

The 37th Annual Commencement

The College of Health
Related Professions

and

The College of Nursing

of

SUNY Downstate
Medical Center

Half-Past Seven
Monday Evening, May 24, 2004
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: Jeanine Gilson. Trombones: George Zorko (Tenor), Benjamin A. Rosenberg (Tenor/Bass, also Bass Trumpet). Trumpets: Anthony Bavota, Joseph Kaminski, and Joseph Schuffe (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
Isaac Topor, Ed.D., RHIA
*Associate Professor and Chairman,
Medical Informatics Program*

Processional
(Audience, please rise for the Processional.)

Opening Remarks
John C. LaRosa, MD, FACP
President

Greetings from the Deans
Dawn Morton-Rias, PD, PA-C
*Assistant Professor and Dean,
College of Health Related Professions*

Daisy Cruz-Richman, PhD, RN
*Clinical Associate Professor and Dean,
College of Nursing*

Greetings from the Graduates
Beverley O. Chang
*College of Health Related Professions
Class of 2004*

Nkiru C. Onyenwe
*College of Nursing
Class of 2004*

Presentation of the Honorary Degree
Daisy Cruz-Richman, PhD, RN

Conferring of the Honorary Degree
John C. LaRosa, MD, FACP

Honorary Degree Recipient
Geraldine Bednash, PhD, RN, FAAN

Commencement Address
Geraldine Bednash, PhD, RN, FAAN

College of Health Related Professions

Presentation of Candidates
Dawn Morton-Rias, PD, PA-C

Conferring of Degrees
John C. LaRosa, MD, FACP

Awarding of Diplomas
John C. LaRosa, MD, FACP
Program Chairpersons

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
Tatyana Amchentseva
Kimberly F. Asencio
Stella Azayeva
Irena Belenky
Henry Ngo Chua
Rivkah L. Farkas
Freda Tamara Granderson-
Mareus
Marina Khavkina
Jaklin Kohanbash
Chi Kwan Leung
Zhen Ni
Svetlana Radionova
Josianne Saint-Vil
Chana Shafran
Alejandro Williams, Jr.

Physician Assistant
Flory Angeles
Yana Azaryev
Vesta V. Bascom
Kristi C. Benjamin
Linda Anwar Bissada
Orland Kenton Boucher
Beverley O. Chang
Esther Kahn
Livia Kohn
Sofiya Kuras
Malgorzata Kursa
Marie France Laporte
Cindy Melamed
Ian K. Norowitz
Fatima Ali Takiyan Reed

Micaline M. Regis
Jean-Baptiste K. Richard
Arlene Dianthe Richards
Erin Elizabeth Roberts
Edison Ruiz
Gerd St. Germain
Kera Andrea Thomas
Rashida Yasmeen White

Master of Science Physical Therapy

Bachelor of Science Health Sciences

Julia Apelsinov
Ilisa B. Beitler
Irina Budiyanskaya
John F. Calkin
Brian T. Connolly
Rachelle Duvivier
Louis Winston Ezrick
Ligy George
Chana E. Gordon
Elysa Zehava Graber
Richard Simon Holtz
Neikisha N. Hosein-Suarez
Michelle A. Jack
Lorinda M. Linnen
Rachel Lucien
Mary Anne Mindala
Maria Leonora B. Pielago
Ney J. Rojas
Claudia C. Serna
Gabriella E. Spivak
Joseph S. Testut
Noah Y. Wasserman
Michelle Zahtz

Master of Science

Midwifery
Jennifer Ilene Chimovitz
Azin Jannatifar
Umaimah Mahmud-Thiam
Sarah Kirkland Marsh
Carol Reneé Mendoza
Dina Marie Nosworthy
Sofya Ostroy
Maureen May Rayson
Nicole Antoinette Reide
Dawn B. Schwartz
Susan Greenberg Yarmush

Occupational Therapy

Mary Achtziger
Rachel G. Avigdor
Rivka Barth
Suri Bernstein
Christina L. Ferrara
Debbie R. Halpert
Beth E. Herzog
Keora Camelee LeGrand
Amy N. Lindenbaum
Carline Louis
Adina Saffer
Rachel Steinberger
Rina Sunshine
Jessica Tirado
Harriet Turner
Chaya Willinger

Advanced Certificate

Midwifery
Galina Kosman-Rimskaya
Diana Georgina Torres

College of Nursing

Bachelor of Science

Nursing

Grace Bolanle Abereoje
LeslieAnne Yvette Adams
Elizabeth O. Adeyinka
Miriam Rivka Adler
Mignon E. Alert
Josiane Alexandre
Shirley D. Amisah
Vivian Annan
Patricia Anthony
Francoise M. Antoine
Garolle Antoine
Patience Obonor Are
Sammorriah Elizabeth
Atkins
Dionne A. Babb
Michelle Baboolal
Lynette Maud Bagot
Deloris M. Baptiste
Jean Willy Baptiste
Ann-Marie Suzette Baxter
Aline Bayard
Aviva Ben-Haim
Tery Blatt
Julienne Bonaventure
Dina Bonny
Shenez Yolanda Brutus
Kimberly Dianne
Callender
Anna Emanuela Calvaruso
Fiona Gloria Cambry
Elaine G. Carter
Mark Anthony Caruso
Mona Senat Cesar
Kerin Chase
Tina Maria Cole

Faith Josephine Coley
Marceline Viola Cooper
Norelda E. Cotterel
Madeline Cox
Josefina Melania Cragwell-
Edwards
Lindsay Dallemand
Lavern Patricia Daniels
Lenelle Patrice Daniels
Lorna Agusta Davis-
Williams
Marie S. Destine
Derrick Craig Dillon
Simonia Teresa Duclosel
Dionne A. Durosaro
Hope Okpirinyi Ekunke
Eugenie Evans
Debbie E. Evans-Wright
Michael Alevander Evard
Rosa Elena Fernandez
Renella Jean Fleming
Steadley Stanford Foster
Lisa Nicole Frank
Patricia Maglene Franklin-
Jameison
Linda Rose Freckleton-
Lewis
Hedda Gale Gallard
Desmine Garricks
Chilaine Gaston
Marcia E. Gayle
Noreen George
Semyon Glukhoy
Rita Pearl Grant
Shirley Keturah Grant
Jacinth Green
Sandra E. Greenidge-
Chase

Violet Patricia Hall
Karen Althea Hamilton
Monique S. Harris-Little
Gloria Elizabeth Hinds
Erica Hitch-Graham
Sherron Carmelita Hunte
Omowumi Hannah Ijaola
Rhonnie Alphonso Jackson
Keith Theodore James
Jeannette G. Jean-Pierre
Norma D. Jenkins
Kimberly Louise Johnson
Althea Jones
Samantha Marie Jones
Jennifer Margaret Joseph
Lydia Denia Joseph
Jocelyne Joshua
Sherley Jussome
Aradhana Khameraj
Hae-Sun Kim
Judith Benita Lewis
Audra Donna-Marie
Longmore
Elsa Lucas-Coerbell
Eileen M. Madden
Judy Marolyn Manwaring
Kathryn E. Marney
Claudette Marshall
Sheelagh Martin
Normalee S. Mason
Charrie Yvonne Matthews
Monica Marguerite Mattis
Mary Kathryn McGrath
Natalie N. McIntyre
Claire Marie McKoy-Grant
Myriame Medilien
Jennifer Laurie Milanese
Agnes Eva Moczydlowska

Lauraine V. Monah
Gisela Mondelas
Patricia Mary Nichols
Marie Edith Noel
Jean-Paul Norero
Ebubedike Nwoko
Bai Nyonly
Osarhiemen Benjamin
Okpeseyi
Sherifat Ronke Oladapo
Olusola Olubunmi
Olubunmi-Oshin
Timothy Omokhogie
Omogbai
Nkiru C. Onyenwe
Jacqueline Pandolfo
Marilyn L. Parrish
Dionne Claudine Pessoa
Andrea Peterfy
Michele Marie Pierre-
Gilles
Victoria Carla Ramdin
Susan Ramgoolie
Arlyne Baldonado Ramos
Pearl Norge Regis
Marie Flore Renaud
Cherril Mervalyn
Rhamdeow
Simone Marcelle Rodney
Grisel Rosario
Sabrina Cheri Russell

Samuel Sama
Martine Samedy
Wendy-Ann L. Samuel
Marina Sandler
Silvana S. Santos
Eric Brefo Sarpong
Vicky Shindman
Lima V. Simon
Velma Irene Slowe-
Rajgopaul
Carline Sylvain
Shawn Andrea Tapper-
Clarke
Carol Thomas
Janice Celia Thomas
Pearline Mentis Thompson
Jennifer Torres
Cardey Wai-Fung Tsui
Michelle Tusa
Christiana Ifeyinwa
Uchegbu
Faina Vasserman
Vivian Velez
Linda Marie Waltrous
Elise Warrington
Tanya M. Watson
Blanche Charita Whittaker
Trudy Maria Wilkins
Rachelle Williams
Ann Patrice Woodstock

Accelerated Nursing
Shirley Bellefleur
Gina Marie Cassiani
Jewel Natasha Chase
Edner Cuvilly
Carrie Palmer Davis
Andrea Hope Diamond
Altecia Alexis Dundas
Patricia Ndubuisi Eseke
Israel Olusegun Fashusi
Theresa Frederick
Keith Edward Hodgins
Alicia Valmay James
Elizabeth Jose Jean-Paul
Jessica Karmazin
Al Ryan Geolingo
Maduramente
Jaclyn Ann Marinese
Nwosu W. Okoro
Toyin Ashiyeli Olayinka
Ricardo Ray Anthony
Perez
Ito John Peter
Corinne Valerie Pinder-
Bazile
Elka E. Riley
Jessie Lila Seide
Thelma Betty St. Victor
Michelle Ann White
Rhonda Cassandra
Williams
Keisha Elaine Winford

Master of Science

Nursing (Adult Track—
Clinical Nurse Specialist)
Nancy DeJesus
Brenda Lee Ford-Hunter
Monique Jean-Louis

Family Nurse Practitioner
Angela Ann-Marie
Andalcio
Kisha Lorraine Carrington
Yamile Esther Castillo
Bernadette Colas
Rose G. Dume
Agnes Christina Eytle-
Adams
Yelena Gayetskaya
Bernadette Raymonde
Jasmin
Nicholin McMillan
Crisanta P. Medina-Noel
Maverly V. Mullings
Uroule Annette Rollan
Rose Laure Romulus
Viktoriya Shakhnovskaya
Aline Ann Shehigian
Melissa V. Taylor
Margarita Tsurulnikova
Geraldine Vinci

Nurse Anesthesia
Janice Abigail-Barrie
Barlatier
Bethany Lee Bloomer
Renason Bunbury
Sharon Lynn Burns
Carlos Castro
Michelle X. Chang
Maryanne Chin
Rhonda A. Chinyadza
Miguel B. Cornico
Debra Kay Duhart-Ball
Emmanuel U. Ekeke
Jeanette Katherine Flexer
Jeremy Todd Gentry
Lorna F. Gonzales
Priscilla Jenifer Gordon-
Brown
Galina Gurova
Elaine M. Hyatt
Joseph Ian Jennas
Zeena Johnson
Monika Joanna
Komosinski
June Michelle Barnes Lord
Alfredo Fabian Lucas
Edith A. Nottage
Sarah Elizabeth
O'Loughlin
Temitayo D. Olokose
James Chan Paw
Yolande C. Picard

Joan E. Reid
Vivian Y. Richburg
Shoba Sanu
Frieda Lynn Saunders
Jay A. Scheffler
Shaun Schultz
Natacha Simon
Bernadette Ang Sta. Maria
Rose Myrlande Synsmir
Sonia A. Tenadu
Iris Veronica Tuitt
Charmaine Waller
DeAnna Williams
Phors Yin

Nurse-Midwifery
Nelia G. Axalan
Amy J. Bourne
Charmaine Alexa Brereton
Tara Marie Murphy
Teresa Chinwendu Okolo
Yuliya Spasichenko

Advanced Certificate

Family Nurse Practitioner
Catherine E. Smith

Commencement Speaker and Honorary Degree Recipient

Doctor of Humane Letters:
Geraldine Bednash, PhD, RN, FAAN

Throughout her career, Dr. Geraldine (Polly) Bednash has been a tireless advocate for nursing education. Her experience as a practitioner, educator, researcher, and consultant, combined with her skill in government relations, has positioned her well to deal with issues that reflect the breadth and scope of nursing.

In 1989, Dr. Bednash was appointed executive director of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), which represents more than 560 schools of nursing. It is the only national organization dedicated exclusively to furthering nursing education in America's universities and four-year colleges.

Dr. Bednash oversees the educational, research, government affairs, and publications programs of the AACN, the national voice for college and graduate programs in nursing. Since 1986 she has served as the AACN's director of government affairs, directing its efforts to secure strong federal support for nursing education and research and coordinating new initiatives with federal agencies and major foundations. Dr. Bednash is the co-author of the AACN's landmark study of the financial costs of baccalaureate and graduate nursing education to students and clinical agencies.

Dr. Bednash is currently vice president for nursing of the Health Professions Education Council of the Association of American Health Centers. She is on the editorial board of several leading nursing publications, including *Nursing Spectrum*.

After receiving her nursing degree from Texas Woman's University, Dr. Bednash earned a master's degree in nursing/psychology from the Catholic University of America and a doctorate in higher-education policy and law from the University of Maryland, where she was certified as a primary-care nurse practitioner.

Dr. Bednash worked with cardiac and critically ill patients in the intensive and coronary-care unit of Binghamton Hospital. Her love of teaching led her to become an instructor at the Binghamton General Hospital School of Nursing and the Broome County Community College Department of Nursing.

She has completed numerous research projects and delivered many research-related and nonresearch presentations. She has contributed articles to more than twenty publications and is an editorial advisor and reviewer for as many more.

Dr. Bednash has had extensive clinical, research, and teaching experience. Before joining the AACN, she was assistant professor at the School of Nursing at George Mason University and a Robert Wood Johnson nurse faculty fellow in primary care at the University of Maryland. She is also a captain in the Army Nurse Corps.

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 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.

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 4,387 (including full-time, part-time, and voluntary staff), and support staff of 3,513 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.

The Academic Procession

The procession is led by the presiding marshal. Other members of the procession include faculty marshals (chosen by the graduates), faculty members, deans, honorary degree recipients, and the president of SUNY Downstate.

The academic gown worn by procession members is said to be symbolic of the “democracy of scholarship,” for it covers any dress of rank or social standing underneath.

Academic gowns originated in the Middle Ages, the period when universities were beginning to take form. At that time, most scholars were also clerics—and therefore dressed as clerics, in long gowns. Over time, the gown became the accepted dress code for scholars: in England, in the second half of the 14th century, for example, several colleges forbade “excess in apparel” and decreed the wearing of long gowns.

The assignment of colors to signify different academic disciplines developed much later, and was standardized in the United States in the late 19th century. In 1895, an intercollegiate commission composed of representatives from leading colleges established a code of academic dress that prescribed cut, style, and materials of the gowns, as well as colors to represent different fields of learning. Today, academic dress code is regulated by a formal Committee on Academic Costumes and Ceremonies created by the American Council on Education in 1952.

The gown is usually black for all degrees, with variations in the sleeves, the front cut, and trim. The bachelor’s degree gown is black with long pointed sleeves. The master’s degree gown is black without trim and has oblong sleeves so the upper part of the arm comes through the slit in the sleeve. Doctoral (PhD) gowns are black with bell-shaped sleeves. Mortarboards (caps) with tassels have their own significance. Master’s and bachelor’s tassels are black, while the PhD tassel may be black or gold; medicine is green.

Hood colors indicate the field of learning: dark blue—philosophy; green—medicine; light blue—education; apricot—nursing; science—golden yellow; history—white; law—purple; psychology—dark blue.

Details of academic attire may vary depending on where faculty members completed their degrees. Some foreign degree holders, for example, wear special hats, distinctive to their degree and institution. Whatever the differences, however, the governing tradition is continuity of the academic symbols from the Middle Ages.

Faculty Serving as Marshals

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

Kathleen K. Cooper, MS, CPNP Clinical Assistant Professor, College of Nursing

David Fernandez, PA-C, BS Clinical Assistant Professor, Physician Assistant Program, College of Health Related Professions

Mary Germain, EdD, APRN, BC Associate Professor, College of Nursing

Mohamed Ibrahim, DSc, MS, PT, NCS Assistant Professor, Physical Therapy Program, College of Health Related Professions

Margaret Kaplan, PhD, OTR Clinical Assistant Professor, Occupational Therapy Program,
College of Health Related Professions

Ronnie Lichtman, PhD, CNM Associate Professor and Chairperson, Midwifery Education Program,
College of Health Related Professions

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

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

Jacqueline Patterson-Johnson, EdD, FNP Clinical Assistant Professor, College of Nursing

Valerie Roe, MS, CNM Clinical Assistant Professor, Midwifery Education Program, College of Health Related Professions

Joyce Sabari, PhD, OTR, BCN, FAOTA 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

Isaac Topor, EdD, RHIA Associate Professor and Chairman, Medical Informatics Program, College of Health Related Professions

Suzanne White, MA, OTR Clinical Assistant Professor, Occupational Therapy Program, College of Health Related Professions

Sheryl Zang, EdD, FNP, RN Clinical Associate Professor and Director, Nursing Center, College of Nursing

SUNY Board of Trustees

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Robert L. King, JD

Chancellor, State University of New York

John J. O'Connor, MS

Vice Chancellor and Secretary of the University

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 which 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.

Oath of Professional Practice

We, the Graduating Classes of the College of Health Related Professions and the College of Nursing, commit ourselves to the improvement of health care and the improvement of accessibility to health-care services.

We shall uphold the standards of our professions, accept responsibility for our individual actions and judgments, and function professionally as members of a health team.

Our beliefs, functions, and goals are based upon our desire and commitment to effect improvement in the delivery of health care, and to alleviate suffering and to provide treatment to those who are ill and in need of the skills of our professions.