



Making Moves & **Expanding Impact**

SCS DEAN'S REPORT 2024-2025 ►

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

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UNIVERSITY
School of Continuing Studies

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A Reflection

from Dean Otter

Dear SCS Community,

Last summer, we marked an important milestone at SCS: We bid farewell to 640 Massachusetts Ave. NW, and welcomed our new home on Georgetown's Capitol Campus. Previously dispersed in different buildings, over the course of 13 years at our first home in downtown D.C., we grew exponentially both as a School and as a community—working, teaching, and learning from each other all under one roof. Our first building at 640 Mass. did not merely house our work, but gave us all a place to belong.

This Dean's Report celebrates closing one pivotal chapter at SCS, and embracing the next at the Capitol Campus. Now located at 111 Massachusetts Ave. NW, SCS is co-located for the first time with other Georgetown programs and schools, including the Earth Commons Institute, the McDonough School of Business, the Berkley School of Nursing, the School of Health, and the Capitol Applied Learning Labs. The move presents vast opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration and community-building, which we are already witnessing in the first few exciting weeks since our move.

Joining the Capitol Campus will expand and deepen our School's impact. In this time rife with challenges, we remain steadfast in our mission: to deliver a world-class education to a diverse array of communities and individuals throughout their academic and professional careers; to improve employability and develop workforces; and to contribute to building a civic-minded, well-informed, and globally aware society.

Above all, we remain rooted in a 500-year-old tradition of Catholic and Jesuit education that compels each and every one of us to ask tough questions of ourselves and of our professions, rethink traditional solutions, and ultimately seek something greater.

I am deeply grateful for your support of SCS over the years.
I hope you are as eager as I am to see what's next.



Kelly J. Otter, Ph.D.

Dean

School of Continuing Studies

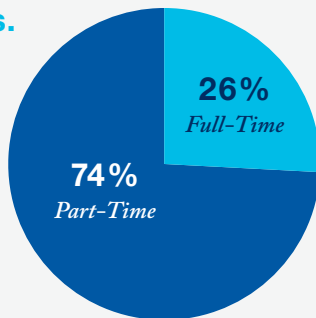


By the Numbers

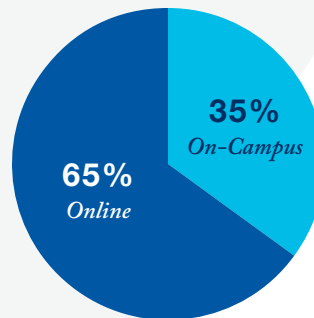
Data on SCS students enrolled in Summer 2024, Fall 2024, and Spring 2025

▶ **3,289** Total Registered Degree Students
Age range: 18–82 | Average age: 32

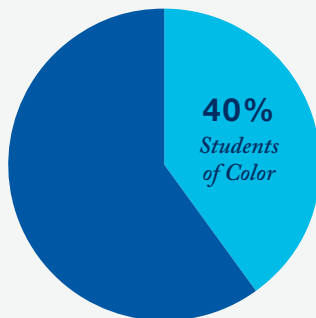
Full-Time vs.
Part-Time



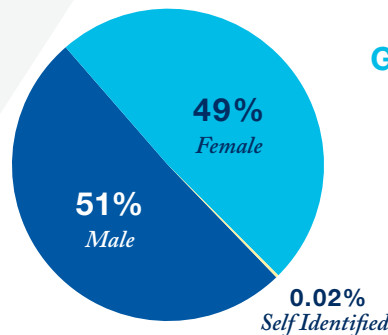
Online vs.
On-Campus



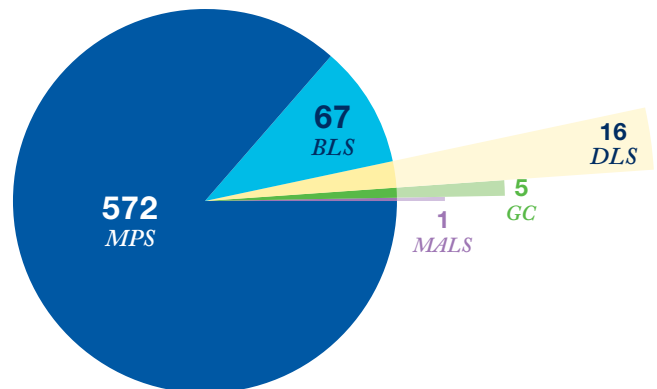
Students
of Color*



Gender



▶ **661** Total Degree Military Students**



Degree programs: B.A. in Liberal Studies (BLS), Graduate Certificate (GC), Master of Professional Studies (MPS),
M.A. in Liberal Studies (MALS), and Doctor of Liberal Studies (DLS)

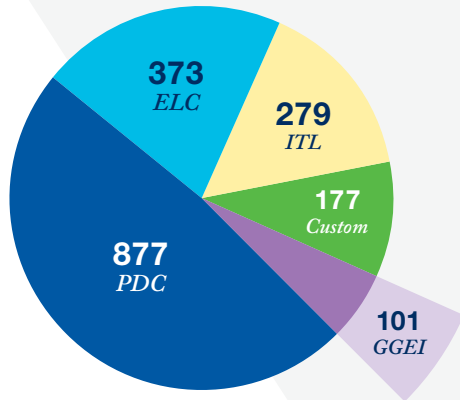
*This data is based on degree students who self-reported their race and/or ethnicity, excluding those who reported Other or Unknown.

**This data is based on students who both self-identified and/or received military benefits.

8,233 Total Registered Non-Degree Students

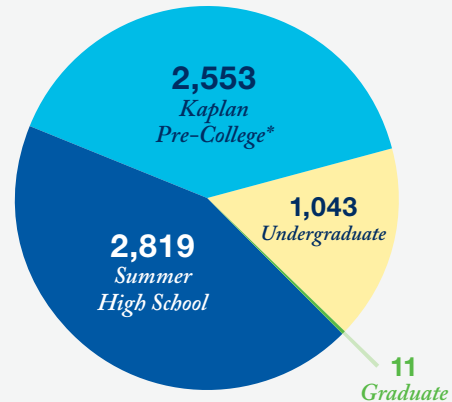
Professional & Executive Programs

Total Students: 1,807



Summer & Special Programs

Total Students: 6,426

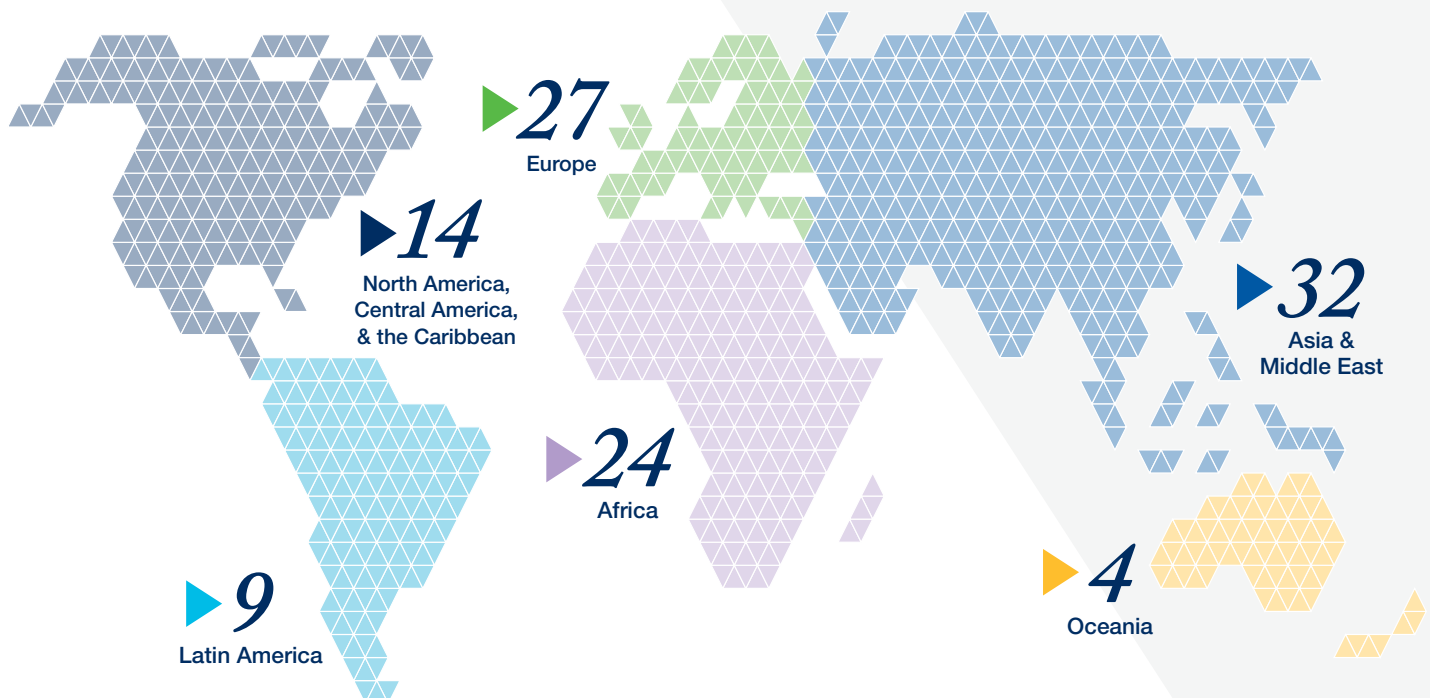


PDC: Professional Development Certificates; ITL: Institute for Transformational Leadership; Custom Certificates; GGEI: Georgetown Global Executive Education Institute; ELC: English Language Center

*Kaplan Pre-College reflects students enrolled from Fall 2024 through Summer 2025.

SCS Around the World

More than 100 countries are represented in the SCS student body*



*This international data only applies to degree and ELC students.



Embracing a New Era:

SCS Joins the Capitol Campus

► BY FRANCES BAJET

*M*oving to a new home is often a time of transition: looking back on all the ways one has grown in a particular space, while looking ahead to exciting possibilities. This past summer marked such a milestone for the School of Continuing Studies (SCS). After 13 formative years at 640 Massachusetts Ave. NW—its first downtown location—the School officially moved to 111 Massachusetts Ave. NW, joining Georgetown's growing Capitol Campus.



DC Mayor Muriel Bowser with Georgetown Interim President Robert M. Groves, Dean Kelly Otter, and other university leaders.
Photo by Elman Studio.

For the first time, SCS is housed with other Georgetown programs and schools, including the Earth Commons Institute, Capitol Applied Learning Labs, the McDonough School of Business, the Berkley School of Nursing, and the School of Health. A momentous new era for SCS, the move to Capitol Campus presents vast opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration and community-building, deepening Georgetown's impact in the heart of the nation's capital.

“Almost all the schools of the university have footprints in this building, so we are excited about having people from different disciplines, different fields next to one another.”

—Interim President Groves

“Almost all the schools of the university have footprints in this building, so we are excited about having people from different disciplines, different fields next to one another,” said Interim President Robert Groves during the building’s official ribbon-cutting ceremony last October; D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser, as well as other senior municipal and university leaders, also attended. “[It’s about enabling] those chance encounters that bring two minds together and invent new human knowledge that they never would have created by themselves.”

Farewell to SCS's First Home Downtown

It was a busy summer preparing for the move, but the community also took time to pause and reflect on the profound ways that 640 Mass. shaped SCS both as a school and as a community. To this day, many longtime SCS faculty and staff recall the years before the building opened in 2013. Back then, the School



had no centralized home, since students, faculty, and staff were dispersed throughout various locations: some in the former M Street offices, some on the Hilltop, and some even as far away as Clarendon, Virginia. As such, communal gatherings were limited, and members were only able to connect as a group for select events, such as Commencement or holiday parties.

The 640 Mass. building was groundbreaking because it enabled SCS staff, faculty, and students to teach, learn, and make connections all under one roof, ushering in a period of tremendous growth for the School. In a little over a decade, SCS surpassed one milestone after another:

- The student body doubled from roughly 2,000 degree students to almost 4,000 each year;
- The number of degree alumni grew to more than 10,000;
- Nearly 15 new degree programs were launched, for a total of 20 (and counting), as well as dozens of new professional certificate programs;
- In 2015, SCS was the first Georgetown school to build an infrastructure to design and launch online programs;
- SCS built a more faculty-centric culture with full-time faculty leading degree programs and designing curricula for pre-college and executive audiences, drawing on the expertise of about 1,000 professionals from across sectors serving as adjunct faculty each year;
- SCS students, faculty, and alumni won numerous prestigious awards, industry competitions, and grants, such as Fulbright Scholarships.

The SCS community celebrated these accomplishments and more during the “Farewell to 640” celebration in July. Joined by Interim President Groves and Interim Provost Soyica Colbert, more than 150 students, faculty, staff, and alumni gathered one last time in the building’s spacious Atrium, reconnecting and reminiscing over light bites and drinks. In her closing remarks, Dean Kelly Otter affirmed the indelible spirit of community that SCS was able to foster.

“This building didn’t just house our work; it shaped our spirit. It gave us a place to belong, and gave us the company of each other,” she said. “Even in the challenging times—especially during the pandemic when the lights were out and the hallways were quiet, our commitment never dimmed. We kept showing up—for our students, for each other, and for the mission we believe in.”



Driving the Capitol Campus Forward

With the move to the Capitol Campus official as of last August, SCS is embracing a new era of impact. No stranger to downtown, the School has a unique opportunity to leverage its prior learnings and experiences to shape the development of the Capitol Campus—Georgetown’s expanding campus that also encompasses the Georgetown University Law School and the McCourt School of Public Policy.

Already, a crucial advantage to the Capitol Campus is evident: its proximity to other Georgetown schools and programs. In a matter of weeks, as SCS and fellow Georgetown colleagues and students have slowly settled in, 111 Mass. has come to life with activity: informal co-curricular and social events for students; faculty-led lectures and discussion panels; and open houses and recruitment events welcoming prospective students.

“With the move, Georgetown SCS, our faculty, and students are fully integrated into the Georgetown downtown community,” said Wendy Zajack, Ph.D., faculty director and associate professor of the practice for the master’s programs in both Integrated Marketing Communications, and Design Management & Communications. “Such a huge part of university life is the interactions between multiple disciplines, industries and people and this new space gives us the space to gather, reflect and build a strong, connected, thriving campus together.”

“This new space gives us the space to gather, reflect and build a strong, connected, thriving campus together.”

—Dr. Wendy Zajack

Although it is still early days, SCS’s new home is already sparking unexpected connections, and SCS has a critical role to play in co-creating the future of the Capitol Campus.

“As we join forces with other Georgetown initiatives and schools, we have a unique opportunity: to model what it looks like when collaboration, innovation, and compassion come together,” Otter said at the Farewell to 640 Mass. celebration. “We’re not just participating in the Capitol Campus—we’re helping define it.”

“We’re not just participating in the Capitol Campus—we’re helping define it.”

—Dean Otter



A Milestone Year in Review

► BY FRANCES BAJET

SCS Teams Up with Manchester City F.C. to Launch Executive Master's Program

PHOTO CREDIT: MANCITY



SCS is launching a new [Executive Master's in Global Sports & Operations](#) in collaboration with Manchester City Football Club and its educational arm, Manchester City Sports Business School. The executive program will enable students to have exclusive, behind-the-scenes access to Man City's operations and management at a global scale. Launching in Fall 2026, the 12-month program will have two required one-week residencies: The first will take place at City Football Academy, home to Manchester City in Manchester, U.K. The second residency will be in New York City, where City Football Group and Manchester City's sister club New York City F.C. are currently building Etihad Park, the city's first football-specific stadium (slated to open in 2027). Beyond football, the program will also provide real-life insight into global sports brands, including American football, women's sports, and basketball.

Career Development Opportunities to Support Displaced Federal Workers

In light of many federal workers facing ongoing uncertainty—many of whom are based in the D.C. metropolitan area—SCS collaborated on a university-wide initiative to provide aid through a wide range of career development scholarships and training opportunities. Last spring, SCS launched the [Federal Workforce Transition Scholarship](#), offering a 10 percent scholarship on the base tuition for many of its master's programs for the next academic year, with the application fee waived. Additionally, the School offered a 30 percent tuition discount on select professional certificate programs for former federal employees. Eligible participants could enroll up to two online professional certificates in in-demand industries, such as AI Governance & Compliance, Cybersecurity Strategy, and Data Science. Committed to workforce development as well as to Georgetown's Jesuit value of being People for Others, the School leveraged its extensive resources and know-how to empower federal workers in the next phase of their careers.

New Certificate in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education

Sherry Steeley, Ph.D., Anna Butsay, and Stephanie Kim, Ph.D., co-developed and launched the **Certificate in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education**. With the support and leadership of Vice Dean Ifedapo Adeleye, Ph.D., the program equips both novice and experienced faculty with the essential knowledge and skills to ensure inclusive and engaging teaching and learning across modalities. Currently open to Georgetown faculty, the certificate is offered in both the Fall and Spring semesters; since launching in Fall 2024, there have been more than 60 graduates to date. In Fall 2026, the certificate program will be offered to audiences beyond Georgetown.

Real Estate Students Win Top Competition Prizes

Students in the Master's in Real Estate program **took home top competition prizes**, beating out finalist schools from around the country. The team in the NAIOP Capital Challenge won a prize of

\$10,000, while the team competing in the Boston

University Hospitality Real Estate Competition

won \$7,500. Both are annual industry competitions, where teams of real estate students gather to propose innovative and practical real estate plans for the Washington, D.C., and Boston metropolitan areas.



Expanding Coursera for Campus

Last summer, SCS launched a unique opportunity for the Georgetown community: free access to **Coursera for Campus**, an online learning platform that provides another outlet for professional and personal growth. Thanks to the School's ongoing partnership with Coursera, Georgetown undergraduate and graduate students, staff, and faculty can now explore thousands of high-quality, non-credit courses, and professional certificates from peer institutions and industry partners around the world. First rolled out to the SCS community, this benefit is now available to all current degree students, faculty, and staff at Georgetown, furthering Georgetown's commitment to academic excellence and lifelong learning. This offering is part of a two-year pilot program, which will run through early 2028.

DMC Grad Leads Rebranding Campaign for Three Maine Towns



With the help of Holly Bolduc, a graduate of the Master's in Design Management & Communications program, three towns in Maine are rebranding their logos and overall visual identity. For her Capstone, she developed a cohesive brand identity for the Interlocal Cooperation of Mapleton, Castle Hill, and Chapman, the only governance model of its kind in Maine. She connected with town leaders through the Rural Design Project, an initiative that engages students with rural communities to find solutions to unique challenges often overlooked in mainstream urban development practices.

"In a world where we don't often have strong models of collaboration or mutual support, this Cooperation stands out. It's a rare example of people working together and believing in each other," Bolduc said. "I felt a strong responsibility to make sure their values were represented and that the brand I developed was an expression of that legacy. It was truly an honor!"

The design work would have cost the towns more than \$100,000 altogether; however, thanks to the Rural Design Project and SCS's community of scholars, it is free.



Shout-Outs

- **Wendy Zajack, Ph.D.**, was awarded a Fulbright Teaching Award for the Fall 2025 Semester as a visiting professor to the MCI The Entrepreneurial School in Innsbruck, Austria.
- **Uwe Brandes** was honored with the **Glenn Brown Award**, an accolade bestowed by the Washington chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and the Washington Architectural Foundation.
- **Shadi Abouzeid, Ph.D.**, and **Stephanie Kim, Ph.D.**, were awarded the Business Higher Education Forum's 2025 Faculty Innovation Fellowship.



- **Jeff Scott (SCS'12)**, **Bridget Waldron (SCS'17)**, and **Taylor Wilson (SCS'22)** share how their **experiences** in the Master's in Sports Industry Management program led them to work for the Philadelphia Eagles, winners of Super Bowl LIX.
- SCS is now accredited as a **Center for Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense** by the National Security Agency, in addition to being a designated Center for Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity Research. The **Center of Excellence in Cybersecurity Risk Management** (CECRM) at Georgetown prepares students to reduce the risk exposure of organizations through the design and implementation of effective cybersecurity strategies, policies, and governance frameworks grounded in best practices.

SCS Alumni

Blaze Paths to Public Service

► BY MIRANDA MAHMUD

*F*rom City Hall to Capitol Hill, Georgetown University is the alma mater of many leaders nationwide. At SCS, students learn from industry experts and hands-on curricula that prepare them for careers in policy-making, community building, and beyond. We asked three elected officials to share how the School shaped their approach to public service.

Alyia Gaskins

Mayor of Alexandria, Virginia

In 2024, the city of Alexandria, Virginia, marked a historic moment by electing its first Black woman mayor. An alumna of the Master's in Urban & Regional Planning program, Mayor Alyia Gaskins (SCS'19) has been dedicated to improving housing accessibility and supporting residents affected by the longest federal government shutdown in U.S. history.

"My experiences and coursework at Georgetown provided me with a strong foundation for serving as a mayor," she said.

Gaskins' dedication to service traces back to her childhood, when she volunteered at her church in Pittsburgh, PA. Growing up with a single mother who managed multiple jobs while facing health challenges, she witnessed the strain that inaccessible housing, financial pressure, and unreliable transportation placed on a family. Frequent emergency room visits deepened her interest in public health, revealing the broader systemic inequities that shape the daily lives of many residents.

While pursuing her master's, Gaskins explored these intersections academically. Her Capstone examined

community development strategies for introducing light-rail systems, work that continues to inform her priorities today.

"Planners understand that affordable housing must be supported by accessible transit options and proximity to job centers in order to create truly livable communities," she said.

Through classes like Planning for Health, Gaskins learned to analyze complex systems, balance competing interests, and design solutions that promote sustainable growth, economic vitality, and quality of life. She learned that issues like housing, transportation, and employment are all interconnected.

"In my daily leadership, I push our community and my colleagues to think about how we



design and implement policies that account for these intersections and remove barriers that prevent residents from reaching their full potential,” Gaskins said.

Since taking office, Gaskins has helped strengthen the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority (ARHA), appointing new board members and setting clear expectations for governance and accountability. “We have already heard from tenants that they feel their voices were heard, are seeing their issues resolved more quickly, and are hopeful for the future,” she said.

Within her first year as mayor, the city has endured a series of unprecedented events: record-breaking snowstorms, the longest federal shutdown in U.S. history, and the horrific January 2025 plane crash at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport.

With more than 13,000 federal employees and tens of thousands of contractors living in Alexandria, she has expanded direct assistance to impacted residents, including extended payment plans, rental support, regional job fairs, and trainings.

In her view, leadership is about staying committed to lifelong learning to guide the city through uncertainty. “In the midst of chaos and confusion, the mayor must remain steady and align diverse stakeholders toward a shared future,” she reflected.

Looking ahead, she hopes to modernize resident engagement with City Hall through tools like a vote tracker, meeting recaps, and expanded advocacy resources. Her advice to emerging leaders is simple: “Your voice and perspective matter and are valuable.”

Mike Turner

U.S. Representative, Ohio’s 10th Congressional District



Congressman Mike Turner (SCS’20), a graduate of the Doctor of Liberal Studies program, brings decades of public service experience to Capitol Hill. Representing Ohio’s 10th district, Turner serves as a senior member of the House Armed Services Committee and sits on the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

Before serving in Congress, Turner held two terms as mayor of Dayton, Ohio, and practiced law for 17 years. As mayor, he helped attract new housing and

revitalize the downtown area through projects such as a performing arts center, a baseball stadium, and a riverscape attraction. Seeking to reconnect with his mayoral work focused on urban and economic development, he enrolled in the doctoral program.

His doctoral thesis, “Urban Fail,” examines the historical evolution of federal urban development policy and advocates for reforms to support economic growth. Turner said that the program’s interdisciplinary approach—combining law, business, history, and urban studies—has informed his perspective on policy-making.

“From my work as a congressman, the exposure to the Doctor of Liberal Studies program gives me greater insight into the types of academic research that can be applied to policy formulation, and from that, in the translation to formulation of legislation,” he said.

In Turner’s current role, he has also prioritized efforts to bring manufacturing, defense, and tech jobs to his region. Since graduating, Turner received the Publius Award from the Center for the Study of the

Presidency and Congress in 2024 for leadership and bipartisanship. In 2025, he helped introduce bipartisan legislation to study the rising cost of transit buses, aiming to improve service reliability.

Turner views his path to public service as a lifelong journey shaped by early volunteer leadership roles on community development and arts boards, which naturally led him toward broader civic engagement.

He encourages aspiring public servants to begin by engaging with their own communities in any capacity where their strengths and passions align.

“There is such a need for volunteerism and for leadership in the community,” Turner said. “It’s a natural segue where you’re contributing to your community and accomplishing things to see ways in which you can make a difference.”

Wendell Felder

D.C. Councilmember, Ward 7

Born and raised in Washington, D.C., Wendell Felder (SCS’18) has always felt a deep connection to the city he now represents. Growing up, he often heard about the prestige of Georgetown University.

“It was always a dream of mine to attend,” he shared. “For me, Georgetown represents excellence... Its reputation speaks for itself, and that legacy inspires me to lead and serve with the highest standard of excellence in everything I do.”

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—D.C. Councilmember Wendell Felder

His career spans healthcare, education, community engagement, and public administration. He has served on the Board of Directors for D.C. Water; completed four terms as an Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner; and worked in both the Executive Office of the Mayor and the Office of the City Administrator, experiences that shaped his approach to leadership.

“Together, they’ve made me a more effective and well-rounded leader, better equipped to serve my constituents,” he said.

Now, he serves his hometown as the D.C. Councilmember for Ward 7.

While balancing full-time work in government, Felder discovered the Master’s in Urban & Regional Planning program at Georgetown. The curriculum allowed him to connect his day-to-day responsibilities directly to his academic work. From housing and transportation to infrastructure planning, every piece of the program has helped him navigate real-world challenges in his role.

“The program allowed me to connect those two worlds—professional practice and academic study—at the same time,” he said. “Being a lifelong learner allows me to stay sharp, stay informed, and continuously grow in my role. It helps me serve my constituents more thoughtfully and effectively.”

For Felder, the most meaningful moments in public service come from giving back to the community that raised him.

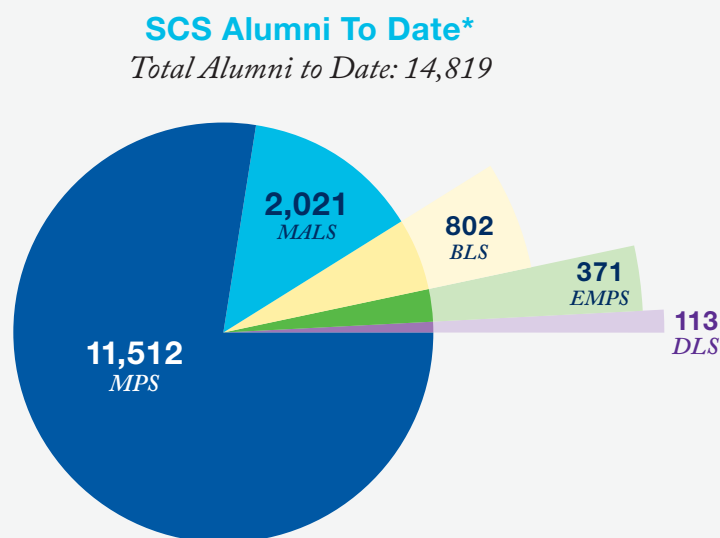
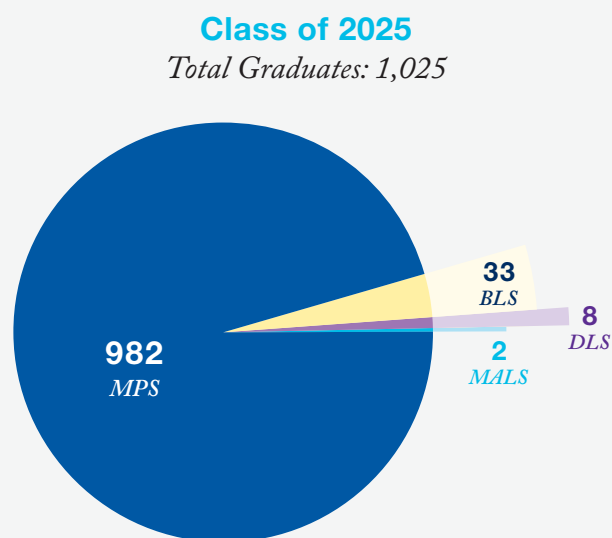
“I love the District of Columbia,” Felder said. “I wouldn’t be here today without the investment my community made in me, and as a Councilmember, I feel that same obligation to invest back into my community.”



Class of 2025 Lights a Path For Others

► BY LAWRENCE HARDY

Georgetown School of Continuing Studies celebrated 1,025 graduates at its 2025 Commencement ceremony last May. In total, Georgetown awarded degrees to nearly 5,700 graduates across the University.



*Excludes alumni with two or more degrees

B.A. in Liberal Studies (BLS), Master of Professional Studies (MPS), Executive Master of Professional Studies (EMPS), M.A. in Liberal Studies (MALS), and Doctor of Liberal Studies (DLS).





“Be a lighthouse for others, just as people in your life have been lighthouses for you,” said Steve Pemberton, the 2025 Commencement speaker and honorary doctorate recipient. The words carried a special weight coming from someone who had once found light in the midst of darkness.

Growing up in an abusive foster home, Pemberton found comfort in books delivered by a kind neighbor—a lighthouse, as he called her. For more than ten years, she brought him boxes of stories, each one a quiet act that would shape the man he would become.

Decades later, when Pemberton asked her why she had done it, she answered simply, “That was something my mother told me to do, give from where you are, with whatever you have.”

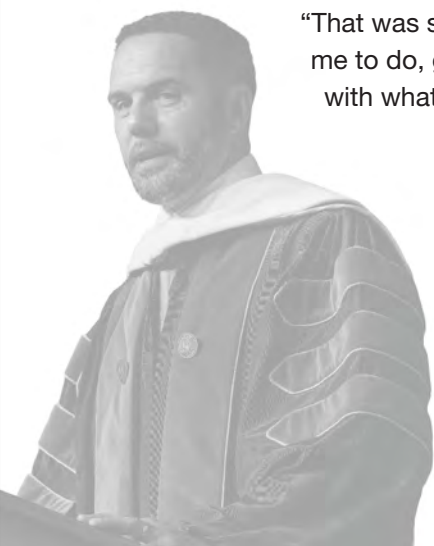
Now a best-selling author and human resources executive, Pemberton told the graduates that these moments of light shape his understanding of success—not as status, but as service.

Like the graduates sitting before him, he also attended a Jesuit institution, Boston College, where he found meaning in Ignatian ideals and values. He reflected that St. Ignatius of Loyola, who founded the Jesuit order in 1540, might have also been inspired by the symbolism of a lighthouse.

“When St. Ignatius said, ‘Go, set the world aflame,’ he was not speaking of naked ambition for the pursuit of power disguised as service,” Pemberton said. “He was speaking of illumination; the power of the personal journey to light a path for others, to be a port in the storm, and, in doing so, show us our common humanity.”

“Be a lighthouse for others, just as people in your life have been lighthouses for you.”

—Steve Pemberton



Class of 2025

Profiles in Perseverance

► BY MIRANDA MAHMUD

A Promise Kept, A Mission Continued



“She was born and raised in South Carolina and picked cotton as a kid,” said Michael T. Mack, remembering his mother, who encouraged him to attend college for as long as he can remember.

Now, Mack holds a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies, graduating just days after his 57th birthday.

Growing up, Mack’s family could not afford tuition. Two weeks after high school, he joined the United States Marine Corps and took care of his mother. “I promised her that I would always go to college, but I didn’t want her to work two jobs to pay for it,” he said.

Thirty years of active duty service, 10 deployments, two tours, and seven surgeries later, Mack—now a retired USMC Sergeant Major—continues to serve by supporting fellow veterans and wounded warriors.

That mission was inspired by his own experience on an assignment in 1987. While he was driving through the mountains of Yuma, Arizona, a vehicle ran him off the

road, causing his car to roll five times. Fellow Marines rushed him to the hospital. X-rays revealed a fractured spine and a concussion, and doctors doubted a full recovery. After one year of debilitating pain spent in a back brace, the Marine Corps began to process Mack out because he was considered disabled at this time.

“I did not want to be a burden to my family, so I pressed to stay in the Marine Corps, and I begged my physical therapist,” Mack recalled. “In those days, they didn’t have a wounded warrior regiment; they would medically discharge you.”

Mack beat the odds and made a miraculous recovery. Once the brace was removed, he passed the mandatory fitness test with a score of 291 out of 300, qualifying him to stay in the Marines. That moment marked the start of a new chapter. He began visiting injured Marines at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and initiated outreach to support wounded warriors.

“It was so moving to go and pin a medal on a young Marine who lost his leg and give him his Purple Heart,” he recalled. “That’s when I knew this was what I was meant to do.”

After retiring from the military, he launched Mack Strategic Solutions, a nonprofit dedicated to supporting wounded warriors, veterans, and their families. Since launching this initiative, Mack has spoken as a guest of honor at the Naval Academy, Panasonic Veterans Business Impact Group initiatives, the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, and the 2025 USMC Wounded Warrior Awards ceremony.

His mission led him to Georgetown to strengthen the skills he needed to grow his business and broaden his impact. The first in his immediate family to earn a college degree, he also became a member of the Georgetown University Honor Society and won the 2025 Tropaia Award (the highest academic award conferred on SCS graduate students).

“This accomplishment for a kid from humble beginnings, who never thought it would happen... is overwhelming and such a blessing,” he said.

“This accomplishment for a kid from humble beginnings... is overwhelming and such a blessing.”

**—Michael Mack,
Retired USMC Sergeant Major**

Finding Light Amidst Darkness

Tessa Crews’ guiding light beamed through love and loss, ultimately igniting her renewal.

Currently, Crews is the marketing and communications strategist for the University’s Office of Residential Living, and began her SCS journey in 2021. Bringing a passion for environmental sustainability to Georgetown, she sought a program that would allow her to blend creative work with purpose, inspiring her to pursue a Master’s in Design Management & Communications.

Two years later, she got engaged, thrilled to begin a new chapter. Only a few months later, her father passed away unexpectedly.

“You go from having this excitement about what’s to come, to all of this fear and doubt about what’s ahead,” she said. “I wanted to cancel the wedding. I wanted to take a step back from work...How do I navigate life now?”

After planning her father’s celebration of life and writing his obituary, she spoke with the rabbi who would later officiate her wedding. “Honoring death is important, but it never trumps the celebration of life,” the rabbi told her. Those words became her beacon.

One month after her wedding, Crews discovered she was pregnant. “Becoming a mother has taught me that I can do anything,” she said.

Rooted in her Blue Ridge Mountains upbringing and undergraduate studies in environmental sustainability, Crews chose Georgetown’s program to merge her love for nature and design. In 2023, she represented the University at a White House forum on climate change, where she documented national conversations on net-zero emissions and climate-resilient infrastructure. Her work helped shape how universities could serve as “living laboratories” for innovation.

“You learn that difficult experiences are actually really expansive,” she reflected. “They teach you the power of what you can do, instead of the smallness of what you can’t.”

Every Hoya has a guiding light that has helped them navigate uncertainty, whether it shines from loved ones or life-changing moments.

Regardless of the experience, destination, or degree, each graduate leaves Georgetown ready, as Commencement speaker Steve Pemberton put it, to be a lighthouse for others.





Mission and Ministry at SCS:

Where We've Been, Where We're Going

► BY JAMIE KRALOVEC

*T*he School of Continuing Studies (SCS) has played an important role in helping the Office of Mission and Ministry at Georgetown evolve and adapt to serving the spiritual and religious needs of students from a diverse array of communities throughout their academic and professional careers.

As the School has grown in recent years into a truly dispersed global population of learners—especially at its first dedicated building on 640 Massachusetts Ave. NW—Mission and Ministry has had to innovate the ways that it animates Georgetown's Catholic and Jesuit heritage and multi-faith commitments. The lessons from the SCS experience of inspiring Georgetown's Jesuit values into all aspects of the School's life are now helping to inform Mission and Ministry strategies for engagement, accompaniment, and encounter on the emerging Capitol Campus.



Growing Mission and Ministry at SCS

The pillars of the SCS approach take their cues from St. Ignatius of Loyola, Georgetown's patron and the founder of the global Jesuit religious order. Serving for 16 years as its Superior General, St. Ignatius was especially known as a military veteran, adult learner, and technologically-fluent leader (the technology of his day being handwritten letters). Drawing from his powerful example, SCS approaches mission integration in creative, inclusive, market responsive, and technologically savvy ways.

The key to the strategy, like all sound teaching and learning in the Jesuit tradition, is to root programs, services, and opportunities in the particular context of each audience. Whether students are engaging online, in immersive residencies around the world, or in-person on the growing Capitol Campus, SCS invites its learners to realize their professional goals with the support of discernment resources arising from the Ignatian spiritual tradition.

At SCS, Jesuit values and interreligious understanding are intentionally woven into curriculum design and delivery, management culture, student experience, and mission-driven external partnerships

and community engagement. The fruit of these efforts has borne out in myriad ways; in fact, SCS has gained a reputation within the university and throughout the larger Jesuit education network for its innovative and creative methods of integrating mission, values, and spiritual practices.

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One particularly novel expression of this technologically inflected approach is the creation of a strategies guide for integrating Jesuit values into online and on-campus courses. This guide informs the formulation of each and every new online course by mapping one or more of the ten [Spirit of Georgetown](#) values onto the learning activities of the class.



The composition of other courses at SCS also explicitly engage with particular Jesuit values. This is most evident in the core Ethics course required of all Master of Professional Studies students, as well as electives such as “Jesuit Values in Professional Practice,” a community-based learning course introducing the Spirit of Georgetown through volunteer service in the neighborhoods surrounding Capitol Campus.

“[The] exposure to the Jesuit emphasis on a person’s holistic development encouraged me to think broadly, and from a spiritual perspective as I work to reorient my career,” says John Lauinger, a current student in the Master’s in Urban & Regional Planning (URP) program.

Such mission integration pushes students to engage on a deeper level and to consider other perspectives they would not have otherwise—leaving an indelible mark on both their personal and professional growth.

Anna Harty, another URP student who also works as a clinic office manager at Georgetown Law, reflects on an eye-opening course about faith-based organizations in Southeast D.C.

“It reaffirmed my desire to pursue a career in urban planning dedicated to social justice, grounded in my experience with Jesuit education and values,” Harty says. “The course readings and discussions also sparked my interest in approaching urban planning as a kind of spiritual practice that involves intentional, dynamic engagement with community members and the city.”

Expanding Beyond Degree Programs

It is not only degree-seeking students who benefit from these coursework connections. Non-degree students in certificate programs like the Master Practitioner in Leadership and Strategic Thinking & Leadership, as well as high school students in pre-college programs like the Summer College Immersion Program (for rising seniors from the Cristo Rey Network, the KIPP Foundation school systems, and other community-based organizations), receive presentations about the principles of Ignatian spirituality and their relevant application for reflective professional practices.

The work of Mission and Ministry at SCS particularly shines in the area of retreats. A hallmark of the Jesuit spiritual accompaniment strategy post-Vatican II, retreats are modeled on the dynamics of St. Ignatius’s “Spiritual Exercises.” They have become a regular, often-anticipated occurrence for SCS students. Whether it takes place in daily life, or a weekend away at Georgetown’s Calcagnini Contemplative Center in Bluemont, Virginia, these religiously inclusive retreats help students pause and more deeply reflect on leading lives of meaning, purpose, and belonging.

Mission and Ministry-related opportunities for engagement are also offered to staff and faculty. Melissa Netzband Wathen, an SCS public services librarian, reflects on the “Ignatian Tradition” seminar that was a foundational experience early on during her tenure at Georgetown.

“In my time working at SCS, both at 640 and 111 Mass. Ave., I have found that my continued education in Jesuit core values has drastically shaped my day-to-day life at Georgetown,” Wathen says. “It is because of this seminar that I have a foundational understanding of what Georgetown truly stands for in its mission. That mission shows up in my work every day in how I approach student research consultations, in my relationships with my colleagues, and in my own professional practices.”

Finally, with a spirit of creativity and adaptability, Mission and Ministry at SCS has taken these spiritual resources online, offering virtual formats for regular meditation, workshops, and community listening circles.

Invigorating Possibilities at Capitol Campus

The growth of Georgetown’s Capitol Campus represents an exciting inflection point in the development and further integration of Mission and Ministry at SCS. The campus’s status as an interdisciplinary hub makes it an even more attractive destination for professional learners seeking to increase their impact in meeting social and marketplace needs. With a nexus of so many SCS programs focused on sustainable and equitable urban development, alongside other programs housed at Capitol Campus with similar profiles,

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Mission and Ministry will be at the center of this collaborative potential, anchoring and guiding the development of the Capitol Campus in the mission-rooted lessons of St. Ignatius of Loyola. In Fall 2025, Mission and Ministry achieved a new milestone, opening the Mission and Ministry Multifaith Center on the fourth floor of 111 Massachusetts Avenue NW. Featuring a common area, offices for chaplains and staff, and a contemplative space for individual and group spiritual activities, this hospitable space promises to become a focal place of community building.

Mission and Ministry is well-suited to make durable connections not only within the Capitol Campus community, but also between the University and the city at large. As a strategic urbanist, St. Ignatius knew full well that a Jesuit institution proximate not only to the U.S. Capitol and the centers of national civic life, but also to the faith-based organizations serving the human needs of the poor, presents an amazing opportunity for our educational tradition at Georgetown to more greatly serve God’s glory and the well-being of humankind.

Read More About Jesuit Values at SCS

- [“Caring for Our Common Home: Advancing Sustainability and Faith-Based Community Development”](#) (2024)
- [“SCS Cares for the Whole Person: Restorative Spiritual Retreats”](#) (2023)
- [“SCS Celebrates Ignatian Year 500”](#) (2022)



From Washington to the World:

▶ SCS's Global Impact on Executive Education

▶ BY QI CHEN AND RAUGHLEY NUZZI

Global workforces have been navigating some of the most significant shifts in decades, shaped by pandemic-driven changes to how and where we work; an urgent need for upskilling and reskilling in response to rapid technological advances; and rising expectations for leaders to manage an increasingly multi-generational workforce.

These forces have enabled Custom & Executive Education at SCS to empower organizations with tailored, multi-disciplinary training programs designed to address their unique needs—delivered in the right modality, to the right audience, at the right time, and with the right strategic framing.



Meeting Organizations Where They Are

More than ever, organizations are identifying leadership and competency gaps that traditional training programs cannot fully address. They are seeking solutions specially crafted around their cultures, their strategies, and their challenges. The Custom team has responded by offering its portfolio of distinct, high-touch, and experiential learning opportunities that meet organizations precisely where they are.

When Ousmane Diagne, general manager of people & culture department at Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD), began searching for a training partner, he knew he wasn't looking for a typical "leadership program."

"I wanted a partner who understood the deeper, human side of leadership. We needed something tailored and geared towards transformation," says Diagne. "Georgetown's ethos of educating the whole person, combined with SCS's very practitioner-oriented approach, felt like the right fit for where ICD is today. Georgetown was the only institution that approached our needs with that level of maturity and nuance."

Through close collaboration—including 24 weekly Zoom meetings between the Georgetown and ICD teams—his vision became a six-month

learning journey that spanned the Middle East and Washington, D.C. The custom-designed program took place on three Georgetown campuses: GU-Q in Qatar, the Hilltop, and 640 Massachusetts Ave. NW, resulting in transformative outcomes.

"[Georgetown faculty] made space for our stories, our identity, our cultural norms. And they translated their expertise into something that fit us, rather than asking us to fit their model."

—Ousmane Diagne

"The customization made all the difference," he reflects. "Georgetown faculty didn't parachute in with pre-packaged slides—they studied ICD's context, the leadership behaviors we want to shift, and the gaps we needed to close. Because of this, sessions resonated in a very practical way. Their faculty brought depth, but also humility. They made space for our stories, our identity, our cultural norms. And they translated their expertise into something that fit us, rather than asking us to fit their model."

Global Growth in Specialized Areas

Given its strategic location in Washington, D.C., SCS Custom & Executive Education is at the forefront of fostering global development by engaging directly with leaders in the city, across the U.S., and around the world. The vast portfolio of SCS's graduate and certificate programs supplies a dynamic academic foundation from which custom programs can build industry-aligned, globally relevant, and competency-based learning experiences—extending SCS's expertise to industries and regions far beyond the nation's capital.



This strategic positioning has become a major draw for international clients. Gaining new perspectives and moving toward a more global approach were key reasons why Fomento Económico Mexicano, S.A.B. de C.V. (FEMSA)—a global leader in the beverage, retail, and logistics and distribution industries—ultimately chose SCS over other universities to train its senior leaders in supply chain management.

For one fully immersive week in August 2024, nearly 30 senior executives from across FEMSA's business units gathered at Georgetown to engage with leading faculty from SCS's Master's in Supply Chain Management program, learn from industry guest speakers, and participate in a site visit to the Amazon Distribution Center—an experience that brought substantial added value to the program.

“The most positive impact was that, first and foremost, it created a strong networking connection among all the business units,” says Sandra Gomaz, head of development, learning & leadership at FEMSA. “Another important impact was that participants were able to identify best practices, reflect on their areas of opportunity, and walk away with a comprehensive analysis for improvements.”

The communication and leadership skills that the FEMSA participants developed reflect Georgetown's Cura Personalis ethos, i.e. “Care for the Whole Person.” The Custom team approaches each client as a whole, offering a perspective on leadership development that serves a wide range of public and private global organizations in their strategic journeys.

A New Home for Collaboration and Growth

The Fall 2025 semester marked a powerful new chapter with SCS's move to 111 Massachusetts Ave. NW, located steps away from the nation's centers of influence. The Custom team found its new home on the eighth floor: a dedicated executive education space complete with sweeping views from the Capitol Overlook—an experience that reinforces the executive caliber of SCS programming.

The new building has also energized collaboration across the University. The team has worked closely with programs across SCS, GU-Qatar, and the Hilltop. Now, shared space at the Capitol Campus is creating even more opportunities for cross-school partnerships, as SCS continues to expand the global reach of its customized and executive offerings.

Supporting this effort, the Custom & Executive Education team has launched SCS's first program leveraging the Noodle platform in Winter 2026. Working with a large, international corporation, Noodle will enable SCS to present content accessibly to participants from Sydney, Australia to San Francisco and everywhere in between.

In the new space and with cutting-edge educational tools, the possibilities of offering Georgetown experiences to learners from all over the world have never looked brighter.



Academic Opportunities

► DEGREE PROGRAMS

Business & Management

Global Sports Operations & Strategy

(Executive Master's launching Fall 2026)

Higher Education Administration

Human Resources Management

Project Management

Sports Industry Management

Supply Chain Management

Marketing & Communications

Design Management & Communications

Integrated Marketing Communications

Journalism

Public Relations & Corporate Communications

Real Estate & Urban Planning

Real Estate

Urban & Regional Planning

Technology & Security

Applied Intelligence

Artificial Intelligence Management

Cybersecurity Risk Management

Emergency & Disaster Management

Information Technology Management

► LIBERAL STUDIES

Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies

Master of Arts in Liberal Studies

Doctor of Liberal Studies

► GRADUATE CERTIFICATES

Competitive Business Intelligence

Cybersecurity Risk Management

Lean & Agile Practices

► NON-DEGREE PROGRAMS

Professional Certificates

Business, Finance, & Management (8)

Education, Health, & Policy (5)

Marketing & Communications (2)

Social Impact (4)

- Center for Social Impact Communication

Technology & Security (6)

Executive Leadership Programs

Organizational Mastery

Facilitation

Health & Wellness

Leadership Coaching

Organization Development Consulting

& Change Leadership

Custom & Executive Education

Business Administration

Strategic Leadership

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility

Cybersecurity

Public & Private Partnership

Leadership Coaching

Supply Chain Management

Summer & Special Programs

Hoya Summer Sessions

Hoya Summer High School Sessions

Pre-College Online Programs (Year-Round)

Summer College Immersion Program

Special Programs

English Language Education

American Conversational English

Certificate in Teaching English

as a Foreign Language

English Skills for Graduate Students

English for Heritage Language Speakers

Evening & Weekend English

Intensive English Programs

Teaching English as a Foreign Language



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