

The 39th Annual Commencement

The College of Health
Related Professions

and

The College of Nursing

of

SUNY Downstate
Medical Center

Half-Past Seven
Thursday Evening, May 25, 2006
Carnegie Hall • New York City, New York

The Music Program

Precommencement Musicale

Works by J. S. Bach, A. Banchieri, G. Gabrieli, J. Pezel, and A. Scarlatti played by The Physicians' Brass Ensemble of New York—Daniel Repole, M.A., conductor; Benjamin A. Rosenberg*, M.D., '50, music chairman. Horn: Eric Davis. Trombones: George Zorko (Tenor), Benjamin A. Rosenberg (Tenor/Bass, also Bass Trumpet). Trumpets: Anthony Bavota, Joseph Kaminski, and Joseph Schufle (also Piccolo Trumpets).

*Founding Director 1972

Processional

Coronation March from *The Prophet* (1849, G. Meyerbeer)

Trumpet Tune (1696, J. Clarke)

March from *Dramico per Musica* (1726, J. S. Bach)

Triumphal March from *Aida* (1871, G. Verdi)

Pomp and Circumstance No. 1 (1901, E. Elgar)

National Anthem

Karla Simmons (Soloist)

Recessional

Rondeau (1729, J. J. Mouret)

Trumpet Voluntary (1700, J. Clarke)

“See the Conquering Hero Comes” from *Judas Maccabeus* (1746, G. F. Handel)

Turkish March from *The Ruins of Athens* (1812, L.V. Beethoven)

March Militaire (1825, F. Schubert)

Promenade from *Pictures at an Exhibition* (1874, M. Moussorgsky)

We would like to thank the following groups for their assistance in organizing this year's commencement ceremony: Office of the President, Division of Student Affairs, Deans' Offices, Institutional Advancement, Office of Student Life, Office of University Police/Public Safety, and all the people who have given freely of themselves to enrich this year's graduation.

The Commencement Program

Presiding Marshal

Joyce Sabari, PhD, OTR
*Associate Professor and Chairperson
Occupational Therapy Program
College of Health Related Professions*

Processional

(Audience, please rise for the Processional.)

Opening Remarks

John C. LaRosa, MD, FACP
President

Greetings from the Deans

Dawn Morton-Rias, EdD, PD, PA-C
*Assistant Professor and Dean
College of Health Related Professions*

Daisy Cruz-Richman, PhD, RN
Dean, College of Nursing

Greetings from the Graduates

Joanne Tzanos
*College of Health Related Professions
Class of 2006*

Vanessa E. Tavarez
College of Nursing, Class of 2006

Presentation and Conferring of the Honorary Degrees

John C. LaRosa, MD, FACP
Daisy Cruz-Richman, PhD, RN

Honorary Degree Recipients

Linda H. Aiken, PhD, FAAN, FRCN, RN
Vice Admiral Richard H. Carmona, MD,
MPH, FACS

Commencement Address

Vice Admiral Richard H. Carmona, MD,
MPH, FACS

College of Health Related Professions

Presentation of Candidates

Dawn Morton-Rias, EdD, PD, PA-C

Conferring of Degrees

John C. LaRosa, MD, FACP

Awarding of Diplomas

John C. LaRosa, MD, FACP
Dawn Morton-Rias, EdD, PD, PA-C

College of Nursing

Presentation of Candidates

Daisy Cruz-Richman, PhD, RN

Conferring of Degrees

John C. LaRosa, MD, FACP

Awarding of Diplomas

John C. LaRosa, MD, FACP
Daisy Cruz-Richman, PhD, RN

Closing Remarks and Administration of the Oath of Professional Practice

John C. LaRosa, MD, FACP

Recessional

*(Audience: Please rise and remain standing until the
graduates have left the hall.)*

College of Health Related Professions

Bachelor of Science

Diagnostic Medical Imaging

Annabelle Ainehsazan
Dionne Indira Boreland
Ethel M. Duncker
Douglas C. Dunstatter
Caren Hirsch
Helen Ruth Holtz
Valentina Iaremko
Enoho Inweh
Carol Jno-Charles
Tatsiana Kofman
Erica Mikhli
Frieda Mirzakandov
Mariana Yeroshalmi Naim
Hang T. Nguyen
Esther Platnick
Avi R. Ramsarup
Ingreed Marie Rateau
Ariella Rothstein-Bakst
Sherry Orly Sosnow-Paritzky
Rechelle Rivka Stern
Svetlana Tabakhman
Nechama Weinberg

Physician Assistant

Yocheved R. Bergman
Dara L. Bernstein
Shannon Marie Cahill
Kenroy Livingston Campbell
Stella Chalouh
Inna Chernoglaz
Yuliya Dekhtyar
Lori Ann Friedman
Barry Coleman Greenfield
Natalia Ilionsky
Marzena Jablonska
Roxann Deborah Kinlock
Tao Liu
Andrea Marva Luncheon-
Hilliman
Gulya Matayeva
Anayo Godwin Mbadugha
AnnMarie McDougall
Ramon Mendez
Zahava Miller
Teri Mittelman
Pauline Muscat
Charles Okeugo
Dewang H. Rawal
Ronit Shabtian

Marc Bradley Strimpell

Marianna Torre
Joanne Tzanos
Rhonda C. White
Janine Yonina Whiteman
Josh Jiaxiong Yin

Bachelor of Science Health Sciences

and

Master of Science

Physical Therapy
James Antoine
Loraine Annmarie Antoine
Robin Brickman
Anthony De Sena
Angelina Y. Gordon
Rochelle Katzper
Tehila B. Lazarus
Anna Meyerzon
Yisroel Meir Pupko
Ramon Fernando Rosales
Elan Schneider
Sandy Torres
Anthony Michael Yorio

Master of Science

Medical Informatics

Galina Avetisyan
Catherine McCabe Calacanis
Tiffany Annie Daniels
Binu Nair
Omolara Joy Oluwafemi
Beatrice Pierre
Ramlochand Singh
Olubunmi O. Sonde
Dottie D. Tyson
Alexandra Velnik
Janet D. Williams

Midwifery

Katharine Delano Aldrich
Kathleen New DiMaggio
Shelley Hong
Danielle Marie Irizarry
Suzanne Yvonne Louis-
Reddick
Roberto Rauda
Emory Jana Ship

Occupational Therapy

Michelle Cohen
Nadine Isaka Cohen
Shari Rebecca Donner
Zahava L. Friedman
Shoshana Bracha Goldwag
Lori Lynette Hadar
Olga Khazanova
Rina Lazerowitz

Michael R. Leipsner
Sora Rivka Mandel
Stacey-Ann Meade
Esther Malka Mittelman
Penina Rachel Neiman
Anthony Curtis Peters
Konstantin Pigulsky
Mariya Rachel Reznik
Chana R. Rivkin
Alana E. Shaw
Melissa Anne Spinelli
Yaffa Strassfeld
Stacey Tamir
Cheryl Tannenbaum
Michelle B. Tobias
Caryn Dana Wesley
Ariella S. Wiener
Miriam Leah Wiesel

College of Nursing

Bachelor of Science

Nursing

Elena Agassi
Foluke Adesola Akinola
Marie Carmel Alexis
Chikodi Kelechi Alozie
Debra Ann-Marie Ambrose
Judy Auguste
Swonia Marie Austin
Barbara Auxais
Yvonne Yvette Balgrove
Joseph Ebel Belange
Mary Magdalene Belfon
Anne Bretagne Boubert
Aleksandr Brodskiy
Medjin Calas
Karen Elizabeth Campbell
Marlene Munroe Cooper
Mildred Daniels-Ball
Patricia Elizabeth
Debarros
Gail Deonarine
Marie Stuart Durand
Samantha Cleopatra
English-Cameron
Helen O. Enigbonjaye
Alison F. Erskine
Heather M. Evans-Tracey
Lucille Fenelon
Veronica Anita Fenton
Guerdy Fevrin
Samuel Vincent Flores
Ann Lucille Frederick
Susan Rachel Georges
Jacqueline Ann Gibbons
Shirley Keturah Grant
Cheryl L. Greenidge

Erica Laverne Gumbs
Audrey Yvette Harris
Beverley E. Harris-Casey
Lystra Harrison
Debbie Inniss
Davika Enid James
Valerie Patricia James
Simmone Alicia James-
Hamilton
Lovelyne Jean
Charmaine R. Jean-
Baptiste
Fiona M. Johnson
Vanya Ina Jones
Venise Jones
Kim Joseph
Zerena Bibi Khan
Sandra Hope-Marie
Ledford
Lecia Leecheegoin
Denise Kelly-Ann
Marshall
Sara S. Martinez
Tracey-Ann Martin-Miller
Jonelle Samantha Mc Meo
Kafi Yolanda McIntosh
Linda Marie McKenna
Tonya Tarelle Meredith
Emily I. Mezue
Paul Francis Morgana
Kerwin Dominick Napoles
Patricia Ifeoma Nebedum
Eula Mae Nelson
Marsha Ann Nelson
Sandra Nestor
Susan Newell-Adams
Jennifer Curline Noble
Susan A. Nutakor-Doh
Modupeola Silifat Olawale

Barbara Cecilia Orosco
Amalia Per
Ruby Michelle Phareau
Jan Lasaunta Phillips
Merle Eloise Pike
Robin Natasha Prince
Alexandra Prophete
Priscilla Rahmer
Hardai Rampersaud
Kristy E. Richard
Robyn Patrice Richardson
Marcia Ricketts
Alicia Angella Roberts
Marcia Ayanna Rutherford
Stacey Maria Samuels
Adunola Margret Sawyerr
Margalie Simon
Priscilla Mary Skinner
Andriana Patricia Stephen
Norma Sally-Ann Taylor
Janet Enright Thomas
Joanne Thomas
Julian Rosemarie
Thompson
Olga Tsybulevskiy
Rose Chinwe Ubanwa
Elaine M. Wade
Merle B. Warren
Ronda Amanda
Washington
Kaydean M. West
Riggi Mariamma Wilsant
Janet O. Yee

Accelerated Nursing
Carinna Clair Abitbol
Geriann Agtaguem
Elsie Alcious
Stanley Augustin

Tamara Babushkin
Janine Denise Browne
Nicole Shelly Chapman
Christine Elaine Dimayuga
Michelle Lillian Duggins
Kara Capers Ffrench
Catherine Scott Finlayson
Olivia Flores
Sarah Y. Fuchs
Alexis Carmena Hansa
Gabriele
Korkoh-jah Mamiedee
George
Lisa J. Gillard
Susan Green
Akosua Anane Gyasi
William Joseph Higgins
Lisa Marie Johnson
Natan Katserman
Ayelet Rachel
Katzenelenbogen
Carol A. Knapp
Natalia Kulakova
Adrial Addison Lobelo
Stephanie Cheryl Ludwig
Liliya Lyubomirsky
Darlene Yvette Maith
Dorothy J. Malique
John Mandros
Alison McKiegan
Keeley Ryan McNamara
Lilian Chinwe Nnaka
Edna Nneka Okonkwo
Lori A. Reyes
Anna Rubinova
Kenneth Winston Sayers

Sabrina Susan Schiaffino
Eliza Patricia Schub
Stephen John Simoni
Francys Eloisa Simons
Claudette Lurane Smith
Erwin Diniega Tangonan
Christopher Lee Van
Groningen
Marjahna Corinne Vickers

Master of Science

Nursing
(Adult Track-Clinical
Nurse Specialist)
Claudette Hope McLeod
Clinton George Morgan
Renee Maria Powell

Family Nurse Practitioner
Jacqueline Stigall Dorward
Nativida Etienne-Chapman
Kathleen James
Gabrielle Joseph
Ednah Ndidi Madu
Kathy M. McCallion
Odelia Victoria McSween
Svetlana Pyatigorskaya
Susan Marie Quinn-Torpey
Dionne Melissa Richmond
Andrea Beth Ross
Guylene Sebili
Vanessa Eliezer Tavaréz
Nelly Yvette Vega

Nurse Anesthesia
Temitope Omoyemi
Ajibade
Melissa Ann Day
Ivelca De Las Nueces
Michael Alexander Evard
Lila Figueroa
Frank T. Furio
Dominic Succour Gomes
Brian Robert Healey
Nina R. Joseph
Evelyn Maria Kleiber
Wayne Kwami Paul-Bazil
Marco V. Perez
Nancy Perez-Gabriel
David Reed
Elaine Riano
Wendi N. Rubinowitz
Eric B. Sarpong
Lyda A. Shambo
Hugh Johnson Sharp
Stacey Ann Tubridy
Timothy Nathaniel
Woodward
Pete Crawford Young
Jongmin Yun

Nurse Midwifery
Alexandrina Eudelle
Charlene Andrea Glasgow

Advanced Certificate

Family Nurse Practitioner
Jean Eudean Straker

Honorary Degree Recipient

Doctor of Humane Letters:
Linda H. Aiken, PhD, FAAN, FRCN, RN

A leader in nursing education and health workforce and outcomes research, Linda H. Aiken is widely considered to be among the most influential figures in healthcare today. For 30 years she has been at the forefront of health outcomes research that has paved the way for legislation and policies that benefit nursing and improve patient safety.

Dr. Aiken is the Claire M. Fagin Leadership Professor of Nursing and director of the Center for Health Outcomes and Policy Research at the University of Pennsylvania. She is also professor of sociology, a senior fellow at the university's Leonard Davis Institute for Health Economics, and a research associate at the Population Studies Center.

A graduate of the University of Florida at Gainesville, where she received both her bachelor's and master's degrees in nursing, Dr. Aiken went on to earn her doctorate in sociology and demography from the University of Texas at Austin. Before assuming her current position at the University of Pennsylvania, she established a record of achievement as vice president of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the nation's largest foundation providing funding for health and healthcare services.

During her 15-year tenure at the Foundation, she spearheaded several major studies, including research that produced important health reforms, such as Medicare coverage for hospice care and legislation protecting the elderly. Her ground-breaking research on the effects of hospital staffing levels on nurse burnout sounded an early warning of the consequences a critical nursing shortage could have on patient care.

A strong proponent of higher education for RNs, Dr. Aiken has urged that the federal government provide more funding for nursing education. Her research shows that patients do better when cared for by nurses who have a bachelor's degree or better. One influential study demonstrated that when hospitals hired more nurses with bachelor's degrees and the nurse-to-patient ratio improved, patient mortality dropped dramatically. In a recent interview, she reiterated her belief that "having a nurse workforce with higher education is in the public's interest and in the interest of employers."

Dr. Aiken is a former president of the American Academy of Nursing and a current member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences. She has received many top honors, including the Ernest Codman Award from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.

Honorary Degree Recipient and Commencement Speaker

Doctor of Humane Letters:

Vice Admiral Richard H. Carmona, MD, MPH, FACS

Vice Admiral Richard H. Carmona is the 17th Surgeon General of the United States. A decorated war veteran, surgeon, police officer, teacher, healthcare executive—and the first Surgeon General to be a trained nurse—Dr. Carmona is the nation’s chief spokesperson on public health.

Dr. Carmona’s personal life history follows the classic rags-to-riches arc of the American dream. Born and raised in Spanish Harlem, he was a high school drop-out at 17. With few career prospects, he enlisted in the armed services and earned an Army GED, along with several medals for bravery in Vietnam as a member of the U.S. Special Forces.

Following active duty, he resumed his education, first as a student at Bronx Community College and later at the University of California at San Francisco, where he earned both his undergraduate degree and MD, graduating at the top of his class. He later received an MPH degree in health policy and administration from the University of Arizona and served as clinical professor in public health, surgery, and family and community medicine.

Before being named Surgeon General in 2002, Dr. Carmona held a wide range of medical positions: as head of Arizona’s Southern Regional Emergency Medical System; director of the state’s Department of Public Safety Air Rescue Unit; police surgeon and SWAT-training officer; and as an expert in bioterrorism preparedness and response.

As Surgeon General, Dr. Carmona has shown a strong commitment to improving the health of underserved communities and promoting disease prevention programs throughout the country. Recognizing that many conditions are inherited, he has made free software available to help family members track down medical information about their parents and close relatives. His other major campaigns include smoking cessation, improving children’s health and the welfare of the physically disabled, osteoporosis prevention, and team-building initiatives.

Though he has received numerous honors and awards during his extraordinary career, Dr. Carmona has never forgotten how he got his start. “I have had a number of jobs in my life,” he says, “but there are few experiences that have made me a better person, a better leader, and a better surgeon general than being an RN.”

SUNY Downstate Medical Center

SUNY Downstate Medical Center, formally known as the State University of New York Health Science Center at Brooklyn, is one of four academic health centers within the 64-unit State University of New York. Located on an urban campus in the East Flatbush section of Brooklyn, SUNY Downstate, a major research center, includes the College of Medicine, School of Graduate Studies, College of Nursing, College of Health Related Professions, Master of Public Health Program, and University Hospital of Brooklyn.

Over its history, the institution has undergone several name changes. Initially chartered as the teaching division of Long Island College Hospital, it was renamed The Long Island College of Medicine in 1931. The “Downstate” era began on April 5, 1950, when a merger contract was signed with the newly constituted State University of New York. The College of Nursing and College of Health Related Professions were founded in 1966 in recognition of the critical need for multi-disciplinary health-care professionals. This year they celebrate their 40th anniversaries.

Today, SUNY Downstate is the focal point of a health education network that encompasses 30 hospitals. It has a total student body of 1,500, a faculty of 4,755 (including full-time, part-time, and voluntary), and support staff of 3,182 who study and work on its 13-acre campus. In 1998, one of its researchers, Dr. Robert F. Furchgott, received the Nobel Prize in Medicine.

Philosophy of Health Care Professional Training

“To Learn-To Search-To Serve”

That is the motto of the State University of New York and the mission of SUNY Downstate. As an urban medical center that is part of a large public university system, SUNY Downstate is keenly aware of its special obligation for public service and is a vital contributor to the health-care needs of its community. SUNY Downstate provides an atmosphere of scientific scholarship designed to inspire students to observe, analyze, and interpret scientific and social phenomena in a systematic manner. Collaboration among the health professions helps develop the community health-care concepts needed to deal with the health and social needs of a changing society.

Faculty Serving as Marshals

Nellie Bailey, EdD, RN, CS Clinical Associate Professor and Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs,
College of Nursing

Robert Chamberlain, MA Assistant Professor, Medical Informatics Program, College of Health Related Professions

Barbara Kitchener, MA, RN Lecturer, College of Nursing

Aleida Llanes-Oberstein, MS, CNM Clinical Assistant Professor, Midwifery Program, College of Health
Related Professions

Teresa Miller, MS, PT Clinical Assistant Professor, Physical Therapy Program, College of Health Related Professions

Rena Mitchell, MS, CHES, RPA-C Clinical Assistant Professor and Acting Chairperson, Physician Assistant
Program, College of Health Related Professions

Yvonne Nathan, EdD, RN Assistant Professor, Director of the RN/BS Program, College of Nursing

Deverel Paterson, RDMS Clinical Assistant Professor, Diagnostic Medical Imaging Program, College of Health
Related Professions

Joyce Sabari, PhD, OTR Associate Professor and Chairperson, Occupational Therapy Program, College of Health
Related Professions

Laila Sedhom, PhD, RN Professor and Associate Dean of Graduate Programs, College of Nursing

Annette Siegel, MS, RN Assistant Professor, College of Nursing

SUNY Board of Trustees

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John R. Ryan, Vice Admiral USN (Ret.)
Chancellor, State University of New York

John J. O'Connor, MS
Vice Chancellor and Secretary of the University

Oath of Professional Practice

As a member of the graduating classes of the College of Health Related Professions and the College of Nursing,

I solemnly pledge my commitment to the faithful practice of my profession and the provision of high-quality health-care services with honesty, integrity, and dedication.

I recognize and value human diversity and will provide individualized services for all who seek my care.

I will hold as my primary responsibility the health, safety, welfare, and dignity of all human beings.

I will hold in confidence the information shared in the course of my professional service.

I will accept responsibility for my actions and uphold the standards of my profession.

I will actively seek to expand my knowledge and skills as I engage in lifelong learning.

I will use my experiences to contribute to an improved community.

My functions and goals are based upon my commitment to the improvement of health-care delivery and service for all those in need of the skills of my profession.

I make these commitments freely and with honor.