



# Class of 2026 **WHITE COAT** Ceremony

**Friday, August 26, 2022 | 3 pm**

Wehrle B. Geary Auditorium, Riggleman Hall

University of Charleston  
School of Pharmacy  
—CLASS OF 2026—

—White Coat Ceremony 2022—

**Welcome**

Dr. Michelle Knight, Executive Director of Enrollment & Admissions

**Greetings**

Dr. Martin S. Roth, President  
University of Charleston

**University of Charleston Alma Mater**

Mr. Christopher Brown  
University Singers

**Introduction of Speaker**

Dr. Karrie Murphy  
Executive Director of Professional Affairs

**White Coat Ceremony Keynote Speaker**

Dr. Matthew Rafa, Class of 2010  
West Virginia Pharmacists Association President-Elect

**Presentation of the Class of 2026**

Ms. Jamie Bero,  
Director of Student & Alumni Affairs

**Pledge of Professionalism**

Ms. Olukemi Omotola, President  
Pharmacy Student Governance Association

**Closing Remarks**

Dr. Gannett Monk, Chair, Department of Pharmacy Practice

**Recessional**

\*transfer Class of 2025

Pictures immediately following on the east end stairs of Riggleman Hall

## Pledge of Professionalism

As a student of pharmacy, I believe there is a need to build and reinforce a professional identity founded on integrity, ethical behavior, and honor. This development, a vital process in my education, will help ensure that I am true to the professional relationship I establish between myself and society as I become a member of the pharmacy community. Integrity will be an essential part of my everyday life and I will pursue all academic and professional endeavors with honesty and commitment to service.

To accomplish this goal of professional development, as a student of pharmacy I will:

**DEVELOP** a sense of loyalty and duty to the profession of pharmacy by contributing to the well-being of others and by enthusiastically accepting responsibility and accountability for membership in the profession.

**FOSTER** professional competency through lifelong learning. I will strive for high ideals, teamwork and unity within the profession in order to provide optimal patient care.

**SUPPORT** my colleagues by actively encouraging personal commitment to the Oath of a Pharmacist and the Code of Ethics for Pharmacists as set forth by the profession.

**DEDICATE** my life and practice to excellence. This will require an ongoing reassessment of personal and professional values.

**Maintain** the highest ideals and professional attributes to ensure and facilitate the covenantal relationship required of the pharmaceutical care giver.

The profession of pharmacy is one that demands adherence to a set of rigid ethical standards. These high ideals are necessary to ensure the quality of care extended to the patients I serve. As a student of pharmacy, I believe this does not start with graduation; rather, it begins with my membership in the professional college community. Therefore, I must strive to uphold these standards as I advance toward full membership in the profession of pharmacy. As a class, we voluntarily make this pledge of professionalism.

Adapted from the University of Illinois College of Pharmacy's Pledge of Professionalism.

Jones, Valerie A. *The White Coat: Why Not Follow Suit?* 1993.

Developed and adopted by the American Pharmaceutical Association Academy of The Journal of the American Medical Association. Columbia University Students of Pharmacy and the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy Council of College of Physicians and Surgeons. Web. 12 Aug. 2009. Deans Task Force on Professionalism on June 26, 1994

<http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/full/281/5/478>

## School of Pharmacy | White Coat Ceremony | Class of 2026 —Keynote Speaker—



### Dr. Matthew Rafa, Class of 2010

West Virginia Pharmacists Association  
President-Elect

Born and raised in Wheeling, Matt graduated from West Virginia University in 2004 with a degree in chemistry. During that time, a summer job working as a pharmacy technician changed his passion, and in 2006, Matt became an inaugural member of the University of Charleston School of Pharmacy. He graduated in 2010 and returned to Wheeling to start working as a pharmacist for Kroger around the northern panhandle – Ohio Valley area. In 2012, Matt was assigned to his hometown as the pharmacy manager at Kroger Pharmacy and has worked diligently to provide the Warwood community with outstanding healthcare since.

Upon returning to Wheeling, Matt became involved in his community. He is the president of the newly-formed Ohio County Virtual Lions Club, has been involved with the Boy Scouts Ohio River Valley Council as a board member and Vice President of Programs from 2017-2021, and has served as the Employed Pharmacy Director for the WV Pharmacists Association – representing chain pharmacists – for four years from 2016-2020, and recently joined the Warwood School Local School Improvement Council as a community representative. He has served in all these roles for a combined 22 years of service and leadership. Matt is an Eagle Scout.

In Matt's 11-year tenure as a pharmacist, he has been awarded Kroger's Shining Star Award twice in 2010 and 2011; WV Society of Health Systems Pharmacists Young Pharmacist of the Year in 2011; Ohio-Marshall County Pharmacist of the Year in 2014; Kroger's Leader in Clinical Care Award in 2016; an award for volunteerism at the 2019 State of the City address by Wheeling City Council; WVPA Distinguished Young Pharmacist in 2019; and WVPA Excellence in Innovation Award in 2021.

Matt has also been a champion for the COVID vaccine by providing ample access to it. He has provided COVID-19 vaccinations since Dec 30th, 2020, at his pharmacy, vaccinated Ohio County Schools employees and healthcare professionals, and continues to volunteer at the Greater Wheeling Soup Kitchen two to three times every week to offer vaccinations to an underserved population.

Matt currently serves the West Virginia Pharmacists Association as President-Elect and Membership Chair.

## Significance of the White Coat

The coat is white as a representation of purity and goodness; it is a visual reminder of a pharmacy student's dedication and commitment to the community. The White Coat Ceremony was created by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation of New York and the first ceremony was held for the entering class of the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Columbia University on August 20, 1993. The foundation feared technology and science were rapidly advancing in such a way that medical practitioners would no longer have a focus on humanism in medicine. One main reason the Foundation created the White Coat Ceremony for first year students was their belief that it is the opportunity to influence the standards of professionalism. Since then, many other health professional programs have adopted the custom.

—White Coat Ceremony Committee—

Chloe Anderson^  
Dianne Ash^  
Taylor Ball^  
Thomas Baye^  
Ms. Jamie Bero  
Miranda Birchfield ^  
Logan Bossert^  
Courtney Brewer^  
Brenton Carney^  
Rani Dabaj^  
Allison Given^  
Aaron Justice^  
Isabella Kerby-Ballinger^  
Johnathan Kinder^  
Courtney Kinkead\*  
Calie Light^  
Adalberto López Nieves^  
Megan Lowry^  
Lindsey McCoy^  
Amanda McGlone^  
Emily Meiss^  
Eunseo Oh^  
Christopher Pérez Hernandez^  
Abigail Ratliff^  
Meghna Reddy^  
Nathaniel Wheeler^

^member of the Class of 2026  
\*member of the Class of 2025

—White Coat Ceremony 2022—

Special thanks to the following for their generosity and support of the Annual White Coat Ceremony:

Ms. Jamie Bero  
Ms. Stacie Geise  
Dr. Michelle Knight  
Dr. Karrie Murphy  
Ms. Erica Paxton  
Ms. Emilee Spangler  
University Audiovisual  
University Communications  
University Facility Services  
University Technology Services

**Student Pharmacist Volunteers**

Asjad Gariballa  
Clifton Joiner  
Hanh Nguyen  
Vanessa Semke  
Israa Shehata

**Photography**

Brock Burwell,  
UC Videographer & Photographer

Bruce Heflin, [www.mypicturesnow.com](http://www.mypicturesnow.com)



## University of Charleston Mission

The mission of the University of Charleston is to educate each student for a life of productive work, enlightened living, and community involvement.

## School of Pharmacy Mission

The mission of the University of Charleston School of Pharmacy is to prepare pharmacists and scientists to have a positive impact on the community through advocacy, scholarship and innovation. Pharmacy graduates will provide the highest level of interprofessional patient care with an emphasis on serving rural and underserved populations.