



Kansas City
University

2026 COMMENCEMENT
JOPLIN, MISSOURI

MAY 3, 2026

KANSAS CITY UNIVERSITY

2026 COMMENCEMENT



Improving the well-being of the communities we serve.

JOPLIN, MISSOURI

MAY 3, 2026

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Class of 2026,

Today marks the close of an important chapter in your lives and the beginning of an extraordinary new journey. You have reached this milestone through dedication, perseverance and purpose, and I extend my sincere congratulations to each of you. Along the way, you have demonstrated not only academic achievement but the character and commitment that define a life of service.

When you began your studies at Kansas City University, you did so with the understanding that the world you would enter is ever-changing and often unpredictable. In the face of that reality, you chose to pursue a calling greater than yourselves. Your resilience, your dedication to healing and discovery, and your steadfast commitment to our values of excellence, equity and empathy represent the very best of KCU and of the professions you now enter.

You graduate not only as accomplished individuals, but as a community connected by shared experiences, compassion and purpose. As you step forward into a world that needs your knowledge, leadership and care, I encourage you to remain guided by our mission of *improving the well-being of the communities we serve*.

Your relationship with KCU does not end today. You will always be part of our history, our community and our future. I hope you will remain connected to your alma mater through alumni engagement, lifelong

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

learning, mentorship and support for those who will follow in your path. Your voice, your presence and your passion will continue to shape our shared legacy.

As we close this momentous day, I leave you with the words of anthropologist Margaret Mead, who said, “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.” Class of 2026, your years of dedication, your resilience and your compassion have prepared you not only to advance knowledge, but to improve lives – to bring hope where there is uncertainty and healing where it is most needed.

I am deeply proud of all you have achieved and profoundly grateful for the purpose and promise you carry forward. Congratulations to each and every one of our graduates of the Class of 2026.

Yours truly,



Marc B. Hahn, DO, FAOCA
President & Chief Executive Officer
Kansas City University

PROGRAM

PROCESSIONAL

WELCOME

Marc B. Hahn, DO, FAOCA
President & Chief Executive Officer of Kansas City University

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Chloe Jannelle Starchman
Class of 2026 Graduate

INVOCATION

Linda C. Niessen, DMD, MPH, MPP
Dean of the College of Dental Medicine & Vice Provost for Oral Health Affairs

REMARKS FROM THE MAYOR

Rob O'Brian, CECd
Mayor of Joplin, Missouri

GREETINGS FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Nathan S. Hall, DO, MBA, MS
Vice Chair of the Kansas City University Board of Trustees

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

R. Shawn Martin
Executive Vice President & Chief Executive Officer of the American Academy of Family Physicians

CONFERRING OF THE HONORARY DEGREE

W. Joshua Cox, DO, FACOFP
Interim Provost, Executive Dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine & Vice Provost for Medical Affairs

WILL CONFER THE DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS UPON

R. Shawn Martin
Executive Vice President & Chief Executive Officer of the American Academy of Family Physicians

PROGRAM

PRESENTATION OF THE KANSAS CITY UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE CLASS OF 2026

W. Joshua Cox, DO, FACOFP

Interim Provost, Executive Dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine & Vice Provost for Medical Affairs

CONFERRING OF DEGREES UPON THE KANSAS CITY UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE CLASS OF 2026

Marc B. Hahn, DO, FAOCA

President & Chief Executive Officer of Kansas City University

THE OSTEOPATHIC OATH

W. Joshua Cox, DO, FACOFP

Executive Dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine & Vice Provost for Medical Affairs

COMMISSIONING OF OFFICERS INTO THE ARMED FORCES

Philip Volpe, DO

Major General, United States Army (Ret.) & Associate Professor of Primary Care

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION WELCOME

Christopher Paynter, DO, FACOFP

*Family Medicine Physician, Regional Assistant Dean &
Graduate of the KCU College of Osteopathic Medicine Class of 2012*

BENEDICTION

Carlton Abner, DNP, RN-BC

Vice Provost for Student Engagement and Well-Being

RECESSIONAL

PLATFORM PARTY

Marc B. Hahn, DO, FAOCA
*President & Chief Executive Officer of
Kansas City University*

Carlton Abner, DNP, RN-BC
*Vice Provost for Student
Engagement and Well-Being*

Nathan S. Hall, DO, MBA, MS
*Vice Chair of the Kansas City University
Board of Trustees*

Robert Arnce, MD
*Interim Vice Dean of the College of Osteopathic
Medicine & Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine*

W. Joshua Cox, DO, FACOFP
*Interim Provost, Executive Dean of the College of
Osteopathic Medicine & Vice Provost for Medical Affairs*

Philip Volpe, DO
*Major General, United States Army (Ret.) &
Associate Professor of Primary Care*

Kenneth A. Heiles, DO, FACOFP *dist.*
*Joplin Campus Dean of the
College of Osteopathic Medicine*

Jason Malousek, PsyD
*Faculty Senate President, Assistant Director of
Clinical Psychology Training & Assistant Professor of
Health Service Psychology*

Sharon Gustowski, DO, MPH, FAAO
*Kansas City Campus Dean of the
College of Osteopathic Medicine*

Christopher Paynter, DO, FACOFP
*Family Medicine Physician, Regional Assistant
Dean & Alumnus of the Class of 2012*

Linda C. Niessen, DMD, MPH, MPP
*Dean of the College of Dental Medicine &
Vice Provost for Oral Health Affairs*

R. Shawn Martin
*Executive Vice President & Chief Executive Officer
of the American Academy of Family Physicians*

Kim Tran, MD, PhD
*Dean of the College of Biosciences &
Vice Provost for Research*

David Lingerfelt, EdD, MBA
*Clinical Assistant Professor of Management and
Analytics & Director of the DO/MBA Program for the
Rockhurst University Helzberg School of Management*

John Paulson, DO, PhD
*Interim Dean of the College of Health
Professions & Professor of Family Medicine*

Rob O'Brian, CEcD
Mayor of Joplin, Missouri

FACULTY READERS

Scott Andelin, MD
Assistant Professor of Primary Care

Heather Klatt, DO
Assistant Professor of Primary Care

DIGNITARIES

FACULTY MARSHAL

Jason Malousek, PsyD

Faculty Senate President, Assistant Director of Clinical Psychology Training & Assistant Professor of Health Service Psychology

STUDENT MARSHAL FOR THE COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

Yuhao Wang

Gold Stethoscope Award Recipient

GONFALONIER FOR THE COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

Monika Ziogaite

Student DO of the Year Recipient

FACULTY HOODERS

Kenneth A. Heiles, DO, FACOFP *dist.*

*Joplin Campus Dean of the
College of Osteopathic Medicine*

Bradley Creamer, PhD

*Chair of Basic Sciences &
Professor of Physiology*

Bruce Williams, DO, FACOFP *dist.*

*Associate Dean of Clinical Education &
Associate Professor of Primary Care*

Robert Hillard, MD, FCAP

*Chair of Pathology and Anatomical Sciences &
Assistant Professor of Pathology*

Sharon Gustowski, DO, MPH, FAAO

*Kansas City Campus Dean of the
College of Osteopathic Medicine*

Kelley Joy, DO

*Chair & Professor of Osteopathic
Manipulative Medicine*

John Paulson, DO, PhD

*Interim Dean of the College of Health Professions &
Professor of Family Medicine*

David Lingerfelt, EdD, MBA

*Clinical Assistant Professor of Management
and Analytics & Director of the DO/MBA
Program for the Rockhurst University
Helzberg School of Management*

Rebecca Bowden, PhD

*Senior Director of Simulation &
Professor of Immunology*

COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

*Candidates for the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine &
the Master of Business Administration in Health Care Leadership*

Jacob Adib Amro ‡‡

*Emergency Medicine
AdventHealth Florida
Orlando, FL*

Elizabeth Gabriela Lainez

*Internal Medicine
Medical University of South Carolina Regional Network
Lancaster, SC*

Max Balla

*Family Medicine
University of Oklahoma COM
Oklahoma City, OK*

Micaela Emory Saathoff

*Pathology
University of Arkansas COM
Little Rock, AR*

Sophia Carter

*Obstetrics & Gynecology
Mercy Hospital St. Louis
St. Louis, MO*

Grant Sanders ‡‡

*Emergency Medicine
Southeastern Regional Medical Center
Lumberton, NC*

Andrew Peter Greek

*Internal Medicine
University Hospital
Columbia, MO*

Tyler Dakota Stone

*Obstetrics & Gynecology
Inspira Health Network
Vineland, NJ*

Jacey Noelle Greek

*Family Medicine
University Hospital
Columbia, MO*

Wade Weston

*Emergency Medicine
Lakeland Regional Health
Lakeland, FL*

Tate Isaac Hanners

*Internal Medicine
Central Iowa Health System
Des Moines, IA*

Monika Ziogaite

*Transitional Year Dermatology
Trinity Health Trinity Health
Ann Arbor Hospital Livingston Hospital
Ypsilanti, MI Ypsilanti, MI*

J Jackson

*Family Medicine
University of Wisconsin Rural Program
Baraboo, WI*

*The Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine & the Master of Business Administration in Health Care
Leadership is awarded in collaboration with the Rockhurst University Helzberg School of Management.*

‡ Cum Laude

‡‡ Magna Cum Laude

‡‡‡ Summa Cum Laude

COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

Candidates for the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine & the Master of Public Health

Dylan Cain Hafer †††

*Transitional Year
Broadlawns Medical Center
Des Moines, IA*

*Diagnostic Radiology
Medical College of Wisconsin
Affiliated Hospitals
Milwaukee, WI*

Brian Robert Young ††

*Otolaryngology
Detroit Medical Center/
Wayne State University
Detroit, MI*

Chloe Nicole Maye

*Obstetrics & Gynecology
HCA Houston Healthcare/University of Houston
Webster, TX*

Candidates for the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine & the Master of Arts in Bioethics

Alexander Robert Albright †

*Emergency Medicine
University of Missouri-Kansas City
Kansas City, MO*

Carson Hays Neal

*Internal Medicine
KCU-GME Consortium
Joplin, MO*

Ivan Bahamon

*Internal Medicine
University Hospital
Columbia, MO*

Pratyusha Tadepalli

*General Surgery
Sinai Hospital of Baltimore
Baltimore, MD*

Angelina Jo Miley

*Preliminary Surgery
University of Missouri-Kansas City
Kansas City, MO*

Hailey VanRonzelen

*Emergency Medicine & Internal Medicine
Hofstra University Zucker SOM/Northwell Health-North
Shore University Hospital/Long Island Jewish Medical Center
Manhasset, NY*

Lane Garrett Mittler

*Emergency Medicine
SSM Health/St. Louis University SOM
St. Louis, MO*

Yuhao Wang †††

*Family Medicine
John Muir Health
Walnut Creek, CA*

*The Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine & the Master of Public Health
is awarded in collaboration with the University of Nebraska Medical Center.*

*The Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine & the Master of Arts in Bioethics
is awarded by the Kansas City University College of Osteopathic Medicine.*

COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

Candidates for the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine

Grant William Abkemeier
Family Medicine
University Hospital
Columbia, MO

Dylan Richard David Barger ‡
Emergency Medicine Operational Tour Pilot Program
Naval Medical Center
San Diego, CA

Maruf Ahmed
Internal Medicine
Henry Ford Genesys Hospital
Grand Blanc, MI

Kaitlin Jaros Barnes
Internal Medicine
Creighton University SOM
Phoenix, AZ

Emily Anne Alberda
Emergency Medicine
Loma Linda University
Loma Linda, CA

Talia Basch
Internal Medicine
Scripps Clinic/Green Hospital
La Jolla, CA

Fatima Ali ‡‡
Psychiatry
University Hospital
Columbia, MO

Alex Behnam
Family Medicine
Idaho State University
Pocatello, ID

Gracie Ann Allan
Pathology
University of Kansas SOM
Kansas City, KS

Chance Benedict
Emergency Medicine
University of Illinois COM-OSF Healthcare
Peoria, IL

Sasank Aramandla
Internal Medicine
St. Josephs Medical Center
Stockton, CA

Alexis Abigail Black ‡‡‡
Psychiatry
Prisma Health-University of South Carolina SOM
Greenville, SC

Monica Jose Aspra Rubi
Family Medicine
Florida State University COM
Fort Myers, FL

Vanessa Graela Blanco
Neurology
Prisma Health-University of South Carolina SOM
Greer, SC

Bailey Marie Austin
Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
Louisiana State University SOM
New Orleans, LA

Austin Robert Bolker
Emergency Medicine
Ohio State University Medical Center
Columbus, OH

Ajay Sarath Prasad Balasubramanyam
Residency Placement
Information Not
Available

Taygan Breeanne Brant ‡‡
Internal Medicine
University of Kansas SOM
Wichita, KS

‡ Cum Laude

‡‡ Magna Cum Laude

‡‡‡ Summa Cum Laude

COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

Candidates for the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine

Luke Grant Brogan

*Preliminary Medicine/Radiology Diagnostic Radiology
Baylor Scott & White - Baylor Scott & White -
Baylor COM Baylor COM
Temple, TX Temple, TX*

Tevon Carlos Brooks

*Emergency Medicine
John Peter Smith Hospital
Fort Worth, TX*

Melissa Frances Bryan ‡

*Emergency Medicine
University of Missouri-Kansas City
Kansas City, MO*

Rebecca Natalie Centeno

*Psychiatry
Prisma Health-University of South Carolina SOM
Greenville, SC*

Devin Joseph Cho

*General Surgery
HCA Medical City Healthcare
Plano, TX*

Nabil Mowla Chowdhury

*Internal Medicine & Pediatrics
Detroit Medical Center/Wayne State University
Detroit, MI*

Jamie F. Cimino

*Obstetrics & Gynecology
Creighton University
Omaha, NE*

April Isolda Clark ‡‡

*Internal Medicine
Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences
Tulsa, OK*

Gabrielle Kirsten Davis

*Family Medicine
Christ Hospital
Cincinnati, OH*

Myia M. Dickerson

*Pediatrics
University of Arkansas COM
Little Rock, AR*

Quynh Tu Doan

*Residency Placement
Information Not
Available*

Lindsay Danielle Doolan-Mattice

*Emergency Medicine
Southern Illinois SOM & Affiliated Hospitals
Springfield, IL*

Maria England

*Pathology
University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics
Madison, WI*

Jared Lewis Ezzell

*Emergency Medicine
University of Louisville SOM
Louisville, KY*

Arshil Farhad

*Pediatrics
Nemours Children's Hospital
Orlando, FL*

Andrew John Farrell ‡‡

*Family Medicine
CoxHealth
Springfield, MO*

Celine Fayad

*Internal Medicine
Inspira Health Network
Mullica Hill, NJ*

Claire Olivia Ferguson

*Emergency Medicine
University of Kansas SOM
Kansas City, KS*

COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

Candidates for the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine

Taylor William Geddes
Anesthesiology
Baylor Scott & White - Baylor COM
Temple, TX

Philip Haynos
General Surgery
Good Samaritan Hospital
Cincinnati, OH

Ayesha Jawed Ghumra
Internal Medicine
McLaren Health Care Corporation
Mount Clemens, MI

Troy C. Henley II
Emergency Medicine
WellStar Health System
Marietta, GA

Ryan Thomas Good
Family Medicine
University of Iowa Health Care Medical Center
Iowa City, IA

Leif Andresen Herman
Internal Medicine
Central Iowa Health System
Des Moines, IA

Tyler Andrew Grof
Family Medicine
Central Iowa Health System
Des Moines, IA

Liesel Estelle Hoedebecke
Emergency Medicine
University of Kansas SOM
Kansas City, KS

Hunter Laci Hacker
Family Medicine
University of Kansas SOM
Wichita, KS

Marissa Lynne Holzrichter
Child Neurology
University of Kentucky COM
Lexington, KY

Abdo Hadi
Psychiatry
University of Arkansas COM
Little Rock, AR

Garret Royce Hupman
General Surgery
HCA Healthcare Kansas City
Overland Park, KS

Christopher O. Hagerman
Emergency Medicine
KCU-GME Consortium
Joplin, MO

Jad Imad
Emergency Medicine
HCA Houston Healthcare/University of Houston
Kingwood, TX

Mostafa Amr Hamada
Anesthesiology
Henry Ford Hospital
Detroit, MI

Nikhil Chacko Jacob
Internal Medicine
Advocate Health Care
Park Ridge, IL

Morgan Riccal Harris
Pediatrics
University of Texas Health Science Center
Houston, TX

Sau Ting Jain
Primary Medicine
Family Health Centers at NYU Langone
Brooklyn, NY

COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

Candidates for the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine

Varun Karri

*Internal Medicine
University of Texas Medical Branch
Galveston, TX*

Lauren Brooke Linderer

*Pathology
University of Arkansas COM
Little Rock, AR*

Raja Khanzada

*Internal Medicine
Texas Institute for GME and Research
San Antonio, TX*

Bradon Lee Longman

*Internal Medicine
University of Michigan Health-West
Wyoming, MI*

Peter Khoury

*Transitional Year
Geisinger Health System
Bloomsburg, PA* *Dermatology
Penn State Hershey Medical Center
Hershey, PA*

Katie Lovo

*Psychiatry
Mission Community Hospital
Panorama City, CA*

Daniel Kim

*Internal Medicine
University of Cincinnati Medical Center
Cincinnati, OH*

Humza Mallick ‡

*Internal Medicine
Lehigh Valley Hospital
Allentown, PA*

Ken Knapp

*Family Medicine
MyMichigan Medical Center
Midland, MI*

Shainika (Shainy) Maraweera

*Family Medicine
University of Calgary
Calgary, Alberta, Canada*

Benjamin Kossman ‡

*Emergency Medicine
University of Kansas SOM
Kansas City, KS*

Luis Marcelo Méndez

*Obstetrics & Gynecology
Nassau University Medical Center
East Meadow, NY*

Kevin Chandran Krishnan ‡‡

*Internal Medicine
Corewell Health
Royal Oak, MI*

Elizabeth Hayley Mintz

*Emergency Medicine
Rutgers Health Robert Wood Johnson Medical School
New Brunswick, NJ*

Juan Laporta

*Emergency Medicine
Inspira Health Network
Mullica Hill, NJ*

Reema Mody

*Internal Medicine
Corewell Health
Royal Oak, MI*

Quinton Le ‡‡

*Psychiatry
SSM Health/St. Louis University SOM
St Louis, MO*

Ricky Alec Morsovillo

*Internal Medicine
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
Regional Centers
Fayetteville, AR*

‡ Cum Laude

‡‡ Magna Cum Laude

‡‡‡ Summa Cum Laude

COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

Candidates for the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine

Wardha Mowla
Family Medicine
University of Illinois COM
Rockford, IL

Janvi Patel
Internal Medicine
University of Texas Medical Branch
Galveston, TX

Muhammad Anis Muncer
Internal Medicine
HonorHealth
Mesa, AZ

Jeel Ashok Patel
Internal Medicine
Iredell Health System
Statesville, NC

Nguyen Linh Ngo
Neurology
The MetroHealth System/Case Western University
Cleveland, OH

Mason Paul Penske
Emergency Medicine
Medical College of Wisconsin Affiliated Hospitals
Milwaukee, WI

Celine Nguyen
Family Medicine
Riverside University Health System
Moreno Valley, CA

Hannah Marika Peterson †††
Internal Medicine
Mercy Medical Center
Des Moines, IA

Joseph Oaster
Residency Placement
Information Not
Available

Alan Kha Pham
Internal Medicine
HCA Houston Healthcare/University of Houston
Kingwood, TX

Dillon Orr
Internal Medicine
University of Kansas SOM
Olathe, KS

Trilok Polavaram
Internal Medicine
Fairfield Medical Center
Lancaster, OH

Sharon Pala
Family Medicine
In His Image Family Medicine
Tulsa, OK

Nitin Varma Potturi
Internal Medicine
Texas Health Resources
Plano, TX

Dayana Paniagua
Emergency Medicine
HCA Healthcare East Florida Division GME
Plantation, FL

Thomas Edward Ramaekers
Emergency Medicine
University of Michigan Health-Sparrow
Lansing, MI

Bhumi Patel
Family Medicine
Novant Health
Cornelius, NC

Akansha Rao
Emergency Medicine
Riverside University Health System
Moreno Valley, CA

COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

Candidates for the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine

Shlok Rathi

*Neurology
HealthONE
Englewood, CO*

Hayden Smith

*Emergency Medicine
Corewell Health Lakeland
Saint Joseph, MI*

Thaddeus Reed

*Anesthesiology
University Hospital
Columbia, MO*

Maya Kathryn Smith

*Pediatrics
San Antonio Uniformed Services Health Education
Consortium - Brooke Army Medical Center
San Antonio, TX*

Christopher Reyes

*Residency Placement
Information Not
Available*

Amanda Marie Sonnenburg

*Family Medicine
PeaceHealth Southwest Medical Center
Vancouver, WA*

Laura Elizabeth Richert

*Pediatrics
University of Illinois COM
Peoria, IL*

Rajbir S. Sooch

*Emergency Medicine
Kaweah Delta Health Care District
Visalia, CA*

Omer Riyadh ‡

*Internal Medicine
Oregon Health & Science University
Portland, OR*

Chloe Jannelle Starchman

*Family Medicine
Conroe Regional Medical Center
Conroe, TX*

Joselyn Ann Schmitz

*Family Medicine
University of Kansas SOM
Salina, KS*

Lindsay K. Staudt

*Internal Medicine
Central Iowa Health System
Des Moines, IA*

Pranav Sharma

*Family Medicine
Still OPTI-Northeast Regional Medical Center
Kirksville, MO*

Zachary William Sundin

*Family Medicine
OhioHealth-Dublin Methodist Hospital
Dublin, OH*

Hunter Simonsen

*Emergency Medicine
University of Oklahoma COM
Tulsa, OK*

Fiona Catherine Sznawajs

*Pediatrics
Corewell Health
Royal Oak, MI*

Cameron Tyler Smith ‡

*General Surgery
Geisinger Health System
Wilkes Barre, PA*

Kaden Taylor ‡

*Emergency Medicine
University of Tennessee COM
Chattanooga, TN*

COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

Candidates for the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine

Peyton Elizabeth Thames

*Pediatrics
AdventHealth Florida
Orlando, FL*

John Michael Deer Wallace ‡‡

*Family Medicine
University of Kansas SOM
Pittsburg, KS*

Kyle Allen Thompson

*General Surgery
Marshfield Clinic
Marshfield, WI*

Jenna Marie Watts ‡‡

*Emergency Medicine
Allegheny Health Network Saint Vincent Hospital
Erie, PA*

Clayton Alexzander Tindell

*Residency Placement
Information Not
Available*

Noah Zachary Wood

*Internal Medicine
San Antonio Uniformed Services Health Education
Consortium - Brooke Army Medical Center
San Antonio, TX*

Kayla Tran

*Internal Medicine
University of Michigan Health-West
Wyoming, MI*

Taylor Thomas Wright

*Internal Medicine
Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center
Idaho Falls, ID*

Zenobia Rose Tucker

*Family Medicine
CoxHealth
Springfield, MO*

Samad Yousuf

*Internal Medicine & Pediatrics
Detroit Medical Center/Wayne State University
Detroit, MI*

Quen Virden

*Pathology
SUNY Upstate Medical University
Syracuse, NY*

Nicholas Zuk

*Family Medicine
PeaceHealth Southwest Medical Center
Vancouver, WA*

Mae Vermeersch Visconti

*Anesthesiology
University of Iowa Health Care Medical Center
Iowa City, IA*

*Congratulations to the graduates of the Kansas City University
Foplin College of Osteopathic Medicine Class of 2026
and their families, friends and supporters.*



HONOR SOCIETIES

Sigma Sigma Phi

Jacob Amro	Chloe Nicole Maye
Bailey Marie Austin	Celine Nguyen
Kaitlin Jaros Barnes	Sharon Pala
Chance Benedict	Mason Paul Penske
Austin Robert Bolker	Grant Sanders
Luke Grant Brogan	Rajbir S. Sooch
Melissa Frances Bryan	Cameron Tyler Smith
April Isolda Clark	LindsayK. Staudt
Gabrielle Kristen Davis	Zachary William Sundin
Andrew Peter Greek	Fiona Catherine Sznewajs
Mostafa Amr Hamada	Pratyusha Tadepalli
Tate Isaac Hanners	Zenobia Rose Tucker
Troy C. Henley II	Mae Vermeersch Visconti
Jad Imad	Noah Zachary Wood
J Jackson	Brian Robert Young
Peter Khoury	Samad Yousuf
Daniel Kim	

Beta Gamma Sigma

Jacob Amro
Andrew Peter Greek
Jacey Noelle Greek
Monika Ziogaite

HONOR SOCIETIES

Gold Humanism Honor Society

Emily Anne Alberda
Dylan Richard David Barger
Kaitlin Jaros Barnes
Austin Robert Bolker
Tevon Carlos Brooks
Nabil Mowla Chowdbury
Gabrielle Kristen Davis
Andrew John Farrell
Ryan Thomas Good
Andrew Peter Greek
Jacey Noelle Greek
Elizabeth Hayley Mintz
Lane Garrett Mittler
Sharon Pala
Christopher Reyes
Joselyn Ann Schmitz
Fiona Catherine Sznewajs
Clayton Alexzander Tindell
Zenobia Rose Tucker
Quen Virden
Mae Vermeersch Visconti
Noah Zachary Wood
Brian Robert Young

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Ambassadors

Monica Jose Aspra Rubi	Katie Melissa Lovo
Kaitlin Jaros Barnes	Chloe Nicole Maye
Talia Basch	Wardha Tuljannah Mowla
Alexander Behnam	Joseph James Oaster
Luke Grant Brogan	Janvi Patel
Tevon Carlos Brooks	Mason Paul Penske
Sophia Gabrielle Carter	Akansha Rao
Nabil Mowla Chowdhury	Cameron Tyler Smith
April Isolda Clark	Rajbir S. Sooch
Gabrielle Kristen Davis	Chloe Jannelle Starchman
Andrew Peter Greek	Zachary William Sundin
Jacey Noelle Greek	Quen Virden
Ayesha Jawed Ghumra	Noah Zachary Wood
Philip Haynos	Brian Robert Young
Liesel Estelle Hoedebecke	Samad Yousuf
J Jackson	Monika Ziogaite

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Class Officers

Tevon Carlos Brooks, <i>President</i>
Gabrielle Davis, <i>Vice President</i>
J Jackson, <i>Treasurer</i>
Shainika Samindi Maleesa Maraweera, <i>Secretary</i>

Senators

Talia Basch
Jad Imad
Quen Virden

FELLOWSHIPS

Fellowship in Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine

Monica Jose Aspra Rubi

Zachary William Sundin

Fellowship in Clinical Anatomy

Chloe Nicole Maye

Cameron Tyler Smith

HONORS TRACK IN GLOBAL MEDICINE

Bailey Marie Austin

Kaitlin Jaros Barnes

Troy Christian Henley II

Angelina Jo Miley

Zenobia Rose Tucker

HONORS TRACK IN MILITARY MEDICINE

Dylan Richard David Barger, *Navy*

Alexander Behnam

Maya Kathryn Smith, *Army*

Mae Vermeersch Viconti, *Navy*

Noah Zachary Wood, *Army*

AWARD RECIPIENTS

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Hailey VanRonzelen

Given to a student who has made significant and meritorious contributions to the larger community in a leadership role while enrolled at the University.

DEAN'S AWARD

Ivan Bahamon

Given to a student who has excelled academically and made significant and meritorious contributions to the University community and enhanced the overall quality and spirit of the College of Osteopathic Medicine.

GOLD STETHOSCOPE

Yuhao Wang

Presented to the student ranked first in the class of graduating osteopathic medical students.

STUDENT DO OF THE YEAR

Monika Ziogaite

Presented to a student who exemplifies: leadership, commitment to community service, dedication to the profession, professionalism and embodiment of the osteopathic philosophy.

KCU-COM BASIC SCIENCE RESEARCH AWARD

Kaitlin Jaros Barnes

Presented to an osteopathic medical student who has demonstrated significant interest and participation in basic sciences research.

AWARD RECIPIENTS

THE SIR WILLIAM OSLER OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARD FOR BIOETHICS

Ivan Bahamon

Presented to a graduating student in the osteopathic medicine/bioethics dual-degree program who exemplifies excellence in the humanistic dimensions of health care.

MATHEWS MILITARY HONOR GRADUATE AWARD

Noah Zachary Wood & Maya Kathryn Smith

Honors military graduates who best exemplify academic excellence, commitment to serve in the military, leadership, service to one's community and esprit de corps.

THOMAS V. THOMAS, MD, AWARD FOR RESEARCH

Cameron Tyler Smith

Presented to an osteopathic student who takes advantage of the most research opportunities and demonstrated significant interest and participation in research.

VESALIUS AWARD

Cameron Tyler Smith

Presented for outstanding academic performance in the disciplines of human anatomy, histology and neuroanatomy, as well as service to the Department of Pathology and Anatomical Sciences.

AMERICAN MEDICAL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

GLASGOW-RUBIN CITATION FOR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Fatima Ali • Alexis Abigail Black • Taygan Brant • Melissa F Bryan
April Isolda Clark • Hannah Marika Peterson • Jenna Marie Watts

Presented to women who graduate in the top ten percent of their class of graduating medical students.

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MISSION

Improving the well-being of the communities we serve.

Kansas City University is a community of professionals committed to excellence in education, research, patient care and community service while improving the well-being of the communities we serve.

VISION

Changing health care for good.

CORE VALUES

Excellence | *Striving for quality, integrity and innovation*

Equity | *Supporting an inclusive and collaborative environment*

Empathy | *Caring for our students, our colleagues and our community*

ACADEMIC COLLEGES

College of Osteopathic Medicine | *Kansas City & Joplin*

College of Dental Medicine | *Joplin*

College of Biomedical Sciences | *Kansas City*

College of Health Professions | *Joplin*

UNIVERSITY TRADITION

The Commencement Ceremony is an important tradition at Kansas City University. Both a formal recognition of the academic accomplishments made by the graduates as well as a celebration of their potential to continue *improving the well-being of the communities we serve* for future generations, each Commencement Ceremony is a historic moment for our graduates, their loved ones and the University.

As such, the Commencement Ceremony includes a number of symbolic traditions that honor the importance of this day. The following section provides a brief overview of the unspoken traditions you will witness during today's ceremony.

MACES

An ancient symbol of authority that was originally held by individuals protecting dignitaries, the mace reminds us that universities are custodians both of the enduring tradition of learning and of the power they bestow upon those who have come to learn.

University Mace

The University Mace holds the highest formal purpose of all the maces, representing the University's governing authority and signifying that the event has official sanction. It is carried by the Faculty Marshal during the ceremony.

Graduation Scepters

Gifted to the University by Lee E. Davidson, DO (COM '45), in 1975, this pair of replicas of the Rod of Asclepius were hand-crafted from wood and bronze by then-student doctor Evany Zirul, DO (COM '79). The graduation scepters are now carried by Student Marshals during the ceremony.

The Centennial Mace

The Centennial Mace was commissioned in 2016 to commemorate the University's Centennial Celebration and was first carried by G. Michael Johnston, DO, MACOI (COM '73), KCU alumnus, long-time professor and associate provost for faculty and student success. A modern interpretation of the Rod of Asclepius that has been crafted from metal alloy, the Centennial Mace reflects the intersection of the University's first 100 years of history and our beginning of a new century of innovation. The Centennial Mace is traditionally reserved for display on the Kansas City campus; however, at the discretion of the President, it may instead be carried by the Faculty Marshal in lieu of the University Mace during select Commencement Ceremonies.

GONFALONS

Gonfalons are heraldic banners adding an element of pageantry to the ceremony. Tracing back to medieval Italy, “gonfaloni” were originally the community meetings during which every neighborhood displayed its own custom, ornate flag. Over time, the word has become associated with the flag itself, and gonfalons have become part of ceremonies worldwide.

Kansas City University's gonfalons serve to herald the presence of both the University as a whole and the colleges participating in each ceremony. Student gonfaloniers, or carriers of the flags, each carry their college's respective gonfalon during the Commencement Ceremony.

REGALIA

Academic regalia traces its beginnings to the Middle Ages. When English universities were forming in the 12th and 13th centuries, scholars were also clerics and they adopted robes similar to those of their monastic orders. Caps were a necessity in drafty buildings and capes with hoods attached were needed for warmth. In 1895, the Intercollegiate Commission specified a code that was adopted by American institutions of higher learning to standardize the regalia worn by faculty and graduates. It has stood virtually unchanged to present time.

Master's Regalia

Master's gowns are silk-finish, black gowns with oblong sleeves that open at the wrist and feature a crescent-shaped trailing edge. The master's cap is a rigid mortarboard with a medium-length tassel that matches the color of the velvet trim of the master's hood. Master's tassels are worn on the left side of the cap at all times.

The hood is the most distinctive feature of the master's regalia. Master's hoods are medium length and feature a crescent-shaped trailing edge which compliments the sleeves of the master's gown. The color of the velvet edging of the hood indicates the degree earned while the color of the satin lining represents the university from which that degree has been conferred. Several combinations can be seen on the regalia worn by KCU administration and faculty, but the colors on the following page will be worn by KCU graduates.

Doctor's Regalia

Doctor's gowns are silk-finish gowns trimmed down the front with velvet and have three velvet bars on the bell-shaped sleeves. The velvet color is unique to the discipline for which the degree pertains, or may be black. The doctor of osteopathic medicine, as well as the doctor of medicine, is represented by green velvet.

The doctoral cap is an eight-sided velvet tam with short tassels that match the color of the velvet trim of the doctoral hood, although metallic gold tassels are also permitted. As with master's tassels, doctor's tassels are worn on the left side of the cap at all times.

The hood is the most distinctive feature of the doctor's regalia. Doctor's hoods are long and marked by a wide velvet binding in the color representing the degree earned. The color of the hood's interior satin lining represents the university from which that degree has been conferred. Myriad combinations can be seen on the regalia worn by KCU administration, faculty and guest hooders, but the colors on the following page will be worn by KCU graduates.

UNIVERSITY TRADITION

VELVET & SATIN COLORS

Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine

Green velvet representing medicine with silver & aubergine satin for Kansas City University.

Doctor of Humane Letters (*hon.*)

White velvet representing the arts with silver & aubergine satin for Kansas City University.

Master of Arts in Bioethics

White velvet representing the arts with silver & aubergine satin for Kansas City University.

Master of Business Administration
in Health Care Leadership

Brown velvet representing business with white & blue satin for Rockhurst University.

LATIN HONORS

Graduating with Latin Honors is a distinction that marks tremendous academic achievement. Graduates awarded Latin Honors wear bronze medallions on green grosgrain ribbon.

Summa Cum Laude

Bestowed with highest distinction upon students graduating in the top 2 percent of their class.

Magna Cum Laude

Bestowed with great distinction upon students graduating in the top 3 to 7 percent of their class.

Cum Laude

Bestowed with distinction upon students graduating in the top 8 to 12 percent of their class.

HONORS CORDS

Two honor societies provide graduates with a visual representation of their membership through braided honors cords worn over the standard regalia. Gold Humanism Honor Society members wear purple cords. Sigma Sigma Phi members wear burnt orange cords.

Additionally, graduates participating the Military Commissioning Ceremony, as well as graduates and faculty members who are veterans of the United States Armed Forces, may elect to wear braided red, white and blue Military Honors cords in recognition of their service to their country.

MEDALLIONS

Symbolic medallions are worn by Kansas City University academic administration, including the president, provost and deans, to mark the occasion of Commencement. Additionally, graduates with certain academic distinctions are awarded medallions to reflect their accomplishments.

These distinctions generally include completion of an undergraduate Fellowship in Clinical Anatomy or Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine, for which graduates wear silver medallions on white grosgrain ribbon, and achievement of Latin Honors, for which graduates are bestowed with brass medallions on green grosgrain ribbon. Medallions are worn over the standard regalia.

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 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.



Kansas City
University