



SOUTHWEST COLLEGE OF
NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE
& HEALTH SCIENCES

Forty-third
Commencement
Ceremony

Saturday,
December nineteenth,
Two thousand and twenty

SCNM Mission

SCNM is a school of medicine and health sciences grounded in naturopathic principles. Dedicated to the ideal that everyone deserves high-quality healthcare, we engage students in rigorous, innovative academic programs, discover and expand knowledge, and empower individuals and communities to achieve optimal health.

SCNM Vision

A world that embraces the healing power of nature.

SCNM Core Values



Office of the President



December 19, 2020

Dear Friends and Family,

On behalf of the SCNM community, welcome to the Commencement ceremony honoring the Southwest College of Naturopathic Medicine's Graduating Class of Fall 2020. While this ceremony is not what any of these physicians expected, your participation will help make it heartfelt and

memorable. Given the dramatic changes that telemedicine is bringing to healthcare, a virtual graduation feels oddly appropriate as a portent of things to come.

Graduating from medical school is a high point in any physician's life. Sharing the experience with family and friends present makes it even more so. Thank you for participating in this joyous occasion, and a special thank you to all who helped support these fine women and men in fulfilling their dreams of becoming a naturopathic doctor.

Commencement, which heralds the beginning of the graduates' practice of medicine, is also the crowning academic rite of passage that culminates years of undergraduate education, pre-med coursework, and finally, four challenging years of naturopathic medical school. Feel the joy when they are hooded, receive their diplomas, and recite the Naturopathic Oath; and share their pride and awe at the responsibility they assume from this day forth.

In health and peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Mittman". The signature is fluid and cursive.

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About SCNМ

Founded in 1992, SCNМ prepares the next generation of healthcare providers who will consider all available means to heal patients, with an emphasis on naturopathic therapies that prevent disease before it happens and heals without harming. SCNМ's School of Naturopathic Medicine and School of Nutrition educate and train students in the principles and practices of health promotion through evidence-based practices like nutrition, disease management, and prevention.

Located in Tempe, Arizona, the College's mission is to educate tomorrow's healthcare innovators in the art and science of integrative wellness. Our two clinics on campus provide clinical experiences for our naturopathic students while serving the community as a resource for primary healthcare (SCNМ Medical Center) or non-opioid pain management (Neil Riordan Center for Regenerative Medicine). Off campus, our community clinics provide low-cost or free natural healthcare to various underserved populations. SCNМ's newest addition, the Ric Scalzo Institute of Botanical Research, is a state-of-the-art molecular biology and phytochemistry laboratory working in collaboration with the natural products industry and other academic institutions to develop new products and improve existing botanical therapeutics grounded in herbalism's rich tradition through scientific exploration.

SCNМ is one of only five accredited schools of naturopathic medicine in the United States and the first medical school in the Phoenix metropolitan area. The College offers a four-year, professional-level Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine (ND) program, a Master of Science in Clinical Nutrition, and non-degree coursework. The College has become a respected source of evidence-based, holistic, and scientific approaches to healing and wellness with the help of high-quality administration, faculty, and staff working to create public engagement and increase knowledge throughout the community.

SCNМ is approved by the Arizona Board for Private Post-Secondary Education and is accredited by the Council on Naturopathic Medical Education, the accrediting agency for naturopathic colleges and universities in the United States and Canada. In addition, SCNМ is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

Commencement Ceremony

December 19, 2020

Graduate Procession

Pomp and Circumstance No 1	Edward Elgar (Composer)
The National Anthem	Performed by Jennifer Ann Perry Graduation Candidate

Welcome

Opening Remarks	Kenneth Donnelly, MBA Dean of Students
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Awards

Presentation of Awards	H. Garrett Thompson VP of Academic Affairs
	Daphne Blayden Award Student Leadership Award High Academic Achievement Highest Academic Achievement Recognition of Faculty and Staff Award Recipients

Addresses

Presidential Address	Paul Mittman, ND, EdD President and CEO
Graduation Candidate Address	Julia Marie Feindt, BS

Diploma Ceremony

Doctoral Degree Conferral	Paul Mittman, ND, EdD
Presentation of Diplomas	Paul Mittman, ND, EdD
Naturopathic Oath	Paul Mittman, ND, EdD

Graduates are asked to stand for the Naturopathic Oath

Recessional

Candidates for Graduation

Ryan Eric Abdelnour

Mareshah S. Abers * **

Aalia K. Avelin

Adriana Susana Berusch
Gerardino **

Julia Marie Feindt

Alec Fisco

Sara Johnston **

Neha Kaushik

Aaron Killion

Samantha Decoda Deandra
Levy **

Leah Elsa Linarelli *

Anthony David Lytle

Amanda Marie Marshall **

Jennifer Ann Perry

Keely J. Puchalski * **

Alexis Elizabeth Anne Rebeyka

LuAnn Roy

David Joseph Saba **

Hannah Schroeder

Corey Anne Sheppard

Sandra K. Spangler

Colton Tonn

Kira Danielle Warren

Jennifer Wendlandt

*With Honors

To graduate with honors, a student must have a GPA of 3.80 or greater. Final calculation of GPAs for honors awards will not be completed until after the commencement ceremony.

**Honors Tracks

Honors Tracks are competitive, year-long focused areas of clinical study in areas such as pediatrics, nature cure, community health, or regenerative medicine.

Naturopathic Physician's Oath

I dedicate myself to the service of humanity as a practitioner of the art and science of naturopathic medicine.

I will honor my teachers and all who have preserved and developed this knowledge and dedicate myself to supporting the growth and evolution of naturopathic medicine. I will endeavor to continually improve my abilities as a healer through study, reflection, and genuine concern for humanity. I will impart knowledge of the advanced healing arts to dedicated colleagues and students.

Through precepts, lecture, and example, I will assist and encourage others to strengthen their health, reduce risk for disease and preserve the health of our planet for ourselves, our families, and future generations.

According to my best ability and judgment, I will use methods of treatment which follow the principles of naturopathic medicine:

Primum Non Nocere

First of all, to do no harm

Vis Medicatrix Naturae

To act in cooperation with the healing power of nature

Tolle Causam

To address the fundamental causes of disease

Tolle Totum

To heal the whole person through individualized treatment

Docere

To teach the principles of healthy living and preventive medicine

Praevenire

To practice prevention with patients and the public

I will conduct my life and the practice of naturopathic health care with vigilance, integrity, and freedom from prejudice. I will abstain from voluntary acts of injustice and corruption. I will keep confidential whatever I am privileged to witness, whether professionally or privately, that should not be divulged. With my whole heart, before this gathering of witnesses, as a Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine, I pledge to remain true to this oath.

Non-Academic Student Awards

To be awarded during the ceremony

Daphne Blayden Award

Each commencement, SCNM awards the Daphne Blayden Outstanding Student Award to a graduating senior. This award was developed in memory of and to honor Daphne Blayden, a naturopathic medical student who began SCNM's ND program in September of 1993. Daphne passed away in December 1994. This award is endowed to maintain the kind and committed spirit of our dear friend. The person presented with this award exudes academic excellence, compassion, perseverance, a loving sense of humor, and a positive, supportive outlook.

Outstanding Leadership Award

This award is given to a graduating senior who has demonstrated the ability to lead, a willingness to listen to others, and has true humanitarian character. This person provides support to the college community, and commitment to advancing the naturopathic profession.

Faculty & Staff Awards

Awarded at the college

It is customary for SCNM's graduating class to acknowledge one faculty member and one staff member for their commitment to the class, for making a difference in their medical school experience, and for their support and dedication to SCNM and to the profession. The Fall 2020 faculty recipient is awarded to Leslie Axelrod, ND, Professor of Naturopathic Medicine. The staff recipient is Dustin Sowards, ND, Clinical Coordinator.

Significance of the Academic Costume

The academic costumes worn in the procession of today's commencement trace their origin to those worn by faculty and students at medieval European universities. With only minor modifications, these costumes have remained largely unchanged since the 16th century. Standards for colleges and universities in the United States were established in 1895 with the adoption of an intercollegiate code, which specifies design and color appropriate for various degrees. As in medieval times, the costumes worn on formal academic occasions denote the wearer's academic heritage.

The modern academic costume consists of three parts: the gown or robe, a headpiece, and a hood. The doctoral gown is full flowing and has large, bell-shaped sleeves. It is trimmed with velvet panels down the front and has velvet chevrons on the sleeves. The headpiece or cap is worn with a tassel. For the doctor's degree only, the cap should be velvet. The tassel should be black with the exception of the doctor's cap that may have a tassel of gold.

The Colors on the Hood

While the gown and headpiece denote the wearer's level of education, it is the hood which adds meaning and dimension to the academic costume.

Changed little since medieval times, the hood is worn falling from the shoulders down the back of the gown in a display of vivid colors. The hood's green velvet edging denotes the degree's branch of learning, medicine.

The hood is also lined with the official colors of the institution conferring the degree, and the lining is worn exposed. SCNM hoods are lined with navy blue and teal.

Special Recognition

A special thank you to the graduation committee, volunteers, SCNM faculty and staff, Fullscript, and the naturopathic community for their love and support in making this graduation possible.



Congratulations, class of 2020!



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