Commencement arrived at last

The College of Medicine launched 443 outstanding new physicians and scientists into the world during the annual Commencement ceremony on May 16. Held at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, as it has been for many years, the event included the customary elements of the mace bearer, the academic procession and “Pomp and Circumstance.”

A special tradition of our College is the inclusion of 50-year alumni in the stage party. The 50-year reunion is held Commencement week, and members of the Class of 1964 were invited, if they wished, to march in with the graduates. A number of 50-year alumni representing Hahnemann Medical College and Woman’s Medical College of Pennsylvania participated, and more sat in the audience.

Joining the faculty procession were 14 family members who had come to hood a daughter, son, nephew, cousin or sibling. In addition, two of the new MDs received hoods from spouses, who had just had their own hooding.

The graduating class comprised 236 Doctors of Medicine, including three joint MD/PhDs, one joint MD/MBA, and one joint MD/MPH; 19 Doctors of Philosophy; and 188 Master of Science degree recipients.

Arthur Rubenstein, MBBCh, was the Commencement speaker. The former dean of the University of Pennsylvania’s medical school and executive vice president of the University of Pennsylvania Health System, Rubenstein is currently a professor of medicine at Penn. He and noted medical philanthropist Catherine “Deeda” Blair received honorary degrees. Blair is secretary and director of the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health and director emeritus of the Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation.

In his talk, Rubenstein briefly reviewed the origins of patient-centered research, and then commented on the current situation regarding patient care delivery by physicians and health care professionals. The core of his message, however, concerned humanity: “Over the years, many writers have suggested the attributes necessary for a successful

• continued on page 2
patient-physician relationship, among them honesty, integrity, curiosity, warmth, trust, the ability to communicate, empathy, patience and other similar qualities. More and more, however, I am convinced that humility is the central, essential characteristic,” he said.

Trisha Kadakia, who gave the graduate remarks, struck a similar note. Speaking directly to her fellow students, the newly minted MD recalled that a faculty member “reminded us not to hide behind our expertise.”

Commencement was the culmination of both years of work and weeks of festivity — faculty awards ceremonies, Alumni Weekend, graduation events, rehearsals and celebrations — a giddy mix of pride and humility, joy and nostalgia. After asking the graduates to keep in touch, Dean Daniel V. Schidlow, MD, said on the faculty’s behalf, “We cherish the years we spent together as a community of learning, and now we wish you success, good health and happiness.”
Golden Apple Awards

Given in recognition of excellence in teaching or outstanding service to the student body, the Golden Apple Awards were presented on April 9. Winners are listed by the class or group that selected them.

Class of 2017 for Excellence in Teaching
Interdisciplinary Foundations of Medicine
- Denise Ferrier, PhD, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology
- Deborah Podolin, PhD, Pharmacology & Physiology

Program for Integrated Learning
- Deborah Podolin, PhD, Pharmacology & Physiology
- Leonard Levine, MD, Pediatrics

Class of 2016 for Excellence in Teaching
Interdisciplinary Foundations of Medicine
- Michael White, PhD, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology
- Amy Fuchs, MD, Medicine

Program for Integrated Learning
- Donna Russo, PhD, Microbiology & Immunology
- Deborah Ziring, MD, Medicine

Class of 2015 for Excellence in Teaching
Attending Physician
- Daniel Taylor, DO, Pediatrics, St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children
- Dominic Herda, MD, Psychiatry, Kaiser Permanente

Resident Physician
- Jessica Fazendin, MD, Surgery, Hahnemann University Hospital
- Robert Haderer, MD, Obstetrics & Gynecology, Monmouth Medical Center

Class of 2014 for Excellence in Teaching
Attending Physician
- Wilbur Bowne, MD, Surgery, Hahnemann University Hospital
- David Bernstein, MD, Medicine, Hahnemann University Hospital

Resident Physician
- Geoffrey Bajwa, MD, Pediatrics, St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children
- Michael Wong, MD, Radiation Oncology, Hahnemann University Hospital

Student Body for Outstanding Service
- Marie Hartman, Career Development Center
- Michael Clancy, Financial Planning
- Kathleen Mongan, PIL Office

Student Government Association for Outstanding Service
- Barbara Schindler, MD, Former Vice Dean for Educational and Academic Affairs
- Arnold Smolen, PhD, Associate Dean for Information Technology
- Mary Speller, The Café at Queen Lane

Geoffrey Bajwa, MD

William Grier and Amy Fuchs, MD

Kaitlin O’Malley and Deborah Ziring, MD

Mary Speller and Demetrius Coombs
Graduate School Faculty Awards

The Drexel University College of Medicine Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Professional Studies recognized the excellence of the faculty who teach in its professional and premed programs with the school’s inaugural Teaching and Mentoring Awards.

The winners were selected for the honor by fellow faculty members, staff and students. The awards were presented at a ceremony on May 2, which was followed by a reception.

Faculty Teaching Award — Premed Programs
Karen Hurley, PhD

Faculty Mentoring Award — Premed Programs
Monika Jost, PhD

Faculty Teaching Award — Professional Programs
William Welsh, MS

Faculty Mentoring Award — Professional Programs
Richard Huneke, DVM, MPH
Alumni Weekend

From Dining with Dinosaurs in Center City to testing out the Queen Lane medical simulation center to dancing at Drexel After Dark throughout all four floors of the University’s Main Building, alumni had fun all over town.

WMC Class of 1969 Seated: Drs. Ellen Marie Anderson, MSHR, Jacqueline Kucher-Henchel, Sheila Murphey; standing: Drs. Sheila Margolis, Jeanne Fastook, Polly Graham, Agatha Nody, Marilyn Ross

Silver Dragon MCP Class of 1989 Drs. Juliet Marciano, Sarita Singh, Mary Lindholm, Donna DeSantis, Meg Cronin, Cora Lee Foster, Anna Laura Torna

Medical College of Pennsylvania and Hahnemann Silver Dragon Class of 1989

Sr. Ellen Marie Anderson, MD, WMC ’69, Joe Urban, and Barbara Urban, MD, MCP ’89

Thomas Lukaszczyk, MD, HU ’54, and his son, John Lukaszczyk, MD, HU ’84, who received the Alumni Association’s Hahnemann Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Silver Dragons Drs. N. John Cavuto, Howard Altman, Michael Goldfinger
Graduate Program Events

This Page: Students in the Medical Science program presented their posters at an event held by the Graduate School on May 5

Facing Page: On May 14, graduating students were honored at brunch
Graduating doctoral students celebrated with faculty, friends and family members at a reception on May 15. Following tradition, each student’s mentor presented her or him with the Drexel University PhD hood.

Drs. Fred Krebs and Brian Wigdahl
Drs. Elizabeth Blankenhorn and Elisabeth Van Bockstaele
Nirzari Parikh (left) with her husband, Sachin Mehta, MD, and their daughter, Sharvari
Luz-Jeannette Sierra and Julio Martin-Garcia, PhD
Drs. Michael Bouchard, Bradford Jameson and Elinor Cantor, MCP ’79
Elamaran Meibalan and James Burns, PhD
Noshin Kathuria and Michele Kutzler, PhD
Kate Beishline and Jane Clifford, PhD
PhD students are all smiles on the day before they graduate.

Katie Matthias and Richard Rest, PhD

Peter Leikos, PhD, and Greg Botta

Gokul Swaminathan and Dr. Martin-Garcia

Daniel Chandler and Barry Waterhouse, PhD

Drs. Akhil Vaidya and Sonia Navas-Martin

Manthankumar Patel and Rishikesh Haridas

Robert Laskowski and Dr. Ramesh Raghupathi
Medical Student Celebrations

Graduating medical students were honored by the Alumni Association at a luncheon on May 14. The Class of 2014 gift to the College is a sculpture, still in progress, and funds for a scholarship in conjunction with the 50-year reunion class of 1964. The Dean’s Hour Graduation Awards Ceremony followed.

Dean Schidlow and Daniel Reed

Kinjal Parikh, Devon Ganter, Daniel Devine, Michael Mirmanesh, Danielle Fine, Lauren Rabach, Shayne Sebold, Ashwinee Natu and Helayna Brown

Class of 2014 SGA Presidents: Michael Mirmanesh, Daniel Devine, Adam Sacks

Jeffrey Schneider, Janice Valko, Sanya Naware, Daniel Wahl and Jennifer Falcon

Alexa Karkenny

Sabriya Scott-Caffrey, MD '06

Sara and Bogdan Ionescu

Michael Twomey, Steven DeFroda, Russell Feit, Andrew Klobuka and (back) Michael Mirmanesh
Commencement
Behind the Scenes

Robing is the first order of business. Faculty and alumni are resplendent. Some graduates can’t resist trying on their hoods.
The Ceremony

Commencement is a perfect mix of formal tradition and carefree celebration, with babes in arms, joyous smiles and spontaneous hugs.
Graduation Awards

Graduate Student Awards

The Amedeo Bondi, PhD Endowed Graduate Award
to a PhD graduating student for excellence in research performance during the training experience:
Daniel John Chandler

The Alumnae and Alumni Association Award for services to graduate programs and student body:
Shawn Erin Keogan
Gokul Swaminathan

The Arnold P. Gold Foundation Scholarship Award for humanism in medicine:
Hannah Sterling

Doctor of Medicine Awards

The Dr. Elias Abrutyn Award for excellence in Infectious Diseases: Jennifer Y. Ding

The Award for Excellence in Anesthesiology:
Sara Jane Straesser

The O. Eugene Baum Memorial Prize for excellence in Psychiatry: Iris Ning Huang

The Paula Bernocchi Memorial Award
For excellence in the field of Emergency Medicine: Kathryn Taylor Eastley
For excellence in the field of Psychiatry: Caitlin Klass

The Iain F. S. Black, MD Award for excellence in Pediatrics, presented by the Department of Pediatrics and the Medical Staff of St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children: Garrett Patrick Keim

The Elizabeth Blackwell Memorial Prize to an outstanding woman in the graduating class: Sara Elizabeth Ionescu

The Mark A. Blatt, MD HU ’56 Memorial Prize for excellence in Family Medicine: Sara Elizabeth Ionescu

The Charles Block, MD HU ’42 Memorial Prize for excellence in Internal Medicine and Cardiology: Danielle Rebecca Fine

The Leopoldo Canales Award for excellence in Neurology: Pei Simon Liu

The Ronald P. Caputo, MD HU ’62 Memorial Award for outstanding clinical skills and humanism in the care of medical patients: Kaitlin Anne Ritter

The Harris R. Clearfield Award for excellence in Gastroenterology: Sandeep Segar

The Maurice C. Clifford, MD Leadership Award for student achievement and service: Natalie Susanne Beaty

The Donald R. Cooper, MD Award for excellence in Surgery: Eric Peter Raffin

The Dean’s Award for a universally high level of accomplishment, professional maturity and outstanding potential: Adam Berk Sacks

The Department of Dermatology Award for excellence in Dermatology: Geoffrey Fung-Soon Lim

The Drexel University College of Medicine Alumni Association Award for dedication and contribution to the community and University: Bogdan Christian Ionescu

The Drexel University College of Medicine SGA Award for outstanding dedication and loyalty to the school and the student body: Michael Adam Mashura

The David Dunn, MD Award for excellence in Neurology: Frances Elaine Chow

The Diana J. Egan Award for excellence in clinical Obstetrics and Gynecology: Sarah Hyun-Joo Kim

The Alan Edelsohn Memorial Prize for outstanding leadership and service to the class and the College of Medicine: Daniel J. Devine

The Society for Academic Emergency Medicine Award for excellence in Emergency Medicine: Kelly Kimpton Goodsell

The Eva Fernandez Fox Award for personal integrity, stability, responsibility and loyalty to the College of Medicine: Rebecca Brown

The James P. Fullin, MD HU ’76 Memorial Award for outstanding clinical and academic performance in Hematology and Oncology: Yeshika Sharma

The William Gregg Award for humanitarianism in the care of Pediatric patients: Jaime Rebecca Brown

The Van Buren O. Hammett Memorial Award for an outstanding performance in Psychiatry: Christopher Michael Myczkowski

The Hahnemann Physician’s Society Award for Community Service: Ankita Mehta

The Beatrice Sterling Hollander, MD, WMC ’41 Memorial Award to the student in the graduating class who shows promise of leadership, high character and creativeness in her profession: Ashley Janelle Whisnant

The Johnston Award for excellence in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine: Daniel Richard Reed

The Eichi K. Koiwai, MD HU ’47 Award for an outstanding performance during the Pathology Clerkship: Michael Prince Goold
The Joan Karnblum Memorial Prize for excellence in Internal Medicine: Iris Ann Hagans

The Elizabeth D. Labovitz, MD WMC ’63 Award for excellence in Renal and Electrolyte Studies: Raymond Alexander Janowski

The Joseph A. Langbord Memorial Prize for humanitarianism in medicine: Meilin Ann Young

The Samuel Levit Award for outstanding skills and humanitarianism in Medicine: Sonia Jasuja

The William Likoff, MD Award for distinction in the care of medical patients and commitment to academic excellence: Richard Sandeep Amara

The George D. Lumb, MD Award for outstanding achievement in the Pathology course: Dominic Jovan Hill

The Daniel Mason, MD HU ’44 Award for Cardiovascular clinical work: William Paul Hennon

The Dr. Judith Mausner Award for excellence in Community and Preventive Medicine: Adam Berk Sacks

The Medical Humanities Award: Trisha Sarit Kadakia

Robin Cole Whitehall

The Alma D. Morani, MD WMC ’31 Award in Gross Anatomy for excellence in Anatomy during the senior year: Melissa Louise Desouza

Justin Gorski

The Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology Award for overall academic excellence in Obstetrics and Gynecology: Justin Robert Thompson

For academic excellence in the Obstetrics and Gynecology Clinical Clerkship: Nicholas Anthony Girardi

For leadership in the field of Obstetrics and Gynecology: Sarah Hyun-Joo Kim

The Office of Student Affairs Award for service to fellow students: Michael David Mirmanesh

The Office of Student Affairs Creativity Award for creativity in the arts: Robin Cole Whitehall

The Axel K. Olsen, MD Neurosurgery Award for excellence in Neurosurgery: Chen Xu

The Oscar Corr, MD, and HU ’43 Award for excellence in Orthopedic Surgery: Garrett Allen Cavanaugh

The Gerald Pearson Memorial Award for excellence in Child Psychiatry: Daniel Robert Rubio

The Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians, Philadelphia Branch Award for performance and leadership in Family Medicine: Ashley Swathi Reddy

The Rigberg Family Award for excellence in the fields of Hematology, Oncology, Obstetrics or Gynecology: Gregory Paul Botta

The Joel J. Roslyn, MD Award for outstanding leadership, while demonstrating a notable level of commitment and service to his/her fellow students: Gregory Paul Botta

The Walter Rubin, MD Award for academic and clinical excellence in Medicine: Ankita Mehta

The Nathan L. Samuels, MD, HU ’51 Prize for excellence in Family Medicine: Jason Raymond Woloski

The Richard Shuman Award for excellence in Pathology and Laboratory Medicine: Andrew C. Meschter

The Dr. Lee Winston Silver Award for excellence in Pediatrics: Taissa Jude Kohut

The Maurice Sones Award for excellence in Primary Care Medicine: Ayushi Desai

The Winifred B. Stewart Memorial Award for excellence in Psychiatry: Courtney Alexandria Murray

The Jane Stuart Prize for excellence in Radiation Oncology and Clinical Oncology: Gregory Paul Botta

The Department of Surgery Award for excellence in the Surgery Clerkship: Abington Memorial Hospital: Sara Jane Strassser

Allegheny General Hospital: Darshan Patel

Easton Hospital: Garrett Patrick Keim

Lehigh Valley Hospital: Wayland Jay Wu

Monmouth Medical Center: Alexa Jaclyn Karkenny

Philadelphia Area: Isabel Salinas Eisner

Pinnacle Health Hospital: Robert Demarco Norman

Saint Peter’s Hospital: Olga Beresneva

York Hospital: Kelli Renee Brightmeyer

The Department of Surgery Award for excellence in the Surgery Pathway: Melissa Louise DeSouza

The Charles Swartz Award for academic and clinical excellence in Medicine: Kiran Gouthikonda

The Daniel M. Tabas Award for outstanding scholarly achievement by a student pursuing a career in Primary Care: Ashley Lynn Ruby

The Arthur and Bertha Weisman Award for excellence in Child Psychiatry: Garrett Patrick Keim

The Woman One Scholar Award: Nejat Merdato Naser

The Women’s Health Education Awards in recognition of outstanding leadership and community commitment in the field of Women’s Health: Academic Achievement: Justine Shum

Leadership: Gabrielle Monet Hawkins

Community Commitment: Natalie Susanne Beaty

The Wu Family Prize for excellence in the study of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation: Anoop B. Shah

The Dr. Margaret Gray Wood Award in recognition of a student who has made significant contributions to alumnae and alumni student relations: Sara Elizabeth Ionescu

The Dr. Mary Yankosky Award For excellence in Endocrinology: Iris Ning Huang

For excellence in Radiologic Sciences: Shiv S. Tilwa
50-Year Reunion and Grand Class Luncheon

Members of the Class of 1964 were welcomed at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University. Reunion activities included a city tour and visit to the Legacy Center at Queen Lane, dinner at the Hyatt at the Bellevue, attending Commencement, and being welcomed into the Golden Dragon Society by the Grand Classes (alumni who graduated more than 50 years ago). Look for more pictures in the next **Alumni Magazine**.
Distinguished Faculty Awards

Blockley-Osler Award for Excellence in Teaching Medicine at the Bedside

Robert Pargament, MD, Medicine, York Hospital

Dean’s Special Award for Excellence in Clinical Teaching

**Abington Memorial Hospital**
Margot Boigon, MD, Medicine

**Albert Einstein Medical Center**
David S. Roby, MD, Neurology

**Allegheny General Hospital**
Daniel H. Benckart, MD, Thoracic & Cardiovascular Surgery

**Capital Health System**
Rajeev Shah, MD, Pediatrics

**Chambersburg Hospital**
Satyajit Mukherjee, MD, Psychiatry

**Coatesville VA Medical Center**
Mohammad Qasim, MD, Psychiatry

**Crozer-Chester Medical Center**
Bradley Grayum, MD, Neurology

**Easton Hospital**
Chand Rohatgi, MD, Surgery

**Friends Hospital**
Thambipillai Sureshkumar, MD, Psychiatry

**Hahnemann University Hospital**
D. Scott Lind, MD, Surgery

**Lancaster General Hospital**
Christine Stabler, MD, Family Medicine

**Lehigh Valley Health Network**
Cheryl A. Bloomfield, MD, Medicine

**Mercy Health System**
Prashanth Ramachandra, MD, Surgery

**Monmouth Medical Center**
Neil R. Holland, MBBS, Neurology

**Pinnacle Health System**
Ayesha S. Ahmad, MD, Medicine

**The Reading Hospital & Medical Center**
Peter A. Schwartz, MD, Obstetrics & Gynecology

**St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children**
Keith Herzog, MD, Pediatrics

**Saint Peter’s University Hospital**
Michael J. Lucas, MD, Pediatrics

**York Hospital**
Daniel B. Kravitz, MD, Psychiatry

**Clinical Teaching by a Family Practice Site**
Lancaster Family Medicine Residency
MCP Class of 1972

What was new in 1972? Long hair, short skirts and, at Medical College of Pennsylvania, male graduates.