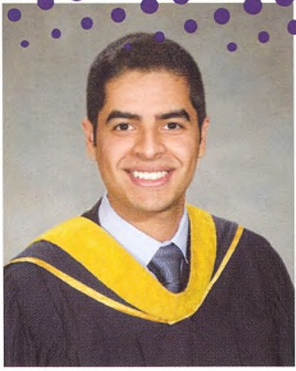
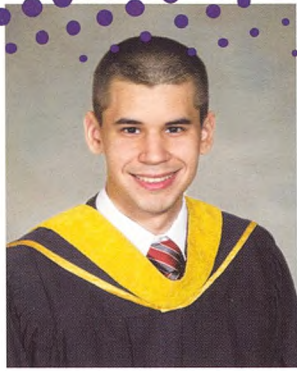


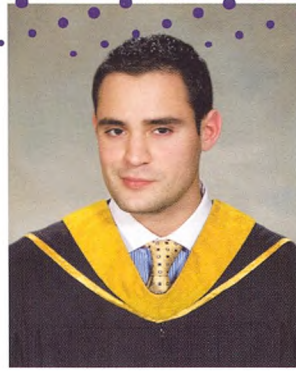
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Ahmad Al-Dulimi  
Accounting



Daniel Da Silva  
Accounting



Salvatore Demma  
Accounting



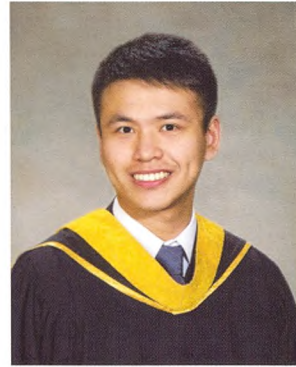
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Daniela Garritano  
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Jeffrey Garro  
Accounting



Bono Lee  
Accounting



Daniel McLaughlin  
Accounting



Stefania Pennetti  
Accounting



Omar Perez  
Accounting



Anca Popescu  
Accounting



Daisy Quizphi  
Accounting



Peter Radziwon  
Accounting



Piotr Szpyt  
Accounting



Deirdre Turner  
Accounting



Jason Velardi  
Accounting



Justyna Zuchmanska  
Accounting

# Chandra Persaud

## Valedictory Address Excerpts



I come from a humble family where the values of hard work, persistence and drive are never overlooked. My parents left a relatively comfortable lifestyle in their homeland of Guyana when I was two-years-old for one thing and one thing only—opportunity. Like many other immigrant families, they viewed America as the place to accomplish what seemed impossible in the country in which they were born. Above all, my parents left Guyana in hopes of giving my sisters and me a better education, enhanced opportunities to learn, grow, and succeed. I never forget their many sacrifices for our family. I always took to heart their philosophy about the value of education. They taught me that while one can lose his riches or popularity over the course of his life or even part ways with good friends, education is enduring and is yours to keep for the rest of your life.

My time here at St. Francis College will forever be etched in my heart. The many opportunities I was given both inside and outside of the classroom contributed to my growth, both as a student and individual. It was here, under the guidance of supportive professors and staff, that I became aware of issues, realities, and perspectives that I hardly gave a thought to before...On behalf of my graduating class, I would like to thank every faculty member here at St. Francis for sharing their knowledge, for serving as mentors, and for your patience and support. We are honored and grateful to have you as educators and to say that we were once your students

To my fellow graduates, we all come from different walks of life, we all have different stories to recount our journey to St. Francis College, and after today we will all embark on unique paths. Yet, the common thread that runs among us is the desire for a brighter future and despite our individualized views about what that future may look like, we chose St. Francis College to bring us one step closer to our ultimate goal, to give us the tools we need for a better future, or simply to give us a new beginning. What we got in return was perhaps more than we ever expected—we have each found a home here at St. Francis, one filled with supportive and caring professors, administration and staff, a campus filled with diversity and activities to accommodate an array of interests, and a sense of community based on generosity and respect. Here, we were pushed to discover and challenge our abilities, interests, and even our identities.

My fellow graduates, I would like to leave you with these few thoughts. Nothing is ever handed to you in life. The accomplishment of your dreams and goals is only possible through dedication, passion, and effort. Do not ever become easily discouraged, believe in yourself and your dreams, stay determined in the face of adversity, and never let your fears hold you back. I truly believe that everything that happens, happens for a reason and while you may not fully understand circumstances or turn of events right away, in time you will. Mahatma Gandhi once said, “Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever.” Do not wait until tomorrow to do what you can do today; sometimes taking the road less traveled leads to unexpected opportunities and memorable experiences. But never forget to maintain the curiosity of a child and embrace opportunities that will broaden or challenge your perspectives. On your road to new adventures and endeavors, never forget to follow the Golden Rule of life and treat others as you would like to be treated. Perhaps, unaware to you, your smile, kind gesture, or encouraging words can give someone that extra boost they needed.

Congratulations once again and I wish each of you health, strength, prosperity, and happiness now and in the future!! Thank you.