



**National
University**
Of Health Sciences

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



**Friday
The Twelfth of December
Two-Thousand and Twenty-Five**

*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 awareness in healthcare education, outreach, and the ethical practice of the healing arts and sciences as taught within the programs of this university.

PROGRAM

Processional	Pomp and Circumstance <i>March #1 - Elgar</i>
Master of Ceremonies	Daniel R. Driscoll, DC <i>Dean of Institutional Compliance</i>
National Anthem	Star Spangled Banner <i>Francis Scott Key</i>
Presentation of Colors	Sydney Catherine Kehrmann, Carly Miller Fleming <i>Junior Marshals</i>
Introduction of Commencement Speaker.....	Joseph P.D. Stiefel, MS, EdD, DC <i>President</i>
Commencement Address	Rand S. Swenson, DC, MD, PhD
Joseph Janse Award.....	Phillip Nicotera, MD, MSEd <i>Associate Dean, College of Professional Studies, Florida Site</i>
Awarding of Academic Honors.....	Joseph P.D. Stiefel, MS, EdD, DC
Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences	
Valedictory Address.....	Aaron X. Juarez <i>Valedictorian</i>
Presentation of Candidate	Randy L. Swenson, MHPE, DC <i>Vice President for Academic Services</i>
Conferral of Bachelor of Science Degree	Joseph P.D. Stiefel, MS, EdD, DC
Master of Science in Advanced Clinical Practice Degree	
Presentation of Candidate	Randy L. Swenson, MHPE, DC <i>Vice President for Academic Services</i>
Conferral of Advanced Clinical Practice Degree.....	Joseph P.D. Stiefel, MS, EdD, DC
Administration of the Integrative Health Professions	
Oath College of Professional Studies.....	Candace Passi, MS, EdD, PhD <i>Dean of the College of Professional Studies, Illinois Site</i>
Master of Science in Acupuncture Degree	
Valedictory Address.....	Rebecca K. Radford
Presentation of Candidate	Randy L. Swenson, MHPE, DC
Conferral of Master of Science Degree in Acupuncture	Joseph P.D. Stiefel, MS, EdD, DC

PROGRAM

Master of Acupuncture Degree

Presentation of Candidates.....	Randy L. Swenson, MHPE, DC
Conferral of Master of Acupuncture	Joseph P.D. Stiefel, MS, EdD, DC

Master of Science in Oriental Medicine Degree

Valedictory Address.....	Eddy Abla Toulassi-Djinar <i>Valedictorian</i>
Presentation of Candidates.....	Randy L. Swenson, MHPE, DC
Conferral of Master of Science Degree in Oriental Medicine.....	Joseph P.D. Stiefel, MS, EdD, DC

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.....	Mikaela Lynn Crocker <i>Valedictorian</i>
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.....	Kristen Kelli Couture <i>Valedictorian</i>
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 <i>Purcell</i>

■ **DECEMBER 2025 GRADUATES** ■

**GRADUATE OF THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN
BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES PROGRAM**

Aaron X. Juarez^{†★}Illinois

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

LaAsia Q. Bell..... New Jersey

Ryan David Bosley Ohio

Celine JamiesonNew York

■ **DECEMBER 2025 GRADUATES** ■

**GRADUATE OF THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN
ACUPUNCTURE PROGRAM**

Rebecca K. RadfordIllinois

**GRADUATES OF THE
MASTER IN ACUPUNCTURE PROGRAM**

Kaylan Rodrianna Harrell^{†★}Alabama

Tanna Ann Miller[◆]Missouri

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

Thomas Joseph Imbrogno Jr.Pennsylvania

Edgelyn Ledgeta Quanon..... North Carolina

Eddy Abl Toulassi-Djinan[†] West Africa

Winter Whitehorn[◆]Illinois

**GRADUATES OF THE
DOCTOR OF ACUPUNCTURE PROGRAM**

Crystalyn M. BarszczIllinois

Samantha Iris Shore New Jersey

Lingman Sun..... China

Receipt of the degree for those listed as December 2025 graduates
is contingent upon completion of applicable requirements.

[†]valedictorian [◆]salutatorian

●summa cum laude ★magna cum laude ◆cum laude

■ **DECEMBER 2025 GRADUATES** ■

**GRADUATES OF THE
CHIROPRACTIC MEDICINE PROGRAM**

Joshua Robert Abernathy Michigan
 Mitchell Charles Adrian[●] Wisconsin
 John Micha Asmus Virginia
 Mena Samuel Bassous Florida
 Luis Germano Buranello Neves Brazil
 Sara Hope Carbaugh Virginia
 Hunter Shelby Clarke Illinois
 Kathryn Ann Connolly Illinois
 Ethan Matthew Conway Illinois
 Kaylynn Sylvana Cooper Ohio
 Jordan Taylor Corey Indiana
 Mikaela Lynn Crocker^{†●} Texas
 Annaleah Louise Esp Illinois
 Benjamin Ezsias Illinois
 Amanda Mariam Farid Gabro[◆] Florida
 Robert William Hinsberger Illinois

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[†]valedictorian [◆]salutatorian

[●]summa cum laude [★]magna cum laude [◆]cum laude

■ **DECEMBER 2025 GRADUATES** ■

Connor Michael Hollenbeck North Carolina
 Joseph Anthony Kernes Illinois
 Amanda Marie Kruis Illinois
 Irving Leon Utah
 Eytan Levin Florida
 Julia Elizabeth Malosh Illinois
 Jesse Thomas Mingalone New Jersey
 Michael Patrick Murphy Illinois
 Jacob Ommen Illinois
 Preston Wistar Owings Michigan
 Dylan James Parshall Illinois
 Kyle R. Pigney Illinois
 Aleksander Piotrowski Illinois
 Ashley Lynn Robles Florida
 Kevin Rosario New York
 Cole Thomas Schneider Michigan
 Klairice Rose Schwartz^{◆●} Wisconsin
 Trae Michael Sinn Ohio
 Everette James Smith Florida
 Jenna Jean Stein Michigan
 Maria Tkachuk Illinois
 Carter Henry West Idaho

■ **DECEMBER 2025 GRADUATES** ■

**GRADUATES OF THE
NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE PROGRAM**

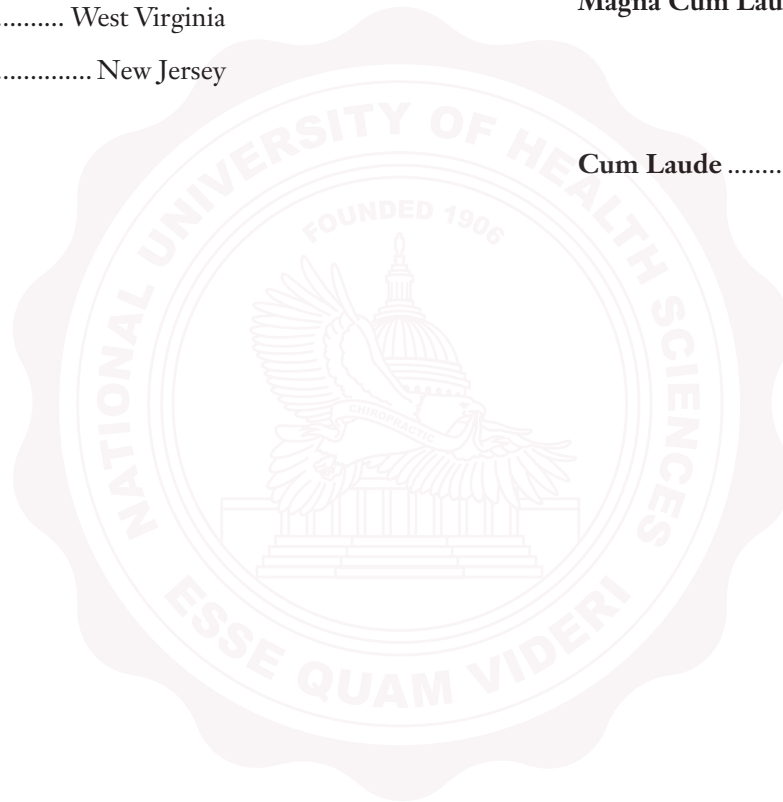
Kristen Kelli Couture[†]Massachusetts
 Marie-Ange T. Ogoundele OgoudouIllinois
 Jamie Diane Roberts North Carolina
 Laina Anne Torries[◆] West Virginia
 Eddy Ablä Toulassi-Djina New Jersey

■ **SCHOLASTIC HONORS** ■

Summa Cum LaudeMitchell Charles Adrian
 Mikaela Lynn Crocker
 Klairice Rose Schwartz

Magna Cum Laude Kaylan Rodrianna Harrell
 Aaron X. Juarez

Cum Laude Amanda Mariam Farid Gabro



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[†]valedictorian [◆]salutatorian

●summa cum laude ★magna cum laude ◆cum laude



Rand S. Swenson DC, MD, PhD

Rand S. Swenson, DC, MD, PhD, received his Doctor of Chiropractic (DC) degree in 1976 from National University of Health Sciences, his PhD in anatomy/neuroscience from Loyola University Stritch School of Medicine in 1981, and his Doctor of

Medicine (MD) degree with honors from the University of Illinois College of Medicine in 1989.

Dr. Swenson received post-doctoral training in neurophysiology at Loyola University Chicago and was a visiting professor of physiology at the Tokyo Metropolitan Institute of Gerontology, where he studied autonomic nervous system neurophysiology from 1983 to 1986. After an internal medicine internship, he completed a neurology residency at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in 1993, and subsequently joined the staff of the medical center, receiving an academic appointment at Dartmouth (now Geisel) School of Medicine.

During his career, in addition to clinical practice, Dr. Swenson served as: chair of the department of anatomy, and of the department of medical education; chair of the admissions committee; the faculty lead of the medical school accreditation committee; a six-year member of the National Board of Medical Examiners Task Force on Neurology and Neuroscience and a member of several National Institutes of Health study sections.

He is now emeritus professor of neurology and medical education at Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth. His academic and research interests include: the neurobiology of pain; autonomic nervous system neurophysiology; complementary and alternative medicine and medical education.

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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;

The 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;

My colleagues will be my sisters and brothers;

I will uphold my duty to honor the doctor/patient relationship, ensuring unbiased patient care regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, religion, disability, education, ideology, or any other personal characteristic;

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?*

