



**COLUMBIA**

VAGELOS COLLEGE OF  
PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS

PROGRAMS IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

**CONVOCAATION AND AWARDS  
CEREMONY**

IN HONOR OF

**THE CLASS OF 2024**

Thursday, May 16, 2024  
10:00 a.m.

**ALUMNI AUDITORIUM  
650 WEST 168TH STREET**

*For assistive listening devices, please see an event host.*

# **PROGRAM**

## **– OPENING REMARKS –**

**Dawn M. Nilsen, EdD, OTR/L, FAOTA**

**Professor of Rehabilitation and Regenerative Medicine; Director, Programs in Occupational Therapy; Vice Chair, Department of Rehabilitation and Regenerative Medicine; Assistant Dean, Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons Columbia University**

## **– WELCOME –**

**Katrina Armstrong, MD**

**Harold and Margaret Hatch Professor in the Faculty of Medicine; Executive Vice President for Health and Biomedical Sciences; Dean of the Faculties of Health Sciences and the Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons; Chief Executive Officer, Columbia University Irving Medical Center**

**Joel Stein, MD**

**Simon Baruch Professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation; Chair, Department of Rehabilitation & Regenerative Medicine**

## **– COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS –**

**Janet Falk-Kessler, EdD, OTR/L, FAOTA**

**Professor Emeritus of Rehabilitation and Regenerative Medicine**

**Introduced by: Enmanuel Bencosme Alejo, Co-President of SOTA**

## **– PAMELA MILLER FIELDWORK EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD –**

**Introduced by: Dr. Phyllis Simon**

## **– FRIEND OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY AWARD –**

**Introduced by: Dr. Tyra Banks**

## **– DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA AWARD –**

**Introduced by: Dr. Glen Gillen**

## **– ALUMNUS ADDRESS –**

**Presented by: Gloriana Wilson '23 & Maneshka Cohen '09**

**Introduced by: Dr. Dawn M. Nilsen**

## **– STUDENT ADDRESS –**

**Presented by: Rawdah Rahim '24**

**Introduced by: Eden Fink, Co-President of SOTA**

## **– STUDENT PRESENTATION –**

**Introduced by: Eden Fink & Enmanuel Bencosme Alejo,  
Presidents of SOTA**

– **RECOGNITION AWARDS** –

ROBERT L. EVANDER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR  
EXCELLENCE IN THE SCIENCES

**Introduced by: Dr. Colleen Maher**

EMILY RAPHAEL-GREENFIELD ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR  
EXCELLENCE IN MENTAL HEALTH

**Introduced by: Dr. Patricia Precin**

G. GORDON WILLIAMSON ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR  
EXCELLENCE IN PEDIATRICS

**Introduced by: Dr. Julia Guzmán**

PATRICIA A. MILLER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR  
EXCELLENCE IN GERONTOLOGY

**Introduced by: Dr. Phyllis Simon**

MARGUERITE ABBOTT MEMORIAL AWARD FOR  
EXCELLENCE IN PHYSICAL DISABILITIES

**Introduced by: Dr. Daniel Geller**

DR. CYNTHIA HUGHES HARRIS AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE  
IN DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, AND BELONGING

**Introduced by: Dr. Tyra Banks**

STEVEN A. KATZ MEMORIAL AWARD FOR CLINICAL EXCELLENCE

**Introduced by: Dr. Michael Urban**

JOAN BOZUWA MEMORIAL AWARD FOR  
LEADERSHIP, CREATIVITY AND INTEGRITY

**Introduced by: Dr. Katherine Dimitropoulou**

– **MASTERS CEREMONY** –

**Masters pinning presented by: Drs. Dawn M. Nilsen & Razan Hamed**  
**Occupational Therapy Oath recited by: Dr. Dawn M. Nilsen**

– **DOCTORAL HOODING CEREMONY** –

**Presented by: Dr. Rochelle Mendonca**

– **CLOSING REMARKS** –

**Dr. Dawn M. Nilsen**

– **RECEPTION** –

**Immediately following the Ceremony**  
**50 Haven Ave., 1st floor**



## MASTER OF SCIENCE CLASS OF 2024

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Monique Allen  
Devon Aparicio  
Kayla Bach  
Enmanuel Bencosme Alejo  
Magdala Blezin  
Gabrielle Burgess  
Kayla Chan  
Emily Cohen  
Emily Cott  
Morgan Desautelle  
Shayna Dessau  
Aarushi Dutta  
Esmé Erdynast  
Yael Even-Hen  
Eden Fink  
Mary Gardner  
Olivia Grigaux

Devorah Heller  
Rhianna Hopkins  
Elizabeth Jankowski  
Kaitlyn LaGrow  
Jamie Lee  
Abigail Levy  
Dahlia Lewi  
Ifra Maqsood  
Jonathan Mariani  
Mariana Molina  
Lindsey Novakovic  
Nancy Park  
Alana Perlmutter  
Jenna Piatelli  
Sarah Pomerantz  
Elizabeth Popovich  
Ali Price

Rawdah Rahim  
Nicole Salazar  
Lily Spitalny  
Synthia Steiman  
Lauren Suttles  
Heleni Trihas  
Catherine Uscamayta  
Megan Vosberg  
Kelsey Walsh  
Sharon Wetter  
Jami Wilkinson  
Samantha Wong  
Carly Wyatt  
Stephanie Yip  
Caroline Zemsky  
Natalie Ziemba  
Abigail Zweifach

## DOCTOR OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY CLASS OF 2024

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Stephanie Alvarado  
John R. Battle  
Ada Lawson  
Kaitlin Lillywhite  
Lisa Lowenthal

Karen S. Martinez  
Sophia Norris  
Hailey (So Hyun) Park  
Jennifer M. Puac  
Milly Raj

Kelsey Simonson  
Gurpreet Singh  
Megan C. Sofield  
Jasmine M. Tomlinson  
Lee A. Westover

## FACULTY

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Dr. Dawn M. Nilsen  
Dr. Tyra Banks  
Dr. Katherine Dimitropoulou  
Dr. Daniel Geller  
Dr. Glen Gillen

Dr. Julia Guzmán  
Dr. Razan Hamed  
Dr. Colleen Maher  
Dr. Danielle Mahoney  
Dr. Rochelle Mendonca

Dr. Patricia Precin  
Dr. Phyllis Simon  
Dr. Michael Urban  
Prof. Todd Bryson  
Prof. Jeff Tomlinson  
Dr. Leslie Kane

## ADMINISTRATION

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Ms. Gina Frassetto  
Ms. Eileen Lloyd

Ms. Leslie Alas  
Ms. Susanna Mayas

Ms. Nicole Lockwood