

ORDER OF EXERCISES

Prelude

Selections from "Water Music Suite"
Handel

*** Processional**

"Pomp and Circumstance"
Elgar

*** Opening of the Exercise**

Michael Zumpano, M.A., Ph.D., D.C., Grand Marshal
Professor

*** Welcome**

Anne Killen, M.S.Ed., D.M.
Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs

*** National Anthem**

Invocation

Rev. Dr. Leah Ntuala
Pastor, First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls

Introduction

Michael Mestan, D.C., Ed.D.
President

Board of Trustee Greeting

Rick Rosa, B.S., D.C.
Chair of the Board of Trustees

Recognition of Awards and Academic Excellence

Michael Mestan, D.C., Ed.D.

Commencement Address

Sylvia Regalla, M.D., M.S.

Convocation of the American College of Chiropractors

Frank Lizzio, D.C., F.A.C.C.

*Audience Standing

Presentation of Candidates

Eugene Spilker, B.S., DHPE, D.C.
Assistant Vice President for Chiropractic

Fiona Jarrett-Thelwell, B.S., M.S., D.C.
Professor, Clinical Sciences

Nina Stenshorn, B.S.
Instructor, Imaging Sciences

Nicole Miller, M.S
Director, Massage Therapy Program

Hooding of Candidates

Michael Mestan, D.C., Ed.D.

Conferring of the Degrees

Michael Mestan, D.C., Ed.D.

Administration of Chiropractic Oath

Julie Scarano, B.A., D.C.
Member of the Board of Trustees

Faculty Address

M. Owen Papuga, Ph.D.
Dean, Frank J. Nicchi School of Continuing Education

Alumni Relations Address

Christina Pluretti
Director, Alumni Relations

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Leah Ntuala

Closing of the Exercise

Michael Zumpano, M.A., Ph.D., D.C.

Recessional

Selection from "Water Music Suite"
Handel

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Virginia Robbins, M.S., J.D.
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Charles Ventresca, D.C.

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Vice President of Enrollment Management and Student Affairs

NORTHEAST COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

BOARD OF TRUSTEE GREETING

As a member of the Board of Trustees of Northeast College of Health Sciences, it is a thrill to welcome you to the Winter 2026 Commencement exercise.

For all of you graduates and family, friends, and loved ones, this is truly a special day. It marks the conclusion of an important time in your lives and is the culmination of much hard work and sacrifice. Here at Northeast College, you became an expert in your chosen discipline, evolving intellectually and emotionally into mature, responsible professionals, worthy of a patient's trust and a colleague's respect. Today you complete an academic journey started years before, and move onto a new path toward a successful, rewarding career in which you will fully realize your passion to reimagine health and transform lives.

As you move into this new stage of your professional life, always remember that you are not alone. Your alma mater will always be here for you, supporting you in your dedication to uncompromising excellence and optimal health. And even more, remember that you are surrounded by so many loved ones – parents, family, spouses, partners – who believe in you and have been staunch supporters as you have pursued this important calling. All of us are so very proud of your accomplishments and we're honored to be here with you today to celebrate your great success.

The trustees of Northeast College of Health Sciences warmly congratulate you on today's significant achievement. Know, as we do, that you go forward today powerfully prepared for a bright and successful future. We wish each of you continued health and prosperity and welcome you to the healthcare profession. May you all experience the best life has to offer. CONGRATULATIONS!

Rick Rosa, B.S., M.S., D.C.
Board of Trustees

DOCTOR OF CHIROPRACTIC AWARDS

ALUMNI CLASS PRESIDENT AWARD

The Alumni Class President Award is presented to a graduate who has served a minimum of two trimesters as class officer during their time as a Northeast College of Health Sciences student.

Jessica June Turza

ERNEST G. NAPOLITANO MEMORIAL AWARD

This award is presented to a member of the graduating class who has demonstrated the qualities of an exceptionally effective leader through scholarly endeavors within the classroom, within clubs, and representing Northeast College of Health Sciences at sanctioned activities.

Jade Nicole Carbuccia

LORRAINE WELCH MEMORIAL AWARD

This award is presented to a graduate who has engaged in furthering the academic growth of others by assisting his/her peers through teaching endeavors.

Katia Korkis

FRANK E. DEAN MEMORIAL AWARD

This award is presented to a graduate who has displayed a loyalty and service to the College as evidenced by assisting in the recruitment of students and patients through speaking engagements or publication promoting Northeast College of Health Sciences to the public.

Jessica June Turza

D. D. PALMER AWARD

This award is presented to a graduate who has participated in activities that educate the public on the benefits of chiropractic and/or activities that serve to further the advancement of the profession.

Jade Nicole Carbuccia

PHILIP G. STRIANO MEMORIAL ALUMNI AWARD

This award is presented to a graduate who modeled exceptional skills during his/her time as a student. The recipient of this award has assisted in the growth and development of the institution through active participation within the Northeast College Community.

Cassie Cavell

LIBERO A. VIOLINI HEALTH CENTER AWARDS

This award honoring the memory of Dr. Libero Violini is presented to graduates who have performed at a high level of excellence during their clinic tour in the areas of patient evaluation and adjustment procedures. In addition to their personal development of these skills, recipients of this award have demonstrated an aptitude for teaching. The recipients also have demonstrated selflessness and dedication to service to and within the Health Center, the qualities that were most intimately exemplified by Dr. Violini.

Katia Korkis, Depew Health Center

Jade Nicole Carbuccia., Levittown Health Center

Brenden William Candella, Seneca Falls Health Center

DOCTOR OF CHIROPRACTIC AWARD BIOGRAPHIES

Ernest G. Napolitano:

Dr. Napolitano graduated from the Palmer School of Chiropractic in 1943. In 1954 he earned his degree in law from Blackstone School of Law. At a time when the chiropractic profession was struggling for credibility, practice was still unlicensed in New York and the move was on to either upgrade our educational institutions or close them, Dr. Napolitano became the President of Columbia Institute of Chiropractic. He led the institute to merge with the Atlantic States College of Chiropractic forming the school we know today as Northeast College of Health Sciences. Dr. Napolitano tirelessly contributed to the advancement of the College and the profession as a whole from 1959 until his death in 1985, receiving 13 honorary degrees and over 50 educational, professional and civic awards during his extensive career.

Lorraine Welch:

Dr. Welch was a 1942 graduate of the Columbia Institute of Chiropractic (now Northeast College of Health Sciences). Earlier while enrolled at Columbia University, she met her future husband, Dr. Frank E. Dean, founder of the Columbia Institute of Chiropractic (CIC) through very active roles as registrar, head of the library, teaching classes in histology, embryology, and anatomy, and representing the school to professional associations. She received her Ph.D. from NYU in 1956. Her thesis was entitled, "Chiropractic: An evolving art, science, and philosophy." Dr. Welch remained dedicated to the college until her passing in 1974.

Frank E. Dean:

Dr. Dean was a 1917 graduate of the Standard Institute of Chiropractic in New York and had earlier studied medicine in Poland, Germany, and Russia earning a bachelor's in medicine. In 1919 he founded the Columbia Institute of Chiropractic (now Northeast College of Health Sciences) in New York City, thought to be the earliest not-for-profit school in chiropractic. He also founded the Advanced School of Chiropractic in New York City and the Columbia College of Chiropractic in Baltimore, Maryland. Dr. Dean was committed to strong basic sciences, many styles of adjusting in the D.C. curriculum and development for the graduate through continuing education. Dr. Dean continued his devotion to advancement of the interests of Chiropractic in the State of New York until his death in 1958.

Daniel David Palmer:

Dr. Palmer, the founder of chiropractic, was born in 1845 in Port Perry, Ontario, Canada. D.D. as he became fondly known, was a lifelong learner and led a fascinating life as a schoolmaster, farmer, horticulturist, businessman, magnetic healer, and finally, a chiropractor. After his discovery of chiropractic in 1895, he became determined to teach his newly devised science and art. In 1897, he opened the Palmer School of Chiropractic and Infirmary, and enrolled his first student in 1898. He spent 17 years, until his death, practicing, writing, teaching, and protecting his beloved profession.

Philip G. Striano:

Dr. Striano received his B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania in 1956, his Doctor of Chiropractic from the Columbia Institute of Chiropractic (now Northeast College of Health Sciences) in 1967, and his Master of Science from the University of Bridgeport in 1980. For over twenty years at NYCC, Dr. Striano taught first in the basic sciences and later in chiropractic technique. He served the college and profession in an unselfish and relentless manner for which he was recognized several times. He held leadership positions in the College's Alumni Association and Faculty Council, and maintained active membership in the International Chiropractic Association, the New Jersey Chiropractic Society, the Northern New Jersey Chiropractic Society, and the New York State Chiropractic Association all while sustaining three private practices.

Libero A. Violini:

Dr. Violini was a 1951 graduate of the Chiropractic Institute of New York. He taught at Atlantic States Chiropractic Institute. He assumed the Chair of the Anatomy Department at Atlantic States and continued his association with Dr. Napolitano at New York Chiropractic College (now Northeast College of Health Sciences) when the colleges merged. He served as Director of the Greenvale Clinic and as a clinician at the Levittown Health Center until his retirement in 1996. He was the honored recipient of New York Chiropractic College's Lifetime Chiropractic Achievement Award. His dedication to students and the chiropractic profession were exemplary.

ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE IN RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY AWARDS

OUTSTANDING CLINICAL PERFORMANCE

The Outstanding Clinical Performance Award is presented to a member of the graduating class who has demonstrated superior skills in the clinical setting for the Radiological Technology Program.

Danielle J. Smithers

EXCEPTIONAL ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

The Exceptional Academic Achievement Award is awarded to the student or students who have achieved the highest cumulative GPA in the Radiological Technology Program.

Amanda Kristine Barber

ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE IN DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY AWARDS

OUTSTANDING CLINICAL PERFORMANCE

The Outstanding Clinical Performance Award is presented to a member of the graduating class who has demonstrated superior skills in the clinical setting for the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program.

Cassidy Merritt

EXCEPTIONAL ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

The Exceptional Academic Achievement Award is awarded to the student or students who have achieved the highest cumulative GPA in the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program.

Sophia A. Striemer

MASSAGE THERAPY CERTIFICATE AWARDS

RUTH WERNER EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE

The Ruth Werner Excellence in the Sciences Award is presented to the graduating student who has shown achieved academic excellence in science classes while participating in leadership, research, and scholarly activities that positively impacted the Massage Therapy program students, Northeast College of Health Sciences, or our community.

Jessica Corter

SUSAN SALVO EXCELLENCE IN MASSAGE THERAPY CLINICAL PRACTICE AWARD

The Susan Salvo Community Engagement and Clinical Excellence Award is presented to a member of the graduating class who has achieved excellent grades in technique and clinical assessments, received excellent commendations from clinic guests, and demonstrated service and leadership that positively impacted the Massage Therapy Program students, Northeast College of Health Sciences, and our community.

Maeve Niven Mahoney

KATHY M. URCHER LEGACY CITIZENSHIP AWARD

The Kathy M. Urschel Legacy Citizenship Award recognizes the Massage Therapy student who has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to serving others, provided significant volunteerism to the Massage Therapy program, and modeled the values of altruism, inclusion, respect, collaboration, and resilience.

Kaitlin E. Casaletta

MASSAGE THERAPY CERTIFICATE AWARD BIOGRAPHIES

Ruth Werner

The Ruth Werner Excellence in Science Award is named in honor of Ruth Werner who is the author of A Massage Therapist's Guide to Pathology textbook, columnist for the Massage Today and Massage & Bodywork magazine, nationally recognized continuing education provider, and recipient of the 2018 Massage Therapy Foundation Distinguished Service Award.

Susan Salvo

The Susan Salvo Excellence in Massage Therapy Clinical Practice Award is named in honor of Dr. Susan Salvo, who is the author of Massage Therapy: Principles of Practice and Mosby's Pathology for Massage Therapists textbooks. Dr. Salvo also serves as case report reviewer for the Massage Therapy Foundation, she has presented over 40 American Massage Therapy Association's national and regional conventions, and she is the recipient of the AMTA Louisiana's State Meritorious and AMTA National's Lifetime Achievement for Education Awards.

Kathy M. Urschel

The Kathy M. Urschel Legacy Citizenship Award is named in memory of Kathy M. Urschel, a former Paralympian and Internationally ranked tandem cyclist, who despite being blind and deaf, and later severely injured, proceeded to achieve a master's degree as well as a Certificate of Massage Therapy. Upon acquiring her license to practice massage therapy in New York State, Kathy served her community through volunteerism and inspiration.

**CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE
DOCTOR OF CHIROPRACTIC**

Netanya Desiree Amalsad

Brenden William Candella

Jade Nicole Carbuccia

Marc Anthony Carroll

Cassie Cavell

Lyndsey A. Cholak

Gabriela A. Concepcion Corsino

Sydney Coval

Antonio Decena

Charles Wissam Farah

Steven William Floros

Kimpreet Jassal

Katia Korkis *

Michael Morman *

Christian R. Napolitano

Kyle Patten

Alexandra Pereira Rivera

Brooke L. Pieters

Brian Pinelo Sanpedro

Morgan Alynia Rogers

Joshua Koruth Santosh

Angela Marie Servais *

Daniel Torres

Jessica June Turza *

Matthew Ward *

Abigail Yi Lek Yip

Honors *

**CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE
ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE IN DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL
SONOGRAPHY**

Madison Brinker
Jalynn Grace Edwards
Brianna Legacy ▲
Allison Lee Manning
Abby McKay ▲
Cassidy Merritt ◆
Emily Miller
Olivia Louise Miner ■
Megan Elizabeth Peck ▲
Alyssa N. Ridley ◆
Taegan Elizabeth St. John ◆
Sophia A. Strierner ■
Carly J. Vecchio ◆
Ashley Wyffels ▲

Degrees With Distinction:

Summa Cum Laude ■
Magna Cum Laude ▲
Cum Laude ◆

**CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE
ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE IN RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY**

Amanda Kristine Barber ■
Katherine Donelle Barbera ▲
Sydney Rae Chell ▲
Isabella Daleo
Katherine Julianna Danczak ◆
Raizel Demaria
Emma K. Hastings
Lorraine Marie Kelsh ◆
Audriannah Marble
Danielle D. O'Connell ◆
Janvi Yogesh Patel ▲
Somia Mone Randall
Danielle J. Smithers ▲
Abigail L. Swartwood ◆

Degrees With Distinction:

Summa Cum Laude ■
Magna Cum Laude ▲
Cum Laude ◆

**CANDIDATES FOR THE CERTIFICATE
MASSAGE THERAPY**

Briana M. Aguila
Trae G. Baptiste
Walker L. Bridges Porter
Breanna Burnette
Sebastian Campbell
Kaitlin E. Casaletta
Jessica Corter
Jillian Faith Davis
Jane F. Detwiler
John Esposito
Kessiah Lucielle Grenz
Morgan E. Kingsbury
Andi Nichole Kloster
Daphjael Lainé
Maeve Niven Mahoney
Natalie R. McGuire
Maureen J. Murphy
Jennifer H. Muscato
Leah Grace Prinzing
Kassandra Ann Reed
Adrienne R. Valenti

**ONE-HUNDRED and FIRST ANNUAL CONVOCATION
OF THE AMERICAN COLLEGE
OF CHIROPRACTORS**

BRIEF HISTORY

The American College of Chiropractors is chartered under an Act of Congress in Washington, D.C.

The College membership is composed of chiropractors, educators, and scientific investigators throughout the United States and its possessions whose field of endeavor lies within the domain of chiropractic.

The College was chartered on September 24, 1924 to have perpetual existence.

The primary purpose of the American College is to encourage research and advance the philosophy, science and art of chiropractic. The present Fellows of the American College include an imposing number of America's eminent chiropractors.

PROGRAM

Presentation of Fellowships..... Frank Lizzio, D.C., F.A.C.C.

OFFICERS OF THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF CHIROPRACTORS

President: Frank Lizzio, D.C., F.A.C.C.

Vice President:..... Jack Barnathan, D.C., F.A.C.C.

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President Emeritus: (deceased) Nathan D. Novick, D.C., F.A.C.C.

TRUSTEES

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Dr. Joanne Hubley

The Board of Trustees of the American College of Chiropractors
have recommended the following individuals as Fellows

Chad Buohl, DC, C.C.E.P, D.A.C.R.B

Bachelor of Science in Anatomy
Parker College of Chiropractic, 1999

Doctor of Chiropractic
Parker College of Chiropractic, 1999

Clinton J. Daniels, D.C., M.S.

Bachelor of Science, General Health Science
Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN 2006

Doctor of Chiropractic
Logan University, Chesterfield, MO 2010

Masters of Science Sports Science and Rehabilitation
Logan University, Chesterfield, MO 2010

Peter Ferraro, DC, MCS-P

Bachelor of Arts
University of New York, 1995

Doctor of Chiropractic
Northeast College of Health Science, Seneca Falls, NY 1996

Karyn Phillips, D.C.,CCSP

Bachelor of Arts
Manhattanville College, Purchase, NY, 1985

Doctor of Chiropractic
Northeast College of Health Science, Seneca Falls,1989

Lindsay Rae, DC

Bachelor of Arts, Geology/Geography
State University of New York (SUNY) Geneseo, NY 2000

Doctor of Chiropractic [Honors]
Northeast College of Health Science, Seneca Falls, NY 2008

ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATION OF NORTHEAST COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

Anne Killen, M.S.Ed., D.M.Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs
Eugene Spilker, D.C., DHPE Assistant Vice President for Chiropractic
J. Todd Knudsen, D.C. Associate Provost of Institutional Effectiveness and Compliance
Jeanmarie Burke, M.S., Ph.D. Dean of Research
Wendy Maneri, D.C., M.S., Ed.D. Dean of Clinical Education
Peter Nickless, D.C., M.S., MBA., Ph.D. Dean of Online Education
Michael Zumpano, M.A., Ph.D., D.C. Director, Master of Science in Clinical Anatomy Program
Chad Warshel, D.C., M.S. Director, Master of Science in Diagnostic Imaging Program
Erica Colella, M.S. Director of Imaging Sciences
Alexandra Fiore, D.C. Director, Bachelor of Professional Studies Program
Nicole Miller, M.S. Director, Massage Therapy Program
Daryon Ray, M.S. Assistant Dean of Clinical Education
Fantasia Thorne-Ortiz, M.S., Ed.D. Library Director
Melissa Baxter, B.S. Director of Clinical Operations
Suellen Christopoulos-Nutting, MLS, Ed.D. Executive Director of Accreditation, Compliance, and
Planning
M. Owen Papuga, Ph.D. Dean, Frank J. Nicchi School of Continuing Education
Scott Richards, Ph.D. Director, Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies Program

FACULTY OF THE NORTHEAST COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

Chad Adams, D.C.
Michael Allgeier, D.C.
Ilija Arar, D.C., M.Ed.
Yumi Asakura, LMT
Daniel Bailey, D.C., M.S.
Kaylyn Baillargeon, D.C.
Jose Balseca, D.C.
Andrew Bang, D.C.
Michael Barbato, D.C.
Lisa Barwinczak, D.C.
Rebecca Bauer, D.C., M.S.
William Bauman, D.C.
Michael Baxter, D.C.
Frank Bell, D.C., M.S.
Amy Bidwell, M.S., Ph.D.
Allison Blanton, D.C., M.S.
Jeffrey Block, D.C.
Richard Block, D.C.
Kerry Bone, B.Sc.
Christopher Borgerding, D.C., M.S.
Gary Boyer, B.A., M.A.
Kelly Brock, M.S.
Joshua Brown, D.C.
Karen Bull, M.Ed., Ph.D.
Kayla Cairns, D.C., M.S.
Dawniel Carlock-Stewart, MPA
Brett Carnevale, D.C., M.S.
Meredith Carpenter, M.S.
M. Shane Carter, D.C.
Anthony Chang, D.C.
Leah Chautin, D.C., M.S.
Bevin Clare, M.Sc.
Joshua Cohen, M.S., D.C.
Joshua Cole, D.C.
Michael Cole, D.C.
Kelly Comerford, D.C.
Scott Coon, D.C.
Zachary Cupler, D.C., M.S.
John D'Amico, D.C.
Ryan Diana, D.C.
Keren Dolan, D.NC
John Dominicos, M.S.
Lori Doyle, Ph.D.
Raluca Duma, D.C.
Andrew Dunn, D.C., Ed.D., M.S.
Christopher Farrell, D.C., M.S.
Sarah Felmet, M.S., MPA, MBA
Francisco Fernandez, D.C.
Alexandra Fiore, D.C.
Heather Frederick, M.S.
Jenna Freeman Phillips, D.C.
William Germano, D.C., M.S.

Jason Gibson, D.C.
Colleen Gillan, B.S.
Derek Golley, D.C., M.S.
Cheryl Griggs, D.C.
Marc Gulitz, D.C.
Angela Gurak
Athena Hall, B.A.
Jerrell Hardison, D.C.
Cynthia Hawks, LMT
Heather Heck, D.C., M.S., MPH
Charles Hemsey, D.C.
Carolyn Henn, LMT
Kyle Heirholzer, LMT
Elizabeth Hobbs, D.C., M.S.
Dennis Homack, D.C., M.S.
Angel Hong, D.C.
Bradley Hopkins, D.C., M.S.
Kindra Ingram, D.C., M.S.
Fiona Jarrett-Thelwell, D.C., M.S.
Jane Joyce, D.C.
Kathryn Kavanagh, D.C.
Thomas Kearn, D.C.
Sarah Kelly, D.C.
F. Stuart Kinsinger, D.C., M.A.
Abigail Kellogg, D.C.
Alisha Kellogg, LMT
Lloyd Kupferman, D.C.
Gina LaMandre, M.S., DMS
William Lauretti, D.C.
Anna Lee, D.C.
Cheryl Lee-Pow, D.C.
Maria Lugo-Perez, D.C., M.S.
Nicole Lynk, D.C.
Ashley Madia
Danirose Marandino, D.C.
Christopher Marchese, D.C.
Cory Marone, D.C., M.S., MPH
Janelle Martin, D.C.
Larissa Martin, D.C.
Sean Mathers, D.C., DPT
Dino Mazzara, D.C.
Walter Mendoza, D.C.
Kevin Merrow, D.C.
Noelle Miller, D.C.
Gerald Monk, M.S., D.C.
Holly Moriarty, D.C.
Peter Nickless, D.C., M.S., MBA, Ph.D.

Fellow/Residents

Daneel Edstrom, D.C.
Athenia Lorge, B.S.

Instructional Staff

Carol Faivre, M.S.
Connie Hodde, LMT
Tara Lohr, B.S.

Thomas Oddo, D.C.
Erin O'Donoghue, M.S., DMS
Jessica Pagan, D.C.
Owen Papuga, M.S., Ph.D.
Laura Passamonte, D.C., M.S.
Kristina Petrocco-Napuli, D.C., M.S.
Dana Poeta, D.C.
Madeline Pominville, D.C.
Olivia Poppen, D.C.
Samantha Pritty, D.C., M.S.
Lindsay Rae, D.C.
Jennifer Rathmann, D.C.
Gregory Reed, D.C.
Sylvia Regalla, M.D., M.S.
Carl Russo, D.C.
Elizabeth Russo, Ph.D.
Megan Rynkiewicz, D.C.
Rachel Santiago, Ed.D.
Gregory Schierer, D.C.
Brittney Schiferle, D.C.
Kyle Schwartz, D.C.
Christopher Sherman, D.C.
William Sherwood, D.C.
Nazish Siddiqi, MBBS, MPH, M.S.
Janet Sikora-Amendola, D.C.
Amy Simolo, M.S., Ed.D.
Leanne Skehan, MPH., M.S., DCN
Mark Sokolowski, D.C.
Tyler Snodgrass, D.C.
Bobbi Stebbins, B.S.
Benjamin Steiner, Ph.D.
Beverly Steinhoff, D.C.
Nina Stenshorn, B.S.
Erin Stubblefield, D.C.
April Sutherland, Ph.D.
Victoria Szafranska, D.C.
Irum Tahir, D.C.
Maria Thomadaki, D.C.
Tracy Thomas, D.C.
Thomas Torzok, D.C.
Samantha Vasbinder, D.C.
Jeana Voorhies, D.C.
Scott Voorhies, D.C.
Robyn Wakefield-Murphy, M.S., Ph.D.
Jessica Walker, Ph.D.
Long Wang, M.M, Ph.D.
Chad Warshel, D.C.
Veronica Wicks, D.C.
Kimberly Wieringa, DMSc
Rebekah Wilks, D.C.
Peggie Williamson, M.S., DPT, M.S.
Matthew Zdilla, D.C.
Michael Zumpano, M.A., Ph.D., D.C.

FACULTY EMERITI

Mary E. Balliett, D.C., M.S., Professor Emeritus

Deborah A. Barr, M.S., Sc.D., Professor Emeritus

Lisa K. Bloom, D.C., Ph.D., Professor Emeritus

Matthew C. Cote, D.C., M.S., Professor Emeritus

Brian M. Cunningham, D.C., M.S., Professor Emeritus

John L. DeCicco, D.C., Faculty Emeritus

Margaret M. Finn, D.C., M.A., R.N., Professor Emeritus

Kevin T. Patton, M.S., Ph.D., Adjunct Professor Emeritus

Robert A. Walker, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus

APRIL 2026 COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

Dr. Sylvia H. Regalla, M.D., M.S.

Dr. Sylvia H. Regalla is a Buffalo, New York native and an internal medicine physician with more than 25 years of service to the Buffalo community. She earned her B.A. in Biology and her M.D. from the State University of New York at Buffalo and completed her training in internal medicine. Dr. Regalla also earned an M.S. in Applied Clinical Nutrition from Northeast College of Health Science during the program's early formative years and serves as an Adjunct Professor of Nutrition at Northeast, Maryland University of Integrative Health, and Notre Dame of Maryland University.

For more than 20 years, Dr. Regalla has specialized in functional medicine, nutritional medicine, and nutrigenomics, focusing on the prevention and treatment of chronic disease through personalized, evidence informed care. She is a Founding Diplomate of the American Board of Integrative Holistic Medicine, Past President of the University of Buffalo Medical Alumni Association, and a cofounder of the UB DoctHERS Network at the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. She is also an Emeritus Member of the UB Medical Alumni Association Governing Board and a member of the American College of Physicians, the Medical Society of the State of New York, and the New York Academy of Sciences.

ACADEMIC REGALIA

Academic dress stems from the Middle Ages when scholars were also clerics and wore the costume of the monastic orders. The hood was originally a cowl attached to the gown and could be slipped over the head for warmth.

The gown varies for the respective degrees: The bachelor's gown is worn closed and has long pointed sleeves; the master's gown is worn open, and the forearms protrude through notched slits near the wrists of the sleeves; the doctor's gown has sleeves which are full, bell-shaped and carry three horizontal bars and a velvet panel is draped around the neck, stitched down the front edges. The velvet panel and velvet sleeve bars of the doctor's gown are either black or the same color as the velvet border of the hood. Students who have earned academic honors receive and wear gold honor cords. Students, faculty, and staff who have served in and represented the United States Military are recognized for their service with red, white, and blue military honor cords.

The headwear will vary with the level of academic achievement and, to some extent, on the individual academic institution's specifications. The cap, originally round, later became a square mortarboard. The exception is reserved for the doctoral degree only, seen in the form of a multiple-sided tam.

The hood also varies for the respective degrees, the Doctor's hood is the longest and of fuller shape than the others. The hood is usually bordered with velvet, the color of which indicates the kind of degree. Today the hoods worn by Northeast College of Health Sciences degree recipients have colors which indicate the degree earned; Doctor of Chiropractic, Gray; M.S. in Applied Clinical Nutrition, Kelly Green; M.S. in Human Anatomy and Physiology Instruction, Light Blue; M.S. in Diagnostic Imaging, Cyan; and M.S. in Clinical Anatomy, Nile. Some of our administrators and faculty members have earned degrees at other colleges and these are recognized in today's ceremony.

The tassels for today's graduates are representative of the Degree or Certificate that they have earned. Today the tassels worn by Northeast College of Health Sciences degree recipients have colors which indicate the degree earned; Doctor of Chiropractic, Old Gold; M.S. in Applied Clinical Nutrition, Kelly Green; M.S. in Human Anatomy and Physiology Instruction, Light Blue; M.S. Diagnostic Imaging, Cyan; M.S. in Clinical Anatomy, Nile; Bachelor of Professional Studies, Black; A.A.S. in Radiologic Technology, Aqua; A.A.S. in Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Lime Green; Massage Therapy Certificate, Peacock.

CHIROPRACTIC OATH

I do hereby affirm before all that I hold sacred, and these assembled witnesses that I will keep this oath and stipulation.

To hold in esteem and respect those who taught me the Chiropractic healing art; to follow the methods of treatment and best practices that according to my ability and judgment I consider for the benefit of my patients; to abstain from unethical behavior; to stand ready at all times to serve humanity.

With commitment to excellence, I will practice my art; I will at all times consider the patients under my care of supreme importance; I will provide the care which I have been taught to give by my alma mater; through lifelong learning I will keep my skills and mind sharp; I will hold in confidence all things revealed to me as a Doctor of Chiropractic.

While I continue to keep this oath solemn, may it be granted to me to enjoy life and the practice of Chiropractic.

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY ASSISTANCE

Paul Applebee
Robert Bachman
Sabrina Barilla
Bruce Boatman
Colleen Brennan-Barry
Nicholas Capacci
Jazmine Caraccilo
Bernard Cecchini
Joel Crawford
Eric Dombrowski

Steve Dunn
Steve Golden
Morris Houghton
Casey Jesmer
Kevin McCarthy
Christopher McQueeney
Amie Redmond
Peter Salerno Jr.
Jacob Vreeland
Paul Ward

USHERS

Tristen Aikia-Lauzon
Riley Austin
Adam Cumberland
Min-Woo Jang

Lindsay Kirkpatrick
Eliza Mulloy
Jonathan Washington

