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Islander named VP at Canisius College

Canisius College President John J. Hurley announced April 1 that **Sara R. Morris, Ph.D.**, of Grand Island was appointed vice president for academic affairs. Morris had been serving in the position on an interim basis since July 2019.



Sara R. Morris

As vice president for academic affairs, Morris leads the largest division of the college through the development of a fresh academic vision that meets the needs of students, excites faculty, and inspires innovation and collaboration. As such, she is a key member of Hurley's senior leadership team, responsible for all academic programs, including traditional and online offerings, and the close collaboration with other senior leaders in the planning and implementation of institution-wide initiatives.

Morris joined the Canisius College faculty in 1996 as an assistant professor of biology and subsequently rose through the academic ranks to become full professor and coordinator of the college's Environmental Science Program and then co-chair of the Biology Department. During this time, Morris secured funding from the National Science Foundation to establish the Science Scholars Program at Canisius, which provides scholarships and creative learning opportunities to students interested in pursuing

careers in the biological sciences. Morris' peers elected her to serve on the Faculty Senate, the Faculty Status Committee and the Strategic Planning Committee.

In 2015, Canisius elevated Morris to associate vice president for academic affairs, a role in which she led the oversight of all curricula, including coordination with the New York State Department of Education and Middle States Commission on Higher Education. In this position, Morris also modernized the college's curriculum management systems and oversaw the implementation of Canisius' interactive catalog, course scheduling software and curriculum inventory management.

Morris' tenure at Canisius also includes several leadership positions. She served as chair of the Academic Program Board and the Accreditation Oversight Committee; co-director of the Canisius Colleagues Program; and co-chair of the Academic Policies review manual.

Morris received the Kenneth L. Koessler Distinguished Faculty Award at Canisius and induction into Alpha Sigma Nu, the Jesuit honor society at the college, both in 2016. The College of Arts and Sciences conferred its Outstanding Teaching Award upon Morris in 2014.

Morris earned a Bachelor of Science in biology and a Bachelor of Arts in French and fine arts from Presbyterian College in Clinton, South Carolina. She also holds a Master of Science and Ph.D. in zoology from Cornell University in Ithaca.



Accolades

St. Stephen School of Grand Island announced its second trimester honor roll for the 2019-20 school year.

Taylor Retzlaff's grade 3 class

First honors: Mason DeWitt, Lucie Drullard, Emma Drullard, Benjamin Dutton, Lauren Karski, Erin Krawczyk, Eralin Krebs, Aliva Martell, Theodore Miller, Andrew Pfalzer, Lucas Saldana, Zoe Saldana, Mason Schaefer, Sofia Strangio, Marie Stockmialek, Eva Sutherland, Gabriella Wild

Second honors: Veah Cabin, Luke Dionne, Logan Glasser, Madeline Klein, Riley Sippel, Maxwell Tucholka, Ethan Wagner

Maria Grapes' grade 4 class

First honors: Teagan Burke, Matthew Cwiklinski, Vincenzo Esposito, Emma Hartwick, Isabella Mathieson, Colette Printup, Keira Rivers

Second honors: Cameron Bunnasser, Gianna Graber, Daniel Haney, Sophia Hickox, Rocco Hojnacki, Jake Scott, Dominic Strangio

Jennifer Hoplight's grade 5 class

First honors: Corban Burke, Anna DeRose, Lauren Fritsch, Natalie Karski, Kenley Martin, Patrick McWilliams, Sawyer Morris, Ella Pawelczyk, Jaxen Pyc, Trent Yoder

Second honors: Scarlett Burdick, Naya Cabin, Riley Coghlan, Mia Maddalena, Olivia Lange, Evelyn Meinhold, Alera Ostertag, Paul Stochmialek, Emma Wagner, Lily Williams

Kelly Grew's grade 6 class

First honors: Emma Conway, Emma Cwiklinski, Megan Hill, Grace Marra, Ava May, Leo Rogers, Grayson Saldana

Second honors: Elizabeth Dugan, Dominic Hojnacki, Noah Trzaska

Phillip Kenline's grade 7 class

First honors: William Benz, Isabel Garcia, Nolan Klein, Christian Krawczyk, Eden Krebs, Hugh Mathieson, Hailey McMahon, Campbell Murphy, Gabriel Pawekczyk, Emma Sentz

Second honors: Santino Bianco, Matthew Catanzaro, Matthew Dionne, Isabelle Haney, Ava Hickox, Samuel Iuvino, Levi Mathieson, Giorgio Panepinto, Jady Robinson

Bonnie Stephens' grade 8 class

First honors: Kelly Coghlan,

John Esposito, Calli LeBarge, Bethany Mandaville, Emma McWilliams, Luke Noe, Maria Pawelczyk, Blake Pyc, Rebecca Sander, Mara Wild

Second honors: Eric Bartle, Brigid Dugan, Roman Franckowiak, Natalie Garland, Avery Kehr, Jaylee Maddalena, Marissa Mrkall, Chase Pyc, Luke Sweeney, Jack Trettel

The following Grand Island residents were named to Buffalo Academy of the Sacred Heart's honor roll for the third quarter of the 2019-20 academic year:

Seniors

Laura Kaiser, Ella Mascaro

Juniors

Amanda Wellence, Vivienne Zacher

Sophomores

Anna Bartlo, Madison Piggot, Lauren Tompkins

Freshwomen

Julia Eddy, Kendall Keller, Lily Panepinto, Madison Schneider

Jacob Applegate, of Grand Island, received a bachelor of arts degree cum laude from College of the Holy Cross on May 22.

Because of the ongoing pandemic, Holy Cross hosted a virtual celebration for its Class of 2020 featuring a special message from Holy Cross alumnus Dr. Anthony Fauci, Class of 1962, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

Applegate was among 707 students who received electronic diplomas as part of the event.

The virtual celebrations will be followed by an in-person commencement ceremony for the class of 2020 to be held in spring 2021.

The University of Mississippi recently announced students named to the spring 2020 honor roll lists, including the chancellor's honor roll.

Two students from Grand Island made the list: **Arthur Joseph Meaney** and **Madisyn Elizabeth Pezzino**.

"Our chancellor's honor roll students set the bar for academic excellence at the University of Mississippi, and I congratulate them on their outstanding achievement," said Chancellor

Glenn F. Boyce. "Their success is the result of an incredible amount of hard work and dedication and truly showcases their commitment to the pursuit of academic and personal greatness."

In order to be eligible for honor roll designation, a student must have completed at least 12 graded hours for the semester and may not be on academic probation during the semester.

Michael Martineck of Grand Island has graduated from Ohio Dominican University in Columbus, Ohio, with a Master of Arts in English. Martineck is among 225 students who earned their degree following the 2020 spring semester.

Cassie Shickluna from Grand Island, a mechanical engineering major at Grove City College, has been named to the dean's list with distinction for the spring 2020 semester.

Students eligible for the dean's list with distinction have a grade-point average of 3.60 to 3.84.

Shickluna was one of 449 seniors to earn a degree from Grove City College on May 16. She is a 2016 graduate of Grand Island High School and is the daughter of Tracey and William Shickluna Jr. of Grand Island.

SUNY Canton has recognized **Laura C. Dewey** of Grand Island for earning part-time honors during the spring 2020 semester. Dewey majors in the health care management program.

The college created this award to recognize students who earned at least a 3.25 grade-point average in 6 to 11 credits of course work. It stands alongside the college's dean's list and president's list as one of the top awards given for academic success at the college.

We welcome your submissions. If you would like the Dispatch to publish a report of an academic achievement, send it to our email address, dispatch@wnypapers.com, attn: Accolades in the subject line, or mail it to Island Dispatch, 1859 Whitehaven Road, Grand Island 14072.

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