

MISSION STATEMENT

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



ROCKY VISTA UNIVERSITY | UTAH

COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

Class of 2024 Commencement

ELEVENTH OF MAY

TWO-THOUSAND TWENTY-FOUR



COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

PROCESSIONAL AND POSTING OF COLORS

NATIONAL ANTHEM
Timothy Light, OMS IV

INVOCATION
Laura Rosch, DO, CS, MS, FACOI
Campus Dean

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF PURPOSE
David Forstein, DO, FACOOG
President and CEO

GREETINGS FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Maha Sallam, PhD

PRESENTATION OF THE HONORARY DEGREE

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS
Rich Saunders

PRESENTATION, PROCESSION, AND HOODING OF THE COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

CONFERRAL OF THE DO DEGREE AND TASSEL CEREMONY
David Forstein, DO, FACOOG

ALUMNI GREETINGS AND OSTEOPATHIC OATH
Ryan Greene, DO, RVUCOM Class of 2015

DEAN'S CHARGE
Heather Ferrill, DO, MS, MEdL
Vice President of Faculty Affairs
Dean of RVUCOM

MILITARY COMMISSIONING CEREMONY
Alan Moloff, Colonel, USA (Ret)

CLOSING REMARKS
David Forstein, DO, FACOOG

RECESSIONAL

THE OSTEOPATHIC OATH

I do hereby affirm my loyalty to the profession I am about to enter.

I will be mindful always of my great responsibility to preserve the health and the life of my patients, to retain their confidence and respect both as a physician and a friend who will guard their secrets with scrupulous honor and fidelity, to perform faithfully my professional duties, to employ only those recognized methods of treatment consistent with good judgment and with my skill and ability, keeping in mind always nature's laws and the body's inherent capacity for recovery.

I will be ever vigilant in aiding in the general welfare of the community, sustaining its laws and institutions, not engaging in those practices which will in any way bring shame or discredit upon myself or my profession. I will give no drugs for nefarious purposes to any person, though it may be asked of me.

I will endeavor to work in accord with my colleagues in a spirit of progressive cooperation and never by word or by act cast imputations upon them or their rightful practices.

I will look with respect and esteem upon all those who have taught me my art. To my college and my profession, I will be loyal and strive always for its best interests and for the interests of the students who will come after me.

I will be ever alert to further the application of basic biologic truths to the healing arts and to develop the principles of osteopathic medicine which were first enunciated by Andrew Taylor Still.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Utah Class of 2024, 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 would not be here today if not for your support, love, and confidence.

Graduates, today, you take the next steps in your career, entering the healthcare workforce at a time when you are most needed; ready and prepared to take your place alongside the rest of the medical team of which you have earned the right to be a part.

You are joining a network of approximately 114,000 practicing osteopathic physicians across the nation. By joining this network, you become part of a group of providers dedicated to finding and promoting health in all your future patients. Be loyal to your profession and remember to treat all of your patients with the utmost of compassion and care. Remember that everyone is someone's loved one – treat them as you would your own family.

As you transition from RVU Students to Alumni, remember to express gratitude to those who have helped you on your journey; your family, friends, faculty, and staff – all of whom stood with you to cheer you on during the good times as well as those challenging moments and now share the sense of pride and accomplishment with you. Also remember that you are always a part of the RVU Family. Never stop learning, growing in mind, body and spirit and 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, FACOOG (dist.)
President and CEO
Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



RICH SAUNDERS

Rich Saunders was raised in Sandy, Utah and is an entrepreneur at heart. During the early days of his career, he started and scaled several businesses with products ranging from hard goods to services, and contracts with national retailers such as Target, Walmart, and Toys “R” Us. During his time as a student studying Organizational Behavior at the University of California Davis, Rich gained a passion for bringing people together to tackle intricate problems.

Later, Rich served the state of Utah by leading in its COVID-19 pandemic response. During this global crisis, he served under the governor’s direction as the Executive Director of the Utah Department of Health, and as a co-leader of the state’s Unified Command, which was responsible for guiding the daily decisions and policy to protect the lives and livelihood of Utahns. These efforts led to several awards including Utah’s 2021 Emergency Management Presidential Award, the Department of Public Safety’s Public Safety Partnership Award, and the 2021 Salt Lake Chamber Community Partner of the Year. The state of Utah was recognized in April of 2022 by the Wall Street Journal as the nation’s #1 response to the COVID-19 pandemic, a tribute to the state’s comprehensive and collaborative leadership.

As a public servant, Rich has held a variety of key roles, including serving as the state’s Chief Innovation Officer and Senior Advisor to Governor Spencer J. Cox. In this influential position, he spearheaded initiatives aimed at enhancing efficiency, innovation, and responsiveness within the state government. Among Rich’s notable achievements are the establishment of The One Utah Health Collaborative, the Governor’s Office of Families, and the statewide Customer Experience Initiative. Rich’s leadership also played a key role in shaping the Cox/Henderson administration’s newest set of bold and impactful priorities found in the “Utah Home” initiative.

Rich claims that his greatest accomplishment is his family. He and his wife, Lisa, have been married for 34 years. Together they have raised five children and cherish their role as grandparents to 15 wonderful grandchildren. Rich has given decades of leadership service in his church and the communities in which he has lived. He believes in the goodness and capability of people and gives his life to helping others thrive.

FELLOWS

ANDREA GABRIELA DONE

Osteopathic Principles and Practice Fellow
Academic Medicine and Leadership Track
OB/GYN
University of Michigan Health-West | Wyoming, MI

MAXTON WHITE MUIR *

Anatomy Fellow
Pathology
University of Utah Health | Salt Lake City, UT

MADELAINE KHOSTI

Osteopathic Principles and Practice Fellow
Academic Medicine and Leadership Track
Internal Medicine
University of Texas Medical Branch
Galveston, TX

ALEXANDER GLEN SEEGRIST

Osteopathic Principles and Practice Fellow
Academic Medicine and Leadership Track
Family Medicine
Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System
Spartanburg, SC

NICHOLAS LONGE

Osteopathic Principles and Practice Fellow
Digital Health Track
Family Medicine
Idaho State University | Pocatello, ID

DOCTOR OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE - CLASS OF 2024

COLBY WADE ADAMSON

Internal Medicine
Baylor Scott & White Medical Center
Round Rock, TX

SAMYAR ATTARIAN

Internal Medicine
Trios Health | Kennewick, WA

DOMINIC ALLAN

Family Medicine
Central Iowa Health System | Des Moines, IA

KEENAN MICHAEL BARR *

Military Medicine
Sigma Sigma Phi
Family Medicine
Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton | Oceanside, CA

KYLE ANDERSON

Pediatrics
Baylor Scott & White Medical Center
Round Rock, TX

PATRICK BARTHMAN

Family Medicine
University of Minnesota Medical School
Minneapolis, MN

DIANA ARIAS

Long Term Care Track
Sigma Sigma Phi
Neurology
Cleveland Clinic | Cleveland, OH

HUNTER BRYCE BELL

Academic Medicine and Leadership Track
Sigma Sigma Phi
Neurology
Medical University of South Carolina
Charleston, SC

LAURA E. ASTON

Rural and Wilderness Medicine Track
Emergency Medicine
John Peter Smith Hospital | Fort Worth, TX

DOCTOR OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE - CLASS OF 2024

JOHN THOMAS BOSAK

Long Term Care Track
Internal Medicine
University of Washington | Boise, ID

JUSTIN BRADSHAW

Academic Medicine and Leadership Track
Sigma Sigma Phi
Ophthalmology
Medical College of Georgia | August, GA

TANNER BRINLEY

Sigma Sigma Phi
Anesthesiology
University of Texas Health Science Center
Tyler, TX

JENNA BUCKLEITNER

Gold Humanism Honor Society
Rural and Wilderness Medicine Track
Pediatrics
Maine Medical Center | Portland, ME

ERIN CALLAHAN

Pediatrics
University of Vermont Medical Center
Burlington, VT

NIKITA APTE CHALAKA

Global Medicine Track
Emergency Medicine
St. Agnes Medical Center | Fresno, CA

JESSICA CHEN

Family Medicine
Centura Health | Westminster, CO

LAFE K. CHRISTENSON

Sigma Sigma Phi
Anesthesiology
University of Florida College of Medicine
Jacksonville, FL

MIN KYUNG REBECCA CHUNG

Academic Medicine and Leadership Track
Internal Medicine
Creighton University | Omaha, NE

BRYAN COBURN

Rural and Wilderness Medicine Track
Sigma Sigma Phi
Emergency Medicine
CHRISTUS Health | Corpus Christi, TX

ALI COFFEE

Digital Health Track
Family Medicine
Utah Healthcare Institute | Salt Lake City, UT

BRANDON PAUL COX

Family Medicine
Idaho State University | Rexburg, ID

CODY CRANDALL *

Global Medicine Track
Gold Humanism Honor Society
Sigma Sigma Phi
Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
University of Utah Health Care | Salt Lake City, UT

ALEXANDER CUMMOCK

Family Medicine
Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center
Idaho Falls, ID

KANE DARLING

Rural and Wilderness Medicine Track
OB/GYN
Ascension Providence Hospital | Southfield, MI

FRANCIS MIGUEL DE CASTRO

Military Medicine
Internal Medicine
William Beaumont Army Medical Center
Fort Bliss, TX

JOURDAIN DONG

Internal Medicine
The University of Texas Medical Branch
Galveston, TX

IZABELA DZIEDZIC

Gold Humanism Honor Society
Physician Scientist Track
Sigma Sigma Phi
Dermatology
Corewell Health William Beaumont University Hospital
Royal Oak, Waterford, MI

CHRISTIAN EARL

Academic Medicine and Leadership Track
Psychiatry
Baylor Scott & White Medical Center | Temple, TX

BENJAMIN ELGAN

Global Medicine Track
Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
Sunrise Health GME Consortium | Las Vegas, NV

*Graduating with Honors

EMERSON EVANS
Global Medicine Track
Internal Medicine
University of Washington | Boise, ID

ANISSA FINLEY KLEIN
Gold Humanism Honor Society
Emergency Medicine
University of Nebraska Medical Center | Omaha, NE

MCKENZIE FRYE
Gold Humanism Honor Society
Long Term Care Track
Internal Medicine
University of Utah Health | Salt Lake City, UT

D. JUSTICE GARRISH
Family Medicine
Center for Family Medicine | Sioux Falls, SD

STEVE GAWRYS
Academic Medicine and Leadership Track
Family Medicine
University of Florida COM | Shands Hospital
Gainesville, FL

SEAN A. GEORGE
Global Medicine Track
Sigma Sigma Phi
Family Medicine
Community Health Care | Tacoma, WA

THOMAS J. GORDON
Family Medicine
Mercy Medical Center | Redding, CA

QUINTON GRAY
Military Medicine
Sigma Sigma Phi
Psychiatry
Walter Reed National Military Medical Center
Bethesda, MD

LAUREN D. HAGENSTEIN
Academic Medicine and Leadership Track
Gold Humanism Honor Society
Pediatrics
Medical College of Wisconsin | Milwaukee, WI

TYLER HALL
Family Medicine
University of Texas Health Science Center | Tyler, TX

KAITLIN RAE HALLAHAN
Global Medicine Track
Sigma Sigma Phi
Pediatrics
St Louis University Hospital | St. Louis, MO

CHRISTOPHER HANNUM JR.
Academic Medicine and Leadership Track
Internal Medicine
San Ysidro Health | San Diego, CA

JOSHUA HANSEN
Psychiatry
East Tennessee State University | Johnson City, TN

JAYSEN HATCH
Global Medicine Track
Sigma Sigma Phi
Transitional Year
Baptist Memorial Hospital | DeSoto
Southaven, MS

CASON HEIER
Sigma Sigma Phi
Internal Medicine
St. Joseph Hospital | Denver, CO

SHIELA HEILEMAN
Gold Humanism Honor Society
Rural and Wilderness Medicine Track
Emergency Medicine
UPMC Hamot Medical Center | Erie, PA

EMILY HEINSEN
Internal Medicine
Dignity Health | St. Rose Dominican Hospital
Las Vegas, NV

JORDAN HIGGS
Otolaryngology
Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine
Philadelphia, PA

MICHAEL CHALLIS HIGHAM
Military Medicine
Sigma Sigma Phi
Pediatrics
Wright Patterson Medical Center | Air Force Base
Green County, OH

CLARK ROBERT HOLLINGSHEAD

JACKSON HOLMGREN
Digital Health Track
General Surgery
University of Kansas School of Medicine | Wichita, KS

BRADY JAMES *
Sigma Sigma Phi

JOSEPH JENKINS
Pediatrics
Baylor Scott & White Medical Center
Temple, TX

TYLER BILL JOHNSON

Rural and Wilderness Medicine Track

JORDAN BRUCE JONES

Anesthesiology
University of Florida COM | Shands Hospital
Gainesville, FL

MEGHANA KETHIREDDY

Digital Health Track
Internal Medicine
Riverside University Health System | Moreno Valley, CA

HYEIN HAILY KIL

General Surgery
Virtua Health | Camden, NJ

JESSICA VALERIE KITSEN

Academic Medicine and Leadership Track
Internal Medicine
University of Arizona COM | Tucson, AZ

YAZMINE KRENTSA

Global Medicine Track
Psychiatry
Jersey Shore University Medical Center | Hackensack, NJ

THOMAS K. KUEHN *

Global Medicine Track
Sigma Sigma Phi

KARISHMA SALIM NADYA LAKHANI

Global Medicine Track

ANDREW LARSON

Rural and Wilderness Medicine Track
Family Medicine
Skagit Regional Health | Mount Vernon, WA

TIMOTHY LIGHT

Global Medicine Track
Gold Humanism Honor Society
General Surgery
University of Nebraska Medical Center | Omaha, NE

MARK LINFORD

Military Medicine
Internal Medicine
Wright Patterson Medical Center AFB | Green County, OH

ANGELA ELIZABETH MACFARLANE

Long Term Care Track
Emergency Medicine
Cook County Health | Chicago, IL

AUSTIN W. MARTINEZ

Internal Medicine
Baylor Scott & White Medical Center | Temple, TX

KAMAEHU MATTHIAS

Digital Health Track
Family Medicine
Creighton University | Phoenix, AZ

R. DALLON MAXWELL

Pediatrics
Tucson Hospitals Medical Education | Tucson, AZ

ALEXANDRA MCMILLAN

Physician Scientist Track
Sigma Sigma Phi
General Surgery
HealthONE-CO | Lone Tree, CO

HOPE MENNING

Sigma Sigma Phi
Family Medicine
Mayo Clinic School of Graduate Medical Education
Rochester, MN

COLTON MERRILL

Academic Medicine and Leadership Track
Pediatrics
Phoenix Children's Hospital | Phoenix, AZ

JORDAN MIKESSELL

Emergency Medicine
Henry Ford Jackson Hospital | Jackson, MI

AMANDA DIANNE MORGAN

Academic Medicine and Leadership Track
Internal Medicine
SSM Health | St. Louis University SOM
St. Louis, MO

TANNER MORRIS

Academic Medicine and Leadership Track
Gold Humanism Honor Society
Sigma Sigma Phi
Family Medicine
Centura Health Corporation | Westminster, CO

ADELENE MORROW

Digital Health Track

SHAD MORTENSEN *

Physician Scientist Track
Sigma Sigma Phi
Preliminary Surgery
Creighton University | Phoenix, AZ

JORDAN PERRY NELSON
Anesthesiology
Cleveland Clinic | Warrensville Heights, OH

TAYLOR NELSON
Family Medicine
HonorHealth | Scottsdale, AZ

RYAN NGO
Family Medicine
Texas Tech University | Amarillo, TX

KATIE OFFNER
Military Medicine
Transitional Year
Walter Reed National Military Medical Center
Bethesda, MD

GARRETT OLSEN
Sigma Sigma Phi
Internal Medicine
Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center | Idaho Falls, ID

TAYLOR PARK
Global Medicine Track
Internal Medicine
Legacy Good Samaritan Medical Center | Portland, OR

LAWSEN PARKER
Academic Medicine and Leadership Track
Ophthalmology
Corewell Health William Beaumont University Hospital
Taylor, MI

JACQUELINE Q. PHAM
Global Medicine Track
Emergency Medicine
Zucker School of Medicine | Manhasset, NY

ALYSSA P. QUINN *
Gold Humanism Honor Society
Physician Scientist Track
Sigma Sigma Phi
Dermatology
Lehigh Valley Hospital | Allentown, PA

STEPHANIE QUOSS *
Sigma Sigma Phi
Internal Medicine
Maine Medical Center | Portland, ME

LUKE RICHARDS
Family Medicine
Idaho State University | Pocatello, ID

ZEKE RICHARDS
Physician Scientist Track
Sigma Sigma Phi
Psychiatry
University of Utah Health | Salt Lake City, UT

JASON M. ROE
Anesthesiology
Indiana University School of Medicine
Indianapolis, IN

BRADY ROGERS
Internal Medicine
Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences
Tulsa, OK

EDUARDO SANCHEZ
Internal Medicine
Broward Health Medical Center | Deerfield Beach, FL

JACOB SAWYER
Rural and Wilderness Medicine Track
Pediatrics
Baylor Scott & White Medical Center | Temple, TX

KEVIN DOYLE SEELY
Physician Scientist Track
Sigma Sigma Phi
General Surgery
Mercy Medical Center | Des Moines, IA

NATHAN SPERRY
Military Medicine
Family Medicine
Martin Army Community Hospital | Fort Moore, GA

EVAN G. STARR
Gold Humanism Honor Society
Long Term Care Track
Family Medicine
Mayo Clinic School of Graduate Medical Education
Rochester, MN

RILEY STEARNS
Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
SUNY Upstate Medical University | Syracuse, NY

MATTHEW STEFFENSEN
Family Medicine
Texas Tech University | Lubbock, TX

WAYNE STERR
Family Medicine
Halifax Medical Center | Daytona Beach, FL

SHREYAS KRISHNA PADMA SURESH
Academic Medicine and Leadership Track

MORGAN SZCZEPANIAK
Global Medicine Track
Emergency Medicine
Corewell Health East Beaumont | Royal Oak, MI

KALVIN E. THOMAS
Internal Medicine
University of Arizona College of Medicine
Tucson, AZ

KYLE TRACY
Sigma Sigma Phi

COOPER VANDEMERWE
Academic Medicine and Leadership Track
Pediatrics
Phoenix Children's Hospital | Phoenix, AZ

SHREYA VUCHULA
Academic Medicine and Leadership Track
Gold Humanism Honor Society
Internal Medicine
Jefferson Health | Stratford, NJ

ELLISON BARLOW WALKER
Global Medicine Track

LESLEY WATERS-KELLAR
Global Medicine Track
Gold Humanism Honor Society
Psychiatry
University of Kentucky Medical Center
Lexington, KY

AUSTIN B. WHITE
Digital Health Track
Gold Humanism Honor Society
Family Medicine
Dignity Health East Valley | Gilbert, AZ

BRANDON WILKINSON
Psychiatry
Community Health Network | Indianapolis, IN

DOUGLAS STEPHEN WIRTHLIN
Rural and Wilderness Medicine Track

CHEYENNE WONG
Gold Humanism Honor Society
Military Medicine
General Surgery
Wright Patterson Medical Center | Air Force Base
Green County, OH

WESTIN J. WONG
Global Medicine Track
Gold Humanism Honor Society

MICHAEL WONS *
Gold Humanism Honor Society
Sigma Sigma Phi
Internal Medicine
Maine Medical Center | Portland, ME

STEVEN YORK
Military Medicine
Family Medicine
Scott Air Force Base | Belleville, IL

TAMMY ZAMAITIS
Long Term Care Track
Internal Medicine
University of Arizona College of Medicine
Tucson, AZ

BAYLI ZIMMERMAN *
Rural and Wilderness Medicine Track
Sigma Sigma Phi
Anesthesiology
University of Kentucky Medical Center
Lexington, KY

YASIR IZHAR

ACADEMIC REGALIA

Graduates of Rocky Vista University's College of Osteopathic Medicine wear royal blue gowns adorned with green velvet which shows their connection to the field of medicine. The doctoral hood features the colors of the graduate's University on the inside and the academic discipline on the outside. Graduates proudly don these hoods, signifying their mastery of knowledge and expertise in their chosen field.

The continuation of incorporating medical green symbolizes the achievement of becoming healthcare professionals, emphasizing our commitment to the field of medicine and the unique identity of Osteopathic Physicians. The regalia design, including wide velvet bands of green for medicine and the green trimming on hoods, pays homage to longstanding traditions. These elements are intentional and serve to represent the degrees conferred, specifically acknowledging the accomplishment of earning a Doctorate in Osteopathic Medicine - paired with RVU Blue, it enhances our sense of school pride and solidarity.

Commencement regalia holds great significance as it symbolizes the academic achievements and accomplishments of our esteemed graduates. Our graduates proudly wear this attire during the commencement ceremony to mark the milestone of their educational journey.

Wearing this timeless academic tradition brings a sense of honor and connection to the long line of graduates who have walked before you. We congratulate you on your remarkable accomplishments and look forward to celebrating your success at the upcoming commencement ceremony.

THE UNIVERSITY MACE



Historically, the mace has been used as a symbol of authority in the military, first originating as a weapon to protect the King. As the custom of carrying a mace into war disappeared, it became popular to use in governmental ceremonies.

The mace made its way into the university setting in the 15th century and is primarily associated with commencement ceremonies.

With the Class of 2012 Commencement on the horizon, a search was launched for the perfect mace to represent Rocky Vista University. All options were made of metal, looked generic, or didn't reflect who we are. Instead, RVU decided to commission the creation of something special.

Chuck Hunsberger, husband of Katy Hunsberger, previous Associate Director of Admissions, was asked to carve the mace from wood. A skilled woodworker, Chuck used over five kinds of Colorado wood, creating an elegant yet rustic mace that represents RVU through and through.

The mace has been present at every commencement ceremony, starting with its first appearance at the inaugural class graduation in 2012.

THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDALLION

The Presidential Medallion of Rocky Vista University is made of brass and weighs 24 ounces.

It displays the seal of RVU in blue and gold. The chain consists of two plates each depicting the Rod of Asclepius (a snake encircling a staff) - the symbol of medicine and healthcare in the United States.

There are an additional nine plates that display each of RVU's core values: Collegiality, Compassion, Diversity, Equity, Excellence, Inclusivity, Innovation, Integrity, and Service.

Above the seal, there are four plates displaying the current President, David A. Forstein, DO, FA-COOG, as well as three previous presidents: Clinton E. Adams, DO, Cheryl D. Lovell, PhD, and Robert R. Roehrich, PhD.



The Medallion is worn by the sitting President during commencement and, when not in use, is displayed in the President's Suite.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The Rocky Vista University Alumni Association was founded in 2012 as a way to provide graduates with an active and united organization, dedicated to the advancement of osteopathic medical education and related health and biomedical sciences. The Association members mentor current students, interview prospective applicants, and attend networking events. The Alumni Association identifies sources of - and educates the public on the need for - clinical rotations, internships, and residency programs for students and graduates. Additionally, the Association offers scholarships to incoming students of Rocky Vista University.

