



COURTESY

Joseph A. Favazza, Ph.D., delivers his inaugural address at Sullivan Arena on Thursday.

# St. Anselm College celebrates inauguration of 11th president

■ Joseph A. Favazza takes over after the departure of former president Stephen DiSalvo.

By Andrew Sylvia  
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GOFFSTOWN — Members of the St. Anselm College community gathered at Sullivan Arena on Thursday to officially inaugurate the college's 11th president, Joseph A. Favazza, Ph.D.

The event marked the official beginning of Favazza's tenure, joining the college in an interim role on July 1 after Stephen DiSalvo left to become president of Endicott College in Beverly, Mass.

Before arriving at St. Anselm, Favazza served as the president of Stonehill College in Easton, Mass., since 2012, where his wife Dr. Paddy Cronin Favazza also served as a professor in Early Childhood Special Education.

He told the crowd that initially he was not interested in taking the position, but was persuaded by his wife, who was set to retire and convinced him he would benefit from heading to St. Anselm. Since coming on board in an interim role, he has not regretted that decision.

"I am so happy that St. Anselm took a chance on me and on (my family),"

he said. "I've been overwhelmed by the warmth and hospitality that is in the Benedictine DNA of this place."

Throughout Favazza's inaugural speech, he invoked Catholic concepts key to the college's core identity such as a "Holy Trinity of Learning" within each student that addresses introspective learning and interactional learning in addition to learning concepts.

Favazza built on the college's religious identity in other parts of the speech as well, such as establishing new policies that would be more inclusive toward minority students and faculty members, and exploring educational programs that could combine with the school's monastic community.

"Since arriving on the hill top, I keep getting a simple question: what is your vision?" he said. "My vision arises listening carefully to the campus community, fully understanding the Catholic mission of the college's Benedictine identity, and honestly discussing the present and potential human, physical and financial resources that we have."

Favazza told the audience that he hopes and expects that the college's Board of Trustees would approve a new graduate program in criminal justice studies on Friday, which would become the college's first graduate program. He hopes the

college will eventually offer graduate programs in business, healthcare and politics as well. Beyond new graduate programs, Favazza says he is aiming to introduce new undergraduate courses in intra-disciplinary and life skills subjects ranging from data analytics to social media.

While he praised the college's retention rate, currently at 90 percent among third-year students, he also hoped to bring more students into the college, hoping to provide more online courses, easier transfer and dual enrollment policies with local high schools.

A string of speakers preceded Favazza wishing him luck and speaking on the compassion and community involvement that is also core to the St. Anselm identity.

The speakers, such as St. Anselm College Board of Trustees Chair Ann Catino, also expressed their confidence in Favazza's ability to lead the college into the future.

"During the selection process for this position, it was clear that Dr. Favazza understands the challenges that small colleges like ours are facing," said Catino. "In his style, demeanor, thoughtfulness and overall approach to these challenges, Dr. Favazza has made it clear that he is willing to listen and he certainly embraces our Benedictine identity."