
October 21, 2025

**Monroe University Celebrates the Class of 2025 at Annual Commencement
Ceremony for Saint Lucia Campus Graduates**

The Honorable Justice Mario Michel Delivered Keynote Address

CASTRIES, SAINT LUCIA -- Monroe University, the New York-based institution offering undergraduate and graduate degree programs from its campus in Castries, held its annual Commencement on Oct. 19th for local graduates.

The joyful event took place at the Royalton St. Lucia Resort & Spa Auditorium in Gros Islet. Monroe University senior administrators joined local campus administration, faculty, and staff, as well as special dignitaries, at the graduation ceremony, which recognized and celebrated the academic achievements of 219 students in the Saint Lucia campus Class of 2025.

This year's Commencement was dedicated to the memory of Augustus "Gus" Small, the Dean of Administration for the Saint Lucia campus who passed last month and had been an invaluable member of the Monroe family since its earliest days on the island 18 years ago. President Marc Jerome remembered him in his remarks, sharing fond memories and speaking of his passion and dedication as an educator, valued administrator, and dear friend. Mr. Small's family was in attendance, and his wife was presented with a lovely floral display in appreciation and sympathy.

Terry Deligny, faculty with the School of Business and Accounting, served as Grand Marshal for the opening procession. Nathalie Jolie-Fanis, faculty with the General Education department, served as emcee. Saint Lucia's national anthem, "*Sons and Daughters of Saint Lucia*", was sung by Linda Berthier, faculty with the School of Business and Accounting. Hanna Forde, Master of Public Health graduate, sang *The Star-Spangled Banner*.

Among those offering welcoming remarks to the graduates and their guests were President Marc Jerome and Senior Vice President Dr. Alex Ephrem. Graduates were also honored to hear from The Honorable Shawn Edward, Minister for Education, Sustainable

Development, Innovation, Science, Technology & Vocational Training, who shared a wonderful congratulatory message on behalf of the Government of Saint Lucia.

His Lordship, the Honorable Justice Mario Michel, delivered a moving and inspirational keynote address. His eloquence, depth of insight, and call to purpose resonated deeply with all in attendance, culminating in a sustained round of applause.

Dr. Ernest Ottley, incoming Dean of Academics in Saint Lucia, announced students earning academic awards. Dr. Karenann Carty, Senior Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs, proudly presented the graduates to President Jerome for the formal conferring of degrees.

The University community was joined at Commencement by a number of special guests and dignitaries, including: Hon. Joachim Henry, Member of the Cabinet of Ministers and representing Prime Minister, Hon. Phillip J. Pierre; Hon. Dr. Virginia Poyotte, Minister of Public Service, Home Affairs, Labour and Gender Relations, Her Excellency, Dame Pearlette Louisy, Governor-General-Emerita; His Grace, Gabriel Malzaire, Archbishop of Castries and other members of the clergy; Mr. Agostos Degazon, Cabinet Secretary; Permanent Secretary, Mr. Kendal Khodra, Department of Education; Mr. Kerwin Albert, Acting Director of Corrections, Bordelais Correctional Facility; Mr. Lennox Dupal, Mayor of Gros-Islet, Mr. Cletus Springer, Chair of the Board, SALCC; Dr. Winston Phulgence, Vice Principal, SALCC; Mrs. Eulampia Springer, representing head of UWI Saint Lucia, Mr. Jamal Prince, Director General of Communications & Secretary of the Prime Minister's Scholarship Committee, Antigua and Barbuda; and Dr. Athalie Caine-Soleyn, Director of Training, Personnel Department, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Other special guests included members of the educational community from across Saint Lucia.

In addition to students from Saint Lucia, the graduating class included students from Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Sint Maarten, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

One student from each country proudly carried their nation's flag as part of the opening procession. Nearly 1,900 students have earned their degree through Monroe University's Saint Lucia campus since its establishment in 2007.

The campus, located on Vide Boutielle Highway in Castries, offers students a broad array of degree programs through its Schools of Allied Health Professions, Business and Accounting, Criminal and Social Justice, Hospitality Management, and Information Technology. The University had also operated the International Hospitality Training Institute in partnership with the Saint Lucian government to prepare local residents for entry level hospitality positions with cruise ships, hotels, resorts, and restaurants.

ABOUT MONROE UNIVERSITY

Founded in 1933, Monroe University is a recognized leader in urban and international education. The University is proud of its innovative programs to increase college access, affordability, and completion outcomes, especially among first-generation students, and for the national recognition it receives for its strong impact on graduates' social mobility.

Programs are offered through Schools of Allied Health Professions, Business and Accounting, Criminal and Social Justice, Education, Hospitality Management, Information Technology, and Nursing, as well as through its King Graduate School. Liberal arts and continuing education programs are also available. For more information and admissions criteria, please visit www.monroeu.edu.