
Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton



CHARTER ♦ DAY CONVOCATION

Tuesday • April 8, 2025 • 3 p.m.



About Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton



CHARTER DAY

Since its founding, Seton Hall has made, and continues to make, moral education a priority of the first rank.

— *Seton Hall University*
Statement on Catholicity

Living out the commitment to moral education has been the foundation of Seton Hall University for more than 160 years — and continues to be our mission in the 21st century. Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Charter Day offers our community an opportunity to reflect on the University's great history, and to renew our commitment to that purpose and mission. Charter Day commemorates the granting of a charter to Seton Hall College by the State of New Jersey in 1861.

Today the University will honor the recipients of the Bishop Bernard J. McQuaid Medal for Distinguished Service. This award recognizes the unflagging efforts of members of the University community who strive with excellence to fulfill Seton Hall's mission every day. Commissioned in 1964 in honor of the first president of Seton Hall, the medal is presented to members of the University faculty, staff and administration who render outstanding service to the institution.

A complete synopsis of Seton Hall's history can be found on the Charter Day web site: www.shu.edu/charter-day

Program

Processional

University Bagpipers

Master of Ceremonies

Reverend Nicholas S. Gengaro, S.T.L.

Law School Chaplain

National Anthem

Singer **Tasiah Mayfield '25**

Accompanist **Diana Malenkova '26**

Invocation

Reverend Gerald Buonopane, Ph.D.

Vice Provost for Academics and

Catholic Identity

Welcome and Presentation
of Honorees for
the President's Award for
Student Service

Reverend Monsignor

Joseph Reilly, S.T.L., Ph.D.

President

Keynote Speaker

Catherine O'Donnell, Ph.D.

Arizona State University

Professor, Author of Elizabeth Seton:

American Saint

Presentation of Honorees
for The Bishop Bernard J.
McQuaid Medal for
Distinguished Service

Katia Passerini, Ph.D.

Provost and Senior Executive Vice President

Presentation of
Servant Leader Scholars

Reverend Colin Adrian Kay, M.Div. '05

Vice President for Mission and Ministry

Reading of the
Seton Hall Charter

Erin Demczyszyn '25

Mercer Santos '25

Lisa Pescatore '25

Alma Mater

Tasiah Mayfield '25

Diana Malenkova '26

2025 Servant Leader Scholars

FRESHMEN

Daniel Dutches, Social Work
Abigail Felten, Criminal Justice
Julian Gray, Business
Abil Hamded, Biology
Michael LaVista, Political Science
Quentin Pace, Finance
Benjamin Pereira, Marketing
and Sports Management
Nicole Sedutto, Biology
Valerie Tuning, Biology
Corinne Williams, Nursing

SOPHOMORES

Paul Belasic, Secondary Special
Education — History
Emily Bruni, Social Work
Jessica Burgeson, Psychology
Sofia Ceballo, Nursing
Elizabeth Cronk, Psychology
and Philosophy
Justin Mayewski, Biology
Arianna Valte, Biology
and Philosophy
Gabriella DeGuzman, Psychology

JUNIORS

Anna Ausanio, Nursing
Arianna Cox-McClary, Athletic
Training
Dahlia Diaz, Biochemistry and
Philosophy
Antonio DiBerardino, Biology
Gabriella Fernandez, Diplomacy
and International Relations

Amanda Grace, Secondary Special
Education — English

Alyssa Housley, Psychology
Jacob Hummel, Finance
Aliye Pehlivan, Biology

SENIORS

John Cavanagh, IT and
Management
Michael DeMarco, Political Science
Nina Lolli, Nursing
Robert Maglizzo, Secondary
Education — English
Callie McCool, Biology
Joseline Molina, Business
Management
Isabella Rivera, Political Science
and Religion
David Smith, Communications
Susanna Testa, Biology
Marissa Todd, Elementary and
Special Education — Speech

GRADUATE

Kelsi Loewen, Physician Assistant
Lidia Prusak, Physician Assistant
Anthony Rocco, Master of Business
Administration
Patrick Wac, Professional
Accounting

2025 McQuaid Medal Recipients



Alyssa McCloud, Ph.D.

Executive Vice President for Enrollment Management and Recruitment

Alyssa McCloud, Ph.D., has served as the vice president for enrollment management at Seton Hall University since 2011. She also served as director of admissions and international programs at Seton Hall

from 1998 – 2005. During the intervening years, McCloud served as vice president for enrollment at Drew University and Felician College.

During McCloud's tenure she led Seton Hall to tremendous enrollment success, resulting in a 20 percent increase in undergraduate enrollment and several of the largest incoming classes in university history. Simultaneously, the University has raised its SAT average considerably and attracted a diverse student body — 45% students of color, 30% Pell eligible and 35% first-generation.

McCloud has also been instrumental in establishing the RISE program to support the success of first-generation, Pell eligible students and has enhanced transparency and communication around financial aid. She created the model financial aid shopping sheet that was adopted state-wide in New Jersey and praised for creating a transparent financial aid experience for students.

McCloud also served as Co-chair of the University's *Harvest Our Treasures* strategic plan. She is an active member of the Enrollment management community who has served on the College Board's Admissions Advisory Board, as a trainer for the NACUBO leadership program and the College Board's Leadership Academy.

She holds a B.A. in humanities with a concentration in philosophy from Antioch College, as well as two graduate degrees from Seton Hall, an M.A. in corporate and public communications (2004) and a Ph.D. in higher educational leadership, management and policy (2009).

2025 McQuaid Medal Recipients



Latisha Porter-Vaughn, Ph.D.

Legal Support Specialist

Latisha Porter, Ph.D., has dedicated 35 years to Seton Hall University School of Law, with 30 of those years supporting faculty and, most recently, serving in the Center for Social Justice, where she provides critical administrative support. She has also been a

longtime shop steward for Seton Hall Union Local 153, advocating for fair workplace policies and employee rights.

Porter holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of Maryland, a Master's in Strategic Communication from Seton Hall University and a Ph.D. in Organizational Development and Leadership from the University of Arizona Global Campus, where she was honored as Alumni of the Year in 2023.

Beyond academia, Porter is a dedicated advocate for the deaf and hard-of-hearing community. She serves as the President of the Hearing Loss Association of America New Jersey State Chapter and is the co-founder of the HLAA Essex County Chapter. Her contributions to hearing loss awareness and education earned her the 2023 Oticon Focus on People Award.

A 14-time self-published author, Dr. Porter has written impactful works, including *Sounds of the Heart: A Story of a Hearstrong Champion Persisting Against All Odds*, *How We Hear: A Useful Guide to Help the Hearing Understand Hearing Loss*, *Whispered Journeys: Spoken Softly but Loudly Understood*, and *The Mighty Hearoes: Tales of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Champions* — a groundbreaking 10-book children's series.

Her career and advocacy reflect an unwavering commitment to education, inclusivity, and leadership, making her a true champion for social justice and accessibility.

2025 McQuaid Medal Recipients



John T. Saccoman, Ph.D.

*Professor, Program Adviser for
Mathematics and Chair*

John T. Saccoman joined the faculty in 1992 as a member of the Mathematics and Computer Science Department. However, his association with Seton Hall University began long ago. His father, the late Dr. John J. Saccoman, was the chair of the Math and Computer Science Department and was also a Seton Hall Alum and recipient of the McQuaid Medal. A 1986 graduate of the Mathematics Department and Honors Program, JT and his father commuted to campus where he attended Seton Hall Prep when it was part of the Seton Hall campus.

Saccoman was promoted to Professor in 2009. In addition to his teaching duties, he has co-authored and mentored more than fifty research publications, made more than eighty research presentations, and co-authored five books. Many of the co-authored papers are with Seton Hall undergraduates; he has supervised dozens of undergraduate theses. Through his work with the Seton Hall-Stevens Graph Theory Research Group (receiving his doctorate from Stevens in 1995), he served as a committee member for seven math Ph.D. theses at Stevens Institute of Technology.

John has served as chair of the Mathematics and Computer Science Department since 2010. In that time, he has overseen the reinstatement of the Computer Science program, provided support for the Business school's Mathematical Finance and Quantitative Economics majors and, along with Kristi Luttrell, Ph.D., oversaw the creation of both the Financial Mathematics major and its combined BS/MS 4+1 program with Stevens. In addition to his department record, John has chaired the Arts and Sciences EPC and Rank and Tenure Committee, co-chaired the Senate APC, and chaired the University Rank and Tenure Committee. Along with Assistant Provost Leigh Onimus, he co-chaired the successful Middle States reaccreditation self-study from 2021–2024.

When not at Seton Hall, John enjoys quality time with his wife of 31 years, Mary Erin and attending sporting events (Seton Hall basketball, Giants, Mets, Rangers games) with his son Ryan, who resides in Malden, Massachusetts.

2025 President's Award for Student Service



Mary Mueller, Ed.D.

Associate Professor; College of Human Development, Culture, and Media

Mary Mueller, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor at Seton Hall University and director of the Elementary and Special Education program. Her main research interests are focused on the development of mathematical reasoning

and equity through reasoning tasks in K-12 students. More specifically, Mueller's work focuses on analyzing students' collaborative construction of arguments and its interplay with agency, the teacher's role and task design in promoting reasoning, and the roles of fallacious arguments and mistakes in making sense of mathematics. Her work has been published in peer-reviewed journals, including *Educational Studies in Mathematics*, *International Journal for Studies in Mathematics Education*, *Journal of Mathematical Behavior*, *Mathematics Education Research Journal*, and *The Mathematics Educator*; as well as in two of the official journals of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics: *Teaching Children Mathematics*, and *Mathematics Teaching in the Middle School*.

Mueller combined her research on math education and teacher preparation to examine the collaboration between teachers and families in supporting children's literacy and mathematics learning. In 2016 and 2017, she co-published two books with her partner, Alisa Hindin, which focused on parent involvement in math and literacy. She is a former recipient of the Seton Hall University Teacher of the Year Award and the University's Researcher of the Year Award.

Prior to coming to Seton Hall, Mueller was a New York City public school math and science teacher and elementary mathematics coach. In addition, she provided coaching in mathematics to elementary and middle school teachers in New York City and New Jersey.

2025 President's Award for Student Service



Jorge E. Rivera, M.A.

Director of The Career Center

Jorge E. Rivera, Director of The Career Center at Seton Hall University, has been dedicated to student success since joining the university in 2017. With over 15 years of experience in higher education, career services and leadership development, Rivera has significantly enhanced

the university's career programming and student outcomes. As Career Center Director since 2022, he has forged impactful employer partnerships, expanded career events and championed innovative student support initiatives. Rooted in servant leadership and inclusion, Rivera has empowered students to develop the skills and confidence needed for career success.

Under his direction, career programming has flourished, expanding from two career fairs to one major career fair and three expos annually. Rivera also launched the Pirates Partners Program, offering paid internships for first-year students. Additionally, he has provided students with unique experiential learning opportunities, such as job shadowing, industry trips, and mock business dinners.

A strong advocate for diversity and inclusion, Rivera ensures all students have access to career resources, particularly first-generation and commuter students. His efforts include developing and organizing a series of strategic 20-minute "Snack n Learn" workshops designed to enhance student's career development by focusing on NACE's Career Readiness Competencies. In collaboration with Veterans of America, Rivera also oversees Pirates Closet providing professional attire for students in need.

Rivera holds a BA in Communication Arts from Hofstra University and a master's in strategic communication and leadership from Seton Hall. He has received multiple awards for innovation in student engagement, including the Division of Student Services Innovation Award in 2023 and 2024. Rivera is happily married to Veronica, and they are proud of their two sons, Jorge, a senior at Seton Hall, and Antonio, a sophomore at Jonathan Dayton High School.

2025 President's Award for Student Service



Reverend Nicholas Sertich, S.T.L.

Director of Campus Ministry

Father Nicholas Sertich is a priest of the Archdiocese of Newark and serves as the Director of Campus Ministry at Seton Hall University. He is also a member of the University Priest Community and a teacher in the University Honors Program.

Father Sertich holds a B.A. from Seton Hall University (2015), an S.T.B. from the Pontifical Gregorian University (2019), and an S.T.L. in Moral Theology from the Pontifical Lateran University (2021). He is also a Ph.D. student in Higher Education Leadership, Management, and Policy. Prior to returning to Seton Hall as the Director of Campus Ministry, Father Sertich served the parish communities of St. Peter the Apostle in River Edge and St. Paul in Ramsey. Currently, he serves in part-time parish ministry at Immaculate Conception Church in Montclair, St. Agnes in Clark, and the Parish Community of St. Helen in Westfield.

Keynote Speaker



Catherine O'Donnell, Ph.D.

Professor, Arizona State University

Catherine O'Donnell is Professor of History at Arizona State University and the author of *Elizabeth Seton: American Saint* (Cornell University Press, 2018), which won the Distinguished Book Award from the Conference on the History of Women Religious

and the Biography Prize from the Catholic Press Association. She has also written *Jesuits in the British and North American Colonies: Faith, Conflict, Adaptation* (Brill, 2018) and *Men of Letters in the Early Republic* (Chapel Hill, 2008). Her research has been published in journals such as *William and Mary Quarterly*, *Journal of the Early Republic*, and *Early American Literature*.

O'Donnell's deep connection to Elizabeth Seton began unexpectedly while she was teaching at William and Mary. A student's choice to write about Seton, rather than the usual founding figures, intrigued O'Donnell. Growing up Catholic, she knew Seton's name but hadn't considered her as a historical subject. As she guided the student, O'Donnell realized there hadn't been a biography of Seton in years. What began as a brief article idea soon turned into a years-long project, reflecting O'Donnell's growing admiration for Seton's resilience and faith. For O'Donnell, Seton's story resonated personally, blending her academic work with her own Catholic identity. Now, as a historian, O'Donnell teaches early American history and serves as Associate Director of the Institute for Humanities Research at ASU.

Past McQuaid Medalists

Abalos, David	2000
Adesanya, Ibiyemi	2020
Ahr, Peter	1995
Ambrosio, Michael	2003
Ander, Paul	1985
Andrushkiw, Joseph W.	1977
Augustine, Robert L.	1977
Azzara, Elizabeth	1986
Balkun, Mary McAleer	2016
Barnas, Paul	2001
Baumgartner, Elizabeth	1984
Boccia, Francis E.	1980
Bochicchio, Louis	1974
Boroff, Karen	2024
Botti, John	1974
Browne, George P.	2008
Boutilier, Mary	2001
Bucior, Autumn	2023
Byrne, Martin	1975
Cafone, Monsignor James M.	2012
Callan, John H.	1977
Carmella, Angela	2023
Carroll, Owen T.	1967
Celiano, Reverend Alfred V.	1973
Champion, Francesca	1988
Chirovsky, Nicholas	1984
Chu, Petra	1997
Citarelli, Antoinette	1995
Clarken, Mary Louise	1982
Cohrssen, Walter J.	1972
Collins, Eugene	1984
Coleman, Monsignor Robert F.	2017
Colo, Thomas	1988
Colón, Mayra I.	2018
Condon, Dolores	2001
Connolly, Mary T.	1972
Connors, Richard J.	1974
Conover, Milton	1969
Cregan, James	1971
Cunningham, Joseph	1993
Cunningham, Robin L.	2011

Past McQuaid Medalists

Cunningham, Monsignor Thomas	1964
Davis, Margaret	1993
Davis, Monsignor John	1964
De Deo, Dolores	2004
Deehan, John P.	1980
Delabar, Mary	1990
Denning, Catherine	1975
DePierro, Joseph V.	2010
DeProspero, Nicholas	1971
Deyrup, Marta Mestrovic	2022
Diab, Robert A.	1980
Dillon, Kathryn M.	1976
Dippel, R. Gordon	1979
Dlugos, Barbara	2000
Doerflinger, William J.	1976
Donovan, Alfred D.	1964
Dunham, William J.	1983
Enright, Nancy	2015
Farrell, Mary Ellen	1999
Field, Monsignor William Noé	1980
Fisher, Paul E.	2021
Fitzgibbon, Edward M.	1970
Fitzsimmons, Marie	1965
Fleischman, Francis F. III	2022
Flowers, Charles	1999
Ford, Ralph	1974
Fortune, Juanita	2021
Franzese, Paula	2015
Freitag, Joanmarie	2002
Frizzell, Reverend Lawrence E.	2007
Garbini, Dennis J.	2006
Geibel, Matthew M.	2018
Gengaro, Reverend Nicholas S.	2022
Gibson, John	1967
Gilhooley, Monsignor Thomas J.	1967
Glenn, Marian	2014
Goertz, Gustav	1969
Gottlieb, Agnes Hooper	2009
Grieco, Chrysanthy	2006
Gross, Mary Levante	2012
Grosse, Eberhard	1996

Past McQuaid Medalists

Hanbury, Reverend Kevin M.	2005
Hansell, Phyllis	2002
Harper, Jacqueline E.	2024
Havas, Edwin	1996
Hendrickson, Edward	1987
Holmes, Reverend Paul	2019
Horgan, Reverend John J.	1973
Hutchison, Ruth	1992
Iorio, Josephine	1978
Jeffrey, Catherine	2007
Kaiser, Mary Cooper	1976
Keefe, Lawrence O.	1981
Kleinman, Leona	1999
Klose, A. Paul	1986
Knight, Brenda	1994
Kosakowski, Stanley	1984
Kozub, Vera	1986
Kraft, Herbert C.	1987
Kroeger, Beverly	2013
Kropp, Martin	2005
LaFerrera, Judith	2000
Larkin, Monsignor Edward J.	1968
Le Compte, Thomas	2007
Lennon, Reverend Peter	1995
Liddy, Monsignor Richard	2014
Lothian, Judith	2021
Louiscek, Anthony	2020
Ludlow, Howard T.	1983
Magovern, Robert	1994
Mahon, Monsignor Dennis	1993
Mahoney, Joseph	1990
Marren, Margaret	1998
Matta, Kathleen	2019
McCabe, William	1985
McClain, Ruthie	2015
McDermott, Angela	2003
McGlone, James	2002
McKenna, Donald	1998
McLaughlin, Denis	2009
McMenamin, Helen	1976
McQuade, Francis P.	1981

Past McQuaid Medalists

Meehan, Grace E.	1973
Menza, Nicholas	1976
Mercadante, Rose	1985
Miller, Julia	1987
Moon, John	1996
Morley, Reverend John	1991
Murphy, Reverend Daniel	1966
Murphy, Joseph T.	2009
Murphy, Wyatt Rorer Jr.	2009
Nardone, Mary Ann	2011
Nourse, Constance B.	1976
O'Brien, Monsignor John F.	1991
Ochojski, Paul	1976
Ockay, Reverend Clement A.	1968
O'Donnell, Jimmy	2013
O'Donnell, Miriam	1974
Oehling, Edward	1975
Palma, Salvatore	2008
Palumbo, Lillian.....	1985
Parnham, Thomas.....	1968
Petrone, Amelia E.	1977
Pritchett, Forrest	2003
Quartaro, Emma	1994
Raffa, Dennis	1997
Raimo, Angela	1991
Rawn, Mary Kirk	2004
Rebhan, M. Anne	1984
Regan, Richard	1991
Regan, Sue	1998
Reilly, George L.A.	1970
Rooney, Miriam T.	1967
Russell, John J.	1973
Russell, Reverend Joseph W.	1968
Rylko, Alphonse	1983
Saccoman, John J.	2005
Sarot, Eden	1968
Schesler, Esther	1977
Scholz, Bernhard	1997
Shannon, John H.	2010
Shannon, Pat	1992
Shea, Reverend Joseph	1970

Past McQuaid Medalists

Sheppard, Michael J.	1990
Sheppard Sr, Robert M.	2024
Smith, William	1988
Snow, Nicholas H.	2018
Somers, Marie	2014
Stack, Bernard J.	1981
Stark, Judith C.	2013
Strand, Stanley	1978
Sullivan, Charles A.	2011
Sullivan, Francis	1987
Sullivan, Monsignor Edwin	1982
Sweeney, John D.	2004
Theroux, John T.	1989
Tsu, John B.	1970
Turner, George	1970
Warren, Rebecca	2006
Wefing, John B.	1988
Weiss, Charles J.	1989
Wong, Mabel A.	2010
Zuchowski, Stephen	2020

Planning Commitee

Kathleen Childers

*Offices of Mission and Ministry
and Priest Community*

Alan B. Delozier, D.Litt.

University Libraries

Linda Karten, M.A.

University Relations

Kaerielle Larsen, M.B.A.

Office of the Provost

Sherry Mahfouz, B.S.

*College of Human Development,
Culture, and Media*

Olivia Mariano, M.A.

University Relations

Stephanie Macias-Arlington, M.P.A.

Human Resources

Lisa Metz

Office of the President

Alison Sotolongo Miller

Office of Student Engagement

Stephanie A. Montalvo, M.A.E.

Office of the Provost

Jennifer M. O'Sheal, B.A.

University Relations

Francia M. Peterson, B.S.

Center for Vocation and Servant Leadership

Christopher Petruzzi

Teaching, Learning, and Technology Center

ACT TO INCORPORATE SETON HALL COLLEGE

- I.** Be it Enacted by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey, that James Roosevelt Bayley, Patrick Moran, Bernard J. McQuaid, John Mackin, Michael Madden, Henry James Anderson, Orestes A. Brownson, Edward Thebaud, Jr., Daniel Coghlan, William Dunn, Dominic Eggert, Michael J. Ledwith and John B. Richmond, and their successors, being members of the Roman Catholic Church, shall be and they are hereby constituted a body politic and corporate by the name of "Seton Hall College," and by that name shall have perpetual succession, and may sue, and be sued, implead and be impleaded, and may purchase and hold property, whether acquired by purchase, gift or devise, and whether real, personal or mixed, and may make and have a corporate seal, and the same break and alter at their pleasure, and shall have all other rights belonging to similar corporations by the law of this State.
- II.** And be it Enacted that the object of said Association be the advancement of education.
- III.** And be it Enacted that the entire management of the affairs and concerns of the said corporation and all the corporate powers granted, shall be and are hereby vested in a board of thirteen trustees, a majority of whom shall always be citizens of this State, and a majority of the trustees shall constitute the necessary quorum for the transaction of all business matters connected with the said institution; the persons named in the first section to be the first trustees; the Roman Catholic Bishop of Newark for the time being to be also a trustee ex-officio and the President of the board.
- IV.** And be it Enacted that the trustees shall have power from time to time to enact by-laws, not repugnant to the constitution or laws of the United States, or of this State, or to this act, for the regulation and management of the said corporation or college; to fill up vacancies in the board, and to prescribe the number and description, the duties and powers of the officers, the manner of their appointment, and the term of their office: and special meetings of said trustees may be called by the President, or any six or more of said trustees, upon ten days' notice in writing of the time and place thereof being given or sent to each of said trustees.
- V.** And be it Enacted that for the purpose of carrying out of the object declared in the second section of this Act, the said corporation shall have power from time to time to purchase, have and hold real and personal estate, and to sell, lease or dispose of the same.
- VI.** And be it Enacted that the said corporation shall have and possess the right and power of conferring the usual academic and other degrees granted by any other college in state.
- VII.** And be it Enacted that this act shall take effect immediately.

Approved by the Governor of the State; March 8, 1861.

Text of the Original Charter Day (c. 1861)

The Seton Hall Alma Mater

Music by Nicola A. Montani
Revised Walter Cochrssen, 1978
New choral and brass arrangement:
John Nowik, 2000

Lyrics by Charles A. Byrne ('37)

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in treble clef, 2/4 time. It begins with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature (C). The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests. The lyrics are written below the staff, with two versions of the first line. The score includes a repeat sign at the beginning of the first line. The final line of the score has two endings, labeled 1. and 2., which lead to different conclusions.

1. To Al - ma Ma - ter all be loy - al, keep her
2. (When on) life's hard stones you stum - ble pray to

name in pu - rest Light, ne - ver wa - ver from her
God to be your guide. Think of Se - ton Hall your

pre - cepts guard her ban - ner blue and
mo - ther then forge on in stead - y

white. Oh, sing her praise to high - est skies and be ye faith - ful
stride.

in her eyes for she will fos - ter all your dreams her name is Se - ton

Hall, her name is Se - ton Hall. 2. When on Hall.