# COMMENCEMENT

NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY





Dear Graduates,

Allow me to add my congratulations on your graduation from Nova Southeastern University.

You can feel proud, as we do, that you walk this stage to receive your degree from a world-class, R1 research university that prepares our students for purposeful careers while fostering innovation, opportunity, and community service.

Personally, I believe the pursuit and successful achievement of higher education is one of life's most transformative journeys.

Today, I am sure that you are eager to step forward toward your own next chapter, ready to seek your own greater horizons. We celebrate you, your family, and your future success.

You are what excellence looks like.

Harry K. Moon, M.D., FACS, FRCSEd President and Chief Executive Officer Nova Southeastern University



## THE NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY MACE

#### **HISTORY OF THE MACE**

During the Middle Ages, the mace was an effective weapon in battle and also was displayed as a symbol to command order during royal gatherings, religious ceremonies, and university classes. As newer and more powerful military arms were created, however, the mace progressed into a symbol of authority and today is frequently used to lead religious and academic processions.

The mace was originally a wooden staff carried by royal messengers as a symbol to preserve order and usher royal functions. The early wooden staff of such royal messengers or lead ushers of ceremonial processions was transformed in the 14th century into an elaborate sterling silver mace. Eventually, in the 15th century it evolved into a symbol of academic excellence and dignity.

#### **NSU'S MACE**

Before its merger in 1994 with Southeastern University of the Health Sciences, Nova University's mace bore a sterling silver "nova star" symbolizing the university's name and mission. Symbolically, Nova University's "nova star" burned brightly, providing educational enlightenment to the world. Today, a new sterling silver mace highlights the past, present, and future through the inclusion of the original "nova star" representing the university's past, surrounding the NSU seal. When not in official use, the mace is displayed in the rotunda of the William and Norma Horvitz Administration Building.

In Latin, "nova" means new or innovative. Nova Southeastern University was created to be an innovative educational institution—to take the best of traditional education from the past and mold it to fit the needs of students for today and tomorrow.

#### **NSU'S VISION**

Enhance Nova Southeastern University's reputation as a leading professional-dominant, doctoral research university providing competitive career advantages to our students and fostering alumni and partnership connections.

#### **NSU'S MISSION**

The mission of Nova Southeastern University—a selective, doctoral research university—is to deliver leading academic programs in a dynamic, innovative environment. We foster academic excellence, leadership, integrity, and scientific, economic, and community contributions through engaging and empowering our students, faculty, staff, alumni, and partners.

#### **CORE VALUES**

Student-Centered

Academic Excellence

Scholarship and Research

Innovation

Opportunity

Community

Diversity

Integrity

#### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Charles L. Palmer, Chair
Barry J. Silverman, M.D., Vice Chair
Samuel F. Morrison, Secretary
Harry K. Moon, M.D., FACS, FRCSEd,
President and CEO

Kathy Assaf Walter L. Banks, Sr. Mitchell W. Berger, Esq. Rita Case R. Douglas Donn James Donnelly Arthur J. Falcone
Steven J. Halmos
Carol Harrison Kalagher
Milton L. Jones, Jr.
Barbara Trebbi Landry
Alan B. Levan
Albert J. Miniaci
Anthony N. Ottaviani, D.O., M.P.H.,
MACOI, FCCP
Kiran C. Patel, M.D.
Martin R. Press, Esq.
Paul M. Sallarulo

Michelle Howland Sussman J. Kenneth Tate Zachariah P. Zachariah, M.D. Michael J. Zager

#### **Trustee Emeriti**

Ronald G. Assaf H. Wayne Huizenga\* Mike Jackson Nell McMillan Lewis, Ed.D. George I. Platt, Esq.

#### UNIVERSITY SENIOR ADMINISTRATORS

## Harry K. Moon, M.D., FACS, FRCSEd

President and Chief Executive Officer

### Ronald J. Chenail, Ph.D.

Executive Vice President, Provost, and Chief Academic Officer

#### Chad A. Perlyn, M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A.

Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer; Executive Medical Director for NSU Health

### Daniel J. Alfonso, Ed.D., M.Fin.

Executive Vice President for Facilities, Safety, and Campus Services

#### Marc Crocquet, M.B.A.

Vice President for Business Services

#### Ken Dawson-Scully, Ph.D., M.Sc.

Senior Vice President for Research and Associate Provost

#### Kvle Fisher, B.A.

Vice President for Public Relations and Marketing Communications

## Valerie Grapshi, M.P.A.

Interim Vice President for Compliance

#### Rick E. James, B.B.A.

Chief Strategy and Operations Officer for NSU Health

#### Meline Kevorkian, Ed.D.

Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Associate Provost

#### Terry Mularkey, M.A.S., CFRE

Vice President for Advancement and Community Relations

#### Thomas F. Panza, J.D.

Interim Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel

#### Stacy Peña-Villalobos, Ed.D.

Vice President for Financial Aid and Academic Records

#### Rvan Romero, M.S.

Interim Athletics Director

#### Kelley Shanley, M.B.A.

Interim Executive Director, Alan B. Levan | NSU Broward Center of Innovation

#### Alvson Silva, M.AC., CPA

Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

#### Renee Venezia, Ed.D., SPHR

Interim Vice President for Human Resources

#### Thomas West, M.B.A.

Vice President for Information Technologies and Chief Information Officer

<sup>\*</sup> in memoriam



## **CEREMONY SCHEDULE**

## Undergraduate Degrees

May 5, 2025, at 9:30 a.m.	4
Halmos College of Arts and Sciences and the Guy Harvey Oceanographic Research Center	5
May 5, 2025, at 3:00 p.m	ε
Abraham S. Fischler College of Education and School of Criminal Justice	9
College of Computing and Engineering	9
College of Psychology	10
H. Wayne Huizenga College of Business and Entrepreneurship	10
Shepard Broad College of Law	1

M	1ay 6, 2025, at 9:30 a.m	. 12
	Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine	13
	Dr. Pallavi Patel College of Health Care Sciences	13
	Ron and Kathy Assaf College of Nursing	. 14

## **OUTSTANDING STUDENTS**

#### May 5, 2025, at 9:30 a.m

Halmos College of Arts and Sciences and the Guy Harvey Oceanographic Research Center Lauren Rose Nonnenmacher, *Chemistry* Sophia Carolyn Wehle, *International Studies* 

#### May 5, 2025, at 3:00 p.m.

Abraham S. Fischler College of Education and School of Criminal Justice

Suzette M. Benitez, *Education* Julia M. Turano, *Education* 

College of Computing and Engineering

Elohor Uvo, Information Technology Efemena G. Uvo, Information Technology

**College of Psychology** 

Kamea Peterman, *Psychology* Divya Vijay Papaiya, *Psychology* 

**Farquhar Honors College** 

Kevin Rafferty, *Marine Biology* Aditi Gorthy, *Neuroscience and Biology* 

H. Wayne Huizenga College of Business and Entrepreneurship

Isaiah Anthony Cabral, Accounting

Shepard Broad College of Law Jenna Dewey, *Law* 

Bryan A. Soudrain, *Law* 

#### May 6, 2025, at 9:30 a.m.

Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine

Colin J. Pulickathadam, *Health Informatics and Biology* Galena Gomez, *Public Health* 

Dr. Pallavi Patel College of Health Care Sciences

Marissa Olina Bonsangue, *Anesthesia* Kylee Thomas, *Medical Sonography* 

Ron and Kathy Assaf College of Nursing

Lauren Elizabeth Alberts, *Nursing* Kaylah Louis, *Nursing* 

## ORDER OF EXERCISES

Undergraduate Degrees from the Halmos College of Arts and Sciences and the Guy Harvey Oceanographic Research Center

May 5, 2025, at 9:30 a.m.

#### THE ACADEMIC PROCESSION

Grand Marshal

**Degree Candidates** 

Members of the Faculty

Members of the Board of Trustees

**Distinguished Guests** 

**University Officials** 

Processional	Pomp and Circumstance
Presiding Officer	Harry K. Moon, M.D., FACS, FRCSEd, President and Chief Executive Officer
NSU ROTC Contingent Presentation of the Colors	
National Emblem March (Trio) by E. E. Bagley, arr. Cavanaugh	
The Star-Spangled Banner by Key/Smith	
Convening the Commencement	
Grand Marshal	Juliette Kitchens, Ph.D., Associate Professor Halmos College of Arts and Sciences and the Guy Harvey Oceanographic Research Center
Welcome and Introductions	Ronald J. Chenail, Ph.D., Executive Vice President, Provost, and Chief Academic Officer
Farquhar Honors College	Andrea Nevins, Ph.D., <i>Dean</i>
Halmos College of Arts and Sciences	Robin Cooper, Ph.D., <i>Interim Dean,</i> Halmos College of Arts and Sciences and the Guy Harvey Oceanographic Research Center
Opening Remarks	Harry K. Moon, M.D., FACS, FRCSEd
Recognition of Honors College and Honor Society Graduates	Andrea Nevins, Ph.D.
Student Speaker	Taylor McKenna Reinsel, Class of '25
Conferring of the Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters Degree	Harry K. Moon, M.D., FACS, FRCSEd
Commencement Address	Jeb Bush, <i>Governor</i>
Presentation of Candidates for Degrees	Ronald J. Chenail, Ph.D.
Conferral of Degrees	Harry K. Moon, M.D., FACS, FRCSEd
Closing Remarks	Harry K. Moon, M.D., FACS, FRCSEd
Dismissal of the Commencement	Grand Marshal Juliette Kitchens, Ph.D.

Recessional

#### THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

O! say can you see by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there;
O! say does that star-spangled banner yet wave,
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

#### NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY ALMA MATER

Hail Thee, Nova Southeastern! Bright sun shining new; Radiant star of our morning, Ever rising, true;

May thy wisdom serve as our constant guide and thy love a beacon strong, as throughout the world we spread thy name joining voice in grateful song:

Nova Southeastern, Alma Mater, By thy light imbue, Service, honor, loyalty, 'til our days are through, Love Thee, Gray and Blue!

## CANDIDATES

HALMOS COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES AND THE GUY HARVEY OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH CENTER

#### **BACHELOR OF ARTS**

#### **Art and Design**

Maria Laura Bernal Torres Malea M. Burroughs Angelica Maria Guerra Ruales, Jr. Cadan Emmanuel Hinds Isabella Ray Marmo Gabriella A. Neves Jada A. Parris Bryan Heath Pekar Anastasia Vazquez de Miguel

#### Communication

Francesca Abarca
Brielle Amy Aguayo
Mia Alvarado
Alana Ellis
Luqman M. Gbenro
Allison E. Holland
Marissa Karlie Jacabacci
Suzan Kinran
Marlon Vicente Matute, Jr.
Kayla C. Mcgee
Fidel Ernesto Pérez Pujols
Emily Diane Potter
Nicolette Theresa Marie Sobit
Valeria Toro
Elimar Villamizar

#### Dance

Madison Ashley Cantor Rachel L. Harris Ysabella B. Lupercio Abigail F. Mas Kimora Roberts

#### English

Abigail D. Geier Christina T. Hall Anjaly Ann Kappen Gloria D. Mendez Sabrina Solaman

#### History

Anais K. Orellana

#### **International Studies**

Sama H. Ali Kareilys Castillo Catalina Cusano Jenny Davila Jihnny P. De Giles Alexandra Diana Hernandez Sophia Carolyn Wehle

#### Music

Jyllian Donnae Brown Estela Annette Bruno Carmela Luna Cinnante James Perez

#### **Political Science**

Joshua Hertzel Abadi Madison Alvarez Kyle Bell Suraj H. Doobay Gabriella R. Fidanze Casey L. Homorody Taylor M. Margherita Danisse Martinez Parker J. Morgan Melina Isabelle Pecci Raul Andres Riquelme Forero Nikolas David Tousis Emily Nicolette Troy

#### Theatre

Amanda I. Alonso Brooke M. Bowser Maria Soccorsa Pironi Katey Alexa Rusgo

#### **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE**

#### **Applied Professional Studies** Mia Adamus

Elizabeth E. Adigun Timari Janay Barnes Natalia A. Berning Addison A. Bremmer Dominique B. Brown Ian George Brundrett Brianna Josephine Buckley Ariana Beatriz Cardona Jolie R. Coelho Cassidy Duskin Maria F. Espinoza Stephanie Fernandez-Blay Kayla Ashley Germain Layth Hai Joseph Iraldi, Jr. Anabelle L. Jerome Ryan Kenney Kaisa Emelia Lang Natalie Lynn McGinnis Erin M. Mcglothlin Sarai Rebecca Moorer Jahbari I. Newton

Macklyne Nicolas
Tamar B. Nijhove
Carlos Nolasco, Jr.
Alejandro D. Perez
Kader Rabagh
Victoria R. Remaley
Lauren A. Robledo
Steven Rodriguez
Zeth Rodriguez
Raoul Rajanard Rolle
Jared Robert Scott
Camila A. Velarde
Fernando J. Vila
Krystal B. Wallace
Teshia Natalie Watson Bailey

#### Biology

Alena A. Abraham Ashley Tomasine Abraham Alivia Kathleen Albright Sama H. Ali Rohan Alokam Melissa Alonso Roig Tania Anousheh Guadalupe Armendarez Claudette C. Artiles Karam H. Asad Omobolanle A. Ayangade Felipe F. Ayoub Jake Thomas Baber Catherine Balderas-Espinel Carsyn E. Band Shehr Bano Danniel Shane Barte Anish Batta Amanda N. Bautista Tiarra Been Stephanie A. Bellido Roshini S. Bodicherla Ashley Nicole Bran Sampson Andrew Ian Brandea Laasya Buddharaju Dylan Bulkan Taylor Rhea Butler Mia Caballero Brianna M. Calderon Alexis Nicole Carver Mateo Castano Galindo Maria M. Castellon Lara Cereminati Bryan C. Chan Sansen Chanasseril Abril Chao Zinel Katarina Chernin Jordan D. Chessar Elizabeth Condor Cheyanne Carole Crisafulli Kylie Elizabeth daCosta Ahmad Abdallah Dahcheh

Christina Dai Aalyah W. Daoud Krishna Dasyam Taila L. De Castro Mahi B. Desai Manav G. Desai

Danna Michelle Diaz Pedroza

Ishrat M. Diya Sahit Dokku

Vishaal Athul Daryl Dulan Nitish Dundigalla Bianca Echeverria Valentina El Khouri Faieta

Serene A. Ellis Nour I. Elmoutawakel Marco A. Escuela Justin Evans Fahie Brianna K. Ferguson Whitney K. Francois Stephany Frantser Joel Hedley Fry Maria Jose Gacharna Francesca Marie Galanti Rahil J. Gandhi Alexa Bell Garcia

Daniela Garcia Alvarez Fabie Gelin Thomas Eldose George

Faith T. German Elizabeth S. Gertchev Aleksandra Gierasimiuk

Kishan Chowdary Goli Aylen H. Gomez Chase Allen Gonzales Jovanna Anabel Gonzalez

Michelle Lynn Gorodisky Aditi Gorthy

Gal Gottesmann Simran Goyal Emmanuel Guerrero Sridevi Gundimeda Alicia F. Hall

Daphne Sabrina Hernandez Adriana Hernandez Acosta Natalie My Duyen Ho Elsis Nerys Hurtado Melissa I. Intriago

Jeniya N. Jackson Salena Rose Jacob Trisha Jaganathan Arun S. Jagarlamudi\* Christopher T. James Brunett Diamond Jeanglaude

Niah A. Johnson Briona Marie Johnston Al'Shanyrah C. Jones Vyctorea C. Jones Jasmine Julka Christie Justin Akhil S. Kalapatapu Tabitha P. Karls Mahit Kattekola

Sanjna Chowdary Kavuru Mariya Tanveer Khan Sabrina M. Khan Chetan S. Kolli Sohan Reddy Kolli Sri Vaishnavi Konagalla Shravya Konatam Devaj Surva Koralla Megha Mary Kurian

Anastasia N. Kydes Brianna Michelle Lacasse Amulya Lakum

Shaini Lal Danny Vinh Lam Robert M. Langer Justin M. Le Vyn Aviso Le Kangheon Lee Kaylyn Lee

Nia Angelique Lewis Olivia C. Livingstone Pranav Reddy Madadi Revanth Madamsetty Sanjana Madaram Kymberlee C. Mahatoo Martina Alejandra

Maldonado Chavez Pavan Reddy Mandadi Ethan Christopher Manoo Sofia P. Marichal

Annakav T. Martin Uriel L. Masckauchan Sheril Raju Mathew Jay Angad Matta Kayle Mederos Jasneen Meghadri Rushil Mehrotra Melanie Mendonca Nadia K. Milfort Michelle Claire Milman Jaffar I. Mohamed Yvedaelle Moncher Rahul Mote

Jewel Mousa Smrithi Mukund Ilan R. Nedjar Rachel Nguyen Maximiliano B. Nolan Mahi Reddy Nomula Sharon Nunez

Goodness Okoh

Chukwudum Chimere Okpalaoka Julia Oliveira Bernardes

Alyssa Nicole Ortiz Aleia Jean Ott Luca Robert Pachler Jose Christian Padron, Jr. Pooja P. Parikh

Taviana A. Parker Ariun Ashish Patel Ashna Patel Darsh D. Patel

Diva Patel Ishani Gaurav Patel Kunial M. Patel

Devanshi R. Patel Mit R. Patel

Ohm V. Patel Param Patel Pareena P. Patel Prem M. Patel Riyana Patel Savri K. Patel Shanay M. Patel

Shreeya Patel Shreeya Rajesh Patel Shrey Nikhilesh Patel

Sneh Patel Vir Patel Vraj V. Patel Kaitlyn J. Perez Angelina Perumal Chamryne R. Pierre Teva Ana Plastich Akhil Sai Polakampalli

Bianca Simona Popovski Katherine Grace Christina Powell

Colin J. Pulickathadam Victoria Pulido-Correa Sumaiya Rahman Arpita M. Raman Jarlynn Melissa Ramirez

Roohika Rastogi

Rohan Rukkannagari Reddy

Brooke D. Reichmuth Lewis Augustus Reid Taylor McKenna Reinsel Daniela Reves Hailey Virginia Ribeiro Melanie Rodriguez Adam M. Sadik Leena Firas Saidi

Emiliano Saldana Omar E. Saleh Vibha Sai Sankavaram Shriya Selvakumar Simrun Shah Valton Sharpe Rawia Siddiqui Elan Mark Silman Breanna Silva

Yenisis Maria Silva Varesha Ashti Singh

Ngo Tsun Siu

Carlos A. Silva

Jaden J. Smith Tanveer Soha Lauren Gabrielle Solovey-Zilberman Sameer Sorathia Anise M. Study Anagha Sneha Sudhir Lohita Sunkara Srikar S. Sureddi Shreya Pankaj Surti Jalynn L. Sylvain

Melianni Terrero Aleesha E. Thomas Dejolei Avianna Thomas Rebecca Thomas

Alayla P. Tingzon Varun D. Toot Selena Tran Shivani H. Trivedi Nicoletta Tsalickis Ritu Upadhvav

**Ned Vaitkevicius** 

Jay Vakil

Giulia Eliza Vanden Bossche

Renita A. Varghese Lizbeth M. Varughese George Vasilakis, Jr. Victoria A. Vazquez

Linda Yelian Vega Bounmada

Rachel Velazquez

Annette Joe Veliyathumalil Rohith Venkateswaran Camilla I. Vertsman Zafeer A. Virani Raquel Rose Walton Makayla T. White Christeena T. Williams Natalia Christina Wood Leon Joe Yacoub

Bhavya Sivani Yandapalli

Subin Yun

Astrid Carolina Yunapanta Cevallos

#### Chemistry

Emily Elizabeth Bernard Julianna A. Bonetti Chloe E. Brooks-Noriega Ninoshka Isabel Garcia-Torres Fabio Andreas Hasler Lauren Rose Nonnenmacher Pablo A. Perez. Jr.

#### **Environmental Science**

Justin Abonce Adrianna Halina Agosto Morgan A. Anderson Michael A. Birnbaum Amanda Catherine Bogle Si'Ron Davis Roman Devlin John Paul Nichols Emma C. Pinard Ivanla Reid Corinne Renshaw Keever R. Rood

McKenna Smith



Lillie M. Suthers Carsyn Waldman

#### **Interdisciplinary Studies**

Eleni Angelos Blake Alexander Barker

#### **Legal Studies**

Grace Acierno Victoria Arutunian Sabrina Stephanie Barrabi Isabella Dell'Api Jareth Garcia Isabela Garcia Arregui Priya Goyal Farrah Hashish Nadia J. Hayslip Monica V. Kiselyuk Nicholette K. Lanane **Adam Tamsis** Alba Luz Vargas Rodriguez Ravyn White Tyler Jeffrey Williams Maria-Elissa Zamora

#### **Marine Biology**

Nicholas Dean Burchett Aidan M. Casey **Guenevere Coury** Alexis K. Crass Anthony Daniel D'Auria Delaney Madison Deinlein Connor Scott Fitzgerald Tehya S. Fulcher Elizabeth German Pamela Gonzalez Samuel Gorman Abigayle K. Groth Kate Lynn Heffner Emma M. Horton Kevin Rafferty Jarod Kester Rashad Johnson Reginald Leon Kempson III Katelyn Ann McKimmy Charlotte Reanne Oliver Juliana N. Ottens-Rivera Sierra Marley Rafacz Kevin Rafferty Ryan T. Robison Marissa L. Rosas Kelsee B. Rotering Mackenzie E. Soligon Savanna Steinbacher Alexis E. Tardif Ian Xavier Thelwell Jasmyn Todaro Angelina Trapani-Banyra Ariel Rose Velligan Gavin M. Wagner Ethan Lucky Warner Olivia H. Weeks Amelia Rose Wheaton Alyssa Lauren Williams

Kylee M. Wright

**Mathematics** Angelina Georg

#### Sociology

Daniella Rachel Friedman Daniel Shvets

\* Pan Student Government Association (PanSGA) Representative



## ORDER OF EXERCISES

Undergraduate Degrees from the
Abraham S. Fischler College of Education
and School of Criminal Justice
College of Computing and Engineering
College of Psychology
H. Wayne Huizenga College of Business and Entrepreneurship
Shepard Broad College of Law

#### THE ACADEMIC PROCESSION

Grand Marshal
Degree Candidates
Members of the Faculty
Members of the Board of Trustees
Distinguished Guests
University Officials

### May 5, 2025, at 3:00 p.m.

Processional	Pomp and Circumstance
Presiding Officer	Harry K. Moon, M.D., FACS, FRCSEd,  President and Chief Executive Officer
NSU ROTC Contingent Presentation of the Colors	
National Emblem March (Trio) by E. E. Bagley, arr. Cavanaugh	
The Star-Spangled Banner by Key/Smith	
Convening the Commencement	
Grand Marshal	Gregory Simco, Ph.D., Associate Dean/Chair/Professor, College of Computing and Engineering
Welcome and Introductions	Ronald J. Chenail, Ph.D., Executive Vice President, Provost, and Chief Academic Officer
Abraham S. Fischler College of Education and	
School of Criminal Justice	
College of Computing and Engineering	Meline Kevorkian, Ed.D., Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Associate Provost; Dean
College of Psychology	Karen Grosby, Ed.D., <i>Dean</i>
Farquhar Honors College	Andrea Nevins, Ph.D., <i>Dean</i>
H. Wayne Huizenga College of Business and Entrepreneurship	Andrew J. Rosman, Ph.D., Dean and Professor of Accounting
Shepard Broad College of Law	Olympia Ross Duhart, J.D., <i>Interim Dean</i>
Opening Remarks	Harry K. Moon, M.D., FACS, FRCSEd
Recognition of Honors College and Honor Society Graduates	Andrea Nevins, Ph.D.
Student Speaker	Anne Sylvie F. Jean Louis, Class of '25
Commencement Address	Mitchell W. Berger, Esq.
Presentation of Candidates for Degrees	Ronald J. Chenail, Ph.D.
Conferral of Degrees	Harry K. Moon, M.D., FACS, FRCSEd
Closing Remarks	Harry K. Moon, M.D., FACS, FRCSEd
Dismissal of the Commencement	Grand Marshal Gregory Simco, Ph.D.

9

Recessional

#### THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

O! say can you see by the dawn's early light. What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming, Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight, O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming? And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air, Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there; O! say does that star-spangled banner yet wave, O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

#### NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY ALMA MATER

Hail Thee, Nova Southeastern! Bright sun shining new; Radiant star of our morning, Ever rising, true;

May thy wisdom serve as our constant guide and thy love a beacon strong, as throughout the world we spread thy name joining voice in grateful song:

Nova Southeastern, Alma Mater, By thy light imbue, Service, honor, loyalty, 'til our days are through, Love Thee, Grav and Blue!

## CANDIDATES

ABRAHAM S. FISCHLER COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND SCHOOL OF **CRIMINAL JUSTICE** 

#### **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE**

#### **Child Development**

Angel M. Callenius Adah R. Hall Jamie C. Kivelier Maranda Martin Zhenya E. Nicholls Mackenzie Gray Odom Briona J. Pinder Chiara B. Poke-Hannah Olivia L. Van Duyne

#### **Criminal Justice**

Olivia A. Chierico Christopher A. Cruz Noah Michael Donato Lvdia Drake Morgan G. Gesty Melanie Giordano Deborah Gonzalez Miguel Angel Guzman Kristina Olivia Losquadro Vanessa Jean Rose McDonald Ryan Nauyokas Camille Otero Ashlev L. Panzino Julian E. Paskel

Gabriella Passenti Catherine Pena-Pedraza Anaiya L. Person **Destiny-Marie Shaughnessy** Rebecca Stieglitz Sara Ximena Tafur Gabriella Estella Tome Anna Gwendoline Utech Krista M. Vasquez Aliza Jean Williams Jenny Alise Young

#### Education

Lohatany Arqueta Eliana Raine Bouet Andrea Valentina Bruno Pestana Adam Micheal Camerino Ashley Caraballo Skylar Elizabeth Carroll Alora DaFonseca Jennifer R. Estrada Islandia M. Estrella Arias Daniella Gainza Amber S. Gammage Dontae Gardner Tiya Goins Haylee A. Hebert Anaisabel Herrera-Carvajal Skve Hinson Ayanna A. Morris Kella B. Noncent Anais K. Orellana Eleanor Katherine Quinn Madison Josie Richardson Sofia Rodriguez Alvssa Trozolino Ana Laura Turino Mahyrah York

#### Elementary Education with ESOL/ **Reading Endorsements** Suzette M. Benitez

Genesis Castro Agosto Alyssa N. Drogemuller Kennedy Ann Goncalves Maria Elena Gonzalez Mekaylla Karlson Ava Katherine Lee-Pitts Hannah Miltenberger Lauren Renee O'Brien Jordan Elizabeth Pazos Olivia Rose Plessl Cady L. Rotolo Kadian Sierra Taylor Alana Varela

#### **Exceptional Student Education** with ESOL Endorsement

Nichole Caicedo Daniel J. Cicerrella Arianna Rose Moore Alexa M. Schaan

#### **Human Services Administration**

Andrea Valentina Bruno Pestana Kamilah Safa Tatiana Smith

## **Secondary Biology Education**

Emily Rose Giannelli Maritere Manso

#### **Secondary English Education** with ESOL/Reading **Endorsements**

Barbara Jacobovitz Valentina Mosquera

#### **Secondary Math Education**

Maria D. Rivera Ramos Julia M. Turano

#### **Secondary Social Studies Education**

**Christopher Cruz** Lilv Martin Eliana Mariah Plummer

### **COLLEGE OF COMPUTING AND ENGINEERING**

#### **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE**

#### **Computer Science**

Jayden C. Alexander Irem Arslan Ethan Patrick Barthelemy Julianne Bollain Y Govtia Carol Ann Boodram **David Campos** Brandon J. Cardillo Brandon J. Catalano Angela Chung Arthur Correia Iorio Gomes Minh Triet Do Braydon D. Gibson Alyssa Livia Grigg Tristan J. Hernandez David A. Liendo Inigo Marina Anthony Ivan Parra Nicolas Ritondale

Kade S. Robertson Nicole Mary Shaker Isha Swamy

#### **Engineering**

Cameron Marco Brown Angie M. Castillo Taliyah Cherubin Noah D. Martinez Ziv Nachmani Ruben Anthony Ramirez Brandon Colome Ysibido

#### Information Technology

Sameer Akhtar Abdulrahman Mohammad A. Alsuwaidani Scott Konur Altiparmak Camila Arroyo Alfaro Luciano G. Dipiazza Roberto O. Gardner Clayton J. Haggit Sreejani D. Jonnalagadda Priya D. Kallicharan Joshua C. Listrom Juan P. Marin Marjorie Fabiana Mesias James S. Plummer Nicholaus M. Sabare Charlie A. Sanchez David Scheevel Roxana Seoane Trovon T. Stephenson Daniel Tehrani Kaylan Adrian Jordan Turnquest Efemena G. Uvo Elohor Uvo

#### **COLLEGE OF PSYCHOLOGY**

Kiara Williams

Mingyang Xi

#### **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE**

#### **Behavioral Neuroscience**

Stacey Doret Chandler James Kinnev Samantha D. Petitjean Nieves Sajeev Kumar Sarkar

#### Neuroscience

Mikayla Leann Apicella Arya Arunkumar Roshini S. Bodicherla Ashlev Nicole Bran Sampson Laasya Buddharaju Conor Ryan Burke Zoe Busca Juanita Castillo Sabrina M. Castro

Chancey M. Cherry Shawn D. Chollampel Riya Davar Bianca C. De Leon Aliya DeJesus Vikram Dhillon Nitish Dundigalla Kaelei A. Echavarria Paulina L. Escudero Larissa Fantetti Nitisha S. Gajavalli Alan George Tiya Goins Chase Allen Gonzales Ariana Gonzalez Maria Guillen-Mendez Roham Hadidchi Kavlee Nicole Hankey Ariana Valentina Hernandez Philopatier G. Ibrahim Shruthi Kaveti Divya Komandooru Avani Anand Kulkarni Shaini Lal Justin M. Le Amanda K. Lee Medha Mageswaran Natalia Andrea Martinez Bolivar Sneha Puthiyakunnel Mathew Valery Sofia Mejia Melanie Mendonca Nadia K. Milfort Smrithi Mukund Aishwarya Muppoor Afia Zahin Mushfika Sriya R. Nallala Divya Vijay Papaiya Ishika Patel Yachi H. Patel Neyna C. Portis Bhargav Potineni Priyanka Prasanna Victoria Pulido-Correa Arpita M. Raman Pratha Rattan Leilani Romero

Psychology

Kiele G. Roth

Omar E. Saleh

Esha Surana

**Ruth Thomas** 

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Diya Varma

Ritu Upadhyay

Derek Sosias Marrero

Patricia Salamanca Succurro

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Priya Reddy Vontikommu

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Nicole Jeanette Fares Thomas Erik Flower Britney Ania Gardiner Dontae Gardner Claire Kennedy Gass Navnoor K. Gill Ange Laura Gilot Ana Sobreira Girao Alyssa J. Grant Kiana Hall Skve Hinson Amanda Horvaht Nakib Syed A. Hussain Jade B. Jackson Serenity Rayne Jacobs Christopher R. James Elizabeth Jaramillo Anne Sylvie F. Jean Louis Arshee Khan Madiha Khan Kezia Krishna

Varsha Krishnan Sophia H. Lax Eliana E. Lima Camila Fernanda Lovato Pazmino Bianna Lisa Lucien Autumn Rose Lupoli Adria S. Marquez Jaylyn M. Marte Abigail F. Mas Luiza Carvalhoza Mendonza Alexa Metelkin Geena Salil Mody

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Edward L. Morgan

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Kaila Manner Elia Gail Markman Ramiah Mcdonald Shannon Kelly Michel Mariia Minenko Julio C. Mitjans Diego Montenegro Haruka Muta

Matthew Alexander Joseph Nimblett

Racquel N. Persaud Isabella Ramirez

Santiago Jose Maria Rodriguez Marengo Spencer Sasson Michael Haakon Bergem Steckmest Leo Szteinberg Debora Tesserova Destin Beverson Thompson Alexa Sofia Vasquez Salazar Julian Vidal

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Svra M. Bhoola Martina Campos Blumzak Renardo Jamaine B. Curry John T. English Danny Gonzalez Mickayla Rose Melnick Kate Mihacevich Jeremy Odajuste Nuria Noemi Perez Herrera Kayla S. Willis

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Ricardo Edu Gallardo Maldonado Dallas S. Graziani Jamal N. Kahok Alexander P. Kaplan Christopher David Marrero Caley Massa Anthony Preston Nelson Mackenzie Katherine Schultz

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#### **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE**

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#### **Paralegal Studies**

Antonio Miguel Escorzon Nadia Karolina Lindner Kaitlin Marie McGowan Elizabeth A. Pino

## ORDER OF EXERCISES

Undergraduate Degrees from the
Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine
Dr. Pallavi Patel College of Health Care Sciences
Ron and Kathy Assaf College of Nursing

## May 6, 2025, at 9:30 a.m.

#### THE ACADEMIC PROCESSION

Grand Marshal
Degree Candidates
Members of the Faculty
Members of the Board of Trustees
Distinguished Guests
University Officials

Processional	Pomp and Circumstance
Presiding Officer	Harry K. Moon, M.D., FACS, FRCSEd,  President and Chief Executive Officer
NSU ROTC Contingent Presentation of the Colors	
National Emblem March (Trio) by E. E. Bagley, arr. Cavanaugh	
The Star-Spangled Banner by Key/Smith	
Convening the Commencement	
Grand Marshal	Barbara Arcos, D.O., Chair/Associate Professor, Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine
Welcome and Introductions	Ronald J. Chenail, Ph.D., Executive Vice President, Provost, and Chief Academic Officer
Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine	Phyllis Joy Filker, D.M.D., M.P.H., Executive Associate Dean of Undergraduate, Graduate, Technology, and Community Education, Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine
Dr. Pallavi Patel College of Health Care Sciences	Robert Wagner, D.H.Sc., M.M.Sc., CAA, Executive Associate Dean, Dr. Pallavi Patel College of Health Care Sciences
Farquhar Honors College	Andrea Nevins, Ph.D., <i>Dean</i>
Ron and Kathy Assaf College of Nursing	Stefanie La Manna, Ph.D., M.P.H., A.P.R.N., FNP-C, AGACNP-BC, Dean and Associate Professor
Opening Remarks	Harry K. Moon, M.D., FACS, FRCSEd
Recognition of Honors College and Honor Society Graduates	Andrea Nevins, Ph.D.
Student Speaker	Colin J. Pulickathadam, Class of '25
Introduction to Commencement Speaker	Harry K. Moon, M.D., FACS, FRCSEd
Commencement Address	Chad A. Perlyn, M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A., Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer; Executive Medical Director for NSU Health
Presentation of Candidates for Degrees	Ronald J. Chenail, Ph.D.
Conferral of Degrees	Harry K. Moon, M.D., FACS, FRCSEd
Closing Remarks	Harry K. Moon, M.D., FACS, FRCSEd
Dismissal of the Commencement	Grand Marshal Jackie Hinckley, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, <i>Director/Professor, Dr. Pallavi Patel College of Health Care Sciences</i>
Recessional	

#### THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

O! say can you see by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there;
O! say does that star-spangled banner yet wave,
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

#### NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY ALMA MATER

Hail Thee, Nova Southeastern! Bright sun shining new; Radiant star of our morning, Ever rising, true;

> May thy wisdom serve as our constant guide and thy love a beacon strong, as throughout the world we spread thy name joining voice in grateful song:

Nova Southeastern, Alma Mater, By thy light imbue, Service, honor, loyalty, 'til our days are through, Love Thee, Gray and Blue!

## CANDIDATES

## DR. KIRAN C. PATEL COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

#### **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE**

#### **Health and Wellness Coaching**

Kirk Klemm Viraaj Miriyala Lauryn Olavarria Kinsey G. Waite

#### **Health Informatics**

Nitya Alaparthy Tiffany L. Bednarczyk Brianna Nicole Perez Marisa M. Persaud Colin J. Pulickathadam Rebecca F. Spector Andie Nicole Trupiano

#### **Human Nutrition**

Vishal Ahuja
Kaveri Prashant Amin
Cony C. Chow
Samantha Cicardo
Lacaya S. Evans
Emily Kim Lopez-Martin
Luis A. Mangiafico
Reilly Chloe Richardson
Maxwell James Sorensen
Hunter Taylor
Tanya thanh Van
Zachery T. Workeman
Shoshana R. Yachnes

#### **Public Health** Fabiana P. Acosta

Nikole Emiliana Alexopoulos Sam Craig Allardyce Arisha Arain Kiyan Nick Aslani Stephanie Michelle Avelar Yvonne Neylee Aviles Zahra A. Aziz Isabella Bazante Nikhil M. Bhave Yashica Bhuvane Kaitlin Marie Bohorquez Stephanie Marie Cabrera Arianna M. Calderon Frantzy A. Charles Brooke Ann Chesto Raeed Chowdury Michelle Crespo Amelie Desmangles Abhay Raj Dharanikota Samhita Doranala Abiela Duperme Emily R. Fallon Galena Gomez Melanie Gomez Sydonnie Grant Nicole E. Grillo Darshan R. Gundala Megana Sange Guntur Daveigh Henry Kayleigh Josephine Herron Alyssa Caitlyn Inghilleri Leah Rasil Jacobson Meghana S. Jagarlamudi Varun S. Jagarlamudi Kashena Toniann James Lickchina Jeanlis Daguayvia Johnson Sairohan Karnati

Kabir Duggal Lall Thu-Trang Tristyn Le Daniela Li Sereno Wardah M. Lodhi Alissa Nicole Lopez Sandoval Mazariegos April Y. Machta Rathika Manikandan Rithesh Manikandan Jenin Mannaa Rizwan Kashif Mansoor Audrie Mulenga Matete Kristen B. McFarlane Heaven'le A. Mckenzie Annaistasia Morris Sajan Parikh Courtney Marie Pascol Mit R. Patel Gabrielle C. Perez Dvlan Phen James Marshall Pike Sandhya D. Ponnaganti Hannah J. Raible Bryanna I. Ramirez Robert A. Recupido Alianys Rodriguez Katherine Rodriguez Renee Lenisha Rowley Saya Seraj Joanna Seraphin Sanjana R. Sivaiah Tyler Smallhorne Asia Stephen Sreelikhi Vangavolu Alexia Grace Vulpis

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# BACHELOR OF HEALTH SCIENCE

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Aset-Tiyi Franklin
Destyn Unique Giaffes
Carla Hernandez
Erika Elizabeth Honse
Stephanie A. Innocent
Whitney Simone Kelly
Myriah Claire Kosko
Fredeline Merone II
Colton Mizell
Laila Patel
Emely Pineda
Aysha Shaikh

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#### **Exercise and Sport Science**

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Justin P. Wachs

Stephany Caceres Abanto Ashley Aquino Ashlev Anne Dobranski Madison Fechter Celina M. Florestal Rachel A. Forestal Amanda Freeman Jaclyn L. Grieco Megan Harris Helen Maria Jimenez Andrea Elena Leon Mache Ladie Lewis Angie Mccoy **Derbie Nicolas** Julie E. Nunez Vanessa A. Pena Kyloni Randolph Sydnie A. Rivera Genny Robbins Isabel Cristina Rodriguez Melanie Serrano Tayler Nichole Shoenfelt Jamie Steinberg

**Kylee Thomas** 

# Speech-Language and Communication Disorders

Farhaanah Shanaz Abdool Seemungal Sophia Acosta Aiyanna N. Andre Ismayri Masiel Bencosme Jessica Buchanan Carly L. Burch Maiya Caban Maria Cabrales Catherine Grace Carillo Mandy Nour Elsakr Miriam S. Farraj Navratilova La'Shana Ferguson Julie Anne Fumero Sheyla Guajardo Leanza C. Hernandez Sarah Kazden Lauren O. Leonard Madison Marcus Jazmin Alexandra Morell Emma G. Mroz Cristina Perez Castano Liliet Pernas Eden G. Pressley Elizabeth M. Price Briana Lynn Rodriguez Xiomora D. Samms **Daimary Selles** Sheila Silva Lopez Reanna J. Thomas Riley Erin Utzig Alanna Nicole Vanderwende

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#### **Respiratory Therapy**

Amani Adel A. Alali Fatmh M. Alatawi Fatima Hassan A. Alibrahim Khatoon Hussain M. AL Khalaf Shatha Ali A. Algarni Batool Jamaan A. Alzahrani Ali Fahad A. Balubaid, Sr. Camila Cruz Ginny Cuadra Trishauna Fiona Dallas Kristian Garcia Dhai Abdulraheem A. Jabbari Sean-Dre Mcrae II Lauren Moskowitz Darryl Peters Marc Romestil Mckayla Theophile Ryan Wagner

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**Madison Bobes** 

Yaiselis Bordaberee

Paloma Borda-Curto

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Rose Covarrubias

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Nia Flie

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Analy Felipe

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Laury Henrys

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Meylin Hernandez Rizo Jose Miguel Hernandez Sanchez, Sr. Mia Angelica Hernandez-Salazar

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Sydney Lauren landoli Giovanna O. Ibacache Arley M. Imbimbo Arielle Inniss Shanice K. Inniss Latoya Isaacs Syema Islam Heather Jaramillo Larissa P. Jarrett Franceska Jean Kathiana Jean Noemi Woodjina Jean Geraldine Jean-Baptiste

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Bryan Jonathan Laderman

Adrian Lafuente

Lizz Marie Lagos-Villeda Jahncarlos Lara Arianys Lastre

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Christie Leon Alyssa Marie Lepiani Ilona Diana Letushko Brianna Nicole Levarity Chevenne M. Levine Leehe Liza Levy

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Kaitlyn A. Lorentzen Kaylah Louis Jocelyn Lozano Jia Xiu Lu

Zequai Steffeni Lue Heydi Lugo

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Amanda Victoria Mitrani

Sophia Mitrani

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Tomas Ignacio Murua Audrey A. Myers

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Sarah Christina Perez

Kaylee N. Parker

Joseph Calvin Pascuzzi

Yohanet Perez Jose C. Perez Gonzalez Ashlyn Peterson Victoria R. Petr Chedeline Pierre

Bernice Pierre-Georges Cassandra Pierre-Louis Nadyia Rose Pimentel Justin Pinzon Florangela Platias

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Ashlev Darleen Polanco Suero Gabrielle I. Polikoff Adriana Isabel Ponce Juliana Posada Victoria M. Posada Kristen Jada Allana Prado Emily De La Caridad Prieto Moreno

Sherri Prince

Leilani Marie Proenza Dahlia Proetto

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Ramirez-Nascimento Jennifer Jean Ramos Mikayla B. Ramsaran Regina Rangel Devyn S. Rapoport Mahirah Rashid Narmeen N. Rattani James Ready

Hannah Elaine Reavley Katy Elizabeth Redell Jessica M. Redmond Anthony Ricardo Regueira

Yanellie Requeiro Ashley Christina Reid

Sarah Reimer

Sydney Katherine Reinert Sabrina Remilien Mariah Reynolds Rachel Reynolds Nicole A. Rieger Shirley Eliana Rios Shannon Rivenbark Ashley M. Rivera

Raquel Rivera Alfredo Alejandro Rivero

Daniella Roa Sabrina Roberts

Jodi-Ann Renee Robinson-Gordon

Alana Rodriguez Angeline B. Rodriguez Brenda B. Rodriguez Bryan David Rodriguez Helen Adisbel Rodriguez Jessica Rodriguez Karen Rodriguez Laura A. Rodriguez Maria Jose Rodriguez

Natalie M. Rodriguez

Rachel J. Rodriguez Sofia Rodriguez Daniela Maria

Rodriguez Santiesteban Epiphany N. Romer Glenda Romero Jessica Rosa

Frida Elizabeth Rosado Melody Lucia Rosario Anabel Seline Rosas Rivas Jennika Keisha Roseme Alexander J. Ross Jesika Tihara Royal Isabella L. Roza Danielle Ruffino Sabrina Russo Madison Jean Ryan Rama Saad

Hannah I. Saavedra Katherine Saenz Jennifer Saint-Fleur Brandi Tama Saint-Louis **Sheley Saint Louis** Camila Sanchez **Emely Sanchez** Jessica V. Sanchez Andrew C. Sandoval Kayla T. Sands LeAnn Santa Barbara Melody Junarsy Santana

Sergio Santini Bruna Santos Monteiro de Souza

Ruppel Rolim Nicole Sardina **Emily Sardinas Branthly Sauveur** Deanna Nicole Scully Isabelle Wade Sergent

Tamara Severe Annestastia Sharpe Julia Sheffler Olivia Camille Shore Sierra Siedlecki

Scarlett Felimar Silguero Chiquin

Sophia Silva Sara Silver Carla Simplice II Angelica Maria Skinner Tasane Smith

Amy Sogegian Hardland Somarriba Jaimie Rachel Soriano Madiexy Sosa Hernandez Taylor K. Speer

Katlyn M. Stansbury Katelynn Renee Stevens Jenna Steward Theselande St. Juste Francesca Strapp Nicole Suarez Tiffany A. Suboni Shira Suissa Taylor Mae Swanson Laura Teichman

Isabella Mercedes Tellez Meridith Marie Tentinger

Berline Telcy

Ariana Thomas Kevin G. Thomas Allienna A. Thompson **Eden Christine Toal** Sabrina Tolchin Katherine Toral Arianna Torres Carolina Sofia Torres Jonathan L. Torres Maria Del Rocio Torres Cruz Gabriela Trimarchi Reyes

Nina Marie Tsokopoulos Elmo Tugaoen Arturo Urgelles Lina Ustaeva Jacob E. Vaca

Cesar Gonzalo Valdes Simon Rodolfo Valencia

Robed Valliere Kenani L. Valmyr Victoria Elise Varela Adalyn Grisell Vargas Elizabeth Varona-Chang Cristian Saul Veras Acevedo

Carolina Vergara Claudia Sofia Vergara Nathalia A. Victor Mauricio Vidal-Murillo Gabriella Villafranca Diego E. Villagran

Nemina Anne Origenes Villar Evelyn Villicana-Andrade

Shaneece Kamiya RoSandrea Walker Caelyn Weathers Madison Danielle West Lacey Starr Wilder

Monique A. Williams Allyson R. Wolf Gabrielle Paige Woolley

Avery L. Wright Brianna Emma Yates Elaine Yero Acosta Ashlyn M. Yoskowitz Eva M. Zambrano

Zachary Timothy Zocharski



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## UNDERGRADUATE AWARD RECIPIENTS

#### MORNING CEREMONY

May 5, 2025

## Student Commencement Speaker

Taylor McKenna Reinsel, a biology major with minors in psychology, pre-health, and honors transdisciplinary studies, is from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She was accepted into Nova Southeastern University's (NSU's) Dual Admission Program in osteopathic medicine and has been a member of the Farquhar Honors College throughout her undergraduate career.

Reinsel conducted research beginning in her sophomore year, alongside W. Matthew Collins, Ph.D., and Leanne Boucher, Ph.D., completing her undergraduate thesis, "Resilience and its Effects on Well-Being During the COVID-19 Pandemic," which works with the NIH through the All of Us Database. She presented her research at the NSU Undergraduate Student Symposium (2025), as well as the Crossroads Conference (2025). She is also a co-author on an upcoming publication titled "The Impact of Resilience and Cultural Factors on Psychology, Well-Being, and Adherence to Restrictions During the COVID-19 Pandemic."

In addition to her academic achievements, Reinsel was involved in a variety of service and leadership roles. She volunteered at the Visiting Nurses Association Hospice Care (2023–2025) and in the Emergency Room and Maternity Departments at Butler Memorial Hospital (2022–2024). She also worked as a pharmacy technician (2021–2023) and served as an Anatomy and Physiology II lab assistant (2023–2024). In 2024, she joined the Tutoring and Testing Center at NSU as a peer tutor, where she currently works to this day.

On campus, Reinsel served as president of Phi Sigma Sigma and was recognized with NSU's Outstanding Student Leader Award in 2024. She was inducted into the TriBeta Biological Honor Society in 2023 and maintained a strong academic standing throughout her time at NSU, making the dean's list several times.

After graduation, Reinsel plans to continue her studies at Nova Southeastern University's Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine. She owes all her success to her amazing and supportive network of family, friends, and mentors that have believed in her every step of the way, especially those who are no longer with us, but whose love still lights her way.

## **Outstanding Students**

# HALMOS COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES AND THE GUY HARVEY OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH CENTER

Lauren Rose Nonnenmacher, of Freehold, New Jersey, will graduate with a degree in chemistry on the American Chemical Society (ACS) track, along with minors in marine biology and geographic information systems. She has made the dean's list throughout her undergraduate studies in these fields, while balancing her academic life with her love for nature, pottery, and film photography.

Nonnenmacher's interdisciplinary approach to her education has made her an active community member on both Nova Southeastern University's (NSU's) Fort Lauderdale/Davie and Oceanographic Campuses. Her involvement with Professor Amy Hiron, Ph.D., with the Charismatic Megafauna and Oceanography Laboratory (2022–2025) and Professor Dimitri Giarikos, Ph.D., with the Environmental Chemical Contaminants Organization (2022–2025) has given her a strong community, supporting her on her path into a life of research.

During her time at NSU, Nonnenmacher worked closely with Giarikos and Hirons on a series of research projects. She began her research journey employed as a laboratory research technician I (2022-2023), designing and constructing sediment trap platforms for deployment on the Florida Reef Tract. This role served as the steppingstone for her transition into independent research. Her next project, Establishing Limit of Detection: Shimadzu AA-7800 GFAA Spectrophotometer (2023present), focused on optimizing the chemistry lab's atomic absorption spectrophotometer. During this time, she also worked as an administrative chemical researcher for the department (2024-2025).

Nonnenmacher has also led two environmental contaminant studies: "Global Assessment of Heavy Metals in Sediment from Areas of Geologic and Volcanic Activity" (2023–2024) and "Heavy Metal Distribution in Volcanic Hawaiian Sediment from 5 Million Years Ago to Present" (2023–2025). These studies were presented as posters at the American Chemical Society national conferences in 2024 (New Orleans) and 2025 (San Diego). The latter was also presented at the 2025 Undergraduate Student Symposium, where it was awarded first place in the Traditional Oral

Presentations category. Nonnenmacher has also been nominated by the Department of Chemistry and Physics for the SoFL-ACS Outstanding Graduating Seniors Award.

After graduating, Nonnenmacher plans to dedicate her career to continuing research in natural and physical sciences, with the goal of expanding the world's understanding of Earth's systems.

**Kevin Rafferty** is from Tinton Falls, New Jersey. He is majoring in marine biology and receiving minors in honors transdisciplinary studies, scientific diving, and geographic information science with a research citation. Rafferty is also a member of the Farquhar Honors College and made the dean's list his entire time at NSU.

Rafferty began to volunteer in the Fisheries and Avian Ecology laboratory with his current mentor and adviser, Professor David Kerstetter, Ph.D., in his sophomore year. Eventually the two developed the project that would become Rafferty's Honors Thesis, "Census of Non-U.S. Billfish and Swordfish Recreational Tournaments in the ICCAT Convention Area." This research was shared as a poster presentation at the Annual Florida Chapter meeting of the American Fisheries Society (2024); Rafferty received the Dennis Punches Student Travel Grant to attend the meeting. He also presented the poster at the Undergraduate Student Symposium (2025). Additionally, an oral presentation on the research was given at the Seventh International Billfish Symposium (2024), which Rafferty received the Pan Student Government Association Development Grant to help attend. Rafferty and Kerstetter plan on publishing this research in the near future.

On campus, Rafferty was involved in student leadership as an admissions ambassador his sophomore year. In this position he received the Dr. DeNapoli Legacy award (2023). He has also been a resident assistant (RA) in Mako Hall for the past two years and received the Mako Residential Assistant of the Year award in his senior year (2025).

Also in his senior year, Rafferty was selected as one of 10 Honors students to participate in the passport project. This involved students with limited travel experience taking a trip to learn about the culture and nature of Costa Rica.

**UNDERGRADUATE** 

Outside NSU, Rafferty expanded his scientific knowledge beyond marine systems through an internship position with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Wetland and Aquatic Research Center (2023–2025). At the USGS, he has participated and assisted in a variety of different research projects, mainly pertaining to understanding the Greater Everglades Ecosystem. He presented the poster "Machine Learning Models for Water, Energy, and Greenhouse Gas Fluxes Measured from a Dwarf Cypress Wetland Within the Greater Everglades" at the Greater Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Conference (2025) with USGS.

Rafferty plans on pursuing a Master of Environmental Management degree at Duke University with concentrations in Coastal and Marine Systems and Environmental Economics and Policy. He ultimately wants to work in conservation management at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) or an environmental protection agency.

Sophia Carolyn Wehle is a student from Tampa, Florida, majoring in international studies with minors in business and political science. During her time at Nova Southeastern University (NSU), she has received the honor of being a dean's list recipient every semester, has received the Outstanding Student Leader award (2024), has been a member of the Farquhar Honors College, and, for the past two years, has been an admissions ambassador.

As an undergraduate student, Wehle was very active on campus. She was a competing captain of the Undergraduate Mock Trial Team; founding president of the Theta Xi chapter of Sigma lota Rho (International Studies Honor Society); and the inter-organizational council chair for the Society of Animation, Gaming, and Entertainment. She was also a member of the Alpha Chi Honor Society and the NSU Marching Sharks Drumline.

Outside of extracurricular activities, Wehle has focused heavily on research throughout her time as an undergraduate student. She was sponsored by Professor Ransford Edwards, Ph.D., to conduct research on postcolonial development. She has presented this research at numerous conferences including the Florida Political Science Associations' Annual Conference (2024–2025); NSU's Undergraduate Student Symposium, where she won first place for oral presentation of research in 2024; and the National Conference for Undergraduate Research (2025).

In a more practical application of research skills, Wehle is a participant in the INSIGHT Fellowship, a student think-tank dedicated to finding policy-based solutions to plastic pollution, and the Council of Undergraduate Research's Scholars Transforming Through Research team, a program that is dedicated to advocating for research-based legislative policy, and works with Evara Health (a nonprofit health care company) on their Information and Education Committee for Family Planning, ensuring health-related educational material is accessible for the community.

After graduation, Wehle will be attending the University of Oklahoma in Norman, Oklahoma, to obtain her Ph.D. in Political Science with a focus on Comparative Politics and Public Policy. It is her goal to continue her research and to, one day, consult on governmental policies regarding international affairs

# AFTERNOON CEREMONY

May 5, 2025

## Student Commencement Speaker

Anne Sylvie F. Jean Louis, a psychology major with minors in public health and global engagement, was born in Port-Au-Prince, Haiti, but raised in Sunrise, Florida, for most of her life. While at Nova Southeastern University (NSU), Jean Louis has been a proud member of the Hochberg-Miniaci Razor's Edge Global Program, serving on the Leadership Council all four years, as Franklin Cohort representative her freshman and sophomore years, then as Leadership Council chair her junior and senior years. She has held many other leadership positions, as well, including being a member of the President's 64 since her sophomore year, a UNIV 1000 peer leader for two consecutive semesters, a mentor to students at NSU, an orientation leader, a residential assistant in the Cultural Living Center, diversity senator of the 36th Administration of the Undergraduate Student Government Association, inclusion chair of the Diversity Student Council, 2024 NSU Homecoming Queen, and vice president of marketing for the E.X.O.T.I.C. Xi Zeta Chapter of Sigma Lambda Gamma National Sorority. Inc.

Jean Louis has also been an active member of numerous undergraduate student organizations, including Sociodrama: Stage

for Change, the Pressure Dance Team, Black Student Union, Haitian Student Association, Caribbean Student Association, and SEEMLY Fashion Club. She has also been a long-time supporter of the arts on campus, performing in various artistic media as a singer, dancer, and original spoken word poet at events, including the Student Life Achievement Awards (affectionately known as the STUEYs) two vears as a co-host and singer, the 25th Annual Celebration of Excellence with the Shark Gold vocal performance group, the annual Greek Stroll-Off during homecoming week, the Black Student Union's Annual Black Excellence Showcase, the Indian Student Association's Annual Diwali Showcase, and Sharkapalooza. She has worked on multiple NSU theatrical productions as well. These included the PVA and Stage2NSU, the annual Improv Jam as a performer and student director, Mayfly as an actress and director. Shark Showcase. Student Choreography Showcase, *The Dolls* of New Albion, Page to Stage, Shakespeare's Cymbeline, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, and more.

During her freshman year, Jean Louis also created her own undergraduate student organization, Soap Box Speaks, along with three other freshman women as a community impact project to provide students with a space to write and perform spoken word poetry as a form of creative self-expression and mental health support. The organization also collaborated with the NSU Title IX Office and the Henderson Center for Student Counseling and Well-Being to co-host a Take Back the Night Open Mic Event and Candle Vigil to honor sexual assault survivors during April for Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Additionally, Jean Louis served as the student director, undergraduate research assistant, social media chair, and vice president of Sociodrama: Stage for Change during her four years with the organization, which was recognized as the 2024 STUEY Award Winner for Undergraduate Student Organization of the Year.

Jean Louis helped produce and perform in more than 20 workshops utilizing the sociodrama theatrical technique to increase community engagement and awareness about social justice issues, such as intimate partner violence, microaggressions, cybersecurity, and suicidal ideation, and recently served as the student panelist for the City of Pompano Beach's Mental Health Townhall Event. As a project manager and production assistant for the Abraham S. Fischler College of Education and School of Criminal Justice *Investigation with Dr. T* weekly webinar series, she helped

## UNDERGRADUATE AWARD RECIPIENTS

host numerous guests from criminal justice, social work, forensics, and mental health agencies in Broward County and beyond to the NSU community.

As the sole student researcher. Jean Louis worked extensively with Professor Grace Telesco, Ph.D., from the Abraham S. Fischler College of Education and School of Criminal Justice: Professor Tara S. Jungersen, Ph.D., from the College of Psychology; and Professor Maria Levi Minzi, Ph.D., from the Abraham S. Fischler College of Education and School of Criminal Justice Department of Human Services, to research the "Use of Sociodrama to Mitigate Justice System Involvement and Mental Health Issues in Adolescents and Young Adults" in collaboration with the United Way of Broward County's Alternative Spring Break Program. Having been recipients of the 2023 President's Quality of Life research grant, these findings were later presented at the 2024 International Academy of Law and Mental Health Congress in Barcelona.

Jean Louis also conducted a senior independent research study in public health, including an in-depth literature review and community-needs assessment, Impact of Cultural Arts Programs on Adults Living with Individual Developmental Disorders, with the help of Joy Siegel, Ed.D. in collaboration with a local community partner.

Overall, Jean Louis would like to thank her friends, family, and sorority sisters for their constant love and support over the years, most especially her mother, Flore Judy Lawrence Loiseau. "I am who I am because I grew up seeing a powerful woman that always managed to do it all. I attribute my deep love and connection with our Haitian culture, my self-confidence, and a large portion of my success to her."

Jean Louis is still finalizing her future career plans but hopes to continue her education by earning master's degrees in public health and business administration, while working parttime and continuing to make time for the arts. She would then like to become a public health professional working in community planning and resource allocation, as well as foreign and domestic policy, and travel as much as possible.

## **Outstanding Students**

# ABRAHAM S. FISCHLER COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND SCHOOL OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

**Suzette M. Benitez** is an elementary education major with endorsements in reading and ESOL. As a member of the Nova Southeastern University (NSU) Fischler Academy, she has been fortunate to grow both academically and professionally. Her journey at NSU has been filled with leadership and collaboration opportunities with contributions to the social media team, decorating team, preprofessional committee, and social committee, all while serving as an event coordinator.

Benitez is part of the first generation of Hispanic females in her family to graduate college, a milestone that means everything to her. All of her achievements reflect the sacrifices and unconditional love from her parents, who came to this country with nothing but a dream for a better future. Their strength and resilience gave her the foundation to succeed, and she credits her success to them.

Julia M. Turano, a secondary mathematics education major from Holbrook, New York, is a dedicated scholar and a passionate leader at Nova Southeastern University (NSU). As a proud participant in the Razor's Edge Shark Teach Program and a member of the NSU Fischler Academy, Turano has strived for excellence in her field. By completing 21 credits per semester and taking ten mathematics courses in just five semesters, she has earned her undergraduate degree in just three years, showcasing her relentless commitment to her academic and professional goals.

Turano's academic journey has been marked by a deep commitment to leadership and service. Inducted into the National Society of Leadership and Success (NSLS) and honored on the dean's list twice, she exemplifies the power of perseverance and ambition. Her Secondary Mathematics Education internship, guided by esteemed faculty members professors Marilyn Zaragoza, Ed.D., and Lillian Greico, M.Ed., allowed her to apply her knowledge while nurturing her growing passion for teaching.

Since 2023, Turano has been tutoring K-12 students in math and SAT prep through her job at Just Pass It. This part-time job showcased her ability to balance her academic, professional, and leadership commitments with grace and determination.

Her experience inside and outside the classroom reflects her mission to empower every student she encounters. As a substitute teacher with Kelly Education in early 2025, she worked in different classroom environments, adapting her instruction to meet each student's unique needs. Currently, as a math interventionist and response to intervention specialist at Somerset Academy Charter School, she is helping students who are struggling academically, developing individualized strategies to help them overcome challenges and build confidence in their abilities.

Turano is a strong advocate for making mathematics an engaging and accessible experience for all students. Driven by a desire to transform how students see themselves in relation to math, she is committed to teaching in ways that inspire, encourage, and support students' unique learning styles. She aims to remove the stigma surrounding math by turning it into an exciting and meaningful subject that every student can relate to, regardless of their background or challenges.

Her global perspective further enriches her teaching. In February 2024, Turano traveled to Sweden with the Fischler Academy to teach in an international middle school, an experience that broadened her instructional strategies. This opportunity not only expanded her knowledge but also fueled her drive to create a more inclusive educational experience for all students.

Her leadership is also demonstrated through her extracurricular involvement. Since 2022, she has been an athlete on the NSU Women's Club Basketball team. From 2023 on, she served as secretary for the team and recently stepped into the role of coach, combining her love of the game and guidance to her teammates, both on and off the court.

A dedicated member of Sigma Delta Tau Sorority, she has contributed to both the Slate Board and the Standards Board. She is also an active member of the Order of Lapis Honor Society and the Fischler Academy Social

**UNDERGRADUATE** 

Committee. Turano has mentored six students at NSU, nurturing their academic and personal growth along the way.

Her passion for service is evident in her volunteer work as a peer tutor for the General Knowledge Test (GKT), where she led review sessions, shared strategies, and provided the encouragement her peers needed to succeed. Turano's commitment to supporting future educators speaks to her collaborative spirit and dedication to making a lasting impact in the world of education.

Following graduation, Turano will launch her career in her home state, with the goal of becoming a middle school math educator and subsequently earning a master's degree in special education. She is eager to teach her subject, coach sports, and impact young minds. Turano graduating is not just an accomplishment, but a celebration of her family's legacy and unwavering support. She is filled with pride and gratitude, ready to carry her family's dreams forward and make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

# COLLEGE OF COMPUTING AND ENGINEERING

Efemena G. Uvo, an information technology major from Miramar, Florida, has demonstrated a strong passion for technology and community engagement throughout her academic journey at Nova Southeastern University (NSU). She participated in NSU's 2025 Undergraduate Research program, presenting a TECH 4900 capstone project on sentiment analysis in user reviews, under the guidance of Professor Gregory Simco, Ph.D. Her capstone project, "Rate My Landlord," is a web-based platform designed to promote transparency between tenants and landlords, where she focused on backend development and QA testing.

Uvo is an active member of the NSU Black Student Union and has contributed to multiple community service initiatives. She has volunteered with Feeding South Florida; the Center for Family and Child Enrichment, supporting events like the Birth Equity Resource Fair and Community Baby Shower; and Ranger Good Works, the charitable division of Ranger Tech, at Dillard Elementary.

Professionally, she has gained valuable experience through NSU's cohort program working at Fiserv, a global banking and fintech company, since 2023. She plans to pursue a career in cybersecurity or IT consulting, with aspirations of earning a master's degree in cybersecurity followed by a doctorate. She also dreams of traveling the world and experiencing different cultures along the way.

Elohor Uvo, an information technology major from Miramar, Florida, has shown a great interest in technology and community participation throughout her academic career at Nova Southeastern University (NSU). She attended NSU's 2025 Undergraduate Research Day and presented a TECH 4900 capstone project on sentiment analysis in user reviews, which she worked on with Professor Gregory Simco, Ph.D. Her capstone project, "Rate My Landlord," is a web-based platform that promotes transparency between tenants and landlords, where she concentrated on backend programming and QA testing.

Uvo is an active member of the NSU Black Student Union and has participated in a number of community service projects. She has volunteered with Feeding South Florida; the Center for Family and Child Enrichment (at events such as the Birth Equity Resource Fair and Community Baby Shower); and Ranger Good Works, Ranger Tech's charitable division, at Dillard Elementary.

Professionally, she has earned excellent experience as part of NSU's cohort program, working for Fiserv, a major banking and fintech company, since 2023. She intends to work in cybersecurity, namely protecting digital systems and data from increasing threats. She plans to pursue a master's degree in cybersecurity, gain industry certifications, and contribute to worldwide projects to promote cyber protection and digital privacy.

Uvo also wants to travel the world and gather new experiences, both personally and professionally. She has a passion for service and aspires to launch a foundation that helps children in Nigeria. She plans to continue giving back through community-focused initiatives wherever life takes her.

#### **COLLEGE OF PSYCHOLOGY**

Aditi Gorthy, a neuroscience and biology double major, is from South Brunswick, New Jersey. While at Nova Southeastern University (NSU), Gorthy was a member of the NSU Kidney Disease Awareness Club, the head lab assistant for general chemistry, a group fitness instructor, and an honors advocate for the Farquhar Honors College for four years. She was also a recipient of the Dean's Scholarship and made the dean's list several semesters throughout her undergraduate career.

Gorthy began working in a neuroscience research lab with her research mentor and adviser, Professor Allie Holschbach, Ph.D. Together, they were able to identify Gorthy's interest in understanding the impact of chronic stress on various outcomes. Since beginning this experience, she has collaborated with research mentors at the University of Miami and the University of Pittsburgh, focusing on injuries and diseases of the central nervous system. With their support, she first authored a literary review, Chronic Stress in Early Development and Effects on Traumatic Brain Injury Outcome, then co-authored a peerreviewed publication in *Neurotherapeutics* titled "3,3'-Diindolylmethane improves pathology and neurological outcome following traumatic brain injury." Along with her publications, Gorthy also presented at numerous conferences. She shared poster presentations at the NSU Undergraduate Student Symposium (2023 and 2024), the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine Neuroscience Research Day (2023), the Sports Neuroscience Annual Conference (2024), and the Miami VA Research Day (2024 and 2025), winning various awards, including the American Association of University Women Award (2024) and Panchi's Presentation Prize (2024).

Following graduation, Gorthy will attend medical school, maintaining a strong foundation in scientific research. She aspires to become a neurologist, integrating cutting-edge research into personalized treatment plans to improve patient outcomes.

**Divya Vijay Papaiya** is from Bensalem, Pennsylvania, a small township on the outskirts of Philadelphia. Papaiya majored in neuroscience and received minors in pre-health studies, biology, and psychology

## UNDERGRADUATE AWARD RECIPIENTS

for health studies, for which she has been inducted in the Psi Chi Honor Society chapter for Nova Southeastern University (NSU) after maintaining rigorous academic standards. Alongside completing her studies, Papaiya has been a Presidential Scholar of the 2025 cohort, a member of the prestigious President's 64 vanguard during her fourth year, a candidate in the 4+4 Dual Admission D.O. program, and a dean's list recipient for all eight semesters she has attended NSU.

During her undergraduate career, Papaiya was committed to enhancing campus culture and student involvement. She helped start NSU Fitoor, the first singing club on campus that focused on fusing Bollywood and English, serving as treasurer and performing at many student organization and Inter-Organizational Council Gold Fin Award events throughout her tenure. Papaiya has also served as treasurer for Physician to Patient, one of the primary pre-health student organizations on campus, and has held the vice chair position in the recently formed Student Alumni Association, which aims to connect current NSU students with the university's vast alumni network. It was her focus on student enrichment opportunities that spurred her to become an advocate for hone marrow transplants and mental health therapies, both of which she spoke about with her team at the Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) International Leadership Conference (2022 and 2023), winning a gold and silver medal, respectively, on behalf of NSU.

Inside the classroom, Papaiya maintained a close mentorship with Lisa Robison, Ph.D., her Intro to Neuroscience professor, joining Robinson's research lab and remaining an assistant there throughout her entire NSU career. Through the guidance of Robison, Papaiya earned the President's Faculty Research and Development Grant (2022) and presented a poster about how a chronic, highfat diet affects brain inflammation differently amongst male and female mice at the Society for Sports Neuroscience (2023) and the Undergraduate Student Symposium (2023). Together with her mentor and peer research assistants, a more comprehensive paper regarding the poster study is in the works of being published for an academic journal. Through Robison, Papaiya joined the DIY Lab. which has been researching electronic sensors and their abilities to detect Alzheimer's disease using various bodily fluid samples. Additionally, since working with Robison, Papaiya has branched out to social psychology research and has worked with Professor Justin Landy, Ph.D. and Landy's Reasoning, Person-Perception, and Morality (RPM) Lab since 2023 to better analyze people's moral decisionmaking while committing war crimes and jury deliberation tactics. Papaiya also served as a lab assistant in Organic Chemistry II and Biochemistry I.

After swimming through the seas of NSU, Papaiya plans to begin medical school in the fall and develop the critical skills that will help her become a capable and empathetic physician. It is her goal to provide comprehensive care that will improve her future patients' quality of life, and she looks forward to the newest journey sailing her way!

Kamea Peterman, a psychology major and forensic studies minor, grew up with a mother, father, and stepfather that all served in the United States Army. After moving numerous times throughout her life, she and her family have settled here in South Florida. While studying at Nova Southeastern University (NSU), Peterman has been awarded the Dean's Scholarship and the Shark Success Scholarship. She has also made the dean's list every semester that she has attended NSU.

Peterman worked as a research assistant for Professor Jonathan Banks. Ph.D., in his Attention Control and Stress Lab. She assisted with student participants in the lab, trained new research assistants, and coded data from old and current studies. She also worked under Professor Timothy Razza Psy.D., as a lead facilitator of the Life Skills and Wellness Collaboration, which allowed her to collaborate with peers to create evidencebased presentations on a variety of topics. In her role as lead facilitator, she was responsible for organizing the weekly schedules; reporting the weekly topics; collecting classroom information; and being a primary liaison between the high school. professors, and the program while relaying any other relevant data.

She also dedicated her time to her work at the NSU Veterans Resource Center from the second week of her freshman year until her graduation. In this position, she led the development of veteran, military-affiliated, and Army ROTC programs through networking. outreach, research, and facilitation of support services on campus and in the community. Peterman also planned and executed numerous community outreach events and military advocacy trainings. She was also the Inter-Organization Council chair for Freedom Sharks, a military advocacy and service student organization, and a member of the forensic psychology club and Hallyu Club and Dance Team.

Peterman studied abroad in Seoul, South Korea, for a semester. Before leaving, she taught herself to read, write, and speak Korean at a basic level and furthered her knowledge of the culture and language abroad. After graduation she will be attending Nova Southeastern University to get her Doctor of Clinical Psychology (Psy.D.). She hopes to work with veterans and their families.

# H. WAYNE HUIZENGA COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Isaiah Anthony Cabral is an international student from Bermuda majoring in accounting with a minor in venture creation as part of the Huizenga Business and Innovation Academy (HBIA). His commitment to academic excellence is reflected in his consistent achievements as a five-time dean's list recipient. He also served as a charter member of the Beta Alpha Psi International Honors Society for accounting, finance, and information students. The Omicron Gamma Chapter was established in 2024 at NSU and Cabral served as treasurer during the 2024-2025 academic year. During his time at the university, he was actively involved in student life. He was a member of the Club Ultimate Frisbee team and served as a student entrepreneur through HBIA. His role as a student entrepreneur led to him managing his own business, BeyondPops, where, alongside his partners, he was able to successfully run a homemade popsicle business on campus. Through this business, he was able to collaborate with the Nova Southeastern University (NSU) Student Life Office and various on campus clubs and organizations. He and his partners even decided to donate a portion of the proceeds from BeyondPops to various community organizations. This contribution to student life continued through his work in the Student Activity and Accounts Office. He began working in this office during the fall term of 2023 as a student accounts assistant. In fall 2024, he was promoted to student account manager. He looks positively on his time in the office for further enhancing his skills in financial oversight while allowing him to continue to engage with students.

Cabral gained valuable professional experience through two consecutive summer internships with Deloitte Bermuda's DEEP Internship Program (2023 and 2024) after receiving the Deloitte Bermuda Scholarship in 2022. Through these experiences, he found a passion for financial advisory work and

**UNDERGRADUATE** 

forensic accounting. Looking ahead, he will be pursuing a Master of Accounting degree with a focus in analytical accounting at NSU while concurrently beginning his professional career with Deloitte Bermuda in the Financial Advisory Department. His future aspirations also include becoming a Certified Public Accountant, with the goal of becoming a forensic accountant.

#### SHEPARD BROAD COLLEGE OF LAW

Jenna Dewey is a law major with a concentration in paralegal studies and minors in both law, science, and technology and honors transdisciplinary studies. Originally from Felton, Delaware, Dewey is a proud member of the Farquhar Honors College and a Presidential Scholar. She also made the dean's list multiple times during her academic journey at Nova Southeastern University (NSU).

Dewey is a member of Phi Alpha Delta Law Society and holds the distinction of being the first undergraduate from the NSU Law program to intern with the Broward County State Attorney's Office. She completed two semesters (winter 2023 and fall 2024) in the Career Criminal Unit, an experience that led to the creation of a formal internship program for undergraduate law students at NSU. In summer 2024, she interned in the Misdemeanors Department of the Delaware Attorney General's Office.

On campus, Dewey serves as a Title IX ambassador, educating students about federal protections against sexual harassment and discrimination. She also served as a UNIV 1000 peer leader, supporting first-year students during their transition to college life. She is a dedicated member of the Moot Court team, where she served as a competitor in 2022 and 2023, as president in 2023, and as a coach in 2024. In addition, Dewey mentored three fellow students as an active member of the Pre-Law Society. Balancing her academic and extracurricular commitments, Dewey has also worked as a server at LongHorn Steakhouse in Davie, Florida, since August 2023.

Her certifications include a Certificate of Computer Literacy from the National Society of Legal Technology (2023), a certification as a peer educator (2024), and five legal research certifications from LexisNexis (2025). Following graduation, she will attend Baylor Law School in Waco, Texas, on an academic scholarship. She plans to earn a Juris Doctorate by May 2028 with a focus on intellectual property law, specifically trademark law

**Bryan A. Soudrain** is a dedicated international student from France pursuing a major in law with minors in international law, management, paralegal studies, and honors transdisciplinary studies. As a proud Farquhar Honors College and Alpha Chi Honor Society member, he has consistently demonstrated academic excellence and a passion for leadership.

Soudrain was honored to be an ambassador for the Presidential Leadership Program, representing the university and advancing campus-wide leadership initiatives. He also served as treasurer of the Pre-Law Society for two years and was a committed member of Phi Alpha Delta.

His deep interest in legal advocacy led him to compete for three years in Moot Court, where he also coached a team under the guidance of Professor Marc Consalo, J.D., whose mentorship was invaluable to his growth as a competitor and coach. Soudrain also spent three years on the Mock Trial team, earning a Best Witness award at the state level, with essential coaching support from Professor R. William Barner III, J.D. In addition, he competed at the regional level as part of the Alternative Dispute Resolution team.

Outside the classroom, he worked as a prelaw consultant at Nova Southeastern University (NSU), helping guide fellow students on their law school journeys. He was also a legal business intern at AdvntBlanket, a Miamibased tech start-up that supports law firms through innovative digital solutions.

Beyond campus, he serves as president of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, a nonprofit he founded in high school that connects youth to professional opportunities through educational programming, leadership development, and civic engagement.

Looking ahead, Soudrain plans to attend law school in South Florida and aspires to become an international corporate attorney.

### **MORNING CEREMONY**

May 6, 2025

## Student Commencement Speaker

Colin J. Pulickathadam, a native of Tampa, Florida, is graduating with a double major in health informatics and biology, along with triple minors in honors transdisciplinary studies, research studies, and pre-health. Throughout his time at Nova Southeastern University (NSU), he has been a dynamic campus leader serving in various roles, including being a member of President's 64, an honors advocate for the Farquhar Honors College, president of the Health Informatics Club, and vice president of the Brown-Wujick Junior Academic Society. He is also a proud member of the Hochberg-Miniaci Razor's Edge Research Scholars Program. Additionally, he has also worked on campus in various roles, including as an Organic Chemistry Laboratory assistant under Professor Camit Alexenberg, Ph.D., Anatomy and Physiology Il supplemental instruction leader under Professor Santanu De, Ph.D., and as a CRLA Level II content tutor in the Tutoring and Testing Center. He has consistently achieved placement on the dean's list and is an inducted member of both the Alpha Chi (2022) and TriBeta Biological Honors Societies (2024).

In addition to various extracurricular involvements on campus. Pulickathadam has been involved in various research activities at NSU. He started research in his freshman year under the mentorship of Michelle Ramim, Ph.D., on what became a poster, "Analysis of errors in electrocardiogram data captured by patients using at-home devices compared to qualified healthcare professionals." He presented his findings at the annual Healthcare Information and Management Systems (HIMSS) global health conference in 2022 and published his work in the International Institute for Applied Knowledge Management Journal in 2023. Through his research project involvement, he is the first health informatics major to graduate through the honors in major program. Additionally, through the Hochberg-Miniaci Razor's Edge Research Scholarship Program, he also conducted biomedical research with the support of Narasimman Gurusamy, Ph.D.; Dana Mills, Ph.D.; and Barbara Packer, Ed.D., as he explored "Long noncoding RNA MALAT1 in mitochondrial modulation induced by ketosis in human cardiomyocytes," a poster.

## UNDERGRADUATE AWARD RECIPIENTS

Pulickathadam has presented annually at both the Undergraduate Student Symposium (2022–2025) and the KPCOM Undergraduate Research Symposium (2022–2025).

Beyond NSU, Pulickathadam is passionate about volunteering with his local YMCA Leaders Club, an organization that fosters youth leadership and community engagement. He also enjoys serving as a volunteer staff member for YMCA Blue Ridge Leaders School, teaching character development and volleyball classes for teens 13-18. As a former participant himself during middle and high school, he finds great fulfillment in mentoring teens and giving back to a program that he credits with shaping him into the person he is today. In February 2024, he was selected to represent the YMCA at the inaugural White House Youth Policy Summit hosted by the U.S. Department of Education. In this space, he advocated for enhanced recognition and funding of "third spaces" that support adolescent socioemotional development and well-being. He also served as a youth peer reviewer for the U.S. Department of Education's Promise Neighborhood grant cycle in September 2024, evaluating applications based on their youth engagement efforts.

After graduation, Pulickathadam will be attending the Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Allopathic Medicine at Nova Southeastern University. With a passion for research, community service, and innovation, he aspires to become a physician leader who improves health outcomes by leveraging collaborative innovation, impactful advocacy, and groundbreaking research.

## **Outstanding Students**

# DR. KIRAN C. PATEL COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

**Galena Gomez** is a public health major from Union City, New Jersey. For two years, she served as an event coordinator and treasurer in the Minority Association of Pre-Medical Students at Nova Southeastern University (NSU). For her senior capstone (2025), Gomez worked as a public health intern at the Jack and Jill School under the guidance of Professor Kasi Lou Van Heel, Dr.PH. In this role, Gomez helped design and implement outreach initiatives, raise awareness, and manage the logistical planning of a start-up carpooling program to assist children with transportation to school.

For two years, she participated in NSU's Clinical Exploration Program, gaining experience in the university's dental and speech-language pathology clinics. Gomez is a 2024 Hispanic Scholarship Fund finalist and has been awarded the Academic Dean's Scholarship, Shark Success Scholarship, and Achievement Scholarship at NSU. She has also earned dean's list honors during her undergraduate studies. Additionally, she is a Howell and Petrosky KPCOM Academic Society member and was recently nominated to the Delta Omega Public Health Honor Society, which recognizes the top 10 percent of undergraduate candidates. As part of her coursework in local outreach, she volunteered with several impactful community programs, including Camp Erin South Florida, Pink Up Lauderhill with the Foundation for Sickle Cell Disease Research, the Taskforce for Ending Homelessness, Showering Love at First Baptist Church, and NSU's Drop It Like It's Hot Blood Donor Drive.

Outside of NSU, Gomez is a registered pharmacy technician in Florida. She currently works as a research pharmacy technician at the University of Miami's Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, where she assists pharmacists in dispensing investigational drugs, compounding medications, and supporting clinical trial monitors in inventory tracking and protocol compliance. Before this role, she spent three years working in a community pharmacy managing inventory and collaborating with pharmacy teams to ensure accurate and safe medication dispensing.

After graduation, Gomez plans to pursue a Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) at Nova Southeastern University's Barry and Judy Silverman College of Pharmacy. Her long-term goal is to continue in clinical research and use her pharmacy training to deliver safe, effective treatments that make a meaningful impact on her patients through exceptional patient care.

Colin J. Pulickathadam, a native of Tampa, Florida, is graduating with a double major in health informatics and biology, along with triple minors in honors transdisciplinary studies, research studies, and pre-health. Throughout his time at Nova Southeastern University (NSU), he has been a dynamic campus leader serving in various roles, including being a member of President's 64, an honors advocate for the Farquhar Honors College, president of the Health Informatics Club, and vice president of the Brown-Wujick

Junior Academic Society. He is also a proud member of the Hochberg-Miniaci Razor's Edge Research Scholars Program. Additionally, he has also worked on campus in various roles, including as an Organic Chemistry Laboratory assistant under Professor Camit Alexenberg, Ph.D., Anatomy and Physiology II supplemental instruction leader under Professor Santanu De, Ph.D., and as a CRLA Level II content tutor in the Tutoring and Testing Center. He has consistently achieved placement on the dean's list and is an inducted member of both the Alpha Chi (2022) and TriBeta Biological Honors Societies (2024).

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**UNDERGRADUATE** 

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After graduation, Pulickathadam will be attending the Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Allopathic Medicine at Nova Southeastern University. With a passion for research, community service, and innovation, he aspires to become a physician leader who improves health outcomes by leveraging collaborative innovation, impactful advocacy, and groundbreaking research.

# DR. PALLAVI PATEL COLLEGE OF HEALTH CARE SCIENCES

Marissa Olina Bonsangue, an exercise and sports science major with a minor in chemistry on the pre-health track, is from Staten Island, New York. While at Nova Southeastern University (NSU), Bonsangue served as a lab assistant for general chemistry, organic chemistry, and physics labs, throughout her junior and senior years. She was an active member and vice president of NSU's Ultimate Frisbee Club throughout each year at NSU, which became a sanctioned team under her leadership for the first time in school history in 2025.

Bonsangue also completed a Division I football nutrition internship at Florida Atlantic University, where she worked directly with athletes, assisting with hydration protocols, food preparation, and emergency on-field care (2022). During her summers, she worked with children as a teacher's aide and supported a local children's theater company in Staten Island as a lighting assistant and sound software developer.

She has contributed to multiple research projects during her undergraduate years. Bonsangue presented her work on "Assessment of Brain Function and Putting Performance of Collegiate Golfers" as a poster at the NSU Undergraduate Student Symposium (2023), Interlace Conference (2023), and the Society for Sports Neuroscience Conference (2023) with Professor Pradeep Vanguri, Ph.D. Bonsangue is the lead author of a study, "Changes in Joint Power Magnitude and Distribution Pre and Post Training Camp," which uses 3D motion

capture and force-plate technology to analyze National Football League draft athletes. The study, which she conducted with Professor G. Monique Mohka, Ph.D., was published in a journal.

In addition to biomechanics research,
Bonsangue was involved in two biologyfocused poster projects: "Determining the
Function of the Protein of Interest 2QRU Using
Bioinformatic Tools and Wet-Lab Experiments"
under Professor Arthur Sikora, Ph.D., and
"Resveratrol-Inspired Synthetic Compounds
for Glioblastoma Stem Cell Cytotoxicity,"
with Professor Venkatesh Shanbhag, Ph.D.
Both posters were presented at NSU's
Undergraduate Symposium (2024).

Outside of research and academics, Bonsangue has remained an active member of her community. She has volunteered as a physical therapy aide at Richmond University Medical Center, helping patients with rehabilitation exercises and daily treatment operations. She also volunteered at Staten Island University Hospital, both in the emergency room and surgical intensive care unit.

After graduation, Bonsangue will be attending Nova Southeastern University's Master of Science in Anesthesia program. She plans to integrate her love of sports science with the precision of chemistry by becoming an anesthesiologist assistant with a focus on orthopedic operations.

Kylee Thomas, a diagnostic medical sonography major, is from Fredericksburg, Virginia. During her time at Nova Southeastern University, she served as class president for the Diagnostic Medical Sonography program and was an active member of the Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography's Emerging Leaders program. She also played on the NSU Women's Club Volleyball Team and served as secretary on its Electoral Board.

Academically, she was a dean's list recipient throughout her undergraduate studies and was awarded the Dean's Scholarship, Shark Legacy Scholarship, and the Elks Lodge Legacy Award. She is certified in Sonography Principles and Instrumentation through the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography® (ARDMS) and plans to take the Abdomen (AB), Vascular Technology (VT), and Obstetrics and Gynecology (OB-GYN) specialty examinations to be certified in many areas of sonography. Her clinical experience

includes rotations at Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center, where she performed vascular and abdominal ultrasound examinations, and West Boca Medical Center, where she specialized in OB-GYN sonography.

Thomas is deeply passionate about sonography and its vital role in patient care, using advanced imaging to enhance diagnostic accuracy and improve health outcomes. Her father, Robbie Thomas, recently passed away and is deeply missed today. Although he is not with us physically, his presence is still felt in every step she takes. He was her greatest source of strength, always reminding her to chase her dreams, never give up, and give her best in everything she does. His unwavering belief in her became the foundation of her hard work and determination. As she celebrates this achievement, she does so with him in her heart, forever grateful for the love and encouragement that continues to guide her forward.

# RON AND KATHY ASSAF COLLEGE OF NURSING

Lauren Elizabeth Alberts, a nursing major, is from Troy, Michigan. She received recognition on the dean's list for all semesters of her enrollment in the Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program at the Fort Myers Campus. She served as president of the Nursing Student Association, Fort Myers, under the mentorship of Professor Camille Baldwin, Ed.D., and Professor Keylashal Miller-Graham, M.S.N. During this time, Alberts created numerous volunteer opportunities in the community, organized meetings for students to connect with professional nurses, and was honored with the National Student Nursing Association's Future Nurse Leader Scholarship.

Alberts' passion for nursing began early and was solidified at her first job at a memory care facility, where she formed meaningful connections with residents and gained valuable life lessons. Her clinical experiences at Nova Southeastern University (NSU) confirmed her interest in the Emergency Department setting. She began working as a nurse intern at an Emergency Department in Naples, Florida, in August 2024. At this internship, she was able to apply her knowledge from coursework and clinical experiences in a high-speed setting on a weekly basis. She also completed her final nursing practicum at a Level II Trauma Center Emergency Department in Fort Myers.

## UNDERGRADUATE AWARD RECIPIENTS

After graduation, Alberts plans to work as a registered nurse in an Emergency Department in Southwest Florida. She would like to especially thank her mom (Diane), dad (Joseph), sister (Marisa), fiancé (Hunter), and Professor Chitra Paul Victor, Ph.D., for their unwavering support throughout her nursing journey.

Kaylah Louis, a proud Filipino-Haitian American and Miami native, graduates with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, bringing with her a rich academic background and a deep passion for patient care. Prior to nursing. she earned a Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences from Chapman University, where she laid the foundation for her future in health care. Louis is a member of the Alpha Chi Honor Society (2024) and Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing (2025). She has been recognized on the dean's list multiple times and was awarded the Changing Lives Scholarship for Nursing Students (2023) in recognition of her dedication to compassionate, transformative care.

As a Health Care Assistant (HCA) Scholar, Louis looks forward to beginning her nursing practice in a supportive and dynamic clinical environment. With the goal of working in an intensive care unit, she hopes to support patients through life-changing experiences and witness the miracles that occur when science and compassion come together to heal.

Outside of her academic and clinical achievements, Louis is a dedicated fitness enthusiast who proudly completed a half marathon alongside the dean of the Ron and Kathy Assaf College of Nursing Stefanie LaManna, Ph.D. Louis brings that same spirit of endurance, determination, and heart to every challenge she faces, both on the track and in life. Louis' journey is a testament to perseverance, purpose, and the belief that healing happens not only through medicine, but through connection, empathy, and hope. She steps into her nursing career with gratitude, ready to serve, heal, and lead.



## DISTINGUISHED HONOREES

# Commencement Speakers UNDERGRADUATE

#### MAY 5, 2025—MORNING CEREMONY

JEB BUSH, born February 11, 1953, in Midland, Texas, was the 43rd governor of the state of Florida (1999–2007). His leadership, dedication to public service, and commitment to education have left an indelible mark on our nation. As Florida's governor, Bush championed conservation in the Everglades, fiscal responsibility, and far-reaching state education reforms. And he is still making an impact, in Florida and beyond, as a philanthropist, a writer, and the founder and chair of ExcelinEd, an organization dedicated to enhancing educational opportunities for all children.

Born into a legacy of political influence, Bush carved out his own path. He attended Philips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts. During his senior year, he studied in Mexico, where he met Columba Garnica Gallo. The couple married in 1974 and later had three children. Also in 1974, Bush graduated *magna cum laude* from the University of Texas—Austin with a Bachelor of Arts in Latin American Studies and was hired by the Texas Commerce Bank. For a time, he worked at a branch of the bank in Venezuela.

In 1979, he left his job to work on his father's presidential campaign. George H. W. Bush ultimately became the vice-presidential running mate of Ronald Reagan, and the two were elected in 1980. In 1981, Bush moved to Florida and became a real estate developer, while also remaining active in politics. He served as the chairman of the Republican Party in Dade County (1984–1986) and as Florida's commerce secretary (1987–1988). In 1988, he again worked on his father's presidential campaign, successful this time.

In 1994, Bush ran for governor of Florida on a conservative platform and narrowly lost to the Democratic incumbent. He subsequently founded the Foundation for Florida's Future, which sought to improve the state's education system. Bush ran for governor again in 1998 and, this time, he easily won. In 2000, he worked on the presidential campaign of his brother, George W. Bush, who was elected to the presidency. Then, in 2002, Bush ran for, and was elected to, his second term as governor. From 1999 to 2007, during his terms as Florida's governor, he transformed the state into a model of fiscal responsibility, education reform, and economic growth. In addition, he controversially signed an executive order that ended affirmative action in the state.

After leaving office in 2007, Bush served on the boards of various companies and founded a consulting firm, while remaining active in politics. He cowrote (with Clint Bolick) *Immigration Wars: Forging an American Solution* in 2013, in which he argued against a path to citizenship for illegal immigrants and, instead, proposed granting them legal status.

In 2015, Bush announced that he was entering the U.S. presidential election race of 2016. Later that year, he published *Reply All*, a collection of email correspondence from his tenure as governor of Florida. Though he lost that race, Jeb Bush remains a respected and sought-after voice on local and global issues. He continues to make a difference as a businessman, author, and philanthropist today.

#### MAY 5, 2025—AFTERNOON CEREMONY

MITCHELL W. BERGER, ESQ., is a nationally recognized attorney, civic leader, and longtime supporter of Nova Southeastern University. As the founder and chairman emeritus of Berger Singerman, he has led Florida's business law firm for nearly four decades, representing clients, including Fortune 500 companies, in complex commercial litigation and shaping the legal landscape of the state.

Beyond his distinguished legal career, Berger has played a pivotal role in both state and national politics, serving as a senior adviser to Vice President Al Gore in 2000. He notably represented the Gore/Lieberman campaign before the Florida Supreme Court in the landmark *Bush v. Gore* case—a defining moment in United States electoral history—which earned him portrayals in HBO's *Recount* and *537 Votes*.

In addition to his high-profile political work, Berger has held key roles on numerous public commissions and task forces, reflecting his broad commitment to public service and policy leadership. He served as chairman of the board of Sallie Mae and contributed his expertise to the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Financial Advisory Board, the Florida Environmental Regulation Commission, and the United States Small Business Administration Advisory Board, and also received a presidential appointment for the Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations. Through these roles, Berger has helped shape policies on education, environmental stewardship, economic development, and trade at both the state and national levels.

Berger's commitment to NSU runs deep. He has served on the university's board of trustees since 2006 and is a longtime member of the governing board for the Shepard Broad College of Law. He had also previously served on the board of the H. Wayne Huizenga College of Business and Entrepreneurship and, in 2010, was inducted into that college's Entrepreneur and Business Hall of Fame. Together with his wife, Sharon Kegerreis Berger, he helped launch the Sharon and Mitchell W. Berger Entrepreneur Law Clinic and the Berger Entrepreneur Bootcamp, an innovative, university-wide initiative that prepares students and community members to launch and lead successful start-ups.

A frequent speaker and published author on election law and constitutional issues, Berger has published four articles in the *Nova Law Review*. His lifelong commitment to public service, the law, and education reflects his belief in the power of civic engagement and innovation to drive meaningful change.

28

#### MAY 6, 2025—MORNING CEREMONY

CHAD A. PERLYN, M.D., PH.D., M.B.A., is the executive vice president and chief medical officer at Nova Southeastern University (NSU) and the executive medical director of NSU Heath. As such, he directs the university's health care network, including eight colleges focused on education and research, as well as NSU Health, its patient-centered health care system. He is also the dean and a professor at NSU's Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Allopathic Medicine. Perlyn joined NSU in December 2024, after serving as senior vice president at Nicklaus Children's Health System, where he led surgical services, community health, and corporate responsibility.

A distinguished leader in plastic and craniofacial surgery, Perlyn made significant contributions at Nicklaus Children's Health System, which he joined in 2009 as a pediatric plastic surgeon and later served in leadership roles, including president of Nicklaus Children's Pediatric Specialists, medical director of Surgical Services, and chairman of the Ambulatory Surgical Center. He expanded the physician group by 50 percent, led major affiliations, and developed multiple new practice sites and programs. Under his leadership, operational improvements were made, including streamlined patient access, scheduling, and revenue cycle processes. He also spearheaded the opening of the \$180-million Kenneth C. Griffin Surgical Tower, transforming pediatric surgical care in South Florida.

Perlyn is a global health leader, actively involved with the G4 Alliance on surgical care in low- and middle-income countries and collaborating with Partners in Health in Haiti and Kausay Wasi in Peru to improve accessible, affordable health care worldwide. As a board-certified pediatric plastic surgeon, he cares for children with congenital differences and contributes to the field through publications, lectures, and media commentary.

Perlyn earned his M.D. from the University of Miami, completed surgical training at Washington University/Barnes-Jewish Hospital, and obtained a doctorate in craniofacial molecular biology from the University of Oxford. He also holds an M.B.A. in health care education from the University of Miami's Herbert Business School and a degree in English literature from Northwestern University. A Miami native, Perlyn enjoys ocean activities, marathon running, photography, and travel.

## **ACADEMIC ATTIRE**

Ceremonial garments worn at academic functions take their meaning from the original centers of learning of the western world in the church of the Middle Ages. Caps, hoods, and gowns of the early students and monks have been held through the centuries to be traditionally symbolic of the scholarly devotion so basic to education and to the deliberate and orderly evolution of knowledge.

The introduction of classical studies, the gradual rise of the great universities across Europe, and the ever-increasing awareness of the decisive role of education in the entire development of civilization influenced leaders among academicians in their desire for a singular identity. In the attempt to create this differentiation, educators fell upon the medieval system of classic heraldry, whereby the coat of arms, assorted ornamental trappings, and patterns of colorful design had been adopted to denote the distinctive character of designated chivalric orders. The function of a pedagogical heraldry became, then, simply identification. As such, measures were taken to signify through distinctive markings on the academicians' attire the institution that had granted the degree, the field of learning in which the degree had been earned, and the level of the degree, e.g., bachelor's, master's, or doctorate.

Of the three pieces of academic attire—the cap, the gown, and the hood—it is the hood that offers the most abundant and most readily discernible information about its owner. The inner lining of the hood identifies the institution at which the individual earned the degree. Some schools have adopted two-color patterns and introduced chevrons and bars in various designs to set themselves apart from other institutions. The velvet trim bordering the hood indicates the major field of learning, or faculty, in which the degree has been earned. The list at the conclusion of this section will explain this relationship. A final feature of the hood concerns its length and width and distinguishes further between holders of bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees. The length of the hood for the bachelor's degree is three feet, closed at the bottom, and with a velvet border of two inches. At Nova Southeastern University, however, individuals receiving a bachelor's degree do not wear a hood. A master's degree holder has a hood three and one-half feet in length with a three-inch wide border, and the hood is slit at the bottom. Those individuals with a doctoral degree wear a hood four feet in length, open at the bottom with a five-inch border.

The cut of the gown aids in differentiating between the three levels of degrees. The

bachelor's gown is relatively simple and falls in straight lines from an elaborate yoke. It may be recognized most readily by the long, pointed sleeves. The master's gown is somewhat fuller and bears no adornment. The sleeves are oblong in shape and open at the wrist, with the rear part of the oblong square cut while the front edge has a cutaway arc. The doctor's gown is more elaborate, with velvet panels down the front and around the neck of the garment. The sleeves are bell-shaped at the end and have three bars of the same material as the front panels at the upper portion of the arm. It is cut rather fully and may be ornamental in color.

The mortarboard or Oxford-type cap has been adopted throughout most universities in the United States, although tams have become increasingly fashionable to denote holders of the doctoral degree. Colored tassels are usually worn by holders of the bachelor's and master's degrees. These denote the field of learning.

The color, indeed, the flamboyance, of academic dress undoubtedly adds to the sense of occasion at academic ceremonies. But as its historical roots show, it has a much deeper significance. It is an outward sign of the universality of universities, and of their responsibility for certain timeless values essential to the freedom

of inquiry: tolerance of alternative views and courage in maintaining one's own tirelessness in the pursuit of truth and the free exchange of knowledge. Its wearing marks also the responsibility of the new graduate to maintain and uphold these ideals. These fundamentals of academic freedom have not been threatened in this country for more than 200 years, but the importance attached to the donning of traditional academic dress was underlined in recent years by scholars from Central and Eastern Europe; during the Cold War, their use of academic robes became a symbol of their refusal to be dominated completely by political forces and the state, and symbolized their persistent links to the worldwide community of scholars. Thus, the wearing of academic dress should be seen not simply as a sign of achievement, but as a symbol of the responsibility that falls on all members of universities.

#### **HONORS**

Students wear cords, pins, sashes, and medallions that reflect institutional and national academic honors as well as campus leadership, service, and engagement.

#### COLOR OF HOODS

The colors found on the hoods worn in the academic procession represent the candidate's discipline of study.

Arts, Letters, Humanities	White
Accounting, Business	Drab
Biomedical Science	
Clinical Vision Research	Aqua
Dentistry	Lilac
Developmental Disabilities	Citron
Education	Light Blue
Law	
Medicine	Kelly Green
Music	
Nursing	Apricot
Occupational Therapy	
Optometry	
Oratory (Speech)	Silver Gray
Pharmacy	
Philosophy, Political Science	Dark Blue
Public Administration, Human Services,	
Physical Therapy, and Criminal Justice	Peacock
Public Health	Salmon
Science	Bright Yellow

Sport Science.....Sage Green



3300 S. University Drive Fort Lauderdale, FL 33328-2004