

DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY



John G. Rangos, Sr.
School of Health Sciences

Friday, August 7, 2026
UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse



Dear Graduate,

Congratulations on behalf of the entire Duquesne University community. Today marks a significant milestone on your journey. What may have seemed like a distant goal is now a remarkable achievement, earned through your dedication and perseverance. You may find it hard to believe this day has finally arrived. I hope you can take a moment today to pause, look around you, and fully appreciate the magnitude of your accomplishment. We are incredibly proud of you – and we hope that you are proud of yourself.

As a graduate of Duquesne University, you are now part of an extended alumni family that is more than 100,000 members strong. I encourage you to stay connected to your family here on the Bluff. While your time as a student may be ending, your connection to Duquesne is lifelong. We remain committed to your success, and we look forward to celebrating all that you will achieve in the years ahead.

Congratulations!

Sincerely,

David J. Dausey, Ph.D., Ed.D.
President, Duquesne University

DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY

AUGUST COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY



Friday, August 7, 2026

August 2026 Commencement

DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDING

David J. Dausey, Ph.D., Ed.D.

University President

FANFARE TO “LA PÉRI”..... Paul Dukas
arr. by Wayne Barrington

OPENING OF CEREMONY..... Fevzi Akinci, Ph.D., MHA, FASAHP
Dean

PROCESSIONAL

入场

Scotland The Brave..... Harry Lauder
The Macdonald Pipe Band of Pittsburgh, Inc.

THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNERJohn Stafford Smith
唱美国国歌 lyrics: Francis Scott Key
led by Joseph R. Atkinson

INVOCATION Rev. William H. Christy, C.S.Sp.
祷告 *Director of Campus Ministry and University Chaplain*

WELCOME Fevzi Akinci, Ph.D., MHA, FASAHP
致欢迎辞

PRESIDENT’S ADDRESS..... David J. Dausey, Ph.D., Ed.D.

PRESENTATION OF GRADUATES..... Fevzi Akinci, Ph.D., MHA, FASAHP
提交学位候选人名单

Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences

Master of Physician Assistant Studies

Master of Occupational Therapy

Master of Physical Therapy

Master of Speech-Language Pathology

Master of Science (Speech-Language Pathology)

Doctor of Physical Therapy

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES..... David J. Dausey, Ph.D., Ed.D.
授予学位

STUDENT AWARDS
学生颁奖

Marci Sobczak Spirit Award..... Felice Salvatore Panebianco

OUTSTANDING STUDENTS BY DEPARTMENT
表彰各系科优秀学生

Health, Exercise & Applied Science

Health Administration Mackenzie L. Wesley
Public Health.....Kylie Terese Klavon
Health Sciences.....Allison Marie Gass

Athletic Training Christina Michele Amrick

Occupational Therapy (Doctorate).....Peyton Audrey Nolan

Physical TherapyEmma A. Armstrong

Physician Assistant Studies..... Jasmine Alexandra Urzua-Alba

Speech-Language Pathology.....Gianna D. Baker

DEAN'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE
院长优秀奖.....Allison Marie Gass

FACULTY AWARDS

教工奖获得者

DEAN’S AWARDS FOR FACULTY EXCELLENCE

院长教工优秀奖

TeachingFaina Linkov, Ph.D.

Early Career Scholarship..... Kasey Stepansky, CScD

Service to the MissionJoan M. Kiel, Ph.D.

Community and Professional Service (Team Award) Kristyn Lowery, MPA
Michelle McCann, OTD
Helena Pingree, DPT
Adrian Wright-FitzGerald, DAT

Innovative Teaching and Pedagogy (Team Award) Elena Donoso Brown, Ph.D.
Retta Martin, Ed.D.

STAFF AWARD

员工奖获得者

DEAN’S AWARD FOR STAFF EXCELLENCE..... Chelsie N. Crate, M.Ed.

院长员工优秀奖

CLOSING REMARKS **Fevzi Akinci, Ph.D., MHA, FSAHP**

ALMA MATER (*words and music on following page*) **Robert Traugh**

唱母校之歌

lyrics: Kenneth G. Gormley, J.D.

arr. Benjamin Cornelius-Bates

led by Joseph R. Atkinson

BENEDICTION..... **Rev. William H. Christy, C.S.Sp.**

祝福辞

RECESSIONAL

退场

The Green Hills of Tyrol..... **John MacLeod**

The Macdonald Pipe Band of Pittsburgh, Inc.

(The audience is requested to remain at their seats during the recessional)

Music by Robert Traugh | Words by Ken Gormley
Inspired by Rev. John F. Malloy, C.S.Sp.

Al - ma Ma - ter, proud Du - quesne, guide, and friend of our youth - ful days.

9



As we face new tests in times a-head, mar-ching al-ways by your light.

17 $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 84$



for - ward e - ver — Al - ma Ma - ter; famed Du - quesne with your

23 *rit.*.....

Hail to thee! Hail to thee! All hail to thee! Du - quesne.

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JOHN G. RANGOS, SR. SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES

Fevzi Akinci, Ph.D., MHA, FASAHP, Dean

CANDIDATES FOR THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN HEALTH STUDIES

Audrey Caroline Hammond
Nora Shiaoyin Lange
Casey Katherine McBride

CANDIDATES FOR THE MASTER OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES

Jordan Elizabeth Baney	Elizabeth Suzanne Lund
Kiersten Nicole Belt	Madison Alyse Morgan
Claire Madison Belton	Emily Noelle Peterson
Benjamin Charles Berkebile	Morgan Lee Posey
Noelle Elise Compher	Macey Taylor Roble
Isabelle Marie Ojeda Cuchapin	Paige Rene Salmon
Michael Stephen Daulerio	Paige Elizabeth Semanko
Lakyn Paige Davis	Hannah Grace Slaughenhaupt
Emerson Belle Dickson	Maya Jaden Smith
Haley Marie Doyle	Megan Melissa Stevens
Camryn Alaina Eby	Matthew William Swift
Chloe M. Eubank	Jasmine Alexandra Urzua-Alba
Angela Louise Fichter	Cole A. Vernet
Evelyn Ann Foster	Halle Marie Walcutt
Mikayla Jamison Hendershot	Elizabeth Claire Whelan
Grace Anne Kata	John Vincent White
Katherine Anne Kriznik	

CANDIDATES FOR THE MASTER OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Xingjia Du
Bingyan Hu
Yixin Sun
Jin Zhang
Lulu Zhang

CANDIDATES FOR THE MASTER OF PHYSICAL THERAPY DEGREE

Chen Chen
Zhengting Chen
Yixiang Cheng
Mengyu Ge
Jiajun Han
Xiang Pan

Mengxue Qin
Tianxiang Song
Ruoyu Wang
Siyuan Wang
Jiaxin Wu
Yan Xing

CANDIDATES FOR THE MASTER OF SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY DEGREE

Naixiao Hu
Zeyu Wu
Yifei Lou

CANDIDATES FOR THE MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE (SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY)

Tapanga Jade Allison
Gina Marie Bolla
Kylie Elaine Bracken
Carly Alexa Bruno
Mara Grace Dimond
Morgan Jeanne Doolittle
Emma Grant
Celia F. Haupt
Lianna Marie Hilario

Grace Helen Kovalcik
Mia Faith Lapinski
Valerie Maria McMullen
Madalynn Elizabeth Melander
Lauren Catherine Palfey
Paphawarin Pannga
Penelope Ann Schreffler
Caitlin Mary Spadone
Emma Caroline Szark

CANDIDATE FOR THE MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE (SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY THESIS)

Gianna D. Baker

Thesis: Bridging the Gap: Documenting the Effectiveness of Counseling
Education in a Speech-Language Pathology Graduate Program

CANDIDATES FOR THE DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY DEGREE

Emma Ashton Armstrong
TJ Balas
Grace Lindsey Barrett
Dawson T. Bashada
Stephen J. Bloodnick
Caitlyn Marie Brannon
Gabriella Ruth DeCicco
Nicolette Kathleen Deiuliis
Gabriella Marie DiNucci
Catherine Marie Egan
Chelsea Martine Esser
Reid Allen Evans
Caroline Fackler
Kaitlyn Elizabeth Ferri
Julianne Marie Fullard
Sophia St. Clair Gaguzis
Margaret Mary Halloran
Daniel Kenneth Hoffman
Ryan Timothy Jackson
Carrie Ann Jefferson
Allison Elaine Khalil

Alexander Simon Krause
Alexa Gabrielle Machi
Makayla Grace Mai
Anna Grace Martinson
Gavin A Michel
Laura Alice Molnar
Erik Alan Moyer
Jesse Madeleine Norman
April Candace Oakes
Jared Matthew Plessinger
Christopher John Rockwell II
Joseph Michael Rumbaugh
Claudia Joan Rutledge
Anna Lee Sansone
Elisha Guilin Joy Schoeneck
Melanie Jo Schultz
Gianna Louisa Stirone
Melanie Elizabeth Tommer
Sydney Lauren Weiss
Madeline Noele Yanke

RSHS DEPARTMENTAL OUTSTANDING STUDENT AND DEAN'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE RECIPIENTS

MACKENZIE WESLEY – Outstanding Student in Health Administration. Mackenzie Wesley, a Health Administration major, has maintained a strong overall GPA and a noteworthy science GPA, reflecting the academic excellence and professionalism of the program. Mackenzie's achievements, leadership, and dedication make her a deserving recipient of this distinction. In addition to her academic success, Mackenzie has pursued professional growth through a healthcare administration internship and active campus involvement. Mackenzie served as President of Zeta Tau Alpha and as Co-President of BE uninTImidated, which raises awareness and funds for appendix cancer to support families with housing and travel needs related to cancer care.

KYLIE KLAVON – Outstanding Student in Public Health. Kylie Klavon, a Public Health major, has maintained an outstanding overall GPA and science GPA, exemplifying the academic excellence and professionalism of the Public Health Program. Her achievements, leadership, and dedication to service make her a deserving recipient of this distinction. Beyond her academic success, Kylie has demonstrated a strong commitment to professional growth through internships and employment experiences serving individuals from diverse backgrounds and communities. She has further distinguished herself through professional presentations at the McGinley-Rice and Grefenstette Symposia and through her work with the Allegheny County Immunization Coalition. A dedicated advocate for her peers, Kylie has actively led and promoted community outreach and engagement initiatives.

ALLISON MARIE GASS – Outstanding Student in Health Sciences and the Dean's Award for Excellence. Allison Marie Gass, a Health Sciences major with minors in Biochemistry and Global Health, is also enrolled in the Pre-Medicine and Health Professions Program and has maintained an exceptional 4.0 GPA. Her pursuit of rigorous science coursework, including Cell Biology, Organic Chemistry I & II, and Biochemistry I & II, reflects her strong commitment to academic excellence and her goal of attending medical school. Beyond her academic achievements, Allison has demonstrated outstanding leadership and dedication to service. She has participated in faculty-mentored research through Duquesne's Sport Injury & Psychology Research Laboratory and has been an active, decorated member of the Three Rivers Battalion Army ROTC. Her service includes volunteering as a medical team member at the Boston Marathon and organizing and participating in service-learning medical outreach through MedLife. Allison will attend osteopathic medical school next year.

PEYTON NOLAN - Outstanding Student in the Department of Occupational Therapy, Doctorate Program. Peyton Nolan is a dedicated and service-oriented leader who has demonstrated a strong commitment to becoming a practice scholar and leader in the field of occupational therapy. Peyton has achieved academic excellence in the classroom while concurrently developing her scholarly skills through participation in the department's research apprenticeship program. In addition, Peyton has served in leadership roles within student organizations at the department, school, and university levels. Her dedication to service and demonstrated leadership reflect the mission of the Occupational Therapy Department which strives to develop practice scholars who serve, question, and lead.

CHRISTINA AMRICK – Outstanding Student in the Department of Athletic Training. Christina Amrick is a second-year graduate student in the Master of Science in Athletic Training program. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences and is a certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist. Christina has gained valuable clinical experience in Division I collegiate athletics, high school sports, and major events, including University of Arkansas Football, University of Pittsburgh Women's Gymnastics, the Boston Marathon, and the Special Olympics Winter Games. She is committed to service and providing high-quality care in diverse and resource-limited settings. Christina has served as President of Duquesne University Students in Athletic Training and as a District II Student Ambassador for the National Athletic Trainers' Association, promoting mentorship, communication, and professional development within the athletic training community.

EMMA ARMSTRONG – Outstanding Student in the Department of Physical Therapy. Emma Armstrong joined the Physical Therapy Department as a graduate student after earning her Bachelor of Science degree from Towson University in 2023. During her undergraduate years, she was a member of the softball team and served as team captain her senior year, demonstrating early leadership and commitment. While pursuing her studies at Duquesne University, Emma has remained actively engaged in athletics through CrossFit and Olympic weightlifting. She is also involved in her church's Young Adult Group and is currently preparing for the Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist (CSCS) examination. Emma's professional focus is orthopedic physical therapy, with a goal of working with athletes and sports teams. She was awarded the \$5,000 Dale and Michelle Cordial Scholarship for the 2025–2026 academic year in recognition of her dedication and potential. Emma's career plans reflect remarkable drive and intention. Within the first two years after graduation, she plans to complete a sports physical therapy residency, earn APTA Sports Physical Therapy certification, obtain her CSCS and USAW Level 1 certifications, secure direct access licensure, and complete advanced continuing education in overhead athlete biomechanics and injury management. Her long-term goal is to open a cash-based orthopedic practice. Faculty and clinical instructors describe Emma as a strong communicator and collaborative team member who leads with humility and encouragement. She is recognized for her technical proficiency, genuine empathy, mentorship, and unwavering dedication to excellence in patient care.

JASMINE URZUA-ALBA – Outstanding Student in the Department of Physician Assistant Studies. Jasmine Urzua-Alba is an exceptional physician assistant student whose dedication to service, medicine, and global health reflect the highest values of her profession. She consistently translates her passion for care into meaningful action. During academic breaks, Jasmine worked as a licensed practical nurse in a Florida clinic serving low-income patients, and providing compassionate, high-quality care to individuals with limited access to healthcare. At Duquesne University, she has embraced leadership and service opportunities, through active involvement in campus ministry, co-leading a medical mission trip to the Dominican Republic, participating in World Youth Day in Portugal, and studying abroad in Rome—experiences that have shaped her into a globally minded clinician with a strong ethical foundation.

As she continues her clinical training, Jasmine has developed particular interests in pediatrics, surgery, and neurology, approaching each specialty with curiosity, humility, and dedication. She aspires to incorporate medical mission work into her professional career. Grounded by her love of reading, travel, and time with family and friends, Jasmine brings compassion, perspective, and purpose to all she does.

GIANNA BAKER – Outstanding Student in the Department of Speech-Language Pathology. Gianna Baker earned a 4.0 undergraduate GPA and is on track to complete her graduate program with the same level of academic excellence. Gianna has been deeply engaged in research, completing her thesis, “Bridging the Gap: Documenting the Effectiveness of Counseling Education in a Speech-Language Pathology Graduate Program,” under the mentorship of Dr. Seth Tichenor. In Spring 2024, she received the Undergraduate Research Award from the Rangos School of Health Sciences for her poster, “Impact of an Intensive Short-Term Intervention Program on an Adolescent with Residual Speech Errors.” She has demonstrated exceptional leadership as President of the National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NSSLHA) and as Historian for the Duquesne University American Sign Language Club. A member of the Duquesne University Honors College, Gianna has also served as a graduate Teaching Assistant in dysphagia and as a student assistant for Dr. Snyder and Dr. Ford. Service has been central to Gianna’s academic journey. Her volunteer work includes supporting a FEES training course, Apraxia Kids, and JFCS Bridge Builders. In Summer 2023, she participated in Therapy Abroad in Belize, where she spent two weeks providing services to children and their families.

RSHS DEAN'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

FAINA LINKOV, Ph.D. – Dr. Linkov has been a full-time faculty member of the Health and Administration since 2020 and has also served as the department chair. Since that time, she has demonstrated a consistent pattern of excellence in teaching. Dr. Faina Linkov has dedicated significant time to developing new courses since joining Duquesne, including Introduction to Healthcare Administration, Managerial Epidemiology, and the Health Administration Capstone course. Her SES/SPOT scores consistently exceed University averages and align with school means, with student feedback highlighting her use of diverse teaching approaches to meet varied learning needs, as well as her passion, responsiveness, engagement, and effective integration of real-world examples. Beyond the classroom, she has mentored student scholars from Kazakhstan through the Bolashaq Program, supporting their coursework and research during their time at Duquesne. Students frequently cite her innovative teaching strategies as a meaningful part of their education, particularly her use of structured scientific debates in Research Fundamentals, which model rigorous reasoning and encourage critical evaluation of evidence from multiple perspectives. Dr. Matt Kostek mentions “Dr. Linkov’s teaching is marked by innovation, intellectual rigor, and a clear commitment to student-centered learning. Her leadership in instructional design, dedication to accessibility, and ability to engage students through dynamic and evidence-based teaching methods make her a great candidate for the Excellence in Teaching Award.”

RSHS DEAN'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE FOR EARLY CAREER SCHOLARSHIP

KASEY STEPANSKY, CScD – Dr. Stepansky joined the Department of Occupational Therapy as a Clinical Assistant Faculty member in the summer of 2023. In addition to a full course load at both graduate and undergraduate levels, she continued to pursue her passion of conducting research with a goal of impacting the lives of those around her by focusing on the impact of environments on quality-of-life spanning nature spaces and intergenerational living communities. Since joining the faculty, Dr. Stepansky has been accepted to present research internationally in four countries: Denmark, Poland, United Kingdom, and Thailand representing Duquesne University's Occupational Therapy department on a global stage. Dr. Stepansky has published in 3 peer-reviewed journals and has another manuscript that is currently under review in less than three years as assistant faculty at Duquesne University. Since 2023, she has had 24 peer-reviewed presentations and posters with forty percent of this work including Duquesne Occupational Therapy Students. Dr. Stepansky skillfully combines her passion for leadership and scholarship with her desire for educating students. She has taken on primary mentorship of two research project students and co-mentored five additional students. Dr. Stepansky has worked with other faculty members to contribute novel ideas with her involvement in the Home Opportunity for Practice and Exercise lab's work related with caregivers' involvement in home programs along with collaborating with Music Therapy to secure a Community-

Engaged Research Seed grant to benefit patient's with acquired brain injury and their caregivers. Regarding Dr. Stepansky's contributions, Dr. Mattila noted "Her work has earned strong endorsements from colleagues and students alike, reflecting a pattern of excellence that aligns fully with the intent of the Early Career Scholarship Award."

RSHS DEAN'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE TO THE MISSION

JOAN KIEL, Ph.D. – Dr. Kiel has been a full-time faculty member of the Department of Health Administration for over two decades. During that time, she has demonstrated a consistent pattern of excellence in service to the mission. In 2013, Dr. Kiel was awarded the inaugural Office of Residence Life Faculty Friend of the Year Award. President Gormley invited Dr. Kiel to be a member of the Carl G. Grefenstette Center for Ethics in Science, Technology & Law Advisory Board in November 2019 where she continues to be an active member. Due to her expertise with HIPAA, Dr. Kiel was asked to be a member of the new Data Governance Committee. She is a member of the Pre-Medical Program Student Standing Committee and the Pre-Medical & Health Professions Program Professional Behavior/Student Standing Committee, as well as the Student Health Advisory Group. Dr. Kiel is also on the University Clinical Coordinators committee whereby she takes a leadership role in supporting students and peer clinical coordinators. At the School level, Dr. Kiel the Chairman of the Non-Tenure Faculty Review Committee since 2018 where recently led the revision of the criteria for non-tenure track review. She has been an active member of the RSHS Promotion and Tenure Review Committee since 2003, as well as the RSHS Promotion and Tenure Mentoring Committee.

RSHS DEAN'S AWARD FOR COMMUNITY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE - TEAM AWARD

MICHELLE McCANN, OTD, HELENA PINGREE, DPT, KRISTYN LOWERY, MPA, ADRIAN WRIGHT-FITZGERALD, DAT – This team has collaborated extensively as members of the Rangos School of Health Sciences Community Engaged Learning and Service (RSHS CELS) Committee, advancing Duquesne University's mission and values by supporting students, faculty, and community partners through community-engaged pedagogy and service-learning initiatives. Notably, their individual and collective contributions have exceeded the standard expectations of committee service. Each has demonstrated exceptional initiative and voluntary commitment to addressing the needs of community partners in meaningful and impactful ways including: community partnerships that expand experiential learning and strengthen students' knowledge, clinical reasoning, and career readiness. Through sustained, reciprocal collaborations with regional organizations, they have promoted health literacy, supported brain injury education, delivered wellness initiatives, and addressed health disparities across diverse communities. Their interdisciplinary

leadership has united clinicians, educators, policymakers, and students to develop innovative programming, adaptive fitness initiatives, and signature events such as the Rangos Symposium. In doing so, they have fostered a vibrant, service-oriented campus culture while demonstrating entrepreneurial vision and creative stewardship to enhance both educational experiences and community health outcomes.

Collectively, the work of Dr. McCann, Dr. Pingree, Ms. Lowery, and Dr. Wright-FitzGerald has had a profound and lasting impact on faculty professional development, enriched classroom teaching and learning experiences, expanded opportunities for collaborative research, and strengthened the cultivation of leadership and mentorship across the institution.

RSHS DEAN'S AWARD FOR INNOVATIVE TEACHING AND PEDAGOGY - TEAM AWARD

ELENA DONOSO BROWN, Ph.D., RETTA MARTIN, EdD – Drs. Donoso Brown and Martin are both full-time faculty in the Department of Occupational Therapy and carry full-time teaching loads as well as other administrative duties.

Drs. Donoso Brown and Martin demonstrated a highly creative and intentional approach to teaching by integrating best pedagogical practices, including instructional scaffolding, constructive alignment, and developmentally appropriate progression, to support meaningful, outcomes-driven learning. They designed a cohesive research thread that integrates three courses, enabling students to synthesize knowledge across the curriculum while embedding scholarship within real-world community contexts. Through both qualitative and quantitative assessment, and by incorporating student feedback, they continuously refined the initiative to strengthen collaboration and learning integration. Their innovative, vertically and horizontally aligned model has been praised by academic leadership and colleagues alike, while students highlight its strong connections between classroom learning, real-world practice, and professional preparation.

RSHS DEAN'S AWARD FOR STAFF EXCELLENCE

CHELSIE N. CRATE, M.Ed. – Ms. Crate consistently demonstrates excellence, initiative, and a deep commitment to the University's educational mission—frequently going above and beyond the expectations of her role while maintaining the highest standards in her primary responsibilities. A notable example of this is her work supporting educational activity and student success. Through initiatives such as the Early-Arrival Pilot Program and co-curricular programming, such as Etiquette Night in partnership with the Center for Career Development, Chelsie has strengthened students' academic readiness, professional development, and persistence—efforts that extend beyond her formal position and have a tangible impact on student outcomes.

In addition, Chelsie has contributed meaningfully to school-wide strategic planning and community-building efforts aligned with the RSHS Strategic Plan. As Co-Chair of the Community Building & Engagement Committee, she has helped foster a positive, inclusive, and engaged work environment through trainings, presentations, and signature initiatives such as the Month of Unity. Chelsie's work is consistently of exceptional quality, and she is widely regarded by colleagues as a trusted, reliable, and collaborative partner as evidence by her receipt of the President's Staff Professional Development Fund Award. Her leadership, commitment to student success, and alignment with the University's mission make her highly deserving of this recognition.

JOHN G. RANGOS, SR. SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES FACULTY

Fevzi Akinci, Ph.D., MHA, FASAHP
Dean

Amy Mattila, Ph.D.
Associate Dean

Heather L. Rusiewicz, Ph.D.
Associate Dean

Michelle McCann, OTD
Assistant Dean

Jaclyn Arduini, Ph.D.
Urmi Ashar, MD
Brooke Baumann, M.S.
Erica Beidler, Ph.D.
Elena Donoso Brown, Ph.D.
Nicole Brown, M.S.
Anne M. Burrows, Ph.D.
Yang Chen, Ph.D.
Rosie Cheng, EdD
Kristin D'Acunto, Ed.D.
Jessica Davis, DPT
Elizabeth D. Deluliis, OTD
Abigail Delehanty, Ph.D.
Justin DiSanti, Ph.D.
Christy Dom, M.P.A.
W. Alex Fails, DPT
David S. Ford, Ph.D.
Kathryn Garrett, Ph.D.
Courtney Hartman, M.P.A.S.
William C. Jones II, M.S.
Garrett Kellar, Ed.D.
Elvin Khanjahani, Ph.D.
Joan M. Kiel, Ph.D.
Gregory Kingston, Ed.D.
Benjamin R. Kivlan, Ph.D.

^David Kleba, DPT
Matthew Kostek, Ph.D.
Faina Linkov, Ph.D.
Jordana Lockwich, Ph.D.
Kristyn Lowery, M.P.A.
Maura Maloney, MA
Retta Marie Martin, Ed.D.
RobRoy L. Martin, Ph.D.
Marie Matarazzo, DMS
^Rebecca Matvey, DPT
Katie Micco, M.S.
Allison A. Morgan, M.P.A.
Helena Pingree, DPT
Jason S. Scibek, Ph.D.
Panayiota Senekkis-Florent, Ph.D.
Bahaa Shaaban, MD
Ariel Shensa, Ph.D.
Richard Simpson, Ph.D.
Kasey Stepansky, CScD
Kimberly A. Szucs, Ph.D.
Theresa Tartamella, Ph.D.
Seth Tichenor, Ph.D.
Dominic Violi, DPT
Adrian Wright-FitzGerald, DAT

The Academic Procession

The Provost/Academic Vice President serves as the Commencement Marshal, holds the University mace and presides over the Academic Procession while standing directly in front of the platform. The raising of the mace signals that the Commencement ceremony is ready to begin. As the processional music begins, the procession of first the candidates for degrees, then the faculty and finally the platform party will file in. The audience should rise and remain standing until after the invocation.

Candidates for undergraduate degrees may be identified by the color of the tassel on the cap—which signifies the discipline. If they are receiving an advanced degree, the color on the neck band of the hood signifies the field of study.

Colors Distinctive of the Disciplines

White: Arts

Light Blue: Education

Yellow: Sciences

Apricot: Nursing

Drab: Business

Purple: Law

Sage: Pharmacy

Royal Blue: Philosophy

Pink: Music

Orange: Engineering

Academic Vestments

The gown, the cap, and the hood, representing the *major* components of the academic dress, are a ceremonial inheritance from the medieval universities of the eleventh and twelfth centuries, where clothing was an outward sign of social privilege and responsibility. Our usage of academic regalia derives from the early English universities. Academic clothing was first introduced at St. Peter's College, Cambridge University, in about 1284 A.D. Each school or college in Cambridge and in Oxford developed different methods to signal the various levels of degrees and the awarding institution. In America, in 1894 an Inter-Collegiate Commission met to adopt a uniform style for all degrees for all colleges and universities. The resulting code stated that every undergraduate robe would be the same style; likewise, every master's robe and every doctor's robe. Thus the academic dress worn by those participating in today's academic procession symbolizes both the level of their academic attainment and the institution they attended.

Gown

Although the gown is more frequently black, certain universities have authorized the use of colored gowns. The bachelor's and master's gowns were originally fashioned from black serge wool; today they are often of synthetic fabrics. The yoke of the bachelor's gown is designed to be worn closed and features long, flowing and pointed sleeves. The master's gown is designed to be worn open or closed. The sleeves are very long with squared ends, and the front part has an arc cut away. The wearer's arms protrude through slits at the elbows. The gown for the doctor's degree is made of wool, serge, or silk with an open front faced with wide velvet panels running from top to bottom. The sleeves are loose and bell-shaped with three encircling bars of velvet in black or in the color of the discipline in which the doctorate was obtained.

Hood

The most outstanding feature of the academic dress is the hood. It is usually worn only for the master's and doctor's degrees. The doctor's hood is longer than the master's hood (four feet vs. three and one half feet) and has distinguished panels inside. The college or university granting the degree is indicated by the color of the hood lining. Here, the panels are blue and red. The velvet trim on the hood indicates the field in which the degree was granted.

Cap

The standard cap is the mortarboard—or the Oxford-type cap—which appeared at Oxford after 1769 and replaced the round soft beret-like cap still worn at Cambridge. Its shape is variously explained as like the scholars and their books, or as derived from the Master Workman's actual mortarboard, or from the quadrangle shape of the campus. It is usually the color of the gown—black. The tassel is the color of the school for the undergraduate and worn on the right side of the cap until the moment the degree is conferred by the president. Then it is swung to the left side. The tassel for the master's degree is black and worn over the left front quarter of the cap. The tassel for the doctor's degree is also worn over the left front quarter of the cap and is of gold thread.

Duquesne University Corporation

The members of the Duquesne University Corporation are members of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit, or Spiritans, which founded and continue to sponsor Duquesne University. The members work in conjunction with the Board of Directors to govern Duquesne University.

Chair

Very Rev. John Fogarty, C.S.Sp.

Vice Chair

Rev. William Christy, C.S.Sp.

Secretary/Treasurer

Rev. John Sawicki, C.S.Sp.

Members

Rev. Benoit Mukamba, C.S.Sp.

Rev. Uju P. Okeahialam, C.S.Sp.

Rev. Binh Quach, C.S.Sp.

Duquesne University Board of Directors

Chairman of the Board

Diane S. Hupp

Vice Chair

Charles A. Kennedy

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Enrico J. Francani
Matthew Hefrich
Linda Varrenti Hernandez

Samir Hifri
Kendra W. Ingram
Hon. Maureen P. Kelly
Jon R. Kinol
Edward Kolano
William J. Lyons
Robert I. Mallet
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Pamela L. Wilkins, J.D.

*Students whose names appear in the program are candidates for degrees
as of the printing of the Commencement Program.*

*Latin Honors (e.g., Cum Laude) listed in the program are based on cumulative
grade point averages at the conclusion of the spring 2026 semester and are
therefore tentative. Latin Honors are confirmed after the conclusion of the spring
semester and will be reflected on final official transcripts and University diplomas.*

**Honors College*