



DOWNSTATE
HEALTH SCIENCES UNIVERSITY

The School of Health Professions,
College of Nursing, School of Graduate Studies,
and University Hospital at Downstate
celebrate

60
YEARS
in
EDUCATION AND HEALTHCARE

2026 CONVOCATION CEREMONY

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

6:00 PM

Alumni Auditorium

GREETINGS & WELCOME

Allen Lewis, PhD, CRC

Dean and Professor, School of Health Professions

Jamie Grecco, JD

Senior Vice President, and Chief of Staff Office of the President

Jeffrey Putman, EdD

Vice President for Academic & Student Affairs

SOHP STUDENT COUNCIL EXECUTIVE BOARD

Juliana Theolin, President, OT Program

Christine Korth, Vice President, HI Program

Cydney Trim, Treasurer, OT Program

Andrew Eisen, Secretary, OT Program



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

STUDENT CENTER LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

Awarded to those individuals who have made significant contributions to the Student Center and/or it's programs throughout their tenure on campus.

Presented by: Adam Burgman, MEd

Director of Student Activities and the Student Center

Recipient:

Noah Pulakos, Occupational Therapy Program

GLADYS BRANCATI AWARD

This award was Named for a popular and dedicated employee of the Student Center, now retired, this award recognizes a graduating SUNY Downstate student that was an outstanding, reliable employee of the Student Center. The student must demonstrate commitment and dedication to the mission of the Student Center and have made a significant contribution throughout their employment.

Present by: Adam Burgman, MEd

Director of Student Activities and the Student Center

Recipient:

Colleen Cassidy, Occupational Therapy Program



Dr. Allen Lewis

School of Health Professions & the Student Council gratefully acknowledge the contributions of the Clinical Preceptors to the education of our students

DR. DONALD SCHERL FACULTY EXCELLENCE AWARD

*In Recognition of her Teaching Innovation, Scholarship,
And Student Advocacy*

**Presented to Iryna Struk, M.S, RDMS, RDCS, RVT
Interim Chair and Clinical Associate Professor
for the *Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program***

**DEAN'S AWARD FOR
COMPREHENSIVE EXCELLENCE**

Anna Todd, OT Program



Physical Therapy Program Awards

Presented by Yasser Salem PT, PhD, MS, NCS, PCS

Chair and Professor Physical Therapy Program

**SAMUEL B. FEITELBERG AWARD FOR ACADEMIC
AND CLINICAL EXCELLENCE**

To the graduating student for outstanding achievement

Hannah Woodruff

**NEW YORK CHAPTER, AMERICAN PHYSICAL THERAPY
ASSOCIATION STUDENT PARTICIPATION AWARD**

***To the graduating student for leadership qualities, initiative,
involvement in professional or community activities, and
demonstration of humanitarian concerns***

Giselle Dye

**BROOKLYN-STATEN ISLAND DISTRICT,
NEW YORK CHAPTER,
AMERICAN PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION
STUDENT PARTICIPATION AWARD**

***To the graduating student for leadership qualities, initiative,
and involvement in professional or community activities***

Giselle Dye

Physical Therapy Awards (Cont'd)

***BROOKLYN-STATEN ISLAND DISTRICT,
NEW YORK CHAPTER,
AMERICAN PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION
STUDENT PARTICIPATION AWARD***

*To the graduating student for leadership qualities, initiative,
and involvement in professional or community activities*

Giselle Dye

PROGRAM RESEARCH AWARD

*This prestigious award is presented to the graduating
students with the best group research/capstone project*

Luis Dominguez ~ Giselle Dye

Tyler Dymond ~ Toyin Joseph

Vikrum Kooner ~ Jessie Liu

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Puneet Dhaliwal, PT, DPT, MA, CEEAA

*For: "Survey of Entry-Level Physical Therapy Education
Content Related to COVID-19 and Post Acute Sequelae of COVID
-19 Rehabilitation in NY Accredited PT Programs"*

ALUMNAE AWARD

*To the graduating student for leadership qualities,
initiative and involvement in professional
or community activities*

Hannah Woodruff

Applied Behavior Analysis Program Awards
Presented by Jason C. Vladescu, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LBA(NY), NCSP
Chair & Professor

OVERALL EXCELLENCE AWARD

Presented to a graduating student with a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.3 or higher, who has consistently received good evaluations from clinical instructors and who contributes significantly to either the Applied Behavior Analysis program, student life, or the community

Sarah G. Segal

RESEARCH AWARD

Presented to a graduating student who conducted the best research project

Title: “Behavioral Skills Training to Teach Adults to Respond to Suspected Opioid Overdose Using Intranasal Naloxone”

Sarah G. Segal



Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program Awards
Presented by Iryna Struk, M.S, RDMS, RDCS, RVT
Interim Chair & Clinical Associate Professor

OVERALL EXCELLENCE AWARD

To the graduating students for outstanding academic and clinical performance and contribution to the community

Jonah Hortaleza ~ Sharmeen Joseph ~ Jade Medina

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD

To a graduating senior for highest academic achievement in the class

Stacey Chow ~ Jade Medina

Diagnostic Medical Sonography Awards (Cont'd)

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD

*To a graduating senior for highest academic
achievement in the class*

Stacey Chow ~ Jade Medina

CLINICAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

To a graduating senior for the highest clinical scores

Dora Amoateng ~ Jade Medina ~ Chaunta Renaud

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION AWARD

for service to the program

Naomi Hakimian ~ Jade Medina

Kayleen Moreno ~ Chaunta Renaud

DEVEREL PATERSON MEMORIAL AWARD

*for perseverance and success in the face of
adversity and life's challenges*

Shermaria Leonce

CANDICE PAEK - SUNG MEMORIAL AWARD

*for a student who shows great integrity, commitment,
pride in the profession, and excels in technical expertise*

Jade Medina

**OUTSTANDING STUDENT RESEARCH AND
JUNIOR RESEARCH INNOVATION AWARD**

*To the graduating student or a group who has
conducted the best research project*

Mayar Hefny ~ Kayleen Moreno

Linnet Paez Rodriguez ~ Chaunta Renaud

Topic: "Peer-to-Peer Renal POCUS Training: Sonography Students Teaching Physician Assistant Students"

Diagnostic Medical Sonography Awards (Cont'd)

***OUTSTANDING STUDENT RESEARCH AND
JUNIOR RESEARCH INNOVATION AWARD***

*To the graduating student or a group who has
conducted the best research project*

Mayar Hefny ~ Kayleen Moreno

Linnet Paez Rodriguez ~ Chaunta Renaud

Topic: "Peer-to-Peer Renal POCUS Training: Sonography Students Teaching Physician Assistant Students"



***Health Informatics Program Awards
Presented by Mohammad Faysel, Ph.D., FAMIA
Chair and Associate Professor***

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD

*Presented to the graduating students for outstanding
academic performance*

Safia Abdemeziem ~ Katrina Brinkman ~ Christina Cho

Arman Choudhury ~ Erika Gaitan-Baracaldo

Justin Lam ~ Shuhui Li ~ Art Musa

Jennie Son ~ Katherine Russo

OUTSTANDING STUDENT INVOLVEMENT AWARD

*To the graduating students for demonstrated program
representation and involvement in the HI Program, School,
and Centerwide student activities*

Christine Korth ~ Alecsandria Lawrence ~ Danielle Lawrence

Dominique Lawrence ~ Gabriella Lawrence

Lauren N. Lawrence ~ Nathalia Lawrence ~ Eva Tse

Health Informatics Awards (Cont'd)

EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH AWARD

*Presented to the graduating students in recognition of
excellence in student research work*

Christina Cho ~ Erika Gaitan-Baracaldo ~ Shuhui Li

*Topic: "Predictive Modeling & Acceptability of a 24-Hour
RBC Transfusion Risk Calculator in ICU Patients with Upper
Gastrointestinal Bleeding"*

EXCELLENCE IN CLINICAL INTERNSHIP AWARD

*Presented to the graduating students for outstanding
clinical performance*

***Safia Abdemeziem ~ Katrina Brinkman
Christina Cho ~ Erika Gaitan-Baracaldo***

OUTSTANDING CLINICAL PRECEPTOR'S AWARD

*Presented to a clinical preceptor for
outstanding mentorship at a clinical site*

***Presented to: Shushawna DeOliveira, DHA
Associate Dean of Program Operations and
Quality Associate Professor***

*Organization: School of Health Professions,
SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University*

Midwifery Program Awards
Presented by Susanrachel B. Condon CM, DM, FACNM
Interim Program Director and Clinical Assistant Professor

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD

*To the students with the highest cumulative GPA in the Midwifery
Program's graduating class*

Madison Deltoro ~ Ericka Louis
Lindsay Plante ~ Leah Rawlins

CLINICAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

*To the students who, in the judgment of the faculty, consistently
demonstrates exceptional performance in the clinical area*

Madison Deltoro ~ Ericka Louis

JOAN B DITCHIK MEMORIAL AWARD

*To a student who, in the judgment of the faculty,
demonstrates clinical excellence, commitment to
women's health needs, social and cultural sensitivity,
intellectual curiosity and growth, personal integrity,
perseverance and enthusiasm, a sense of humor,
professionalism, and a cooperative spirit*

Laure Raymond

**THE LILY HSIA MIDWIFERY STUDENT
SCHOLARSHIP AWARD**

*To the student who, in the judgment of the faculty,
demonstrates academic excellence, leadership, and
commitment to community service*

Leah Rawlins

Midwifery Awards (Cont'd)

Laurie Ourlicht Faculty Recognition Award

To the student who, in the judgment of the faculty, demonstrates extraordinary perseverance and professional dedication

Isatou Marong

The Gigi Robin Joyful Midwife Award

To the student who is upbeat, warm and enthusiastic about midwifery

Madison Deltoro

The Suzanne Louis-Reddick Spirit of Midwifery Award

To the student who embraces the care of women with special passion, warmth, and kindness

Jennifer Langbehn

The Nancy Moley Positivity Award

To the student who, in the judgment of the faculty, shows an extraordinarily positive approach to midwifery, to clinical experience, to learning, and to interpersonal relations

Breyana Haggwood-White

Outstanding Student Leadership Award

Given by the graduating students in recognition of consistent and exemplary leadership in promoting the highest goals of midwifery care

Laure Raymond

Joni Zavitz Memorial Award for Perseverance

Given by peers to the graduating student who has shown the most determination and perseverance in the completion of the Midwifery Program

Ashley Charles ~ Jennifer King

***Occupational Therapy Program Awards
Presented by Efekona Nuwere, Ed.D, OTR/L
Program Chair***

SIGRID HANSEN AWARD

*For exceptional levels of academic excellence,
service and professionalism
Rachel Bergsohn*

PATRICIA B. TROSSMAN AWARD

*For commitment to innovation and advancement of
the occupational therapy profession*

Jenny Kim

***OUTSTANDING REPRESENTATION OF
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY IN COLLEGE,
CENTER - WIDE AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES AWARD***

Julianna Theolin

JOYCE S. SABARI RESEARCH AWARD

*to the graduating students who have completed
an outstanding research study in fulfillment of the
Master's Project requirements*

Madison Thristino ~ Milena Scala ~ Madeline Silverstein

Faculty Advisor: Suzanne Rappaport, OTD, OTR/L

*Title: "Occupational Therapy in Gender-Affirming Healthcare:
Addressing Disparities and Enhancing Participation"*

COMMUNITY PRACTICE SERVICE LEARNING AWARD

Colleen Cassidy ~ Andy Eisen ~ Jenny Kim

*Title: "A Trip Around the World at Queens Community House
(QCH) Forest Hills Older Adult Center"*

Occupational Therapy Awards (Cont'd)

EXCELLENCE IN SCHOLARLY INQUIRY AWARD

Moussia Krinsky-Raskin, MS, OTR/L, CHT

***LEADERSHIP AND PROFESSIONAL
STEWARDSHIP AWARD***

Ardissa Phillips, MS, OTR/L



***Physician Assistant Program Awards
Presented by Andrea Trimmingham, MA, PA-C
Program Director and Chair***

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

*To the students who maintained a GPA of 3.75
or higher during the didactic phase and
demonstrated outstanding professionalism*

Serina Abdul Satter ~ Christopher Bellcourt

Rivkah Blum ~ Jazmine Cherrington ~ Diana Gindi

Eta Goldstein ~ Ye Kim ~ Benjamin Lau ~ Aileen Li

Morgan Magee ~ Jaclyn Mooney ~ Anthony Persaud

Yehudis Rimler ~ Asma Rodriguez ~ Rose Sabbagh

Gadzhi Shakhnavazov ~ Bintou Soumaoro ~ Giorgio Spata

***PATRICIA DEVINE AWARD FOR
ACHIEVEMENT, PERSEVERANCE, AND
PROFESSIONAL COMMITMENT***

*To the student who has performed very well while
experiencing extraordinary personal circumstances*

Asma Rodriguez

Physician Assistant Awards (Cont'd)

RESEARCH AWARD

*To the students who have demonstrated exceptional
performance in clinical research*

Joel Banayan ~ Christopher Bellcourt

Ben Rosenbaum ~ Giorgio Spata

*Project title: "Uncovering Genetic Drivers of Non-Obese Type 2
Diabetes in Bushwick's Hispanic Community: A Call for Early,
Weight-Independent Screening "*

PA CLASS FACILITATOR AWARD

*To the student who demonstrates exemplary facilitation
of the success of their fellow classmates above
and beyond their own individual needs*

Mariyum Hussain ~ Bintou Soumaoro

STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARD

*To the PA Class President and Class Vice President
for providing able leadership of the PA Class and PA Club
and confidently representing the class to the
Physician Assistant Program and campus community*

Leah Laufe - Class President

Alcina Goncalves Lima - Class Vice President

Bintou Soumaoro - Class Secretary

Jazmine Cherrington - Class Treasurer

Jaelyn Mooney - Class Historian

Joel Banayan - Student Government

***Serina Abdul-Satter & Sharmin Delowar - NYSSPA &
SAAAPA***

Presented by: Professor Andrea Trimmingham

***PRESENTATION OF THE CLASS OF 2026
AND THE RECEIPT OF THE SOHP PIN
Reception immediately follows in the Atrium***



Commencement for the Class of 2026

will occur on

Wednesday, May 13, 2026, at 1:00 PM

at the **Coney Island Amphitheater** (formerly known as the Ford Amphitheater at Coney Island Boardwalk) located at 3052 West 21st Street, Brooklyn, New York 11224.

For information regarding the Amphitheater and Seaside Park, check their website:

<https://seasideparkconeyisland.com>.

(Click “VISIT” on the web site for directions and parking information.)

The Amphitheater is a covered, open-air facility adjacent to the famous Coney Island Boardwalk.

Congratulations to the Graduating Class of 2026



In

**The School of Health Professions (SOHP)
Please keep in touch with fellow alumni**

**At our Alumni Facebook page:
School of Health Professions**

Alumni Affairs at SUNY Downstate

Join us virtually at the link below

<https://youtube.com/live/G7kNoMxGH8c?feature=share>

