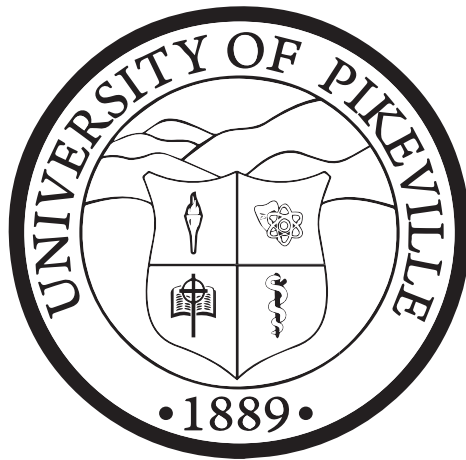


Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine

White Coat Ceremony



September 28, 2024
2 p.m.
Mountain Arts Center

About KYCOM

Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine

Mission. The mission of the Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine (KYCOM) is to provide men and women with an osteopathic medical education that emphasizes primary care, encourages research, promotes lifelong scholarly activity and produces graduates who are committed to serving the health care needs of communities in rural Kentucky and other Appalachian regions.

History. In September 1993, Chad Perry, a prominent attorney from Paintsville, and his wife, Judy Perry, conceived the idea of creating an osteopathic medical school in the Appalachian region of Eastern Kentucky. Together with a group of visionary leaders that included former Kentucky governor, the Honorable Paul Patton, and local businessman, Burlin Coleman, they began to investigate the possibility of a school in Eastern Kentucky. These leaders believed that creation of an osteopathic medical school was the best way to help alleviate the shortage of primary care physicians in the region. According to Chad Perry, his support of the development of an osteopathic medical school for this region arose from the fact that osteopathic physicians “tend to stay in rural areas and in family practice.”

White Coat Ceremony. It is now common practice among most U.S. medical schools to conduct a white coat ceremony to initiate medical students into the medical profession. White represents purity, healing and the professional ideals of the medical profession that focus on compassionate caregiving. The long white coat is the quintessential symbol of a physician and conveys to patients and the public the wearer’s identity as a physician. The short white coat indicates the wearer’s status as a medical student or student doctor. The white coat ceremony tradition among medical schools was led by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation in 1993 to promote humanism in medicine. The Gold Foundation provides a gold pin to our student doctors to wear on their white coats to symbolize commitment to providing compassionate and competent patient care. As a further initiation into the osteopathic medical profession, the KYCOM White Coat Ceremony traditionally includes recitation of its version of the osteopathic medical profession’s Pledge of Commitment.

Ceremony Program

Prelude Music.....	Phillip Todd Westgate, D.M.A. Professor of Music, University of Pikeville Pianist
* Academic Processional.....	Class of 2028 Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine
Welcome	Joe E. Kingery, D.O., MBA, FACOFP, FAAFP Dean, Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine KYCOM Class of 2006
Invocation	Adhel Christian Medina, OMS II President, Christian Medical Association
Greetings from the University	Burton J. Webb, Ph.D. President, University of Pikeville
Introduction of Platform Party.....	Lori Werth, Ph.D. Executive Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer, University of Pikeville
Remarks & Introduction of Keynote Speaker	Dr. Kingery
Keynote Address.....	Jody M. Johnson, D.O. Member, UPIKE Board of Trustees KYCOM Class of 2001
Greetings from the Student Body.....	Rafah Chaudhry, OMS II President, KYCOM Student Government Association
White Coat Presentation	Malgorzata Simm, Ph.D., M.Sc., FCM Associate Dean of Biomedical Sciences and Professor of Microbiology & Immunology
Coating of Students.....	Maleshea Hopkins, D.O. Associate Dean of Clinical Affairs KYCOM Class of 2005 and Rafah Chaudhry, OMS II
Greetings from Kentucky Osteopathic Medical Association	Sarah Crawford, D.O. President, Kentucky Osteopathic Medical Association
Greetings from KYCOM Alumni Association	Frederick A. Stine, VI, D.O., MHA Pediatrician Adjunct Clinical Professor of Pediatrics KYCOM Class of 2017
Pledge of Commitment.....	Laura Griffin, D.O., FAAO Associate Dean for Osteopathic Principles and Practices Integration Professor and Chair, Department of Osteopathic Principles and Practices
Closing Remarks	Dr. Kingery
* Recessional.....	Class of 2028

* *Audience please stand, if able.*

Jody M. Johnson, D.O.



Jody M. Johnson, D.O., a native of Eastern Kentucky, graduated from Wheelwright High School in 1992 and earned a dual bachelor's degree in chemistry and biology in 1996. He was part of the inaugural class at the University of Pikeville Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine (KYCOM), graduating in 2001. He completed his general surgery residency at Michigan State University and a fellowship in advanced laparoscopic and gastrointestinal surgery at the University of Kentucky, becoming board-certified through the American Osteopathic Board of Surgery.

A dedicated educator and a committed fellow of the American Osteopathic Board of Surgery, Johnson has taught hundreds of students and general surgery residents. He served as an instructor for the general surgery course at KYCOM for seven years. He has also been a member of UPIKE's board of trustees since 2010. With more than 20 years of experience in complex procedures, he transitioned to cosmetic surgery, drawn to its potential to improve patients' self-confidence and happiness.

After completing a mini fellowship at Pelosi Medical Center in New Jersey in 2021, he has spent the past three years practicing cosmetic surgery in Lafayette, Louisiana. In June 2023, he opened Luxe Cosmetic Surgery in Alexandria, Louisiana, where he is committed to helping patients feel empowered and beautiful.

Johnson lives in Louisiana with his wife Sherie, and their three daughters. He enjoys fast cars, flying, baking and real estate investing.

KYCOM Class of 2028

Tala Abboud
Columbus, Ohio

Hunter Adkins
Danville, West Virginia

Eric Adriano
Independence, Kentucky

Uchechukwu Agali
Kansas City, Missouri

Anna Armstrong
Bridgewater, Virginia

Abbigail Baber
Winchester, Kentucky

Humza Bashir
Endicott, New York

Amy Batten
Jacksonville, Florida

Sara Baxley
Fayetteville, North Carolina

Skyler Belka
Lehi, Utah

Taylor Bevins
Pikeville, Kentucky

Jay Bhati
Cincinnati, Ohio

Jeremy Blenn
Johnson City, Tennessee

Jacob Boggs
Cornettsville, Kentucky

Joseph Boujaoude
Liberty Township, Ohio

Presley Boyer
Louisia, Kentucky

Lauren Bracken
Union, Kentucky

Amber Caldwell
Pikeville, Kentucky

Gavin Cantu
Griffith, Indiana

Zane Carter
Mt. Sterling, Kentucky

Carrigan Causby
Morganton, North Carolina

Astitva Chatrath
Buffalo, New York

Aaron Crosby
Hopkinsville, Kentucky

Michael Davis
Union, Kentucky

Emily Dendinger
Louisville, Kentucky

Benjamin DePrest
Louisville, Kentucky

Abbas Doctor
Columbus, Ohio

Kaegan Dove
Prestonsburg, Kentucky

Muhammad Draw
Louisville, Kentucky

Noor Durrani
Lexington, Kentucky

Robert Felber
Salyersville, Kentucky

Alyssa Feldner
Lexington, Kentucky

Richard Fischer
South River, New Jersey

Nathan Fulton
Paducah, Kentucky

Addison Gibbs
Port Edwards, Wisconsin

Lydia Goff
Pikeville, Kentucky

Andrew Goodlett
Shelbyville, Kentucky

Hallee Green
Georgetown, Kentucky

Andrew Griesmann
Troy, Michigan

Elliott Hagebock
Armstrong, Iowa

Alexis Hammer
Newbury, Ohio

Thomas Havlik
Derby, Kansas

Ashley Hayes
Louisia, Kentucky

Grace Hayslett
Lexington, Kentucky

Kati Heinemann
Louisville, Kentucky

KYCOM Class of 2028

Noah Helphenstine
Princeton, Kentucky

George Hoekel
St. Louis, Missouri

Liberty Hombe
Mankato, Minnesota

Ethan Howard
Mason, Ohio

Miriam Hunter
Louisville, Kentucky

Ashley Iles
Union, Kentucky

Riyyan Izzathullah
Rochester Hills, Michigan

Sammy Jaber
Dearborn Heights, Michigan

Areeba Javed
Fishers, Indiana

Bretton Jervis
Prestonsburg, Kentucky

Lauren Jung
Louisville, Kentucky

Ghady Kanaan
Crestview Hills, Kentucky

Yash Kansara
Plainsboro, New Jersey

Shaunik Kapoor
Naperville, Illinois

Heli Kavi
Charlotte, North Carolina

Jamael Giggins
Louisville, Kentucky

Keegan Kincaid
Colorado Springs, Colorado

Karen Klimek
South Bend, Indiana

Harley Ledbetter
Louisville, Kentucky

Samuel Lee
Washington, Illinois

David Leffler
Akron, Ohio

Anthony Lewis
Whitesburg, Kentucky

Emma Light
Columbus, North Carolina

Isabelle Lux
Granite Bay, California

Logan Marinchek
Uniontown, Ohio

Kaylah McAnally
Sandwich, Illinois

Luke McKinney
Hopedale, Ohio

Hunter Mennenga
Evansdale, Iowa

Kayli Moore
Cincinnati, Ohio

Keagan Morrin
Georgetown, Kentucky

John Mullins
Lebanon, Kentucky

Kristen Murray
Brentwood, Tennessee

Megan Music
Prestonsburg, Kentucky

Farah Naiyer
Farmington, Michigan

Shaun Neace
Hazard, Kentucky

Alexis Newsome
Pikeville, Kentucky

Kolby Newsome
Pikeville, Kentucky

Samantha Nguyen
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Lincoln Nichols
Leitchfield, Kentucky

Nicholas Noel
Salem, Indiana

Kentera Obin
Louisville, Kentucky

Carter Pacis
Wauconda, Illinois

Urvi Patel
Jacksonville, Florida

Anisha Polimati
Louisville, Kentucky

Aanya Poudel
Johns Creek, Georgia

KYCOM Class of 2028

Veeresh Rai
Louisville, Kentucky

Shilpa Regi
Lewisville, Texas

Kevin Roman
Miami Lakes, Florida

Shannon Round
Ballston Lake, New York

Eliel Ruiz Rivera
Mayaguez, Puerto Rico

Serina Sajjad
Flemington, New Jersey

Cate Sandvik
Naperville, Illinois

Adam Saylor
Grand Forks, North Dakota

Isabella Schecodnic
Stuart, Florida

Spencer Schell
Columbus, Ohio

ReidAnn Sever
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Manav Shardha
Mississauga, Ontario

Jordan Slone
Pikeville, Kentucky

Bailey Smith
Bladenboro, North Carolina

Jacob Southwell
Kalkaska, Michigan

Markisha Sowards
Salyersville, Kentucky

Aariana Sparks
Pikeville, Kentucky

Sydney Stahlman
St. Clair, Missouri

Christopher Stiltner
Breaks, Virginia

Sebastian Suarez-Rocha
North Miami, Florida

Shafira Subedi
Queens, New York

Faiz Syed
Marietta, Georgia

Samuel Topping
Raceland, Kentucky

Lucas Trinh
Bowling Green, Kentucky

Michael Underwood
Danville, Kentucky

Matthew Valentine
West Palm Beach, Florida

Jenna Vaughn
Dunnville, Kentucky

Dylan Vulcain
Miami, Florida

Sharon Wang
Indianapolis, Indiana

Sadie Welch
Whiteland, Indiana

Abbi Westhoff
Marion, Iowa

Heather Whitlow
Glasgow, Kentucky

Brendan Wiehe
Delaware, Ohio

Alyssa Wilson
Dover, Delaware

Lillian Wisner
Paducah, Kentucky

Macen Witt
Raceland, Kentucky

London Witthar
Springfield, Missouri

Andrew Yackzan
Lexington, Kentucky

Nolan Yates
Gilbertsville, Kentucky

Christopher Zdunek
Louisville, Kentucky

Pledge of Commitment

As I embark upon the study of medicine at the Kentucky
College of Osteopathic Medicine, I will:

Enter into a relationship of mutual respect with my teachers and my colleagues to enhance the learning environment and gain the knowledge, skills and attitudes of a competent osteopathic physician.

Accept responsibility only for those matters for which I am competent, maintain the trust expected of an osteopathic physician and never take advantage of the patient-doctor relationship.

Show compassion and respect for all others.

Set worthy examples in the application of humanistic principles in my relationships with patients and others within the Appalachian medical community.

Work toward improving my sensitivity and skills in human interaction, understanding and respecting the differences among my patients and colleagues.

Value the knowledge and wisdom of the physicians who have preceded me in the profession and endeavor to contribute to the osteopathic tradition.

Recognize my weaknesses and strengths and strive to develop those qualities that will earn the respect of my patients, my colleagues, my family and myself.

Continue learning throughout all the days of my life.