

THE BOROUGH

"It is your time to make this global community more open, more innovative and more just."



Naofall Folahan, a 6-foot-11 center for the Seahawks, responds to cheers from his fellow Wagner College graduates. (STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE PHOTOS/ JAN SOMMA-HAMMEL)

GRYMES HILL

Civil rights activist inspires Wagner graduates

'We hope you will do well ... and do good,' Julian Bond advises

By Jan Somma-Hammel
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The sound of classical music filled the Wagner College campus as families and friends took their seats Friday morning to witness the Grymes Hill school's commencement ceremony, during which 712 undergraduate and postgraduate degrees were conferred.

The keynote speaker was civil rights leader Julian Bond.

"As you go forward from this place, we hope you will do well, but we also hope that you will do good," he told graduates and guests assembled under a tent that covered Sutter Oval.

"You must place interest in principle above interest on principal. Perhaps your slogan ought to be 'Each One Reach One.'"

Bond was the first president of the Southern Poverty Law Center and was elected to four terms in the Georgia House of Representatives. He is also a former chairman of the NAACP.

Student Government Association president Andrew Burt delivered an inspirational message to classmates.

"We are now entering into the next chapter of our lives as our time together is coming to an end.

"It is time to take all that we have learned here and transform it into real-world implications throughout your professional careers."

Ellen Huffman, the 2014 Spiro Scholar, told classmates: "As I stand before you today, I'm nervous because I know that when I walk off this



An excited graduate waves her diploma in the air.

stage with my diploma I am no longer an undergraduate student. I'm a graduate of Wagner College. But those butterflies tell me, they tell us, that while we might not know where we'll be in a month or a year from now, we will be ready to channel any doubts because of our time at Wagner."

Wagner College president Dr. Richard Guarasci predicted great success for the Class of 2014.

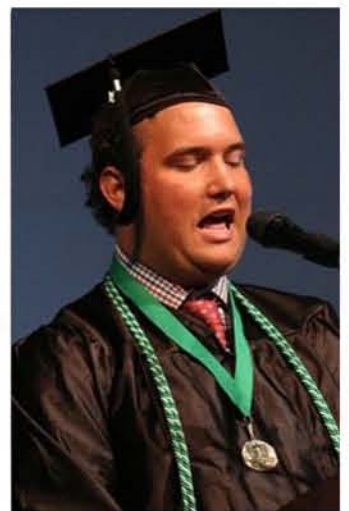
"It is your time to make this global community more open, more innovative and more just," he said.

"At Wagner, you have been prepared to meet the challenges of your time. Your personal biographies are intimately tied to the contours of this historical era. Your values and your commitment are our treasures."

Honorary doctorates were presented to Bond, and to Marion and Pat Dugan.



Julian Bond was the ceremony's keynote speaker.



SGA president Andrew Burt addresses the class.



Alexandria Magriples of Brooklyn earned a B.A. degree.



Danielle Lucchese of Westerleigh is all smiles under the tent.