Academic Awards Convocation

108th Annual Commencement

April 23, 2020

Welcome

Welcome to the Academic Awards Convocation for the Loyola Marymount University Class of 2020.

It is with great pride that we present these candidates for graduation who have flourished within the threefold purpose of the university as expressed in the preamble to the university’s mission statement: the encouragement of learning, the education of the whole person, and the service of faith and the promotion of justice. The students honored here today have risen to the challenge of the Jesuit and Marymount traditions and have, by their example, truly become “men and women for and with others.”

Today you will see the many faces of excellence called forward to be recognized for their exceptional contributions to the academic community, as we name the students who have achieved the highest academic record within their respective programs of study. Equally laudable are the students recognized for their extraordinary record of service to the university and to the greater community. They are the pride of LMU, and we congratulate and cherish them now just as we will in a few weeks at Commencement, when they will join their classmates in going out into the world as the living legacy of the Class of 2020.

Procession

Welcome

Invocation

The Presentation of Awards
Program Scholars
College and School Scholars
University Scholar of the Year
Valedictorian
Presidential Citations
Ignatian Award
Marian Award

Closing Recessional

A reception in Sculpture Garden will follow the convocation

Program Scholars

The Program Scholars recognized today have achieved the most outstanding academic records in their respective majors. Each of these bachelor’s degree candidates has completed at least 60 graded semester hours in residence at the university and has achieved the highest grade point average of seniors in their field of study.

2020 Awardees

Alexandros Bryce Stamas
Alfredo Yei Hernández
Alvaro De Jesus Melchor
Angela Cardamone
Anna Thompson
Anne Michelle Scerbak
Blake Phelps Colton
Breanne Lauren Schneider
Brooke Louise Duplantier
Brynn Mia Bodair
Caitlin Miyako Taylor
Cameron Isabella Wong
Chloe Stoddard
Daniel Armand Siciliano
Delmi Darlyn Rodriguez
Dillon Jacob Rinauro
Donner Schoeffler
Dylan-John Hiroshi Loo
Elizabeth Fanous
Elizabeth Lopez
Gia Ky Huynh
Heather Lynn Schacher
Jonathan Weijun Xiao
Katherine Amanda Jimenez
Kelsey Marie Duque Ang
Kevin James Kaufman
Lauren Marie Mauldwin
Ma’at Mae Lue Hembrick
Madeline Grace Miller
Mariano Aloiso
Mattie Kaylynn Norman
Megan C. Ligas
Melissa Page Davis
Michael Shunichi Suehisa
Michelle Andrea Laiolo
Natalia Yael Dibbern
Nicholas Pierre Pilaud
Polyxeni A. Capuano Papadimitriu
Quinn Lanners
Randy Hanna-John Qafaiti
Sarah Shapiro
Shayne Naoyuki Yano
Sum Yi Ma
Talin Hakopyan
Tatiana Estrada
Thomas C. Duncan
Tyler Vincent Aquilina

College and School Scholars

These scholars have achieved the highest grade point average in each college or school. The School of Education Scholar is selected from the graduating seniors who have indicated a future interest in teaching by majoring in Liberal Studies within the Bellarmine College of Liberal Arts and/or minoring with the School of Education.

2020 Awardees

Anne Michelle Scerbak
Kelsey Marie Duque Ang
Michael Shunichi Suehisa
Nathan S. Weinreich
Nayar Tahmeen Islam
Nicholas Pierre Pilaud
Talin Hakopyan

University Scholar of the Year

This is the most prestigious academic honor awarded to an undergraduate by Loyola Marymount University. This award is chosen from the College and School Scholars who entered the university as a first-year student and has achieved the highest grade point average and the most outstanding academic record of the Class of 2020.

We are proud to announce LMU’s 2020 University Scholar of the Year, Blake Phelps Colton

Valedictorian

One student from the Class of 2020 is chosen to say farewell on behalf of the graduating class on Commencement Day. The valedictorian achieves a minimum 3.7 grade point average after at least 60 graded semester hours in residence at the University and is selected on the basis of a speech presented to the Valedictorian Selection Committee, a delegation of faculty, administration, and students representative of the university.

We are proud to announce LMU’s 2020 Valedictorian, Alfredo Yei Hernández

Presidential Citations

Presidential Citations are awarded by the president to the graduating seniors nominated by the academic community and selected by a committee of faculty and administration for outstanding academic record, leadership, and service. The awardees have earned this distinction by demonstrating their commitment to the university mission in their own unique ways, and they are all commended today for embodying the university’s goal to create “men and women for and with others.”

2020 Awardees

Alfredo Yei Hernández
Allison Marlene Ramirez
Ashley Michelle Naliwajko
Blake Phelps Colton
Brooke Louise Duplantier
Daniel Eugenio Dols
Dillon Jacob Rinauro

Elena Noelle Garcia
Jared M. Gencarella
John Patrick Selby
Kate Alexandra Tuazon Menefee
Katrina Joyce Crosby
Kendra Monique Dawson
Kienan Adam Taweil
Madeline Louise Marie Schwartz
Madison Claire Neumaier
Megan C. Ligas
Miles Alexander Kent
Rachel Haik
Sarah Shapiro
Vincent Julian Hayward

The Ignatian Award

The Ignatian Award is a tradition shared by many Jesuit educational institutions. While each school chooses its own criteria and may offer the award to students, alumni, or even members of the greater community, the varying forms of the award are united by their function of recognizing outstanding service in the Jesuit tradition. Loyola Marymount University’s Ignatian Award is given annually to the male Presidential Citation awardee who has been selected by a committee of faculty and administrators for selfless service, ethical leadership, and academic excellence.

The Marian Award

The Marian Award is a tradition unique to LMU and overseen by members of the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary, the sisters affiliated with LMU through the merger with Marymount College. This award has evolved to complement the Ignatian Award by recognizing the female Presidential Citation awardee who has held true to the Marian ideals by proving herself a model of service, leadership, and academic achievement.