



**ST FRANCIS
COLLEGE** EST. 1859

**VOL 10
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EDITION**

○ ○ ○ ○ ————— **IT'S ALL RIGHT HERE.**
TERRIER NEWS UNLEASHED

St Francis College · 179 Livingston Street, Brooklyn NY · www.sfc.edu



A Memorable Celebration for the Class of 2026

The SFC community gathered to celebrate the remarkable achievements of the Class of 2026. Held at the iconic Kings Theatre in Brooklyn, New York, the commencement ceremony was a true reflection of pride, unity, and accomplishment. Families, friends, faculty, staff, alumni, and supporters filled the venue, creating an atmosphere of joy and admiration as they came together to honor the graduates.

The Class of 2026 stood as a testament to resilience, compassion, and leadership. Throughout their journey, these graduates demonstrated unwavering determination and a deep commitment to both personal and academic growth. Their achievements extended beyond the classroom, as they embraced opportunities to develop intellectually, spiritually, and socially.

IN THIS EDITION:

Carmen Lai's
Inspiring
Graduation Walk
at Kings Theatre

Charter Award
Dinner Celebrates
Impact and
Inspiration

Honoring the
Nursing Cohort
Class of 2026

Alumni Spotlight:
**Ramcharan
Bachu ' 25**

Rooted in Franciscan values, the graduates embodied humility, service, and a dedication to making a meaningful impact in their communities. Their time on campus was marked not only by academic success but also by acts of kindness, collaboration, and a shared sense of purpose. This enduring Terrier spirit was evident throughout the ceremony, as each graduate crossed the stage with pride and hope for the future.

A heartfelt thank you goes to Executive Director Ruben Gonzalez, Vice President Robert Oliva, and the entire team whose dedication and meticulous planning brought the event to life.

Congratulations, Class of 2026. Your journey is just beginning, and the best is yet to come.





Carmen Lai's Inspiring Graduation Walk at Kings Theatre

A powerful moment of determination and triumph unfolded at **Kings Theatre as St. Francis College** celebrated its commencement, highlighted by senior Carmen Lai's inspiring walk across the stage—without her crutches.

Carmen, a **Media & Communications graduate** living with cerebral palsy, set her sights on this goal months before graduation. Through dedicated physical therapy and perseverance, she trained to take those steps independently, turning a personal challenge into a defining achievement.

Crossing the stage was more than a graduation tradition—it was a statement. Carmen has long challenged assumptions about disability, emphasizing that the need for assistive devices does not define a person's abilities or potential.

Her journey to that moment reflects both struggle and growth. Carmen has spoken about overcoming feelings of isolation earlier in life, but at St. Francis College, she found a supportive and inclusive community where she could flourish. Surrounded by friends, faculty, and mentors who believed in her, she embraced every opportunity to grow academically and personally.

As she crossed the stage at Kings Theatre, Carmen Lai's walk became more than a personal victory—it became an inspiration to all in attendance. Her journey serves as a reminder that strength is not measured by obstacles, but by the courage to rise above them.

Congratulations, Carmen. Your strength, courage, and determination have inspired us all!



Charter Award Dinner Celebrates Impact and Inspiration

St. Francis College gathered for an extraordinary evening at the **Charter Award Dinner** celebrating a legacy of leadership, generosity, and student success.

The College proudly honored **Chairman Emeritus Thomas J. Volpe**, a visionary whose more than 50 years of leadership and unwavering belief in SFC students have profoundly shaped the institution. His enduring commitment continues to inspire the College's mission and future.

President Tim Cecere reflected on the true measure of St. Francis College, emphasizing that its strength lies in the lives it touches, the opportunities it creates, and the students it empowers.

Rooted in Franciscan values, the College continues to move forward with purpose and confidence.

The evening's most powerful moments came from our students, whose stories and achievements reminded every donor, trustee, and alumnus why their support matters. Each scholarship, partnership, and act of generosity opens doors for students and transforms lives.

A special thank you to emcee Christine Persichette for bringing warmth and energy to the celebration, and to all who continue to invest in the future of St. Francis College. The next chapter of SFC is poised to be its strongest yet.

THE LEARNING LOUNGE



Annual Nursing Pinning Ceremony Class of 2026

Few moments carry as much meaning and pride at **St. Francis College** as the **Nursing Pinning Ceremony**. This year, the community gathered to celebrate the **Nursing Cohort Class of 2026**—an inspiring group of students whose compassion, resilience, and dedication already reflect the very best of the nursing profession.

These future nurses are preparing not only for careers in healthcare, but for lives devoted to caring for others. They have demonstrated a deep commitment to both their studies and the communities they will soon serve.

The ceremony featured several moving traditions, including the recitation of the **Nightingale Pledge**, symbolizing each student's commitment to their future patients and communities.

Another highlight was the **Presentation of the Rose**, a tribute recognizing the family members, friends, and mentors who supported them along the way—a powerful reminder that no achievement is accomplished alone.

Special thanks to **Dr. Mary Kate Kasler** and **Dr. Candice Birthwright-Philip** for their leadership, as well as the **dedicated nursing faculty** for their mentorship. Gratitude was also shared for **President Tim Cecere's** continued support of the the nursing program and for keynote speaker **Dr. Kimberly Volpe**.

Congratulations to the Nursing Cohort Class of 2026. Your commitment to serving others make the SFC community incredibly proud. The future of healthcare is in very good hands!

THE LEARNING LOUNGE

There's a Doctor in the Doghouse

St. Francis College celebrates an important step in the evolution of St. Francis College.

The **Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE)** has approved the College's scope of accreditation to include our first doctoral (Ph.D.) credential in Information Technology.

This represents the successful completion of the first major milestone in a two-step approval process.

Step 1: MSCHE has approved the substantive change to include a doctoral credential within SFC's scope of accreditation.

Step 2: St. Francis College now looks forward to completing the **New York State Education Department (NYSED)** review and approval process before offering the **Ph.D. in Information Technology** through the **St. Francis Graduate School of Advanced Studies**.

This achievement reflects the extraordinary dedication of our faculty, administrators, staff and institutional partners who devoted countless hours to developing a rigorous, innovative doctoral program that advances research, technology, and workforce development in New York and beyond.

While one important step remains, today's milestone marks expanding access, elevating opportunity and building a community of students, alumni and professionals whose ambition can be realized at St. Francis College.

When NYSED approval is received, enrollment information will be announced. Follow us on [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#) and [sfc.edu](#) for updates.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Ramcharan Bachu '25

Ramcharan Bachu, a **MS Management - Business Analytics** graduate alumnus of **St. Francis College**, combines his academic background with his passion for filmmaking and entrepreneurship. As the founder of **House of Filmmakers**, Ramcharan has built a platform that bridges creativity and business.

Through his work, Ramcharan has collaborated with more than 35 companies spanning industries such as fashion, lifestyle, AI, technology, hospitality, and commercial branding. His experience includes projects connected to **Vogue, Met Gala-related productions, Tanishq, Airbnb, Gaurav Gupta, Loka Loka Tequila, Cluely, Blockwee**, and **POP SHIFT**.

During his time at St. Francis College, Ramcharan developed skills in marketing, networking, client communication, business strategy, and data-driven decision-making—building a strong foundation for his work as a filmmaker and entrepreneur.



“St. Francis College helped me cultivate the confidence and business mindset needed to turn creative opportunities into long-term professional success.”

• Ramcharan Bachu, MS Management '25

FITNESS CORNER

LET'S
WORKOUT

Stay active and energized this summer at our **Fitness Center (Room 5212)**, where **President Tim Cecere, VP Robert Oliva and Stephen McGarry** leads by example—starting their mornings with a workout from 8:30am to 9:15am! *Whether you're beginning your fitness journey or keeping up your routine, our welcoming space is here to help you feel your best all season long.*

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS



Inspiring Excellence in Mathematics Education

Professor Tek Bam, Lecturer in the **Department of Mathematics**, is highly regarded by students for his engaging teaching style, patience, and dedication to student success. During the recent **Assisi Pilgrimage**, many students shared their appreciation for the positive impact he has had on their academic journey. Through his passion for teaching and commitment to excellence, Prof. Bam continues to inspire and mentor students both inside and outside the classroom.



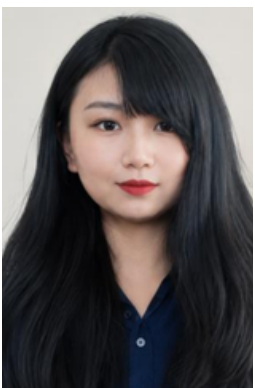
Dr. Martina Karels Awarded SSPS Fellowship at the University of Edinburgh

Dr. Martina Karels, Associate Professor in the **Department of Media and Communication**, was recently selected as an **SSPS Fellow at the University of Edinburgh's Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities (IASH)**. This summer, she will collaborate with **Dr. Mary F. Hanlon** and **Dr. Niamh Moore** on the project "From Open Data to Feminist Archiving: Reimagining Data Sharing for the Humanities and Social Sciences."



Inspiring Future Scientists Through Community Engagement

Dr. Katsuhiro Kita, Department of Biology, recently represented St. Francis College as a science judge at a local high school event, engaging with students and educators while highlighting opportunities in our Biology program. His participation helped strengthen community connections and inspire future scientists to explore the benefits of a personalized learning experience at SFC.



Dr. Shixun (Erica) Zhou Embraces Digital Scholarship

Dr. Shixun (Erica) Zhou of the Department of Computer Science and Cybersecurity has developed a personal website that serves as a dynamic, continuously updated professional profile. The site provides an effective way to showcase her achievements, research, and expertise while making information easily accessible to students, colleagues, and the broader academic community. You can visit her website [HERE](#).

NEW ESL PATHWAYS

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MORE POSSIBILITIES.*



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2 GRADUATE COURSES

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ESL-6002: English for Healthcare Professionals

Graduate-level electives for international students ready to advance.

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3 SUMMER & WINTER ESL CAMPS

- ✓ Classes + cultural immersion
- ✓ 2-4 week programs
- ✓ Learn English by practicing in class and while visiting NYC
- ✓ Explore New York City and experience American culture
- ✓ Certificate of completion



QUESTIONS? WE'RE HERE TO HELP! Email bamarante@sfc.edu

REFER A FRIEND.

*Make a difference.
Get rewarded!*

YOUR FRIEND'S FUTURE. **YOUR REWARD.**

Refer an **international student** to St. Francis College and when they enroll and pay, you'll receive a

\$525 SCHOLARSHIP!

THIS IS AN **INTERNATIONAL STUDENT** SCHOLARSHIP FOR **UNDERGRADUATE** AND **GRADUATE** PROGRAMS.

HOW IT WORKS



1. SUBMIT YOUR FRIEND'S INFORMATION

Fill out the referral form at referral.sfc.edu and submit your friend's information.



2. THEY APPLY

Your friend submits their application to St. Francis College.



3. THEY GET ADMITTED

Once your friend is admitted, they will receive their admission decision.



4. THEY ENROLL & PAY / YOU GET PAID!

Once your friend enrolls and pays their first tuition or enrolls in a payment plan, you'll receive a \$525 scholarship.



5. BUILD THE FUTURE TOGETHER!

You both win as we build a stronger, more diverse SFC community.



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**BIG IMPACT.
BRIGHTER FUTURES.**
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TERMS AND CONDITIONS

By submitting a referral through the portal, you agree to the full Terms and Conditions.



QUESTIONS?

Contact International Student Services at international@sfc.edu

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- Organic Chemistry II (*Lecture and Lab*)
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- Statistics
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- General Chemistry I (*Lecture and Lab*)



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SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Grenada, West Indies

CONTACT

Program Information: Noemi Rivera | nrivera633@sfc.edu

Admission Information: Ali Scott | aliscott@sfc.edu

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Includes

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- Pre-med advisement

SGU Medical School Requirements:

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- Minimum 493 on the MCAT
- Meet English proficiency requirements

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INFORMATION SESSIONS

- > Tuesday, July 7 | 6:00 PM
- > Saturday, July 11 | 12:00 PM



LOCATION

St. Francis College
179 Livingston Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201

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ST. FRANCIS COLLEGE
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK



MIDDLE STATES SELF-STUDY 2025-2027

Advancing Excellence Through Accreditation, Assessment, and Continuous Improvement

WELCOME

DR. CARLOTA OCAMPO

MSCHE SELF-STUDY EVALUATION TEAM CHAIR

St. Francis College is pleased to welcome **Dr. Carlota Ocampo**, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Trinity Washington University, as Team Chair for the College's 2027 Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) Self-Study and reaffirmation process.

A highly respected academic leader and seasoned MSCHE evaluator, she brings more than 30 years of experience in higher education, accreditation, institutional effectiveness, assessment, and academic leadership.



ABOUT DR. OCAMPO

DR. OCAMPO SERVES AS:



Provost & Vice President
for Academic Affairs
Trinity Washington University



Associate Professor
of Psychology



MSCHE Evaluator &
Accreditation Leader



National Higher
Education Leader



More than 30 Years of
Academic Leadership
Experience

ACADEMIC OVERSIGHT



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Inclusive
Excellence



STEM Access
& Opportunity



Educational
Reform

OUR MSCHE SELF-STUDY JOURNEY



SEPT-NOV 2024

Self-Study Institute



COMPLETED



FEBRUARY 13, 2025

Self-Study Design
Approved



COMPLETED



MAY 30, 2025

Self-Study
Preparation Visit



COMPLETED



2025-2026

Inquiry & Analysis

IN PROGRESS



NOVEMBER 12, 2026

Team Chair
Preliminary Visit
Dr. Ocampo visits
St. Francis College



APRIL 5-8, 2027

MSCHE Evaluation
Team Visit
Campus-Wide
Reaffirmation Review



MAY 2027

Committee on
Evaluation Reports
Review of Evaluation
Team Findings



JUNE 2027

MSCHE Commission
Action
Reaffirmation Decision



WHO'S IN THE DOGHOUSE THIS MONTH?

It's Too Nice to Be Inside

Nothing says summer in New York quite like sunshine, warm breezes, and the energy of a campus that's ready to be enjoyed outdoors. When the weather is this nice, staying inside just doesn't compare—especially when every corner of St. Francis College invites you to step out and take it all in.

At St. Francis College, we know this time of year is something special. The days are longer, the academic year is winding down, and every free moment feels like an opportunity to enjoy the sunshine with friends and the campus community.

But what's landed in the doghouse? Being indoors. Whether it's long hours at a desk or choosing screens over fresh air, staying inside just isn't the move right now.

So, being inside... you've officially landed in the doghouse. Until the weather changes, we're choosing sunshine, fresh air, and making the most of every moment outside.



UPCOMING EVENTS

JUL 11	Information Session with Rita Joseph - BSN-RN Program
JUL 16	New Student Orientation
AUG 6	New Student Orientation
AUG 13	First Generation - Summer Bridge Program
SEP 4	New Student Orientation
SEP 8	Terrier Tuesday
SEP 9	Classes Begin

Note: The events and schedules listed are subject to change without notice.



Want to Be Featured in Our Next Newsletter?

Unleash your story and be featured!

Send your photo, your story, or anything else you'd like to share to **deanofstudents@sfc.edu**

for a chance to be spotlighted in our upcoming issue!

**Don't miss out—
we'd love to feature you!**

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