

GANNON UNIVERSITY

## Undergraduate Admissions

## Dr. Garibaldi to Address May Graduates

*Gannon will celebrate the achievements of our graduates at Spring Commencement on Saturday, May 7*

The keynote speaker at Gannon's May Commencement ceremony will be very familiar to the University's 728 graduates.

[Antoine M. Garibaldi, Ph.D.](#), the University's sixth president, will give the keynote address and will be awarded an honorary degree during the ceremony, to be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 7 at Tullio Arena.

Garibaldi will become the first lay president of the University of Detroit Mercy, effective July 1. On April 7, the University hosted a special reception, attended by hundreds of Gannon faculty, staff, students, alumni and members of the community, to thank Dr. and Mrs. Carol Garibaldi for their many contributions to Gannon.

Garibaldi is on sabbatical. Phil Kelly, D.A., is serving as Gannon's interim president during the search process.

The May 7 graduates include 39 students receiving the doctor of physical therapy degree, 272 receiving master's degrees, one receiving a post master's certificate, 396 receiving bachelor's degrees and 20 receiving associate's degrees. Some 56 students will graduate summa cum laude, 75 magna cum laude, 58 cum laude and four with academic honors.

Including the University's December graduates, Gannon will have a graduating class of 1,004 for the 2010-11 Academic Year.

Garibaldi received his undergraduate degree magna cum laude from Howard University in 1973 and his Ph.D. in educational psychology from the University of Minnesota in 1976. Since he was named president of Gannon in July, 2001, the University has made significant gains in a number of key areas:

- Enrollment – has increased by 24 percent, from 3,401 to more than 4,200 students. The latter figure, from Fall 2009, represented Gannon's highest number of students in 17 years.
- Endowment – has more than doubled under his leadership. In 2008, Garibaldi completed the largest comprehensive fund-raising campaign in Gannon's history, raising more than \$31.5 million in private gifts and nearly \$40 million total.
- National reputation – Gannon has achieved top-tier rankings for seven consecutive years in U.S. News & World Report's America's Best Colleges, and also was named by the annual college guide as both a "Best Value" (or Great School, Great Price) institution for five years and as a "Top Up-and-Coming" school in 2009.
- Support from corporations, foundations and governmental entities – in addition to leading a successful comprehensive campaign, Garibaldi helped Gannon secure \$8 million in foundation and government grants. A Title III grant of \$1.8 million led to the establishment of Gannon's Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning. In addition, he helped secure a \$1.1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

Also at the ceremony, Erie Bishop Most Rev. [Donald W. Trautman](#) will be awarded an honorary degree in recognition of his forthcoming retirement.

In 2010, Bishop Trautman celebrated his 20th anniversary as bishop of the [Roman Catholic Diocese of Erie](#). He is the ninth bishop of the Erie Diocese and overall has served as a bishop for 25 years.

Bishop Trautman pursued higher studies in biblical languages at Catholic University in Washington, D.C., and continued his post-graduate work at the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome, where he received his licentiate degree in Scripture. He also earned a doctorate in sacred theology from St. Thomas Aquinas University, Rome.

Related activities on Commencement day, Saturday, May 7:

- Army ROTC Commissioning, 8:30 a.m. at Schuster Theatre, 620 Sassafras St.
- Baccalaureate Mass at 10 a.m. at St. Peter Cathedral, 230 West 10th St.
- Reception in honor of graduates at 11 a.m. in the Yehl Room of the Waldron Campus Center, 124 West 7th St.

Press Archives

109 University Square • Erie, Pennsylvania 16541-0001 ([Get Directions](#))  
1-800 GANNON-U (1-800-426-6668) or 814-871-7000  
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