



**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 Twenty-Fourth of April  
Two-Thousand and Twenty-Six**

*Earl G. Liss Auditorium  
Lombard, Illinois*

## MISSION STATEMENT

### 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

<b>Processional</b> .....	Pomp and Circumstance <i>March #1 - Elgar</i>
<b>Master of Ceremonies</b> .....	Daniel R. Driscoll, DC <i>Dean of Institutional Compliance</i>
<b>National Anthem</b> .....	Star Spangled Banner <i>Francis Scott Key</i>
<b>Presentation of Colors</b> .....	Diana My Dao, Paige Weyer <i>Junior Marshals</i>
<b>Introduction of</b> <b>Commencement Speaker</b> .....	Joseph P.D. Stiefel, MS, EdD, DC <i>President</i>
<b>Commencement Address</b> .....	Andrew Johnson, MBA, MS, BS
<b>Joseph Janse Award</b> .....	Phillip Nicotera, MD, MSEd <i>Associate Dean of College of Professional Studies, Florida Site</i>
<b>Awarding of Academic Honors</b> .....	Joseph P.D. Stiefel, MS, EdD, DC
<b>Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences</b>	
<b>Valedictory Address</b> .....	Nikeata Claire Lennox Schuler <i>Valedictorian</i>
<b>Presentation of Candidates</b> .....	Randy L. Swenson, MHPE, DC <i>Vice President for Academic Services</i>
<b>Conferral of</b> <b>Bachelor of Science Degree</b> .....	Joseph P.D. Stiefel, MS, EdD, DC
<b>Administration of the Integrative Health Professions</b>	
<b>Oath College of Professional Studies</b> .....	Candace Passi, MS, EdD, PhD <i>Dean of the College of Professional Studies, Illinois Site</i>

■ **PROGRAM** ■

**Master of Acupuncture Degree**

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

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

**Master of Acupuncture – Herbal Medicine Degree**

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

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

**Chiropractic Medicine Degree**

**Valedictory Address** ..... Dylan Zachary Kahn  
*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** ..... Sydney Catherine Kehrmann  
*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 SCIENCES PROGRAM**

- Jaz Autumn Culpepper.....Illinois
- Andrianna Asha Hicks.....Illinois
- Nikeata Claire Lennox Schuler<sup>†★</sup>.....Illinois
- Vanessa Grace Stephens<sup>◆</sup>.....Illinois
- Jasmine Lakiba Zoker..... North Carolina

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

- JoQuan Jomari Charleswell..... US Virgin Islands
- Patience Lipede Robinson.....Georgia

Receipt of the degree for those listed as April 2026 graduates is contingent upon completion of applicable requirements.

<sup>†</sup>valedictorian      <sup>◆</sup>salutatorian

●summa cum laude      ★magna cum laude      ◆cum laude

**GRADUATE OF THE  
MASTER IN ACUPUNCTURE PROGRAM**

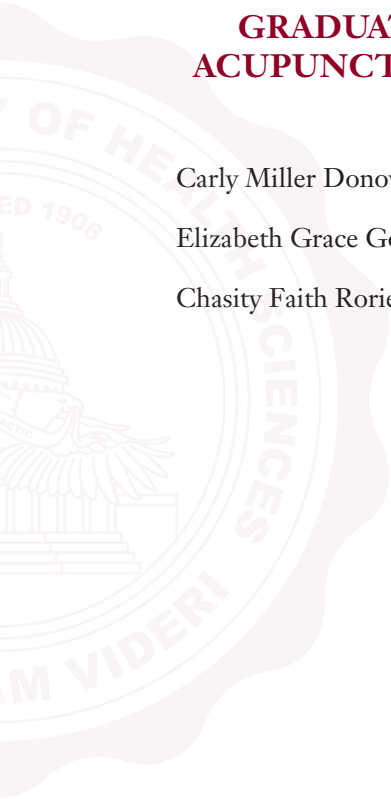
Maithao Xiong<sup>†</sup> .....Wisconsin

**GRADUATES OF THE MASTER IN  
ACUPUNCTURE – HERBAL MEDICINE  
PROGRAM**

Carly Miller Donovan<sup>†•</sup> .....Wisconsin

Elizabeth Grace Goodes ..... Ohio

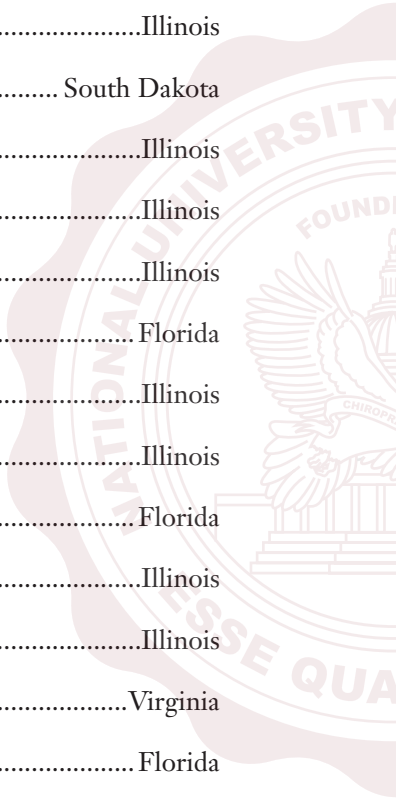
Chasity Faith Rorie<sup>❖</sup> .....Mississippi



■ **APRIL 2026 GRADUATES** ■

**GRADUATES OF THE  
CHIROPRACTIC MEDICINE PROGRAM**

William John Anderson .....	Florida
Julie Ascunce <sup>●</sup> .....	Florida
Dillan Bowling .....	Illinois
Isaac Carr .....	South Dakota
Zachary Parker Chase .....	Illinois
Ariana Del Pilar.....	Illinois
Andrew M. Dykun.....	Illinois
Anthonina Echevarria .....	Florida
Joshua Thomas Franz .....	Illinois
Paul Randel Grinter <sup>◆●</sup> .....	Illinois
Dylan Zachary Kahn <sup>†●</sup> .....	Florida
Stephania Kapetaneas .....	Illinois
Kathryn Jordan Knoch <sup>●</sup> .....	Illinois
Zhanna Rose Leavitt.....	Virginia
Edward H. Madden.....	Florida



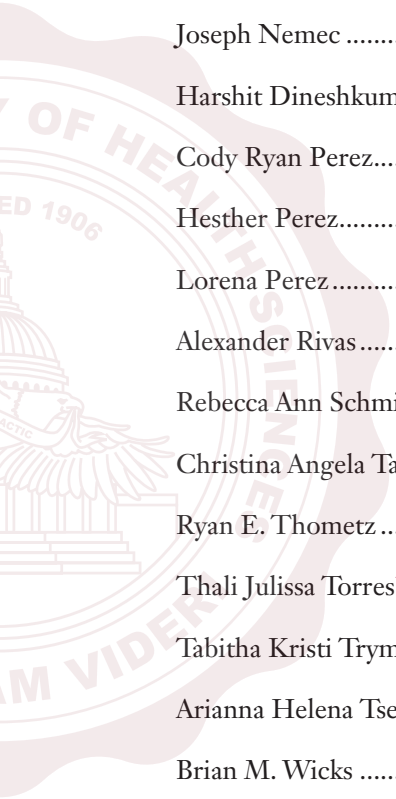
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† valedictorian    ◆ salutorian

● summa cum laude    ★ magna cum laude    ◆ cum laude

■ **APRIL 2026 GRADUATES** ■

- Erica Alison Man ● ..... Florida
- Liza Nicole Marszalek .....Massachusetts
- Mary Bridget Medovich..... Florida
- Chase A. Miller..... Kentucky
- Joseph Nemecc .....Illinois
- Harshit Dineshkumar Patel ..... Ohio
- Cody Ryan Perez.....Pennsylvania
- Hesther Perez.....Wisconsin
- Lorena Perez..... Florida
- Alexander Rivas ..... Florida
- Rebecca Ann Schmitz..... Wisconsin
- Christina Angela Targia .....Illinois
- Ryan E. Thometz .....Indiana
- Thali Julissa Torres★ .....Virginia
- Tabitha Kristi Trymbiski .....Pennsylvania
- Arianna Helena Tsengouras ● .....Illinois
- Brian M. Wicks .....Illinois
- Kace McKenna Winters.....Pennsylvania
- Anisah Yassin .....Illinois



■ **APRIL 2026 GRADUATES** ■

**GRADUATES OF THE  
NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE PROGRAM**

Amber Calcano.....	Massachusetts
Lauren Ashley Collins.....	Louisiana
Monica Shaniece Dixon.....	Maryland
Stevie Jiyo Inghram.....	Pennsylvania
Sydney Catherine Kehrmann <sup>†</sup> ●.....	Illinois
Kathryn Ruth Levitan <sup>◆</sup> ●.....	Michigan
Maria Frances Mione.....	Connecticut
Adaeze C. Nebedum.....	California
Thithi Pham.....	Illinois
Roseline S. Russell.....	Liberia
Katelyn Sanchez.....	Louisiana
Melissa Sauby.....	Wisconsin
Christopher James Schultz.....	New York

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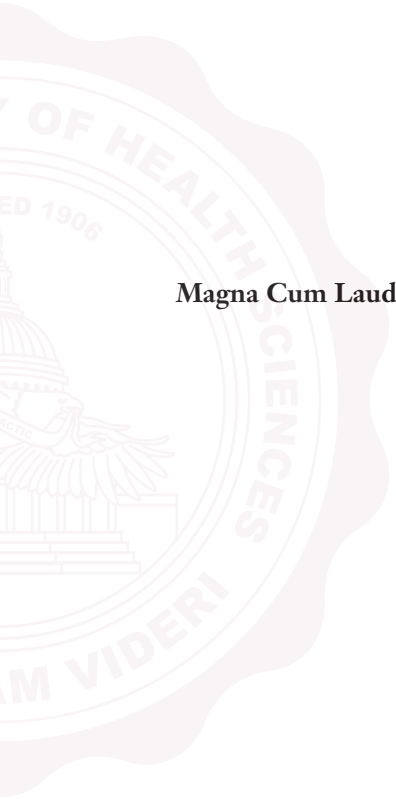
<sup>†</sup>valedictorian     ◆ salutorian

● summa cum laude     ★ magna cum laude     ◆ cum laude

■ **SCHOLASTIC HONORS** ■

**Summa Cum Laude** .....Julie Ascune  
Carly Miller Donovan  
Paul Randel Grinter  
Dylan Zachary Kahn  
Sydney Catherine Kehrmann  
Kathryn Jordan Knoch  
Kathryn Ruth Levitan  
Erica Alison Man  
Arianna Helena Tsengouras

**Magna Cum Laude** .....Nikeata Claire Lennox Schuler  
Thali Julissa Torres





## Andrew Johnson MBA, MS, BS

Mr. Johnson received his Bachelor of Science in electrical engineering in 1984 and one year later earned a master's degree in electrical engineering, both from the Illinois Institute of Technology. He then went on to earn a master's in business administration from the University of Chicago,

Graduate School of Business. In the late 1980's Andrew worked at the Northrop Corporation as a research and development engineer. From 1989 to 2009, Mr. Johnson transitioned into finance roles at Lincoln Capital Management and Lehman Brothers Asset Management culminating as Managing Director, Co-Head of Investment Grade Fixed Income and CIO. In those roles he was the lead portfolio manager for strategies that peaked at \$35 billion. In 2009 Neuberger Berman emerged as an independent firm from the vestiges of Lehman Brothers as the reconstituted Lehman Brothers Asset Management at which point Mr. Johnson became head of the business.

Mr. Johnson is presently a Managing Director at Neuberger Berman, engaged as the firm's Senior Diversity & Inclusion Leader and consultant on employee development issues. Prior to retiring from his operating role at the firm in 2018, Andy was the Global Head of Investment Grade Fixed Income and Multi-Asset Class Fixed Income Solutions. He was responsible for the investment process and investment results for \$75 billion of assets under management. As business head, Andy was responsible for strategy, business development, 50+ full time employees as well as profit and loss on a global basis. Under his stewardship of pension funds and endowments his clientele included New York City, New York State, General Motors, The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, State of Minnesota, State of Indiana, and the State of Nevada. In addition to his US based clients, Mr. Johnson dealt directly with markets in the UK, Japan, France, the Netherlands, Switzerland, and Germany.

In 2025, Mr. Johnson joined the Investment Committee of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation Trust. In 2021, Mr. Johnson became a member of the Board of Directors of AGNC Investment Corp, a publicly traded Mortgage Real Estate Investment Trust as an Independent Director and a member of the Audit Committee. He joined the Hartford Funds Boards of Trustees as an Independent Director in 2020 and for the past four years has operated at the Investment Committee Chair. Mr. Johnson was a member of Neuberger Berman Investment Advisers LLC- Board of Directors and Neuberger Berman's Partnership Committee. Mr. Johnson is also proud to serve on the Bishop McNamara High School Board of Directors.

# OFFICIALS

## Board of Trustees

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

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Ronald Mensching, BS ..... *Treasurer*

Tracy McHugh, MBA ..... *Secretary*

Daniel R. Driscoll, DC ..... *Assistant Treasurer and Assistant Secretary*

## 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 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?*



