

UNIVERSITY OF PIKEVILLE

Kentucky College of Optometry

Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine

Class of 2025 Commencement

Saturday, May 10, 2025

Order of Ceremony

Prelude.....	Phillip Westgate, DMA, <i>pianist</i> <i>Professor of Music</i>
* Academic Processional	Mark Saucedo-Izbrand, <i>pipe</i> <i>Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine, Class of 2027</i>
* Presentation of Colors	Pikeville Police Department Honor Guard
Welcome	Burton J. Webb, Ph.D. <i>President, University of Pikeville</i>
Invocation.....	Haley Breann Osborne <i>Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine, Class of 2025</i>
Introductions.....	Lori Werth, Ph.D. <i>Executive Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer, University of Pikeville</i>
Remarks and Information.....	President Webb
Introduction of the Deans	Dr. Werth
Dean's Remarks	
Joe E. Kingery, D.O., MBA, FCOFP, FAFAP <i>Dean, Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine</i> <i>Professor, Department of Family Medicine</i>	Renee Reeder, O.D., FAAO, FBCLA, FSLs, FIACLE, FNAP, DiplAAO <i>Dean, Kentucky College of Optometry</i> <i>Professor of Optometry</i>
Introduction of Commencement Speaker.....	President Webb
Commencement Address.....	Patrick Heist, Ph.D. <i>Co-Founder, Co-Owner and Chief Scientific Officer, Ferm Solutions and Wilderness Trail Distillery</i> <i>Former KYCOM Associate Professor of Microbiology</i>
Conferring of Honorary Degree	President Webb and Dr. Werth Patrick Heist, <i>Doctor of Science</i>
Certification of Degree Candidates.....	President Webb and Dr. 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, FNAP
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
Professor of Optometry, KYCO

Hooding

Damian Cole, D.O.
Assistant Professor of Osteopathic
Principles and Practices

Cliff Caudill, O.D., FAAO, FNAP
Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs, KYCO
Associate Professor of Optometry

Maleshea Hopkins, D.O.
Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs, KYCOM
Associate Professor of Family Medicine

Josephine Ibironke, O.D., MPH, FAAO
Associate Dean of Professional Engagement
Professor of Optometry

Administration of Oaths

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

Hannah Huffman, O.D.
President-Elect, Kentucky Optometric Association

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

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

Benediction Jessica J. Olson, O.D.
Kentucky College of Optometry, Class of 2025

* Stage Party Recessional Mark Saucedo-Izbrand, *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

Patrick Heist, Ph.D.

Patrick Heist, Ph.D., is a distinguished microbiologist, entrepreneur and industry leader in fermentation science and distillation. He is the co-founder, co-owner and chief scientific officer of both Ferm Solutions and Wilderness Trail Distillery, playing a pivotal role in advancing fermentation research and bourbon production.

Heist's academic journey began at the University of Kentucky, where he earned his B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. in microbiology and plant pathology, specializing in bacteria, yeast and fungi. His early career in academia included serving as a faculty member at the Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine (KYCOM) from 2003 to 2009, where he taught medical microbiology.

In 2006, Heist and his longtime business partner, Shane Baker, founded Ferm Solutions in Danville, Ky. The company provides innovative research, engineering, and technical services for the fuel and beverage alcohol industries. Ferm Solutions supports more than 200 distilleries worldwide, offering microbiological testing, yeast health analysis, process optimization and fermentation consulting.

Building upon their success, Heist and Baker launched Wilderness Trail Distillery in 2013. Under Heist's scientific leadership, Wilderness Trail became one of the fastest-growing bourbon distilleries globally. The distillery is renowned for its proprietary yeast strains, infusion mashing process, and dedication to the sweet mash technique—a departure from the traditional sour mash method. By maintaining precise control over fermentation and distillation, Wilderness Trail produces high-quality, flavor-forward bourbons and rye whiskeys.

Wilderness Trail operates with cutting-edge distillation equipment, including Vendome column stills and pot stills, allowing for both small and large-scale production. The distillery ages its spirits in #4 char Independent Stave Company barrels, bottling bourbons and rye whiskeys after a minimum of four years, with expanded releases at six and eight years.

In 2022, Wilderness Trail Distillery attracted global attention when the Campari Group acquired a 70 percent stake in the company, marking the purchase one of Campari's largest acquisitions.

Beyond his scientific and entrepreneurial achievements, Heist has a passion for music, having played in a rock band with Shane Baker in the late 1990s. His journey from academia to business innovation has cemented his reputation as a leading authority in fermentation science and distillation.

*Kentucky College of
Osteopathic Medicine*

CLASS OF 2025

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.

2025 Candidates for the Degree

DOCTOR OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

Luke Thomas Adkison
Virgie, Kentucky
Hooded by Beth Kingery, J.D.

Fawad Mohammed Alam-Siddiqui
Waterbury, Connecticut
Hooded by Fizza Alam, J.D.

- * Sydney Renee Amick
Marysville, Indiana
Hooded by Anastagios Georgiou, M.D.

Ella L. Andronovich
Utica, New York

ˆ Nicola Armour-Smith
Taylor Mill, Kentucky
Hooded by Alison Armour, M.D.

Nicholas Michael Arsanos
Troy, Michigan

Alina Syed Asif
Somerset, Kentucky
Hooded by Syed Asif Umar, M.D.

Sahr Syed Asif
Somerset, Kentucky
Hooded by Robina Bokhari, M.D.

- * Alexa Grace Bailey
Richmond, Indiana
Hooded by Laura Blessing, Ed.D.

* ˆ " Alec Richard Bold
Millstadt, Illinois

- * Joseph M. Bott
Wynantskill, New York
Hooded by Nicholas Roger Jurich, M.D.

Katherine Rose Bott
Port St. Lucie, Florida
Hooded by Nicholas Roger Jurich, M.D.

- Casey Jane Bower
Akron, New York
Hooded by Linda Hricko, J.D.

Emma Nichole Buechlein
Lamar, Indiana

Kevin Byun
Clearwater, Florida
Hooded by Sung Byun, M.D.

- Madeline Olivia Carter
Lexington, Kentucky
Hooded by Craig T. Carter, D.O.

Thomas Wesley Case
Garrett, Kentucky

Victor Chew
San Francisco, California

Winnie Ching
Randolph, Maine
Hooded by Daniel Lee, M.D.

Grace Yo-Mei Chiou
Hawthorn Woods, Illinois
Hooded by David Chiou, M.D.

- ˆ Jennifer Lee Choate
Colorado Springs, Colorado
Hooded by Jean Butts, D.P.T.

Conner A. Claypool
New Boston, Michigan

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

2025 Candidates for the Degree
DOCTOR OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

- * ' Connor Anthony Colby
Blanchester, Ohio
Hooded by Kevin Flora, Ph.D.
- * ' " Makayla Mack Colby
Williamsburg, Kentucky
Hooded by Candace Mack Flora, D.M.D.
- * William Bret Crawford
Big Clifty, Kentucky
Hooded by Bryce Meredith, D.O.
- ' " Jarrod Anthony Davis
Sainte Genevieve, Missouri
- ' " David George Delillis
Broward County, Florida
Hooded by Gabriel Brian Carrillo, D.O.
- ' Elliss Marie Desherow
St. Charles, Illinois
- ' " Lilly Luc Do
Middlesboro, Kentucky

Brooke Allison Doran
West Palm Beach, Florida
- ° Benjamin Sidney Michel Elliott
Fishers, Indiana
Hooded by Karla J. Elliott, J.D.
- * ' " Johnny Wagih Elmalakh
Orlando, Florida
- ' " Sandy Rayes Elmalakh
State College, Pennsylvania
- * ' " Abigail Rose Eltzroth
Marion, Indiana
- ' Andrew C. Fields
Pikeville, Kentucky
- Liana Christian Foianini
California, Maryland
- Emily Marie Foit
Ashland, Kentucky
Hooded by Sarah Watts, M.D.
- ' Gabriel Caleb Foit
South Shore, Kentucky
Hooded by Tyler Hurst, J.D.
- John Humbird Freesmeier
Minneapolis, Minnesota
- Emily Claire Gable
Arnold, Maryland
Hooded by Erin Gable, J.D.
- Laura Nicole Garbarini
Bedford, Virginia
- David Alexander Gauze
Rush, Kentucky
- ' Loukas A. Georgiou
Jackson, Tennessee
Hooded by Anastasios Georgiou, M.D.
- Andrew Robert Geurts
Randolph, Wisconsin
- ' " Natalie Van Wagoner Gneiting
Highland, Utah
- Spurthi Gubbala
Farmington, Michigan
- Joseph Anthony Hackworth
La Grange, Kentucky
Hooded by Makayla Arnett, M.D.
- Maha Hadaya
Hamilton, New Jersey

2025 Candidates for the Degree

DOCTOR OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

- * 'Charles Patrick Hall
Owensboro, Kentucky
Hooded by Samuel Hall, M.D.
- Maui DaRae Hall
Topmost, Kentucky
Hooded by Collier Mobelini, Pharm.D.
- " Selena Nadeem Hanna
West Bloomfield, Michigan
- * 'Jasmine Rose Hedayati
Corbin, Kentucky
Hooded by Jennifer Garrison Ph.D.
- ' Branden James Heitritter
Sheldon, Iowa

Matthew Allan Henning
Murfreesboro, Tennessee

Taylor Susanne Hickey
Orland Park, Illinois
- "' Trevor Scott Hogue
Cincinnati, Ohio

Connor David Holzer
Cincinnati, Ohio

Tausif Iftekhar
Davie, Florida
Hooded by Anjumon Amin, M.D.
- ° Adaku Ikoh
Umuahia, Nigeria
Hooded by Oby Ikoh, J.D.
- ' Spencer James Irick
Fishers, Indiana
Hooded by Shiela Irick, M.D.

Shehwar Islamuddin
Miami, Florida
- Omar Syed Jafry
Naperville, Illinois
Hooded by Asmat Zehra Jafry, M.D.
- ' Chandrika Reddy Janumpalli
Columbus, Ohio
Hooded by Ayesha Ghayur, M.D., Ph.D.
- Lillian Rochelle Jillson
Berrien Springs, Michigan
- William Douglas Johnson
Liberty, Kentucky
- ° Jessica Carol Jurak
Morris, Illinois
Hooded by Daniel M. Jurak, D.O.
- ' Neha Sangeeta Kadambi
Lexington, Kentucky
- * Ketevan Kambarashvili
Telavi, Republic of Georgia

Matthew Steven Kaufmann
Gaylord, Michigan
Steve Kaufmann, D.O.
- Meera Jaydeep Khatri
Highlands Ranch, Colorado
Hooded by Jaydeep Khatri, Ph.D.
- Helen Marie Kincade
Louisville, Kentucky
- Matthew Alexander Lambert
Belfry, Kentucky
- Joowon Lee
Kokomo, Indiana
- * Ling Lin
Gainesville, Florida
Hooded by Guichun Han, M.D., Ph.D.

- * Sigma Sigma Phi Member
- ° OMT/Anatomy Fellow
- Gold Humanism Honor Society Member
- ' Graduating with Honors
- " Received All A's on Core Clinical Rotations
- † Degree awarded posthumously

2025 Candidates for the Degree
DOCTOR OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

- | | |
|---|---|
| Maximillian Ly
<i>Dallas, Texas</i> | Susan Kathleen Musilli
<i>Wickliffe, Kentucky</i>
<i>Hooded by Damian Cole, D.O.</i> |
| • ' Reshma Mandava
<i>Glen Allen, Virginia</i> | Brandon Eugene Neville
<i>Marietta, Ohio</i>
<i>Hooded by James Flannery, M.D.</i> |
| Aliah Kei Hocog Manglona
<i>Colorado Springs, Colorado</i> | Brian Michael Norheim
<i>Indio, California</i> |
| Robert Eugene Mannatt
<i>Independence, California</i> | Noah James Norton
<i>New Hope, Minnesota</i> |
| Christopher Richard March
<i>Commack, New York</i> | * Joshua Allen Nowicki
<i>Gaylord, Michigan</i> |
| * '' Melody Fatemeh Marzjarani
<i>East Lansing, Michigan</i>
<i>Hooded by Morteza Marzjarani, Ph.D.</i> | Christopher Carl Nutini
<i>Edgewood, Kentucky</i>
<i>Hooded by Patrick Nutini, D.M.D.</i> |
| Noah Andrew Masters
<i>Piedmont, South Carolina</i> | Stellamaris Uchechi Ohakamnu-Nweke
<i>Los Angeles, California</i> |
| Abigail Ruby May
<i>Charlestown, Indiana</i> | Taylor Marie Oliva
<i>Louisville, Kentucky</i>
<i>Hooded by James A. Oliva, J.D.</i> |
| * ' Avery Ann Merten
<i>Independence, Kentucky</i>
<i>Hooded by Jacob Henderson, D.O.</i> | • Leah Phany Osborn
<i>Longmont, Colorado</i> |
| • Bryce Matthew Miller
<i>Powell, Ohio</i> | * Haley Breann Osborne
<i>Georgetown, Kentucky</i>
<i>Hooded by Candi Griffey, D.O.</i> |
| Keanu Wayland Miller
<i>Maryville, Tennessee</i> | TaeJun Park
<i>Eden Prairie, Minnesota</i>
<i>Hooded by Won Cheol Park, M.D., Ph.D.</i> |
| '' Bryan Patrick Moody
<i>Holland, Michigan</i> | Jacob Lee Parker
<i>Kaiserslautern, Germany</i>
<i>Hooded by Madison Nardi, D.V.M.</i> |
| • Peyton Grace Morris
<i>Manchester, Kentucky</i> | Yusra Fatima Pasha
<i>Louisville, Kentucky</i> |
| Paige Olivia Moscoe
<i>Lexington, Kentucky</i> | |

2025 Candidates for the Degree
DOCTOR OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

- 'Aayush Sunil Patel
Redlands, California
Hooded by Dipal Patel, M.D.
- * 'Hemadri Sandeepkumar Patel
Canton, Michigan

Kishan Pradipkumar Patel
Springfield, Missouri
Hooded by Kaushik Patel, M.D.
- * 'Nisha Prasad
Ocala, Florida
Hooded by Manooj Prasad, D.P.M.
- 'Kathleen Isabella Price
Altoona, Pennsylvania
Hooded by Allison Price, C.Sc.D.

Daniel Reza Rajaei
Saratoga, California

Steven Ramsey
Caneyville, Kentucky
- * Porter Kevin Rawlinson
Gilbert, Arizona
- * 'Julia Rose Reichley
Richmond, Indiana
Hooded by Tina Reichley, M.D.

Jared P. Rife
Berne, Indiana
Hooded by Michael J. Noffze D.D.S., M.D.

Morgan Brooke Riffe
Littcarr, Kentucky
Hooded by Aaronda Wells, M.D.
- ' "James Bryan Robb
St. Louis, Missouri
- James Harlan Roberson
Stopover, Kentucky
- * 'Shivani Emily Saini
Tampa, Florida

William Jeffery Ellsworth Salisbury
Ivel, Kentucky
- ' "Faiez Munzer Samad
Rochester Hills, Michigan
Hooded by Munzer Samad, M.D.

Syed Shafiqul Sarder
New York City, New York

Arham Mohd Siddiqui
Columbus, Ohio
Hooded by Saud Siddiqui, M.D.
- ' Harmandeep Singh Sidhu
Indianapolis, Indiana

Priyanka Singh
Bradenton, Florida
- ' "Adam Michael Smith
Bel Air, Maryland
- Alaina Katlin Smith
Lawrenceburg, Tennessee

Brandon Christopher Smith
Broadview Heights, Ohio

John Alexander Spalding
Lebanon, Kentucky
- Carolina Lizete Sparkman
Clewiston, Florida

Calvin Richard Spears
Wildwood, Missouri

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

2025 Candidates for the Degree
DOCTOR OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

- Katheryn Estella Starr
Troy, Michigan
Katherine Ashley Steelman
Okeana, Ohio
Hooded by Stephen Colegate, Ph.D.
- ˆ Chase Martin Taul
McQuady, Kentucky
- ˆ Hannah Elizabeth Thomas
Glasgow, Kentucky
Hooded by Aaronda Wells, M.D.
- Leah Jade Thomas
Vincennes, Indiana
- Leonardo Trinh
Bowling Green, Kentucky
- Ryan Alan John Trojniar
Greensboro, North Carolina
- * Jack Austin Turner
Denison, Texas
Hooded by Scott Turner, D.O.
- * Devon Alexander Virgin
Flatwoods, Kentucky
Catherine Faith Vogt
Lexington, Kentucky
- Tara Ann Von Mach
Birmingham, Michigan
Hooded by Joanne Von Mach, M.D.
- ° Carter Donovan Waugh
Grayson, Kentucky
Hooded by Pamela Carter Walden, D.M.D.
Gavin Michael Weber
Columbus, Ohio
- * Trevor Charles Welling
Spokane, Washington
- † Victoria Morgan Wells
Stanville, Kentucky
Brandon Eric Wind
Indianapolis, Indiana
- Brittany Nicolle Woodruff
Bloomington, New York
- ˆ Haley Marie Woodruff
Orrville, Ohio
Hooded by Fernando Hernandez, D.O.
- ˆ " Alexandre B. Yacques
Key West, Florida
Steven Michael Zajdlik
Flint, Michigan
- Sarah Elizabeth Zumwalt
Folsom, California
Hooded by Donna Perry, Ed.D.

2025 Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine Awards

DEAN'S AWARD

Tara A. Von Mach

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

Bryan P. Moody

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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' AWARD

Bryan P. Moody

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

Lilly L. Do

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

Luke T. Adkison

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

Natalie Van Wagoner Gneiting

Awarded for overall excellence in academics and service.

DONNA JONES MORITSUGU AWARD

Sarah Sajja Norheim

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

Carter D. Waugh

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

Jarrold A. Davis

Selena Hanna

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

Bryan P. Moody

*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**

Shivani E. Saini

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.

CHRISTINA WIKA, D.O. MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Connor A. Colby

Instituted in 2025 in memory of KYCOM Alum, Christina Wika, D.O. Awarded to a graduating medical student who has demonstrated excellence in pursuing a residency in oncology.

GREGORY V. HAZELETT, D.O. MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Shivani E. Saini

Awarded to a graduate of KYCOM pursuing a career in Otolaryngology / Surgery.

STUDENT D.O. OF THE YEAR

Adaku Ikoh

*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

Omar S. Jafry

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

KYCOM ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AWARD

Alec R. Bold

Awarded to the graduating student who has shown strong involvement both at KYCOM and in the community and hopefully will remain involved with KYCOM through the Alumni Association.

EXCELLENCE IN EMERGENCY MEDICINE AWARD

Alec R. Bold

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

KAFFP OUTSTANDING SENIOR STUDENT AWARD

Jessica C. Jurak

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 C. Fields

Spencer J. Irick

Jasmine R. Hedayati

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

RAM'S HEAD AWARD

Benjamin Elliott

Jessica C. Jurak

Adaku Ikoh

Carter D. Waugh

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

CLINICAL MEDICAL EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

Gabriel Carrillo, 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.

CLINICAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

**Alec R. Bold
Makayla Mack Colby
Jarrod A. Davis
David G. Delillis
Lilly L. Do
Johnny W. Elmalakh**

**Sandy Rayes Elmalakh
Abigail R. Eltzroth
Natalie Van Wagoner Gneiting
Selena Hanna
Trevor S. Hogue
Melody F. Marzjarani**

**Bryan P. Moody
James B. Robb
Faiez M. Samad
Adam M. Smith
Alexander Yacques**

Presented for outstanding clinical achievement to students who demonstrated exceptional academic dedication by earning all A's on their core clinical rotations.

AWARD OF HONORS

**Nicola Armour-Smith
Alec R. Bold
Jennifer L. Choate
Connor A. Colby
Makayla Mack Colby
Jarrod A. Davis
David Delillis
Elliss M. Desherow
Johnny W. Elmalakh
Sandy Rayes Elmalakh
Abigail R. Eltzroth
Andrew C. Fields
Gabriel C. Foit
Loukas A. Georgiou**

**Natalie Van Wagoner Gneiting
Charles P. Hall
Selena N. Hanna
Jasmine R. Hedayati
Branden J. Heitritter
Trevor S. Hogue
Spencer J. Irick
Chandrika R. Janumpalli
Neha S. Kadambi
Reshma Mandava
Melody F. Marzjarani
Avery A. Merten
Bryan P. Moody
Aayush S. Patel**

**Hemadri S. Patel
Nisha Prasad
Kathleen I. Price
Julia R. Reichley
James B. Robb
Shivani E. Saini
Faiez M. Samad
Harmandeep S. Sidhu
Adam M. Smith
Chase M. Taul
Hannah E. Thomas
Haley M. Woodruff**

Presented for outstanding academic achievement to students who have demonstrated exceptional academic dedication by earning a Cumulative GPA of 90% or higher during years 1-3 of medical school.

*Kentucky College
of Optometry*

CLASS OF 2025

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.

2025 Candidates for the Degree

DOCTOR OF OPTOMETRY

* Gabrielle Kathryn Anderson
Sparks, Nevada

James Taylor Athy
Cudahy, Wisconsin

* Madison Nicole Balbirer
Flagler Beach, Florida

Lindsay Brooke Bentley
Jenkins, Kentucky

Tuyet Minh Thi Bui
Elizabeth City, North Carolina
Hooded by Tam Nguyen, O.D.

Maycie Rollins Bynum
McKenzie, Tennessee
Hooded by Frances D. Bynum, O.D.

Valeria Isabel Campos Munoz
Gainesville, Georgia

Megan Britt Carry
Benson, North Carolina

Madison Danielle Chisom
Hardy, Virginia

Courtney Faith Couch
Hazard, Kentucky

Sandy Cox
Charlotte, North Carolina

Robert Taylor Currin
Oxford, North Carolina
Hooded by Robert M. Currin, O.D.

Adisyn Kayli Dawkins
McAlester, Oklahoma

Karissa Paige Dyke
Murray, Kentucky

Jenna Brooke Gardner
Nashville, North Carolina

Samuel Jacob Gouchenour, Jr.
Conrad, Montana

Emily Claire Hamblen
Smyrna, Tennessee

* Emily Renee Hargrave
Florence, Colorado

Mitchell Dalton Haynes
Athens, Alabama

* Beth Ashley Heinz
Park Falls, Wisconsin

McKinley Caroline Johnson
Benson, North Carolina

Merlyn Susan Johnson
Bowling Green, Kentucky

* Jacob Paul Keener
Shelby, North Carolina

Kathryn Bailey Kidd
Fort Worth, Texas

Brennan Andrew Lameier
Independence, Kentucky
Hooded by Kenneth A. Lameier, O.D.

Gracie Ruth Lee
Benson, North Carolina

Jacob Anthony Likus
Buffalo, New York

* Kirstyn Nichole Linne
Tell City, Indiana

2025 Candidates for the Degree

DOCTOR OF OPTOMETRY

Ruby Esmeralda Martinez
Lakeland, Florida

Heather Nicole McKneely
Sissonville, West Virginia

Ryker Lane Meyer
Boise, Idaho

* Alexis Dawn Miller
Honaker, Virginia

Mohammad Omar Mona
Jacksonville, Florida

Victoria Leslie Nordin
Paintsville, Kentucky
Hooded by Richard E. Nordin, O.D.

* Jessica Jean Olson
Missouri Valley, Iowa
Hooded by Joshua D. Griffith, O.D.

Morgan Paige Phelps
Ardmore, Oklahoma

* Katelynn Amanda Philyaw
Mt. Juliet, Tennessee

* Amanda Brooke Putorek
Princeton, West Virginia

Brooke Elizabeth Radcliffe
Mason, Ohio

Laurence Braden Riel
Richmond, Kentucky

Diana Knight Scavuzzo
Blairsville, Georgia

Emily Danielle Shelton
Hi Hat, Kentucky

Hooded by Regina Compton, O.D.

Allison Kali Shelton-Tahdooahnippah
Midwest City, Oklahoma

* Paige Kerrigan Smith
Jewell Ridge, Virginia
Hooded by Taylor N. Hart, O.D.

Justin Robert Snedden
Hastings, Pennsylvania

* Hannah Nicole Stacy
Inez, Kentucky

* Carson Heath Sykes
Haysi, Virginia

Jeremy Michael Tillman
Hopkinsville, Kentucky
Hooded by Joseph C. Bastin, O.D.

Morgan Leann Turner
Harlan, Kentucky

Isabel Theresa Virgille
Miami, Florida

Crystal Yvonne Wade
Atlanta, Georgia

* Carley Miranda Warburton
Okmulgee, Oklahoma

Caleb Thomas Watson
Newton, North Carolina

Tanner Allen Wells
Barbourville, Kentucky

Kateryna Yusupov
New York, New York

2025 Kentucky College of Optometry Awards

DEAN'S AWARD

Jacob Paul Keener

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

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Alexus Dawn Miller

Presented to the Class of 2025 Valedictorian.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' AWARD

Alexus Dawn Miller

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

EARL T. REEDER MEMORIAL AWARD

Diana Knight Scavuzzo

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

Madison Danielle Chisom

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

Jessica Jean Olson

Katelynn Amanda Philyaw

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

Alexus Dawn Miller

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

Kirstyn Nichole Linne

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

BETA SIGMA KAPPA HIGHEST GRADE POINT AVERAGE AWARD

Alexus Dawn Miller

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

AEG VISIONARY OPTOMETRY STUDENT AWARD

Adisyn Kayli Dawkins

Presented to a graduating student who has a clear vision for their career and contributions to the profession.

COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRISTS IN VISION DEVELOPMENT AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Jessica Jean Olson

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

COOPERVISION CONTACT LENS AWARD

Lindsay Brooke Bentley

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.

DEDICATION TO TRANSFORMING THE DELIVERY OF EYE CARE AWARD

Gabrielle Kathryn Anderson

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

Jenna Brooke Gardner

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

Jacob Paul Keener

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

Megan Britt Carry

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

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY AWARD

Tanner Allen Wells

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

Jacob Paul Keener

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

Amanda Brooke Putorek

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

Katelynn Amanda Philyaw

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

MyEYEDr. SENIOR EXCELLENCE AWARD

Madison Nicole Balbirer

Presented to a graduating student who has exemplified excellence in patient care, showcases exceptional leadership, and a commitment to being a life-long learner with a special focus on corporate practice.

NATIONAL VISION SENIOR AWARD

Emily Renee Hargrave

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

Carley Miranda Warburton

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

Allison Kali Shelton-Tahdooahnippah

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

Amanda Brooke Putorek

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

OPTELEC EXCELLENCE IN LOW VISION AWARD

Gracie Ruth Lee

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

Megan Britt Carry

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 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.