



*Class of 2026*  
**COMMENCEMENT**  
*Ceremony*

Friday, July 17, 2026, 5:00 - 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 17, 2026

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". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

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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# 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*

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

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

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*

Ryan M. Fullmer, CPA  
*Chief Financial Officer*

Nhung Le, PhD  
*Vice President of Institutional Research  
and Assessment (IRA)*

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

## ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP

### 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*

Rowena Cabatingan, MD, MSN,  
FNP-C  
*Associate Dean of Academics,  
SON Undergraduate Program*

Maria Shearing, MSN, FNP, BSN, RN  
*Assistant Dean, SON Undergraduate  
Program Clinical Affiliation*

### GENERAL EDUCATION

Jose Candelario, MS, MEd, DC, PhD  
(c), MBA (c), MDiv (c)  
*Chair, General Education*

### SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

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

John V. Schloss, PhD, BSc  
*Interim Senior Associate Dean,  
Chair of Pharmaceutical Science &  
Associate Dean of Research*

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

Lauren Kim, PharmD  
*Chair of Clinical & Administrative Sciences*

Transon Nguyen, PharmD  
*Director of Experiential Education*

### SCHOOL OF CLINICAL RESEARCH

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

## ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP

Cecilia Pineda, 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*

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

John Heydt, MD  
*Dean of School of Medicine*

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*

Venus Cruz, MSML  
*Senior Financial Aid Administrator*

Nhu Nguyen, MS  
*Director of Admissions and Marketing*

Joseph Abernethy, MLIS  
*University Librarian*



# COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM

FRIDAY, JULY 17, 2026, 5:00 PM TO 7:00 PM  
MISTRESS OF CEREMONY: DR. CAROLL RYAN

|                                                                                              |                                                                                                                  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Prelude and Gathering "Elsa's Procession to the Cathedral" .....<br><i>by Richard Wagner</i> | Guests, Families, Friends                                                                                        |
| Processional: "Pomp and Circumstance Marches" .....<br><i>By Edward Elgar</i>                | Academic Procession<br>Presidential Procession<br>2026 Candidates for Graduation                                 |
| Opening Declaration.....                                                                     | Dr. John Heydt, <i>Dean, School of Medicine</i>                                                                  |
| Presentation of Colors.....                                                                  | Cabrillo High School JROTC                                                                                       |
| The National Anthem.....                                                                     | Mikaela Bautista                                                                                                 |
| Invocation.....                                                                              | Pastor Gregory Johnson<br><i>Co-Founder, AUHS</i>                                                                |
| President's Welcome Address.....                                                             | Dr. Carroll Ryan<br><i>President/CEO of AUHS</i>                                                                 |
| AURA Academy Inaugural Student Speaker.....                                                  | Alexander Temujin Johnson                                                                                        |
| AURA Academy Presentation of Diploma.....                                                    | Mina Hosseini, <i>Assistant Head of School</i>                                                                   |
| Student Commencement Speaker.....                                                            | Lidia Berces<br><i>Doctor of Nursing Practice</i>                                                                |
| Commencement Keynote Speaker Address.....                                                    | Ms. Lea Ramirez<br><i>Founder and Executive Chair of Aequer Group<br/>Chief Executive Officer of Doc1 Health</i> |
| Special Presentation.....                                                                    | Pastor Gregory Johnson, Ms. Kim Dang, Dr. Carroll Ryan                                                           |
| Special Awards.....                                                                          | Dr. Lauren Kim and Ms. Kim Dang                                                                                  |
| Presentation of Deans.....                                                                   | Dr. Genevieve (Ivy) Javaluyas                                                                                    |
| Presentation of Degree Candidates.....                                                       | Dr. Islam, Dr. De Grano, Dr. Dillague, Dr. Modina                                                                |
| Oath Taking.....                                                                             | Dr. Ifon Chen, Dr. Jeazale Julian                                                                                |
| Conferral of Degrees.....                                                                    | Dr. Carroll Ryan                                                                                                 |
| Benediction.....                                                                             | Pastor Gregory Johnson                                                                                           |
| Closing Declaration.....                                                                     | Dr. John Heydt                                                                                                   |
| Recessional.....                                                                             | Dr. Carroll Ryan                                                                                                 |

# COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER



## **Lea Ramirez** **2026 Commencement Keynote Speaker**

*Founder and Executive Chair of Aequor Group and  
Chief Executive Officer of Doc1 Health*

Lea Ramirez is the Founder and Executive Chair of Aequor Group and the Chief Executive Officer of Doc1 Health, where she leads a dynamic portfolio of healthcare organizations spanning senior living, memory care, home health, physician enterprises, graduate medical education, clinical research, and nonprofit initiatives. Her work is guided by a simple yet powerful belief: exceptional healthcare begins long before a patient enters a hospital and continues wherever people call home.

What makes Lea's journey especially inspiring for today's graduates is that she did not begin her career in healthcare.

For more than fifteen years, she built a highly successful career as a commercial banking executive, helping businesses grow and financing millions of dollars in commercial investments. Yet she recognized that her greatest opportunity to make a lasting difference was not in finance, but in improving the lives of others through healthcare. With vision and courage, she left a thriving banking career to pursue a mission of transforming healthcare delivery and expanding access to quality care.

Today, Lea is recognized as an accomplished entrepreneur and healthcare executive who has successfully transformed healthcare organizations, led complex acquisitions, and developed innovative models of care that bring physicians, nurses, pharmacists, researchers, and caregivers together to improve outcomes for patients and their families.

As Founder and CEO of Doc1 Health, she is helping shape the future of healthcare through graduate medical education, physician leadership, clinical research, and integrated post-acute care. Through Aequor Group, she is building a national healthcare platform focused on strategic investment, operational excellence, innovation, and long-term value creation across the continuum of care.

Her commitment extends well beyond business. As Founder of the Doc1 Foundation, Lea champions initiatives that expand access to healthcare, support veterans, and serve underserved communities. She exemplifies the belief that true leadership is measured not only by the organizations we build, but by the lives we touch and the communities we strengthen.

As our graduates prepare to embark on careers dedicated to healing, service, and discovery, Lea's story offers an important reminder: meaningful leadership is not defined by where you begin, but by the courage to follow your purpose, embrace change, and use your talents to make a difference. Her journey demonstrates that when vision is paired with compassion and excellence is guided by service, extraordinary things are possible.

We welcome a visionary entrepreneur, transformational healthcare executive, philanthropist, and passionate advocate for the future of healthcare—Ms. Lea Ramirez.



## DOCTOR OF PHARMACY 2026

Chen, Bill

Crisostomo, Kayla \* 🏆

Denham, Shelbi

Lambert, Hannah

Moayed, Sheida \*

Nguyen, Douglas

Nguyen, Natalie

Noriega, Katherine

Sampson, Carmel \*

Sedgwick, Amy

Shaltu, Taha 🏆

Tran, Tam

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/>

## MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CLINICAL RESEARCH 2026

Nguyen, Khanh (John) \* 🏆 🏆

Nguyen, Nhu Anh \*

Pham, Tammy \*

Trinh, Nhat Duy \*

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

|                              |                            |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Abistado, Marife *           | Hou, Chihtao *             |
| Almouazzen, Adnan *          | Lay, Sarah *               |
| Atienza, Manuel *            | Lingayon, Lois *           |
| Belo, Leshter *              | Madrirdejos, Stephanie *   |
| Berces, Lidia Arlene *       | Molina De Pena, Janethe *  |
| Caldejon, Lovell Diane *     | Narciso, Luke Jacob *      |
| Cudiamat, Erlene *           | Navarro Soberano, Myriah * |
| Daghighi, Shahrzad *         | Onyia, Josiah *            |
| De Grano, Gregorio *         | Paclibar, Dominique *      |
| De Guzman, Roilann Cyell *** | Rabor, Maria Ella *        |
| Del Rosario, Regidor *       | Shearing, Maria *          |
| Del Rosario, Lawag Lagasca   | Sor, Sambo *               |
| Garcia, Luis Antonio *       | Truong, Angel *            |
| Gonzales, Zandra ***         | Uvero, Marilyn ***         |
| Griffin, Tyler *             | Van, Kimberly ***          |
| Hamieh, Ghadeer ***          | Waller, Denise *           |
| Holt, Jarecca *              | Wences, Vanessa ***        |

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



## MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING 2026

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

|                                    |                                     |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Abrokwa, Emmanuel *                | Hernandez, Beatriz *                |
| Aguirre, Ma.Geraldyn *             | Herrera, Rosemary *                 |
| Agustin, Johayma *                 | Khiev-Kartt, Mora *                 |
| Alegado, Merchelle Ianne *         | Kirk, Michael ***                   |
| Aviles, Mara Faye *                | Kirk, Bruce *                       |
| Bracamonte, Amelia *               | Kirk, Mark *                        |
| Calampinay, Jeric *                | Lacno, Maria Ana *                  |
| Canteras, Emer *                   | Malayba, Renato                     |
| Caro, Ivy ***                      | Marigomen, Angele *                 |
| Carrillo, Cedric *                 | Mina, Melissa *                     |
| Catipon, Janessa *                 | Nguyen, Erick ***                   |
| Chua, Josefina *                   | Niraula, Ashma *                    |
| Crowther, Linette Jeniffer         | Obien, Dorothy *                    |
| Cuellar Padilla, Priscilla Grace * | Panganiban, Reggie *                |
| Del Prado, Melissa *               | Rodriguez, Rachelle *               |
| Dela Cruz, Charlotte *             | Salvador, Dohn *                    |
| Dianco, Jessarina *                | Santillan, Kathleen *               |
| Enamorado, Tulio *                 | Sharma, Rahul Raj *                 |
| Esmende, Maria Clarissa *          | Tabago, Mia Kathleen *              |
| Faustino, Mary Jane *              | Tagaro, Alfredo *                   |
| Floresca, Helen Grace *            | Vasquez-Antonio, Jocelyn Michelle * |
| Henson, Nadine *                   | Yang, Vang Eh *                     |

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



## BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING 2026

|                                    |                            |                            |                                  |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Aceves, Lissette Carolina          | Fernandez, Monica *        | Manning, Melissa ***       | Sagurit, John Michael Cayabyab   |
| Adeleye, Olufunke                  | Gallegos, Britney          | Maradiaga, Carolina        | Sanchez, Valery                  |
| Aguilar, Randy                     | Gliane, Gabriel            | Marroquin, Isaac Arturo ** | Sarantakis, Raquel Zabala Santos |
| Ajmal, Laiba                       | Goluya, Christian          | Martin, Aliyah             | Scott-Bartley, Simone            |
| Anene, Nonso *** 🏆                 | Gonzalez, Nathaniel        | Martinez, Yessica *        | Seng, Jenna                      |
| Arriaga-Martinez, Paola            | Gunio, Hannah Katryn ***   | Martinez, Julie            | So, Daniel                       |
| Avila, Arena *                     | Haliliyan, Alek *          | Morabe, Timothy *          | Somoso, Jamram Tio               |
| Batista, Martha *                  | Hall, Candice              | Moralde, Trennian *        | Somoso, Jao Austin Tio           |
| Beadles, Ashley Jasmine            | Han, Nayoung               | Navarro, Marta *           | Sreisay, Monyroth                |
| Bencito, Jasmine                   | Harris, Samuel Edward      | Nguyen, Hong Anh **        | Tabuyo, Erica Dane *             |
| Benitez, Sheila Gisell             | Hernandez, Lizzette        | Nguyen, Melissa *          | Thompson, Cameron                |
| Best, Analysa                      | Herrera, Ariana            | Okoye, Emmanuel            | Titoy, Shirley                   |
| Boyd, Michelaye Shonte             | Hill, Grace                | Ongogan, John Joseph       | Torres, Brianna                  |
| Boyer, Leah Joyce                  | Holmes, Kevin              | Onodera, Sheena Marie      | Urbiztondo, Aple *** 🏆           |
| Brown, Kimberly                    | Hornback, Yasmin           | Padilla, Alaska            | Valle, Martha                    |
| Calderon, Jasmely                  | Jamero, Alyssa             | Parki, Jayra *             | Vega, Rommel                     |
| Carmona, Nathalie                  | James, Jennifer            | Patino, Erika              | Velasco, Kelvin                  |
| Castillo, Louise *                 | Lacasse, Kaitlin *         | Perez, Lizbeth             | Velazquez, Karla                 |
| Christopher, Melissa               | Laccay, Gayle              | Rabaino, Marinelle         | Vertudez, Nonette *              |
| Cuazitl, Ivan                      | Le, Tu                     | Requejo, Malia Kai *       | Villagrana, Reyna                |
| Daniel, Racein Theresa             | Linares, Gabriela          | Rice, Jazmin Myshel *      | Villas, Mathew                   |
| De Leon, Andrea Francine Marquez * | Lira-Garcia, Sabrina       | Rodriguez, Maricela Canez  | Villicana, Nancy                 |
| Dizon, Anthony Joseph *            | Lorenzo, Kay Yumi Ubarro * | Rodriguez, Marisol         | Yen Han, Hsueh **                |
| Dizon Anjelika                     | Ly, Riyaine                | Rowland, Kaylee            | Yu Chang, Chen *                 |
| Erickson, Kriss Rabbit             | Macatugal, Chloe Anne      | Roxas, Gabriela            | Zavala, Kelly **                 |
| Esquela, Julianne                  | Magno, Jenna               | Rueda, Allan               |                                  |

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 2026

## COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDEE

Aple Urbiztondo, RN

## 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

Kayla Crisostomo

Clinical Award

Taha Shaltu

## SCHOOL OF CLINICAL RESEARCH

Leadership & Clinical Awards

Khanh Nguyen

## SCHOOL OF NURSING

Leadership Award

Nonso Anene

Clinical Award

Aple Urbiztondo



# 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

Heydt, John, MD, *Dean of School of Medicine*  
Lambrecht, Nils, MD, PhD, *Associate Dean of Medical Education*  
Schloss, John, PhD, BSc *Senior Associate Dean for Basic Sciences & Research*  
Vagin, Olga, PhD, *Associate Dean for Student Affairs*

##### Chief of Sections

Brulte, Gregory, DDS, Chief of Anatomy, Histology & Embryology  
Lambrecht, Nils, MD, PhD, Chief of Diagnostic Pathology & Radiology  
Le, Nhung, PhD, Chief of Microbiology & Immunology  
Maguire, Gerald, MD, Chief of Psychiatry  
Nihara, Milko, MD, MPH, Chief of Ob/Gyn & Reproductive Medicine  
Schloss, John, PhD, BSc, Chief of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology  
Young, Les, MD, Chief of Pediatrics  
Zayachkivska, Oksana, MD, PhD, DSc, Chief of Physiology

##### Faculty

Bekesevych, Anna MD, PhD, Anatomy, Histology & Embryology  
Brulte, Gregory, DDS, Anatomy, Histology & Embryology  
Coffman, Jonathan, PhD, MBA, Microbiology & Immunology  
Crain, Pujah, PhD, PharmD, Pharmacology  
Entezampour, Mo, PhD, Anatomy, Histology & Embryology  
Gombos, Zoltan, MD, PhD, Pathology & Radiology  
Husted, John, MD, Surgery  
Lambrecht, Nils, Pathology & Radiology  
Le, Nhung, PhD, Microbiology & Immunology  
Lotfi, Reza, MD, Pathology & Radiology  
Maguire, Gerald, MD, Psychiatry  
Nihara, Milko, MD, MPH, Ob/Gyn  
Schloss, John, PhD, BSc, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology  
Shah, Nishit, MD, Surgery  
Sheng, Jonathan, MD, PhD, Pharmacology  
Vagin, Olga, PhD, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology  
Young, Les, MD, Pediatrics  
Zayachkivska, Oksana, MD, PhD, DSc, Physiology

### SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

#### DOCTOR OF PHARMACY

##### Leadership

Islam, Mohammed A, PhD, *Dean of School of Pharmacy*  
Schloss, John V, PhD, *Interim Associate Dean of Academic Affairs/Chair of Pharmaceutical Sciences*  
Yang, Suhui, PhD, *Assistant Dean of Students and Assessment*  
Kim, Lauren, PharmD, *Chair of Clinical and Administrative Sciences*  
Nguyen, Transon, PharmD, *Director of Experiential Education*

##### Faculty

Bagheri, Rose, PharmD  
Chen, Ifon, PharmD  
Chu, Kathlynn, PharmD  
Gollapudi, Shankar, PharmD  
Islam, Mohammed A, PhD  
Kim, Lauren, PharmD  
Le, Nhung, PhD  
Nguyen, Transon, PharmD  
Schloss, John V, PhD  
Yang, Suhui, PhD  
Chung, Ann, PharmD  
Dang, Thi, PharmD  
Garcia, Leonel, PharmD  
Luu, Uyen, PharmD  
Kunchandy, Joseph, PhD  
Meyer, Lee, PharmD  
Nguyen, Elaine, PharmD  
Overby, Halline, MD  
Rhee, Helen, PharmD  
Sheng, Jonathan, MD, PhD  
Yuan, Carol, PharmD  
Zayachkivska, Oksana, MD, PhD, DSc

### SCHOOL OF NURSING

#### DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE

##### Leadership

Dr. Michelle Paysan-Modina, DNP, MBA, APRN, NP-C, PHN  
*Asst. Chief Nurse Administrator/Executive Dean/Professor/BSN Program Director*  
Dr. Gregorio De Grano, MD, PhD, APRN, FNP-C  
*Dean of Graduate Nursing Programs*  
Dr. Jeazale Julian, DNP, FNP-C, PHN  
*Clinical Affiliation Coordinator*

##### Faculty

Dr. Jeazale Julian, DNP, FNP-C, PHN  
Dr. Nhung Le, PhD  
Dr. Jennifer Obsania, DNP, MSN

# 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

Dr. Michelle Paysan-Modina, DNP, MBA, APRN, NP-C, PHN  
*Asst. Chief Nurse Administrator/Executive Dean/ Professor/BSN Program Director*

Dr. Gregorio De Grano, MD, PhD, APRN, FNP-C  
*Dean of Graduate Nursing Studies*

Dr. Jeazale Julian, DNP, MSN, FNP-C  
*Clinical Affiliation Coordinator*

#### Faculty

Dr. Elynita Arella, DNP, APRN, PMHNP, FNP-C  
Dr. Sheryl Antido, DNP, MBA, APRN, FNP-BC, FNP-C, CPAN  
Dr. Manuel Atienza, MD, PhD, MSN  
Dr. Maria Rowena Cabatingan, MD, APRN, FNP-C  
Dr. Helena Calloway, DNP, RN, PHN, CCRN  
Dr. Hazel Evalle, DNP, APRN, FNP-C  
Dr. Joseph Francisco, MD, DNP, LLB, RN, APRN, PMHNP-BC, FNP-BC  
Dr. Nhung Le, PhD  
Dr. Jennifer Obsania, DNP, MSN  
Dr. Leonor Salalila, DNP, MSN-Ed, MHA, APRN, FNP-C  
Dr. Girtielyn Tiu, MD, APRN, FNP-C  
Dr. Dave Usman, DNP, FNP-C, PHN

### 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  
Nhung Le, PhD  
Tarek Dessouky, PhD  
Agn Atienza, MSCR, CCRP



# ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP & FACULTY

## BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREES

### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

#### Leadership

Dr. Michelle Paysan-Modina, DNP, MBA, APRN, NP-C, PHN  
*Asst. Chief Nurse Administrator/Executive Dean/ Professor/BSN Program Director*

Dr. Maria Rowena Cabatingan, MD, APRN, FNP-C  
*Associate Dean of Academics*

Maria Shearing, MSN-Ed, PHN, MICN  
*Assistant Dean of Clinical Affiliations*

#### Faculty

Felor Abbasnejad, BSN, RN  
Mansoureh Abraham, MSN, RN  
Marithel Arambulo, MSN, APRN, FNP-C  
Mikko Angela Arceno, MSN, APRN, FNP-C  
Brent Aspiras, MSN-Ed  
Marco Attenello, MSN-Ed  
Lester Belo, MSN, RN  
Dr. Raulin Feria, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, PED-BC, CPN, CPEN, CCRN, PHN  
Denise Gatewood, MSN, APRN, WHNP-BC  
Dr. Hesamedine Gharavi, MD, FNP-C, PHN  
Ghadeer Abdullah Hamieh, MSN-Ed  
Alexandria Johnson, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC  
Mary Irene Juliano, MSN-Ed  
Janet Kazibwe, MSN-Ed, PHN

Ma. Ledi Ham Loot, MBA, MS, MAN, APRN, PHMNP-BC, RNC-OB  
Aristotle Marasigan, MSN-Ed, CCRN, APHON  
Dr. Ma. Suzanne Morales, DNP, MSN-Ed, APRN, FNP-BC, PHN  
Dr. Pedro Morante, DNP, APRN, PHMNP-BC, FNP-BC  
Dr. Meerabai Narasimalu, DNP, APRN, FNP-C, RNC-OB, PHN  
Josephine Clarisse Santos, MSN, APRN, FNP-C  
Patrick Sheehy, BSN, RN  
Dr. Kenya Smith, DNP, APRN, PHMNP-BC  
Alea Nicole Sohn, MSN, APRN, FNP-C  
Crizelle Tan, MSN, APRN, FNP-C  
Dr. Arvin Torres, MD, MSN-Ed, APRN, FNP-BC  
Isaac Ugorji, MSN, APRN, PMHNP-BC, PMC-Ed  
Stephanie Wagas, MSN-Ed, PHN  
Denise Marie Waller, MSN-Ed, PHN

### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES

#### Leadership

Mohammed A. Islam, PhD, *Dean of School of Pharmacy*  
John V. Schloss, PhD, *Interim Associate Dean of Academic Affairs/Chair of Pharmaceutical Sciences*  
Suhui Yang, PhD, *Assistant Dean of Students and Assessment*  
Lauren Kim, PharmD, *Chair of Clinical and Administrative Sciences*  
Transon Nguyen, PharmD, *Director of Experiential Education*

#### Faculty

Schloss, John V, PhD  
Sheng, Jonathan, MD, PhD  
Zayachkivska, Oksana, MD, PhD, DSc

### GENERAL EDUCATION

#### Leadership

Jose Candelario, MS, MEd, DC, PhD (c), MBA (c), MDiv (c)  
*Chair*

#### Faculty

Duane Carter, JD  
Kate Landry, MFA, MEd  
Tien Quang Truong, MA, BA  
John Riptoe, MS  
Fareed John Dibazar, MPH

Brent Davis, PhD  
Grygorii Koval, MA  
Jose Candelario, DC, MBA  
Steve Ryan, MA, BA

# COMMENCEMENT MARSHALS

## GRAND MARSHAL

John Heydt, MD

## COMMENCEMENT COMMITTEE

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

Tommy Le, Ph.D

Barbara Cook-Strong, BA

Manjula Dissanayake

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

Renchelle Ambayec

Jan Tribiana

Sheila Mae Parreno

Mary Reyes

## STAFF

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Venus Cruz  
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Sheila Mae Parreno  
Rosette Cabalonga  
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## SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
SPECIAL GUESTS

CLINICAL AFFILIATION SITES  
STUDENT VOLUNTEERS & MENTORS

PARENTS, FAMILY, AND FRIENDS  
OF THE CLASS 2026



# 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.



# 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.



# AUHS MISSION TRIPS

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





# GRADUATING CLASS OF 2026

