, <i>President</i> Dr. Derrick Brazill, <i>Provost & Vice President</i> Dr. Maureen Becker, <i>Interim Associate Provost</i> Dr. Karen A Williams, <i>Vice President</i>
INTRODUCTION DSW FACULTY	Dr. Alicia Wilson, <i>Assistant Professor</i>
FACULTY REMARKS	Dr. Dunia Garcia, <i>Adjunct Assistant Professor</i>
INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE SPEAKER	Ms. Isabelle Hubert, <i>MSW Academic Program Specialist</i>
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS	Prof. Durrell Malik Washington, Sr., <i>PhD Candidate</i> <i>Assistant Professor, Rutgers University</i>
INTRODUCTION OF SCHOLARS	Dr. Jennette Allen-McCombs, <i>Assistant Professor &</i> <i>Deputy Director, Department of Social Work</i>

Program

SCHOLAR REFLECTIONS	Natalie Burke, <i>LMSW, MSW Scholar</i> Norwood S Keaton, <i>MSW Scholar</i> Minerva Martinez, <i>EdD, MSED, MS, MSW Scholar</i> Brendan McNamee, <i>BS Social Work Scholar</i> Alvaro Chavarriaga Monsalve, <i>BS Social Work Scholar</i>
VIDEO PRESENTATION	Tribute to Social Work Graduating Scholars
HONORS & SPECIAL RECOGNITION PRESENTATION	Dr. Karen V Williams, <i>Vice President, Student Affairs & Enrollment Management</i> Prof. Shirell Roeback, <i>Program Director and Lecturer, Bachelor of Science (BS) Social Work Program</i> Dr. Susan Letteney, <i>Professor & SCWK 101 Scholars</i> Ms. Vashtie Valerius, <i>Percy E. Sutton SEEK GRIT Coach</i> Ms. Safiya A Faustin, <i>Scholarship Manager, Academic Advisement & Scholarship Center</i>
PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES	Dr. Susan Letteney, <i>Professor</i>
PHI ALPHA PINNING CEREMONY & PLEDGE	Dr. Azzie Forbes, <i>Clinical Professor & Director of BSSW Practicum Education</i> Dr. David Hornung, <i>Assistant Professor</i> Prof. Cathleen Lilavois, <i>Clinical Professor & Director of MSW Practicum Education</i> Prof. Damien Pratt, <i>Lecturer</i>
CLOSING REMARKS	Prof. Acanthus Fairley, <i>Adjunct Lecturer & CUNY PhD Graduate Fellow, Social Welfare Program</i>
RECESSION	"Moving On" by Jonathan McReynolds

Master of Social Work Graduating Class

Anaika Alida	Theodora Hiotis
Ja’Nae M Bagnal	Shirlene Hishmeh
Karline Balan	Anna K Jablonski
Lisa Beckford	Norwood S Keaton
Cassidy Benn	Dorothy Ken-Mogbo
Natalie Burke, LMSW*	Michelle A Lovell
Samantha Castro Pacheco	Mali MacConnell, LMSW*
Krystal A Clarke	Minerva Martinez
Kelsea DeCosta	Tiara Miller
Saadiyah Dhanraj	Cindy G Nuñez
Leomaris Diaz	Naomi Patram
Rinadel Espiritu, LMSW*	Kenyatta Robinson
Isabelle Fleurisca	Cindy Rodriguez
Roberta Gordon	Evelyn Segura
Kendra O Hardy	Maya Singh
Tyisha Amaria Henry	Jordan Torres, LMSW*

*Congratulations to the Licensed Master Social Work (LMSW) Scholars who passed their licensing examination during their final academic semester.

Bachelor of Science Social Work Graduation Class

Sara Ahmed	Aliyah M Joseph
Nicole S Armstrong*	Ashley M Lewis
Zynea Barney*	Tashannia Shantae Lindo
Fabiola Bouquet Desire	Brianna R Loutan
Emelin Cajamarca*	Brendan McNamee*
Alvaro Chavarriaga Monsalve*	Carice S Miller
Maigelle Zara Chedick**	Taiesha Murray
Lisa D Cummings*	Aisha B Nahar
Sangae Choden Dorji	Janee L Pearson**
Sheldon Edmondson**	Analbis Del Carmen Plasencia
Yingqing Hang	Miracle Darrena Pryor
Jamila F Havercome*	Leidy Restrepo*
Rebecca Hirsch	James Rodriguez
Annabelle R Isaac*	Barbara Rozario**
Stephanie Jean Pierre*	Seham Ibrahim Tajeddin
Kimberly Martina Johnson*	Doujina Zephir

*Committed to York's Master of Social Work Program.

**Accepted to a Master of Social Work Program.

Chi Sigma Induction Ceremony

Dr. Selena T Rodgers
Founding Faculty Advisor
and Charter Member



Prof. Shirell Roebuck
Co-Advisor

Chi Sigma Charter Members

Dr. Selena T. Rodgers, Founding Faculty Advisor and Member since 1993
Charles (Prince) Clink, MSW
Ayanna Kaalund, LMSW
Charles Kellerman, LMSW
Aimee Lay, PhD Scholar
Alicia Smith, MSW

Past Honoraries

Dr. Jennette Allen-McCombs
Dr. Matthew Diner
Dr. Berenecea J Eanes
Dr. Azzie Forbes
Dr. Judith Gil
Dr. Jennifer Hartmann
Ms. Kimmi M Herring

Dr. David Hornung
Ms. Isabelle Hubert
Prof. Cathleen Lilavois
Ms. Kim Melendez
Prof. Damien Pratt
Prof. Shirell Roebuck
Dr. Alicia Wilson

The Chi Sigma MSW chapter of Phi Alpha National Honor Society for Social Work was chartered on February 23, 2018, to provide a closer bond among social work scholars and promote humanitarian goals and ideas. On February 22, 2023, the International Office of Phi Alpha Honor Society for Social Work confirmed extending the Chi Sigma chapter to include scholars enrolled in the York College Bachelor of Science (BS) in Social Work Program. Phi Alpha fosters high standards of education for social workers and invites into membership those who have attained excellence in scholarship and achievement in social work. Membership is for life.

*To receive Phi Alpha National Honors, scholars must earn a 3.5 GPA or higher for at least one term of their program.

Honoraries and Inductees



Dunia Garcia, Honorary
Drurrell Malik Washington, Sr., Honorary

Sara Ahmed	Yingqing Hang
Nicole Armstrong	Anna K Jablonski
Ja’Nae M Bagnal	Norwood Keaton
Karline Balan	Dorothy Ken-Mogbo
Zynea Barney	Tashannia Shantae Lindo
Lisa Beckford	Michelle Lovell*
Cassidy Benn	Mali MacConnell
Natalie Burke	Minerva Martinez
Samantha Castro	Brendon McNamee
Krystal A Clarke	Tiara Miller
Kelsea DeCosta	Cindy G Nuñez*
Saadiyah Dhanraj	Naomi Patram
Leomaris Diaz	Janee Pearson
Sangae Choden Dorji	Leidy Restrepo
Rinadel Espiritu	Kenyatta Robinson
Isabelle Fleurisca	Cindy Rodriguez
Roberta Gordon	Evelyn Segura
Kendra Hardy	Maya Singh
Tyisha Amaria Henry	Seham Ibriham Tajeddin
Theodora Hiotis	Jordan Torres
Shirlene Hishmeh	

*Previously Inducted

Phi Alpha Pledge



Through Knowledge – The Challenge to Serve
Phi Alpha National Honor Society for Social Work

The Phi Alpha Pledge

I pledge I have become an active member of Phi Alpha Honor Society.

I pledge I will uphold its dignity and promote its goals and high ideals as a scholar as well as in professional life.

I pledge I will actively participate in meetings and chapter projects and endeavor to maintain a high scholastic average.

Special Recognition

Highest Academic Distinction in Social Work

Natalie Burke, LMSW
Rinadel Espiritu, LMSW
Mali MacConnell, LMSW

Most Distinguished

Janee Pearson, (Highest Distinction)

Distinguished

Nicole Armstrong
Sangae Choden Dorji

Advocate for Change Award

Alvaro Monsalve Chavarriaga

Agency Collaboration Award

Ashley Lewis

Alumni Promise Award

Alvaro Monsalve Chavarriaga

Appreciation Award

Toniann Alper

Olaleye Ekundare

Rinchen Lhamo

Marquita Mitchell

Talha Mohammad

Magdeline Paul

Diana I Saldana

Talisha St. Cyr- Cummings

CARESACT Certificate of Merit

Kendra O Hardy

Community Impact Award

Janee Pearson

Miracle Pryor

Cultural Humility Award

Annabelle Isaac

Seham Tajeddin

MSW Founding Director Award

Durrell Malik Washington, Sr.

Department of Social Work

Leadership Award

Norwood S Keaton

Mali MacConnell

Minerva Martinez

Emerging Professional Award

Lisa Cummings

Leadership in Social Work Award

Barbara Rozario

Lifetime Learner Award

Zynea Barney

Outstanding Practicum Work Award

Brendan McNamee

Percy E. Sutton SEEK Emerging Advocate

Natalie Burke

Lisa Beckford

Brendan McNamee

Percy E. Sutton SEEK Community Impact Award

Cassidy Benn-Grosvenor

Policy Advocate Award

Leidy Restrepo

Resiliency Award

Yingqing Hang

Spirit of Social Work Award

Barbara Rozario

Social Work

Alumnus Spotlight



Foyzul Ahmed is a 1991 alumnus of York College Baccalaureate of Science Social Work Program. He went on to complete his Masters of Social Work in Clinical Social Work at New York University, Silver School of Social Work in 1992, then went on to become an LCSW-R.

Mr. Ahmed has been serving the Veteran population since 1998. He interned at Veterans Affairs (VA) for his degree and started working there after graduation. In his various roles he has provided outreach to homeless veterans, served as a liaison with the City, State and Federal Agencies, provided direct care through individual and group therapy, conducted evaluations of incoming veterans to the PTSD clinic, recruited instructors as the coordinator of the Social Work (SW) Graduate Training Program, supervised scholars in practicum, and in 2020 he took on the additional responsibility of private practice.

Currently Mr. Ahmed is the clinical social worker at the VA's outpatient Mental Health Clinic and still maintains his role as the coordinator of the SW Graduate Training Program as well as coordinator of the Evidence Based Psychotherapies. Mr. Ahmed also finds time to give back and has done extensive social and philanthropical work in Bangladesh, inspired by the work of his father Gous Ahmed. He and his family have been committed to promoting the prosperity of women through higher education. His father established many schools for girls in Bangladesh, he and his family manage, run and sponsor an elementary school, high school, and college with almost 3400 students [scholars] attending. The family also has an anti-hunger project, safe-water project and housing project to obtain better housing for those in need.

Scholarships and Awards

Administration for Children Services-Provider Agency Scholarship*

Anna Jablonski
Dorothy Ken-Mogbo
Evelyn Segura

AKA HBCU Scholarship Fund

Emelin Cajamarca
Aliyaah Haniff
Jamila F Havercome
Taiesha Murray
Leidy Restrepo

City University of New York Human Service Career Advancement Scholarship

Kendra Hardy

CUNY York College/OMH Mental Health Scholarship

Kiola O Anderson
Lisa D Cummings
Tyisha A Henry
Rebecca Hirsch
Aarti Maharaj
Marshallie M Maxwell
Alvaro Chavarriaga Monsalve
Michelle Okigbo
Janee L Pearson
Chabria Pierce
Barbara Rozario
Diego Alejandro Alvarez Salazar
Sade Thorpe

New York City Council Social Work Fellows Scholarship*

Anaika Alisa	Theodora Hiotis
Ja'Nae Bagnal	Shirlene Hishmeh
Karline Balan	Norwood Keaton
Lisa Beckford	Michelle Lovell
Cassidy Benn	Minerva Martinez
Natalie Burke	Tiara Miller
Samantha Castro	Cindy Nunez
Kelsea DeCosta	Naomi Patram
Isabelle Fleurisca	Kenyatta Robinson
Roberta Gordon	Cindy Rodriguez
Sadiyah Dhanraj	Maya Singh
Leomaris Diaz	Keecy Temple
Rinadel Espiritu	Jordan Torres
Kendra Hardy	

* External Scholarship and or Award

** Spring 2024 Recipients

Special Thanks

Dr. Claudia V Schrader

President

Dr. Derrick Brazill

Provost & Vice President

Dr. Patricia Simino Boyce

University Dean for Health & Human Services

Dr. Maureen Becker

Interim Associate Provost

Dr. Karen A Williams

Vice President Student Affairs & Enrollment Management

Ed Rios, Vice President for Finance & Administration

Saleema Moore and Theresa Williams, Office of Academic Affairs

Anthony Davis, Grace-Ann Prescod & Office of Admissions

Beverly Brown, Cheryl Morrison & Financial Aid Team

Bryan Graves & Lisa Ray, YC Radio

Alex Rodriguez, Marlon Erskine & Buildings & Grounds Team

Bella Lulus

Center for Students with Disabilities

Chief James Assmann & Public Safety Team

Department of Social Work Volunteers

Distinguished Guests

Hon. Adrienne E. Adams, New York City Council Speaker, District 28 Council Member

Aisha Dixon and the Administration for Children's Services Team

Division of Student Affairs & Enrollment Management

Eric Tyrer, Marlon Medwinter, Rafael Nunez Information Technology Team

Family & Friends

Lavern Butler, MyBestfriendni, Social Work Alumna 2018

Hopeton Allen & SEEK Village

Janine M. Scott and the Office of Institutional Advancement Team

Kennybel Peña, Safiya A Faustin & Scholarship Center

Kim Melendez & Counseling Center Team

Lori Ann Hoeffner & Institutional Effectiveness Team

Stephannia Cleaton, Communications & External Relations

Temitope (Tope) Adelegan, Pittershawn Palmer, Tonya

Collins, Marketing & Communications

Practicum Advisory Board & Supervisors

Keith Marshall & Latchman Ramnauth, Printing Services

JoAnn Fellows, Johnny Diaz & Registrar's Office Team

Larry D. Eaton and the Veterans Office Team

Yvette Williamson & Bursar Team

Veronica Mariani and President Claudia V Schraders' Team

Faculty/Staff

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Selena T Rodgers, Chairperson, Professor and
Founding Director, MSW Program at CUNY York College

Dr. Jennette Allen-McCombs, Deputy Chair and Assistant Professor

Prof. Shirell Roebach, Lecturer and BS Program Director

Dr. Azzie Forbes, Doctoral Lecturer and Director of BS Practicum Education

Prof. Cathleen Lilavois, Clinical Professor and Director of MSW Practicum Education

FACULTY

Dr. Gila Acker, Professor

Prof. Acanthus Fairley, Adjunct Lecturer

Dr. Dunia Garcia, Adjunct Assistant Professor

Dr. Jennifer Hartmann, Assistant Professor

Dr. David Hornung, Assistant Professor

Dr. Susan Letteney, Professor

Dr. Vadim Moldovan, Professor

Prof. Damien Pratt, Lecturer

Dr. Alicia Wilson, Assistant Professor

STAFF

Ms. Isabelle Hubert, MSW Academic Program Specialist

Ms. Doria Thompson, CUNY Office Assistant

FEDERAL WORKSTUDY TEAM

Scholar Janet Darkwa

Scholar Talha Mohammad

Social Work has been essential to the City University of New York, York College since 1985. Housed within the School of Health Sciences and Professional Programs, the Department of Social Work offers undergraduate and graduate programs. Over the past decade, the Baccalaureate of Science in Social Work Program has consistently ranked among the top three (3) popular programs at York College based on degrees awarded. In 2022, the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Board of Accreditation (BOA) reaffirmed the baccalaureate social work program under the 2015 Educational Policy Accreditation Standards (EPAS) for eight (8) years. Established in 2017, The Master of Social Work (MSW) Program at CUNY York College, is the first accredited graduate social work program in Queens County, New York, and was reaffirmed by the CSWE BOA under the 2022 EPAS, with no conditions until 2033.



**CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES
& PHI ALPHA INDUCTEES**
on this significant academic milestone!

Dr. Sylvia Rodgers

Dr. Susan Lettmer

Dr. David Horning

Dr. Alicia

Dr. [Signature]

Dr. [Signature]

Dr. [Signature]

Dr. Jerry Hartmann

Professor Kathleen M. Lohr

Dr. [Signature]

Dr. Gila M. Acker

Marcia

Shelli [Signature]

Dr. Azzie Forbes

Acanthus Fairley, LSW

The Department of Social Work Takes Flight

YORK College | **CUNY**

*Take flight with a BS
or Masters Degree in*

SOCIAL WORK

