

Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine

White Coat Ceremony



September 20, 2025
2 p.m.
Mountain Arts Center

About KYCOM

Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine

Mission. The mission of the Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine (KYCOM) is to provide men and women with an osteopathic medical education that emphasizes primary care, encourages research, promotes lifelong scholarly activity and produces graduates who are committed to serving the health care needs of communities in rural Kentucky and other Appalachian regions.

History. In September 1993, Chad Perry, a prominent attorney from Paintsville, and his wife, Judy Perry, conceived the idea of creating an osteopathic medical school in the Appalachian region of Eastern Kentucky. Together with a group of visionary leaders that included former Kentucky governor, the Honorable Paul Patton, and local businessman, Burlin Coleman, they began to investigate the possibility of a school in Eastern Kentucky. These leaders believed that creation of an osteopathic medical school was the best way to help alleviate the shortage of primary care physicians in the region. According to Chad Perry, his support of the development of an osteopathic medical school for this region arose from the fact that osteopathic physicians “tend to stay in rural areas and in family practice.”

White Coat Ceremony. It is now common practice among most U.S. medical schools to conduct a white coat ceremony to initiate medical students into the medical profession. White represents purity, healing and the professional ideals of the medical profession that focus on compassionate caregiving. The long white coat is the quintessential symbol of a physician and conveys to patients and the public the wearer’s identity as a physician. The short white coat indicates the wearer’s status as a medical student or student doctor. The white coat ceremony tradition among medical schools was led by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation in 1993 to promote humanism in medicine. The Gold Foundation provides a gold pin to our student doctors to wear on their white coats to symbolize commitment to providing compassionate and competent patient care. As a further initiation into the osteopathic medical profession, the KYCOM White Coat Ceremony traditionally includes recitation of its version of the osteopathic medical profession’s Pledge of Commitment.

Ceremony Program

Prelude Music.....	Phillip Todd Westgate, D.M.A. Professor of Music, University of Pikeville Pianist
* Academic Processional.....	Class of 2029 Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine
Invocation	Harley Ledbetter Vice President of Community Impact, Students for a National Health Program Club Class of 2029
Welcome	Joe E. Kingery, D.O., MBA, FACOFP, FAAFP Dean, Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine KYCOM Class of 2006
Greetings from the University	Burton J. Webb, Ph.D. President, University of Pikeville
Introduction of Platform Party	Lori Werth, Ph.D. Executive Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer, University of Pikeville
Remarks & Introduction of Keynote Speaker	Dr. Kingery
Keynote Address.....	G. Jason Hunt, D.O Orthopedic Surgeon, Harrison Memorial Hospital Division of Surgery Chair, KYCOM KYCOM Class of 2005
Greetings from the Student Body.....	Muhammad Draw, OMS II President, KYCOM Student Government Association Class of 2028
White Coat Presentation	Malgorzata Simm, Ph.D., M.Sc., FCM Associate Dean of Biomedical Sciences and Professor of Microbiology & Immunology
Coating of Students.....	Maleshea Hopkins, D.O. Associate Dean of Clinical Affairs KYCOM Class of 2005 and Muhammad Draw, OMS II
Greetings from Kentucky Osteopathic Medical Association	Sarah Crawford, D.O. Immediate Past President, Kentucky Osteopathic Medical Association
Greetings from KYCOM Alumni Association	Frederick A. Stine, VI, D.O., MHA Vice President, KYCOM Alumni Association KYCOM Class of 2017
Pledge of Commitment	Laura Griffin, D.O., FAAO Associate Dean for Osteopathic Principles and Practices Integration Professor and Chair, Department of Osteopathic Principles and Practices
Closing Remarks	Dr. Kingery
* Recessional	Class of 2029

* *Audience please stand, if able.*

G. Jason Hunt, D.O.



G. Jason Hunt, D.O., a native Kentuckian, received his Bachelor's of Science degree at then Pikeville College. He obtained his medical degree from Pikeville College School of Osteopathic Medicine.

Hunt completed his residency in Orthopaedic Surgery at Bone & Joint Hospital/St. Anthony Hospital in Oklahoma City. He was a partner at Integrity Orthopedics in Mt Sterling, Ky., prior to moving to Tampa in 2014.

Hunt's practice, OrthoLinks Orthopedics, was recognized as Tampa Bay's premier orthopedic surgery center. He provides a comprehensive range of orthopedic care, including sports medicine, arthroscopic surgery, and fracture treatment. In addition, he has developed a specialized program for golfers, combining advanced orthopedic expertise with golf-specific techniques designed to improve thoracic rotation and performance.

The practice has now relocated to Kentucky, where it is dedicated to delivering high-quality orthopedic services to rural communities across America.

Hunt is respected for operative and non-operative treatment of all levels of athletes. His practice philosophy is to provide a level of care that exceeds expectations and set new standards of caring in a Christ-centered fashion.

He is dedicated to change the face of healthcare through price transparency, competition, compassion, empathy and access.

KYCOM Class of 2029

Caleb Julien Allen
Floyds Knobs, Indiana

Mackenzie Allen
Indianapolis, Indiana

Joshua Attobrah
Columbus, Ohio

Charles Josiah Bailey
Breathitt County, Kentucky

Taylor Rene Bailey
Cypress, Texas

Eddie Barrie
St. Petersburg, Florida

Yaseen Belkadi
Cleveland, Ohio

Makenna Berry
Anaheim Hills, California

Jocelyn Bocianowski
Poughquag, New York

Alexandra Bodelle
Bethesda, Maryland

Michelle Boulos
Carmel, Indiana

Landen S. Bramel
Georgetown, Kentucky

Madison Bush
Bowling Green, Kentucky

Murphy Rose Byrd
Paducah, Kentucky

Noah Cammack
Owenton, Kentucky

Abigail Elizabeth Clapman
Dyer, Indiana

Ethan Colegrove
Lenore, West Virginia

Olivia Crowe
Glasgow, Kentucky

Quinn Danehy
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Jassen James Daza
Chicago, Illinois

Elana DeBease
Sharpsburg, Georgia

Nikki Dodd
Indianapolis, Indiana

Jerika Durham
Yosemite, Kentucky

Emma Elfreich
Evansville, Indiana

Haley Issie Fields
Neon, Kentucky

Kristen Fugate
London, Kentucky

Justin Garrett
Louisville, Kentucky

Austin Hunter Gibbs
Williamsburg, Kentucky

Clay Giles
Columbia, Kentucky

Neil Pravin Gondalia
Hanover Park, Illinois

Aleah Drew Grayson
South Shore, Kentucky

Hannah Greenhill
Russell, Kentucky

Kylie Griffey
Sparta, Kentucky

Gage Guenin
Greenfield, Indiana

Husain Hadi
Greenville, South Carolina

Charles Hairston
Lexington, Kentucky

Berina Halilovic
Covington, Kentucky

Madeline Brooke Hamilton
Prestonsburg, Kentucky

Jesse Hardin
Cincinnati, Ohio

Danyal Hasan
Greenville, North Carolina

Taylor Elisabeth Hayes
Utica, Kentucky

Alyson Healy
Hammonton, New Jersey

Giovani E. Herrera
Kissimmee, Florida

Alivia Houser
Louisville, Kentucky

Jason Logan Howell
Meridian, Idaho

KYCOM Class of 2029

Mason Huff
Richmond, Kentucky

Brian Joseph Jarosz
Lexington, Kentucky

Khadijah Moinuddin Jeddy
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Ivan Kalustian-Carrier
San Luis Obispo, California

Eliza Kelly
Louisville, Kentucky

Blake L. Kendrick
Richmond, Kentucky

Areeb Ali Khan
Rochester Hills, Michigan

Hassaan Ali Khan
Granger, Indiana

Brittany Kuhn
Rushville, Indiana

Kyle Kundrat
Parma, Ohio

Kenneth Morgan Kunkel
Leburn, Kentucky

Julianna Landry
Daphne, Alabama

Andrew T. Lee, II
Greenwood, Indiana

Becca Levik
Cleveland, Ohio

Matthew Logan
Lexington, Kentucky

Lauren MacDonald
Franklin, Tennessee

Brayden Q. Mack
Swansea, South Carolina

Zac Marsh
Norwich, New York

Ethan C. Martin
Hindman, Kentucky

Joseph Martin
Edgewood, Kentucky

Tumelo Martin-Weiler
Columbus, Ohio

Mary Ashley McKay
Cincinnati, Ohio

Virginia Margaret Baker McKee
Lexington, Kentucky

Taylor Grace Messer
Manchester, Kentucky

Anna Lee Meyer
Owensboro, Kentucky

Uriah Miller
Sicklerville, New Jersey

Peighton A. Milton
Green Bay, Wisconsin

Wyatt Miracle
Würzburg, Germany

Pierre Morris
Novi, Michigan

Alexa Morgan Muha
Hazard, Kentucky

Hanan Musa
Silver Spring, Maryland

Kailey Myers
Ennice, North Carolina

Faieq Nafees
Mason, Ohio

Tanzeem Naqvi
Laurel, Maryland

Angel Nguyen
Greensboro, North Carolina

Anthony Nguyen
Fairfax, Virginia

Jill Elizabeth Nguyen
Nashville, Tennessee

Katelyn Annaliese Nigro
Corbin, Kentucky

Kate Nordengreen
Suwanee, Georgia

Alexander Jonathon Davon
Osborne
Evansville, Indiana

Gabriel Paasche-Orlow
Newton, Massachusetts

Brayden Pack
Flatwoods, Kentucky

Chloe Pasquarello
Marlton, New Jersey

Naya Patel
Northville, Michigan

Savan Patel
Glasgow, Kentucky

KYCOM Class of 2029

Soham Patel
Cary, North Carolina

Sarah Schleinkofer
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Maya Tadipatri
Belmont, Ohio

Mahalakshmi Pattabiraman
Louisville, Kentucky

Riley Schwebach
Kaysville, Utah

Michele Tanner
Farmington, Maine

Zack Phillips
Lexington, Kentucky

Kimberly Schwing
Sumter, South Carolina

Morgan Turcotte
Lexington, Kentucky

Samuel Ward Polio
Owensboro, Kentucky

Harvey Sebastian, Jr.
Jackson, Kentucky

Blaise Tylicki
Bowling Green, Kentucky

Samuel Pomper
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Krishna Hiren Shah
Hopkinsville, Kentucky

Janica van Ghunt
Munster, Indiana

Owen Baker Ponting
Cold Springs, Kentucky

Tithi Shah
Columbus, Ohio

Sonam Wangchuk
Saint Paul, Minnesota

Nathan Poplos
Magnolia, Delaware

Maharshi Sharma
Bowling Green, Kentucky

Demi Watson
Hebron, Kentucky

Grace Rochelle Rahman
Lexington, Kentucky

Naomi Sidje
Tuscaloosa, Alabama

Alexander Wheatley
Wise, Virginia

Laiba Rasul
Lexington, Kentucky

Gurneet Singh
Punjab, India

Maggie Wright
Warsaw, Kentucky

Saffa Rehman
Chicago, Illinois

Manjot Singh
Chantilly, Virginia

Chase Allan Yost
Midway, Kentucky

Megan Elizabeth Reitnauer
Pinnacle, North Carolina

Taylor Stumbo
Prestonsburg, Kentucky

Christan Zimmerman
Evansville, Indiana

Eva Paige Roach
Gate City, Virginia

Champayne Sturgill
New Haven, Kentucky

Mensur Zvekic
Maineville, Ohio

Alyssa Roark
Salyersville, Kentucky

Ashley Styles
Alexandria, Kentucky

Mayar Safwat
Long Island, New York

Lohita Sunkara
Great Falls, Virginia

Yusra M. Saidi
Boston, Massachusetts

Emma Tackett
Hanahan, South Carolina

Pledge of Commitment

As I embark upon the study of medicine at the Kentucky
College of Osteopathic Medicine, I will:

Enter into a relationship of mutual respect with my teachers and my colleagues to enhance the learning environment and gain the knowledge, skills and attitudes of a competent osteopathic physician.

Accept responsibility only for those matters for which I am competent, maintain the trust expected of an osteopathic physician and never take advantage of the patient-doctor relationship.

Show compassion and respect for all others.

Set worthy examples in the application of humanistic principles in my relationships with patients and others within the Appalachian medical community.

Work toward improving my sensitivity and skills in human interaction, understanding and respecting the differences among my patients and colleagues.

Value the knowledge and wisdom of the physicians who have preceded me in the profession and endeavor to contribute to the osteopathic tradition.

Recognize my weaknesses and strengths and strive to develop those qualities that will earn the respect of my patients, my colleagues, my family and myself.

Continue learning throughout all the days of my life.