

# **President's Awards Convocation**



**April 27, 2021**

# President's Awards Convocation

April 27, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.

Maurice Stokes Athletics Center

## Hosts:

Andrew Crusciel, a junior from Loretto, PA  
Megan Wood, a junior from White Haven, PA

Dr. Stephen Baker, Faculty Senate President

## Processional

Opening Prayer	Rev. Matthew Simons, T.O.R. Director of Campus Ministry
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National Anthem and Alma Mater	Ms. Isabella Tuttoilmondo Class of '24
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Address	Dr. John Miko, Associate Dean Shields School of Business
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Award Presentations	Very Rev. Malachi Van Tassell, T.O.R., Ph.D., President
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Dr. Karan H. Powell  
Vice President, Academic Affairs

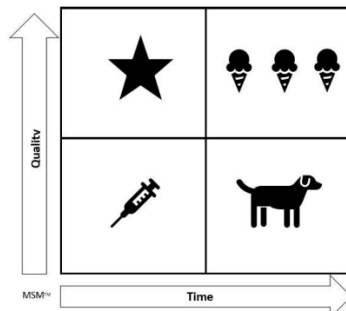
Closing Prayer	Rev. Matthew Simons, T.O.R.
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## Biography of Dr. John Miko

John Miko holds degrees in Mathematics, Computer Science, and Business Administration and earned a Doctorate of Education in Organizational Leadership with an IT specialization from Nova Southeastern University. He is also a certified Project Management Professional (PMP). John has taught at Saint Francis University since 2002 where he has offered courses in several domains including management information systems, business analytics, eCommerce, and project management.

Over his career, John has been an early adopter and pioneer of several instructional technologies such as lecture capture and innovative pedagogies such as hybrid, hyflex and online teaching. In his role as Associate Dean of Business, John works with his colleagues on initiatives to provide professional development opportunities and mentorship to students. He has been a finalist for several teaching awards and was awarded the Swatsworth Faculty Award in both 2010 and 2020, and in 2012 was presented the SFU Alumni Association Distinguished Faculty Award.

Prior to his teaching career, John was employed for 10 years in the field of Information Technology primarily in the arena of Financial Services. Prior to his appointment at SFU he was Vice-President, Information Technology at M&T Bank. He and his wife Christa have been blessed with five children. In his leisure time, he enjoys reading, listening to podcasts, learning, as well as playing, coaching, and watching sports of any kind.



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## Service Awards

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### Campus Ministry Stewardship Award

Presented to a person who serves as a role model for the University's Catholic Franciscan Heritage.

**Jonathan Allard**

### Dorothy Day Outreach Humanitarian Award

For outstanding dedication in serving the needs of others with a joyful heart.

**Julia Chmielowiec and Justin McIntyre**

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## Funded Awards

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### Act 101 Program Academic Achievement Award

Presented by an anonymous donor to the junior or senior member of the ACT 101 Program with the highest Q.P.A.

**Amy Sibert**

### Margaret M. Tobin Research Award

Outstanding library research is awarded to an undergraduate for research that has been completed within the current academic year. Candidates are nominated for the award by a professor. The award is funded by an anonymous donor.

Margaret Tobin was a former director of the Pasquerilla Library. (She died in 1986.)

**Paige Bacigal, Jaela House, and Jessica Woods**

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## Funded Awards

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### Malcom S. Knowles Continuing Education Award

Established in 1991 by a friend of Saint Francis University, the Malcom S. Knowles Award seeks to affirm and recognize the commitment of the adult learner. The award is given to two adult learners who possess a strong sense of purpose, confidence, self-worth, self-directedness and dedication to life-long learning. Malcom Knowles was one of the foremost adult educators in the United States.

**Debra Foor and Jacqueline Mazeika**

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## Endowed Awards

### Rhea Gaunt Memorial Award

The Gaunt Award acknowledges the academic excellence and financial need of an education major entering the student teaching semester. Dr. Rhea Gaunt was a member of the Education Department before her untimely death in 2005. This award was established by a departmental colleague and Dr. Gaunt's son, and honors Dr. Gaunt's dedication to her profession and to her students.

**Alissa James**

### Anne Sloan Borland Award

The Borland Award is a cash prize given for the best example of library research submitted as an academic course requirement by a graduate student at Saint Francis University during the current school year. In addition to receiving a cash award, the winner also collaborates with the department chairperson to select materials for the library collection within their discipline.

**Evan Allen**

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## Endowed Awards

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### Mark N. Shank Award

A cash award is presented to a junior accounting student who has demonstrated excellence and financial need. This award is named for the donor, a successful accountant and chief financial officer, and a 1975 graduate of the University.

**Nicole Davis**

### Class of 1982 Award

Established in 2015 by members of the Class of 1982, this award recognizes an outstanding student-athlete who is a second-semester freshman business major who must be active in service, with a minimum QPA of 3.0.

**Paige Theobald**

### Kaylee Harford Award

Kaylee Harford Award

Kaylee Harford was in her first year at Saint Francis when she lost her life in a car accident. The Harford family, along with Dr. Rose Clark and Dr. Edward Zovinka, established this award in her memory. It is presented to a chemistry major pursuing undergraduate research on campus during the summer.

**Nathan Wolfe**

### Mary and Paul Zovinka Undergraduate Research Award

The purpose of the Zovinka endowment is to fund undergraduate research in chemistry. It was established by Dr. Edward Zovinka and Dr. Rose Clark to honor Dr. Zovinka's grandparents. The recipient of this award is chosen by the chemistry faculty on the basis of his or her research potential, service to the department, QPA and demonstrated interest in the field.

**Owen Bartlebaugh**

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## Endowed Awards

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### Angela (Bionaz) Damin, R.N., Nursing Award

This award was established in 2015 by Dean Damin in memory of his wife, Angela. It is presented to a full-time freshman, with demonstrated financial need, selected by the nursing faculty as the top first-year nursing student from the local area.

**Abbigail Riskus**

### Theresa Wild Memorial Award

Ms. Wild, who died in 2000, took great pride in the education of her grandniece, a 1999 graduate of the physician assistant program at Saint Francis. The award is presented to the PA student who has made a positive contribution to the excellence and vitality of the institution and department.

**Michaela Mattivi**

### James W. and Helen Marie Lieb Award

This award is a memorial to James Lieb, a mathematics professor at Saint Francis for 22 years. It also honors his widow, Helen, who established the endowment. The Lieb Award is presented on the basis of scholarship, financial need, service and attitude toward the discipline of math.

**Jared Ohler**

### Rev. Gabriel J. Zeis, T.O.R., Education Award

This award is presented to a full-time junior history/secondary education major with a minimum 2.5 QPA and demonstrated financial need.

**Dakota Graham**

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## Endowed Awards

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### Rev. Gabriel J. Zeis, T.O.R., Franciscan Values Award

Presented by the Alumni Association, the recipient is a deserving student who exemplifies service to others and strong Franciscan values.

**Arthur Kinch**

### Christopher A. Collier Award

Joan H. Collier and family and friends have established the Christopher A. Collier Memorial Endowment to aid a full-time student in good academic standing, who has attended an accredited Catholic secondary school, and who has demonstrated financial need. The award is to be used for the cost of attending Saint Francis University.

**Anthony Labriola**

### Richard Dorsey Muller Memorial Scholarship Award

This scholarship recognizes outstanding students who wish to pursue a career in law. It was established by the Muller and DeLessio families in memory of Richard Dorsey Muller, an SFU alumnus and prominent attorney.

**Christian Griego, Katie Paige, Daniel Henry**

### M. Jayne Kimlin Award in Physical Science

This award was established according to the wishes of Dr. M. Jayne Kimlin, a longtime professor of chemistry at Saint Francis, who died in 1999. It is awarded to an undergraduate chemistry or engineering major to participate in summer research on campus.

**Regina Edgington**



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## Endowed Awards

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### Armond A. Manfredi, Jr., Awards in Accounting, Finance, Management, and Marketing

Award is presented to seniors in the School of Business with strong academic records, involvement in extracurricular activities and outstanding leadership.

**Randy McGee, Kevin Smolyn, Jenna Mastellone, Jarrod Piper**

### Anthony and Mary Pekala Award

The award is intended for a current Saint Francis University student from Pennsylvania with a minimum 2.5 QPA, demonstrated financial need, and humanities major in the School of Science, Technology, Education, Arts and Mathematics.

**Emily Bucher**

### Paul Deskevich Outstanding Mathematics Student Award

This award is conferred on a promising mathematics major. The recipient will have demonstrated a high proficiency in the study of mathematics and display a particular ability and joy for learning math. This award is to be used for University expenses. Dan Abramowicz, '79, Ph.D., has established this endowment to honor Associate Professor Emeritus Paul Deskevich for his passion for the mathematics field.

**Regina Edgington**



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## Endowed Awards

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### Gunard B. Carlson Memorial Foundation/ Saint Francis University Creative Writing Contest

The contest is open to all Saint Francis University undergraduates. Students may submit written work in any of four categories: fiction, creative non-fiction, poetry and essay writing. Cash prizes and tuition credit is awarded to the top four writing entries. In addition, a cash prize is awarded to honorable mentions. Students may also submit visual artwork in four categories: painting, sculpture, photography and sketch. The top visual entry receives a cash prize, as well as honorable mention entries. All winning writing and visual artwork will be published in *Tapestries*, the campus literary magazine.

#### Visual Arts

Taya Witfield – 1<sup>st</sup> place

Honorable Mentions

Cassidy Bezek, Kiley Pacun,  
Vittoria LaRosa, Katelyn Diehl

#### Creative Writing

Jack Weidner – 1<sup>st</sup> Place

Scott Riner – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

Anthony Vassalotti – 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

Wendelyn Bintrim – 4<sup>th</sup> Place

Honorable Mentions

Grace O'Connell, Faith McMullen,  
Jonathan Kirk, Kei-Shon Graham

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## Endowed Awards

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### William B. Furlong Upperclassman Scholarship Award William B. Furlong and Patricia L. Furlong Upperclassman Scholarship Award

The Furlong Endowment, established by the William B. Furlong family, friends, and former students of Dr. Furlong, recognizes Dr. and Mrs. Furlong's life-long commitment to academic excellence, peace and social justice. Dr. Furlong was an English professor at the University for over 30 years. Bachelor of Arts students majoring in either English, History, or Philosophy with an excellent academic record and a documented community service record are eligible to receive the award.

**Scott Riner**

### Ann Eppard Memorial Scholarship and Congressional Internship

This scholarship and internship is awarded to an upper-level student. The student should have a strong academic background, possess good communication and research skills and have a genuine interest in legislative processes, government and law. Personal integrity and discretion in dealing with confidential and sensitive legislative matters are required.

**Andrew Crusciel**  
**Shae Moran**



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## Other Awards

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### Honors Program Graduates

MIKAYLA BECK

(Dr. Jennifer Misiura)

*The Effects of Caregiving: an Exploration into the Physical, Emotional, and Social Well-Being of Parents of Children with Special Needs*

MIA CAPUZZI

(Dr. Marnie Moist)

*An Assessment of Video Remote Interpreting for Deaf, deaf, and Hard of Hearing Patients and How Those Patients Are Viewed in the Medical Field*

KELSEY DONOUGHE

(Dr. Irene Wolf)

*The Synergistic Effect of Metformin and Dexamethasone on HeLa and SiHa Cells: A Comparison of Cervical Cancer Cell Lines from Different Races*

SAMUEL FORCENITO

(Dr. Lane Loya)

*Are the People who Recreate the Most in the Outdoors Doing More Harm to the Environment Than they Think?*

EMMA GENTILE

(Dr. Jill Cavalet)

*The extent of which social media platforms have influenced the mental health and wellbeing of young adults*

KEI-SHON GRAHAM

(Dr. Marnie Moist and Dr. Art Remillard)

*Uniquely Generic*

**RANDEE MCGEE**

(Mr. Jim Donovan)

*The Niche Reformation: How the Streaming Revolution  
Reflects on the Greater Social Dilemma*

**HAYLEY MESMER**

(Dr. Kristopher Wisniewski)

*Body Composition and Resting Metabolic Rate: Comparing the  
Accuracy of Various Predictive Methods*

**NATHAN MOORE**

(Mrs. Cassie Grassmyer)

*Effects of Technology in the Classroom*

**SHAELYN PARRY**

(Dr. Stephen LoRusso)

*Qualitative Analysis of Patient Comments Regarding  
Adherence to an Exercise Oncology Rehabilitation Program*

**EVA SCHALL**

(Dr. Shlomit Flaisher-Grinberg)

*Best Practices for Shelter Dog Training in College: Community  
Engagement Route*

**JOSEPH THEISS**

(Dr. Theresa Horner)

*Become That Someone: The Catholic Franciscan Experience:  
"To What Extent Do Catholic Franciscan Universities Positively  
Impact Student Well-Being?"*

**JOHN WEIDNER**

(Dr. Brennan Thomas)

*West of Gomorrah*

**MADISON WRIGHT**

(Dr. Susan Reimer)

*Genetic Frequency of the MDR1 Gene in Dogs in Central  
Pennsylvania*

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## Other Awards

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### Academic Achievement Award

The Saint Francis University Alumni Association presents this award to the graduating senior with the highest QPA over his or her entire college career.

Mikayla Beck, Jonathan Kirk, Jillian Leppert,  
Jarrod Piper, Jack Weidner

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## Special Awards

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### Saint Francis Honor Society Distinguished Faculty Award Finalists

Dr. Carrie Beebout  
Dr. Rosemary Bertocci  
Dr. Mark Buckwalter  
Dr. Jill Cavalet  
Dr. Denise Holladay Damico  
Dr. Gail Drus  
Ms. Jessica Dunlap  
Dr. Lane Loya  
Dr. Angela Seidel  
Mr. Kent Tonkin  
Dr. Edward Zovinka

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## Special Awards

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### Gerald and Helen Swatsworth Faculty Award Finalists

Dr. Joel Bandstra  
Dr. Justin Merry  
Dr. Angela Seidel  
Dr. Brennan Thomas  
Mr. Kent Tonkin  
Dr. Irene Wolf



### Mr. and Ms. Frankie Awards

#### Ms. Frankie Finalists

Ashley Astle  
Rebekah Finafrock  
Kari Lagan  
Lauren Montecalvo  
Jessica Woods

#### Mr. Frankie Finalists

Dylan Gordon  
Kei-shon Graham  
Randee McGee  
Joseph Theiss  
John Weidner

**Ms. Frankie: Lauren Montecalvo**

**Mr. Frankie: Dylan Gordon**

## ALMA MATER

Hail, Saint Francis, ever true  
We stand and sing of love for thee  
From the halls of inspiration  
Onward move in dignity  
When our college days are through  
We will ever loyal be  
To the memories that we cherish  
And the love of friends we knew.

## CHORUS

Praise thee ever, Alma Mater  
Virtue with love combines  
Proudly now we hail to thee  
Alma Mater among the pines.