

Commencement

SPRING SEMESTER 2023



ROSS AND CAROL NESE COLLEGE OF NURSING

Saturday, May 6, 2023

Eisenhower Auditorium

4:30 p.m.



PennState



National Anthem

by Francis Scott Key

O say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming;
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, thro' the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air
Gave proof thro' the night that our flag was still there.
O say, does that Star-Spangled Banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

Alma Mater

by Fred Lewis Pattee

For the glory of old State,
For her founders, strong and great,
For the future that we wait,
Raise the song, raise the song,

Sing our love and loyalty,
Sing our hopes that, bright and free,
Rest, O Mother dear, with thee.
All with thee, all with thee.

When we stood at childhood's gate,
Shapeless in the hands of fate,
Thou didst mold us, dear old State,
Dear old State, dear old State.

May no act of ours bring shame
To one heart that loves thy name,
May our lives but swell thy fame,
Dear old State, dear old State!

Commencement

SPRING SEMESTER 2023

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING DEGREE

Saturday, May 6, 2023

Eisenhower Auditorium

4:30 p.m.

To Our Guests

We welcome you to the commencement exercises for baccalaureate degree candidates.

Commencement, the solemn but joyful climax and recognition of the graduates' years of study, is an important occasion to the University, its faculty, staff, and students. All guests and participants are requested to avoid unnecessary conversation or moving about during the exercises.

Only authorized press and University photographers are permitted on the floor to take pictures once the exercises are in progress.

When the processional party enters at the beginning of the ceremony, the audience rises. They remain standing until all members of the platform party have taken their places on the platform and during the singing of the national anthem.

Applause should be withheld during the presentation of the individual candidates; however, they may be applauded after all candidates have been recognized.

Following the singing of the alma mater, there is a recessional. We request that the audience remain seated during this period.

Eisenhower Auditorium

A FIRST AID STATION is located in the cloakroom in the right lobby area.

RESTROOMS are located at the lounge, grand tier, and balcony levels.

LOST AND FOUND articles are given to the house manager. Please call 814-865-4727 to inquire about lost items.

TO ORDER OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS: Call 814-865-6357 for instructions or visit: www.registrar.psu.edu

PENN STATE encourages persons with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation or have questions about the physical access provided, please contact University Relations at 814-865-2501.

NOTICE: The possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages in any indoor commencement facility is prohibited. Your admission to any of these facilities is conditional upon compliance with the above. The University reserves the right to refuse admission to, or remove, any person who violates this prohibition.

DEAR GRADUATES

Congratulations!

Today marks a milestone—a time to reflect, celebrate, and be proud of your many accomplishments, as well as look forward to a new beginning as a professional nurse.

This is an exciting time in health care, and nurses are leading many of the changes. Your academic achievement and the experiences you have gained at Penn State provide you with the potential to ultimately impact the lives of many and be part of shaping the future direction of health care. Grasp the many opportunities that lie ahead; be courageous in your approach to life and believe in yourself. You have already changed lives with your dedication and commitment to excellence.

You chose Penn State and we are so proud that you did. We know you will represent the best of Penn State Nursing. As you wear the nursing pin you will receive today, remember that your contributions to the profession symbolize the Penn State Nursing family.

As you begin the next part of your journey, you are not alone. You will join a group of Penn State Nursing alumni who provide expert care to clients and families, affect the health care delivery system through practice and research, and create policy that improves health care for all. Be inspired and motivated to embrace the profession of nursing. A rewarding career of lifelong opportunities awaits you.

On behalf of the faculty, staff, students, and alumni in the Ross and Carol Nese College of Nursing, we commend you on this graduation day and wish you the very best.



Laurie Badzek, LLM, JD, MS, RN, FNAP, FAAN
Dean and Professor,
Ross and Carol Nese College of Nursing



Raymonde A. Brown, PhD, RN, CNE
Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education,
Ross and Carol Nese College of Nursing



Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree Program

Academic Processional

Performed by Centre Brass

National Anthem

Led by Piper Weldon

The audience is asked to join in the singing.

Presiding

Justin Schwartz, BS, PhD

Executive Vice President and
Provost of the University

Laurie A. Badzek, LL.M, JD, MS, RN, FNAP, FAAN
Dean, Ross and Carol Nese
College of Nursing

Commencement Address

Stacey-Ann Okoth, BSN, MBA, MSN, DNP

System Senior Vice President and Associate
Chief Nursing Executive for Jefferson Health

Authorization to Confer Degrees

M. Abraham Harpster, BS

Member, Board of Trustees

Recognition of Meritorious Achievement

Dean Badzek

Recognition of Military Commissions and ROTC Student Marshal

Lieutenant Colonel Daniel Gross, United
States Army, Professor of Military Services

Recognition of Student Marshal

Dean Badzek

Conferral of Degrees

Provost Schwartz

Induction into Alumni Association

Lois Thompson, MSN, RN, CSN, FCN

President, Ross and Carol Nese College of
Nursing Alumni Society Board

Alma Mater

Led by Piper Weldon

The audience is asked to join in the singing.

Recessional

The audience will please remain seated.

Commencement Nomenclator

Raymonde Brown, PhD, RN, CNE

Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education

Commencement Speaker

Stacey-Ann Okoth, BSN, MBA, MSN, DNP

System Senior Vice President and Associate Chief Nursing Executive for Jefferson Health

Stacey-Ann Okoth is a highly accomplished leader with over two decades of experience in the healthcare industry. Okoth currently serves as the system senior vice president and associate chief nursing executive for Jefferson Health in Philadelphia where she has operations and strategic oversight of ambulatory care nursing in over 300 practices, care management across 18 hospitals, and patient family-centered care.

In addition to her operations and strategic work, Okoth is committed to advancing the field of nursing through education and research. She has served as an adjunct faculty member at several universities, where she taught and mentored the next generation of nursing professionals. Okoth has also published several articles that address important topics in nursing, such as health disparities amongst underserved maternal mothers and leveraging technology for patient-centered care.

Okoth is active in the American College of Healthcare Executives board for Central Pennsylvania where she serves as treasurer. She is also a member of the Penn State University Ross and Carol Nese College of Nursing Alumni Board, and is the membership chair of the Pennsylvania Organization of Nurse Leaders. She is a strong advocate for diversity and inclusion in healthcare and works tirelessly to ensure equitable access to care for all patients and employees, regardless of their background. In recognition of her contribution to the field of nursing, Okoth has received several awards and honors, including the Business Journal's 40 under 40 Award.

Okoth earned her BS in Nursing from Penn State University, her Bachelor's and Master of Business Administration degrees from Strayer University, her Master of Science in Nursing from Jacksonville University, and her Doctor of Nursing Practice from Old Dominion University.

Ross and Carol Nese College of Nursing Marshals



Student Marshal

Heather Orr from Littleton, Colorado is graduating with a 4.0 grade-point average. Earning a spot on the Dean's List seven times while majoring in nursing and minoring in human development and family studies, Orr has expressed deep appreciation for her role today as student marshal. She has been involved in a variety of organizations and the recipient of countless awards. She has received the President's Freshman Award, President Sparks Award, the Evan Pugh Junior and the Evan Pugh Senior Award. Further, she is the recipient of the Bunton-Waller Scholarship, Kuhner Renaissance Scholarship, Stephen R. Smith and Eileen Baumgarten Smith Scholarship and the Penn State Nursing Alumni Trustee Scholarship. Orr's student group membership includes the Student Nurses Association of Pennsylvania (SNAPS), Penn State THON Dancer Relations Committee, National Student Nurses Association (NSNA), and the Cedar Heights Community Small Group. Orr was a student nurse apprentice in the Norton Children's Hospital NICU ward. Upon graduation, Orr will assume a role at the Milton S. Hershey Medical Center in the Cancer Institute's In-patient Adult Oncology Unit. She also plans to pursue a graduate degree in nursing, with hopes to become a nurse educator. Orr will be escorted by the Ross and Carol Nese College of Nursing faculty marshal, Chris Garrison, associate teaching professor in nursing and simulation lab director.



ROTC Student Marshal

Megan Hale, from Red Lion, Pennsylvania, is graduating with a 4.0 grade-point average. For every semester throughout the course of her undergraduate career, she has garnered a spot on the Dean's List. She is the recipient of the President Sparks Award while also receiving a Fulton Scholarship and a Schumacher Trustee Scholarship. Hale has been involved in THON serving as a dancer relations committee member, dancer relations captain, entertainment captain and was a leader in coordinating the college's medical team. She was also involved in Volé Student Dance Organization.

Upon graduation, Hale will be commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army Reserve Nurse Corps. While serving in this capacity, Hale plans to pursue a career in pediatric nursing at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

The Ross and Carol Nese College of Nursing

The college's mission is to improve the health of all people in Pennsylvania, the nation, and the world by developing qualified nurse leaders at all levels of practice, developing nursing science related to health and health care, and providing nursing care to individuals, families, and communities. The college works to fulfill that mission through integrated programs of nursing education, research, scholarship, and outreach.

The Penn State Board of Trustees officially authorized the first undergraduate nursing program in 1964. That fall, twenty-two students were admitted to the program. Since then, the program has grown through the creation of a master's degree program in 1973, the introduction of a Ph.D. program in the late 1990s, and the launch in 2014 of Penn State's first online professional doctoral degree program, the doctor of nursing practice (D.N.P.), offered through Penn State World Campus.

In 1989, the trustees approved the creation of the School of Nursing from what had previously been a department within several Penn State colleges. The school became an independent academic unit in 2008 and was granted college status in 2013 with an organizational structure consistent with other Penn State colleges. In 2021, the college was the recipient of a transformational gift from Ross and Carol Nese, and in return, the University's Board of Trustees opted to recognize their generosity by renaming the college.

The college's research-intensive learning environment contributes to improving health care through nursing science. Interdisciplinary research with vulnerable populations is the hallmark of research conducted in the Ross and Carol Nese College of Nursing.

Today, the college annually enrolls more than 2,200 undergraduate students and 200 graduate students. More than 100 faculty members teach at twelve campus locations and online via Penn State World Campus where students can pursue a range of degree and certificate programs.

About the Nursing Program

Nursing offers worldwide opportunities for leadership in health care practice, research, and policy development. Nursing professionals are in demand in all areas of practice, including acute care, private practice, long-term care, and outpatient clinics. Penn State's undergraduate Nursing program incorporates a strong foundation of natural sciences, humanities, communications, and social and behavioral sciences. The curriculum includes courses in acute and chronic care as well as specialty care such as geriatrics, pediatrics, and obstetrics. Students obtain clinical experience in a variety of health care facilities, including local and regional medical centers such as Mount Nittany Medical Center, Penn State Health, and Milton S. Hershey Medical Center. The bachelor of science in nursing (B.S.N.) degree program is approved by the Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing and accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).

Program Notes

The B.S.N. degree is conferred after the satisfactory completion of eight semesters of study.

MILITARY COMMISSION: Students who have satisfactorily completed the advanced course in military, naval, or air science may be granted commissions upon graduation. Military and air science graduates are commissioned as second lieutenants; naval science graduates may be commissioned as ensigns in the Navy or second lieutenants in the Marine Corps.

HONORS GROUP: This group represents those students who are graduating with distinction (honors). They are divided into: Summa Cum Laude (top 2 percent), Magna Cum Laude (top 4 percent), and Cum Laude (top 6 percent). This list was produced April 15 as an unofficial list of graduating students earning honors.

EVAN PUGH SCHOLARS: The Evan Pugh Scholars are students who were in the upper 0.5 percent of their respective classes at the end of the semester. All have been full-time students for at least four semesters prior to selection.

SCHREYER HONORS COLLEGE: This is Penn State's University-wide honors program for academically exceptional students. The goals of the college are to provide an environment in which students of high ability and motivation can achieve their academic potential and develop as responsible civic leaders and global citizens. The curriculum is designed to challenge students, enrich and broaden their general education, and deepen their preparation for graduate study or a profession. A Schreyer Scholar's progress in her or his field of specialization is enhanced by special courses, independent study and research, graduate courses, honors option work in regular courses, and opportunities for informal discussion with faculty and prominent visitors to the campus. Honors degrees are awarded to those who successfully complete an honors thesis. Students graduating as Schreyer Scholars are noted with an asterisk (*).

Schreyer Scholars are wearing bronze medals on blue ribbons in recognition of their honors degree. The medals, designed by sculptor John A. Cook, professor emeritus in the College of Arts and Architecture, carry the inscription "intellectual curiosity • integrity of purpose • scholarly achievement."

Undergraduate Student Awards

Kyle Loose received the Ross and Carol Nese College of Nursing Alumni Society Undergraduate Student Service Award for graduating seniors who support the ideals of the college and the nursing profession by engaging in service activities that support individuals, families, or communities and foster the student nurse's personal and professional development.

Arianna Fauth received the Kim Gedney-Guzik Award presented annually to a student who excels clinically, exhibits strong academic qualifications, and shows emerging leadership attributes.

Samantha Anderson received the Beta Sigma Student Achievement Award, presented to those who are newly inducted members of Beta Sigma Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International and have maintained a grade-point average in the top one percent of his/her class.

Candidates For Degrees

This program contains the list of students who indicated their intent to graduate by the semester deadline. Students who indicated their intent to graduate after that date, or were approved to participate in commencement but have not completed all degree requirements, are not listed.

Subject to completion of all degree requirements and satisfaction of minimum criteria, distinction may be conferred as indicated upon the individuals listed herein and upon such others as may meet the requirements.

Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.) Degree Program

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Mandie Acey | Caroline Dupstadt |
| Oyinkansola Akanbi | Elena Eckenrode |
| Ashley Anello | Julia Eckroth ++ |
| Jinal Banker | Maniya Erdman ++ |
| Alyssa Barnett | Grace Ewing |
| Mary Barretta | Arianna Fauth +◇ |
| Grace Barth | Julia Flaim |
| Noelle Bedell | Michael Fleck |
| Nicole Bernstein | Mackenzie Gain +++ |
| Sarah Blady | Amanda Gallup |
| Sara Blair | Devon Gannon |
| Isabelle Blok | Sara Gleave |
| Meaghan Bornholdt ◇ | Toby Goldstein |
| Kerrie Bowden + | Delany Goodell |
| Tiffany Bruzda | Faith Goodman |
| Elyse Brzana | Rayaina Green |
| Neelia Caraang | Chloe Gulaskey |
| Skyeler Cella +++ | Vickie Gyden |
| Megan Chen | Sara Hagen + |
| Emily Chilcoat | Tyler Hagenbach |
| Margherita Ciarrocca | Megan Hale +++◇ |
| Jenna Cikowski | Alexandra Hammer |
| Madison Clemente | Catherine Hassett |
| Ashley Cucchiara | Mya Haynes |
| Josephine Currie | Haley Hertzog |
| Alexis Danish +++ | Siera Hicks |
| Alaina Davis + | Philippa Holtforster |
| Olivia Davis +++ | Annabelle Huckerby +++(1) |
| Olivia Debski ++ | Leslie Inskeep |
| Ashley Deck | Katherine Jackovic |
| Emily DeMarshall | Ethan Jones |
| Hannah DeVito + | Kayla Joseph |
| Brianna Dinsmore | Everly Kase |
| Julia Downs | Alicia Khatchadourian |
| Marissa Dunlap | Marianne Kulick |
| Nicole Dunn | Katelyn LaFaver ++ |

Sarah Lattimer +
 Katherine Lee
 Lydia Lewis
 Alyssa Linde
 Hannah Lochan
 Karin Long
 Kyle Loose
 Rachel Loose
 Megan Marano +
 Dominica Marciano
 Katherine Mardirossian++
 Caroline Marrone ◊
 Jessica Matthews
 Mackenzie Mazur
 Alexis McClure *
 Megan Meehan
 Charlotte Meyer
 Haley Minnear *
 Taylor Morosetti +
 Andrew Nakamura
 Anna Neal ++
 Riley Noga ++(1)
 Abrielle Nolan
 Catherine Olivier
 Jenna Olsakowski +
 Heather Orr ++
 Alanna Ortiz
 Nicole Ortona
 Lauren Pague
 Emily Parry
 Gabrielle Perseghin
 Oscarina Pichardo
 Madalyn Powers
 Kiran Prabhakar
 Madison Proulx ++
 Anna Rath
 Brooke Rossi *+
 Lucy Rumberger
 Sabina Ryan
 Anne Salva ◊
 Carsyn Schafer
 Kara Seiger
 Paige Seitam +
 Sydney Shute
 Kailee Smith
 Kelly Snyder *+

Kyle Spedden
 Tiffany Stewart
 Heather Stolarz
 Kah'sier Taylor-Dickey
 Abigail Tevis ++
 Nana Traore
 Mary Tshudy
 Ryane Twobulls
 Rebecca Updegraff
 Logan Vitalos
 Emily Walker
 Jayla Wilkins
 Erin Woltemate
 Mitchell Wytovich

Ross and Carol Nese College of Nursing Alumni Society

We invite all new graduates to join the Ross and Carol Nese College of Nursing Alumni Society. One of the newest college alumni societies under the Penn State Alumni Association, the Ross and Carol Nese College of Nursing Alumni Society helps graduates stay connected with one another, the Ross and Carol Nese College of Nursing, and the Penn State community at large.

We engage alumni, students, faculty, and staff through various programs such as the Shirley Novosel Distinguished Nursing Alumni Award and Student Service Awards, the Mentoring Program, tailgates, Spring Alumni Weekend, and regional networking events.

You automatically become a member of the Ross and Carol Nese College of Nursing Alumni Society when you join the Penn State Alumni Association (first year is free) and select the Ross and Carol Nese College of Nursing as your affiliated college.

We look forward to having you join us!

alumni.psu.edu/newalumni

* Schreyer Scholar
 + Cum Laude
 ++ Magna Cum Laude
 +++ Summa Cum Laude
 (1) Evan Pugh Scholar

Military Commissions
 ◊ U.S. Army
 ◊◊ U.S. Navy

This publication is available in alternative media on request.

The University is committed to equal access to programs, facilities, admission, and employment for all persons. It is the policy of the University to maintain an environment free of harassment and free of discrimination against any person because of age, race, color, ancestry, national origin, religion, creed, service in the uniformed services (as defined in state and federal law), veteran status, sex, sexual orientation, marital or family status, pregnancy, pregnancy-related conditions, physical or mental disability, gender, perceived gender, gender identity, genetic information, or political ideas. Discriminatory conduct and harassment, as well as sexual misconduct and relationship violence, violates the dignity of individuals, impedes the realization of the University's educational mission, and will not be tolerated. Direct all inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policy to Dr. Kenneth Lehrman III, Vice Provost for Affirmative Action, Affirmative Action Office, The Pennsylvania State University, 328 Boucke Building, University Park, PA 16802-5901; Email: kfl2@psu.edu; Tel 814-863-0471.

U.Ed. NUR 22-73 MPC 153261



WELCOME TO THE PRIDE!

Congratulations on your graduation, and welcome to the Penn State Alumni Association —the largest and most powerful alumni network in the world.

New graduates receive a **complimentary one-year membership** in the Penn State Alumni Association. As you enter the pride, you'll join the ranks of alumni who keep their connection to Penn State strong through membership. We encourage you to stay connected and learn more about the 30+ benefits that are included with your membership

Membership materials, including your membership card, will be mailed to you after graduation. Benefits are available to you immediately upon receiving your membership card.

Exclusive Member Benefits

CAREER AND EDUCATION



- **Alumni Career Services:** Attend premium Alumni Career Service events for free or at a substantial discount.
- **Discounts on Kaplan Test Preparation Services**
- **Alumni Library Online:** Exclusive access to Penn State Libraries Digitized Collections and University library databases.

NETWORKING AND EVENTS



Make new **connections**, reconnect with classmates and friends, have **new experiences**, and be enriched by participating in the world's largest **alumni network**.

DISCOUNTS



Members receive **access to discounts** including merchandise at Penn State Bookstore campus locations; access to discounted health, auto, renters, home, life, long-term care, and pet insurance; and more national and local discounts.

Additional benefits include early invitations to Alumni Association events, access to the Alumni Directory, publications including the Penn Stater magazine, and much more!

