



UNIVERSITY OF  
CHARLESTON

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM



Class of 2023

# HOODING

Ceremony

Friday, April 28, 2023 | 5:30 pm

Geary Auditorium, Riggleman Hall

UNIVERSITY OF CHARLESTON  
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM

CLASS OF 2023

Rachel Elizabeth Boyce  
Nicole Alyson Burks  
Jade Luciana Carbonelli  
Hannah Christine Clark  
Sierra Kenly Elsman  
Madison Joan Flicker  
Brooke Elizabeth Garey  
Kayla Ann Harmon  
Ashley Kasumi Hilton  
Kelly Min Hong  
Brooklyn Nicole Jones  
Clinton Liang  
Bernadette Jordan Luby  
Kaleigh Annmarie Maxey  
Jeffrey Thomas Miller  
Katharine Nicole Morford  
Cecile Adrienne Msays  
Alyssa Sue Pantle  
Haley Elizabeth Patterson  
Katie Lauren Preece  
Victoria Jean Rollin  
Maren Mae Schultz  
Celena Marie Sympson  
Alexandra Rae Troia  
Eric Michael Udermann  
Grace Elizabeth Warde  
Madison Sally Yaeger  
Katherine Anne Yakuboff  
Brett Paul Zavadil

HOODING CEREMONY 2023

**Processional**.....Class of 2023, PA Faculty & Dean, Bert Bradford Health Sciences  
Michelle Hontz, Pianist

**Invocation**.....Tim Hontz, MPAS, PA-C  
UCPAP Alumnus

**Welcome**.....Teresa Preston, MBA, MPAS, PA-C  
Program Director

**University Singers**.....Christopher Brown  
Director of Choral Activities

**Greetings**.....Dr. Mindy Smith, D.E.L., M.B.A.,M.A.,B.S.R.T.(R)(M), RDMS  
Dean of the Bert Bradford School of Health Sciences

**Class of 2023 Awards**..... Julie DeTemple, MD, FAAFP  
Program Medical Director

Excellence in Service & Altruism Award..... Grace Warde, PA-S  
Excellence in Clinical Achievement Award..... Cecile Msays, PA-S  
Clinical Student Resilience and Perseverance Award..... Katharine Morford, PA-S

**Keynote Speaker**.....JOHN J. DAVIS, PA-C, DFAAPA  
Class of 2021

**Presentation of Graduates**..... Lesley Adkins, MSPA, PA-C  
Principal Faculty/Assistant Professor

**Hooders:**.....Michelle Davis, MS, PA-C  
Director of Clinical Education/Assistant Professor  
Angela Elkins, MSPA, PA-C  
Director of Didactic Education/Assistant Professor  
Melissa Jensen, MSPA, PA-C  
Principal Faculty/Assistant Professor  
Ashley Mellert, MPAS, PA-C  
Principal Faculty/Assistant Professor

**Charge to the Class & Closing Remarks**.....Teresa Preston, MBA, MPAS, PA-C  
Program Director

**Recessional**.....Michelle Hontz, Pianist

*Audience, please remain seated until graduates and faculty have left the auditorium*

*Reception immediately following in the Rotunda*

## — PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROFESSIONAL OATH —

*I pledge to perform the following duties  
with honesty and dedication*

**I will** hold as my primary responsibility the health, safety, welfare and dignity of all human beings.

**I will** uphold the tenets of patient autonomy, beneficence, nonmaleficence and justice.

**I will** recognize and promote the value of diversity.

**I will** treat equally all persons who seek my care.

**I will** hold in confidence the information shared in the course of practicing medicine.

**I will** assess my personal capabilities and limitations, striving always to improve my medical practice.

**I will** actively seek to expand my knowledge and skills, keeping abreast of advances in medicine.

**I will** work with other members of the health care team to provide compassionate and effective care of patients.

**I will** use my knowledge and experience to contribute to an improved community.

**I will** respect my professional relationship with the physician.

**I will** share and expand knowledge within the profession.

*These duties are pledged with sincerity  
and upon my honor.*

## — HISTORY OF THE HOODING CEREMONY AND ACADEMIC REGALIA —

The pageantry of commencement has its roots in medieval times, dating to the early tradition of Europe's first universities. In 1895, the United States set for its universities a uniform academic costume code which is reflected in most regalia worn today.

The colorful hood is a special part of academic regalia and denotes scholarly and professional achievements. The hood's coloring and size represents the type and subject of degree earned, as well as the institution from which it is awarded. The master's degree hood is 3.5 feet in length. The velvet edge of the hood color represents the specific degree. Kelly green is the designated color of the hood for master's level graduates in medicine.

Gowns represent the level of academic degrees. The gown for the master's degree has an oblong sleeve, open at the wrist. The sleeve base hangs down; the rear part of its oblong shape is square cut, and the front part has an arc cut away. The color in the United States is usually black.

Headwear is also an important component of traditional regalia. The cap may vary with the level of academic achievement. Master's degree recipients wear the mortarboard cap to match the gown. The tassel worn on the mortarboard provides the greatest opportunity for latitude in American academic dress. It may be black, university colors, or the color of the specific college or discipline.



## — CLASS OF 2023 STUDENT LEADERS —

Eric Udermann, *President*  
Hannah Clark, *Vice President*  
Nicole Burks, *Secretary*  
Katharine Morford, *Treasurer*  
Grace Warde, *Outreach Chair*  
Jade Carbonelli, *Fundraising Chair*  
Celena Sympson, *SAR Representative*  
Victoria Rollin, *WVAPA Representative*  
Madison Flicker, *Homecoming Chair*  
Jennifer Reuther, *Social Chair*  
Ashley Hilton, *Alumni Chair*  
Kelly Hong, *Diversity Chair*  
Sierra Elsman, *Historian*

## — FACULTY —

Teresa Preston, MBA, MPAS, PA-C  
*Program Director*  
Michelle Davis, MS, PA-C  
*Director of Clinical Education/Assistant Professor*  
Angela Elkins, MSPA, PA-C  
*Director of Didactic Education/Assistant Professor*  
Melissa Jensen, MSPA, PA-C  
*Principal Faculty/Assistant Professor*  
Ashley Mellert, MPAS, PA-C  
*Principal Faculty/Assistant Professor*  
Lesley Adkins, MSPA, PA-C  
*Principal Faculty/Assistant Professor*  
Julie A. DeTemple, MD, FAAFP  
*Medical Director*

## — STAFF —

Jackie Robinson, AAS  
*Clinical Coordinator*  
Lori Thornton  
*Administrative Assistant*



## 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.

## PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM MISSION

The mission of the University of Charleston Physician Assistant Program is to prepare competent physician assistants who value and provide comprehensive, patient-centered, culturally sensitive primary care, and are committed to lifelong-learning, professional growth, community health, and caring for underserved populations.

## Special thanks to the following for their generosity and support:

University Audiovisual Services  
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UC Catering Services

*Ceremony Photography by Bruce Heflin - [www.mypicturesnow.com](http://www.mypicturesnow.com)*



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