

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Celebration

2025 GRADUATION CELEBRATION

THE SIXTEENTH OF MAY, TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FIVE



School of Nursing

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

2025 GRADUATION CELEBRATION

MAY 16, 2025 | 1:00 P.M. | LISNER AUDITORIUM



Susan Kelly-Weeder
Ph.D., NP-BC,
FAANP, FAAN
Dean and Professor

To the graduating Class of 2025,

On behalf of the School of Nursing faculty and staff, I would like to congratulate you on your achievements. Completing your nursing education is a significant accomplishment and we are all very proud of you!

Nursing has long been recognized as the most trusted profession; and we have held this title for 23 consecutive years (ANA, 2024). Nurses are trusted because they stand with their patients through all of their health challenges and celebrations. We draw on the art and science of nursing to provide holistic and comprehensive care to all our patients. Let me assure you that every patient, student, or colleague that you encounter in your work as a nurse will benefit from your ongoing commitment to care. You will be privileged to work with people whose lives often depend on you and as nurses, you WILL make a difference.

You are graduating from the George Washington University School of Nursing well-prepared for the challenges ahead. Each of you will play an integral role in defining new models of care that are not driven by profit but by the care needs of the individuals you serve. Your future is bright and limitless. Society has always needed nurses and right now we need you more than ever. Use what you have learned, and always know that you have a broad set of options within your chosen profession.

On behalf of the faculty and staff of the GW School of Nursing, we wish you the best in the future and please know that we will continue to be available to you as you move through your career. Please stay in touch with us and join the growing community of GW nursing alumni.

Again, congratulations and best wishes for your future in nursing, and in life!

NATIONAL ANTHEM Robert Baker, Associate Professor of Music
Vocalist

REMARKS FROM THE DEAN Susan Kelly-Weeder, Ph.D., NP-BC, FAANP, FAAN
Dean and Professor

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT SPEAKER..... Veronica Ellaine Glimada, B.S.N. Candidate

GRADUATE STUDENT SPEAKER..... Bruno Rustico, D.N.P. Candidate

AWARDS PRESENTATION FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS..... Ashely Darcy-Mahoney, Ph.D., NNP-BC, FAAN
Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and Professor

KEYNOTE ADDRESS..... Rear Admiral Robert J. Hawkins
Senior Healthcare Executive, United States Navy
Chief, U.S. Navy Nurse Corps Director, J3J5J&J7, Defense Health Agency

PRESENTATION OF DIPLOMAS Ashely Darcy-Mahoney, Ph.D., NNP-BC, FAAN
Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and Professor

RECITATION OF THE PLEDGE..... Faculty, Graduates & All Nurses

CHARGE TO THE GRADUATES Susan Kelly-Weeder, Ph.D., NP-BC, FAANP, FAAN
Dean and Professor

*The School of Nursing reception will be held from 3:00pm - 5:00pm in Columbian Square.
Graduates and their guests who registered for the reception are welcome to join
the Dean and Faculty immediately following the ceremony.
Columbian Square is located on the first floor of the
University Student Center, 800 21st St. NW Washington, DC 20052.*

*The celebration program is meant to be a guide to the ceremony. Although every effort has been
made to ensure its accuracy, the program is not an official record of an individual's degree.*



**Rear Admiral
Robert J. Hawkins**
*Senior Healthcare Executive,
United States Navy
Chief, U.S. Navy Nurse
Corps Director, J3J5J&J7,
Defense Health Agency*

Rear Admiral Robert J. Hawkins is a native of Liverpool, New York. He enlisted in the Navy in 1983 and completed the Nuclear Power Training Program before serving on two submarines – the USS Sunfish (SSN 649) and the USS Henry L. Stimson (SSBN 655G). He earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the Medical University of South Carolina and was commissioned as an Ensign in 1993. In 1995, he completed an MBA from Webster University; he later obtained a Master of Science from Georgetown University in 2000 and a Master of Arts in Defense and Strategic Studies at the Navy War College in 2016. He completed a Doctor of Nursing Practice at the College of Nursing at Rush University and a PhD from the Rush University Graduate College in 2007 and 2012, respectively. Hawkins completed a Graduate Certificate in Global Health from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst and a Master of Public Health with an emphasis in Public Health Practice in May 2019.

Operationally, Hawkins served wartime deployments as a nurse anesthetist as part of Fleet Surgical Team Eight onboard the USS Wasp (LHD-1), the USS Kearsarge (LHD-3), and the USS Bataan (LHD-5).

Hawkins assumed the role as the 27th Director/Chief of the Navy Nurse Corps on May 14, 2023. Hawkins was the Director of Maritime Operations at the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery from 2022-2023. He was Director of the Commander’s Action Group (CAG) at the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery from 2021-2022. He was Commander of the Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center (NMCPHC) from 2019-2021 and the Deputy Commander of NMCPHC from 2017-2019. From 2015 to 2017, Hawkins was the Associate Director of Surgical Services at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth.

Hawkins is an experienced instructor holding education leadership positions as a clinical instructor, clinical site director, deputy program director, and chair and program director. He served as the Director of the Nurse Anesthesia Program in the Graduate School of Nursing at the Uniformed Services University from 2010 to 2014.

Hawkins wears the enlisted submarine warfare device and is surface warfare medical department officer qualified. His personal military awards include the Legion of Merit (two awards), Defense Meritorious Service Medal with Gold Star, Navy Meritorious Service Medal (two awards), Navy Commendation Medal (five awards), Navy Achievement Medal (five awards) and the Navy Good Conduct Medal (two awards).

Hawkins is a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing.

<i>Clinical Excellence in Adult-Gerontology Acute Care</i>	Lynn Gufeld
<i>Clinical Excellence in Family Nurse Practitioner</i>	Bruno Rustico
<i>Outstanding Student Award in Nurse Midwifery</i>	Alexa Flowers
<i>Outstanding Student Award in Nurse Leadership and Management</i>	Caitlin Litchfield
<i>The Outstanding D.N.P. Scholarly Project Award</i>	Bruno Rustico
<i>Pam & Joe Jeffries Nursing Innovation Award</i>	Frederic Maniraho
<i>Outstanding Student Award in Community Service</i>	Ja’Leigh Ratchford
<i>The RN to B.S.N. Outstanding Scholar Award</i>	Marcqueata Butler
<i>The Virginia Nurses Association/Virginia Nurses Foundation Future Nurse Leader Award</i>	LaToya Bush
<i>Paul Tschudi Memorial Scholarship Character Award</i>	LaToya Bush & Skylar Son
<i>DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nursing Student</i>	LaToya Bush

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING-ACCELERATED

Lelah Abdulkareem◊
Favour Achumba†
Angel Adu◊
Baffour Afriyie*
Anjolaoluwa Ajiboye
Nana Akua
Fakia Allioua
Elaf Alrubai
Oscar Arias◊
Bethany Arroyo*
Anahita Atashi
Gabriel Atolagbe*^
Candice Bailey
Justis Barcelona
Joanna Beacom◊
Alison Becker
Sarah Biernacki◊
Madelyn Blodgett
Aubree Boyle
LaToya Bush◊
Jonathan Calderon*
Garrett Campbell
Beatrice Campbell*^
Alexa Caras
Marisabel Carrasco◊
Emily Cassell◊
Stephanie Castro*
David Castro*
Mary Cawley
Trisha Choe
Joseph Clarke

Delaney Coates
Anne Coffey
Christin Coleman
Ashley Collins*^
Donovan Cousan*†^
Lyla Damiano
Amanda Davis◊
Nicholas DeChristopher
Sarah Dickson
Lauren Dietrich
Erika Dixon†
Jennifer Dolle†
Taylor Donadio
Carissa Dorley†
Catherine Edwards†
AnnaKate Erstling
Victoria Espinal
John FarahiFar*
Jacob Feickert◊
Luis Figuereo*^
Elizabeth Fleck◊
Czarina Flores
Glen Ford*^
Sophie Frey
Marissa Frontin
Stephanie Galinsky
Veronica Glimada†
Sean Glinski◊
Dwan Glover
Jasmin Go
Naomi Goldstein

Rebecca Gollihugh*
Kayla Gordon
Marisa Grebe
Violet Guilford
Akash Gupta
Madilyn Hamill
Dylan Hans*^
Chloe Hegstad
Jaden Henderson
Toni-kay Herbert*^
Maria Hernandez
Emonee Hill
Mary Hillock†
Emma Hoch◊
Mikhail Izrailov*
Fatou Jallow†
Ruth Jimenez
Siena Johnson
Nicole Jordan
Hyo Jung†
Molly Kaplan
Fatmata Kargbo
Anna Karian◊
Linden Karsner*
Yazmeen Kelly◊
Tazzel Kennedy*^
Tinisha Kimak
Hailey Kirchner◊
Valentine Kisiang'ani†
Angela Kumi
Francesca Larson†

Esther Lee†
Carmen Lehnigk
Hayden Lens
Beikai Li
Gabrielle Livingston
Joshua Lokke-Seunarine*^
Tyler Lowe
Virgina Lynch◊
Janani Madhavan
Chrizle Maghanoy*^
Francisca Mainoo†
Marwa Mangal
Shavonne Mattison-Spurgeon◊
Katherine McCauley
Meagan Mclver*
Alyson McKenley*
Ata McZara
Tony Mignogno*
Patrick Miguel
Johne Mitchell
Abigail Moghtader
Evelyn Moreno†
Justin Moseley*
Justin Nabih
Hong Ngoc
Jason Nguyen
Blessing Njoku
Nakia Norris
Aniaya Norrist†
Tabitha Northrup

Felix Nyamekye
Chibugo Obichere◊
Miguel Ocegueda◊
Zara Octave
Skyler Ogami*
Sharon Ogutu
Catie Oleszko†
Michelle Onwuama-Uwagba
Jessica Park◊
Capria Picco
Maria Plugina
Kelly Regan◊
Patrick Reilly
Isabella Rende
Isaac Rhodes
Timothy Robinson*
Bryan Rocha
Arodi Rodrigo†
Stephanie Roth†
Fateemah Saleem
Jennifer Sam-lhedioha†
Adriana Sanchez◊
Julia Scanlon
Georgia Scarborough
Gifty Sefa-Bonsu
Joan Shizuru
Diana Shoja
Bryan Simpson
Lorenzo Smith*
Mingyo Son*

Hayley Sparrow
Michelle Spott†
Brianna Stalzer
Elizabeth Stefano
Elsie Stirling
Marissa Stoller
Saleela Suwannarak
Katherine Swanson◊
Petrina Sweet*
Benedicta Tabiri*^
Love Tagbor
Elnara Talibi
Nahya Tanwir†
Abebe Tessema
Jordan Toms
Brittanie Tran†
Alexander Trindal*^
LaTekia Tyson†
Kinjal Vekaria†
Sitara Wahezi†
Alena Wahezi
Julia Walsh†
Douglas Ward
Alexandra Wiener
Amina Williams
Nicholas Wreyford*^
Patrick Yoo*^
Kodjovi Yovo*

* = VBSN
† = GW Scholar
◊ = Washington Squared
^ = Conway Scholars

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING-RN ADVANCEMENT

Dorothy Almony	Jeannie Cyrus	Jessica O’Shea	Rebecca Ridgeway
Marcqueata Butler	Kristina Hofmann	Shaun Parrisher	Vilma Rios
Antonieta Chirindza	Fatima Kakay	Heather Pierre	
Hanna Cho	Thordis Muralles	Yuliia Razmakhnina	

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

ADULT-GERONTOLOGY ACUTE CARE NURSE PRACTITIONER

Aarthi Bhashyam	Caroline Bourneuf
Jailene Corporan	Anna Bulgadarian
Meredith Folsom	Juanita Cabrera
Mary Hampton	Jason Campbell
Callie Headley	Autumn Castro
Stefanie Johnson	Anne Chiang
Marie Ngo Kaman	Komil Choudhry
Taylor Moore	Kierstin Cohen
Ariana Staffen	Erika Crespo
	Marianne Crowley
	Hannah Edwards
	Christine Faulkner
	Aaron Franco
	Erica Frose
	Xiomara Galeano
	Lauren Gipe
	Katelyn Guzman
	Grace Hwang
	Kinza Kashif
	Fariha Khan
	Shrylock Lumbao
	Aselet Merhazion
	Satra Mirmirani
	Anousheh Mohandes
	Madeline Navin
	Loan Nguyen
	Marcus Oglesby
	Kyle Oldknow

ADULT-GERONTOLOGY PRIMARY CARE NURSE PRACTITIONER

Dorcas Akinola
Jolene Avalos
Jyl Carter
Jewel Eccleston
Pamela Lazzaro
Vanessa Lucero
Alice Palmer

FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER

Baraqah Abdul
Anar Aktash
Lauren Alston-Pitts
Ebony Balele
Sara Barriteau

Gwendolyn Oliphant
Min Park
Reshma Patel
Elizabeth Pendergrass
Jillian Pennington
Jessica Poretz
Alex Rosensweet
Kimberly Sewell
Daneth So
David Thornhill
Phuong Tran
Sarah Tsai
Mia Van
Kristen Wall
Ariana Wheeler-Lafuente
Jazzmin Williams
Katherine Wollenberg
Lyann Wong
Johnna Woolsey
Karen Young

NURSE MIDWIFERY

Claire Donovan
Alexa Flowers

NURSING LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

Allison Koons
Gregory Koullis
Kimberly Kren
Treseat Lawrence
Caitlin Litchfield
Titus Oluwalade

PSYCHIATRIC MENTAL HEALTH NURSE PRACTITIONER

Aaron Branch
Deirdre Brown
Julia Cyr
Ashley Ellington
Katherine Gilinsky
Christopher Haake
Patricia Hanson
David Lee
Robert Moore
Jillian Parks
Erin Polizzi
Matthew Ryan
Anthony Shepherd
Emilie Singer
Hardev Singh
Christine Skwara
Thao Tran

POST-GRAUDATE CERTIFICATES

ADULT-GERONTOLOGY PRIMARY CARE NURSE PRACTITIONER

Daniel Bevington
MacKenzie Caum
Lynn Gufeld

COMPLEX ADULTS AND GERIATRIC PATIENTS

Sara Abercrombie
Anthony Adeyinka
Michelle Archibald
Ruth Azami
Lela Bland
Brenda Borton
Michelle Cole
Kristin Crawford
Felicia Cupo
Jacqueline Davis

Nonna Dobyns
Katherine Dodge
Mabel Martinez
Kimberly Petrie
Sarah Ryan
Lynette Dorway
Darah Doss
Joanna Edwards
Catherine Fournier
Nicole Gase
Heather Glass
Jennifer Heaven
Laura Herring
Melissa Hines-Antico
Mutita Honsberger
Maureen Igbinoba
Pamela Johnson
Sarajane Johnson

Norella King
Esinath Kwenda
Robert Madeux
Cindy Martinez-Kilgo
Jocelyn Mattina
Dawn McGlothlin
Marcia Melquist
Tamika Mickie
Dana Myers
Omasilem Obiri
Laura O’Leary
Leah Ortiz
Daphney Rony
Lisa Scalza
Carol Strickland
Kennedy Thoren
Wendy Trimmer
Olamide Tubi

Ogechi Ukachu
Lingshu Wang
Jenelle Ward

FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER

Ky Nguyen

PSYCHIATRIC MENTAL HEALTH NURSE PRACTITIONER

Jenna Califa
Jean Fletcher
Jonathan Fordyce
Justine Fortkiewicz
Phillip Ho
Ashley Sapin
Sara Tierce-Hazard
Disa Yoo

DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE

ADULT-GERONTOLOGY ACUTE CARE NURSE PRACTITIONER

Amira Dewitt
Project Title: Bridging the Gap: Enhancing Palliative Care Knowledge and Self-Efficacy among Acute Care Nurses
Advisor: Dr. Cynthia Allen

Gurmeet Kaur
Project Title: Implementing a Pressure Injury Prevention Care Bundle on a Cardiac Surgery Intensive Care Unit and a Cardiac Step-down Unit
Advisor: Dr. Karen Kesten

Kimberly Keller
Project Title: Impact of A Workflow Innovation Using Blood Conservation Strategies to Reduce Hospital-Acquired Anemia: A Quality Improvement Project
Advisor: Dr. Karen Kesten

Palak Narula
Project Title: Assessing the Impact of an Educational Intervention on Lifestyle Patterns and Weight Change in Semaglutide-Treated Patient
Advisor: Dr. Pearl Zhou

Shannon Silvia
Project Title: Airway Simulation for Improvement of Hypoxic and Hypotensive Events during Peri-Intubation
Advisor: Dr. Cara Padovano

Gabriela Thompson
Project Title: New Nurse Graduate Mentorship Program a Pilot Study in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and Progressive Care Unit (PCU)
Advisor: Dr. Karen Kesten

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

Carol Fluegge
Project Title: The Impact of a Healthcare Financial and Business Management Education and Mentoring Program on Nurse Leaders: A Mixed Method Project
Advisor: Dr. Joyce Knestrick

Susan Omare
Project Title: SSKIN Care Bundle Protocol for Pressure Ulcer Prevention for TRC Facility-Kansas
Advisor: Dr. Mercedes Echevarria

Joseph Uke
Project Title: Primary Healthcare Teams Diabetes Self-Management Education
Advisor: Dr. Joyce Knestrick

Laura Varnier
Project Title: Program Evaluation of an Emergency Preparedness Training and Simulation Project Impact on Participant Response
Advisor: Dr. Joyce Knestrick

FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER

Alexa Belfonte
Project Title: Enhancing Patient Safety Through the Implementation of the Fall TIPS Assessment Tool: A Nurse-Led Quality Improvement Initiative
Advisor: Dr. Cara Padovano

Hadee Ahmadi
Project Title: High Blood Pressure Management Through Telemedicine: A Quality Improvement Project in Primary Care
Advisor: Dr. Carol Braungart

Sahar Jensen
Project Title: A Nurse Educational Intervention to Improve Postpartum Depression Screening of Women in a Postpartum Hospital Unit
Advisor: Dr. Angela Stanley

Jemika Kastee
Project Title: Implementation of the Generalized Anxiety Disorder 7-Item (GAD-7) Screening Tool in a Primary Care Clinic
Advisor: Dr. Cara Padovano

Frédéric Maniraho
Project Title: Implementing a Self-Guided Mindfulness Meditation App in Patients with Metastatic Uveal Melanoma
Advisor: Dr. Mercedes Echevarria

Katharine McAneny
Project Title: The Implementation of an Educational Program and Workflow to Improve the Accuracy and Completion Rates of 30-day Readmission Assessments Among Inpatient Case Managers
Advisor: Dr. Cara Padovano

Madeline Robinson
Project Title: Two Influenza Doses by Two: A Quality Improvement Project
Advisor: Dr. Mercedes Echevarria

Bruno Rustico
Project Title: An Education Initiative to Increase the Use of Video Laryngoscopy and Improve Prehospital Patient Outcomes
Advisor: Dr. Karen Whitt

Amy Xiong
Project Title: Implementing Video-Enhanced Patient Education with Crutch Teaching in an Ambulatory Surgery Center To Improve Patient Education
Advisor: Dr. Laurie Posey

HEALTH POLICY

Hodan Ali
Project Title: Does integration of Centor Criteria reduce use of point of care testing in the management of patients presenting with sore throat in primary care?
Advisor: Dr. Cara Padovano

Christine Possemato
Project Title: Barriers to Implementing Primary Care Services into Behavioral Health Agencies: A Policy Analysis
Advisor: Dr. Richard Ricciardi

Paul Slobodny
Project Title: Improving Access to Medical Aid in Dying in California by Including Nurse Practitioners as Providers
Advisor: Dr. Mary Jean Schumann

Allegra Walker
Project Title: Reducing Rates and Improving Care of Incarcerated Pregnant People in Georgia through the Georgia Women’s CARE Act: A Policy Analysis and Advocacy Project
Advisor: Dr. Mary Jean Schumann

NURSING PRACTICE

Janelle Anderson
Project Title: Evaluating Team Communication using TeamSTEPPS on a Cardiac Step Down Unit
Advisor: Dr. Karen Whitt

Natalie Boren
Project Title: The Implementation of a Post-Discharge Patient Education Protocol to Decrease Adverse Side Effects after Aesthetic Procedures
Advisor: Dr. Cara Padovano

Randi Bouchillon
Project Title: Implementing The We Can! Energize Our Families: Curriculum for Parents and Caregivers in the Primary Care Setting
Advisor: Dr. Mercedes Echevarria

Jenna Califa
Project Title: Introducing Mental Health Screening to Primary Care Visits
Advisor: Dr. Cynthia Awadzi

Justine Fortkiewicz
Project Title: Resiliency Program for Pediatric Cardiac Intensive Care Unit Nurses
Advisor: Dr. Jennifer Walsh

Elizabeth Gonder
Project Title: Improving Emergency Department Orientation with Implementation of the Tiered Skills Acquisition Method
Advisor: Dr. Laurie Posey

Rachel Mea
Project Title: The Implementation of the Edmonton Symptom Assessment System to Standardize Symptom Assessment
Advisor: Dr. Richard Ricciardi

Kevin Proctor
Project Title: Impact of a Mobile Mindfulness-based Intervention on Burnout and Intent to Leave Among Registered Nurses in a Clinical Setting
Advisor: Dr. Billy Mullins

Wubit Raru
Project Title: Improving Fluid and Electrolyte Intake in Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) Patients: Integrating a Mobile Application
Advisor: Dr. Karen Whitt

Jaimee Robinson
Project Title: Building Confidence: A Labor and Delivery Nurse Preceptor Toolkit
Advisor: Dr. Linda Cassar

Morgan Ryan
Project Title: Bridging the Gap: Enhancing Primary Palliative Care Knowledge and Self-Efficacy among Home Health Interprofessional Staff
Advisor: Dr. Cynthia Allen

Joy Ryan
Project Title: Measuring the Quality, Value, and Impact of a Pediatric Respite Care Program
Advisor: Dr. Mercedes Echevarria

PSYCHIATRIC MENTAL HEALTH NURSE PRACTITIONER

Rachel Hellman
Project Title: The Implementation of an Educational Program to Enhance Self-advocacy Skills Among POTS Patients
Advisor: Dr. Cara Padovano

Naina Shahi-Virk
Project Title: The Implementation of the Generalized Anxiety Disorder-7 (GAD-7) in an Outpatient Mental Health Clinic
Advisor: Dr. Cara Padovano

NIGHTINGALE PLEDGE

I solemnly pledge myself in the presence
of this assembly to practice my profession faithfully.

I will abstain from whatever is deleterious and mischievous,
and will not take or knowingly administer any harmful drug.

I will do all in my power to maintain and elevate
the standard of my profession and will hold in confidence
all personal matters committed to my keeping
and all family affairs coming to my knowledge
in the practice of my calling.

With loyalty and with pride will I devote myself
to the welfare of those committed to my care.



SHARE YOUR DAY

#GWCommencement

SCHOOL OF NURSING

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