



*Touro College
Division of Graduate Studies*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Over 3,000 Touro College Students from Division of Graduate Studies
Celebrate Annual Commencement at Citi Field – Home of the New York
Mets**

New York, N.Y. – June 20, 2011 – More than 3,000 graduates from seven schools representing Touro College’s Division of Graduate Studies received master’s degrees or advanced bilingual certificates at commencement ceremonies held Tuesday, June 14, at Citi Field – home of the New York Mets. The event marked the first commencement ceremonies to be held at any Mets stadium – including the new Citi Field in Flushing, Queens.

The crowd of approximately 6,000 – including graduates, parents, well-wishers, and Touro administration, faculty and staff - watched the ceremonies up close or on Citi Field’s jumbotrons, which flashed congratulatory messages and streamed a live feed of the commencement.

The graduating students were from the graduate schools of Jewish studies, business, health sciences, technology, social work, psychology and education.

The program included remarks from Touro President and CEO Dr. Alan Kadish; Division of Graduate Studies Vice President Dr. Anthony J. Polemeni; and Charlotte K. Frank, Ph.D., keynote speaker and senior vice president for research and development for McGraw-Hill Education of the McGraw-Hill Companies. The deans of each of the seven schools also participated, and introduced a student representative from each school who shared her personal story and reflected upon the significance of her Touro educational experience.

Dr. Kadish told the graduates that their degrees reflect their dreams for the future, but that they also contain a promise that they will use their education to improve their communities, our nation and the world.

“Touro serves a variety of communities in keeping with the Jewish intellectual tradition – the historic Jewish commitment to the transmission of knowledge - and to social justice and showing compassionate concern for society,” Dr. Kadish said, adding, “Your degrees

are grounded in the Jewish intellectual tradition: the value and power of education and the importance of ethics and morality in your professional lives.”

Addressing the graduates and the assembly, Vice President Polemeni noted that baseball, the business of Citi Field, is like higher education in many ways. Both require skill, professionalism, a strong work ethic, a will to win, and a desire to reach one’s potential.

“These are the keys that will open the doors for you to potential excellence,” he said, adding “The pursuit of your post-graduate degrees has required stamina, energy and lots of practice and planning. Winners are those who achieve their goals, which is what our graduates have achieved.”

Dr. Frank advised the graduates to build their careers upon four pillars: caring, opportunity, appreciation and direction. She advised them to care about the work they do; make the most of opportunities that come their way; show appreciation for friends, family and faculty who have helped them along the way and will continue to do so; and be mindful that their careers may take surprising turns.

“You’ve had the benefit of an extraordinary education at Touro. A world of opportunity awaits you,” Dr. Frank said.

The deans of the individual schools participating in the ceremonies were Dr. Michael Shmidman (Jewish Studies); Dr. Michael Williams (Business); Dr. Louis Primavera (Psychology and Health Sciences); Dr. Isaac Herskowitz, (Technology); Dr. Steven Huberman (Social Work);and Dr. Lamar Miller (Education).

Each dean introduced a student speaker who addressed the assembly on behalf of their peers. The speakers were: Shaindel Markowitz (Jewish Studies); Lauren Stamm (Business); Rosemarie Garcia (Health Sciences); Krystal Copeland (Technology); Chaya Friedman (Social Work); Sabrina Gordin (Psychology); Marie Dawes-Smith (Education).

Dr. Frank joined the McGraw-Hill Companies 1988, after serving nine years as executive director of the Division of Curriculum and Instruction for the New York City Board of Education, where she was also a teacher and supervisor.

Touro is a system of Jewish-sponsored non-profit institutions of higher and professional education. Touro College was chartered in 1970 primarily to enrich the Jewish heritage, and to serve the larger American community. Approximately 19,000 students are currently enrolled in its various schools and divisions. Touro College has branch campuses, locations and instructional sites in the New York area, as well as branch campuses and programs in Berlin, Jerusalem, Moscow, Paris, and Florida. Touro University California and its Nevada branch campus, as well as Touro College Los Angeles and Touro University Worldwide, are separately accredited institutions within the Touro College and University System. For further information on Touro College, please go to: <http://www.touro.edu/media/>.

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Photo by Allison Schwartz

Touro College's Division of Graduate Studies recently held its annual commencement exercises at Citi Field, home of the New York Mets. Pictured are Alan Kadish, M.D., Touro College President and CEO (center), joined by commencement speaker Dr. Charlotte Frank (left of Dr. Kadish) and (from left): Division of Graduate Studies Deans Dr. Issac Herskowitz, Technology; Dr. Louis Primavera, Psychology and Health Sciences; Dr. Steven Huberman, Social Work; Dr. LaMar Miller, Education; and Vice President Dr. Anthony Polemeni. To the right of Dr. Kadish are Dr. Donne Kampel, associate dean; Rabbi Moshe Krupka, senior vice president for college affairs; Dr. Michael Williams, dean of the Graduate School of Business; Simcha Fishbane, executive assistant to the president; and Dr. Michael Shmidman, dean of the Graduate School of Jewish Studies.