THE DEAN'S LIST
ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS FOR GRADUATING SENIORS

STUDENT SUCCESS STORIES

SPRING 2019

OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES
A MESSAGE FROM DEAN DARA N. BYRNE

Dear Dean’s List Graduates,

On behalf of the Office of Undergraduate Studies, I extend genuine congratulations and best wishes to the Dean’s List Achievement class of 2019. It is an honor to celebrate your excellence!

In my office, we affectionately refer to you as the “Super Dean’s List.” Out of all the students graduating this year, only 186 have earned the Dean’s List recognition on the transcript each and every semester since matriculating at John Jay. This is a tremendous feat.

Your Super Dean’s List achievement is a testament to both your academic preparedness and your willingness to sacrifice. It is the result of your commitment to the rigors of the academic process, your dedication to your intellectual development, and your drive to surpass the expectations of your academic discipline at the undergraduate level. You worked at this paper by paper, class by class, year after year!

As I read the stories in this viewbook, I note how each one captures the resolve and fortitude that have become the calling card of the graduates who make this list. And each of you will carry this experience into your professional life. Your unique mix of skills—creativity, resourcefulness, persistence, to name a few—will be welcomed in the professional communities you join. I am confident your future colleagues will be as honored to be part of your lives as I have been.

Our world needs your leadership. No other graduates in the country are better educated for justice than you.

With Love,

Dara N. Byrne, PhD
Associate Provost for Undergraduate Retention &
Dean of Undergraduate Studies
186 STUDENTS
EDUCATED FOR
CRIMINAL INTERNATIONAL MORAL
RACIAL ACADEMIC REAL GENDER
RELIGIOUS POLITICAL ECONOMIC
LEGAL PHILOSOPHICAL CULTURAL
ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIAL POETIC
JUSTICE
186 students graduating in the Class of 2019, having earned Dean's List every semester of enrollment.

22 MAJORS

Our great achievers are representing 22 out of 32 majors offered at John Jay - 40% of which are Criminal Justice BS majors!

28 MINORS & CERTIFICATES

Our students are committed to learning more. 48% have declared at least one minor, with the majority minoring in Law.

14 DUAL DEGREES Earned

9 students are graduating with a joint Bachelor’s and Master’s degree in Criminal Justice, Criminal Justice Management, Forensic Psychology, and Public Administration.
"Before I officially experienced John Jay, I was disappointed that I had made the decision to come to this college. I felt overshadowed by everyone else who was going to a more expensive or private school. I allowed others to get inside my head, making me feel anything but intelligent, and worrying that I would not enjoy my college career. I’m grateful to say that those people were completely wrong. My leadership on campus allowed me to succeed and find a home for myself because helping others brought me happiness and really allowed me to be a stronger student academically as well. When I got involved with the Youth Justice Club, I gained more knowledge about the justice system and how it impacts youth. I met such inspirational people that shaped my career path and enthusiasm for learning in my classes. I also met advisors like Jessica Stevens, Danielle Officer, and Jon Salamak who pushed me every day to be a stronger person, student and leader. Equally as important, my major introduced me to Dr. Gohar Petrossian who assisted me with my writing, and inspired me for two years with my capstone. So, really, my strategy to be a successful Dean’s List student was to meet amazing people at John Jay, and really...just to be at John Jay.”
ASHMEEN BINDRA
PHILOSOPHY BA AND POLITICAL SCIENCE BA

"I came here to John Jay College, not expecting a lot, given that I am a fully undocumented and a woman of color. John Jay College provided me great mentors and professors that kept me on track and did not give up on me. My immigration status defined me everywhere and kept me from who I truly wanted to be, and John Jay helped me overcome my biggest obstacle. At John Jay, I was given infinite opportunities and I made sure to take advantage of our resources. Not only do I plan on graduating with a double major degree with a 3.8, but also with two full pages of resume and I am grateful I came to John Jay!"

JAELYN BUGGS
FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY BAMA

"If one has a passion for something and is going to actively seek to pursue this interest, one should strive to be the best they can possibly be to the extent that this passion is no longer a fascination but an effortless task. This has been my mindset when it comes to making decisions for my academic and professional career goals. I was lead to John Jay by my desire to gain knowledge of the intersection between law and psychology. Moving to New York from Houston, Texas was a tough decision to make financially and geographically. I come from a single parent home, with a family member living with a mental disorder. Being the first of my siblings to graduate, becoming a Pinkerton Fellow, pursuing a BA/MA in Forensic Psychology and receiving distinguished awards and scholarships only happened because I was determined to get the best education available and take steps to carry out any goal I set on my academic journey. Strategies that help me succeed involved putting my trust in God, having a planner, and always remember hard work pays off."
EDUCATED FOR JUSTICE

2019 RECIPIENTS OF THE DEAN'S LIST ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

A
Abdulaeva, Shakhrizat
Major: Criminology BA
Minor: Journalism
Abreu, Yildaliz
Major: Criminology BA
Abreu Jimenez, Tommy
Major: Criminal Justice BS
Alata, Kelly
Major: Criminal Justice BS
Minor: Sociology
Alejos Il, Marco
Major: Political Science BA
Minor: Sociology
Alonzo, Julissa
Major: Law and Society BA
Minor: Political Science
Alzokari, Saleh
Major: Criminal Justice BS
Minor: Law, Police Studies
Aragon, Brian
Major: Fraud Examination and Financial Forensics BS
Araújo, Ledvin
Major: Criminal Justice BS
Minor: Psychology
Arias, Caviarella
Major: Criminology BA
Minor: Anthropology
Awad, Jasmine
Class of 2019 Valedictorian
Major: Criminal Justice BA
Minor: Human Services

B
Baig, Sara
Major: Humanities & Justice BA
Minor: Political Science
Bala, Shovan
Major: International Criminal Justice BA
Bandini, Andrew
Major: Law and Society BA
Minor: Journalism
Certificate: Dispute Resolution
Barkmeier, Matt
Major: Criminal Justice BS
Behar, Eliana
Major: Forensic Psychology BAMA
Bermudez, Ingrid
Major: Criminal Justice BS
Minor: Anthropology
Betances Beato, Lizmar
Major: Criminal Justice BS
Minor: Law

Bhuiya, Sharmi
Major: Fraud Examination and Financial Forensics BA
Bindra, Ashmeen
Major: Philosophy BA, Political Science BA
Bothe, Graceann
Major: Criminal Justice BS
Minor: Law, Corrections
Borga, Yves Keltner
Major: Criminal Justice BS
Borgia, Stephanie
Major: English BA
Minor: Philosophy
Bousquet, Nicole
Major: Forensic Psychology BA
Brier, Robert
Major: Criminal Justice BS
Minor: Police Studies
Brown, Cataydra
Major: Law and Society BA
Minor: Africana Studies
Buggs, Jaelyn
Major: Forensic Psychology BAMA
Buonocore, Casey
Major: Forensic Psychology BAMA

C
Campbell, Starr
Major: Criminology BA
Minor: Psychology
Capone, Alyssa
Major: Political Science BA
Minor: Gender Studies
Capone, G.
Major: Criminal Justice BS
Minor: Human Rights
Carvajal, Esteban
Major: Law and Society BA
Minor: Philosophy
Cepeda, Damercys
Major: Criminal Justice BS
Minor: Criminology
Christie, Rebekah
Major: Gender Studies BA
Minor: Africana Studies
Christofi, Elena
Major: Forensic Psychology BAMA
Minor: Political Science
Christopher-Skinner, Ayoka
Major: Criminal Justice BS
Minor: Public Administration
Christofi, Elena
Major: Forensic Psychology BAMA
Minor: Political Science

Chu, Hannah
Major: Forensic Science BS
Minor: Mathematics
Colon, Elizabeth
Major: Criminal Justice BS
Minor: Law
Cosar, Melissa
Major: Police Studies BS
Covino, Jesse
Major: Security Management BS
Cubicciotti, Kendall
Class of 2019 Salutatorian
Major: Forensic Psychology BA
Minor: Criminology
Cunningham, Amanda
Major: Criminal Justice BA
Minor: English

D
Damato, Megan
Major: Criminal Justice BS
Minor: Psychology
Daston, Amanda
Major: Forensic Psychology BA
Dawson, Jennifer
Major: Criminal Justice BS
Deane, Devlin
Major: Criminal Justice BA
Minor: Human Services
DeDomenico, Eric
Major: Criminal Justice BS
Minor: Anthropology
Djeljaj, Michael
Major: Fraud Examination and Financial Forensics BS
Dobney, Warren
Major: Economics BS
Doka, Victor
Major: Fraud Examination and Financial Forensics BS
Donald, Casey
Major: Security Management BS

E
Eborall, Kelsey
Major: Criminology BA
Edmonds, Kenya
Major: Law and Society BA
Ego Aguirre, Alexandra
Major: Forensic Psychology BA
Elbaz, Mohamad
Major: Fraud Examination and Financial Forensics BS
Erlbaum, Leeba
Major: Computer Science and Information Security BS
## 2019 Recipients of the Dean's List Achievement Award

### F
- **Familia, Eduardo**
  - Major: Criminal Justice BS
- **Famuyide, Mary**
  - Major: Criminology BA, Economics BS
- **Ferreira, Amanda**
  - Major: Criminal Justice BA
  - Minor: Law, Mathematics
- **Flores, Leslie**
  - Major: Criminal Justice BS
  - Minor: Law

### G
- **Galang, Francheska**
  - Major: International Criminal Justice BA
- **Gancayco, Christine**
  - Major: International Criminal Justice BA
  - Minor: Law
- **Garcia-Lambas, Ximena**
  - Major: Criminology BA, Public Administration BS
- **Gatto, Hope**
  - Major: Criminal Justice BS
  - Minor: Law, Political Science
- **Gatto, Joseph**
  - Major: Criminal Justice BS
  - Minor: Law, Police Studies
- **Geraldino, Manuel**
  - Major: Criminal Justice BS
- **Guzman, Amaireni**
  - Major: Fraud Examination and Financial Forensics BS

### H
- **Hakaj, Besnik**
  - Major: Criminal Justice BS
  - Minor: Law, Sociology
- **Hanif, Rosana**
  - Major: Law and Society BA
  - Minor: Anthropology
- **Hanley, Grace**
  - Major: Culture and Deviance Studies BA
- **Hanstein, Aimee**
  - Major: Criminal Justice BS
- **Harris, Stephen**
  - Major: Global History BA
  - Minor: English
- **Harris, Quardear**
  - Major: Criminal Justice Management BS
  - Minor: Human Services, Security Management

### I
- **Irizarry, Eva Lease**
  - Major: Criminal Justice BS

### J
- **Jangirashvili, Ana**
  - Major: Law and Society BA

### K
- **Kalikstein, Adina**
  - Major: Forensic Psychology BA
- **Kany Uulu, Alisher**
  - Major: Criminal Justice BS
- **Khan, Janat**
  - Major: Criminal Justice BS
  - Minor: Law
- **Khatun, Shaia**
  - Major: Criminal Justice BS
  - Minor: Law
- **Khawja, Sabihah**
  - Major: Criminology BA
  - Minor: Sociology
- **King, Chancellor**
  - Major: Criminal Justice BS
- **Kochueva, Eliza**
  - Major: Law and Society BA
  - Minor: English, History
- **Koo, Main Kong**
  - Major: Criminal Justice BS
  - Minor: Criminology, Police Studies
- **Kosziolek, Samantha**
  - Major: Forensic Psychology BAMA
- **Kumar, Deepak**
  - Major: Criminal Justice BS
  - Minor: Fire Science

### L
- **Lachman, Allia**
  - Major: Criminal Justice BS
- **Legendre, Isaiah**
  - Major: Political Science BA
- **Li, Enyu**
  - Major: Law and Society BA

### M
- **Ma, Carmen**
  - Major: Criminology BA
- **Ma, Sosara**
  - Major: Political Science BA
  - Minor: Economics
- **Macero, Ryan**
  - Major: Forensic Psychology BA
- **Malinowska, Paulina**
  - Major: Forensic Psychology BAMA
- **Marks, Desiree**
  - Major: Criminal Justice BS
- **Marra, Nicholas**
  - Major: Global History BA
- **Martinez, Natalie**
  - Major: Computer Science and Information Security BS
  - Minor: Art
- **Matevosyan, Seda**
  - Major: Law and Society BA
  - Minor: Economics
- **Maxwell, Amanda**
  - Major: Criminal Justice BS
  - Minor: Law
- **McCollum, Leslie**
  - Major: Criminal Justice BS
- **McDonald, Floydiesha**
  - Major: Criminal Justice Management BS
  - Minor: Human Services
- **McLean, Saffina**
  - Major: Criminal Justice BS
- **McNulty, Richard**
  - Major: Criminal Justice BS
- **Mendez, Stephanie**
  - Major: Fraud Examination and Financial Forensics BS
  - Minor: Psychology
- **Mendoza, Diana**
  - Major: Criminology BA
  - Minor: Anthropology
  - Certificate: Dispute Resolution
# EDUCATED FOR JUSTICE

## 2019 Recipients of the Dean's List Achievement Award

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Major</th>
<th>Minor</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Merriwether, Ella</td>
<td>Major: Forensic Psychology BS</td>
<td>Minor: Gender Studies</td>
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<td>Mesiouris, Alekos</td>
<td>Major: Criminology BA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mitchell, Kyra</td>
<td>Major: Criminal Justice BS</td>
<td>Minor: Anthropology, Law</td>
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<td>Mohammed, Fatima</td>
<td>Major: Law and Society BA</td>
<td>Minor: Human Rights</td>
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<td>Monje Gonzalez, Erika</td>
<td>Major: Criminal Justice BS</td>
<td>Minor: Corrections</td>
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<td>Peralta, Kelly</td>
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<td>Perez, Elliot</td>
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<td>Pham, Hieu</td>
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<td>Pino, Joseph</td>
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<td>Portillo, Odalis</td>
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<td>Pradere, Emmanuela</td>
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<td>Certificate: Dispute Resolution</td>
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<td>Purvis, Gregory</td>
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<td>Rodrigues, Cassandra</td>
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<td>Rodriguez, Genessee</td>
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<td>Rosario, Elba</td>
<td>Major: Criminology BA</td>
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<td>Ruda, Alexa</td>
<td>Major: Forensic Science BS</td>
<td>Minor: Biology</td>
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<td>Sadowsky, Leah</td>
<td>Major: Criminal Justice BS</td>
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<td>Salcedo, Lisbenny</td>
<td>Major: Criminal Justice Management BS</td>
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<td>Saunders, Christopher</td>
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<td>Serrano, Felix</td>
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<td>Sharma, Viviek</td>
<td>Major: Criminal Justice BS</td>
<td>Minor: Law, Philosophy</td>
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<td>Sharp, Robert</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sher, Athena</td>
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<tr>
<td>Singh, Andy</td>
<td>Major: Police Studies BS</td>
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<td>Singh, Harinderpal</td>
<td>Major: Criminal Justice BS</td>
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<td>Smith, Lauren</td>
<td>Major: Fraud Examination and Financial Forensics BS</td>
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<td>Sosa, Katherynne</td>
<td>Major: Criminal Justice BS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Soto, Ruby</td>
<td>Major: Public Administration BSMA</td>
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<td>Stamm-Walsh, Liam</td>
<td>Major: Political Science BA</td>
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<td>Steiner, Victoria</td>
<td>Major: Criminal Justice BS</td>
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<td>Stengelein, Andrew</td>
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<td>Major: Criminology BA</td>
<td>Minor: Counseling</td>
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<td>Nunez Reyes, Jeury</td>
<td>Major: Criminal Justice BS</td>
<td>Minor: Law</td>
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<td>Paez, Arcelia</td>
<td>Major: Criminal Justice BS</td>
<td>Minor: Criminology</td>
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<td>Paul, Saurav</td>
<td>Major: Fraud Examination and Financial Forensics BS</td>
<td>Minor: Corrections</td>
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<td>Pauta, Jenny</td>
<td>Major: Forensic Psychology BA</td>
<td>Minor: English</td>
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<td>Major: Forensic Psychology BAMA</td>
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<td>Major: Law and Society BA</td>
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<td>Major: Political Science BA</td>
<td>Minor: Africana Studies, English, Journalism</td>
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<td>Major: International Criminal Justice BA</td>
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<td>Minor: Mathematics</td>
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</table>
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2019 RECIPIENTS OF THE DEAN'S LIST ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

T
Taurisano, Ivan
Major: English BA
Minor: Writing

Taveras, Carlos
Major: Criminal Justice BS

Then, Jisselle
Major: Criminal Justice BS
Minor: Spanish

Touhill, Danielle
Major: Political Science BA
Minor: Psychology

U
Ullman, Nathaniel
Major: Criminal Justice BS

V
Valladares, Angie
Major: Forensic Psychology BA

Vargas, Yessenia
Major: Criminal Justice BS

Vazquez, Jesse
Major: Fraud Examination and Financial Forensics BS

Veerasammy, Alex
Major: Forensic Psychology BA

Vogel, Natalia
Major: Criminal Justice BS
Minor: Public Administration

W
Walters, Janeva
Major: Criminal Justice BS
Minor: Law

Wang, Eva
Major: International Criminal Justice BS
Minor: Anthropology

Wang, Yue
Major: Criminal Justice BS
Minor: Police Studies

Welty, Heidi
Major: Forensic Psychology BA

Zenuni, Irini
Major: International Criminal Justice BS
Minor: Anthropology

Zheng, Maggie
Major: Forensic Science BS
Minor: Biology

Zinsley, Rebecca
Major: Fraud Examination and Financial Forensics BS
STUDENT SUCCESS STORIES
"After transferring from Hofstra University to John Jay, I realized the quality of education and how caring each and every professor and staff member was. That being said, because of the caring professors, my grades and overall interest in my classes increased. All members of John Jay faculty and staff have been nothing but amazing since the moment I sent in my transfer application. I can't find the words to express my gratitude for helping me succeed and complete my degree!"

Yildaliz Abreu
Criminology BA

"My academic career has been something unique, but at the same time, it has a connection with many people. At the age of 22, I arrived in the United States without any advanced knowledge in English. At that time, all I knew of the language was just the basics because I was born and raised in the Dominican Republic. Now, I am 27 years old and just obtained my Bachelor's degree with honors. I would say that some of the strategies that helped me succeed in my academic career were first: my parents who want so much to see my progress and have a good life; especially, my mother who could not finish her academic education. Second: my goal to continue the legacy of my family, and become a police officer, and be the third generation in my family. Finally, my wife who has been significant in my life, since we obtained together our associate's degree, and now we will have our bachelor's degree. This stage in my life has been and will be unforgettable."

Tommy Abreu Jimenez
Criminal Justice BS

"Behind every successful student, there is a story of resiliency, motivation, and serious commitment to be great and not just average. At age 15, I immigrated to the U.S. in pursuit of enhanced educational opportunities. While in high school, I faced many challenges due to my language limitations, in turn being told that would never make it through college. However, as I began my college journey I had a yearning desire to surpass these expectations of me. As I went through college, I learned and developed personalized strategies to help me succeed academically. For instance, I built professional connections with my professors, accepted constructive criticism on my assignments, attended writing center sessions to improve my writing, and created study groups with my classmates. My personal strategies included seeking support within my religious community, creating weekly to-do lists listing all the assignments due for each class, and completing homework over the weekend. To show, that leadership does not manifest in one single way."

Lizmar Betances Beato
Forensic Psychology BA
"Since the first time I stepped into the building I said to myself “this is the school I want to come to.” When I received my acceptance letter, I was excited because I had just migrated to the USA a few months prior. At the beginning it was not easy at all, but my determination and passion for my school kept me moving towards my dream. During all my studies, I was a full-time husband, father, worker, and most importantly a full-time student. The challenge was tremendous, but I managed and made sure that I was always on the Dean’s List. This accomplishment was possible with the support of God and the great staff working at John Jay, especially all the great professors who assisted me throughout this journey. Making the Dean’s List every semester is proof that great accomplishments are possible if you put the necessary effort into it and don’t lose sight of the prize. Three years after I came here, I am about to graduate. “Don’t stop, Yves, keep believing and the best is yet to come.” Thanks to everyone who supported and believed in me."

**Yves Ketler Borga**  
*Criminal Justice BS*

"Remaining on the Dean's List throughout my college career as an Honors scholar and English major has required rereading texts, taking analytical notes, and constantly thinking about the ideas presented. While attending classes, I also interned at the Office of the New York State Attorney General during my entire sophomore year as well as at the Bronx County Civil Supreme Court in Justice Wilma Guzman’s chambers during the fall semester of my junior year. Both opportunities challenged not only my professional work with demanding tasks and strict deadlines but also my time management skills and writing. As I interned, I trained in a two-semester course to become a tutor for John Jay’s Writing Center, and I continue to help students articulate their ideas effectively. I also composed an extensive English honors thesis and honors capstone. Working, interning, and learning provided a great challenge for time-management, but I organized my schedule and priorities to balance my social, professional, and academic life."

**Stephanie Borga**  
*English BA*

"During my academic journey at John Jay College, I have been empowered to succeed. As a first-generation student at a commuter campus, I did not know what to expect from college; John Jay defied many of my expectations. I gained a mentor, Alana Philip, and I became a mentor to young Honors Program Scholars. During my emergence as a genderqueer individual, I have faced criticism and have often been “othered” by peers. However, at John Jay College—with its justice-focused curriculum and commitment to inclusivity—I have felt safe, validated, and free to explore my own identity. A critical part of this process was the strategic use of communication I learned from the Siegel Fellowship, which has given me the tools to distill my often-emotional thoughts into clear, simple language that can educate uninformed individuals. I strive for all LGBTQ-identifying students to have access to similar abilities. I am especially thankful for Dean Byrne, who has offered me an infinite amount of support in preparing for my next steps after graduation."

**G. Capone**  
*Political Science BA*
"Obtaining my associate at Bronx Community College, I knew my journey couldn’t stop there. Not being born in the US gave me more of a reason to work harder. Even if that meant to cut down on my sleep just to soon be able to study a little more. John Jay’s library became my second home. I’m honored to be a John Jay graduate and to make my mother proud. Thank you to the John Jay faculty -- without you none of this could have been possible."

**Damercys Cepeda**  
*Criminal Justice BS*

"Being the oldest of six, I learned to be responsible at an early age. It was always important to me to show my siblings that academics is an important accomplishment in life and to always try your hardest. Having to balance a job, a college education, and a personal life was a difficult task however with the help of both family and friends, I was able to achieve all the goals I have today. I am now graduating a year early, part of two honor societies, and now this achievement. Thanks to my professors at John Jay and my family, I was able to achieve these goals regardless of losing a family member and having another diagnosed with cancer. My education path has not been easy but thanks to the right people in my life I was able to accomplish all that I wanted to."

**Megan Damato**  
*Criminal Justice BS*

"What helped me succeed was my determination. I know what I want to accomplish in my life and I know that I must excel in order to do so. Keeping the prospect of Law school in mind, I knew that I must not only complete the classes necessary for my degree, but I must also finish off strong with a good GPA. I worked 40 hours a week, getting up at 5:00 AM and getting home at 10:00 PM, Monday through Friday, and maintained a full time class schedule with 3.5 and above grade average. I’ve now completed my degree and even though it was strenuous and I was exhausted most days, I was encouraged by friends and family to keep pushing. I have my goals insight and I know it isn’t a race, this is a marathon."

**Jennifer Dawson**  
*Criminal Justice BS*

"I changed my lifestyle, cut out the video games and nonsense, and dedicated my life to schoolwork and working out. Since I changed my lifestyle, I dropped 45 pounds and made the Dean’s List every semester."

**Eric DeDomenico**  
*Criminal Justice BS*
"Being a nontraditional student, initially I believed that the odds would be stacked against me. Although I have had to overcome numerous obstacles and adversities such as reintegration back into society, homelessness, and career uncertainty, I have managed to become an inspiring scholar. To overcome these barriers, one must tap into an inner strength that most are unaware that they possess. When facing new challenges, it is important to remember that there is a means to an end. To persevere through an academic journey the key is not only to embrace the element of uncertainty but to trust that the decisions you make and experiences you have will allow you to find your purpose. Essentially, life is not all about preparing for the storm but learning how to dance in the rain. I have had a remarkable journey filled with highs and lows which has taught me to transform fears into freedom."

**Kenya Edmonds**
*Law and Society BA*

"Late nights, early mornings, and the support of my mother."

**Alexandra Ego Aguirre**
*Forensic Psychology BA*

"The past three years have been so crazy. Going to work and school full-time, sleepless nights, taking care of my little brother, and handling other responsibilities at home, were all incredibly difficult. It took a great amount of discipline to get to where I am today. I didn’t really like school. I was more involved in extracurricular activities back then. But when I moved to the U.S. in 2012, I was forced to grow up faster than other kids my age. I am very lucky to have a good support system. My mom and my little brother were my strongest motivators. I had friends who supported and helped me when I needed it. My professors continued to push me to be better, and challenge myself more. Time management and discipline definitely was key to my success. I’m very happy that all the hard work I am putting in continues to pay off. Receiving such an award means a lot to me especially because it serves as proof of how much I’ve changed to achieve my goals."

**Francheska Galang**
*International Criminal Justice BA*

"Graduating college will be a defining moment for my parents since I am the first of their children to be doing so. I want to make graduation really special for them, and the only way I knew how to was to get good grades—striving for majority A’s. However, I think I made them proud in other ways too. I became involved in student life on campus shortly after my first semester. I joined a few clubs and even became the president for one of them. I made many valuable friends and support groups (which my mom feared I would have trouble making) and gained important leadership and communication skills. I broadened my horizons more by studying abroad in Vienna! I found myself pushing out of my comfort zone/my little shell and approaching new challenges with confidence and a sense of adventure, and I can sense my parents are proud to see me blossom into this strong, loving, open minded, and hard-working individual they call their daughter. It’s important to realize to not only grow as an academic, but to grow as a person as well."

**Christine Gancayco**
*International Criminal Justice BA*
"I am the first in my family to now graduate college. I have always been the ‘A’ student growing up, and I wanted to maintain that level of academic success through my years in higher education. Some classes were harder than others. Some semesters felt longer than others. What kept me motivated throughout the four years was the degree I would get at the end and the overwhelming feeling of accomplishment. I think the world of my parents and I am truly grateful for everything they have provided me with, including this education. I owe my education and degree to them, and making the Dean’s List every semester is just one way of showing how grateful I am for the opportunity they raised me to achieve."

Ximena Garcia-Lambas
*Criminology BA & Public Administration BS*

"Since I was young, my mother always inspired me to do well in school. When I was looking for a college to attend, Professor Joseph Giacalone was one of the instructors that were on the tour. He gave us such a good presentation, and he caught my attention. At that point I knew that John Jay was the College that I wanted to attend. Being a transfer student from Kingsborough Community College I set a goal for myself to do well. My first semester of attending John Jay I was on the Dean’s List. At that point I set myself a goal to attain that status ever semester at John Jay."

Joseph Gatto
*Criminal Justice BS*

"My parent’s always made sure I understood the importance of education and they have always wanted me to succeed. Their never ending support, unconditional love, and push to keep me driven and do well, support along with the flexibility and dedication of John Jay professors, is what has helped me succeed."

Aimee Hanstein
*Criminal Justice BS*

"I remember having a hard time navigating John Jay my first semester and not knowing anyone, which made me feel like dropping out. My mother told me to go see the Dean because she remembered Dr. Byrne from orientation. I did exactly that and told her everything that was occurring. Dr. Byrne listened to me, heard my concerns and told me “you are not dropping out, we are going to fix it”. Long story short the rest was history and everything took a turn for the better. I advocated for myself and created my own team of people from different departments to support me. Maintaining those relationships became essential in helping me make it to graduation. Making the Dean’s List consecutively amongst other things I’ve accomplished is something I never imagined achieving; however, it allowed me to pay homage to Dr. Byrne and become a success story not only for myself but for her as well. Had Dr. Byrne allowed me to walk out those front doors I wouldn’t be graduating nor attending this event."

Quardear Harris
*Criminal Justice Management BS*
"The truth is, I have never really worried about making the Dean’s List. I focused more on my academics. My academic journey was very difficult, especially for someone like me whose suffered from depression ever since high school. I thought I was never going to get through high school let alone obtain my Bachelor’s degree. Through my college education I gave it my all, I did what I had to do. Even if it meant torturing myself through writing a final paper or any paper for that matter which I had struggle tremendously on to the point of many breakdowns. I guess my main strategies was to just keep pushing because it will all work out in the end. I did not even realize I made Dean's list every semester since being at John Jay. However, now receiving this award I truly realize the struggles I went through and the hard work I put in."

Evalese Irizarry
Criminal Justice BS

"During my personal strive for excellence at the school, I chose to be the best I could without knowing of the rewards. Knowing now that those efforts are well received and celebrated makes me very happy. My achievements to the Dean's List was definitely an achievement I could not have earned without the help of my amazing professors. The professors at the school, such as Dr. Titus, do not only try to teach you what you need to know, but make it their personal business to add their own life story and teachings to the materials. I am grateful to have been mentored by such amazing professionals. My college life after high school was a mess due to not being well prepared for the totally different environment of college. Adding the relaxed attitude of the professors from my previous college, I did not do too well. After taking a break and excelling to my full potential, I am happy to say it was well worth the long nights and hard assignments. The knowledge and experience I have had in the past few years will be priceless and irreplaceable."

Deepak Kumar
Criminal Justice BS

"I have had the pleasure to intern with the Manhattan DA's Office and got to work on a fascinating homicide trial. I found out about the internship by attending John Jay's Career Fair in Spring 2018. It was the best professional experience I ever had and I thank John Jay for my opportunity."

Desiree Marks
Criminal Justice BS

"I found the strength to improve my grade point average from the mistakes I made during my first year of college. I was unprepared and unfocused, and I allowed many things get in the way of my academic success. After having the opportunity to start over, I promised myself that I would make the most of my second chance, not only by succeeding but by excelling in every course that I took. I changed my methods and techniques of studying and learning in the classroom by making flashcards, forming study groups, going to the library instead of staying home, and participating more in class discussions to gain better insight into the topics being discussed. The mindset I've gained from striving to do and be better everyday encourages me to keep going forward and aim to be the best in everything I do."

Floydhesha McDonald
Criminal Justice Management BS
"It has not been easy keeping up my grades while also having a job and doing internships in school. During my academic journey, I had John Jay's ACE Program as support throughout my three and half years. I was able to have an advisor and other supporting staff that always made sure I was doing what I needed to do and beyond. I am the first in my family to go to college and graduate therefore this is a huge accomplishment for my family and myself. I was going through a lot of personal conflicts with myself that often left me wanting to give up in life. The people that surrounded me gave me a reason to continue to strive and become a better person. I am so happy to have attended John Jay and surrounded myself in such a supportive and inclusive environment. Thank you."

Diana-Isabel Mendoza
Criminology BA

"My secret to success is my support system. My parents have always encouraged me to get the most out of my education. When I had a test, they'd stay up quizzing me or allowing me to teach them. When I showed a new interest, they fostered my exploration. When I applied for college, they did everything they could to help, even though they had never been through the process. Throughout college they have continued to be my rock, helping me through seven finals seasons and countless “I don’t know what I’m doing with my life” moments. They’ve helped make me my best self. I can’t thank them enough. I’ve also been blessed with an amazing support system at John Jay. My advisor, Ms. FitzGerald, and my mentor, Dr. Strange, pushed me to go for things I never imagined I was eligible for. When I was unsure of what I wanted to do, they gave me suggestions. When I was unsure of myself, they reminded me of my strengths. They have pushed me to be the best student, community member, researcher, and future academic that I can be. I can’t thank them enough."

Ella Merriwether
Forensic Psychology BA

"Being apart of the Dean’s List alone is an achievement on its own, but being on it through my duration here at John Jay is hard work! Consistency is KEY and keeping focused is important. Late nights, making Quizlet flashcards, especially cutting off social media (until the weekends) and my mother’s encouraging words was the formula to the perfect equation. Not to mention having professors that are just as passionate to teach and help students like me along the way to success. Being that I have always wanted to be apart of the Dean’s List at Kingsborough Community College, I made it my mission to make the Dean’s List here at John Jay. At times it became difficult, but I remembered my goal and continued to pursue it. My tip is to keep your eyes on the prize. Never allow negative individuals to steer you away from the goal you are about to obtain because they know what you are capable of."

Kyra Mitchell
Criminal Justice BS
"A new page was written with new challenges, dreams and goals since I came from my country eight years ago. I continued my education at Hostos Community College where I started from the bottom taking ESL courses to successfully earn the Associate Degree in Criminal Justice. When I transferred to John Jay College, it required more time to study because courses are more difficult and intense. To keep up my GPA and be an example for my siblings, I have had to manage my time for work and study. Usually when I had free time, I used it to do my homework or projects in the library. Participating in study groups improved my knowledge and helped me understand difficult topics. Real life examples, like my professors, encouraged, guided, and inspired me to continue studying hard all the time. Waking up early and sleeping late was the biggest sacrifice that I learned to make especially, during midterm and final exams. But, at the end of the day it was all worth it. Thanks to my family, friends, and professors for the support!"

Erika Monje Gonzales
Criminal Justice BS

"As an immigrant student from Nigeria, I am implored to be fully dedicated to whatever I do. When it came to my academics, I was ready to put an unpopular notion to bed, the notion of Africans not being up to par with the rest of the world when it came to academics. I was encouraged by those who came before me, and they encouraged me to inspire those that would come after me. The sky is the limit and no matter what race, gender, ethnicity or sexual orientation, success plays no favorites."

Oluwasegun Omotayo
International Criminal Justice BS

"I never thought I would be this smart because my closest family members reminded me I would never reach college, would become a teen mom, and work multiple minimum wage jobs. Until I turned sixteen and started thinking of my future, I met individuals who were working on their future and I decided I would prove everyone wrong. I went through Community College with terrible grades because I felt unwanted at a university who did not care for all their students until I reached John Jay. At John, Jay my thoughts about college changed. I finished college showing everyone I have a bright future ahead of me."

Kelly Peralta
Forensic Psychology BA

"The strategies that helped me achieve the Dean’s List every semester was writing my academic goals on a piece of paper and remaining focused and determined to accomplish them. This method was first introduced to me by my SEEK advisor, Christian Luperon, during my freshman year. Since then, I practiced this method and remained focused and ambitious to meet my academic goals of being on the Dean’s List every semester. I am pleased that my hard work and dedication paid off because it is such a rewarding feeling."

Melanie Richardson
International Criminal Justice BA
"I was a part of the John Jay ACE Program since my freshman year (Fall 2015) and they have supported me and encouraged me through different workshops and seminars. Being a part of the John Jay Honors Program (Fall 2016) also helped me. I was a part of the Women’s John Jay Cross Country Team (Fall 2017-2018) motivated me through the support of my teammates."

Gabyola Rojas
*Criminal Justice Management BS*

"It has been a long road leading up to graduation. My journey started over 15 years ago. I started college in 2002. Several hardships forced me to drop out of school and work after few semesters. I finally enrolled back into college 5 years ago. Growing up in the South Bronx, I have seen the difficulties associated with poverty and over policing. In order to have a more complete understanding for the law, Hostos was my first stop. The CUNY Justice Academy helped position me for a chance to attend John Jay college of Criminal Justice. Two years ago I arrived a John Jay worries that coming from a community college, I would not be able to meet the needs of this new and larger college. Long nights studying, supportive professors, and classmates willing to prepare diligently for tests helped me make Dean’s List. The first time I received the email that I made Dean’s List, my heart lit up. I felt like my hard work was being recognized and it made me want to work harder."

Christopher Saunders
*Criminal Justice BS*

"My mother had me at 15 years of age and raised me as a single parent. My entire academic career has been to repay her for all of her hard work and sacrifices in making sure that I could become the best man possible. My fiancé also has stood by me when it was hard to stand by myself. She has been nothing but patient and supportive and both of these strong women have served as inspirations for me throughout my life. I owe any success to the both of them, without their consistent support and sacrifices I wouldn’t be on this path here today. I never went to high school so once I got my GED, I never looked back and worked hard. Through that hard work I maintained a 3.9 GPA and I am now preparing for the LSAT. Anything is possible with hard work dedication and support."

Vivek Sharma
*Criminal Justice BS*
"The primary reason I believe I was able to be on the Dean's List since my start at John Jay in 2015 is due to the amazing people who continually motivated me throughout my whole college experience. Particularly Dr. Dysart, Dr. Wout, Dr. Miller, Dr. Kostas, and Professor Amanda Harris of the English Department continually motivated me to strive for the best and reach for the stars. I also would like to thank Dr. Kassin and Dr. Kovera (who allowed for me to be in there research and trusting me with their projects), and my family members who provided endless love and support!"

**Athena Sher**  
*Forensic Psychology BAMA*

"After changing my major three times and realizing my childhood dream of becoming a forensic scientist wasn’t in the cards for me, I almost dropped out of John Jay. No one actually knows this besides my mom, who gave me her blessing in taking a gap year if I felt it was necessary. After spending hours in guidance and eventually following my gut, I stumbled upon Forensic Accounting and changed my entire course of study. Throughout all the drama, I never allowed my GPA to slip! I knew that employers would look at my resume and transcript, not listen to my sob story! Maintaining my spot on the Dean’s List every semester is a reminder to myself that I didn’t lose my drive or sight of my goals throughout the uncertainty."

**Rebecca Zinsley**  
*Fraud Examination and Financial Forensics BS*
FACULTY AND STAFF RECOGNITION
Student recipients of the Dean's List Achievement Award identified faculty and staff who made an impact on their success. The following faculty and staff were nominated by our graduating class.

Thank you for all that you do to support student success!

Aaron Hammes - Sociology
Adrian Bordoni - Latin American and Latina/o Studies
Adrienne Fitzgerald - Macaulay Honors College
Alana Philip - Honors Program
Alfred Titus - Law, Police Science, and Criminal Justice Administration
Alisa Thomas - Sociology
Anastasia Raptis - Law, Police Science, and Criminal Justice Administration
Andrew Sidman - Political Science
Berlyn Morales - ACE
Carlton J. Adams - Africana Studies
Charles Davidson - Pre-Law Institute
Cheryl Franks - SEEK
Christian Luperon - SEEK
Danielle Officer - Center for Student Involvement and Leadership
David Green - Sociology
Deryn Strange - Psychology
Diego Redondo - Public Safety
Dora Mendez - Public Management
Elisabeth Gitter - English
Elizabeth Nisbet - Public Management
Felipe Rodriguez - Law, Police Science, and Criminal Justice Administration
Frank Chen - Public Management
Frederick Gerkens - Public Management
Gohar Petrossian - Criminal Justice
Hassani Alaoui - Public Management
Heath Brown - Public Management
Hermann Walz - Law, Police Science, and Criminal Justice Administration
Hugo Monroy-Caceres - Academic Advising
James DeLorenzi - History
James Harding - Public Management
James Ifill - Financial Aid
Jamie Longazel - Political Science
Student recipients of the Dean's List Achievement Award identified faculty and staff who made an impact on their success. The following faculty and staff were nominated by our graduating class.

Thank you for all that you do to support student success!

- Jason Silva - Criminal Justice
- Jennifer Dysart - Psychology
- Jessica Stevens - SASP
- John Benoit - Law, Police Science, and Criminal Justice Administration
- John Walsh - Law, Police Science, and Criminal Justice Administration
- Jonathan Childerley - Public Management
- Jonathan Salamak - Center for Student Involvement and Leadership
- Joseph Giacolone - Law, Police Science, and Criminal Justice Administration
- Julius DiFlore - Law, Police Science, and Criminal Justice Administration
- Justin Giordano - Law, Police Science, and Criminal Justice Administration
- Kimora - Law, Police Science, and Criminal Justice Administration
- Les Hansen - English
- Litna McNickle - Honors Program
- Mark Alpert - English
- Morgan Courgnaud - Law, Police Science, and Criminal Justice Administration
- Natasha Graf - SASP
- Norman Ringel - Health and Physical Education
- Popy Begum - International Criminal Justice
- Rajub Bhowmik - Law, Police Science, and Criminal Justice Administration
- Randall Lasalle - Public Management
- Raymond Patton - Undergraduate Studies
- Rosemary Barberet - Sociology
- Rudolf Hall - Law, Police Science, and Criminal Justice Administration
- Suzanne Oboler - Latin American and Latina/o Studies
- Teresa Booker - Africana Studies
- Yelena Meytes - CUNY Edge
- Yolanda Ortiz - Sociology
- Yolanda Purdie - Public Management
- Zelma Henriques - Law, Police Science, and Criminal Justice Administration