

The 34th Annual Commencement

The College of Health
Related Professions

and

The College of Nursing

of

SUNY Downstate
Medical Center

Two O'Clock
Thursday Afternoon, May, 17, 2001
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, Robert Owens, 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)

America the Beautiful

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, Student Center, 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

Daisy Cruz-Richman, Ph.D., R.N.
*Clinical Associate Professor and Senior Associate Dean
College of Nursing*

Processional

(Audience, please rise for the Processional.)

Opening Remarks

Jo Ann Bradley, Ed.D., RDMS
*Vice President for Academic Affairs and
Executive Dean of Allied Health and Nursing*

Greetings from the President

John C. LaRosa, M.D., FACP
President

Greetings from the Graduates

Charlene Angella Pitter
*College of Health Related Professions,
Class of 2001*

Kimberly H. Velez

College of Nursing, Class of 2001

Conferring of the Honorary Degree

John C. LaRosa, M.D., FACP

Honorary Degree Recipient

Martha N. Hill, R.N., Ph.D., FAAN

Commencement Address

Martha N. Hill, R.N., Ph.D., FAAN

College of Nursing

Presentation of Candidates

Mary Ella Graham, Ed.D., R.N.
Professor and Dean, College of Nursing

Conferring of Degrees

John C. LaRosa, M.D., FACP

Awarding of Diplomas

John C. LaRosa, M.D., FACP
Mary Ella Graham, Ed.D., R.N.

College of Health Related Professions

Presentation of Candidates

Jo Ann Bradley, Ed.D., RDMS

Conferring of Degrees

John C. LaRosa, M.D., FACP

Awarding of Diplomas

John C. LaRosa, M.D., FACP
Program Chairpersons

Closing Remarks and Administration of the Oath of Professional Practice

John C. LaRosa, M.D., FACP

Recessional

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

College of Nursing

Bachelor of Science

Bola Adegbamigbe
Barbara Aerni
Erna Y. Amar
Desiree Yvette Arnold
Sussan Uchenna Atuanya
Leasa J. Bailey Duffus
Jeanese Theresa Barriteau
Annette Delores Bennett
Maude Bertresse
Clyde Dwight Bijlhout
Sharman L. Bolt
Regina Borovik
Donna-Marie Andrea
Bromfield
Simeon Broomes
Sharon Janet Brown
Wendy Angrid Brown
Cianie S. Bryan
Sharon M. Bunch
Domenica Carrier
Roselys M. Charles
Sandra Marie Chery
Carmen Rose Christian
Cheryl Lynn Crawford
Anne Marie Cummings
Helena Chani Davis
Hilda Dejean
Kathie-Ann Dian
Depradine
Bernadette Dolce
Barbara Sainte Dorcely
Ermine Rosetha Edwards

Patrick Joseph Etienne
Marie Josie Etienne
Morisset
Nativida Etienne-Chapman
Nicole Ann-Marie
Eversley-Hall
Patricia Lynn Felder
Anne Eveline Fleurant
Sandra Alicia Foster
Donna M. Foy
Sharon A. Gales
Isabel Carlota Gallegos
Sabine Gardiner
Yelena Gayetskaya
Leonie A. Graham
Yonette Olindia Granville-
Peters
Olive Hackett-Jacinthe
Joanne Lashon Halls
Olga D. Harrison
Roslyn Coreen Hazell
Genevieve Hermans
Monica Hines-Biggs
Anthonia Olabisi Ilori
Amalya Isakova
Jasmine C. Jackson
Isolina James
Nadege Dominique Josama-
Remy
David Martin Julien
Tatyana Ksendzovskaya
Karen Denise LaGuerre
Gladys M. Laing
Ionica Eugenia Lazar

Brett Quintin Lee
Margaret Marie Lewis
Lana Markman
Desrine Rose Martin
Nirva Masse Maurice
Jane Maxwell
Julieth Faye McLaughlin
Silvanus Michel
Tanya Gail Mighty
Rachell Millien
Cheryl Ann Mitchell
Leonie V. Morgan
Hyacinthe G. Muka
Margaret Theresa O'Brien
Georgina Otchere
Jean Luther Painson
Rosamund Electra Peters
Boris Primakov
Rena Rafailova
Joan Beverly Ridley-Clarke
Marie Pascale Romulus
Shams A. Sangliwalla
Naomi Sayers
Christine A. Scarlett
Anna Segal
Althea Omara Senior-
Morris
Larisa Shubov
Sandra Solomon
Lorna E. Springer
Zoeth M. Stone-Edwards
Stephanie Yvette Store
Andrea Dionne Taylor
Margarita Tsirulnikova

Karolina Ubogaya
Kimberly H. Velez
Deborah Anne Vitalis
Joyce Eliza Wallace
Antoinette Veronica
Wedderburn
Marva Angela Weir
Merle Elizabeth Welch
Marie Angela Willis
Andrea Dianne Wilson
A-Na Bethina Wilson-
Flemming
Yelena Yakubovich
Marcia J. Young
Diana Zhovna

Master of Science

Clinical Nurse Specialist
(Adult)
Maureen E. Cann
Patricia Sherman Groshen
Elsamma Mathew
Virginia Newman
Elizabeth Alison Stuart

Clinical Nurse Specialist
(High Risk Mother and
Infant)
Yvonne E. Stanford

Family Nurse Practitioner
Roseline Carline Clerge
Sharon Ann Corbin
Susan Anne Frank
Katherine Miriam Fraser
Claudette C. Grant
Ann Marie McLeod
Jennifer Angela Mitchener
Locquessa Okpala
Marva T. Ortiz-Wade
Kathleen A. Salak
Lurline P. Stona
Delma Veronica Taylor
Rizalina Negosa Trompeta-
Wong
Farna Ulysse

Nurse Anesthesia
Gabre D. Aird
Patricia Lynoris Pilgrim-
Antoine
Scott Stephen Callen
Ian Nadeem Cyril
Christian Nikoi Djanie
Ricardo Benjamin Eversley
Natalie Figueroa
Samson Itietie
Claude Rodwick-
Collinwood Johnson
Lorraine Angella Kennedy
Jason Paul Leggio
Audain Pierre, Jr.
Nicholas Patrick Reda
Toni Marie Taylor
Kan Yu

Nurse-Midwifery
Lavone Frances Beckwith
Erica Louise Ciancia
Amy I. Rosenthal
Jennifer Stone
Denise Carrier Wharton

Women's Health Care
Practitioner
Ellen McTigue

Advanced Certificate

Family Nurse Practitioner
Antoinette Marie Chevrin
Claudette Jerome-Ornis

College of Health Related Professions

Bachelor of Science

Diagnostic Medical Imaging

Ivetta V. Argus
Sari Arking
Natalie Monique Babb
Allison Mary Boyd
Kalani Lakdilum Fernando
Icarnette Georges
Suzan Golian
Rivka E. Gruenbaum
Sarit Y. Guttman
Milana Iffraimov
Ebed Margalie Jean-Francois
Myrlise Joachim
Galina I. Kalitenko
Lyudmila I. Kheyman
Shila Kohanbash
Jolanta M. Kosc
Igor Latman
Aleksandra Lipkina
Vera Maharaj
Charlene Angella Pitter
Mei Lai Agnes Siu
Irina A. Sladkovskaya
Larisa Spivak
Judy A. Sturm
Jen Lie Yau

Health Information Management

Jacob M. Gordon
Larisa Gorokhovsky
Felicia Henry
June Angela James-Bethel
Anjum Khamisani
Janet Mohlenhoff
Rose Laure Noel
Garcia C. Simmonds
Marcel A. Tay
Ada M. Wong

Occupational Therapy

Vincent Accardi
Favier Jean Belizaire
Jimmy Joseph Christi
Megan Lea Deneen
Gil M. Dersovitz
Roger DeRuiter
Judy Ehrenreich
Lynda B. Englard-Pavel
Elizabeth Esposito
Malky B. Fisch
Devorie E. Frischman-Krause
Faiga Garfinkel
Adel Gelbstein
Susan B. Greenberg
Annette Yolanda Hall
Shoshana Kaplan

Nasir Karim

Robin Joan Kaufman
Isabel Cristina Lopera
Kathleen Alyce Malpezzi
Joyce Susan Mendelson
Helio Felix Reluzco
Tova Rubin
Terry Hornung Rudolph
Marianna Rutenberg
Ruthie Safier
Esther Spitzer
Baila H. Wachsstock

Physical Therapy

Gilbert Ramirez

Physician Assistant

Scott Ajello
Darlene Suzanne Anderson
Fariha Asef
Melanie Baleva Aure
Skeeter Bertina Barley
Judith Brice
Joseph Bueno
Garkan Riza Chase
Jonathan B. Cohen
Okechukwu Samuel
Echezona
Joseph Fable
Nessette Falu
Najabh Farraj
Leor Devorah Gabbai
Terry Ann Gravesande
James Ashworth Henry
Jessica Lee Hess
Lillian Katz
Ricardo Segundo Leon
Mitzi Mae H. Lim
Thomas Stephen Marino
Heather Miele
Karen-Alexis Moore
Dione Maria Ndiaye
Marcia Mercedes Ochoa
Jennie Elizabeth Schur
Lori Michelle Simon
Charisse Chanelle Smith
Rachel Tova Steinberg
Zohra Bracha Suissa

Master of Science

Midwifery
Mary-Rose Altman
Jessica Rachel Breese
Stacey A. Brosnan
Lynne Virginia Burson
Bevin Eileen Cahill
Susan Dummitt
Sabrina Ann Hellman
Ursula Miguel
Julia Rasch
Neysa Maria Williams
Joni D. Zavitz

Certificate

Midwifery
Dewan Duan

Honorary Degree Recipient and Commencement Speaker

Doctor of Humane Letters: Martha N. Hill, R.N., Ph.D., FAAN

Martha N. Hill, R.N., Ph.D., FAAN, is professor of nursing and director of the Center for Nursing Research at Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing in Baltimore, Maryland. Dr. Hill also holds joint appointments in the School of Hygiene and Public Health and the School of Medicine. She is a fellow in the American Academy of Nursing and a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences.

Dr. Hill was the first nursing professional to become president of the American Heart Association (AHA), serving in that position from 1997 to 1998. Primarily devoted to preventing heart attacks and strokes, the association sponsors programs that reach millions of Americans each year. It is noteworthy that the AHA has twice given awards to SUNY Downstate's Nobel Laureate, Dr. Robert Furchgott, whose work on nitric oxide has great potential for improving cardiovascular therapies.

Dr. Hill is internationally known for her work and research in preventing and treating hypertension, particularly among minority populations. Young, urban black men, in particular, suffer disproportionately high rates of unidentified, untreated, and uncontrolled high blood pressure. According to conventional medical wisdom, they are also a group that is difficult to reach.

Determined to turn conventional wisdom on its head, Dr. Hill did something few other clinical researchers do. She left her office and went to where her potential subjects lived: the poor, urban, predominantly African-American community of East Baltimore.

"I started by asking myself, 'What would it take to conduct a successful clinical trial of young, hypertensive black men?'" she says. "And then I went out into the community and asked my potential subjects the same question. Through street interviews and focus groups, the men told us what they would require to participate in a clinical trial."

Dr. Hill has successfully organized two clinical trials with funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) with this target population. The first, which spanned from 1992 to 1995, involved over 200 men, and focused on access to support, reinforcement, and education. In a second, larger study, begun in 1996 that is funded by the NIH and several private corporations, a randomly selected subgroup receives interventions, including medications and clinical care, provided by teams of nurse practitioners, community health workers, and physicians. This study is funded through 2002.

Dr. Hill received her Bachelor of Science degree in nursing from Johns Hopkins University, her master's degree from the University of Pennsylvania, and her doctoral degree in behavioral sciences from the Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health. She has published extensively and serves on numerous review panels, editorial boards, and advisory committees, including the Executive Council of the American Society of Hypertension. Since 1988, she has served as principal investigator for more than 18 research projects.

Dr. Hill has won numerous awards and honors. She was appointed to the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute's Advisory Council; was the recipient of the Chairman's Recognition Award from the American Heart Association; and was honored with the Certificate of Recognition for Outstanding Contribution to Nursing Research from the Howard University College of Nursing.

She has been a member of the Board of Trustees of the International Society on Hypertension in Blacks (ISHIB), an Atlanta, Georgia-based education and advocacy organization founded to respond to the problem of high-blood pressure among minority populations. Dr. Hill has consulted on hypertension and other cardiovascular-related issues outside of the United States, including Scotland, Israel, and South Africa, and participates in the World Health Organization's Hypertension Patient Education Program.

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 includes the College of Medicine, School of Graduate Studies, College of Nursing, College of Health Related Professions, a major research center, 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 1930. 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 27 hospitals. It has a total student body of 1,500, a faculty of 3,500 (including full-time, part-time, and voluntary staff), and support staff of 2,800 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 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.

Faculty Serving as Marshals

Nellie Bailey, Ed.D., R.N., Clinical Assistant Professor and Associate Dean, Undergraduate Program, College of Nursing

Daisy Cruz-Richman, Ph.D., R.N., Clinical Associate Professor and Senior Associate Dean, College of Nursing

Ahmed Elokda, M.A., PT, Assistant Professor, Physical Therapy Program, College of Health Related Professions

Mary Germain, Ed.D., R.N., CS, ANP, Associate Professor, College of Nursing

Nancy Giordano, Ed.D., R.N., NP, Clinical Associate Professor and Director, Family Nurse Practitioner Program, College of Nursing

Margaret Kaplan, M.A., OTR, Clinical Assistant Professor, Occupational Therapy Program, College of Health Related Professions

Joanne S. Katz, Ph.D., PT, Assistant Professor and Acting Chairperson, Physical Therapy Program, College of Health Related Professions

Mark L'Eplattenier, B.A., RPA-C, Clinical Assistant Professor, Physician Assistant Program, College of Health Related Professions

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

Dawn Morton-Rias, P.D., RPA-C, Assistant Professor and Chairperson, Physician Assistant Program, College of Health Related Professions

Yvonne Nathan, Ed.D., R.N., Assistant Professor and Coordinator, R.N./B.S. Program, College of Nursing

Suzanne Schechter, M.S., CNM, Clinical Assistant Professor, Midwifery Program, College of Health Related Professions

Laila Sedhom, Ph.D., R.N., NCCM, Professor and Associate Dean, Graduate Programs, College of Nursing

Annette Siegel, M.S., R.N., Assistant Professor, College of Nursing

Jerome Stempak, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Anatomy & Cell Biology, College of Medicine

Sheryl Zang, Ed.D., R.N., NP, Assistant Professor, College of Nursing

SUNY Board of Trustees

Thomas F. Egan, J.D.
Chairman

Randy A. Daniels
Vice Chairman

Aminy I. Audi
Bernard F. Connors
Edward F. Cox, J.D.
Candace de Russy, Ph.D.
Lou Howard

Pamela R. Jacobs
Christopher J. Holland
Edward S. Nelson, L.L.B.
Celine R. Paquette, Ed.D.
Nelson A. Rockefeller, Jr., M.B.A.
Patricia Elliott Stevens
Harvey F. Wachsman, M.D., J.D.

Robert L. King, J.D.
Chancellor

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 (Ph.D.) 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 Ph.D. 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.

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.