

SAINT VINCENT COLLEGE

HONORS CONVOCATION



One O'Clock
Wednesday, May Fifth
Two Thousand Twenty One

Saint Vincent Basilica
Latrobe, Pennsylvania

PROGRAM

INVOCATION

Rt. Rev. Martin Bartel, O.S.B., B.A., M.Div., Ph.D.
Archabbot and Chancellor

PRESENTATION OF THE CLASS OF 1968 FR. RONALD R. GORKA SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Kaitlin E. Repp

PRESENTATION OF STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION AWARDS

Robert A. Gigliotti
President, Student Government Association

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION SENIOR AWARDS

Matthew W. Evans
Madeline M. Mutinelli
Mary T. Popp
Kyle X. Watson
Olivia P. Williams

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION ADMINISTRATOR AWARD

Ms. Marisa R. Carlson
Assistant Dean of Studies

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION FACULTY AWARD

Jerome Foss, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Political Science

**PRESENTATION OF AWARDS FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE
IN THE MAJOR FIELD OF STUDY**

John J. Smetanka, B.S., M.S., Ph.D.
Vice President for Academic Affairs and Academic Dean

INTRODUCTION OF THE FINALISTS FOR THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Mary R. Anand
Michael J. Cella
Shae S. Robson
Julia C. Snyder
Moira J. Sullivan

CONFERRING OF PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Fr. Paul R. Taylor, O.S.B., B.A., M.A., Ph.D.
President

PRESENTATION OF FACULTY AWARDS

John J. Smetanka, B.S., M.S., Ph.D.

THE QUENTIN SCHAUT FACULTY AWARD

Sarah E. Daly, B.A., M.S.Ed., M.A., Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Criminology, Law and Society

THE BONIFACE WIMMER FACULTY AWARD

Thomas D. Octave, B.F.A., M.M.
Associate Professor, Music

CONVOCATION ADDRESS

Michael B. Downey, C'04, B.S.

ALMA MATER

Saint Vincent, Saint Vincent
Our Mother and our guide!
To honor and love thee
Shall ever be our pride.

Thy guiding hand hath shaped our course
On life's unruly sea;
Until the end with grateful hearts
We shall be true to thee.

BENEDICTION

Fr. Killian Loch, O.S.B., B.A., M.Div., M.Ed.
Director, Campus Ministry

AWARDS FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN THE MAJOR FIELD OF STUDY UNDERGRADUATE

Accounting	Shae S. Robson
Anthropology	Moira J. Sullivan
Art Education.....	Madison J. Starliper
Biochemistry	Thomas A. Syphan
Biology.....	Michael C. Kardos
Business Economics.....	Kevin Martin
Chemistry	Nicholas J. Driscoll
Communication	Elizabeth A. McCormick
Computer Science	Lynn-Marie Vaughan
Criminology, Law and Society.....	Thomas P. Franey
Cybersecurity.....	Francis M. Boehm
Digital Art and Media	Shaye E. Beeman
Early Childhood Education	Rebekah J. Reist
Economics	Nicholas S. Srnka
Economics and Mathematics	Steven M. Patterson
Engineering	Hannah P. Rudy
English	Julia C. Snyder
Environmental Science.....	Andrew W. Scott
Finance	Nicolas G. Williams
Graphic Design	Hannah L. Devine
History	Catherine E. Votovich
Information Technology.....	Gage M. Smith
Integrated Science	Carlee T. Kilgus
International Business.....	Alexandra M. Gerstel
Liberal Arts	Maria R. Hood
Management	Shelley M. Ohler
Marketing	Bradley E. Bair
Mathematics/Engineering.....	Caleb D. Bouch
Mathematics.....	Stephanie A. Cribbs
Music	Nicholas T. Pietrusinski
Physics	Connor R. Thropp
Politics	Jonathan G. Meilaender
Psychological Science.....	Mary T. Popp
Sociology.....	Samantha Y. Blevins
Special Education.....	Caroline A. Rooney
Student Educator Award – Secondary Certification	Catherine E. Votovich
Studio Arts	Connie G. DiFrancesco
Theology	Matthew W. Evans

AWARDS FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN THE MAJOR FIELD OF STUDY GRADUATE

Counselor EducationSamantha R. Zourelias
 Curriculum and Instruction..... Madalyn R. Spittler
 Instructional Design and Technology..... Josymir S. Dieppa
 Management: Operational Excellence..... Courtney W. Patterson
 Special Education.....Alexandra P. Astle

2020-21 A. J. PALUMBO STUDENT RESEARCH ENDOWMENT FUND AWARDEES

Jared D. Ackerman	Margaret G. Hines	Andrea N. Pancurak
Mary F. Andreola	Briana A. Huff	Bertalan P. Papp
Alyssa M. Baker	Bruce M. Johnson	Justin M. Paul
Sydney E. Ball	Michael C. Kardos	Conrad D. Pearson
Grant S. Bartlow	Lucas R. Kearns	Mary E. Person
Joshua M. Boland	Rachel A. Keller	Gabriella M. Petruccelli
Caitlin A. Bridge	William B. Keough	Noah E. Plappert
Michael J. Cella	Andrew R. Klein	Jennae R. Popelas
Sarah E. Centore	Catherine A. Kwiat	Mary T. Popp
Erin R. Choby	Natalie M. Lamagna	Evan J. Portman
Madelyn E. Cornman	Zoe E. Leasock	Julie M. Reichert
Phillip A. Costa	Grace A. Leonard	Christopher W. Risnear
Nicollae A. Crawford	Isabelle M. Machado	Emily P. Rohm
Jacob D. DeSchepper	Sarah E. Maidment	Joseph T. Rudzinski
Lauren E. Diamond	John M. Martin	Rachael M. Schiafone
Liam P. Dixon	Courtney E. Mattucci	Kaitlyn C. Schiffer
Juliana C. Donaldson	Devon B. McCarty	Hannah E. Severein
Alaina L. Dorazio	Benjamin J. Menarchek	Georgia Sherry
Lauren N. Dvorchak	Adam T. Meneses	Sofia N. Sicignano
Lauren E. Galbraith	Graham W. Merlin	Abbigail A. Stipcak
Savanah J. Gerstnecker	Scott L. Meyers	Moira J. Sullivan
Jessica A. Gibson	Hannah G. Miller	Connor R. Thropp
Robert A. Gigliotti	Sara L. Mills	Kelsey M. Tobin
Baylin M. Graham	Isabella K. Molinaro	Taylor V. Tritapoe
Kolby S. Hanan	Shane J. Moran	Abigail G. Uhrinek
Adam J. Harbert	Casey L. Moyer	Stephanie Weinskovich
Taylor L. Hatchet	Zachary R. North	Olivia M. Zulisky
Madison N. Hill	Madison T. Nuttall	

SAINT VINCENT COLLEGE 2021 PRESIDENT'S AWARD FINALISTS



Mary R. Anand

Named to the Dean's List in each of her seven semesters at Saint Vincent College, Anand has earned induction into the Alpha Lambda Delta, Gamma Sigma Epsilon and Alpha Chi honor societies, while she is a Benedictine Leadership Studies fellow and is enrolled in the SVC Honors Program. She is a four-year member of the SVC Respect Life Club, presently serving as secretary, while for the past three years, she has volunteered with Bearcat B.E.S.T. as a Bearcat Buddy. For the duration of her time at SVC, Anand has been active with Campus Ministry, regularly serving as lector, eucharistic minister and altar server. She was also honored to have the opportunity to deliver the "I Have a Dream" speech at the College's 2018 celebration of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day. She is a mentor for the American Medical Student Association, having presented seminars on MCAT preparation and sharing her experiences on applying to medical school with her fellow SVC health professions students. Off-campus, she has volunteered at the Mission of Mercy Clinic and has worked at Canonsburg Hospital as a patient fall prevention volunteer, purposeful patient volunteer and general volunteer. In 2019, Anand was named Outstanding Intern in the Allegheny Health Network Singer Medicine Institute research internship program as a member of the gastroenterology research team under Dr. Shayam Thakkar. Also in the summer of 2019, she took part in the Faith, Work and God in India service-learning trip, where she volunteered at the Missionaries of Charity Home for disabled girls in Kolkata. She is the daughter of Herm and Anita Anand and the older sister of Joseph, Thomas and Regina Anand. A member of Saints John and Paul Roman Catholic Parish in Sewickley, Pennsylvania, Anand is certified by the Diocese of Pittsburgh as a Level 1 Catechist in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program. Following graduation, she will pursue a medical degree with plans to become a physician scientist, performing both clinical care and medical research.



Michael J. Cella

Along with his biology major, with an organismal concentration, Cella is a music minor, with a concentration in piano. He has been named to the Dean's List in each of his semesters at Saint Vincent College and is a member of the Tri-Beta, Gamma Sigma Epsilon, Alpha Lambda Delta and Alpha Chi honor societies, while he was honored to be selected to the 2020-21 Homecoming court this spring. A prefect in Saint Benedict Hall – and proud 2020 Pod Wars champion – Cella has been involved with a plethora of clubs and activities, including the Activities Programming Board, the American Medical Student Association and the Circle K Club, as well as the March of the Bearcats marching band (serving as treasurer) and the Concert Band. Cella has been active in Campus Ministry as an altar server and in Eucharistic processions, while he has worked as a teaching assistant in the Biology Department for the past four semesters. He was chosen for the DeMazza-Prosperi Internship, shadowing 10 different physicians in various medical specialties and working with debilitated and afflicted patients and completed a senior research project entitled "The Antimicrobial and Antibiofilm Activities of Essential Oils on the Oral Microbiome." A graduate of Serra Catholic High School, Cella is actively involved in his home parish of Saint John Fisher in Churchill, working its annual church festival and serving as the youth choir saxophone accompanist and an altar server. The son of Jeff and Erin Cella, he will attend Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine to pursue an osteopathic medical degree and hopes to specialize in internal medicine and become a primary care physician.



Shae S. Robson

Robson, who minors in finance in addition to her accounting major, has been named to the Dean's List in each semester at Saint Vincent College. She is a member of the Delta Mu Delta, Alpha Chi and Alpha Lambda Delta honor societies and was presented Alpha Lambda Delta's Maria L. Leonard Senior Book Award earlier this semester. On campus, she is a member of the Women in Business Club and holds work-study positions in both the Department of Athletics and the Fitness Center, while she has completed a pair of internships in Pittsburgh. In 2019, she was a global business services intern for Matthews International, while last summer, she was a business tax services (BTS) intern for KPMG. Robson is a four-year starting outfielder on the Bearcat softball team, posting a

.325 career batting average with 99 hits, 66 runs and 43 RBIs over the span of her career and earning selection to the Presidents' Athletic Conference Academic Honor Roll in each of the past three years. The daughter of Jeff and Laura Robson, she is a graduate of Deer Lakes High School and a member of Saint Victor's Roman Catholic Parish in the Our Lady of the Lakes grouping in Bairdford, Pennsylvania. Following graduation, Robson will sit for the CPA exams and begin as a BTS associate with KPMG in November.



Julia C. Snyder

A double major in English and communication, Snyder is also an anthropology minor and has earned selection to the Dean's List in each semester at SVC. An Honors Scholar, she is a member of the Sigma Tau Delta, Lambda Pi Eta and Alpha Chi honor societies. Snyder is a founding member of the SVC Writer's Club, while she has also been a member of the MADComm Club, Reading Club and Respect Life Club, having served as secretary for all three, as well as the Campus Ministry leadership team in Apologetics. She is a staff member for SVC's student-run literary and art magazine, *Generation*, having served as co-editor of its recently released 2020-21 issue, while she is copy editor and staff writer for *The Review*, administrative assistant for the Department of English and marketing intern for Eulalia Books. In this role, she has produced book trailers for upcoming releases, written press releases, assisted with social media management and promoted new releases for the independent publisher of literary translations housed at Saint Vincent College and affiliated with SVC's literary translation program. In 2018, she completed an internship in Heinz History Center's publications division, where she wrote blogs and book reviews and served as proofreader, editor and researcher, while in 2019, she traveled to Guatemala for the class Culture and Health in Guatemala. Snyder's poem "Insomnia" was the first-place winner in Saint Vincent College's 2020 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Poetry Competition, and her essay "Rationalism in Contemporary American Culture" was the first-place winner in the 2018 Douglas B. Rogers Conditions of a Free Society Essay Contest. Following graduation, Snyder plans to pursue a career in publishing and intends to continue reading and writing poems in her spare time. The daughter of Terry and Christa Snyder, she is a member of Holy Family Roman Catholic Parish in Plum.



Moira J. Sullivan

A native of Waldorf, Maryland, and graduate of Saint Mary's Ryken High School, Sullivan has been named to the Dean's List in each of the past seven semesters. A Benedictine Leadership Studies Fellow and member of the Alpha Lambda Delta and Alpha Chi honor societies, Sullivan is also active in student theatre at Saint Vincent College, having performed in various productions of The Saint Vincent Players and the Gilbert and Sullivan Club, for which she serves as fundraising chair on its executive board. She holds a work-study position for the Anthropology/Sociology Department and as a part of her Applied Anthropology course as a sophomore, she was part of a research team that examined student approaches to food and Saint Vincent College Dining Services. She has also studied abroad during a week-long trip to Peru as part of the History and Culture of Peru course, while in the summer of 2018, she participated in a 10-week long Historical Archaeology Field School at historic St. Mary's City in Maryland. Following graduation, Sullivan will attend graduate school at Monmouth University, pursuing a master of arts in anthropology with a certificate in archaeology. She plans on focusing her research on military sites archaeology and ultimately find a job in that field. The daughter of Carolyn and Eric Sullivan, she is a member of St. Peter's Roman Catholic Parish in Waldorf, Maryland.

MICHAEL B. DOWNEY, C'04, B.A., SIOR

Principal, Avison Young, Pittsburgh, PA

HONORS CONVOCATION SPEAKER



A 2004 Saint Vincent College graduate, Michael Downey serves as principal and vice president in Avison Young Commercial Real Estate's Pittsburgh office, where he specializes in the commercial business district and suburban office markets.

At Avison Young, he works to identify opportunities and represent clients in all aspects of commercial real estate, including acquisition, disposition and leasing of office buildings. Among the companies Downey has provided tenant evaluation services to include Northwestern Mutual, the Pittsburgh Steamfitters and Broadridge Access Data. He also served as an adviser for several Pittsburgh-based companies in their evaluation and leasing of world headquarters operations including Lanxess, Calgon Carbon, PPG Industries, Kennametal and United Steelworkers.

In 2016, Downey earned the prestigious SIOR (Society of Industrial and Office Realtors) designation and serves as vice president of its Pittsburgh/Western Pennsylvania/West Virginia chapter. He also serves as treasurer for the Shyne Awards Foundation and is currently pursuing his Pennsylvania broker license.

Prior to joining Avison Young in 2012, Downey worked for eight years as an associate in the Pittsburgh office of Grubb & Ellis, with a focus on leasing and selling office and industrial properties.

Downey graduated from Saint Vincent College with a bachelor's degree in management and was a four-year member of the Bearcat men's lacrosse team, playing goalie. A native of Cleveland, Ohio, and graduate of Saint Ignatius High School, he and his wife, Mandi, also a 2004 SVC graduate, are the proud parents of 10-year-old daughter, Mackenzie, and 4-year-old son, Macklin. They reside in Pittsburgh's North Hills.



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