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.