

Commencement

SPRING SEMESTER 2024



ROSS AND CAROL NESE COLLEGE OF NURSING

Saturday, May 4, 2024

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 2024

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING DEGREE

Saturday, May 4, 2024

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

National Anthem

The audience is asked to join in the singing.

Presiding

Neeli Bendapudi, PhD
Penn State President

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

Commencement Address

Judith E. Hupcey, EdD, CRNP, FAAN
Associate Dean for Research and Innovation
Professor of Nursing, Medicine, and Bioethics

Authorization to Confer Degrees

Valerie Detwiler, BS
Member, Board of Trustees

Recognition of Meritorious Achievement

Dean Badzek

Recognition of Military Commissions and ROTC Student Marshal

Captain Michael Majewski,
United States Navy

Recognition of Student Marshal

Dean Badzek

Conferral of Degrees

President Neeli Bendapudi

Induction into Alumni Association

Lois Thompson, MSN, RN, CSN, FCN
President, Ross and Carol Nese College of
Nursing Alumni Society Board

Alma Mater

The audience is asked to join in the singing.

Recessional

The audience will please remain seated.

Commencement Nomenclator

Chris Garrison, PhD, RN, CNE, CHSE
Associate Teaching Professor,
Simulation Lab Director

Commencement Speaker

Judith E. Hupcey, EdD, CRNP, FAAN

Associate Dean for Research & Innovation;
Professor of Nursing, Medicine & Bioethics

Judy Hupcey is a highly accomplished nurse researcher and educator. Having served as the associate dean for research and innovation, while also holding faculty roles as a professor of nursing, medicine, and bioethics, her work as administrator within the Ross and Carol Nese College of Nursing has made an undeniable impact. Before her current role, Hupcey served as an associate dean for graduate education culminating in nearly 15 years of administrative leadership.

During her leadership term, Hupcey was instrumental in developing the college's first Nurse Practitioner/Family Nurse Practitioner (NP/FNP) program in 1993, the first online Nurse Educator and Nurse Administrator graduate programs, adult-gerontology primary care and acute care NP programs, and the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree program, Penn State's second professional doctoral program and first online doctoral program.

Her research portfolio is equally as impressive, having explored the bounds of our knowledge and practices related to patients and caregivers at end-of-life stages, family support of critically ill patients, and palliative care needs of heart failure patients and families. She has been awarded over \$4 million in funding for various research projects and served as a principal investigator on a Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Project (GWEP). The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) awarded \$3.75 million to support the project's research aim of delivering age-friendly health care to rural populations in Pennsylvania.

Hupcey is a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing and a Columbia University, Teachers College Hall of Fame Inductee, among many other accolades. She received her bachelor of science in nursing (BSN), master of science in nursing (MSN), master of education (Ed.M.) and doctor of education (Ed.D.) in nursing education all from Columbia University.

Hupcey will begin the next phase of her life as she enters retirement in July 2024.

Ross and Carol Nese

College of Nursing Marshals



Student Marshal

Maeve Riley, daughter of Matthew and Julie Riley, from Phoenixville, Pennsylvania is graduating with a 4.0 grade-point average. Earning a spot on the Dean's List seven times, Riley has expressed deep appreciation for her role today as student marshal. She's been involved in a variety of organizations and is the recipient

of the Beta Sigma Student Award. Riley has served on the member experience committee for Pi Beta Phi Fraternity for Women, she's a member of the Student Nurses Association of Penn State, and she has participated in THON since her first year at Penn State. Riley held a nurse extern role at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia during the summer of 2023, and she will return to the hospital upon graduation to assume a position pursuing her passion for pediatric nursing. Riley will be escorted by the Ross and Carol Nese College of Nursing faculty marshal, Alaina Smelko, instructor of nursing.

ROTC Student Marshal



Freda Smit, daughter of Jasper and Heidi Smit, from Hopewell Junction, New York is graduating with a 3.98 grade-point average. While majoring in nursing with a minor in Spanish and a certificate in forensic nursing, Smit has earned a spot on the Dean's List eight times. She has served as a research assistant where she coded qualitative data

for a study focused on HIV/AIDS prevention in victims of sexual assault. The recipient of numerous awards and honors, Smit is a WE LEAD Leadership Academy Honoree, Project Global Scholar and Critical Language Scholarship finalist. She is the recipient of the Daughters of the American Revolution ROTC Award, Frederick Brooks Hubbel Award, Pleasant Gap American Legion Nursing Award. Her volunteer work spans a variety of organizations including, Lifelink PSU, Nese College of Nursing Student Ambassador, and roles with THON as their Outreach Chair and Family Relations Specialist. Smit's ROTC accolades include serving as the Platoon Commander in 2023 and an Administrative Officer in 2024. Smit expressed her sincerest gratitude for being named the college's ROTC Student Marshal. Upon graduation, Smit will be commissioning in the U.S. Navy in the Naval Nurse Corps at Walter Reed Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. Smit hopes to gain more experience in women's health initiatives and participate in humanitarian and disaster relief deployments.

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 PhD 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 (DNP), 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 (BSN) degree program is approved by the Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing and accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).

Program Notes

The BSN 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

Sarah McCloskey and Sarabeth Miner both 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.

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

Maeve Riley and Aidan McCleery both 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 (BSN) Degree Program

Christina Angelo	Laken Fry
Nyah Banks	Randelle Yvon Garcia
Molly Barvainis	Alyse Gill Hill
Paige Blankenhorn	Anthony Giordano
Lauren Boccardi	Olivia Giovannini
Anthony Bombas	Gia Giudice
Kathleen Bradley +	Emma Haas
Alexa Breisch +	Haley Habrack
Caroline Brown	Lindsey Hare
Lindsey Brown ++	Levi Heimbaugh ◊
Jamie Caine ◊	Emily Heintzelman
Cassandra Cantemir +	Madison Hersh
Ching Lam Julia Chan	Carly Hickey
Margo Cherry ++	Robert Hileman
Jacqueline Chiqui	Jessica Holgado
Karin Chisom	Zheng Yan Huang
Calista Combs ++	Tyler Kealey
Liana Craig	Luke Kemkes
Alex Dampman +++	Elizabeth Klapac
Samantha Darrup	Mamadi Kromah
Jenna Davidson	Miranda Lagos
Laura Davis	Alexandra Lake
Elizabeth DeMarco +◊◊	Catherine Lake
Jillian Demcher	Bao Le
Sofia Dinardi +	Genevieve LeFevre *+
Camille Donahue	Michelle Ley
Rachel Donten +++	Zachary Longa-Assante
Elizabeth Ea	Sofia Ludwig +
Sophia Erb	Justin Magrowski
Cassandra Everly	Rachel Marano
Leah Fagan	Makayla Marmo
Caitlin Fassnacht	Julia Martin +
Luke Finestone +	Ava Matarese
Meghan Fitzgerald	Hannah Mathews
Arlene Flanders	Grace Matte
Michelle Forrest	Paige Mayer
Megan Frei	Aidan McCleery +++

Sarah McCloskey ++
 Kasey McMahon
 Alexis McMinn +
 Julia Meder
 Danielle Mehlmann *
 Hannah Miller
 Abigail Mintz
 Kelly Mischler
 Hannah Moyer
 Cheri Mull
 Breanna Munoz
 Paige Murphy ++
 Emily Nolen
 Alexa Novack +++
 Lauren O'Brien +
 Jayoung Oh
 Marcella Ortolan
 Ella Palmieri
 Emma Paris +
 Matthew Poblano
 Cassidy Podlogar
 Christina Potestio
 Harley Rahuba
 Gabrielle Reese
 Julia Reiland
 Ashley Richardson
 Hannah Richardson +
 Maeve Riley +++
 Caitlyn Rodgers
 Angeliyah Rodriguez
 Shelby Rosenberger
 Vivian Santiago Anaya
 Josalyn Scarberry
 Sydney Schaffer
 Kennedy Schuler
 Jessika Shell
 LauraElena Siqueira De
 Novaes Franco *
 Freda Smit +++
 McKenna Smith +
 Julia Snyder
 Bridget Spence ++
 Grace Stampien
 Bailey Sturtz
 Gabrielle Tierney
 Delaney Tofil +
 Fabiola Valdez-Perez
 Kelsey Venda

Cailin Wagoner
 Emma Whitaker
 Faith Wieman
 Rilyn Wisloski
 Nanda Zheng *
 Zachary Zotti ◊

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.

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You're a Lion for life...



**PennState
Alumni Association**

...and you belong in the Alumni Association.

Congratulations on your graduation! You've earned your place in the largest and most powerful alumni network in the world.

The Penn State Alumni Association connects you to the global community of more than 775,000 Penn Staters and keeps your connection to Dear Old State strong. It also includes more than 30 benefits, including exclusive discounts, access to our local chapters, and members-only networking and career services.

Watch the mail for your welcome kit and make the most of your complimentary one-year membership.

Benefits of Belonging



**Local
Connections**



**LionPerks
Discounts**



**Career
Resources**



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