

DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY



School of Pharmacy
and Graduate School of
Pharmaceutical Sciences

Saturday, May 23, 2026
UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse



Dear Graduate,

Today is a special day for you and for your families as you receive your hard-earned diploma from Duquesne University of the Holy Spirit. On behalf of our entire University community, I extend my heartfelt congratulations. You have worked with determination to reach this moment, and I am incredibly proud of all that you have accomplished. From this University – with its 148-year tradition of excellence – you are prepared to go anywhere and achieve the highest levels of success. I look forward to watching you embark on bold new paths and transform the world in the years ahead. And today, I am honored to welcome you into a new place within our University family, as you officially join the ranks of more than 100,000 Duquesne alumni around the globe.

This year's commencement holds special meaning for me personally, as I transition into my new role as Duquesne's Chancellor after ten years as President. As I look back on the past years I have shared with you – witnessing your growth, your resilience, and your many achievements – I do so with deep pride and gratitude. And as I begin the Chancellor position and work alongside President-elect David Dausey – who will do a fabulous job – I look forward to continuing to support you, champion you, and celebrate all that you will accomplish as Duquesne graduates.

Congratulations – the entire Duquesne University family salutes your success!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Gormley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Ken Gormley
President, Duquesne University

DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY

MAY
COMMENCEMENT
CEREMONY



Saturday, May 23, 2026

May 2026 Commencement

DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDING

Kenneth G. Gormley, J.D.
University President

PRELUDE

Fanfare to “La Péri”Paul Dukas
arr. Wayne Barrington

PROCESSIONAL.....Macdonald Pipe Band of Pittsburgh, Inc.

OPENING OF CEREMONY.....James K. Drennen III, Ph.D.
Dean

THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER.....John Stafford Smith
lyrics: Francis Scott Key

led by Zoey Wolfe

INVOCATION.....Rev. William Christy, C.S.Sp.
Director, Spiritan Campus Ministry and University Chaplain

OATH AND PRAYER OF MAIMONIDES.....Michael Perry, PharmD
Words on Page 4 *Advisor to the Class of 2026*

WELCOME.....James K. Drennen III, Ph.D.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESSKenneth G. Gormley, J.D.

PRESENTATION OF RED RING

OF HONOR AWARDJames K. Drennen III, Ph.D.

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESSGordon Vanscoy, PharmD, MBA, CACP

PRESIDENT OF THE GRADUATING CLASS –

ON-CAMPUS PATHWAYAliyah V. Rosario, PharmD '26

PRESIDENT OF THE GRADUATING CLASS –

ONLINE PATHWAYCeleste M. Dinzeo, PharmD '26

PRESENTATION OF GRADUATESJames K. Drennen III, Ph.D.
Michael Perry, PharmD

Announced byChristopher Hagan, M.Ed.
Director of Student Advancement and Progression

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES.....Kenneth G. Gormley, J.D.

OATH OF A PHARMACIST Monica L. Skomo, PharmD
Words on Page 4 Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Administration

CLOSING REMARKSJames K. Drennen III, Ph.D.

ALMA MATER..... Robert Traugh
Words and Music on Page 5 arr. Benjamin Cornelius-Bates
lyrics: Kenneth G. Gormley, J.D.

led by Zoey Wolfe

BENEDICTIONRev. William Christy, C.S.Sp.

RECESSIONAL.....Macdonald Pipe Band of Pittsburgh, Inc.

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

MARY PAPPERT SCHOOL OF MUSIC MUSICIANS

^Omar Martinez-Rosete, trumpet

Caleb Drayer, trumpet

Zachary Frank, horn

^Damon Webb, trombone

Olivia Nixon, tuba

Zoey Wolfe, soloist

^Mary Pappert School of Music Graduate, Class of 2026

OATH OF MAIMONIDES

Thy eternal providence has appointed me to watch over the life and health of Thy creatures. May the love for my art actuate me at all times; may neither avarice nor miserliness, nor thirst for glory, or for a great reputation engage my mind; for the enemies of truth and philanthropy could easily deceive me and make me forgetful of my lofty aim of doing good to Thy children. May I never see in the patient anything but a fellow creature in pain. Grant me strength, time and opportunity always to correct what I have acquired, always to extend its domain, for knowledge is immense and the spirit of man can extend infinitely to enrich itself daily with new requirements. Today he can discover his errors of yesterday and tomorrow he may obtain a new light on what he thinks himself sure of today. O, God, Thou has appointed me to watch over the life and death of Thy creatures; here am I ready for my vocation, and now I turn unto my calling.

OATH OF A PHARMACIST

I promise to devote myself to a lifetime of service to others through the profession of pharmacy. In fulfilling this vow:

I will consider the welfare of humanity and relief of suffering my primary concerns.

I will promote inclusion and belonging, respect differences in all individuals, and address health disparities to advance health equity for all people.

I will apply my knowledge, experience, and skills to the best of my ability to assure optimal outcomes for all patients.

I will respect and protect all personal and health information entrusted to me.

I will accept the responsibility to improve my professional knowledge, expertise, and self-awareness.

I will hold myself and my colleagues to the highest principles of our profession's moral, ethical and legal conduct.

I will embrace and advocate changes that improve patient care.

I will utilize my knowledge, skills, experiences, and values to prepare the next generation of pharmacists.

I take these vows voluntarily with the full realization of the responsibility with which I am entrusted by the public.

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, march-ing 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.

5

Commencement Speaker

Gordon Vanscoy, PharmD '86, MBA, CACP



Dr. Gordon J. Vanscoy is a national award-winning entrepreneur, a recognized leader in health care, and a pioneer in rare-disease biopharma. Motivated by the fact that rare diseases affect roughly 1 in 10 people yet fewer than 5% have approved treatments, Dr. Vanscoy is dedicated to bringing innovative, lifesaving orphan drugs to patients in need. He is the founding chairman and CEO of RareMed Solutions, LLC and Vanscoy Rare Pharmacy, LLC, and previously founded and successfully exited eight health-care ventures, including his first “unicorn,” PANTHERx

Rare, while serving on the faculty at the University of Pittsburgh.

His achievements include the 2020 EY Entrepreneur of the Year National Award and international recognition in 2021. Deloitte and The Wall Street Journal named his leadership team a 2019 Best Managed Company in the U.S., and he is a two-time recipient of Western Pennsylvania’s Smart 50 distinction. In 2017 he received the University of Pittsburgh’s highest honor, the Distinguished Alumni Fellow Award.

Dr. Vanscoy holds a B.S. and an M.B.A. from the University of Pittsburgh and a Pharm.D. from Duquesne University. He completed a clinical residency at UPMC Mercy and a geriatric fellowship. An accomplished scholar, he has authored textbook chapters and hundreds of scientific papers, secured numerous research grants, and delivered invited lectures while serving on national and international committees and boards.

A committed philanthropist, Dr. Vanscoy has lived in Naples, Florida, for over two decades with his wife and life partner, Bethann. Their sons and respective families, Gordon Jr. and Gannon, also reside in Florida. Outside of his passion for the business of medicines, he is a licensed private pilot, a certified diver, a hypercar enthusiast and enjoys skiing and boating. His commencement comments will highlight his life lessons and his entrepreneurial journey—from blue-collar beginnings as the only one of four siblings to attend college to his personal, professional, and humanitarian successes today.

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

James K. Drennen III, Ph.D., Dean

CANDIDATES FOR THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES DEGREE

Quadir R. Herbert
Natasha M. Karlik
Michael H. Liberace

CANDIDATES FOR THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN PHARMACY FOUNDATIONS DEGREE

Dillena Carter
Jaelyn Swogger

CANDIDATE FOR THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES (MSPS) WITH A MAJOR OF PHARMACOLOGY

Prasad Vishnu Sarwade

CANDIDATE FOR THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES (MSPS) WITH A MAJOR OF PHARMACEUTICS

Suchitra Mogilla

CANDIDATE FOR THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES (MSPS) WITH A MAJOR OF INDUSTRIAL PHARMACY

*Lynn-Anne A. Akwa

CANDIDATES FOR THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN PHARMACY FOUNDATIONS AND DOCTOR OF PHARMACY DEGREES

Kelly Ardrey	Allison A. Lukowski
Jordon Baker	Zachary J. McCann
Madison P. Balog	Amber C. McGaffick
Saige K. Bensing	Austin H. Meinert
Nicholas D. Blaha	Kelsey M. Merola
Jia L. Bradford	Gregory S. Mihalik
Molly G. Brautigam	Hayleigh K. Monroe
Megan J. Carnahan	Joshua L. Mysnyk
Chelsea L. Carozza	Tyra T. Nguyen
Zackary M. Caruso	Sarah E. O'Hara
Maia R. Cogley	Joshua W. Ostrowski
Allison N. Covert	Blaze R. Pelles
Reese R. Eichler	Nicholas G. Phillips
Jacquelyn R. Emby	Brenden Plutnicki
Ivy G. Galhardo	Kristofer Potts
Dylan P. Gannon	Allison J. Proctor
Jack R. Garlick	Ashley H. Quinlan
Anthony J. Gatto	Aliyah V. Rosario
Drake D. Gindlesperger	Kylie L. Rosenberger
Julia A. Glatfelter	Christine E. Ruhland
Olivia G. Goodwin	Taylor N. Russell
Haylee M. Gordish	Austin M. Sampson
Brennen N. Grabowski	Lavona Sarver
Sydney M. Graham	Mia Schmidtetter
Madison L. Grube	Julianna C. Sciullo
Emily J. Hall	Dori R. Shearer
Kathryn T. Havrila	Carmina Sibeto
Kiersten E. Henry	Sanjita Sigdel
Abigail C. Instone	Shannon V. Small
David A. Iuvara	Kylie S. Smith
Maura James	Matthew C. Smith
Junmo Jeon	Rebecca N. Spratt
Cole M. Karlik	Caroline M. Stabile
Makayla G. Kimmick	Gianna R. Verrico
Connor J. Kirby	Carly M. Vickless
Natali A. Lachowski	Logan T. Zivic
Paige M. Lantz	

CANDIDATES FOR THE DOCTOR OF PHARMACY DEGREE

Aneseh Adeshirlarijaney

Thomas Aumer

Alexander N. Bulich

Tori K. Colucci

Celeste M. Dinzeo

Amra Edrees

Agatha Gradkowski

Poupak Haghighi

Evelyne Meskel

Victory J. Michalski

Karley J. Petrone

Anna E. Ream

Dawn D. Webb

**DOCTOR OF PHARMACY AND
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE CANDIDATES
GRADUATING WITH ACADEMIC HONOR**

SUMMA CUM LAUDE

Dylan P. Gannon
Drake D. Gindlesperger
Olivia G. Goodwin
Natashia M. Karlik
Gregory S. Mihalik

Brenden Plutnicki
Kristofer Potts
Mia Schmidtetter
Dori R. Shearer

MAGNA CUM LAUDE

Madison P. Balog
Maia R. Cogley
Ivy G. Galhardo
Sydney M. Graham

Natali A. Lachowski
Hayleigh K. Monroe
Nicholas G. Phillips

CUM LAUDE

Saige K. Bensing
Molly G. Brautigam
Megan J. Carnahan
Tori K. Colucci
Jacquelyn R. Emby
Anthony J. Gatto
Brennen N. Grabowski
Emily J. Hall
Kiersten E. Henry
Abigail C. Instone

Maura James
Allison A. Lukowski
Evelyne Meskel
Sarah E. O'Hara
Aliyah V. Rosario
Kylie L. Rosenberger
Julianna C. Sciuillo
Rebecca N. Spratt
Caroline M. Stabile

CONCENTRATIONS

CONCENTRATION IN ACUTE CARE

Jordon Baker
Megan Carnahan
Jacquelyn Emby
Ivy Galhardo
Anthony J. Gatto
Agatha Gradkowski
Abigail C. Instone
Maura A. James
Allison A. Lukowski

Kelsey Merola
Evelyne Meskel
Gregory Mihalik
Hayleigh K. Monroe
Tyra Nguyen
Sarah E. O'Hara
Nicholas Phillips
Logan Zivic

CONCENTRATION IN AMBULATORY CARE

Maia R. Cogley
Reese R. Eichler
Olivia Goodwin
Brennen Grabowski
Natali Lachowski
Amber McGaffick

Allison J. Proctor
Aliyah V. Rosario
Kylie L. Rosenberger
Julianna C. Sciullo
Rebecca N. Spratt
Caroline Stabile

CONCENTRATION IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Jack Garlick
Junmo Jeon

CONCENTRATION IN GERIATRIC PHARMACOTHERAPY

Alexander N. Bulich
Tori K. Colucci
Celeste M. Dinzeo
Amra Edrees
Julia A. Glatfelter
Olivia Goodwin
Kiersten E. Henry

Natali A. Lachowski
Amber McGaffick
Joshua Ostrowski
Christine Ruhland
Austin Sampson
Dori R. Shearer
Kylie S. Smith

AWARD WINNERS

APhA-ASP Senior Recognition Certificate	Maia R. Cogley
ASCP Excellence in Geriatric Care Award	Julia A. Glatfelter
Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association Outstanding Pharmacy Student Award	Hayleigh K. Monroe
Joseph A. Oddis Pennsylvania Society of Health System Pharmacists Commencement Award	Caroline M. Stabile
United States Public Health Service Excellence in Public Health Pharmacy Award	Zackary M. Caruso
Merck Manual Award for Academic Excellence	Ivy G. Galhardo
Merck Manual Award for Academic Excellence	Mia Schmidtetter
Viatrix Excellence in Pharmacy Award	Gregory S. Mihalik
Sara A. Corey Award for Involvement in Community Professional Programs	Paige M. Lantz
Thomas J. Mattei Award for Excellence in Community Care	Sarah E. O'Hara
Faculty Award	Brenden Plutnicki

PHARMACY HONOR AND LEADERSHIP SOCIETY MEMBERS

Phi Lambda Sigma

Aneseh Adeshirlarijaney
Megan J. Carnahan
Chelsea L. Carozza
Maia R. Cogley
Allison N. Covert
Celeste M. Dinzeo
Reese R. Eichler
Julia A. Glatfelter

Emily J. Hall
Abigail C. Instone
Amber C. McGaffick
Hayleigh K. Monroe
Brenden Plutnicki
Aliyah V. Rosario
Kylie L. Rosenberger
Rebecca N. Spratt

Rho Chi Honor Society

Madison P. Balog
Megan J. Carnahan
Maia R. Cogley
Ivy G. Galhardo
Dylan P. Gannon
Drake D. Gindlesperger
Olivia G. Goodwin
Sydney M. Graham
Abigail C. Instone
Natali A. Lachowski

Evelyne Meskel
Gregory S. Mihalik
Hayleigh K. Monroe
Sarah E. O'Hara
Nicholas G. Phillips
Brenden Plutnicki
Kristofer Potts
Mia Schmidtetter
Dori R. Shearer

Duquesne University Honors College

Megan J. Carnahan
Allison N. Covert
Olivia G. Goodwin
Natasha M. Karlik

Gregory S. Mihalik
Joshua W. Ostrowski
Dori R. Shearer

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Secretary

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President

Celeste M. Dinzeo

Vice President

Agatha Gradkowski

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Carl A. Anderson, Ph.D.

Ira S. Buckner, Ph.D.

Jane E. Cavanaugh, Ph.D.

Jordan R. Covvey, PharmD, Ph.D.

Jennifer L. Elliott, PharmD

Karen M. Fancher, PharmD

Patrick T. Flaherty, Ph.D.

Aleem Gangjee, Ph.D.

Gale E. Garmong, PharmD

Anthony J. Guarascio, PharmD

Marc W. Harrold, Ph.D.

Jelena M. Janjic, Ph.D.

Christa Kirk, PharmD

Pamela H. Koerner, PharmD

David J. Lapinsky, Ph.D.

Holly C. Lassila, DrPH

Robert V. Laux, PharmD

Rehana K. Leak, Ph.D.

Jamie L. McConaha, PharmD

Marsha A. McFalls, PharmD

Wilson S. Meng, Ph.D.

Courtney A. Montepara, PharmD

Branden D. Nemecek, PharmD

Lauren A. O'Donnell, Ph.D.

Christine K. O'Neil, PharmD

Michael W. Perry, PharmD

Rebecca R. Schoen, PharmD

Monica L. Skomo, PharmD

Samuel A. Sprowls, Ph.D.

Autumn L. Stewart-Lynch, PharmD

Peter L.D. Wildfong, Ph.D.

Paula A. Witt-Enderby, Ph.D.

Kurt W. Wolfgang, PharmD

David E. Zimmerman, PharmD

Lawrence H. Block, Ph.D., Emeritus

J. Douglas Bricker, Ph.D., Emeritus

Bruce D. Martin, Ph.D., Emeritus

Faculty Marshals

Anthony J. Guarascio, PharmD

Wilson S. Meng, Ph.D.

Student Marshals

Kurt W. Wolfgang, PharmD

David E. Zimmerman, PharmD

School of Pharmacy – History

The School of Pharmacy is celebrating its centennial anniversary!

The first Pharmacy class matriculated in September 1925 under the leadership of the founding dean, Dr. Hugh C. Muldoon. In May 2000, the School of Pharmacy graduated the first entry-level Doctor of Pharmacy class. The Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences was established in 1990. The Duquesne University School of Pharmacy is housed on the fourth floor of the award-winning Mellon Hall of Science and the adjacent School of Pharmacy Building. School facilities in Mellon Hall and School of Pharmacy Building include recently renovated classrooms, conference rooms, teaching and research laboratories, the Center for Student Learning, and the Center for Student Organizations. Academic Research Centers enhance the educational experience for our students. They include the Giant Eagle Center for Pharmacy Practice and the Center for Integrative Health. The Center for Pharmaceutical Technology, which includes a fully equipped manufacturing laboratory/pilot plant, is in the basement of Mellon Hall. The Center for Pharmacy Care and the Center for Integrative Health provide medical therapy management and wellness programs to employees and medically underserved areas around Pittsburgh.

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

<i>White:</i>	Arts	<i>Light Blue:</i>	Education
<i>Yellow:</i>	Sciences	<i>Apricot:</i>	Nursing
<i>Drab:</i>	Business	<i>Purple:</i>	Law
<i>Sage:</i>	Pharmacy	<i>Royal Blue:</i>	Philosophy
<i>Pink:</i>	Music	<i>Orange:</i>	Engineering

Academic Regalia

Academic dress had its beginnings in the Middle Ages. When the English universities were taking form in the 12th and 13th centuries, the scholars were also clerics and adopted robes similar to those of their monastic orders. Caps were a necessity in the drafty buildings, and capes with hoods attached were needed for warmth. The hood was selected by these early scholars as the article to be made distinctive for various degrees by its color, trimming, and binding. As the universities gradually passed from the control of the ecclesiastics, costumes took on brighter hues, and even today the robes of Oxford and Cambridge remain among the most colorful of all. The use of academic costume in the United States has been continuous since colonial times. A uniform system was not widespread, however, until about 1895 when the well-defined code of the Intercollegiate Commission was adopted by nearly all institutions of higher learning.

Gown

Gowns worn by those in the procession vary according to the degree held. Although the gown is more frequently black for academic degrees, certain universities have authorized the use of colored gowns. The academic gown has pointed sleeves for the master's degree, and round, full sleeves for the doctor's degree. There are no trimmings on the bachelor's and master's gowns, but the doctor's gown is faced in front with black velvet and has three bars of the same material across the sleeves or, in some cases, the color of this velvet relates to the field in which the degree is granted. Recipients of the bachelor's degree do not usually wear hoods.

Hood

The hood, which is the most distinctive feature of the American code, varies in length according to the type of degree held and is lined with the official colors of the institution conferring the degrees. The standard cap is the mortarboard, usually the color of the gown.

Cap

The standard tassel is black, but the doctor's cap may have a gold tassel. The School of Pharmacy has been authorized to use an olive green tassel. Graduates wear the tassel on the right side of the cap until the moment the degree is conferred.

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.

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Vice Chair

Rev. William Christy, C.S.Sp.

Secretary/Treasurer

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Members

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

Rev. Binh Quach, C.S.Sp.

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Rev. Raymond French, C.S.Sp.
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Michael LaFrankie, M.S.

Senior Advisor to the President for Strategic Initiatives

Rev. James P. McCloskey, C.S.Sp., Ph.D.

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Engagement Officer and Senior Advisor to the President*

Crystal McCormick Ware, M.S. Ed.

Vice President for Marketing and Communications

Gabriel Welsch, M.F.A.

Senior Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel

Pamela L. Wilkins, J.D.

Students whose names appear in the program are candidates for degrees as of the deadline to apply for May graduation.

Latin Honors (e.g., Cum Laude) are based on cumulative grade point averages at the conclusion of the fall 2025 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.

