



Stony Brook  
School of Social Welfare



Class of 2023

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# CONVOCATION

**Doctor of Philosophy in Social Welfare**  
**Master of Social Work**  
**Bachelor of Science (Major in Social Work)**

Thursday, May 18, 2023  
Island Federal Credit Union Arena • 5:30 pm

# SCHOOL of SOCIAL WELFARE

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN SOCIAL WELFARE • MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK • BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (Major in Social Work)

Graduation Singers

**Jahlisiah Scott**, BSW Senior  
**Diana Schmidt**, MSW Advanced Standing

Land Acknowledgement

**Carolyn Peabody, PhD, LCSW, ACSW**  
*Clinical Professor; Director, Community, Policy & Political  
Social Action Specialization*

Dean's Welcome Address

**Shari E. Miller, PhD, MSW**  
*Dean and Professor, School of Social Welfare*

University Welcome

**Hal Paz, MD**  
*Executive Vice President for Health Sciences, Stony Brook  
University; Chief Executive Officer, Stony Brook University Medicine*

Convocation Address

**Rahsmia Zatar, LMSW, '06, MA**  
*Executive Director, S.T.R.O.N.G. Youth (Struggling To Reunite  
Our New Generation)*

Dean's Choice Award

**Marc Soevyn**, Assistant Director of Alumni Engagement

Acknowledgement of Student Leaders  
and Student Degrees of Distinction

**Shari E. Miller, PhD, MSW**, Dean and Professor

BSW Graduating Class Remarks

**Melissa Torregrossa**, Bachelor of Science, Class of 2023

## PRESENTATION OF THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE Major in Social Work CLASS OF 2023

MSW Graduating Class Remarks

**John Parks** and **Fatoumata Camara**, Master of Social Work,  
Class of 2023

Recognition of MSW/MPH

**Amy Hammock, PhD, MSW**, Associate Professor

## PRESENTATION OF THE MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK CLASS OF 2023

## PRESENTATION OF THE DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN SOCIAL WELFARE CLASS OF 2023

### *Degree Candidates Presented by:*

**Shari E. Miller, PhD, MSW**, Dean and Professor

**Richard H. Morgan, PhD, MSW**, Associate Dean; Clinical Professor; Director of Graduate Program

**Suzanne L. Velázquez, PhD, LCSW**, Clinical Associate Professor; Director of Undergraduate Program

**George Leibowitz, PhD, MSW**, Professor; Director of Doctoral Program

**Warren K. Graham, LCSW, ACSW, CASAC**, Assistant Dean, Practicum Education; Clinical Associate Professor

**Robin A. DeLuca-Acconi, PhD, LCSW**, Assistant Dean of Student Services; Clinical Associate Professor

**Shelley L. Horwitz, MSW**, Assistant Dean, Manhattan Operations

Closing Remarks

**Shari E. Miller, PhD, MSW**, Dean and Professor

## *Recessional*

*The conferral of a degree is conditional upon satisfactory completion of all current degree and instructional requirements at the time of such award and compliance with University procedures and regulations, including the resolution of any outstanding charges of fees or misconduct.*



## *Rahsmia Zatar, LMSW, '06, MA*



**Rahsmia Zatar**, LMSW, '06, MA, Executive Director, S.T.R.O.N.G. Youth (Struggling To Reunite Our New Generation)

Rahsmia was raised in Roslyn Heights, NY, an affluent community on the north shore of Long Island. Her experience of growing up Latina and poor in Roslyn, combined with the strong influence of her immigrant mother, led Rahsmia to be acutely aware of the impact of racial and economic inequality on people of color around the world. After attending a workshop in the sixth grade on the US prison system and minority populations, Rahsmia was convinced she wanted to work to give voice to incarcerated individuals.

Rahsmia completed her undergraduate degree in psychology from Hofstra University, her Masters in Forensic Psychology from John Jay College for Criminal Justice. In 2006, Rahsmia earned her MSW from the School of Social Welfare at Stony Brook University.

Rahsmia met S.T.R.O.N.G.'s founder, Sergio Argueta, LMSW, while attending graduate school at Stony Brook University. After just a couple of conversations, they both realized S.T.R.O.N.G. Youth was where she needed to be. It was a place where she could not only apply the knowledge acquired through school and previous work experiences, but could assist in enhancing communities and uplifting troubled youths who were desperate for compassion, understanding and a chance to shine in positive ways.

Hired in Sept. 2005, she helped establish and run S.T.R.O.N.G. University, a gang interention program working with previously incarcerated, gang involved youth and acted as the organization's only social worker. Ms. Zatar's passion and innate understanding of the dynamics playing out in the lives of S.T.R.O.N.G. youth and their families quickly made her a part of the organization's executive staff. She was promoted to Executive Director in January 2012.

S.T.R.O.N.G.'s mission to empower youth and communities in becoming active agents of change and building resources from within falls directly in line with Rahsmia's overall philosophy in life. Since her appointment as Executive Director, Rahsmia has become a prominent voice speaking out against the systemic causes of youth and gang violence and advocating for the resources youth and families impacted by violence and incarceration need to become social change agents. Rahsmia is an active partner in several community empowerment groups and committees such as the Uniondale Violence Intervention Partnership, Community Voices and United for Justice in Policing - Long Island. Rahsmia hopes to continue building awareness around the issue of gangs and build a full service organization where youth can cultivate their leadership and social skills in positive, productive ways, helping them resist the lure of gang and street life.



## BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (Major in Social Work)

Deanna Elizabeth Aveta  
 Patricia Baker #  
 Jeffrey T. Ball η  
 Elena Dayana Benitez η  
 Lauren Elizabeth Blanco #  
 Katherine Alexandra Bollman ε#  
 Lisa Burman η  
 Vanessa Arely Castellanos φη#  
 Juliana Castillo ε  
 Rachel Charvat η  
 Sarah Dajung Chung  
 Courtney Lee Conway  
 Gary Leonard Conyers  
 Elizabeth Anne Cooper Σ#ω  
 Jaime Grace Cusmano Σ#ω  
 Jamie Dandraia ε  
 Amanda Lynn Davis Σ  
 Subhadra Debnath φ  
 Santos T. Delcid Sorto φΣ#  
 Beyonce Arianna Dennis η  
 Eliatt Anthony Di Lieto Jr. φΣ#  
 Kayla Nicole Edwards  
 Yafreisi Eusebio φΣ#  
 Vivian Inez Evans

Jiana Farrell ε  
 Jessica Fiederlein #  
 Janine Galatro ε  
 Sydney Isabel Giles η  
 Andy D. Mendoza Gómez Σ  
 Quinton Dipalma Green  
 Alisa Marie Greene ε  
 Pamela Liseth Guardado #  
 Reyna Mia Henderson  
 Karen Anne Hill φΣ#  
 Neler Gay Htoo  
 Skylar Rose Kaider  
 Leeza Kramer φη  
 Alexander James Krukowski η#ω  
 Silvia Maria Lazo  
 Christina Makayla Levine η  
 Victoria Catherine Liuzzi Σ  
 Hector V. Luna φΣ  
 Lance Mack  
 Jeimy Azucena Maravilla Molina ε  
 América T. Marcos-González φΣ#  
 Delmis Anahy Marquina ε  
 Deanna Ann McCartin Σ  
 Angelgana Medina Pena η

Kimberly Elizabeth Mestizo η#ω  
 Courtney Leigh Minelli ηω  
 Lira Mizrachi η  
 Caroline Elizabeth Montemurro Σ#  
 Tiffany M. Monti φη#  
 Mousa, Jasmine Sarah  
 Mahak Yaqoob Naseer ε#  
 Troy Alexander Ogden  
 Gabriela Ortega ε  
 Maria Angelica Ortiz Orellana η  
 Jaylene Marie Ortiz φΣ#  
 Destiny Rodriguez ε#  
 Victoria K. Sabo ε#  
 Brianna Lynn Salmon  
 Jamaira Destini Saraguard ε#  
 Jahlisiah Julia Scott ε  
 Hyewon Shin  
 Zaina St. Louis Small ε  
 Melissa Torregrossa φΣ#ω  
 Celisa Malika Vanderburg φη  
 Zaida Lorena Vasquez Morales φη  
 Bianca Rose Vella ε  
 Delanie Rose Warner ε

Σ - Summa cum laude

η - Magna cum laude

ε - Cum laude

φ - Phi Alpha Honor Society

# - BSW Passport to the Profession

ω - Service to the School of Social Welfare

# MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK

Nicole Brooke Abbatiello  
Erin Lynn Adams **Φ**  
Rebecca Anne Agosto  
Audrey Alexander  
Samantha Michele Alotta  
Guyshana Shane Alston  
Danielle Amato  
Jeanine Ambrogi  
Shahira Amin  
Ava Joy Andrews  
Stephanie Arbelaez Cortes  
Ashley Alliyah Ayala  
Daphne Baptiste  
Laura Mary Barakat  
Jamie Christine Barbarino  
Carolina Batista  
Chelsea Anne Bell  
Jenny Rebekah Bellamore  
Dasha J. Benitez  
Dylan Jean Bennett  
Megan Michele Berenzy  
Timothy Alexzander Bethea  
Joshua David Bieling  
Brielle Susan Borges  
Alexandra M. Boyle  
Shania Bradford  
Danielle Braithwaite  
Nicole Taylor Brander  
Ashley Nicole Brodzansky  
Kerri Broesler  
Elizabeth Erin Burkard  
Cheyanne Elizabeth Busso  
Justin Calabrese  
Alicia Calder  
Jessica Lynn Caliendo  
Fatoumata Naby Camara  
Ashley Taylor Canale  
Marissa Nicole Canino  
Julianna Rose Caputo  
Lexi Marie Catrone  
Johanna Ceballos  
Cansel Cebeci  
Antoniell Cenat  
Mandy Chambers  
Gina Chung  
Samantha Nicole Cinelli  
Hunter Nicholas Coggins **Φ**

Kaitlin Connolly  
Brian Joseph Coyle  
Melissa Rae Cresci  
Derek Desmond Crichlow Jr.  
Jernessa Cruickshank  
Amanda Nicole D'Alessio  
Nathan Charles D'Oria  
Emily Theresa Deal  
Edwin Delvalle  
Kelly Ann Dennett  
Amanda Lee Denzler  
Anna Patricia DeRosa **Φ**  
Kyrstyn Noelle Devlin  
Natalie Grace Di Blasi  
Kathleen Mary DiMartino **Φ**  
Jean M. Donaghy **Φ**  
Maria Christina Duchin  
Erin Irene Earley  
Cierra Edwards  
Justina Frances Edwards  
Emily Marie English  
Christina Erhardt **Φ**  
Anthony V. Fasulo  
Kiara Anais Fernandez  
Rebecca Lindsay Fields  
Kristen Elizabeth Finelli  
Alejandra Maria Florez **Φ**  
Maria MaryKate Florian **Φ**  
Juliana Marie Fodera  
Maggie Rose Fox  
Guirlande Frederic-Coulanges  
Jo-Antoinette Frey **Φ**  
Charles-Anthony Mark Fuchs  
Cristina Galian  
Kaitlyn Kim Gange  
Evelin Marisela Garcia  
Grisel Garcia  
Anjanie Davi Ghani  
Jaimee Giorgi  
Julia Rose Girzadas  
Destiny Gonzalez  
Manuel Gonzalez  
Erin Gorman  
Andrew Michael Gottlieb  
Emma Kate Governale  
Elana Jill Greenfield  
Laquaysia Griffin

Rachel Alexandra Hall  
Chloe Harrell  
Patrick J. Helfrich  
Taylor Renee Henry  
Daniel Robert Herschbein  
Erin Hickey  
Samantha S. Higgins  
Jennifer Wendi Hochberg **Φ**  
Kelley Lene Hughes  
Ronita Adora Humphrey  
Patrick Michael Hurley  
Sarah Hyland **Φ**  
Kevin Roy Imperato  
Kennedy Itzkowitz  
Megan Taylor Jackson  
Sydney Catherine Jankowski  
Amina Javed  
Juliet Anne Jernigan  
Hudson Joachim  
Emma Elizabeth Johnsen  
Abena Damany Johnson  
Jada L. Johnson  
Janay Johnson  
Olivia Deanna Joiles  
Adrienne Mikayla Jones  
Corwin Matthew Joseph  
Nakeeaa Joseph  
Alexia Joy **Φ**  
Sulema Juarez-Molerio  
Alisa Kalegina  
Rachael Nicole Kallman  
Jason Karagiorgis  
Jaspreet Kaur  
Chris Choi Keizerstein  
Colleen Marie Kelly  
Maureen Kelly **Φ**  
Kristine Kelsch  
Geneve Alanna Monique King  
Hannah Elise Klein  
Alison Hailey Krinsky  
Jacqueline LaMonica  
Lamar Langhorne  
Paulina Latacela  
Tess Olivia Leale  
Raymond K. Lee  
Jessica Caitlyn Leigh-Manuell  
Justin Lettieri

# MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK

Lauren Nicole Leyva  
Xiao Lin Liu  
Xiaoran Liu  $\Phi$   
Zixin Liu  
Stephanie Liuzzi  
Cheryl Livian  
Genesis Yamileth Castro Lizama  
Annmarie Jane Logan  
Oskar Lopez  
Miesha Shanae Lorenzana  
Laurie Loughnane  
Ashley Mack  
Sumedha Madan  
Kayla Marie Maguire  
Catherine Liliana Maltez  
Erika Asusena Martinez  
Peter Martino  
Michael Joseph Mazza  
Matthew A. Mbamelu Sr.  $\Phi$   
Fiona Mary McBreen  
Will J. McDonald  $\Phi$   
Tamika S. McGarrell  
Michelle McGay  $\Phi$   
Amy Elizabeth McGrath  
Russian Tosha McNaughton  
Brittney Marie Mitchell  
Madison Taylor Mojica  
Jaclyn Monteleone  
Luis Fernando Moran Cantera  
Patricia Morris  
Alyssa Munsch  
Jenna Marie Murphy  
MaryKate Murphy  
Sarah Lyn Murphy  
Jesse Landy Nagin  $\Phi$   
Samantha Lynn Napoli  $\Phi$   
Nadia Napolitano  
Olga L. Navia  $\Phi$   
Hannah Jacqueline Nicchi  
Veronica Marie Norling  
Erin Danielle O Fallamhain  
Okechukwu Obiyor Onyechere  
Benjamin Owusu  
Danielle Brooke Pallack  
Teresa Parisi  
John Timothy Parks  
Sherrilee A. Partiss

Marissa M. Paz  
Alyia Brooke Perez  
Melanie Rose Pfenning  
Amy Pinchiaroli  $\Phi$   
Danielle Briana Poliak  
Ronica Policard  
Carrie Melissa Pollack  
Amanda Michele Pollina  
Annette Pottinger  
Ziona Tye-Dasilva Powell  
Alexander Francis Pruden  
Samantha S. Puleo  
Parvin Kaur Purawal  
Karyn Sallei Pygatt  $\Phi$   
Tilly Hope Ramirez  $\Phi$   
JoAnna Marie Randisi  
Lisa Marie Rasmussen  $\Phi$   
Brianna Marie Ray  $\Phi$   
Estefany A. Reyes  
Shayla Denise Rhodes  
Kathryn Alexis Rivera  
Jasmine Rodney  
Lisbeth Mercedes Rodriguez Bautista  $\Phi$   
Elizabeth Rodriguez  
Shantee N. Rodriguez  
Seth Elliot Roman  
Maria Felicia Rosario  
Erich Rosenthal  
Linda Ruotolo  
Shannon K. Russo  
Madelane C. Sadia  
Dudley Saintilus  
Abner Samuel Salmeron  
Francesca Salvati  
Rael Lancita Samaria  
Marli Andrea Sanchez-Lopez  
Amanda Sanford  
John Charles Schmeiser  
Diana Lynne Schmidt  
Carly Schram  
Alyssa Schwantner  
Alexis Monique Sealy  
Nicole Selg  $\Phi$   
Danielle Isabella Simone  
Jimin Sin  
Merve Sipal  
Aurora Ann Sisalli

Nadia T. Skrypoczka-Russo  
Danielle Kayla Stein  
Megan Ann Steinman  
Annie Sung  
Sarah Grace Tallents  
Jessica J. Tangorra  $\Phi$   
Ashley Erica Tavarez  
Chad-Michael Theall  
Angely Torres  
Samantha L. Tracy  
Samantha J. Marie Troyano  
Samantha Trujillo  
Ting Hin Tsang  
Jennifer Patricia Turano  $\infty$   
Brittany M. Uzzi  
Tashmere Tanaya Vailes  $\Phi$   
Ana Maria Valle  
Devon Marie Vandenplas  
Emelin Vanegas  
Jaclyn Vazquez  
Julio Angel Velez Rodriguez  $\infty$   
Reina Viera Navarro  
Danessia O. Villatoro  
Teresa Vrana  $\Phi$   
Lauren Elizabeth Walsh  $\Phi$   
Dorothy Theresa Weiss  
Destinee Weston  
Christina Emely Wiese  
Chace Auden Wilson  
Sharllene Jenique Wilson  
Mary Catherine Wilton  
Mallory Winick  
Ann Marie Woltke  
Samantha Lee Wood  
Alison Elizabeth Wright  
Annie E. Wright  $\Phi$   
Alejandro Yanez Jr.  
Zarina Yangibayeva  
James Zettergren-Rivera

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$\Phi$  - Phi Alpha Honor Society

$\infty$  - Service to the School of Social Welfare

# DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN SOCIAL WELFARE

**Haylee G. Hebenstreit**

*"They Don't Talk About it:" A Mixed-Methods Exploratory Investigation of the Food Security Assessment Experiences in Drug Courts: A Nationwide Survey & Interview Project*



Graduate Student Government

President: **Kathleen DiMartino**  
Vice President: **Allison Montello-Young**  
Secretary: **Maria Duchin**  
Senator: **Alexia Bellini**  
Treasurer: **Matthew Mbamelu**  
First Year Representative: **Miranda Edwards**  
Second Year Representative: **Mai Han**  
Manhattan Representative: **Karyn Pygatt**

Undergraduate Social Welfare Alliance

President: **Leeza Kramer**  
Vice President: **Angelgana Medina**  
Secretary: **Courtney Conway**  
Treasurer and Class Representative: **Melissa Torregrossa**  
Junior Representative: **HaanaMae Roze Smothergill-Christara**

Commencement Committee

Robin A. DeLuca-Acconi  
Laura Coiro  
Christine Corrado  
Jennifer Davidson  
Elissa Friedman  
Richard Helling  
Victoria Lombardo  
Andrea Trezza  
Jamie Weissbach  
Xicheng Zhou



# *Congratulations*

*School of Social Welfare  
Graduates!*