

2025 COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

Friday, July 11, 2025, 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Cottonwood Church
4505 Katella Avenue, Los Alamitos, CA 90720



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY
of HEALTH SCIENCES

*“Blessed is the man who finds wisdom,
the man who gains understanding,
for He is more profitable than silver
and yields better returns than gold.
He is more precious than rubies;
nothing you desire can compare with Him.
Long life is in His right hand;
in His left hand are riches and honor.
His ways are pleasant ways,
and all His paths are peace.
He is a tree of life to those who embrace Him;
Those who lay hold of Him will be blessed.”*

Proverbs 3:13-18

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



July 11, 2025

Dear Graduates of the American University of Health Sciences,

Congratulations! Today marks a significant milestone in your lives as you stand at the threshold of new beginnings, having completed your studies in the health sciences. It is a moment of immense pride and joy, not just for you and your families, but for all of us at AUHS.

Throughout your educational journey you have shown remarkable dedication, resilience, and a commitment to excellence. The challenges you have faced, including unprecedented global events, have only strengthened your resolve and prepared you for the demanding and rewarding careers that lie ahead – you are ready to make a difference in the lives of individuals and communities.

As you move forward, remember that your journey of learning does not end here. Continue to seek knowledge, stay curious, and embrace the opportunities for growth that come your way. Your commitment to lifelong learning will not only benefit your career but will also enhance the lives of those you serve.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to the faculty and staff who have supported and guided you throughout your time at AUHS. Their dedication to your education and success has been unwavering, and their influence will remain with you as you embark on your professional journeys.

To your families and loved ones, thank you for your unwavering support and encouragement to our graduates which have been a cornerstone of their success.

Graduates, as you step into this new chapter of your lives, carry with you the values and mission of AUHS. Be advocates for health, champions of justice, and leaders who inspire positive change. The world needs your talents, your compassion, and your commitment to the well-being of others.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Senior Executive Leadership, Academic Leadership, Staff, and Faculty, CONGRATULATIONS once again on this remarkable achievement.

Go forth with confidence, knowing that you are well-prepared to make a lasting impact in the world. May God continue to bless you as you go forward.

With warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Carol Ryan".

Carol Ryan, PhD
President & Chief Executive Officer
American University of Health Sciences

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES



HISTORY OF AUHS

The American University of Health Sciences is a private-for-profit, minority owned, minority serving, Christian-Based University originally founded in 1994 by Kim Dang, Hon DMe and Pastor Gregory Johnson, Hon DMe. It is a postsecondary education institution established to prepare and equip students for life careers in the field of health education and to produce competent allied health professionals engaged to provide healthcare services locally and globally. AUHS is institutionally accredited by the WASC Senior College and University Commission, Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools, and programmatically accredited by Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, and Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education; and approved by the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education and the California Board of Registered Nursing.

MISSION OF AUHS

The American University of Health Sciences, a private

Christian-Based minority-serving university of higher education, welcomes students of diverse backgrounds and prepares them to make a positive impact on society through the provision of exceptional quality patient-centered care within the context of a global perspective of the human condition. This mission is accomplished through the creation of a strong and caring academic environment where excellence, diversity, and the development of entire person—mind, body, and spirit—is addressed and where teaching/learning, research, service, and scholarship is valued and supported. Inspired by a strong belief in God and the Christian values of love and caring for humankind, and of justice and respect, the university's core values include holistic approach to education, promotion of the intellectual, analytical and critical thinking abilities of its students, evidence-based knowledge, service to our fellow man and a commitment to life-long learning.

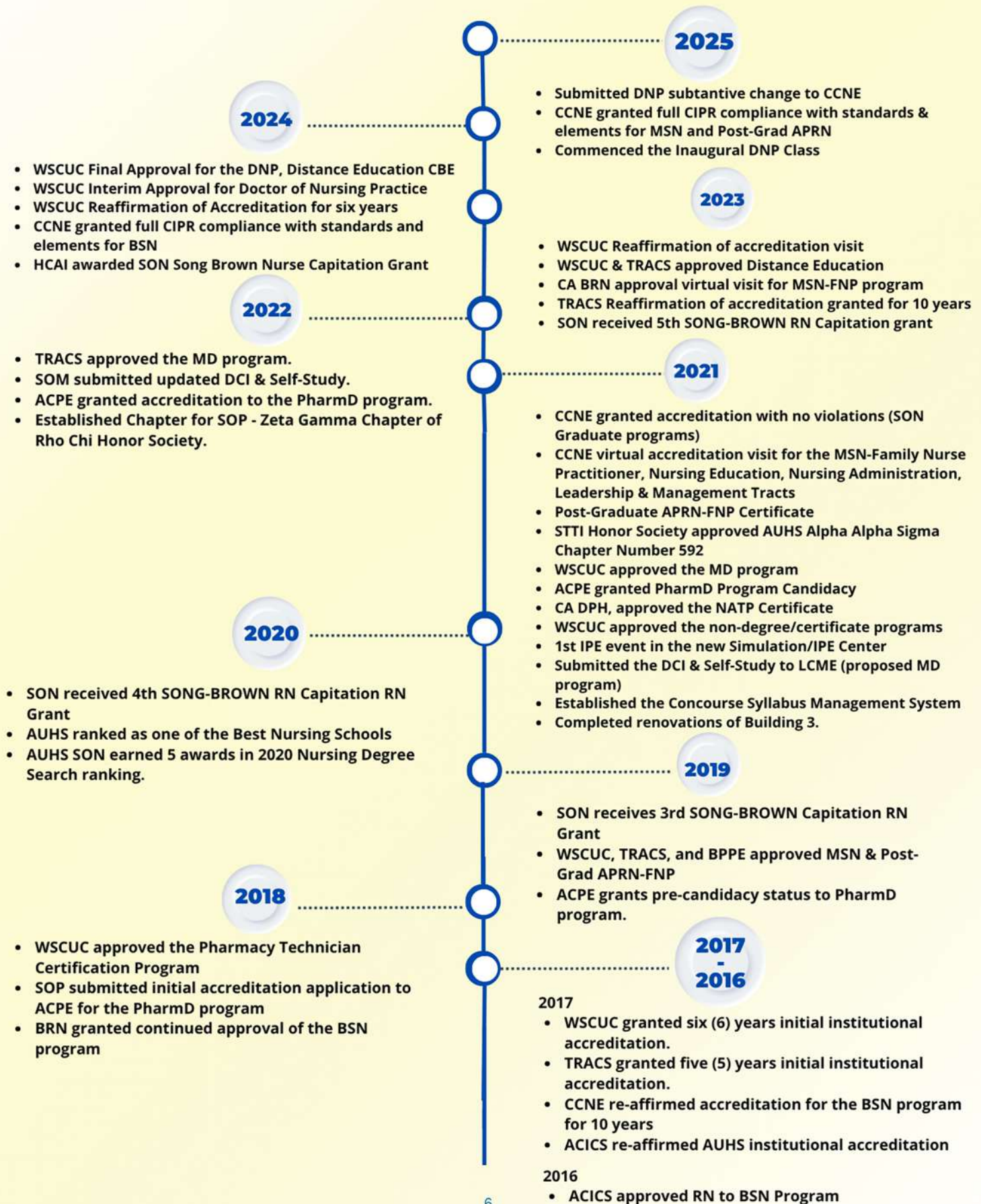
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AUHS MILESTONES

1994-2025

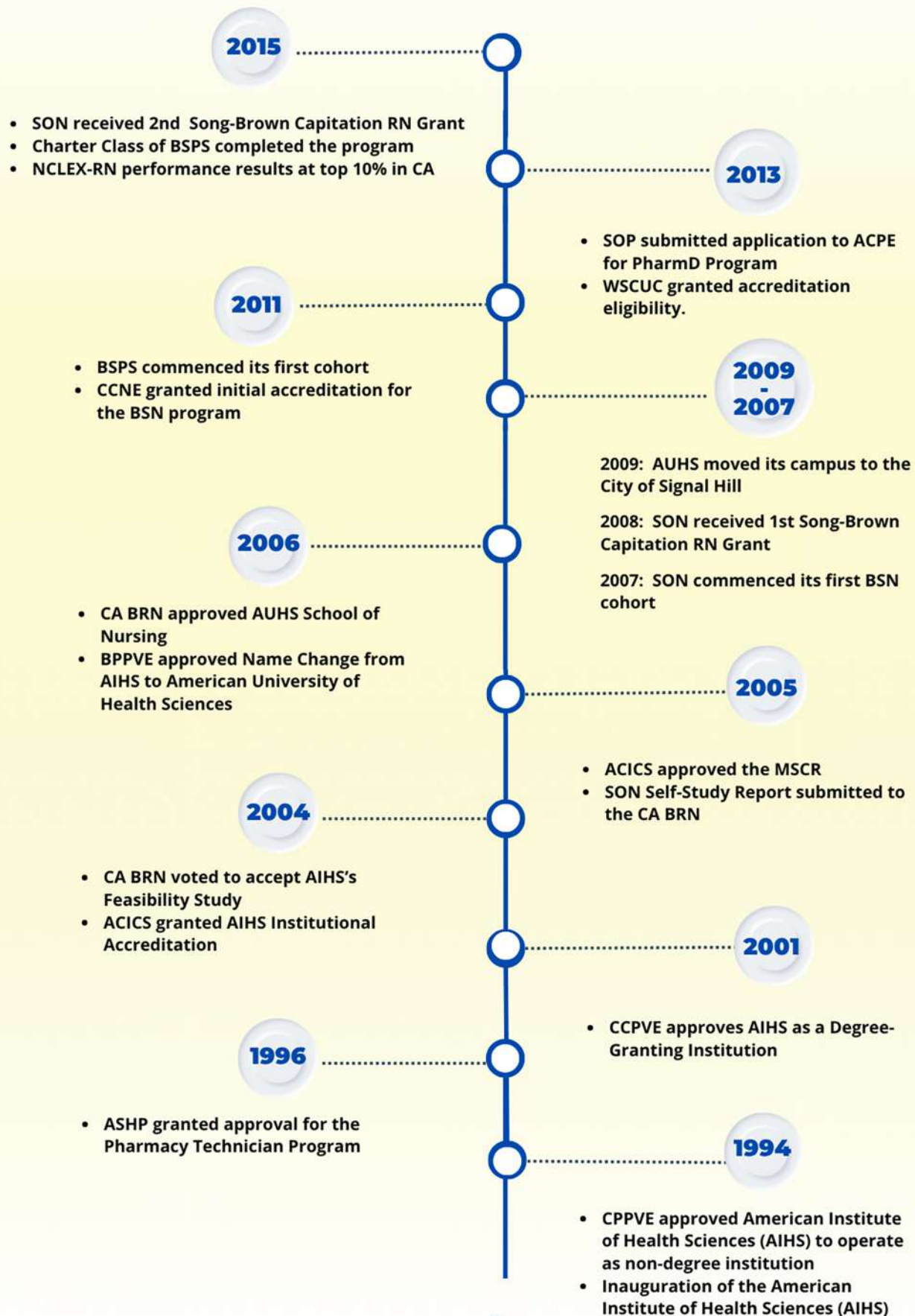
YEARS, AWARDS, ACHIEVEMENTS, ACCREDITATIONS & APPROVALS



AUHS MILESTONES

1994-2025

YEARS, AWARDS, ACHIEVEMENTS, ACCREDITATIONS & APPROVALS



FOUNDERS & OWNERS



Pastor Gregory A. Johnson, Hon DMe

Pastor Gregory Johnson is the founding pastor of the Church of Love located in Long Beach, California. Pastor Johnson is responsible for the continued oversight and development of fellowship churches and ministries particularly addressing the homelessness, and health care needs of the congregation and surrounding communities that it serves. In 2005, Pastor Johnson was ordained as minister leading the development/creation of formation and ministries including New Directions Christian Fellowship Church, and Los Angeles Denomination Diabetes Education and Research (LADDER) – a coalition of churches within the Los Angeles and Long Beach areas. Pastor Johnson designed and created outreach

initiatives with other churches in developing health care policies focusing on the community health care needs impacting minority populations.

Pastor Johnson earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Biblical Studies from Indiana Wesleyan University, and a Master of Science degree in Health Administration from St. Luke School of Medicine in Liberia. His Liberal Arts degree was earned at University of Maryland in Baltimore.

As co-founder of American University of Health Sciences, a faith-based educational institution, he's a leader's "leader" devoting himself to the betterment of man through the spiritual and educational processes. Pastor Johnson held the Chief Operating Officer position of AUHS and is a member of the Board of Trustees. His management training, earned from Dale Carnegie, has been demonstrated in his leadership in developing and establishing churches and ministries focused in serving the poor through his faith in God.



Kim Dang-Johnson, Hon DMe

Dr. Dang is the owner & founder of American University of Health Sciences (AUHS) in 1994, formerly known as American Institute of Health Sciences. She served as the CEO/President from 1994 to 2010. Dr. Dang developed, managed, and established AUHS operational processes in the areas of student services, registrar, admissions, financial aid, career services, institution publications, and finance. Under her leadership, AUHS obtained ABHES national accreditation in 1997, degree granting institution status from BPPE in 2001, ACICS national accreditation in 2003, Board of Registered Nursing (BRN) 2006, and CCNE programmatic nursing accreditation in 2011.

In 1990, Dr. Dang served as Executive Director for the non-profit Society for Educational and Economic Development S.E.E.D. collaborating with public schools in the City of Santa Ana to create pathways for inner city High School youths to complete their education thru after school program in the Arts and Entrepreneurship. Dr. Dang established the "Underground Art Gallery" at S.E.E.D. in the historic Santora Building in the heart of Santa Ana as a safe afterschool haven to work, display, and promote the sale of art work created by the inner-city youths. Dr. Dang established a network of donors to develop scholarships for inner-city youth to assist them with their pursuit of higher education.

In 2002, Dr. Dang was given an Honorary Doctorate in Medical Education by St. Luke School of Medicine in Liberia. In 2016, Dr. Dang was honored with Humanitarian Award by the Council of Black Nurses for her many works with the underserved communities in the U.S. and abroad.

In 2014-2015, Dr. Dang collaborated with CHIPAA in the development of "Health in the Park", a free health fair promoting health and wellness initiatives dealing with healthcare disparities in the Cambodian community. Dr. Dang is the Founder and President of AUHS Foundation.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Suzanne Richards, MBA, FACHE, Chair
SMR Healthcare Management, Inc.
Founder/CEO

Pastor Gregory Johnson, Hon DMe, Vice-Chair
Founder, AUHS & AUHS Foundation

Noble Drakoln
Co-Founder "BandRoyalty.com" a Music Disruptor
Published Author | Board Member &
Founder of several NFT Projects

Thi Dang, PharmD, Member
President & CEO, San Gabriel Medical Pharmacy
American University of Health Sciences Alumna '98

Song Tan, MD, Member
President, Cambodian Health Professionals
Association of America (CHPAA)
Karing Pediatrics Medical Group

Betty Williams, Dr. P.H., MSN, RN, Member
Founding Dean, AUHS
Professor Emeritus, Dept. of Nursing, CSULB

Kim Dang, Hon DMe, Member
Owner & Co-founder, AUHS

Tamara Whitman, MBA
Clinical Researcher

UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP

OFFICERS AND SENIOR EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

Caroll Ryan, Ph.D.
President/Chief Executive Officer

Marilyn Uvero, Ph.D(c), Ed.D., MSN, RN
*Senior Vice President & Provost
Chief Nurse Administrator*

Sandy Sarge
MACC, Chief Financial Officer

Nicole Leshner, Ph.D.
*Vice President of Institutional Research
and Assessment (IRA)*

Genevieve (Ivy) Javaluyas, Ed.D, MS, BS
Vice President of Operations

ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE (IN DEVELOPMENT, NO ENROLLMENT AT THIS TIME)

Sandor Szabo, MD, PhD, MPH
Dean of School of Medicine

John Heydt, MD
*Senior Associate Dean for Clinical
Sciences & Faculty Affairs*

John Schloss, PhD, BSc
*Senior Associate Dean for Basic
Sciences & Research & Faculty Affairs*

Oksana Zayachkivska, MD, PhD, DSc
Associate Dean for International Affairs

Olga Vagin, PhD
Associate Dean for Student Affairs

GENERAL EDUCATION

Genevieve (Ivy) Javaluyas, Ed.D, MS, BS
Interim Chair, General Education

SCHOOL OF NURSING

Michelle Paysan-Modina, DNP, APRN, NP-C, PHN
*Asst. Chief Nurse Administrator/Executive Dean
School of Nursing (SON)*

Gregory De Grano, MD, DNPC, APRN, FNP-C, MSN
Dean, SON Graduate Program

Jeazale Julian, MSN-FNP, DNP
Lead Faculty, SON Graduate Program

Arvin Torres, MD, FNP-C, APRN, BSN, RN
Assistant Dean, SON Undergraduate Program

Maria Shearing, MSN, FNP, BSN, RN
*Assistant Dean, SON Undergraduate Program
Clinical Affiliation Sites and Student Affairs*

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

Arjun Dutta, PhD, BPharm
Dean, School of Pharmacy

Mohammed Islam, PhD, RPH
*Senior Associate Dean,
School of Pharmacy*

Schloss, John V, PhD, BSc
*Chair of Pharmaceutical Science
and Associate Dean of Research*

Yang, Suhui, PhD, MS, BSc
*Assistant Dean of Student Affairs
and Admissions*

Nguyen, Transon, PharmD
Director of Experiential Education

SCHOOL OF CLINICAL RESEARCH

Gene Jose Dillague, MD, MSCR, CCRA
Chair, Clinical Research

ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP

Rosa Salcedo, BA
Senior Accountant

David Omut, MBA, RN
*Director, Simulation and Interprofessional
Education (IPE) Center*

Alma Pineda, BA
*Assistant Director, University
Student Affairs & Registrar*

Don Jayathilake
IT Security Administrator

Tommy Le, Ph.D
IT Administrator

Venus Cruz, MSML
Senior Financial Aid Administrator

Nhu Nguyen, MS
Director of Admissions and Marketing

Joseph Abernethy, MLIS
University Librarian

COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM

FRIDAY, JULY 11, 2025, 5:00 PM TO 7:00 PM
MISTRESS OF CEREMONY: DR. MARILYN UVERO

Prelude and Gathering “Elsa’s Procession to the Cathedral” <i>by Richard Wagner</i>	Guests, Families, Friends
Processional: “Pomp and Circumstance Marches” <i>By Edward Elgar</i>	Academic Procession Presidential Procession 2025 Candidates for Graduation
Opening Declaration.....	Dr. Arjun Dutta, <i>Dean, School of Pharmacy</i>
Presentation of Colors.....	Cabrillo High School JROTC
The National Anthem.....	Ms. Kathleen Van Ruiten <i>A Vocal Artist Soprano</i>
Invocation.....	Pastor Gregory Johnson <i>Co-Founder, AUHS</i>
President’s Welcome Address.....	Dr. Caroll Ryan <i>President/CEO of AUHS</i>
Student Commencement Speaker.....	Nikki Ladimo <i>BSN Program</i>
Commencement Keynote Speaker Address.....	Betty Smith Williams, DrPH, MSN <i>Founding Dean, AUHS School of Nursing Nurse Educator, National Advocate for Health Equity Co-Founder, National Black Nurses Association Living Legend Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing (FAAN)</i>
Special Presentation.....	Pastor Gregory Johnson, Ms. Kim Dang Dr. Caroll Ryan
Special Awards.....	Dr. Genevieve (Ivy) Javaluyas
Academic Awards.....	Dr. Arjun Dutta, Dr. Michelle Modina, Dr. Gregorio De Grano, and Dr. Gene Dillague
Alumni Award.....	Dr. Genevieve (Ivy) Javaluyas
President’s Award.....	Dr. Caroll Ryan
Recognitions.....	Dr. Marilyn Uvero & Dr. Genevieve (Ivy) Javaluyas
Presentation of Deans.....	Dr. Marilyn Uvero <i>SVP/COO & Provost/CNA</i>
Presentation of Degree Candidates.....	Dr. Modina, Dr. De Grano, Dr. Dillague, Dr. Dutta
Oath Taking.....	Dr. Mohammed Islam, Dr. Gregorio DeGrano
Conferral of Degrees.....	Dr. Caroll Ryan
Benediction.....	Pastor Gregory Johnson
Closing Declaration.....	Dr. Arjun Dutta
Recessional.....	Dr. Marilyn Uvero

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER



Betty Smith Williams DrPH, MSN 2025 Commencement Keynote Speaker

Founding Dean, AUHS School of Nursing | Nurse Educator | National Advocate for Health Equity | Co-Founder, National Black Nurses Association | Living Legend Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing (FAAN)

Dr. Williams' legacy is deeply woven into the history of **American University of Health Sciences**, where she served as the Founding Dean of the School of Nursing, Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 2006. She continues to serve as a dedicated member of the AUHS Board of Trustees, inspiring new generations of nurses and healthcare professionals with her vision, grace, and unwavering commitment to excellence.

She holds a Doctor of Public Health and Master of Science in Nursing from UCLA, an M.N. from Case Western Reserve University, and a Bachelor of Science in Zoology from Howard University. She is widely recognized for her service, including being named among Ebony magazine's "100+ Most Influential Organization Leaders."

A lifelong champion of equity and access, Dr. Williams made history in **1956 as the first African American to teach** at a college or university level in California, beginning her faculty appointment at Mount Saint Mary's College, School of Nursing. Her academic career has since spanned more than five decades, with influential roles as professor and assistant dean at esteemed institutions such as UCLA, Cal State Long Beach, and the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. She holds the title of Professor Emeritus and remains a nationally respected voice in healthcare education and leadership.

Dr. Williams is a proud co-founder of the **National Black Nurses Association (NBNA)**, established in 1971 to give African American nurses a collective voice and an active role in shaping the future of the profession. She later served as **7th NBNA President** and continues her national advocacy as **President Emeritus** of the **National Coalition of Ethnic Minority Nurse Associations**. In recognition of her contributions, she was inducted as a **Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing (FAAN)** in 1980 and became a **living legend in FAAN** in 2010.

Her influence extends far beyond the classroom. Dr. Williams has been a leader in philanthropy and civic service, holding leadership roles within Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., chairing corporate boards including Blue Cross of California, and shaping national health policy through organizations such as the **Black Congress on Health, Law, and Economics**.

A trailblazer and tireless advocate, Dr. Williams has paved the way for countless nurses and healthcare providers, scholars, and leaders. Her life's work stands as a testament to the transformative power of **education, leadership, and compassion**.

Dr. Betty Smith Williams is a remarkable example of a Black nurse who made significant contributions to nursing, healthcare, and public health—paving the way for future generations. That's what it means to be a **legendary woman**.

Upon Her Shoulders

Upon her shoulders many did stand
This Lady, this Woman, of substance so grand

She embodies what's excellent, the lending, the good
Where she with many others, have struggled and stood

Upon her shoulders, the young better see
The hopes and successes, our Lord does decree

Through racial unrest, and wrongs not a few
She carried herself well, and today, still does too

The research, the assembling, of data and facts
Cultural sensitivity, in varied class acts

She trends with an elegance, lie past legacies accrete
Her own humble courage, accomplishments still speak

Upon her shoulders with Harold at her side
Those many years married, with love and with pride

With Dr. Johnson, Dr. Gertrude, Dr Harper, And Dr. Sams
With hope in their hearts and commitment in their hands

Drs. Stroud & Hussien, Drs. Bolton & Giger on
Dr. Georges, Dr. Baugh, and of course Dr. Long

Like so many others who sat with Dr. King
Who knew real dreams, do not mean anything

Unless they help others, to rise and do well
To develop within, an excellence that swells

The first Black faculty, UCLA in 56
Rose above prejudices, color oftentimes emits

Upon her shoulders, this School does too stand
As a founding Dean, who trusted this Black man

And a woman from Vietnam, a refugee from war
Beside her in wisdom, you here now endure

It takes really strong shoulders, to do what she did
To do what she's doing, and still here she lives

To know there is more than yourself, what you want
Than, just going through life, as if on a jaunt

For she sees the obvious when much has been sent
Responsive and giving, is what God has meant

Upon her broad shoulders and now on yours too
Bear great things with wonders, like Betty would do

Thank You Dr. Betty Smith Williams

Written By:

Pastor Gregory A. Johnson

GRADUATING CLASS OF 2025



DOCTOR OF PHARMACY 2025

COHORT 4

Catherine Akopian

Ahmed Ali *

Esraa Fadhel

Artak Karapetyan

Shannel Kwon

Anahita Loniakan *

Restee Mopia 🏆

Mahima Patel

Omni Patel

Valerie Vasquez * 🇺🇸

The **Rho Chi Society** seeks to advance pharmacy through sustained intellectual leadership. Membership in The **Rho Chi Society** is a privilege accorded to the very few who distinguish themselves by their academic and professional achievements and who aspire to the mission and vision of the Society. Invitation to membership requires a minimum grade point average of 3.5 and academic standing in the upper 20% of their class. <https://rhochi.org/about-rho-chi/>

2025 Graduating members of the Zeta Gamma Chapter (AUHS) of Rho Chi are:

Ahmed Ali, *Vice President of the Zeta Gamma Chapter*

Shannel Kwon, *Secretary and Treasurer of the Zeta Gamma Chapter*

Valerie Vasquez, *Historian of the Zeta Gamma Chapter*

<https://rhochi.org/chapter/zeta-gamma/>

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CLINICAL RESEARCH 2025

Rolando Lachica *

Ya-ru Liang *

Phuc Nguyen * 🏆 🇺🇸

Mahsa Sefidari

Gin-You Wang

Legend:
With Highest Distinction ***
With Distinction *
Clinical Award 🇺🇸
Leadership Award 🏆
Veteran Student (VA) 🇺🇸

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING 2025

Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP), Nursing Education (NE),
Nursing Administration, Leadership, and Management (NALM)
Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN)

COHORT 8

FNP

Mi Young Lim ***
Sambo Sor ***
Hazel Joyce De Guzman *
Antonio Encarnacio III * 🏆
Connie Nguyen *
Diana Lynn Oclarit *
Vanessa Wences *
Roilann Cyell De Guzman *
Tyler Griffin *
Jarecca Holt *
Kimberly Van *
Timothy Collins *
Maria Krisma Carlos *
Sergio Azzolino *
Marilou Santos *
Angel Truong *
Nelie Lucero-Aguirre *
Benedict Raphael Marco *
Amelia Devera-Sales *
Dianne Camille Cea Mallari-Requillo *
Donna Cathleen Mallari Martinez *
Sangie Planilla Manabat *
Lovell Diane Caldejon

APRN

Dina Loyola *** 🇵🇭
Simone Bruce-Smith ***
Kulwant Kaur *
Dennis Montejo *

NALM

Rosemarie Abary *
Eva Marie Combe *
Jane Damo *
Lidia Meybell Eva De Sermenio *
Renato Malayba *
Erick Nguyen *
Ryan Quinzon *
Dianna Jean Trespuer *

COHORT 9

FNP

Mikko Angel Arceno *
Jasmin Carpio *
Emmylou Coronel *
Lorna De Leon *
Kristine Gumpal *
Mylynn Ngo *
Meliza Parcerio *
Zheela Cherriz Ponce *
Donn Jerome Sto. Domingo *
Laarni Sto. Domingo *
Toshimi Tomizawa *
Catherine Torres *
Emmanuel Viray ***
Pinky Rose Yu *

APRN

Marithel Arambulo ***
Lorelie Bailey ***
Sonam Gurung ***
Simran Kaur ***
Viktor Maslyanka *
Dianna Trespuer ***

NALM

Jacob Timothy Naldo ***

Legend:
With Highest Distinction ***
With Distinction *
Clinical Award 🇵🇭
Leadership Award 🏆
Veteran Student (VA) 🇺🇸



BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING 2025

COHORT 32

Bryan Gabriel Abalos *
Priscilla Abrokwa
Valentin Paulo Arcena Agatep II **
Daryl Alarde *
Camille Adrienne Ferrer Alvior ***
Julien Ayala
Kyara Ysabelle Biag
Roy Albert Brown
Katherina Bussabong
Heather Ashley Campazzie ***
Victor Carranza Garcia
Jacqueline Carrillo Soto *
Sarah Chesher *
Juliene Medina Cortez
Chelsea Joyce A. Dela Cruz **
Patrick Jon C. Delgado **
Davonna Evans
Marizah Zabala Franco *
Hannah Jeanne Froeschle
Jemelyn Apostol Gabriel *
Katherine Nolasco Gelasio
Melodie Boramey Hang
Kari Hwang
Jessica Osas Aimienrovbieye Iyasere
Christine Marie Jones
Lynn Thi Le
Brandy Yvette Leos *
Agustin Leyva *
Claudia G. Lomeli
James Dominic Laxamana Macabulos
Amanda Machuca
Jonathan Zazueta Marmolejo
Ashley Montes
Elizabeth Erlinda Muriel
Andre Gerard Concha Naguio
Cao Truc Quynh Nguyen *
Michael Cariaga Nocos **
Sydney Jane Amorsolo O'Farrell
Kevin Wendikoua Okack Wandeu **

Alan Wendikoua Okack-Wandeu *
Suraya Eshaqzai Patan
Jesse Josue Rios
Jason Jamie Salvador
Rachel Sebero *
Katelyn Ashly Soriano *
Star Spillmon
Lee Ann Openano Tadina *
Johnathan Tapawan
Briauna Thompson
Kristen Soriano Wong *
Angel Mae Racimo Zozobrado

COHORT 33

Sylvia Alexandra Abrajan *
Amore Agcaoili
Jocelyn Aguirre
Tunmininu Karidah Ali
Stacy Arias *
Jowie Lorein Bartolata
Richard Benavidez *
Sofia Karla Besana
Trisha Castaneda *
Joseph Choi **
Stephanie Maria Corado
Racein Theresa Daniel
Ambrielle De Leon
Radford Lee De Vivar *
Sergia Carolina Escalante Erazo
Paola Escalera
Emy Melissa Escobar
Adriana Estrada
Salvador Garcia
Deshownda Gilbert
Angel Gomez
Adriana Lucia Hagan
Fatima Elyssa Hasim *
Mackenzie Emma Hintz
Ariana Honka **
Lannette Jaime **
Yun Ho Kim
Nikki Ladimo ***
Oscar Leyva
Leticia Maldonado
Ana Mariscal
Austin David Matranga **
Kimberly Mejia-Rodriguez *
Mayra Meza
Jose Michel
Sharon Miles
Melissa Morgan
Uchenna Nlemuwa *

Keesha Quiroz
Ryan Ragas *
Shannon Retialo-Dario
Thanith Rinhieng ***
Rayneil Rodriguez
Lou James San Luis ***
Mark Zabala Santos
Doreen Ivana Sison
Ryenne Nicole Tambidao
Victor Hugo Valladares **
Martha Valle
Jon Michael Viernes
Alelinette Vileta *
Sophia Charis Wang *

Legend:
Summa Cum Laude ***
Magna Cum Laude **
Cum Laude *
Clinical Award
Leadership Award
Veteran Student (VA)

GRADUATE DISTINCTION

To graduate *with the highest academic distinction*, students must have maintained the highest levels of academic achievements directly related to qualifying points earned for all graduate courses taken. The highest distinction academic award grade point average (GPA) is 4.0

To graduate *with academic distinction*, students must have maintained the highest levels of academic achievements directly related to qualifying points earned for all graduate courses taken. The distinction academic award grade point average (GPA) is 3.5-3.9.

To graduate with honors, students must be receiving a baccalaureate degree with honors, having earned a minimum of 64 credits at AUHS, and achieved a cumulative grade point average between 3.5 – 4.0 with the grade range of 4.0.

Candidates graduating with honors wear cords during the Commencement exercises. The cumulative grade point average necessary to earn graduation honors in Undergraduate Programs are described as follows:

***** Summa Cum Laude**

Grade Point Average of 3.80 – 4.00 Gold

**** Magna Cum Laude**

Grade Point Average 3.70 – 3.79 Silver

*** Cum Laude**

Grade Point Average of 3.50 – 3.69 Bronze

SPECIAL AWARDS 2025

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDEE

Lou James San Luis

LEADERSHIP & CLINICAL AWARDEES

Clinical Award

The clinical award is voted by faculty. The awardee achieved the criteria as an outstanding student in clinical practice and skill. The student maintains a positive attitude and with strong cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above and is an enthusiastic learner.

Leadership Award

The leadership award is voted by faculty. The awardee demonstrated a leadership quality with peers and professionals, has been an inspirational to nursing students and AUHS community and offers service and leadership to School of Nursing and the University at large.

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

Leadership Award

Restee Mopia

Clinical Award

Valerie Vasquez

SCHOOL OF CLINICAL RESEARCH

Leadership & Clinical Awards

Phuc Nguyen

SCHOOL OF NURSING

Master of Science in Nursing

Leadership Award

Antonio Encarnacion III

Clinical Award

Dina Loyola

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Leadership Award

Lou James San Luis

Clinical Award

Nikki Ladimo

PRESIDENT'S AWARDEE

Camille Adrianne Ferrer Alvior, RN, BSN

OUTSTANDING ALUMNI AWARD

Ramon Pacina, DNP, MSN, APRN PHN FNP-C

OUTSTANDING ALUMNI AWARD 2025



Ramon Pacina, DNP, MSN, APRN PHN FNP-C

The Outstanding Alumni Award 2025 is presented to a distinguished graduate who not only excels in their professional field but also exemplifies the values and mission of the American University of Health Sciences. This award honors an individual who lives out the principles of faith, service, compassion, and excellence, making a lasting difference in the lives of others through their dedication to holistic care and community outreach.

This year's honoree reflects the very heart of AUHS—demonstrating unwavering commitment to serving the underserved, advancing healthcare equity, and empowering others through education and leadership. Guided by faith and a deep sense of purpose, this alumnus embodies what it means to be a servant-leader in today's evolving healthcare landscape.

Dr. Ramon Pacina, a proud Cum Laude graduate of the Class of 2015, was recognized as Best in Clinical Practice, Leadership Awardee, Vice President of the Student Nurses Association, and a consistent honor student. Additional years of “life-long” learning, he achieved the following credentials and Degrees: , Doctor of Nursing Practice, Master of Science in Nursing , Advanced Practice Registered Nurse, Public Health Nurse, and Certified Family Nurse Practitioner.

Dr. Pacina brings advanced expertise in healthcare informatics and clinical decision-making, while continuing to prioritize patient-centered, evidence-based care that reflects the holistic mission of AUHS.

We are honored to recognize Dr. Ramon Pacina as the 2025 Outstanding Alumnus of the Year.

DESCRIPTIONS OF SPECIAL AWARDS

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Founded in 2004, American University of Health Sciences Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit, data-driven community-based research organization that was created to relieve the suffering of the poor, distressed, and underprivileged through research and education in health sciences: nursing, pharmaceuticals, and biotechnology.

American University of Health Sciences (AUHS) Foundation recognizes those graduates who have completed more than the required 100 hours of community services through their active participation at the annual events sponsored by AUHS Foundation. Throughout the years of completing and exceeding the 100 community service hours as students, these awardees have demonstrated sincere compassion and commitment to serving the poor, and homeless, bringing to life this mission statement of AUHS Foundation... “help improve education and healthcare opportunities for underrepresented populations from medically underserved communities, with a high percentage of the homeless, the youth, and groups from low-socio-economic backgrounds”.

As graduates, they are honored for their compassion for others and significant contributions to the community that the AUHS Foundation serves. These recipients are charged to further the mission of AUHS Foundation and to continue their community service, and significant charitable or philanthropic contributions as reflected in a variety of activities, programs, and initiatives which would benefit and meet the needs of the communities that they will serve in the future. Recipient(s) of this award must have completed the highest number of community service hours exceeding the required 100 hours.

PRESIDENT’S AWARD

The President’s Award is a special award for a graduate who is “Living the AUHS Mission and Embodying Student Leadership Excellence”. Since its founding as a Christian-based university, American University of Health Sciences, has enjoyed a rich history promoting Christian Values, Academic Performance, Cultural Competence, Social Responsibility, and Critical Thinking. This graduate possesses the competencies necessary to provide excellent care and service within their domain with a thorough foundation in science, social/behavioral, leadership, and interpersonal knowledge and skills. This graduate exemplifies the core values and upholds the guiding principles and philosophies of AUHS.

OUTSTANDING ALUMNI AWARD

The Outstanding Alumni Award was created to recognize AUHS alumni as they exemplify the values and ideals of scholarship, service and character in their individual lives as professionals and members of society. This award aims to celebrate the recipients' many achievements both professionally and personally for their outstanding contributions to their profession, demonstrating sensitivity and empathy towards under-served members of the community and working towards the advancement of society.

The values that honorees imbue should support the very core of our mission at American University of Health Sciences Foundation and serve as an inspiration to other alumni and students.

DESCRIPTIONS OF SPECIAL AWARDS

ALPHA ALPHA SIGMA CHAPTER CHAPTER 592 OF SIGMA THETA TAU HONOR SOCIETY - AUHS CHAPTER

On the recommendation of the Sigma Board of Directors, and by the power vested in Dr. Jose Alejandro, the chartering officer, announced that AUHS chapter will be known as the **Alpha Alpha Sigma Chapter, chapter number 592 of Sigma**. On May 1, 2021, American University of Health Sciences was approved to become a Sigma Chapter, and representing this new chapter is Dr. Marilyn Uvero.

Sigma has been recognizing and celebrating excellence in scholarship, leadership, and service within nursing and midwifery. The Society Sigma members are leaders at all levels of the healthcare industry and only extends its membership to students in baccalaureate or graduate level programs who have demonstrated superior academic achievement, academic integrity, and professional leadership potential, and must be a graduating senior in the nursing program with a GPA of 3.5 and above, and to nurse leader candidates exhibiting exceptional achievements in nursing.

AUHS received its chapter's coat-of-arms plaque, which symbolizes the ideals of Sigma and is inscribed with AUHS chapter's name and chartering date and as a symbol of continued commitment to nursing excellence and the society's purposes.

RHO CHI SOCIETY ZETA GAMMA CHAPTER

AUHS Accepted as the 147th Chapter of the Rho Chi Pharmacy Honor Society.

In March 2023, the petition to establish a local chapter of The Rho Chi Society at the American University of Health Sciences, received an affirmative vote by the Society's member chapters. The new AUHS Rho Chi chapter is designated the Zeta Gamma Chapter (the 147th chapter to be established in the society). Rho Chi is an academic honor society for pharmacy students and faculty. The AUHS Rho Chi mentor, Dr. John Schloss, is currently in discussion with Dr. Julie Seeger, Program Manager of the National Office at the University of Michigan, to determine potential dates for the induction ceremony of our student members and steps that need to be taken prior to the ceremony.

ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP & FACULTY

DOCTORAL DEGREES

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

DOCTOR OF MEDICINE PROGRAM *(IN DEVELOPMENT, NO ENROLLMENT AT THIS TIME)*

Leadership

Szabo, Sandor, MD, PhD, MPH, Dean of School of Medicine
Heydt, John, MD, Senior Associate Dean for Clinical Sciences
& Faculty Affairs
Schloss, John, PhD, BSc Senior Associate Dean for Basic Sciences
& Research & Faculty Affairs
Lambrecht, Nils, MD, PhD, Associate Dean for Curricular Affairs
Zayachkivska, Oksana, MD, PhD, DSc, Associate Dean for
International Affairs
Vagin, Olga, PhD, Associate Dean for Student Affairs

Chief of Sections

Bonaz, Bruno, MD, PhD, Chief of Internal Medicine Section
Brulte, Gregory, DDS, Chief of Anatomy, Histology & Embryology
Coffman, Jonathan, PhD, MBA, Chief of Microbiology & Immunology
Heydt, John, MD, Chief of Primary Care & Family Medicine
Lambrecht, Nils, Chief of Diagnostic Pathology & Radiology
Maguire, Gerald, MD, Chief of Psychiatry & Neurology
Nihara, Milko, MD, MPH, Chief of Ob/Gyn & Reproductive Medicine
Szabo, Sandor, MD, PhD, MPH, Chair of Pharmacology
Schloss, John, PhD, BSc, Chief of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology
Williams, Russell, MD, Chief of Surgery
Young, Les, MD, Chief of Pediatrics

Faculty

Sheng, Jonathan, MD, PhD, Pharmacology & Toxicology
Szabo, Sandor, MD, PhD, MPH, Pharmacology & Pathology
Zayachkivska, Oksana, MD, PhD, DSc, Physiology
Bekesevych, Anna MD, PhD, Anatomy, Histology & Embryology
Bonaz, Bruno, MD, PhD, Internal Medicine
Brulte, Gregory, DDS, Anatomy, Histology & Embryology
Coffman, Jonathan, PhD, MBA, Microbiology & Immunology
Entezampour, Mo, PhD, Anatomy, Histology & Embryology
Gombos, Zoltan, MD, PhD, Diagnostic Pathology & Radiology
Heydt, John, MD, Primary Care & Family Medicine
Hussain, Alamdar, PhD, Microbiology & Immunology
Husted, John, MD, Surgery
Lambrecht, Nils, Diagnostic Pathology & Radiology
Le, Nhung, PhD, Microbiology & Immunology
Lotfi, Reza, MD, Diagnostic Pathology & Radiology
Maguire, Gerald, MD, Chief of Psychiatry & Neurology
Nihara, Milko, MD, MPH, Chief of Ob/Gyn & Reproductive Medicine
Sandor, Susan, MD, PhD, Primary Care & Family Medicine
Schloss, John, PhD, BSc, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology
Shah, Nishit, MD, Surgery
Vagin, Olga, PhD, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology
Williams, Russell, MD, Surgery
Young, Les, MD, Chief of Pediatrics

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

DOCTOR OF PHARMACY

Leadership

Dutta, Arjun, PhD, BPharm, Dean of School of Pharmacy
Islam, Mohammed, PhD, MPhil, MPharm, BPharm, Senior Associate Dean of Academic Affairs
Schloss, John V, PhD, BSc, Chair of Pharmaceutical Science and Associate Dean of Research
Yang, Suhui, PhD, MS, BSc, Assistant Dean of Student Affairs and Admissions
Nguyen, Transon, PharmD, Director of Experiential Education

Faculty

Bagheri, Rose, PharmD
Chang, Young Il, PharmD
Chung, Ann, PharmD, BCPS
Crain, Pujah, RPh, PhD
Dutta, Arjun, PhD, BPharm
Gollapudi, Shankar, PharmD
Hussain, Alamdar, PhD, BPharm
Islam, Mohammed, PhD, MPhil, MPharm, BPharm
Le, Nhung, PhD, MSc
Nguyen, Tiffany, PharmD
Nguyen, Transon, PharmD
Rhee, Helen, PharmD
Schloss, John V, PhD, BSc
Pasquariello, Gino, Ed.D., D.MIN.

Szabo, Sandor, PhD, MD, MPH, MSc, BSc
Yang, Suhui, PhD, MS, BSc
Brady, Jeanne, PharmD, BSc
Chato, Kal, M.S. Pharm
Dang, Thi Minh, PharmD
Garcia, Leonel, PharmD
Han, Christine, PharmD
Hoang, Daniel, PharmD
Johnson, Narleski, PharmD
Nguyen, Elaine, PharmD
Nguyen, Jimmy, PharmD
Sheng, Jonathan, MD, PhD
Zayachkivska, Oksana, MD, PhD, DSc
Zhang, Boris, PharmD

ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP & FACULTY

MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREES

SCHOOL OF NURSING MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

Specializations:

- Family Nurse Practitioner
- Nurse Education
- Nurse Administration, Leadership, and Management

POST- GRADUATE ADVANCED PRACTITIONER REGISTERED NURSE (POST-GRADUATE APRN-FNP)

Leadership

Michelle Paysan-Modina, DNP, APRN, NP-C, PHN
Asst. Chief Nurse Administrator/Executive Dean
School of Nursing (SON)

Gregory De Grano, MD, DNPc, MSN, APRN, FNP-C
Dean, SON Graduate Program

Jeazale Julian, DNP, MSN FNP-C
Lead Faculty & Clinical Affiliations Coordinator- credentials

Faculty

Hazel Evalle, MD, DNP(c), MSN, APRN, FNP-C
Helena Calloway, DNP, RN, PHN, CCRN
Joseph Francisco, MD, DNP, APRN, FNP-C
Jennifer Obsania, DNP, RN
Girlielyn Tiu, MD, MSN, APRN, FNP-C
Maria Rowena Cabatingan, MD, MSN, APRN, FNP-C, RN
Nhun Le, PhD
Dave Usman, MSN-FNP, RN
Elynita N. Arella, DNP, APRN, PHMNP, FNP-C

SCHOOL OF CLINICAL RESEARCH MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CLINICAL RESEARCH

Leadership

Gene Jose Dillague, MD, MSCR, CCRA
Chair, Clinical Research

Faculty

Gene Jose Dillague, MD, MSCR, CCRA
Tien Phuc Nguyen, PhD
Nhun Le, PhD
Tarek Dessouky, PhD

ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP & FACULTY

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

Leadership

Michelle Paysan-Modina, DNP, APRN, NP-C, PHN
*Asst. Chief Nurse Administrator/Executive Dean
School of Nursing (SON)*

Maria Shearing, MSN, FNPc, BSN, RN
*Assistant Dean, SON Undergraduate Program
Clinical Affiliation Sites and Student Affairs*

Arvin Torres MD, FNP-C, APRN, BSN, RN
Assistant Dean of Academics

Faculty

Marithel Arambulo, MSN, RN
Brent Aspiras, MSN-Ed, BSN, RN
Marco Attenello, MSN, BSN, BA
Maria Rowena Cabatingan, MD, MSN, APRN, FNP-C, RN
Denise Gatewood, MSN, BSN, RN
Janet Kazibwe, BSN, RN
Chris Rabadon, BSN, RN
Maria Shearing, MSN-Ed, FNPc, BSN, RN, PHN
Kenya Smith, PMHNP-BC, MSN, RN
Stephanie Wagas, MSN-Ed, FNPc, BSN, RN, PHN
Denise Waller, MSN-Ed, FNPc, BSN, RN, PHN
Meerabai Narasimalu, DNP, MSN, FNP-C, RN
Felor Abbasnejad, MSN, RN

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES

Leadership

Dutta, Arjun, PhD, BPharm, Dean of School of Pharmacy
Islam, Mohammed, PhD, MPhD, MPharm, BPharm, Senior Associate Dean of Academic Affairs
Schloss, John V, PhD, BSc, Chair of Pharmaceutical Science and Associate Dean of Research
Nguyen, Transon, PharmD, Director of Experiential Education

Faculty

Bagheri, Rose, PharmD
Chang, Young Il, PharmD
Chung, Ann, PharmD, BCPS
Crain, Pujah, RPh, PhD
Dutta, Arjun, PhD, BPharm
Gollapudi, Shankar, PharmD
Hussain, Alamdar, PhD, BPharm
Islam, Mohammed, PhD, MPhD, MPharm, BPharm
Le, Nhung, PhD, MSc
Nguyen, Tiffany, PharmD
Nguyen, Transon, PharmD
Rhee, Helen, PharmD
Schloss, John V, PhD, BSc
Szabo, Sandor, PhD, MD, MPH, MSc, BSc

GENERAL EDUCATION

Leadership

Genevieve (Ivy) Javaluyas, Ed.D, MS, BS
Interim Chair

Faculty

Andrew Patalano, PhD
Duane Carter, JD
Paloma Hernandez, MA, BA
Kate Landry, MFA, MEd
Tien Quang Truong, MA, BA

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREES

Hesamedine Gharavi, MSN, FNPc, BSN, RN
Crizelle Villarta Tan, BSN, RN
Ghadeer Hamieh, MSN-Ed, BSN, RN
Lester Belo, MSN, RN
Manuel Dela Cruz, RN
Raulin Feria, DNP-FNP, MSN, RN
Jeazale Julian, MSN-FNP, DNP
Mary Juliano, MSN, RN
Aristotle Marasigan, MSN, RN
Michelle Paysan-Modina, DNP-APRN, NP-C, PHN
Suzanne Morales, PMC-FNP, MSN, RN
Kyndra Peterson, MSN, RN
Annette Robinson, MSN, RN
Josephine Clarisse Santos, MSN-FNP, RN
Patrick Sheehy, RN
Alea Sohn, DNP, MSN-FNP, RN
Isaac Ugorji, MSN, MHP-NP, RN
David Kijoon, DNP-FNP, RN
Alexandria Johnson, MSN, FNPc
Sarah Lay, MSN, FNPc
Mikhael-Allen Santos, RN, BSN
Daniella De Andrade, RN, BSN

Clinical Team

Maria Shearing, MSN, FNP-c, BSN, RN
Stephanie Wagas, MSN, FNPc, BSN, RN
Barbara Cook-Strong, BA

Yang, Suhui, PhD, MS, BSc
Brady, Jeanne, PharmD, BSc
Chato, Kal, M.S. Pharm
Dang, Thi Minh, PharmD
Garcia, Leonel, PharmD
Han, Christine, PharmD
Hoang, Daniel, PharmD
Johnson, Narleski, PharmD
Nguyen, Elaine, PharmD
Nguyen, Jimmy, PharmD
Sheng, Jonathan, MD, PhD
Zayachkivska, Oksana, MD, PhD, DSc
Zhang, Boris, PharmD

Brent Davis, PhD
Grygorii Koval, MA
Maher Oueida, MPIA
Jose Candelario, DC, MBA
Jonathan Coffman, PhD., MBA
Steve Ryan, MA, BA

COMMENCEMENT MARSHALS

GRAND MARSHAL

Arjun Dutta, BPharm, PhD

ASSISTANT GRAND MARSHAL

John V Schloss, PhD, BSc

UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE MARSHALS

Maria Shearing, MSN-Ed, FNPc, BSN, RN

Alamdar Hussain, PhD, BPharm

COMMENCEMENT COMMITTEE

Alma Pineda, BS, Chair

Carol Ryan, PhD

Genevieve (Ivy) Javaluyas, Ed.D., MS

Tommy Le, Ph.D

Barbara Cook-Strong, BA

Manjula Dissanayake

Samantha Godoy

Marilyn Uvero, PhD(c), EdD, MSN, RN

Renchelle Ambayec

Jan Tribiana

Sheila Mae Parreno

Mary Reyes

STAFF

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Barbara Cook-Strong
Venus Cruz
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Rosette Cabalonga
Nerie Joyce Mante
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Samantha King

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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PARENTS, FAMILY, AND FRIENDS
OF THE CLASS 2025

AUHS FOUNDATION



All Donations are 100% Tax Deductible

AUHS Foundation is a charitable 501c3 non-profit organization, and all donations are 100% tax deductible to the fullest extent of law.

Take Action and Make a Difference!

“Cultivate Care As A Life-Long Passion”

The AUHS Foundation is a charitable 501c3 and educational non-profit organization. The purpose of the AUHS Foundation is to relieve the suffering of the poor, distressed, and underprivileged through education, research and funding in health sciences: nursing, pharmacy, and biomedical sciences.

At the American University of Health Sciences, our students are able to reach out to various communities in number of ways through those who support the foundation. Our goal in working with our students is through first-hand experience of helping the poor, hungry, and sick, students will be able to establish a life-long passion for care and love for others.

AUHS MISSION TRIPS

Mindoro, Philippines
Cebu, Philippines
Long An Province, Vietnam
Kingston, Jamaica
Kompong Thom Province Cambodia



COMMUNITY EVENTS



LAMP UNTO MY FEET is a part of our homeless outreach program where AUHS students wash the feet of the homeless while offering health screening, prayer, and food. This program was started by one of our graduating nursing students, to demonstrate genuine humility and develop true care in our students.



ACTS OF LOVE is one of our largest outreach events. Students, staff and faculty work together to give out groceries to low income and families in-need within the Signal Hill and Long Beach areas. More than 600 families benefited from this event.



YES! JUNIOR NURSING & JUNIOR PHARMACY PROGRAM is where AUHS students become mentors and role-models to various elementary, middle, and high school students in the Signal Hill and Long Beach areas. AUHS students visit these schools and demonstrate some of the activities you carry out as a healthcare professional. They also share how becoming a healthcare professional has changed their lives.



INTERNATIONAL MISSION TRIPS have taken place for the past few years. AUHS nursing students have been active in medical mission trips to reach out to the populations around the globe. Students have completed trips to Vietnam, Jamaica, and most recently Cambodia.



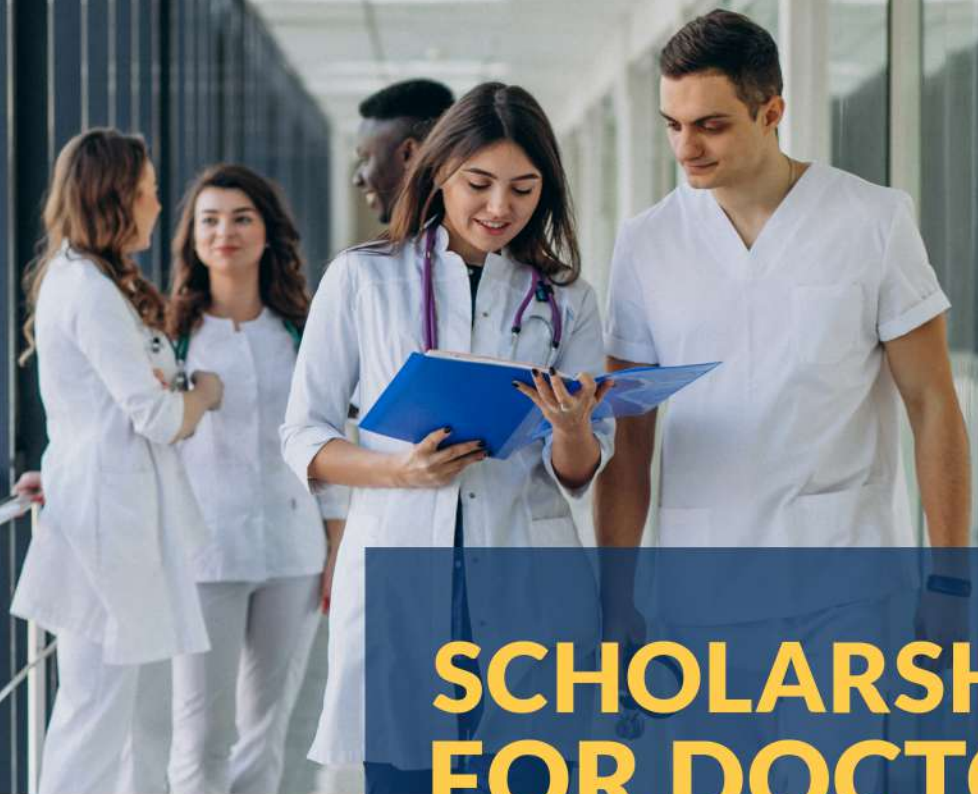
SANTA CAUSE EVENT is AUHS' annual gift giving during the Christmas season for children from low income families. Over 400 toys were given to kids ranging from toddler to 12 years old. Students, faculty and staff work together to make this wonderful event possible.

Support Students Through Scholarships

Contact us at 562-988-2278 about taking part in scholarship programs we can offer our students.

Attend Our Fun(d) Raising Events!

AUHS holds great fun(d) raising events such as Wine & Cheese Nights, Health Fairs, "Raze" Rave Parties and Live concerts. All donations and products purchased at these events are 100% tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.



SCHOLARSHIP FOR DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE (DNP)

- AUHS ALUMNI RECEIVE 50% DISCOUNT OFF THEIR TUITION IF YOU QUALIFY
- NON-ALUMNI RECEIVE A DISCOUNT OF UP TO 34% IF YOU QUALIFY

WHY APPLY?

THE DNP IN POPULATION HEALTH LEADERSHIP & HEALTH SYSTEM LEADERSHIP IS A TERMINAL DEGREE DESIGNED FOR ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSES WHO ARE COMMITTED TO DRIVING CHANGE THROUGH LEADERSHIP, SCHOLARSHIP, POLICY CHANGE AND ADVOCACY.

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- PROGRAM OFFERED VIA ONLINE DISTANCE EDUCATION
- POPULATION HEALTH CAPSTONE SCHOLARLY PROJECT GROUNDED IN SDOH RESEARCH AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

CONTACT

☎ 562.988.2278

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WWW.AUHS.EDU



"The Doctor of Nursing Practice program at American University of Health Sciences is pursuing initial accreditation by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (<http://www.ccnaccreditation.org>). Applying for accreditation does not guarantee that accreditation will be granted".



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STEAM-FOCUSED EDUCATION

WITH CRITICAL THINKING, ADVANCED
ARTS AND LANGUAGE LEARNING



Diploma
Programme



Middle Years
Programme

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CONTACT

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AURA is an authorized International Baccalaureate (IB) World School, officially offering the IB Diploma Programme (DP) since June 25, 2024. The DP is globally recognized for **fostering critical thinking, research skills, and intercultural understanding**—values that align with AURA's mission to cultivate compassionate, globally-minded leaders.