

UNIVERSITY OF PIKEVILLE

Kentucky College of Optometry
Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine

Class of 2024 Commencement

Saturday, May 4, 2024

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.....Morgan E. Peters
Kentucky College of Optometry, Class of 2024
- Introductions.....Lori Werth, Ph.D.
Provost, University of Pikeville
- Remarks and Information..... President Webb
- Introduction of the DeansDr. Werth

Dean's Remarks

- | | |
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| Renee Reeder, O.D., FAAO, FBCLA, FSLs, FIACLE,
DiplAAO
<i>Dean, Kentucky College of Optometry</i>
<i>Professor of Optometry</i> | Joe E. Kingery, D.O., MBA, FCOFP, FAAFP
<i>Dean, Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine</i>
<i>Professor, Department of Family Medicine</i> |
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- Introduction of Commencement Speaker.....President Webb
- Commencement Address.....Tim Robinson, J.D.
Founder and CEO, Addiction Recovery Care
- Conferring of Honorary Degree President Webb and Provost Werth
Tim Robinson, *Doctor of Humane Letters*
- Certification of Degree Candidates..... President Webb and Provost Werth

Presentation of Degree Candidates

- | | |
|---|---|
| Donald J. Egan, O.D., FAAO, FNAP
<i>Associate Dean for Academic Affairs</i>
<i>Professor of Optometry, KYCO</i> | Malgorzata Simm, Ph.D., M.Sc.
<i>Associate Dean of Biomedical Sciences</i>
<i>Professor of Microbiology & Immunology, KYCOM</i> |
|---|---|

Hooding

- | | |
|--|--|
| Cliff Caudill, O.D., FAAO, FNAP
<i>Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs, KYCO</i>
<i>Associate Professor of Optometry</i> | Maleshea Hopkins, D.O.
<i>Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs, KYCOM</i>
<i>Associate Professor of Family Medicine</i> |
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Introduction of Kentucky Optometric Association President Dr. Reeder

Administration of KYCO Oath.....Joseph Hammond, O.D.
President, Kentucky Optometric Association

Introduction of KYCOM Associate Dean for OPP Integration..... Dr. Kingery

Administration of KYCOM OathLaura E. Griffin, D.O., FAAO
*Associate Dean for OPP Integration
Professor and Chair, Department of OPP*

Presentation of Classes..... Dr. Reeder and Dr. Kingery

Class Representatives

Seth A. Rhyme
*Valedictorian
KYCO, Class of 2024*

Malavika Seetha
*Class President
KYCOM, Class of 2024*

“My Old Kentucky Home” Isabella Coleman
*Class of 2025, University of Pikeville
Dr. Westgate, pianist*

Benediction Hannah Blair Skaggs Sparks
University of Pikeville, Class of 2024

* 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

Tim Robinson, J.D.

Tim Robinson, Jr. is the founder and CEO of Addiction Recovery Care, LLC, which operates a network of over 30 addiction programs in Eastern and Central Kentucky based in Louisa. The organization offers a continuum of care including centers for detox, residential, transitional, IOP, outpatient, MAT, vocational rehabilitation and job training. The treatment centers are holistic with Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities accredited clinical programs, medical services directed by an addictionologist, and a spirituality emphasis that includes the 12 steps and pastoral care. Robinson is a recovering alcoholic and former prosecutor who celebrated 17 years of sobriety in December of 2023.

Robinson graduated from Cumberland College with a Bachelor of Science in Political Science and University of Kentucky College of Law with a Juris Doctorate. Robinson served as a partner at Hogan & Robinson, PLLC, before founding Addiction Recovery Care. He and his wife Lelia, consider it their mission to help those with substance abuse issues while focusing on the alleviation of generational poverty. They have dedicated their lives to offering opportunities for treatment throughout Kentucky. It is their heart and goal to help each and every person who is suffering from addiction.

The University of Pikeville will award Robinson a Doctorate of Humane Letters.

*Kentucky College
of Optometry*

CLASS OF 2024

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.

2024 Candidates for the Degree

DOCTOR OF OPTOMETRY

Wynston McKenzie Akers
Betsy Layne, Kentucky

Joshua C. Arnett
Paintsville, Kentucky

Kelly Cahill Bollard
Jefferson Township, Pennsylvania

Carrie Graham Burris
Boise, Idaho

Hailey Champion Caudill
Leburn, Kentucky

* Crystal H. Chan
Brooklyn, New York

Jalen Cook
Bristol, Tennessee

Kaitlyn Rose Creekmore
Roanoke, Virginia

* Zachary Killen Day
Stanford, Kentucky

* Madison Faith Dillon
Belfry, Kentucky

* Charles A. Dotson III
Belfry, Kentucky

Mark A. Eaves
Orange, Texas

Joshua Alan Elam
Choctaw, Oklahoma

* Sara Jean Eldridge
Lebanon, Kentucky

Murry Cuthbert Falkner III
Westpoint, Mississippi

* Claire Elizabeth Forsythe
Hartselle, Alabama

* Titiana Odesho Gorges
Detroit, Michigan

Joshua D. Griffith
Pikeville, Kentucky

Adriana Michelle Skylynn Guardiola
Red Oak, Texas

Courtney Karen Handzel
Johnsburg, Illinois

Makayla G. Harr
Bristol, Tennessee

Lauren Mechelle Heitkamp
Versailles, Ohio

Hollie Turner Hogarth
Butler, Kentucky

Haley Jo Horner
Kenton, Tennessee

Sherrall Lecella Jenkins
Pearl, Mississippi

Swetha Jinka
Sayreville, New Jersey

* Trevor W. Johnson
Rochester, Minnesota

Taunee Marie Justice
Pikeville, Kentucky

* Julia M. Landavazo
Albuquerque, New Mexico

* Beta Sigma Kappa Honor Society Member

2024 Candidates for the Degree

DOCTOR OF OPTOMETRY

- * Jacob Daniel Lock
Pensacola, Florida
- Kasey L Manning
Louisville, Kentucky
- Madeline Renae Marra
Sioux Center, Iowa
- Hannah Elizabeth Massengale
Picayune, Mississippi
- Dalton Douglas McGaugh
Excelsior Springs, Missouri
- Savannah Mikalyn Meyer
Jamestown, North Dakota
- * Celestine Rose Miller
Plymouth, Michigan
- * Sarah F. Millikin
Cincinnati, Ohio
- * Brittany Dawn Morris
Huntersville, North Carolina
- Caroline Shalani Pasi
Raleigh, North Carolina
- * Morgan Elizabeth Peters
Church Hill, Tennessee
- Allison L. Petty
Franklin, North Carolina
- Jacob Vaughan Plumley
Van Lear, Kentucky
- * Luke Alan Rhoton
Duffield, Virginia
Hooded by Maddie Rhoton, O.D.
- * Seth Alexander Rhyne
Knoxville, Tennessee
Hooded by M. W. Rhyne Jr., O.D.
- Joshua Allan Russell
Topeka, Kansas
- April J. Sayavong
Fort Worth, Texas
- Kendyl Jayde Schuchman
Chambersburg, Pennsylvania
Hooded by Robert Laurer, O.D.
- Brandon Marshall Smith
Cookeville, Tennessee
- * Elizabeth A. Smith
Lebanon, Virginia
- Hunter N. Smith
Belvidere, New Jersey
- Sarah Ann Smith
Florence, South Carolina
- Steven Uy-Vu Truong
Norwalk, California
- Nicholas Peter Vergos
Flushing, Michigan
Hooded by Peter Vergos, O.D.
- Emily Grace Workman
Mt. Sterling, Kentucky
- Jacob C. Yates
Hopkinsville, Kentucky

2024 Kentucky College of Optometry Awards

DEAN'S AWARD

Brittany Dawn Morris

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

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Seth Alexander Rhyne

Presented to the Class of 2024 Valedictorian.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' AWARD

Seth Alexander Rhyne

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

REEDER FAMILY AWARD

Luke Alan Rhoton

Presented to a graduating student who is pursuing a residency and has a desire to join academia.

DR. MICHAEL AND KELLY BACIGALUPI FAMILY AWARD FOR ADVANCED THERAPEUTICS

Allison L. Petty

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

Madison Faith Dillon

Joshua D. Griffith

*Instituted in 2020 by Josephine Ibrionke, 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

Morgan Elizabeth Peters

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

Allison L. Petty

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

BETA SIGMA KAPPA HIGHEST GRADE POINT AVERAGE AWARD

Seth Alexander Rhyne

*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**

Joshua D. Griffith

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

COOPERVISION CONTACT LENS AWARD

Hannah Massengale

*To be awarded to an exceptional rising star with demonstrated excellence and growth as a contact lens
clinician and demonstrates a high interest in contact lenses. Additionally, recipient should not be a current
Student Leadership Society leader for the 3rd year scholarship.*

DEDICATION TO TRANSFORMING THE DELIVERY OF EYE CARE AWARD

Brittany Dawn Morris

*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

Allison L. Petty

*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

Claire Elizabeth Forsythe

*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.*

GOOD-LITE PEDIATRIC VISION CARE AWARD

Kelly Cahill Bollard

*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

Mark A. Eaves

*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

Hailey Champion Caudill

*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

Mark A. Eaves

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

Savannah Mikalyn Meyer

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

Celestine Rose Miller

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

NATIONAL VISION SENIOR AWARD

Madison Faith Dillon

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

Charles A. Dotson III

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

Joshua D. Griffith

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

Kaitlyn Rose Creekmore

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

OPTELEC EXCELLENCE IN LOW VISION AWARD

Luke Alan Rhoton

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

Charles A. Dotson III

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

*Kentucky College of
Osteopathic Medicine*

CLASS OF 2024

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.

2024 Candidates for the Degree

DOCTOR OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

- Morteda A. Alaamiri
Dearborn, Michigan
- * Akhilesh Mathew Alexander
Mesquite, Texas
- Ahmad Mohamed Ali
Cleveland, Ohio
Hooded by Nazha Abughali, M.D.
- * • Colton Louis Amberger
Trenton, Ohio
- K. Joseph Amrine
Silver Spring, Maryland
- Hamza Ahmed Ashfaq
Lexington, Kentucky
Hooded by Muhammad Ashfaq, M.D.
- * Simon Brandon Bactawar
Queens, New York
- ˆ Aisha Abdulrahman Baggia
Chicago, Illinois
- Rylan Banks
Middletown, Ohio
- Erika Sue Bell
Louisville, Kentucky
- * Oleg Belyshev
Ludlow, Massachusetts
- Brooke Marie Benjamin
Cincinnati, Ohio
- Alec Duane Bertsch
Franklin, Indiana
Hooded by James R. Bertsch, D.O.
- ˆ " Andrew Michael Bixler
Dayton, Ohio
Hooded by G. Michael Bixler, M.D.
- Brendan James Black
Champaign, Illinois
Hooded by Mark J. Black, D.D.S.
- Caleb Brennan Bowen
Vaughan, Mississippi
- Fisnik Cake
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina
Hooded by Fatjon Cake, J.D.
- * • ˆ Althea Laurel Campbell
Mountain Home, Arkansas
- ˆ Savannah Paige Carty
Salyersville, Kentucky
Hooded by Joshua Carty, M.D.
- Megan Renee Carugati
Denton, Texas
Hooded by Alecia Fields, D.O.
- Callie Nicole Catto
Whitesburg, Kentucky
- * • Rachel Chauvin
Cerritos, California
Hooded by Damian Cole, D.O.
- * Bharath Vamshy Chithrala
Lexington, Kentucky
Hooded by Ty Slatton, M.D.
- * ˆ Marco Ciavaglia
Dearborn Heights, Michigan

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

2024 Candidates for the Degree

DOCTOR OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

- ' " Zachary Aaron Combs
Hazard, Kentucky
- Alexis Jordyn Conley-Murrey
Ashland, Kentucky
Hooded by Hannah Miller, D.O.
- Deea Das
Potsdam, New York
Hooded by Biman Das, Ph.D.
- * ' Richaela H. Denlinger
Chambersburg, Pennsylvania
Hooded by Malgorzata Simm, Ph.D.
- * ' Emily Mae Drane
Westfield, Indiana
- ' Dakota Ryan Eble
Boonville, Indiana
- ' Austin Wayne Elswick
Virgie, Kentucky
- * ' " Mark Faller
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- Jennifer Hart Foley
Paris, Kentucky
- * ' Andrew Herbert Giles
Elizabethtown, Kentucky
- Daniel Aras Goodman
La Porte, Indiana
Hooded by Dale Alan Goodman, M.D.
- Olivia-Marie Leah Groves
Powell, Ohio
- ' Gillian Sara Gurney
Cincinnati, Ohio
Hooded by Scott Gurney, J.D.
- * ' ° Samantha Jo Hamilton
Richwood, Ohio
Hooded by Ian Keith, D.O.
- Anna Katherine Hargrave
Lewiston, New York
Hooded by Joseph Hargrave, O.D.
- * ' Mohamed Jafar Hashem
Al-Najaf, Iraq
Hooded by Jafar Jawad, M.D.
- Amani Hasona
Gainesville, Florida
- ' Colin Reece Hathorn
Burlington, Kentucky
- * Bailey Curtlan Helbert
Coeburn, Virginia
- * Megan Claire Hennon
St. Louis, Missouri
- * ' Fernando Alberto Hernandez
Havana, Cuba
- * ' Kristine Anne Herrera
Elizabethtown, Kentucky
- ' Abdu R. Hijazi
Dearborn, Michigan
- ° Elizabeth Marie Hollis
Battletown, Kentucky
Hooded by Michael Carnes, D.O.

2024 Candidates for the Degree

DOCTOR OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

- Mahnoor Humayun
Columbus, Ohio
Hooded by Naheem Tahir, M.D.
- * ' Naushair Asghar Hussain
Chambersburg, Pennsylvania
Hooded by Shabbar Hussain, M.D.
- Tiffany Catherine Isaacs
Hurricane, West Virginia
- Jordan Leigh Jones
Fairfield, Ohio
- Samantha Bailey Josselyn
Fort Mitchell, Kentucky
- Andrea Lynn Justice
Weeksburry, Kentucky
- * • ' Hayley Justus
Lancaster, Kentucky
- Nathan Vincent Kaufmann
Indian River, Michigan
Hooded by Steve Kaufmann, D.O.
- Faiha Rafia Khan
Monroeville, Pennsylvania
Hooded by Arshad Khan, M.D.
- Rachel Elizabeth Koch
Pickerington, Ohio
Hooded by Jennifer Koch, Ph.D.
- Arthi Krishna
Troy, Michigan
Hooded by Kottekai Krishna, Ph.D.
- Eric Andrew Ligotski
Hanover Township, Pennsylvania
- * • Emily Holdren Likins
Lancaster, Kentucky
Hooded by Benjamin Joseph Likins, M.D.
- * • Brion Allan Long
Louisville, Kentucky
Hooded by Lindy Nettleton, D.O.
- Vy Thanh Luong
Lafayette, Louisiana
- Deepa Manda
Gahanna, Ohio
Hooded by Divya Manda, M.D.
- * Keeliann Leigh Mark
Aurora, Nebraska
- Joshua Eric Martin
East Chicago, Indiana
- Jessika Elexis Meadows
Spencer, Indiana
- * • ' Raven Jae Melson
Richmond, Kentucky
- Caroline Suzanne Mifsud
Kimbolton, Ohio
Hooded by Kathleen Bartunek, M.D.
- Jacob Wilbur Miller
Peoria, Illinois
- ' Shreyas Jayprakash Modi
Greenwood, South Carolina
- ' Aayah Ayman Mohamed
Columbus, Ohio
Hooded by Gehan Ibrahim, M.D.

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

2024 Candidates for the Degree

DOCTOR OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

- Chelsea Renee Myers
Wapakoneta, Ohio
Hooded by Debra Myers-Ebner, D.V.M.
- Mohammed Areeb Faozan Narvel
Dublin, Ohio
Hooded by Faozan Narvel, M.D.
- Taylor Yen Nguyen
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania
- McKenzie Gibson Nickles
Neon, Kentucky
Hooded by Clay Nickles, D.O.
- * Elizabeth Ann O'Connor
Cleona, Pennsylvania
- William Allan Olson
Eveleth, Minnesota
- John Bernard Page
Chillicothe, Ohio
- * Kelsey Lane Parker
Union City, Tennessee
- * Jay Shailesh Patel
Cincinnati, Ohio
- * Adreian Alexander Paul
Toronto, Canada
- Maegan Ruth Peach
Louisville, Kentucky
- Austin James Phippen
Eau Claire, Wisconsin
- David Harold Pohlman
Rochester, Michigan
- Colton Wade Putnam
Richmond, Kentucky
Hooded by J. Derek Sword, D.O.
- * · Andrea Quach
Columbus, Ohio
- Caitlyn Marie Quick
Belfry, Kentucky
Hooded by Candi Griffey, D.O.
- · Kurtis Ryan Rapier
Corbin, Kentucky
Hooded by J. Derek Sword, D.O.
- Monisha Rekhraj
Lexington, Kentucky
Hooded by Suresh Rekhraj, M.D.
- Jercell A. Respicio
Mason, Ohio
- Cody Rice
Columbus, Ohio
Hooded by Douglas J. Bebringer, J.D.
- Hunter Christian Ricketts
Bowling Green, Kentucky
Hooded by Zohn Centimole, Ph.D., CRNA
- Sara Beth Roberts
Owingsville, Kentucky
- Rea Rupani
Tampa, Florida
- * Abigail Grace Ruwe
Cincinnati, Ohio
- Donatas Ruzys
Homer Glen, Illinois

2024 Candidates for the Degree

DOCTOR OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

- * • Kenneth E. Saillant, Jr.
Fort Wayne, Indiana
- * • ° Rebekah Sophia Samuels
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania
Hooded by Peter Samuels, D.D.S.
- ˆ Montana Timothy Schemanski
Harrodsburg, Kentucky
- * Diana J. Schweitzer
Versailles, Kentucky
- * Malavika Seetha
Northville, Michigan
Hooded by Prakshal Jain, D.O.
- Srijoni Sengupta
Williamsburg, Virginia
Hooded by Dhiman Sengupta, Ph.D.
- Namra Shafi
Schaumburg, Illinois
Hooded by Syed Yawar Shafi, Pharm.D.
- James Shaughnessy
Chattanooga, Tennessee
- ° Lyudmyla Shymkiv
Ternopil, Ukraine
Hooded by Shyam Patel, D.O.
- Michelle Alyssa Slattery
Coram, New York
- Joshua Arron Smith
Boonville, Indiana
- ˆ Hannah Blair Skaggs Sparks
Salyersville, Kentucky
- Srivalli Srivangipuram
Herndon, Virginia
Hooded by Sudarsana Srivangipuram, M.D.
- ˆ Melinda Sue Taylor
Beloit, Ohio
Hooded by Megan Thomas, D.O.
- ˆ Jason Chieh Sheng Tey
Sandy, Utah
- Micha Elmore Thomas
Glasgow, Kentucky
Hooded by Jacob Thomas, D.P.T.
- ˆ Emily Danielle Almeida Tishkoff
Mesa, Arizona
Hooded by Nicole Almeida, J.D.
- ˆ Khoa Dang Tran
Chesterfield, Virginia
- ˆ Kody Gavin Trude
Morrisdale, Pennsylvania
Hooded by Ryan Koch, D.M.D.
- Daniel Aaron Wilson
Childress, Texas
- Benjamin Lewis Wolf
Ross, Ohio
- Quintin A. Wotring
Kingsport, Tennessee
- Jonathan Joseph Yelda
Shelby Township, Michigan

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

2024 Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine Awards

DEAN'S AWARD

Megan C. Hennon

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

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Zachary A. Combs

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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' AWARD

Montana T. Schemanski

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

Samantha J. Hamilton

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

Savannah P. Carty

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

Raven J. Melson

Awarded for overall excellence in academics and service.

DONNA JONES MORITSUGU AWARD

Katrena Amber Saillant

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

Hayley Justus

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 MEMORIAL AWARD

Kristine A. Herrera

Jay S. Patel

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

Naushair A. Hussain

*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

Tiffany C. Isaacs

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

Rebekah S. Samuels

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.

EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH AWARD

Richaela H. Denlinger

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

EXCELLENCE IN EMERGENCY MEDICINE AWARD

Kurtis R. Rapier

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

KAFP OUTSTANDING SENIOR STUDENT AWARD

Richaela H. Denlinger

Sponsored by the Kentucky Academy of Family Physicians. This award is presented to an outstanding senior student going into Family Medicine.

THE MERCK MANUAL AWARD FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Andrew M. Bixler

Mark Faller

Austin W. Elswick

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

MERCY HEALTH ST. RITA'S OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARD

Marco Ciavaglia

Presented by Mercy Health - St. Rita to a student who demonstrated academic achievement, community involvement, peer mentoring, a positive attitude toward challenge, professional behavior and has achieved exemplary clinical performance evaluations.

RAM'S HEAD AWARD

Samantha J. Hamilton

Rebekah S. Samuels

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Lyudmyla Shymkiv

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

CLINICAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

Andrew M. Bixler

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Zachary A. Combs

Presented for outstanding clinical achievement to students who demonstrated exceptional academic dedication by earning all A's during the 2022-2024 clinical rotation years.

CLINICAL MEDICAL EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

Jonathan Hatton, D.O.

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

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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 Tanner College of Dental Medicine.

This year's commencement is a culmination of 134 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.