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Roxbury Community College



29th Commencement
4 June 2004
12:00 NOON

Roxbury Community College
Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center

The National Anthem

Oh, say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, thro' the perilous fight'
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming.
And the rockets red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.
Oh, say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

Francis Scott Key

Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing

Lift ev'ry voice and sing
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise, High as the list'ning skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun
Let us march on 'til victory is won.

James Weldon Johnson

1871 - 1938

PROGRAM

Prelude

Processional

*The audience is requested to remain seated during the processional for students and faculty.
Music provided by Dr. John J. Weeks.
Grafton Job Corps Color Guard will post the colors.*

Invocation

Reverend Dr. Michael Ellis

National Anthem and Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing

Doreen Murray

Greetings from the President

Dr. Terrence A. Gomes, President

Greetings from the Alumni

Sonia Villaroel, Alumni President

Student Address

Heru Heq-m-Ta, Valedictorian

Commencement Address

Carole Copland Thomas

Musical Selection

Doreen Murray

Conferring of Degrees and Certificates

Authorization of the Board of Trustees

Ruth Fitch, Vice Chair, Board of Trustees

Dr. Terrence A. Gomes, President

Introduction of Degree and Certificate Candidates

Presided by Dr. Brenda Mercomes, VP of Academic Affairs

Candidates for Associate of Arts degree introduced by Dr. Everest Onuoha, Dean

*Candidates for Associate of Science degree introduced by Chiso Okafor, Dean
and Jose Alicea, Dean*

Candidates for Certificates with specification introduced by JoAnn Mulready-Shick, Dean

Presentation of Degrees and Certificates to the Students

Ruth Fitch, Vice Chair, Board of Trustees

Dr. Terrence A. Gomes, President

Presided by Dr. Brenda Mercomes, VP of Academic Affairs

President's Charge to Graduating Class of 2004

Dr. Terrence A. Gomes, President

Benediction

Reverend Dr. Michael Ellis

Recessional

The audience is requested to remain seated during the recessional and is invited immediately after the ceremony to a reception in the Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center Field House.

Greetings from the President



Today is a landmark in the chosen path for your lives. Beyond this landmark, or signpost, awaits a world around you that is real and not enclosed in a structured glass bubble.

As cliché-ish as it is, however, this is not just the end, but the beginning of new opportunities, experiences, and growth.

On the other side of the marker is a pristine world to explore, one of almost infinite size. There, possibilities are truly endless.

I would like you to remember, today, not just this moment but the years that have led to this moment. The days spent together in class, the smiles of friendships built, and the hard work and sacrifices endured.

My message for the graduates today, is to grasp opportunities when they arise for therein lies your future and the future of our community.

Congratulations to the Class of 2004. I wish each of you every success in the future.

Dr. Terrence A. Gomes

President

Roxbury Community College

Commencement Speaker

Carole Copland-Thomas



Carole Copeland Thomas is the voice of personal empowerment. She is a keynote speaker, empowerment expert, diversity professional and leadership consultant in C. Thomas & Associates, a business she started in 1987. Ms. Thomas served as an adjunct faculty member for Bentley College for a decade, and has spoken throughout the United States, England, Canada, and Australia.

Carole is the publisher of the weekly electronic newsletter, Empowerment Today distributed to nearly 6000 subscribers throughout the world. Additionally Carole is the creator of several teleclass learning programs and the audio learning program, "Personal Empowerment: Wake Up The Possibilities In Your Life." Her new book, Personal Empowerment: How To Turbocharge Your Life On and Off Your Job, was published in 2003.

Carole has been featured on ABC Radio, CBS-TV, and Fox News-TV. She has also been featured in Black Enterprise Magazine, The Boston Globe and The Boston Herald. Carole is a contributor to the USA Today Small Business Panel.

For three years Carole's Personal Empowerment Tips were heard daily on Boston's WILD 1090 AM Radio. Her one-hour call in radio talk show, "Focus On Empowerment" was heard every Friday morning on the station. Carole's syndicated radio tips were broadcast in 10 US cities in early 2003, and were sponsored by Marshalls, the nationwide off-price retail store.

A native of Detroit, Michigan, Carole is an experienced entrepreneur with awards and achievements in sales, marketing, and management. After graduating with honors in 1975 from Emory University in Atlanta, Carole developed a sales management career with Mary Kay Cosmetics, winning a pink car in 1980. She returned to graduate school in 1983 (on a Martin Luther King, Jr. academic fellowship), and received her MBA degree from Northeastern University in Boston. Continuing on a career path in bank marketing and later The Gillette Company, Carole transitioned into the human service industry and served as the branch sales manager of Exclusive Temporaries. She started her own firm in 1987.

Carole's Personal Motto:

Empowerment Begins When You Believe In Yourself.

Degrees in Course

Degrees are presented in the following order.

ASSOCIATE OF ARTS

Adedamola Oluyinka Adepoju
Biological Science

Olatokinbo Akinbolade
Business Administration

Ugbe Garbier Atem
Liberal Arts

Abeba S. Attles
Business Administration

Carlos A. Barreiro
Pre-Engineering

Eza Barros
Pre-Nursing

Marie D. Barten
Pre-Nursing

Andre Bellevue
Pre-Engineering

Ruth Bernard
Business Administration

Jessica I Blaisdell
General Concentration

Darryl D. Brown
Liberal Arts

Melaurie Sarah Brown
General Concentration

Francoise Buissereth
Biological Science

Kara Lynette Burge
Pre-Nursing

Audrey J. Burke
Biological Science

David Caesar
Business Administration

Desiree A. Castillo
Business Administration

Luis Castillo
Business Administration

Ann-Marie E. Check
General Concentration

Lemlem K. Demeke
Biological Science

Mohammad Aliou Diallo
Mathematics

Elmide Edouard
Biological Science

Gina Jean-Baptiste
Pre-Nursing

Olayinka Adenike Fabolude
Business Administration

Aissatou Fall
Biological Sciences

Junia S. Faulknor
Liberal Arts

Yessy Feliz
Business Administration

Ernestine R. Fenton
Liberal Arts

Abigail S. Forrester
Social Science

Sheldon J. Foster
Pre-Engineering

Lizette Goncalves
Pre-Nursing

Maria E. Gordon
General Concentration

Wavel Emelio Grant
Business Administration

Dorna A. Gray-Joseph
General Concentration

Sinbiat A. Hassan
General Concentration

Heru Setepenra Heq-m-Ta
Social Science

Olga S. Herasme
Business Administration

Richard Maurice Horner
General Concentration

Marie Yolene Hercule
General Concentration

Kimberly A Houston
General Concentration

Damilola M. Ipaye
Pre-Nursing

Yolene Milford Joachim
General Concentration

Jamie Joshi
Biological Sciences

Gabrielle Michelle Kernizan
Liberal Arts

Martiza P. Laing
Liberal Arts

Tahiba Juliet-Marie Lewis
Biological Science

Dulce N. Lopes
Business Administration

Linda Medina
Business Administration

Carmene Metellus
Pre-Nursing

Alemtsehay W. Mezgebu
Biological Sciences

Carmesuze Michaud
General Concentration

Marcell P. Mitchell
General Concentration

Noor Farah Mohamed
General Concentration

Renee Lisa Napoleon
Pre-Nursing

Ndubuisi M. Nduaguba
Pre-Engineering

Jean Wadner Nerius
General Concentration

Banji O. Odusami
Pre-Engineering

Nneka C. Ogbo
General Concentration

Kate E. Okafor
General Concentration

Sarah N Otiono
Pre-Nursing

Katrina Philemond
Pre-Nursing

Ernest Philome
Business Administration

Tyrone Pope
General Concentration

Aishah S. Pouncie
Social Science

Marguerite Kinkoue Punfong
Pre Nursing

Hilda E. Ramos
Business Administration

Nerissa Registe
Business Administration

Jeanine Rene
Pre-Nursing

Emmy S. Reyes
Liberal Arts & International Business

Ingrid S. Robinson
Liberal Arts

Daniel M Rocha
General Concentration

Virginia A. Rodriguez
Pre Nursing

Anne Daphney Romain
Business Administration

Ginadelle Romain
Pre-Nursing

Lucresha N. Ross
Business Administration

Mireille Saint Louis
Pre-Nursing

Alfaxad M Sanchez
Business Administration

Anthony G. Sanders
Business Administration

Antoinette Skeens
Business Administration

Yonas T. Tamene
Pre-Nursing

Mario G. Teran
Business Administration

Febe O. Terrero
Biological Science

Gillian Carla Thomas
Social Science

Nadie Trotman
Business Administration

Ijeoma Uchechukwu Uchendu
Pre-Nursing

Charlene Helena Watson
Pre-Nursing

Mussie R. Worede
General Concentration

Fikre Wube
Biological Science

ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE

Daramis R. Abreu
Biological Science

Clyde Altine Early
Childhood Education

Ivette M. Arias
Business Management

Rita Asiegbunam
Nursing

Ezzat M. Badr
Computer Information Systems

Micheka Barosy
Early Childhood Education

Elisangela T. Barros
Accounting

Pamela L. Berry
Computer Information Systems

Kinerol Billon
Accounting

Daniella Nicole Boucher
Liberal Arts

Janet L. Browder
Early Childhood Education

Jaquelyn A. Browder
Office Administration Technology

Nancy V. Brown
Criminal Justice

Rony Cajuste
Accounting

Elsis Cambara
Nursing

Eloi Charles
Accounting

Ingrid J. Christmas
Business Management

Lorna Patrica Clunie
Nursing

Jocelyn Tameaka Coburn
Early Childhood Education

Jannett Combita
Accounting

Isabel Compres
Office Administration

Guillermina G. Contrera
Early Childhood Education

Alma S. Cuffy-Edwards
Computer Information Systems

Danielle Nadine Cunningham
Business Management

Dana Yvette Dauphin
Nursing

Ermite DeCopain
Nursing

Samantha C. Darroux
Business Management

Maria R. DaSilva
Early Childhood Education

Wendy A. Decastro
Computer Information Systems-
Microcomputer Applications

Rosemarie DeLarosa
Early Childhood Education

Olivia R. DePina
Nursing

Kokou O. Dogbe
Computer Information Systems

Rona Duroscia
Social Science

Nmemma C. Echebiri
Nursing

Olasumbo Fadiya
Nursing

Mona S. Farah
Microcomputer Applications

Michelle D. Fraser
Nursing

Ekouegan Foster Ekoue-Totou
Accounting

Marie Francois
Nursing

Yanick A. Francois
Early Childhood Education

Tegegnetwork G. Gashaw
Computer Information Systems

Vanessa Hilaire
Early Childhood Education

Paul C. Igboenyasi
Nursing

Myriam Imogene
Nursing

Bernice U. Iwejuo
Nursing

Eulice E. James
Nursing

Andree Lourdes Jean Jacques
Business Management

Nina A. Johnson
Nursing

Wanda T. Johnson
Criminal Justice

Renee Joseph
Early Childhood Education

Jamie P. Joshi
Biological Science

Mohamed Jakiety Kaba
Accounting

Claude M. Kabuya
Accounting

Beda Kacou
Computer Information Systems

Beaumont E. Karoline
Early Childhood Education

Lidya Kebede
Computer Information Systems

Alexander C. Lee
Computer Information Systems

Nordicka P. Lewis
Criminal Justice

Keneisha Zhentong Li
Computer Information Systems

Luis E. Lloreda
Computer Information Systems

Iliana Lorenzo
Early Childhood Education

Lynne M. Marks
Office Administration

Joyce S. Marshall
Office Administration

Sonia Martinez
Early Childhood Education

Keisha E. Mateo
Social Science

Josephine I Mba
Computer Information Systems

Amanda Lynn McCloy
Nursing

Myrtho Mezil
Business Management

Hernan Jose Mosquera
Computer Information Systems

Kitenge Patrick Muabilua
Business Management

Maricell Navarro
Office Administration

Dung Van Nguyen
Accounting

Han Thi Nguyen
Accounting

Henrietta N. Nlemadim-Chikwe
Nursing

Rodney Noel
Computer Information Systems

Josephine N. Nwosu
Nursing

Kate Okafor
Nursing

Moira Elizabeth O'Malley
Nursing

Emmelyne Pasquis
Nursing

Thai Pham
Pre-Engineering

Daphnee Pierre
Computer Information Systems

Marta L. Polanco
Criminal Justice

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Criminal Justice

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Computer Information Systems

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Criminal Justice

Kimberely Utley-Rivers
Criminal Justice

Lucie Valcimond
Social Science

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Accounting

Kimberly O. Vassar
Business Management

Mylinh Le Vu
Accounting

Johngelyn Lyneria Washington
Nursing

Angella I. Witter
Nursing

Hirut Asseta Woldegiorgires
Computer Information Systems

Catherine Gyl Yee
Office Administration

CERTIFICATES

Martin H. Adolphe Mental Health Worker	Omere Imuetinyan Practical Nursing	Dawnette A Willie-Barrett Medical Office Administration Assistant
Festus O. Alabi Mental Health	Otaigbe Jonah Mental Health Worker	Muna Abbas Yahye Medical Office Administration Assistant
Solon Anilus Practical Nursing	Ibrahima Kamara Mental Health Worker	Crystal A. Zollarcoffer Medical Office Administration Assistant
Marie Augustine Practical Nursing	Selami Kasollja Medical Office Administration Assistant	
Elizabeth Bangura Mental Health Worker	Marie Mayan Practical Nursing	
Luiza F. Barros Office Technology Word Processing	Milagros V. Merigan Practical Nursing	
Kinerol Billon Accounting Certificate	Milagros V. Merigan Practical Nursing	
Irvin I. Brooms Paralegal Studies	Myseine Meronvil Medical Office Administration Assistant	
Ramona R. Brown Paralegal Studies	Maureen N. Nwaka Mental Health	
Andrea Ceballos Medical Assistant	Mureen M. Nwaka-Akuezue Mental Health Worker	
Merlene Joyce Cameron Practical Nursing	Peace Ebere Osuagwu Practical Nursing	
Patricia Delisca Mental Health Worker	Rachele G. Payas Mental Health Worker	
Olivia De Pina Practical Nursing	Daphnee Pierre Mental Health	
Joyce Dwomah Practical Nursing	Valni I. Robinson Medical Office Administration Assistant	
Patience Emadegu Practical Nursing	Toinette Ruiz Practical Nursing	
Clara Enoma Practical Nursing	Daniel Martin Saavedra Network Administration	
Abdul K. Fofanah Mental Health Worker	Jimmy D. Smith Computer Network Administration	
Marie S. Fofanah Mental Health	Kalda R. Thomas Paralegal Studies	
Marie Gerta Fontin Practical Nursing	Gordon Tracia Mental Health	
Janet Freeman Mental Health	Marie Vilain Practical Nursing	
Marlene L. Gilles Mental Health		
Sherron Monique Gordon Office Administration		

Scholarships, Awards, and Honors

All American Scholar Award

This award is made by the National Achievement Academy for excellence in scholastic achievement. Students must have a 3.5 grade point average and be accepted into the National Honor Society. Two percent of all students in higher education achieve this status.

Anne Romain, Mussie Worede, Michael Giuliano, Yonas Tamene, Ralph Darius, Murielle Louis, Halimatou Mack, Diallo Mohammed

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc./Psi Omega Chapter Award

This award is given to an outstanding multicultural female graduate who is transferring to a four-year institution.

Ivette Arias

Claudia J. Tucker Award

This award is given annually to an outstanding Roxbury Community College transfer student in honor of the mother of Roxbury Community College's Professor Royal C. Tucker.

Gabriel Ugbe

Foster Furcolo Scholarship

This scholarship honors former Governor Foster Furcolo, who played a major role in creating public community colleges in Massachusetts. Each community college, nominates one graduate whose grade point average is at least 3.5. The scholarship covers tuition and most fees at University of Massachusetts, Boston.

Keisha Mateo

Francina E. Copeland Gelzer Endowed Scholarship

Given in the name of a lifelong resident of the greater Roxbury community with a strong commitment to education, this award is presented to a Roxbury Community College student on the basis of outstanding scholastic achievement. The recipient is an African-American graduate who has maintained a grade point average of 3.0 or higher and who has been accepted into a four-year college degree program.

Gertrude Thomkins

James H. Caesar Endowed Scholarship

In 1986, a Roxbury resident established this scholarship to honor the opportunities this country and community had given him. In selecting the recipient, preference is given to graduating students who have attended the Cooper Community Center of Roxbury or the Roxbury Boys and Girls Club. If this criterion does not apply, the scholarship may be awarded to a talented Roxbury Community College student from the Roxbury community.

Melaurie Brown

Letitia Garafalo Endowed Scholarship

Established by a native of Quincy, Massachusetts, who used her knowledge of languages to live and work in communities around the world, this endowed memorial scholarship is presented to a Roxbury Community College graduate on the basis of academic merit and financial need.

Charlene Watson

Sapers Family Opportunity Awards

This award is presented to no more than ten Roxbury Community College graduates who transfer to four-year colleges in pursuit of baccalaureate degrees. This special "50-50" award consists of both a scholarship and a low-interest loan. The award is made available through the generosity of the William R. Sapers family of Boston.

Adedamola Adepoju, Ivette Arias, Abeba Attles, Carlos Barrero, Daniel Griffiths, Paul Igboenyasi, Andrew Sande, Mario Teran, Mohammad Diallo, Gillian Thomas

Therese Dutile Giles Award

Given annually by the Giles family in memory of their mother, this award is presented to a student who, having mastered a new language in the English for Speakers of Other Languages Department, is now graduating with an associate degree and has provided service to the Roxbury Community College community.

Elisangela Barros

Boston Equal Rights League Book Award

Made possible by Jacqueline Payne-Thompson, President of the Boston Equal Rights League and Mr. Fred Fairfield, this award is used towards book purchases. An award in the amount of \$225 is made to a graduating student who has been accepted at a four-year institution and expects to pursue baccalaureate studies in the semester following graduation.

Samrawit Hailemeskel

Hiram Grand Lodge Scholarship

Two \$1,000 scholarships are awarded annually as a result of the generosity of Hiram Grand Lodge. Recipients must have earned a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 and have positively contributed to RCC and/or to the community in which they reside.

Heru Heq-m-Ta , Anna Romain

Dr. Mayra Carlo Scholarship

This scholarship is in memory of Dr. Mayra Carlo, former RCC faculty member in the Science department. This \$500 award is given to an outstanding female Hispanic graduate with a concentration in Biological Science.

Daramis Abreu

Roxbury Community College

Years of dreaming and planning came to life in 1973, when Roxbury Community College opened its doors in the Grove Hall area of Roxbury. Despite less than perfect surroundings - its location was a former car dealership - Roxbury Community College's dedicated faculty, staff, and administration served the educational needs of four hundred students. The College's mission, as it is now, was to provide higher education to those Boston residents who found most other avenues to higher education closed.

In 1975, growth was impetus for a move to 424 Dudley Street, a former nursing home. This move permitted the expansion and strengthening of academic programs and student services. The College continued to grow, which precipitated another move in 1982 to the former site of Boston State College on Huntington Avenue. As the college continued to shift its service base to meet an expanding enrollment, the goal to establish a permanent home for Roxbury Community College in the heart of the communities it serves, remained strong.

With much anticipation, Roxbury Community College built its new home as the cornerstone of the Southwest Corridor in the Spring of 1978. This fifteen acre campus includes a state-of-the-art Media Arts Building, Academic Building, Administration Building, Student Center, and the Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center.

A global village, Roxbury Community College's multicultural and ethnically diverse student population has set it apart from other community colleges in the Commonwealth. Although most of our students are from Boston and surrounding communities, many come from all corners of the world including: North America, Central America, South America, Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Europe. International students also hail from Brazil, China, Trinidad, Peru, Barbados, Nigeria, Haiti, and Jamaica.

With renewed commitment, Roxbury Community College continues its legacy of providing educational opportunities for all who enter its doors.

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