



**National  
University**  
Of Health Sciences

**College of Professional Studies  
and  
College of Allied Health Sciences  
& Distance Education  
Commencement Ceremony**

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**Friday  
The Nineteenth of April  
Two-Thousand and Twenty-Four**

*Earl G. Liss Auditorium  
Lombard, Illinois*

### Because:

- **We value students** as unique individuals seeking quality health sciences education through our service and support;
- **We value being progressive**, knowledgeable, adaptable, original, and academically sound in our academic programs;
- **We value the substantive quality of our curricula** through emphasis upon academic excellence;
- **We value progress** achieved by the development of new knowledge and its importance to chiropractic medicine and other complementary healing arts and sciences;
- **We value quality** training and practice in the clinical skills of all relevant programs with particular emphasis upon the physician/patient relationship within the first professional programs;
- **We value complementary and alternative care** for its emphasis upon holism and use of the least invasive therapeutic procedures necessary for optimizing human health;
- **We value collegiality and cooperation** among all members of the University community, the related professions, other health care systems, and the community;

### Therefore:

The mission of National University of Health Sciences is to provide and promote the necessary leadership, management, and resources for the advancement of education, new knowledge, cultural diversity, outreach, and the ethical practice of the healing arts and sciences as taught within the programs of this university.

PROGRAM

**Processional** ..... Pomp and Circumstance  
*March #1 - Elgar*

**Master of Ceremonies** ..... Daniel R. Driscoll, DC  
*Dean of Institutional Compliance*

**National Anthem** ..... Star Spangled Banner  
*Francis Scott Key*

**Presentation of Colors** ..... Kayla Ellen Baggs, Ashley Hoolahan-Rice  
*Junior Marshals*

**Introduction of  
Commencement Speaker** ..... Joseph P.D. Stiefel, MS, EdD, DC  
*President*

**Commencement Address** ..... Kristine Aikenhead, BS, DC,  
*NUHS Alumni Class of 1983*

**Joseph Janse Award** ..... Daniel Strauss, DC  
*Dean of the College of Professional Studies, Florida Site*

**Awarding of Academic Honors** ..... Joseph P.D. Stiefel, MS, EdD, DC

**Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences**

**Valedictory Address** ..... Amara Josie Aisha Edwards  
*Valedictorian*

**Presentation of Candidates** ..... Randy L. Swenson, MHPE, DC  
*Vice President for Academic Services*

**Conferral of Bachelor  
of Science Degree** ..... Joseph P.D. Stiefel, MS, EdD, DC

**Master of Science in Oriental Medicine Degree**

**Presentation of Candidate** ..... Randy L. Swenson, MHPE, DC

**Conferral of Master of Science  
Degree in Oriental Medicine** ..... Joseph P.D. Stiefel, MS, EdD, DC

PROGRAM

**Doctor of Acupuncture Degree**

**Presentation of Candidates** ..... Randy L. Swenson, MHPE, DC

**Conferral of Doctor  
of Acupuncture Degree** ..... Joseph P.D. Stiefel, MS, EdD, DC

**Chiropractic Medicine Degree**

**Valedictory Address** ..... Larry John Pepper III  
*Valedictorian*

**Presentation of Candidates** ..... Randy L. Swenson, MHPE, DC

**Conferral of Doctor  
of Chiropractic Degree** ..... Joseph P.D. Stiefel, MS, EdD, DC

**Naturopathic Medicine Degree**

**Valedictory Address** ..... Joe DeMaria  
*Valedictorian*

**Presentation of Candidates** ..... Randy L. Swenson, MHPE, DC

**Conferral of Doctor of  
Naturopathic Medicine Degree** ..... Joseph P.D. Stiefel, MS, EdD, DC

**President's Final Remarks** ..... Joseph P.D. Stiefel, MS, EdD, DC

**Benediction** ..... Daniel R. Driscoll, DC

**Recessional** ..... Trumpet Time  
*Purcell*

**GRADUATES OF THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE  
IN BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE PROGRAM**

Alyssa Abraham<sup>❖●</sup>.....New York  
 Jennifer Lindsay Cundiff.....Illinois  
 Monica Czarnomysa<sup>●</sup>.....Illinois  
 Amara Josie Aisha Edwards<sup>†●</sup>.....Illinois  
 Yolla Mrad.....Illinois  
 Cheryl Leona Murillo.....Illinois  
 Patrick S. Skinner.....Illinois

**GRADUATE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE IN  
ORIENTAL MEDICINE PROGRAM**

Jennifer Monique Dexheimer<sup>†</sup>.....Illinois

**GRADUATES OF THE  
DOCTOR OF ACUPUNCTURE PROGRAM**

Mabel Angel.....Illinois  
 Breanne Driscoll.....Illinois  
 Brandi Elizabeth Jones.....Alabama  
 Ming Yi.....Jiang Su Province  
 Elang Yoo.....Illinois

**GRADUATES OF MASTER OF SCIENCE IN  
ADVANCED CLINICAL PRACTICE PROGRAM**

Christina Andrade.....Oregon  
 Nazneen Kardec.....Pennsylvania

Receipt of the degree for those listed as April 2024 graduates  
is contingent upon completion of applicable requirements.

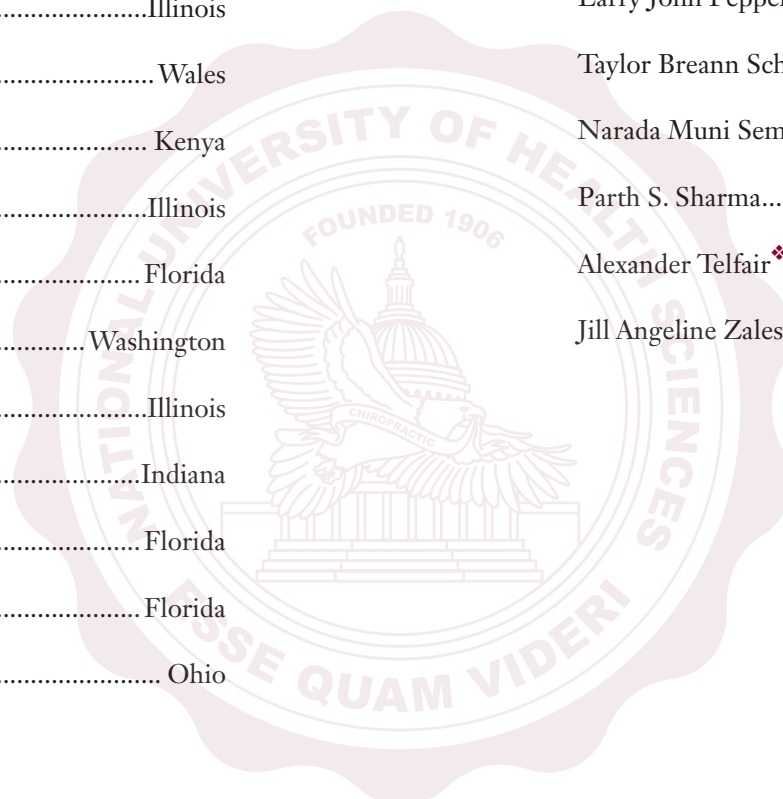
<sup>†</sup>valedictorian    ❖ salutatorian

● summa cum laude    ★ magna cum laude    ◆ cum laude

**GRADUATES OF THE  
CHIROPRACTIC MEDICINE PROGRAM**

Jaafer Aldirawi ..... Michigan  
 Anthony Almaraz..... Illinois  
 Karl Bailey..... Wales  
 Maere Bebora ..... Kenya  
 Tiffani Becerra Alwazan\* ..... Illinois  
 Kirsten Feeny\* ..... Florida  
 Austin Fothergill ..... Washington  
 Eydie S. Johnson ..... Illinois  
 Jaclyn Ruthrauff-Kotecki..... Indiana  
 Marco Liotta♦ ..... Florida  
 Dah-Pong Liu ..... Florida  
 Henry Carl Matthes IV..... Ohio

Brishon Kendall Nelson..... Virginia  
 Nicole Tatsuguchi-Ongcal♦ ..... Illinois  
 Kajal M. Patel..... Illinois  
 Larry John Pepper III† ..... Florida  
 Taylor Breann Schregardus..... Wisconsin  
 Narada Muni Semeta ..... North Carolina  
 Parth S. Sharma..... Illinois  
 Alexander Telfair♦ ..... Florida  
 Jill Angeline Zalesski ..... North Carolina



Receipt of the degree for those listed as April 2024 graduates is contingent upon completion of applicable requirements.

† valedictorian    ♦ salutatorian

● summa cum laude    \* magna cum laude    ◆ cum laude

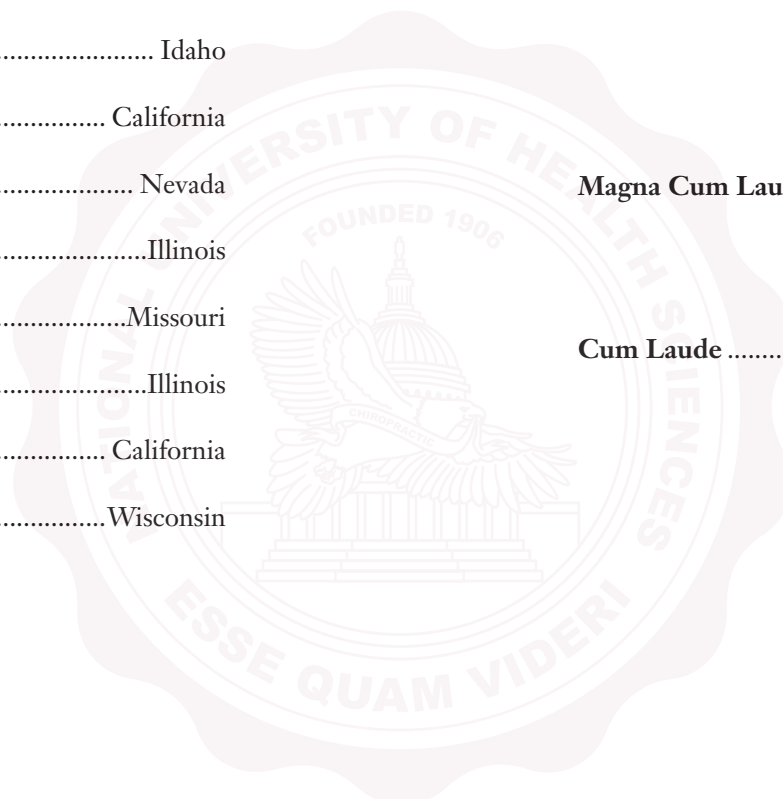
**GRADUATES OF THE  
NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE PROGRAM**

Chris Aponte ..... Texas  
 Joe DeMaria<sup>†●</sup> ..... Illinois  
 Maribel Diaz ..... Idaho  
 Brooke Eurton-Henderson ..... California  
 Tori Long ..... Nevada  
 Leslie Ruth Moreno ..... Illinois  
 Darby Jane Pedersen ..... Missouri  
 Christopher Rivera<sup>❖●</sup> ..... Illinois  
 Tessaundra L. M. Sidden ..... California  
 Abbie Siudzinski<sup>◆</sup> ..... Wisconsin

**Summa Cum Laude** ..... Alyssa Abraham  
 Monica Czarnomysa  
 Joe DeMaria  
 Amara Josie Aisha Edwards  
 Larry John Pepper III  
 Christopher Rivera  
 Alexander Telfair

**Magna Cum Laude** ..... Tiffani Becerra Alwazan  
 Kirsten Feeney

**Cum Laude** ..... Marco Liotta  
 Nicole Tatsuguchi-Ongcal  
 Abbie Siudzinski



Receipt of the degree for those listed as April 2024 graduates is contingent upon completion of applicable requirements.

<sup>†</sup>valedictorian    <sup>❖</sup>salutatorian

●summa cum laude    ★magna cum laude    ◆cum laude

# Kristine Aikenhead BS, DC



Dr. Kristine Aikenhead dedicated her entire 33-year career to Chiropractic and Naturopathic education at National University of Health Sciences. She graduated Cum Laude from National College of Chiropractic in 1983 and completed the Family Practice Residency at the same institution in 1985. During her residency, she became aware of her love of teaching and immediately upon its completion, began her teaching career at National. Between

1985 and 2024, she was a full-time faculty member for 20 total years and part time for 13 years. In her first year as an instructor, she was awarded the Faculty Development Award. She currently holds the rank of full Professor.

Dr. Aikenhead's contributions to the Chiropractic Profession include multiple opportunities of service on the test writing committee of the National Board of Chiropractic Examiners. In addition, her publications include two case studies published in the Journal of Chiropractic Medicine and one chapter in the textbook, Fundamentals of Chiropractic Diagnosis and Management, by Lawrence, published by Williams and Wilkins.

At National, she served as Chair of the Department of Clinical Sciences--Illinois from 2013-2015, and worked especially on communication and bridge-building between the Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine, Naturopathic and Chiropractic arenas, as well as cosmetic updates to the Manipulation Labs. Dr. Aikenhead also served a number of terms as Faculty Senate Chair, with special emphasis on collegiality between faculty and with administration.

For Dr. Aikenhead, serving as the faculty advisor for FOCUS, the Fellowship of Christian University Students, has been especially fulfilling. Through involvement with this club, she has had the opportunity to participate along with students in food and clothing drives, prayer for students and beloved faculty members, and even serving at Dr. Janse's Memorial Luncheon in 1986.

This month, Dr. Aikenhead retires from full-time instruction to begin another chapter.

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## THE ACADEMIC REGALIA

The academic costume or regalia worn by the faculty and graduates in NUHS ceremonies originated in medieval Europe. The gown was originally an outer robe worn by scholars. The academic regalia can vary from institution to institution. In the United States, a more unified code began to be recognized in the late 1900's. This codified approach was meant to help identify what school or institution a scholar graduated from and their discipline of study.

Robes that graduates wear will signify their academic degree. The doctoral degree is unique in that it features velvet trim including three velvet chevrons on each sleeve. A master's degree is conveyed through black robes with long trailing sleeves. Bachelor's and certificate degrees both have traditional bell-shaped long sleeves.

The hood was once a real hood, but today's hoods are purely ornamental. All hoods have a black base and are lined with the school colors (National University of Health Sciences' are maroon and goldenrod), and are trimmed in the colors of the discipline in which the degree is being granted. Green is the color of medicine, and this is the most common color you will see at an NUHS graduation. Other colors you may notice are dark blue, indicating a degree in the sciences; light blue, for education; and lemon, for library science. The length of the hood itself is also indicative of the level of degree earned, with doctorate level hoods being longer than those of the master's degree hoods.

Non-tenured faculty and graduates wear four-sided mortar board caps as they are not informative as to the highest degree earned. However, those having earned the doctoral degree don a gold tassel atop the mortar board caps. As is tradition, members of our esteemed faculty that have achieved tenure at the University and members of the administration are afforded the opportunity to wear tams.

## INTEGRATIVE HEALTH PROFESSIONAL OATH

**I** solemnly pledge before God and these witnesses to consecrate my life to the service of humanity;

**I** will give to my teachers the respect and gratitude that is their due;

**I** will apply the art and science of my discipline with compassion, personal accountability, professionalism, and respect for the people I am privileged to serve;

**T**he health of my patient will be my first consideration;

**I** will respect the secrets that are confided in me, even after the patient has died;

**I** will maintain by all means in my power, the honor, and the noble traditions of the healing professions;

**M**y colleagues will be my sisters and brothers;

**I** will not permit considerations of age, gender, ethnicity, religion, disability, sexual orientation, education, identity, ideology or any other factor that imperils my duty to honor the doctor/patient relationship;

**I** will maintain the utmost respect for human life and always remember to "First, Do No Harm";

**I** will not use my medical knowledge contrary to the laws of humanity, even under threat;

**I** make these promises solemnly, freely, and upon my honor.



■ **STAR SPANGLED BANNER** ■

*O*h, say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,

*W*hat so proudly we hail'd at the twilight's last gleaming?

*W*hose broad stripes and bright stars, thro' the perilous fight,

*O*'er the ramparts we watch'd, were so gallantly streaming?

*A*nd the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,

*G*ave proof thro' the night that our flag was still there.

*O* say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave

*O*'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?





