

UNIVERSITY OF PIKEVILLE

Kentucky College of Optometry
Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine

Class of 2023 Commencement

Saturday, May 6, 2023

Order of Ceremony

- Prelude.....Phillip Westgate, DMA, *pianist*
Professor of Music
- * Academic Processional Keith Murphy, *piper*
- * Presentation of Colors Pikeville Police Department Honor Guard
- Welcome Burton J. Webb, Ph.D.
President, University of Pikeville
- Invocation.....Emily DaVada Willis
Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine, Class of 2023
- Introductions.....Lori Werth, Ph.D.
Provost, University of Pikeville

Dean's Remarks

Joe E. Kingery, D.O., MBA, FACOFP, FAAFP
Dean, Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine
Professor, Department of Family Medicine

Michael Bacigalupi, O.D., M.S., FAAO, DPNAP
Dean, Kentucky College of Optometry
Professor of Optometry

- Introduction of Commencement Speaker.....Dr. Bacigalupi
- Commencement Address..... Ronald G. McCoy, O.D.
University of Pikeville Board of Trustees
- Conferring of Honorary Degree.....President Webb
Ronald G. McCoy, *Doctor of Public Service* Terry L. Dotson
Chairman, University of Pikeville Board of Trustees
- Certification of Degree Candidates..... President Webb and Provost Werth

Presentation of Degree Candidates

Malgorzata Simm, Ph.D., M.Sc.
Associate Dean of Biomedical Sciences
Professor of Microbiology & Immunology, KYCOM

Donald J. Egan, O.D., FAAO
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
Professor of Optometry, KYCO

Hooding

Maleshea Hopkins, D.O.
Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs, KYCOM

Cliff Caudill, O.D., FAAO
Assistant Dean for Clinical Affairs, KYCO

Administration of Oath

Laura E. Griffin, D.O., FAAO
Associate Dean for OPP Integration
Professor and Chair, Department of OPP

Mary Beth Emmick Morris, O.D.
President, Kentucky Optometric Association

Presentation of Classes.....Dr. Kingery and Dr. Bacigalupi

Class Representatives

Taylor Kenton Reardon
Class President
KYCOM, Class of 2023

Aggie Bruemmer
Valedictorian
KYCO, Class of 2023

“My Old Kentucky Home” Isabella Coleman
University of Pikeville, Class of 2025

Dr. Westgate, *pianist*

Benediction Jessica Johnson
Kentucky College of Optometry, Class of 2023

* Stage Party Recessional Keith Murphy, *piper*

*Thank you to KYCOM Sigma Sigma Phi members and KYCO Student Government Association
for their assistance with today's ceremony.*

Commencement Speaker and Honorary Degree Recipient

Ronald G. McCoy, O.D.

Retired Optometrist and UPIKE Board of Trustees' member Ronald Gene McCoy, O.D., is a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University. He received his doctor of optometric medicine from Southern College of Optometry in Memphis, Tennessee.

Dr. McCoy was in private optometric practice for 41 years in Pikeville, Kentucky. He is a lifetime member of the Kentucky Optometric Association and the American Optometric Association. During his career, he was a member of the Lions Club, served on the board of Habitat for Humanity, and traveled on eye care mission trips to Lima, Peru.

Dr. McCoy exemplifies the spirit of volunteerism and commitment through his outstanding contributions to the local community and service initiatives. The Kentucky College of Optometry (KYCO) created and designed the Ronald McCoy Community Service Award to honor a KYCO graduate that embodies the same spirit of service as McCoy.

As an avid golfer, McCoy has served on the board of directors at the Green Meadow Country Club in Pikeville for more than twenty years. He is also an Arnold Palmer's Bay Hill Golf and Country Club member in Orlando, Florida.

He is an active member of the Gideons International local chapter and a member of the Pikeville United Methodist Church, serving on various committees and boards.

He resides in Pikeville with his wife, Mary, and enjoys spending his spare time with their four grandchildren.

*Kentucky College of
Osteopathic Medicine*

CLASS OF 2023

Osteopathic Oath

I do hereby affirm my loyalty to the profession I am about to enter.

I will be mindful always of my great responsibility to preserve the health and the life of my patients, to retain their confidence and respect both as a physician and a friend who will guard their secrets with scrupulous honor and fidelity, to perform faithfully my professional duties, to employ only those recognized methods of treatment consistent with good judgment and with my skill and ability, keeping in mind always nature's laws and the body's inherent capacity for recovery.

I will be ever vigilant in aiding in the general welfare of the community, sustaining its laws and institutions, not engaging in those practices which will in any way bring shame or discredit upon myself or my profession. I will give no drugs for deadly purposes to any person, though it may be asked of me.

I will endeavor to work in accord with my colleagues in a spirit of progressive cooperation and never by word or by act cast imputations upon them or their rightful practices.

I will look with respect and esteem upon all those who have taught me my art. To my college I will be loyal and strive always for its best interests and for the interests of the students who will come after me.

I will be ever alert to further the application of basic biologic truths to the healing arts and to develop the principles of osteopathy which were first enunciated by Andrew Taylor Still.

2023 Candidates for the Degree

DOCTOR OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

- Nadine Nujud Abul-Khoudoud
Ashland, Kentucky
Hooded by Mohamad Riad Abul-Khoudoud, M.D.
- Jefferson Harris Adams
Hampden, Maine
Hooded by Michael Carnes, D.O., FAAO
- Furqan Salim Ahmed
Dayton, Ohio
- Julie Alvarez
Waymart, Pennsylvania
- Abigael Jeannine Amheiser
Piqua, Ohio
Hooded by Derek Singrey, Pharm.D.
- Siddiq Masud Ansari
West Bloomfield, Michigan
Hooded by Shahid Ansari, M.D.
- Sophia Marguerethe Antimisiaris
Kamuela, Hawaii
- Cristina Antonovici
Denver, Colorado
Hooded by Violina Muntean, J.D.
- Furqan Mushtaq Attar
Lombard, Illinois
Hooded by Musfarah Siraj, M.D.
- Jonathan S. Austin
Louisville, Kentucky
- *• Benjamin Robert Ayres
Port Edwards, Wisconsin
Hooded by Clinton J. Kaufman, D.O.
- Alexa Nicole Ball
Mt. Pleasant, Michigan
Hooded by Terry Ball, D.O.
- Roshmita Bardhan
San Jose, California
- Allison Ann Bauman
Taylor, Pennsylvania
Hooded by Douglas Owen, D.O.
- * ' ' Angela Lynne Binkowski
Bath, New York
- * Tejaswanni Bolineni
Delaware, Ohio
- Caitlin Lily Brice
Lexington, Kentucky
- Stephanie Nicole Brooks
San Diego, California
Hooded by Robert Allen Meija Powell, M.D.
- *• ' Christina E. Campbell
Malta, Ohio
- * Karly Castellaw
Oakton, Virginia
- Madison O'Brien Clements
Louisville, Kentucky
Hooded by Stacey Bowlds, M.D.
- David Daniel Martin Cline
Cambridge, Ohio
- *• Francesca Teodora Cocchiarale
Columbus, Ohio
Hooded by Catherine Neal, D.O., FACOOG

- * Sigma Sigma Phi Member
◦ OMT/Anatomy Fellow
• Gold Humanism Honor Society Member
~ Veteran
' Graduating with Honors
" Received All A's on Clinical Rotations

2023 Candidates for the Degree

DOCTOR OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

- Cody Allen Cooper
Union, Kentucky
- Joseph K. Cox
Logan, Utah
- * Amber Michele Crawford
Mayking, Kentucky
- " James Andrew Crum
Lexington, Kentucky
Hooded by Scott Harrison, D.O.
- Mindy Dacri-Kim
Dayton, Ohio
Hooded by Sang Won Dacri-Kim, D.O.
- Kyle Edward Dezse
Galena, Ohio
- * James Hunter Dunnigan
Benton, Kentucky
- * • Sidney M. Elston
Dickson, Tennessee
- * Yetunde Deborah Fabiyi
Baltimore, Maryland
Hooded by Krista Efe Johnson, M.D.
- Hunter Klein Fanella
West Chester, Ohio
Hooded by Philip Watson, D.O.
- * • Samer Naser Farhud
New Orleans, Louisiana
- Savannah A. Netherton Fister
Lexington, Kentucky
Hooded by William Fister, J.D.
- * Samantha A. Fox
Dayton, Ohio
Hooded by Matthew Fox, M.D.
- * Katelyn Rose Garza
Aurora, Illinois
- Conner O'Brian Gauze
Ashland, Kentucky
- Margaret Kerstin Geertz
Keuka Lake, New York
Hooded by Scott Harrison, D.O.
- Adam Kyle Gehlhausen
Frankfort, Kentucky
- Sadia Goheer
Frederick, Maryland
Hooded by Laura E. Griffin, D.O., FAAO
- Nicole Elizabeth Green
Longmont, Colorado
Hooded by Matthew C. Green, Ed.D.
- Robert C. Grigsby
Martin, Kentucky
Hooded by Kevin Donohue, D.O.
- Cezar P. Gumma
Waterford, Michigan
- ° Steven Michael Hall
Vine Grove, Kentucky
Hooded by Laura E. Griffin, D.O., FAAO
- * • Nicole Steele Harris
Louisville, Kentucky
Hooded by Zachary Harris, M.D.

2023 Candidates for the Degree

DOCTOR OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

- Katherine Anne Hausrath
Plattsburgh, New York
- * Katelyn Lorell Heaton
Spurgeon, Indiana
- Bryan Michael Hodosh
Redding, California
- Lindsay Lee Jasper
Somerset, Kentucky
Hooded by Bryce Meredith, D.O.
- * Jason Matthew Justice
Millard, Kentucky
- *◦ Sara Jean Kaczmarek
Green Bay, Wisconsin
Hooded by Laura E. Griffin, D.O., FAAO
- *◦' Vaibhav Rajesh Kadam
Johnson City, Tennessee
Hooded by Rajesh Kadam, M.D.
- Ramisha Ibrahim Ali Khan
Columbus, Ohio
- Reeya Khanal
Lexington, Kentucky
- Jordan T. Kirk
Inez, Kentucky
- Scott Matthew Klem
Evansville, Indiana
- Luke Alexander Lamorelle
Mason, Ohio
- *' Reidis Lata
Vestal, New York
- * Cindy Lin
Canton, Ohio
Hooded by Wendy Lin, Pharm.D.
- Sunny Mandal
Jacksonville, Florida
Hooded by Prabir Mandal, Ph.D.
- Yusra Mansoor
Pikeville, Kentucky
Hooded by Mansoor Mahmood, M.D.
- Kristen Elizabeth Marcum
Columbia Station, Ohio
Hooded by Anne Magnuson, D.O.
- Caleb Ryan Marsh
Wheelersburg, Ohio
Hooded by Catherine Neal, D.O.
- Erica Dawn Memmer-Takahashi
Oakland City, Indiana
- Rebecca Claire Meyer
St. Louis, Missouri
Hooded by Shelly Meyer, Ph.D.
- * Hannah Marie Miller
Coal Grove, Ohio
Hooded by Robert Benjamin Roach, M.D.
- Alexander Patrick Moore
Westview, Kentucky
- William G. Mortell
Lake Tapps, Washington
- Daniel David Mueller
Brookfield, Wisconsin
Hooded by Jeffrey K. Reichel, D.O.

- * Sigma Sigma Phi Member
- OMT/Anatomy Fellow
- Gold Humanism Honor Society Member
- Veteran
- ' Graduating with Honors
- " Received All A's on Clinical Rotations

2023 Candidates for the Degree

DOCTOR OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

- * • Elizabeth Ann Newkirk
Mount Sterling, Kentucky
Hooded by Leigh Doane, M.D.
- Gracie Elena Nguyen
Charlotte, North Carolina
- ' " Brian Clayton Nickles
Neon, Kentucky
- Dencil John Ninan
Nacogdoches, Texas
- Alexis Lakeisha Ousley
Russell, Kentucky
- Arti Ajay Patel
Tampa, Florida
- Kushal Patel
Katy, Texas
- Jared M. Petersen
Kennewick, Washington
- Raymond Thanhle Phan
Winnetka, California
- John Desiderio Pina
Ashland, Kentucky
Hooded by Katherine Carias, M.D.
- * • Sarah E. Powell
Stow, Ohio
- Nathan I. Pray
Hazard, Kentucky
Hooded by Robert Musick, D.Min.
- Hannah Elizabeth Randall
Kokomo, Indiana
- * ' Caleb Aron Rashidian
Potomac, Maryland
- Jordan Michael Read
Elizabethtown, Kentucky
Hooded by Scott Dishaw, D.O.
- Taylor Lynn Read
Naperville, Illinois
Hooded by Sabrina Fowler, M.D.
- * Taylor Kenton Reardon
Findlay, Ohio
- * " William Connor Rettig
Centerville, Ohio
Hooded by L. William Rettig, III, M.D.
- William Duncan Rhoad, V
Bamberg, South Carolina
- * • Preston Charles Rippe
Fort Wayne, Indiana
Hooded by Travis Rippe, OTD
- Joseph Stewart Roesch
Reston, Virginia
Hooded by Michael Carnes, D.O., FAAO
- Joseph Daniel Rollins
Corbin, Kentucky
Hooded by Kendra Hall, D.O.
- Raquel Kathleen Rudy
Alden, Michigan
Hooded by Sonali Kadam, DVM
- Batoul Sadek
Dearborn Heights, Michigan
Hooded by Maha Sadek, J.D.

2023 Candidates for the Degree

DOCTOR OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

- Emma Whitlow Sanchez
Glasgow, Kentucky
Hooded by Cheryl Whitlow, O.D.
- Taryn Jade Schrems
East Lansing, Michigan
Hooded by Ashton Wickramasinghe, M.D.
- * ′ Catherine Lyn Scocca
Raleigh, North Carolina
Hooded by Deborah J. Clark-Scocca, J.D.
- Brandon Seguin
Alpena, Michigan
- Jacob Paul Selvage
Boise, Idaho
- * ′ Maggie Susan Sherrard
Elizabethtown, Kentucky
- Ibrahim Siddiqui
Elizabethtown, Kentucky
Hooded by Mohammed Siddiqui, M.D.
- Christian M. Simon
Wappingers Falls, New York
Hooded by Michael B. Simon, M.D., MBA,
FASA
- Jaskaran Singh
Crown Point, Indiana
Hooded by Erika Singh, M.D.
- Gregory Wallace Smith
Hooded by Michael Carnes, D.O., FAAO
- Max Benjamin Bowen Snider
Grand Rapids, Michigan
- Stefanie P. Soy
Griffith, Indiana
- Erin Nicole Stavroff
Columbus, Ohio
- Julia L. Stitely-Moore
Woodbury, Vermont
Hooded by Susan Stitely, J.D.
- Muhammad Sulaimain
Asheboro, North Carolina
- * Matthew Scot Talmage
Layton, Utah
- Eugene Shree Tandukar
Fishers, Indiana
- Adam Wesley Taylor
Pikeville, Kentucky
- * ′ Minh Tran
Lexington, Kentucky
- * ′ Morgan Taylor Turnow
Curtice, Ohio
Hooded by Guillermo Hernandez, Ph.D.
- Azaz Umar
Nashville, Tennessee
- Steven M. Vanover
London, Kentucky
- * Nicole Marie Viola
Williston Park, New York
Hooded by Julio Viola, Pharm.D.

- * Sigma Sigma Phi Member
- OMT/Anatomy Fellow
- Gold Humanism Honor Society Member
- ~ Veteran
- ′ Graduating with Honors
- ″ Received All A's on Clinical Rotations

2023 Candidates for the Degree

DOCTOR OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

Emily DaVada Willis
Pikeville, Kentucky

ˆ Eleanor Shaw Wilson
Cincinnati, Ohio
Hooded by Michael Carnes, D.O., FAAO

Loren Rosemarie Wright-Whitson
Lockport, New York

* Wardah Zoha
Chicago, Illinois
Hooded by Wasim Q. Khawaja, M.D.

- * Sigma Sigma Phi Member
- OMT/Anatomy Fellow
- Gold Humanism Honor Society Member
- ˘ Veteran
- ˆ Graduating with Honors
- " Received All A's on Clinical Rotations

2023 Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine Awards

DEAN'S AWARD

Cindy Lin

Awarded to the student whose leadership, humanity and loyalty to the profession exemplify the ideals, mission and goals of Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine.

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Brian Clayton Nickles

Presented to the student who has demonstrated clinical excellence, earning the highest average score on clinical rotations.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' AWARD

Brian Clayton Nickles

Awarded for academic excellence to the student earning the highest grade point average during the first two years of medical school.

JOHN A. STROSNIDER, D.O., MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Sara Jean Kaczmarek

Presented to a KYCOM graduate who exemplifies Dr. Strosnider's commitment to family medicine and his love and dedication to osteopathic medicine and the osteopathic profession.

STEPHEN M. PAYSON, M.S., MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Alexis Lakeisha Ousley

Presented to a KYCOM graduate from the Appalachian region who exemplifies Mr. Payson's commitment to the mission of KYCOM and the promotion of the osteopathic profession.

BOYD R. BUSER, D.O., EXCELLENCE AWARD

Angela L. Binkowski

Awarded for overall excellence in academics and service.

DONNA JONES MORITSUGU AWARD

Zakirah Kamil

Awarded to the spouse of a graduating student who best exemplifies the role of a professional's partner, in being a person in their own right, while being supportive of mate, family and profession.

JAMES E. CAMPBELL, D.O., AWARD

Steven Michael Hall

Presented by the James E. Campbell Education Fund to a deserving Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine graduate from the Appalachian region of Kentucky.

MR. DHARAM PAL KASHYAP AWARD

Taryn Jade Schrems

Instituted in 2001 by Seema Sachdeva, M.D., in memory of her father for excellence in pediatrics and commitment to lifelong caring for children.

MS. SWADESH KASHYAP MEMORIAL AWARD

Maggie Susan Sherrard

*Instituted in 2020 by Seema Sachdeva, M.D., in memory of her mother.
Awarded to the student with the highest score in the didactic pediatrics course.*

MRS. SWARAN KANTA SACHDEVA MEMORIAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE OF WOMEN IN SPECIALTY MEDICINE

Morgan Taylor Turnow

Instituted in 2022 by Rakesh Sachdeva, M.D., in memory of his mother. Awarded to a graduating female medical student who has demonstrated excellence in pursuing a residency in specialty medicine.

STUDENT D.O. OF THE YEAR

Sara Jean Kaczmarek

*Presented by the Council of Student Government Presidents, each school presents this award to the student who best exemplifies the ideal qualities of an osteopathic medical student.
The award is generally based on service to the school, the community and/or osteopathic medicine.*

KYCOM ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AWARD

Batoul Sadek

Awarded to the graduating student who has shown strong involvement both at KYCOM and in the community and has committed to remaining involved with KYCOM through the alumni association.

EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH AWARD

Taylor Kenton Reardon

Selected by KYCOM's research faculty. Awarded to a KYCOM graduate for excellence in research.

EXCELLENCE IN EMERGENCY MEDICINE AWARD

Cindy Lin

Sponsored by the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine. Awarded for excellence in emergency medicine.

THE MERCK MANUAL AWARD FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Sidney M. Elston

Eleanor Shaw Wilson

Caleb Aron Rashidian

Sponsored by Merck & Company, Inc., to recognize scholastic achievement in medical education.

RAM'S HEAD AWARD

Jefferson Harris Adams

Sara Jean Kaczmarek

Steven Michael Hall

Joseph Stewart Roesch

Presented for Fellowship Program in recognition of outstanding achievements in Osteopathic Principles and Practices.

CLINICAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

Angela Lynne Binkowski

Brian Clayton Nickles

James Andrew Crum

William Connor Rettig

Presented for outstanding clinical achievement to students who demonstrated exceptional academic dedication by earning all A's during the 2021-2023 clinical rotation years.

CLINICAL MEDICAL EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

Gary Nicholas Francis, D.O.

Presented to the clinical preceptor who has served with distinction in and dedication to medical education for the students of Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine.

*Kentucky College
of Optometry*

CLASS OF 2023

Optometric Oath

With full deliberation I freely and solemnly pledge that:

I AFFIRM that the health of my patient will be my first consideration.

I WILL practice the art and science of optometry faithfully and conscientiously, and to the fullest scope of my competence.

I WILL uphold and honorably promote by example and action the highest standards, ethics and ideals of my chosen profession and the honor of the degree, Doctor of Optometry, which has been granted me.

I WILL provide professional care for those who seek my services, with concern, with compassion and with due regard for their human rights and dignity.

I WILL place the treatment of those who seek my care above personal gain and strive to see that none shall lack for proper care.

I WILL hold as privileged and inviolable all information entrusted to me in confidence by my patients.

I WILL advise my patients fully and honestly of all which may serve to restore, maintain or enhance their vision and general health.

I WILL strive continuously to broaden my knowledge and skills so that my patients may benefit from all new and efficacious means to enhance the care of human vision.

I WILL share information cordially and unselfishly with my fellow optometrists and other professionals for the benefit of patients and the advancement of human knowledge and welfare.

I WILL do my utmost to serve my community, my country and humankind as a citizen as well as an optometrist.

I HEREBY commit myself to be steadfast in the performance of this my solemn oath and obligation.

2023 Candidates for the Degree

DOCTOR OF OPTOMETRY

- | | |
|---|---|
| Gabrielle Renee Ault
<i>Vincennes, Indiana</i> | Lexie Turpin Honey
<i>Somerset, Kentucky</i> |
| * Claire Cobb Beard
<i>Farmerville, Louisiana</i> | Alyssa L. Hopkins
<i>Cheyenne, Wyoming</i> |
| * Aggie Rose Bruemmer
<i>Jefferson City, Missouri</i> | * Colette J. Houssan
<i>Millbury, Massachusetts</i> |
| Jonathan Lee Bunnell
<i>Glasgow, Kentucky</i>
<i>Hooded by Taylor Runyon, O.D.</i> | Yaadam M. Jobe
<i>Corona, California</i> |
| * Miranda Wentworth Cox
<i>Knoxville, Tennessee</i> | * Jessica Ellen Johnson
<i>Clarkson, Kentucky</i> |
| Jacqueline Elise Powell
<i>Louisville, Kentucky</i> | Emily Kay Jones
<i>Point Pleasant, West Virginia</i> |
| Haley Morgan Durocher
<i>Nashville, Tennessee</i>
<i>Hooded by Richard Durocher, O.D.</i> | Virginia Layne Jones
<i>Memphis, Tennessee</i>
<i>Hooded by Jason Kosvallis, O.D.</i> |
| Danielle Lanae Eddings
<i>Hemphill, Texas</i> | Daniel J. Kenner
<i>Toledo, Ohio</i> |
| * Caitlynn Joy Estevez
<i>Jenkins, Kentucky</i> | Rebecca Kim
<i>Monroe Township, New Jersey</i> |
| Shelby Lynn Gelhaus
<i>St. Henry, Ohio</i> | Miranda Kelly Koehler
<i>Springfield, Illinois</i> |
| Daniel William Hanna
<i>Jacksonville, Florida</i>
<i>Hooded by Muneer Hanna, O.D.</i> | Tammy Le
<i>Burbank, Illinois</i> |
| Allison Lynn Harmon
<i>Greenwood, Indiana</i> | Haley Lynn Liberty
<i>Nemaha, Nebraska</i> |
| Krystal Ngoc Hoang
<i>Metairie, Louisiana</i> | Hailey A. Long
<i>Dover, Pennsylvania</i> |
| | Jessica Joy Manders
<i>Manchester, Michigan</i>
<i>Hooded by Julie Marvin-Manders, O.D.</i> |

* Beta Sigma Kappa Honor Society Member

2023 Candidates for the Degree

DOCTOR OF OPTOMETRY

- Breanna Matulka
Valparaiso, Nebraska
- * Abigail Joy Mitchell
Pounding Mill, Virginia
- Cassie E. Napier
Hazard, Kentucky
- Aaron C. Oberster
Louisville, Ohio
- Sabryna Kelsey Davis Owens
Hillsborough, North Carolina
- Emily Ann Pargin
Lawrenceville, Illinois
- Melanie Mae Patterson
Camden, Tennessee
- Sarah Elizabeth Pauley
Bluefield, Virginia
- Symone E. Purcell
London, Kentucky
- * Ashley Richmond
Winchester, Kentucky
- Cydney P. Roberts
Dorton, Kentucky
- Briana Susan Rodriguez
Hicksville, New York
- Katherine E. Rosenberger
Toledo, Ohio
Hooded by Jeffrey Zigulis, O.D.
- Zachary Evan Royster
London, Kentucky
- Jessi Katherine Sampson
Gassaway, West Virginia
- * Adriana M. Shade
Dodge City, Kansas
- Rebecca Jane Simmons Brown
Searcy, Arkansas
- * Matthew M. Smith
Fresno, California
- Phillip Jamison Sowards
Pikeville, Kentucky
- Cassidy Elizabeth Stewart
Marshall, Missouri
- * Nicholas Gage Taylor
Pikeville, Kentucky
- Peyton E. Taylor
Opelousas, Louisiana
- Griffin William Trenz
Saint Clair, Michigan
- Matthew Wood Tucker
Huntingdon, Tennessee
- Kevin Christopher Turner
Capon Bridge, West Virginia
- Shirley Elisabet Velasco-Hill
Johnson City, Tennessee
- Hannah Elizabeth Marsh Withrow
Yankton, South Dakota
- Thomas Anthony Zitko
Shelby, Ohio
Hooded by Philip R. Zitko, O.D. & Patricia M. Zitko, O.D.

* Beta Sigma Kappa Honor Society Member

2023 Kentucky College of Optometry Awards

DEAN'S AWARD

Jessica Ellen Johnson

Presented to a graduating student who has shown outstanding leadership while maintaining high academic standards.

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Aggie Rose Bruemmer

Presented to the Class of 2023 Valedictorian.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' AWARD

Abigail Joy Mitchell

Presented to a graduating senior who earned the highest score on Part One of the National Boards.

DR. MICHAEL AND KELLY BACIGALUPI FAMILY AWARD FOR ADVANCED THERAPEUTICS

Colette J. Houssan

Presented to a graduating student who has demonstrated special interest and skill in the area of advanced therapeutics and laser treatment by optometrists.

IBIRONKE FAMILY LEGACY & LEADERSHIP AWARD

Colette J. Houssan

*Instituted in 2020 by Josephine Ibronke, O.D., MPH, in honor of her parents, children and siblings.
Presented to a graduate who consistently exemplifies discipline, empathy, dedication and humility in service to all patients.*

DR. PIERETTE DAYHAW-BARKER AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN THE AREA OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

Aggie Rose Bruemmer

Awarded to the KYCO graduating student with the highest GPA in the areas of medical science: anatomy, physiology, pathology, biochemistry and microbiology.

DR. RONALD MCCOY COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Ashley Richmond

Presented to a graduating student who exemplifies Dr. Ronald McCoy's commitment to community service.

BETA SIGMA KAPPA HIGHEST GRADE POINT AVERAGE AWARD

Aggie Rose Bruemmer

*Presented to the graduating student with the highest grade point average.
Beta Sigma Kappa members will also receive cords for commencement.*

COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRISTS IN VISION DEVELOPMENT AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Jessi Katherine Sampson

Presented to a graduating student who has demonstrated strong interest and clinical skills in the area of vision therapy.

DEDICATION TO TRANSFORMING THE DELIVERY OF EYE CARE AWARD

Jonathan Lee Bunnell

Presented to a student who demonstrates leadership both personally among their peers and professionally within the optometry field to transform the delivery of eye care for years to come and lead this profession to even greater heights.

ESCHENBACH LOW VISION STUDENT AWARD

Colette J. Houssan

Presented to a graduating student who has demonstrated outstanding clinical application, exceptional aptitude and interest in the field of low vision.

CONTACT LENS CLINIC EXCELLENCE AWARD

Rebecca Simmons Brown

Presented to a graduating student for outstanding enthusiasm and achievement with gas permeable contact lenses in the clinical environment. Sponsored by the Gas Permeable Lens Institute.

CONTACT LENS EXCELLENCE AWARD

Peyton E. Taylor

Miranda Kelly Koehler

Presented to two students who have demonstrated contact lens excellence.

GOOD-LITE PEDIATRIC VISION CARE AWARD

Gabrielle Renee Ault

Presented to a graduating student who has demonstrated a high passion and excellence in pediatrics and binocular vision.

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE IN CONTACT LENS PATIENT CARE

Rebecca Simmons Brown

This award recognizes an outstanding graduate clinician who has demonstrated excellence in contact lens patient care during their optometric education. The student must be a member of AAO. Sponsored by Johnson & Johnson.

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY AWARD

Phillip Jamison Sowards

Presented to a graduating student who is most passionate and committed to the excellence of eye care in Eastern Kentucky. Sponsored by David Cowen, M.D., FACS.

KENTUCKY OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION ADVOCACY AWARD

Jessica Ellen Johnson

The KOA Advocacy Award is presented to the graduating KYCO student who is a vocal advocate for organized optometry, seeks to advance and protect the profession and demonstrates outstanding dedication and contribution to the profession, the Kentucky Optometric Association and the legislative process.

METRO OPTICS AWARD OF EXCELLENCE IN CONTACT LENS PATIENT CARE

Yaadam M. Jobe

Presented to an outstanding clinician who has demonstrated excellence in contact lens patient care, including the student's overall knowledge in the contact lens field and skillful, considerate and professional care of their contact lens patients.

METRO OPTICS EXCELLENCE IN CONTACT LENS SKILLS

Melanie Mae Patterson

Presented to a graduating student who has shown exceptional skills in the fitting of gas permeable and specialty contact lenses.

NATIONAL VISION SENIOR AWARD

Caitlynn Joy Estevez

Presented to the graduating student who has a grade point average of at least 3.25 and demonstrated service throughout their schooling through outreach programs offered by the school or through other avenues.

PIONEER INTERNATIONAL SENIOR LEADERSHIP AWARD

Jessica Ellen Johnson

Presented to a graduating student who has helped pave the way for not only their classmates and schoolmates, but also incoming students.

PIONEER INTERNATIONAL SENIOR EXCELLENCE AWARD

Claire Cobb Beaird

Presented to a graduating student who has shown excellence in care, compassion and consideration for not only their patients, but also for the field of optometry.

SOUTHERN COUNCIL OF OPTOMETRISTS CLINICAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

Caitlynn Joy Estevez

Presented to a graduating student who has demonstrated outstanding clinical performance.

OPTELEC EXCELLENCE IN LOW VISION AWARD

Kevin Christopher Turner

Presented to a graduating student who has excelled academically or has contributed to a university service, and has a special interest in low vision.

VSP VISION PRIVATE PRACTICE AWARD

Shelby Lynn Gelhaus

Presented to a graduating student based on academic achievement, clinical and patient care, and leadership qualities with a special focus on private practice.

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History & Mission

Pikeville College was established in 1889 as an outreach of the Presbyterian Church after an extensive survey of the religious and educational needs of Eastern Kentucky. An 1887 scouting party, which included Dr. W. C. Condit, Rev. Samuel B. Alderson and Rev. James P. Hendrick, set forth, in Condit's words, to "select the location for an institution of higher learning for the youth of the mountains."

September 16, 1889, was the first day of class at Pikeville Collegiate Institute, located in a four-room brick building situated on three acres of land in Pikeville, Ky. It functioned as both school and church and was not originally intended to confer degrees, but to give "good practical education to those persons who pursue its courses." At that time, the institute offered schoolwork in primary, preparatory and "college" departments.

In 1909, the structure of the school changed and the articles of incorporation were amended to make Pikeville College a chartered college, empowered by the state of Kentucky to offer four years of college work and confer baccalaureate degrees. The school maintained its commitment to primary and secondary education by sustaining the Pikeville Collegiate Academy for grades 1-12. Pikeville College admitted its first college freshman class in 1916, adding the final two years of college in 1955. The first baccalaureate graduation was held in 1957, a year that also marked the closing of the Pikeville Collegiate Academy.

Pikeville College School of Osteopathic Medicine opened its doors on September 8, 1997, as the 19th osteopathic medical school in the country. The school was the dream of Paintsville attorney G. Chad Perry III, a visionary whose generosity and perseverance paved the way for a new generation of doctors to provide primary care in medically underserved areas in Eastern Kentucky and Appalachia. On May 12, 2001, these medical students were the first at Pikeville College to receive the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (D.O.) degree.

The Pikeville College Board of Trustees authorized the creation of the institution's first master's degree program, a Master of Business Administration (MBA), in 2011. At the time, the board acknowledged that the college, by definition of the programs offered, was a university. On July 1, 2011, Pikeville College officially became the University of Pikeville, also known as UPIKE.

As part of the plan for growth, the university was reorganized into two schools – the College of Arts and Sciences and the Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine. The inaugural MBA class, the first to earn master's degrees from the institution, graduated in 2013. The Coleman College of Business was also established in 2013, named in honor of Trustee Emeritus Burlin Coleman, a business leader who spent more than 50 years developing the banking industry in Eastern Kentucky, and his wife, Jean Coleman, a Pikeville College alumna and retired educator.

In 2014, the university announced the Kentucky College of Optometry, a mission-focused strategic initiative to provide for the underserved in Central Appalachia and other rural areas of the country. Considered the "birthplace of rural optometry," the school is the first in Kentucky and the 22nd in the nation. On May 2, 2020, these students became the first at the University of Pikeville to receive the Doctor of Optometry (O.D.) degree.

The Patton College of Education was established in 2015, named in honor of Kentucky's 59th governor, Paul E. Patton, who has been recognized as a national leader in education policy. As UPIKE's president from 2009-2013, Patton led the historic transition from college to university status and currently serves as chancellor.

In 2022, UPIKE announced that it would expand its service-minded mission with the addition of the College of Dental Medicine.

This year's commencement is a culmination of 133 years of service. Like those before us, we are caretakers of this great institution, committed to advancing the University of Pikeville in a purposeful way, one that honors the founding promise to educate the youth of the mountains.

Academic Regalia

Those who don academic regalia join a long procession of capped and gowned scholars reaching back in time over eight centuries. In 1895, a group of American colleges and universities standardized the academic regalia and developed a code of academic dress. Today, academic attire indicates by style and adornment the highest degree earned, the major field of study and the college or university attended by the wearer. The modern dress consists of a gown, headpiece and hood.

Originally thought to be worn against the chill and dampness, the gown identifies holders of a bachelor's, master's or doctoral degree by the type of gown worn as well as by the hood. The bachelor's gown has long sleeves and is designed to be worn closed. The master's gown has an oblong sleeve, open at the wrist. The rear part of the oblong sleeve is square cut and the front has an arc cutaway. The gown may be worn open or closed. The gown for the doctoral degree has bell-shaped sleeves. Like the master's gown, it may be worn open or closed. The doctoral gown is faced down the front with black velvet with three bars of the same across the sleeves.

The headpiece, always black and of either the soft or mortarboard style, attests to the dignity of the wearer and the responsibility for maintaining the highest ethical standards. The tassel, worn with the cap, has three variations: black; gold, restricted to doctors and governing officials of the institution; or the color of the discipline in which the degree was granted.

It is the hood that adds meaning to the academic regalia. Changed little since the Middle Ages, the hood is worn falling from the shoulders down the back of the gown in a display of color. It is edged in velvet, which by its color denotes the discipline in which the wearer's degree was earned. Green, the color of life and growth, represents medicine. It is lined in one or two colors of silk, which represent the college or university from which the degree was awarded. Black and orange are the colors of the University of Pikeville.

Mace

The ceremonial mace has origins dating to the Middle Ages when the bodyguards of kings used a mace as an element of protection. Gradually, universities adopted the use of a mace to signify the right of the academic institution to grant degrees to graduates.

Our mace was designed by faculty and students at Pikeville College School of Osteopathic Medicine, now the University of Pikeville-Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine, and created by master carver and retired Presbyterian minister Jerry Cooper of Berea, Ky.

The cherry wood shaft, entwined by a snake – the symbol of medicine – ascends to a ring of walnut thistle leaves symbolic of the Scottish Presbyterian roots of the University of Pikeville. Parallel to the snake are the institution's historic 99 steps.

The university seal dominates the walnut sphere. Between each is carved a Celtic knot, symbolizing the Scotch-Irish heritage of the area. Coal black mountains and valleys ascend from the top of the sphere. Sealed within the orb is a list of the names of the medical school's first graduating class, along with the names of faculty and staff.

A gift to the school from the Pikeville College School of Medicine's class of 2001, the mace is displayed outside the president's office on campus.