



UNIVERSITY OF  
CHARLESTON

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM

A large, faint, circular seal of the University of Charleston is visible in the background on the left side. It contains the text 'UNIVERSITY OF CHARLESTON' around the perimeter, 'VERITAS' at the top, 'RABBIT' at the bottom, and the year '88' at the very bottom. The seal depicts a building and a landscape.

12th Annual  
**WHITE COAT**  
Ceremony  
Class of 2026

Thursday, April 17, 2025 | 5:30 pm

Geary Auditorium, Riggleman Hall

University of Charleston  
Physician Assistant Program  
— CLASS OF 2026 —

Sawyer Kaye Agnew	Aron Kent Moss
Brooke Catarina Barlow	Mark Martin Ovesny
Caroline Rose Bishop	Isha Passi
Johannah Kristen Crumpton	Cameron Choong-Shik Price
Daniel Michael Early	Courtney Grace Santifort
Julia Anne Eix	Brittney Marie Sawyer
Maria Camila Espinosa Gonzalez	Victoria Izabela Seston
Bailey Lynn Fedun	Grace Marie Steward
Paige Marie Gatliff	Kathleen Nicole Summers
Arianna Elizabeth Golden	Trent Nathan Tallman
Jan-Lukas Anton Haeuptle	Hannah Louise Elizabeth Timmons
Kaitlyn Mckenzie Halstead	Recelito Trau
Mumphord “Lee” Kendall	Karolina Uscillo
Alisha Ann Kulka	Gabrielle Kyra Wagner
Skye Alexandria Majka	Ross Neely Webb
Jacob Daniel Marthinsen	Brooke Joan West
Emilee Brooke Maynard	Emily Elise Wood
Chase Alan Mitton	

— WHITE COAT CEREMONY 2025 —

<b>Processional</b> .....	Michelle Hontz pianist
<b>Invocation</b> .....	Tim Hontz – MPAS, PA-C UCPAP Alumnus
<b>Welcome</b> .....	Teresa Preston, MBA, MPAS, PA-C Program Director
<b>University Singers</b> .....	Christopher Brown Director of Choral Activities
<b>Introduction of Speakers</b> .....	Teresa Preston, MBA, MPAS, PA-C Program Director
<b>Guest Speaker</b> .....	Kevin Hill, MPAS, PA-C
<b>Significance of the White Coat</b> .....	Ashley Mellert, MPAS, PA-C Principal Faculty/Assistant Professor
<b>Class Memories Video</b>	
<b>Presenting the Class of 2026</b> .....	Madeleine Long, MPAS, PA-C Principal Faculty/Assistant Professor
<b>White Coat Presenters</b> .....	Michelle Davis, MSPA, 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
<b>Presentation of UC PA Pin</b> .....	Teresa Preston, MBA, MPAS, PA-C Program Director
<b>The PA Oath</b> .....	Mark Ovesny, PA-S Class of 2026 President
<b>Closing Remarks</b> .....	Teresa Preston, MBA, MPAS, PA-C Program Director
<b>Recessional</b> .....	Michelle Hontz Pianist

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.*

## — SIGNIFICANCE OF THE WHITE COAT —

The coat is white as a representation of purity and goodness; it is a visual reminder of a Physician Assistant 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.



— GUEST SPEAKER —  
**Kevin Hill, MPAS, PA-C**



Kevin Hill, MPAS, PA-C: Kevin is a well-regarded Physician Assistant who was born in the coal fields of southern West Virginia. He obtained his Bachelor of Science degree as a Physician Assistant at Mountain State University in 1999 and returned to his local community to establish his practice as an Emergency Medicine Physician Assistant. He later earned his Master of Physician Assistant Studies from the University of Nebraska with emphasis in Emergency Medicine.

Kevin has extensive experience in emergency and internal medicine and proudly serves on the West Virginia State Trauma Advisory Council as an At-Large Member representing Advance Practice Professionals in the state. He continues to maintain certification in Advanced Trauma Life Support and is a leader among his peers in trauma care.

Kevin enjoys teaching and has accepted students from various medical programs for more than 20 years and is proud that he has helped to establish core values in students now practicing across the United States. He is a past Student Preceptor of the Year from the West Virginia Rural Health Education Partnership. He has also been an Advanced Cardiac Life Support and Pediatric Advanced Life Support Instructor for most of his career.

Kevin currently practices at Boone Memorial Health in Madison, West Virginia, where he serves in various roles including Advance Practice Provider Supervisor and continues to enjoy direct patient care in Internal and Emergency Medicine. He works closely with other health care providers including his wife, Kathy who is a Nurse Practitioner and one of his greatest role models.



**UC - PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT - CLASS OF 2026**

### 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 of the 12th Annual White Coat Ceremony:*

- Class of 2027 student volunteer  
Maya Vecchio, PA-S
- University Audiovisual Services
- UC Facility Services
- UC Office of Communications & Marketing
- UC Catering Services
- University Singers

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



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PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM

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