

MISSION STATEMENT

Rocky Vista University

provides quality healthcare education
while inspiring students to serve with
compassion, integrity, and excellence.



**ROCKY VISTA UNIVERSITY SOUTHERN UTAH
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES**

CLASS OF 2022 COMMENCEMENT

FOURTEENTH OF MAY

TWO-THOUSAND TWENTY-TWO



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear MSBS Class of 2022, Families, Faculty and Members of the RVU Community,

Today is a celebration, not only for the students, but for everyone who has played a foundational role in their lives. They wouldn't be here today if not for your support, love, and confidence.

Students: thank you for the trust you have placed in us. You have worked hard and have overcome obstacles to be one step closer to achieving your professional goals. We look forward to seeing the great things you will accomplish.

As you transition from RVU Students to Alumni, remember to express gratitude to those who have helped you on your journey – family, friends, faculty and staff – all of whom cheered you on during the good times, as well as those challenging moments, and now share the sense of pride and accomplishment with you. Remember that you are always a part of the RVU Family. Never stop learning and growing in mind, body, and spirit; in doing so, you will become an integral member of the communities you will serve.

We look forward to your future accomplishments and know that you will make us proud!

Warmest regards,

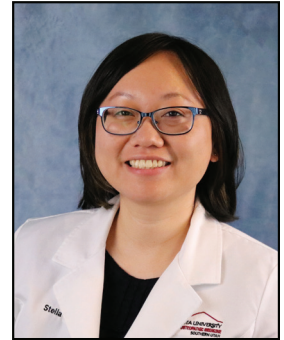
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David A. Forstein, DO". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David A. Forstein, DO
President, CEO, and Provost

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Stella Chan, DO '21, MSBS '17

Dr. Chan is a graduate of Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine's Class of 2021, as well as a graduate of RVU's Master of Science in Biomedical Sciences Program's Class of 2017. While attending RVU, she received the Healthcare Leaders Scholarship, the Medical Humanities Department Award, the MSBS Humanitarian Award, and the 2021 Utah Academy of Family Physicians Student Award. She is a first-year Family Medicine resident at Shasta Community Health Center in Redding, California.



MSBS FACULTY AND STAFF

HOLLY BAGOT

Program Coordinator

BENJAMIN BROOKS, PHD

Associate Professor of Biomedical Sciences

COURTNEY CAMPBELL

Program Coordinator

QAMRUL CHOUDHURY, PHD

Associate Professor of Physiology

AN DANG, PHD

Assistant Professor of Clinical Anatomy

JENSEN FISHER, MLIS

Assistant Professor of Medical Humanities

IAN GEORGE, PHD

Assistant Professor of Anatomy

RICARDA HALLSTRAND, PHD

Interim Assistant Program Director
Professor of Microbiology

MELISSA HENDERSON, PHD

Associate Professor of Biomedical Sciences

CLYDE JENSEN, PHD

Professor of Pharmacology

RACHEL LINGER, PHD

Associate Professor of Pharmacology

ELIZABETH MOFFETT, PHD

Assistant Professor of Structural Medicine

ANTHONY PAPPAS, PHD

Assistant Professor of Gross Anatomy

JACQUELINE POWELL, PHD

Associate Professor of Physiology

JOEL ROBERTS, MD

Assistant Program Director
Assistant Professor of Physiology

VICKIE ROETTGER, PHD

Associate Professor of Physiology

REBECCA RYZNAR, PHD

Associate Professor of Molecular Biology

BRIAN SCHWARTZ, PHD, MLIS

Associate Professor of Medical Humanities

KALEB SELLERS, PHD

Postdoctoral Fellow and Instructor of Anatomy

BRAD THORNOCK, PHD, MPH

Associate Professor of Medical Humanities

FRANCINA TOWNE, PHD

Program Director
Associate Professor of Immunology

JACQUELYN WALLER, PHARMD, BCPS

Associate Professor of Pharmacology

LON VAN WINKLE, PHD

Professor of Medical Humanities

QING ZHONG, MD, PHD

Associate Professor of Pharmacology

ORDER OF CEREMONY

PROCESSIONAL

INVOCATION

Thomas N. Told, DO, FACOFP-dist.; Acting Associate Dean for
Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENT OF PURPOSE AND PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S CHARGE

Francina Towne, PhD; Program Director, Master of Science in Biomedical Sciences

GREETINGS FROM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Maha Sallam, PhD; Chair, RVU Board of Trustees

CLASS PRESIDENT COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Christopher Perez

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Stella Chan, DO '21, MSBS '17;
Shasta Community Health Center

CLASS AWARDS

Qing Zhong, MD, PhD; Associate Professor of Pharmacology

PRESENTATION AND HOODING OF THE MSBS CLASS

Ricarda Hallstrand, PhD

CONFERRAL OF MSBS DEGREE AND TASSEL CEREMONY

David A. Forstein, DO

CLOSING REMARKS

David A. Forstein, DO

RECESSIONAL

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MSBS CLASS OF 2022 GRADUATION AWARD WINNERS

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

The MSBS President's Award recognizes a graduate who embodies the University's core values of integrity, collegiality, compassion, diversity, excellence, service, and innovation.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD

The MSBS Academic Excellence Award recognizes a graduate who has demonstrated academic excellence.

HUMANITARIAN AWARD

This MSBS Humanitarian Award recognizes a graduate who exemplifies the qualities of graciousness and humility, advocates for social justice, and works for the betterment of all members of their community.

SERVICE AWARD

The MSBS Service Award recognizes a graduate who demonstrated involvement, leadership, and contributions to service efforts.



MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES CLASS OF 2022

ANA ALFARO

Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry/
Molecular Biology
Linfield College

MIKAYLA DARLING

Bachelor of Science in Biology
Eastern Washington University

NADIA ALINAGHIZADEH

Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences
Arizona State University - Tempe

ALMA DIZDAREVIC

Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Science
Grand Valley State University

JOSE ANTONIO ARREOLA-PATINO

Bachelor of Science in Biology
Utah State University

JOSEPH BENJAMIN DJURICH

Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering
Utah Valley University

MAGED AYAD

Bachelor of Science in Biological Science
University of California - Irvine

RICHARD ANTHONY JIMENEZ

Bachelor of Science in
Emergency Health Sciences
*University of Texas Health Science Center -
San Antonio*

CARSON ANN BOMSTAD

Bachelor of Arts in Neuroscience
North Central College

KRISTIAN JACOB JOHNSON

Bachelor of Science in Biology
Dixie State University

MERCEDES CASTILLO

Bachelor of Science in Biology
University of California - Riverside

SARAH KILLPACK

Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience
Brigham Young University

JACOB ERLING COOLEY

Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences
University of North Dakota

WILLIAM J. KRETZER

Bachelor of Arts in Biology
University of North Texas

KENTLEE BROGAN CROCKETT

Master of Healthcare Administration
University of Utah

KAILEE MYXTER

Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences
North Dakota State University

VITOR ANTONIO CHAVES DA COSTA

Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences
University of Central Florida

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES CLASS OF 2022

LISA NEHRING

Bachelor of Social Work
University of Utah

E. HARRISON STEINS

Bachelor of Arts in Public Health
University of California - Berkeley

JILLIAN MARIE NICHOLAS

Bachelor of Science in Biology
University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma

RYAN WILLIAM TAYLOR

Bachelor of Science in Biology
Utah Valley University

AMIN S. OSMAN

Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering
Purdue University - West Lafayette

SIERRA NAOMI TAYLOR

Bachelor of Science in Human Nutrition
Southern Utah University

CHRISTOPHER ANDREW PEREZ

Bachelor of Arts in Medical Humanities
University of Texas - San Antonio

OLIVIA VOLTAGGIO

Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science
West Virginia University - Morgantown

RACHEL ELAINE PUGH

Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology
Miami University - Oxford

CALEB MICHAEL WAGNER

Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Science
Minnesota State University - Mankato

JEFF RIGBY

Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology
Utah State University

HALEY MARIE WILLIAMS

Bachelor of Science in Biology
West Virginia Wesleyan College

ASHLEY SEEGMILLER

Bachelor of Science in Biology
Utah State University

STEPHEN I. WONG

Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science
Brigham Young University

ACHIEVING NEW HEIGHTS EVERY DAY

JOSE ARREOLA-PATINO

Positions: Class Council Treasurer; Member of SIM Scholar Club and ROAD Club. **Gratitude:** “I want to thank Dr. Brooks and Dr. Towne for giving me this incredible opportunity and the great faculty that has helped me along this journey.”

CARSON BOMSTAD

Volunteer: St. George Food Bank; Local Elementary School. **Gratitude:** “I want to thank my family and friends for supporting me along my journey. I also want to thank the amazing RVU staff and classmates; I am so thankful for all of them!”

KENTLEE CROCKETT

Volunteer: Snow Canyon State Park; Utah Food Bank; Switchpoint; Santa Clara-Ivins Fire and Rescue; Washington County Sheriff Search and Rescue. **Gratitude:** “[I want to thank] Kris and Brett Crockett and Dr. Ben Brooks.”

RICHARD JIMENEZ

Honors: Finalist in Shark Tank Research Event. **Positions:** Vice President of Class Council; Representative for Wellness Committee, Community Programming Committee, and LatinX Club; Member of Latin Medical Student Association; Co-Founder/Re-Charter of CMDA; Treasurer/Secretary/Communications Officer/MSBS Liaison for CMDA; Co-Founder of Snack Stash/Caffeine Corner. **Volunteer:** Utah Food Bank; Beehive Homes Memory Care Companion. **Miscellaneous:** Attended Building the Next Generation of Academic Physicians Conference, Question, Persuade, and Refer Suicide Prevention Training, and Utahnaloxone- Bystander Training.

KRISTIAN J. JOHNSON

Honors: Finalist in Shark Tank Research Event. **Positions:** Class Council; Honor Code Officer; LGBTQAI+ Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity Summit Host and Co-Organizer; Member of Medical Student Pride Alliance and LaxtinX Club/Latin Medical Student Association. **Volunteer:** Utah Food Bank; School Distribution Center; Warm Up America Foundation. **Miscellaneous:** MSBS Co-Founder of Snack Stash/Caffeine Corner. **Gratitude:** “I want to thank my family, friends, and Dan for their love and continued affection.”

SARAH KILLPACK

Positions: Class Council. **Volunteer:** Spanish Interpreter at Doctor’s Volunteer Clinic. **Gratitude:** “I want to thank my amazing family for their constant support. Also, thank you to all the faculty members who were so supportive of my choices and who helped guide me and give me advice.”

WILLIAM J. KRETZER

Positions: Treasurer for Alpha Delta Minority PreHealth Society; Treasurer for Hearts for Homeless Dallas.

KAILEE MYXTER

Gratitude: “I want to thank my fiancé, Paxton, for moving

across the country and supporting my dreams every step of the way. I also want to thank my parents, brother, and grandparents for their constant love, motivation, and support. Lastly, I want to thank my classmates and amazing friends at RVU. I could not have gotten through this year without you!!!”

CHRISTOPHER PEREZ

Honors: MSBS Diversity and Inclusion Scholarship. **Positions:** Class President. **Gratitude:** “[I want to thank] My parents for believing in me and pushing me to challenge and demand better for myself. For opening my eyes and never letting me give up on my dream. For pushing me to take risks. My twin brother for pushing me to apply to this program and for his support and expertise through the entire process. For teaching me how to study and being a true role model. For pushing me to seek experiences out of my comfort zone that made me a better person. My girlfriend for sticking by my side through the stresses of the program and for always being there for me when I needed it the most. For pushing me when I was on the verge of giving up and knowing what to say, for telling me you were so proud of me and making me realize how far I had come. My friends and study group for always being my shoulder to lean on and for pushing each other. For becoming a second family and always being there for me when I needed someone to talk to or when I was stressed out about life. For just being there and keeping me company when I was feeling lonely after being away from my entire family and for always making me feel included. I will cherish you guys forever and never forget of our stresses together.”

ASHLEY SEEGMILLER

Gratitude: “I want to thank my friends, family, and parents for the continuous support!”

RYAN TAYLOR

Gratitude: “[I want to thank] My wife Becca Taylor [and] Austin.”

OLIVIA VOLTAGGIO

Gratitude: “[I want to thank] Dr. Brooks for always believing in me!”

HALEY WILLIAMS

Volunteer: Packaging Food at Utah Food Bank. **Miscellaneous:** Graduating during the third year we have been affected by COVID-19! **Gratitude:** “I want to thank Dr. Brooks, Dr. Towne, Holly, Garth, and the rest of the MSBS faculty for believing in me over the past two years and pushing me to be my best. I want to thank my roommate and friends for their emotional support and for making me laugh. I am grateful to have parents, brother, and family who helped me move across the country (twice!) and have supported me in every way while I chase my dreams. Lastly, I want to thank my cat Piper for being the best hug at the end of a long day.”