



3rd Annual

First-Generation Celebration of Achievement Award Ceremony

Pathways to Success:
Perfect Vision in 2020

May 17, 2020, Noon EST

Live streaming

Program

Introduction of ceremony

Vicki T. Sapp, PhD

Director for Student Engagement, Diversity and Inclusion
and Assistant Professor

Welcome

Steven J. Scheinman, MD

President and Dean

Student Affairs congratulatory remarks

Tanja K. Adonizio, MD

Associate Dean for Student Affairs
and Assistant Professor of Medicine

Graduate Education congratulatory remarks

Leonard (Len) Farber, MA

Director of Career Engagement, Graduate Education

Presentation of MD and MBS graduates

Closing remarks

William Jeffries, PhD

Vice Dean for Medical Education, Vice President for Academic Affairs
and Professor of Pharmacology

Alumni Induction

Christopher Boland

Director of Alumni Relations

Closing remarks

Vicki T. Sapp, PhD

**First-Generation
Celebration of Achievement
Subcommittee**

Diana Callender, MBBS, DM

Associate Dean for UME Simulation and Simulation-Based Assessment,
Director of the Clinical Skills and Simulation Center and Professor of Medicine

Amy Kline, MA

Associate Director, Center for Learning Excellence

Tanya Morgan, MS

Assistant Director, Center for Learning Excellence

Vicki T. Sapp, PhD

Director for Student Engagement, Diversity and Inclusion
and Assistant Professor

Mary Lawhon Triano, CRNP-C

Director of Academic Success and Assistant Professor



MBS Class of 2020 honorees

Thammy Etienne

Rebecca Kane

Peace Nwankwo

Adedolapo 'Dali' Adekunle

Yasmira Batista

Margaret Erisman

Benjamin Hancock

Brooke Hinton

Amy Hoang

André Johnson

Kyle Kidd

Viraj Kothari

Jessie Louis

Rex Luong

Jada Mack

Christian Pardo

Amy Phou

Jasmine Quintana Avila

Zonia Rueda-Juarez

Abigail Snitzer

Ben Truong

SooYoung VanDeMark

Makeda Warde

Daria Zucchi

MD Class of 2020 honorees

Gina Baiamonte
Kristina Borham
Jessica Briscoe
Christine Chen
Yasmeen Daraz
Matthew Kolbeck
Jenna Littmann
Kwame Quaye
Mike Rotstein
Carol Tang



Honoree reflections

Adedolapo 'Dali' Adekunle, MBS-Online Class of 2020

Native language: Yoruba

A kì íbó sínú omi tán ká máa sá fún òtútù.

"We're all capable of climbing so much higher than we usually permit ourselves to suppose." – Octavia E. Butler

Gina Baiamonte, MD '20

Native language: English

"Thank you to my amazing family and friends whose continuous support has helped me get to where I am today. I couldn't have done this without you all!"

Yasmira Batista, MBS-Scranton Class of 2020

Native language: English

"I'm very thankful for my family, friends, and mentors in California for supporting me through my medical journey! Their love and support will always remind me to remain grounded and steadfast in my faith for what God has called me to become: a physician."

Kristina Borham, MD '20

Native language: English

"The last twelve years working toward this goal have been full of adventures, trials, and an immense amount of learning. I am beyond myself with gratitude for the people who supported me in my pursuits, however varying they may be, and reminding me the value of my village – I love you all."

Christine Chen, MD '20

Native language: Chinese

謝謝爸爸媽媽!

"Thank you to my parents and my medical school friends & family who have supported me and helped me overcome my failures to fulfill my childhood dream."

Honoree reflections *(continued)*

Yasmeen Daraz, MD '20

Native language: Arabic

"حب أشكر ماما وبابا على اللي عملوه وأقول إن من غير كل الدعم، والحب اللي قدموه لي مكنتش هابقي هنا.
بحبكم قوي."

"Dear Mom and Dad, I cannot thank you enough for your sacrifice and handwork to allow me and my sisters to become the successful women we are. We couldn't have done it without you and I love you so much!"

Margaret Erisman, MBS-Scranton Class of 2020

Native language: English

"From the first day to graduation day, thank you to everyone who has been by my side and for believing in me."

Thammy Etienne, MBS-Doylestown Class of 2020

Native language: Kreyòl and French

*Mèsi pè Letènel pou gras ak favè. Mèsi ak tout sila yo kite
kenbenm, sipotem.*

"Thank you to all who contributed to my success. I will always keep you in my heart"

Benjamin Hancock, MBS-Scranton Class of 2020

Native language: English

"I can not express how thankful I am to have had the greatest support structure that anyone could have ever asked for. To Meg, Mom, Dad, and grandparents, I love you."

Brooke Hinton, MBS-Scranton Class of 2020

Native language: English

"Challenges are what make life interesting and overcoming them is what makes life meaningful" – Joshua J. Marine

Amy Hoang, MBS-Scranton Class of 2020

Native language: Vietnamese

"Thank you to my family and friends back at home for always being my #1 supporters."

Honoree reflections *(continued)*

André Johnson, MBS-Scranton Class of 2020

Native language: English

"Thank you for helping shape and direct me towards my dreams and goals. Although this road hasn't been the brightest, I appreciate you pushing me towards reaching my goals."

Rebecca Kane, MBS-Doylestown Class of 2020

Native language: English

"Thank you to all of my friends and family for all of the love and support. I could not have asked for a better support system."

Kyle Kidd, MBS-Scranton Class of 2020

Native language: English

"If it was not for the people before me, I could not be where I am today. Thank you for having laid the foundation where I now build my future."

Matthew Kolbeck, MD '20

Native language: English

"Thank you to my parents and my entire family as well as the faculty and staff at GCSOM who have supported me on this journey. I certainly wouldn't be in this position without your outrageous support and generosity."

Viraj Kothari, MBS-Scranton Class of 2020

Native language: English

"Thank you Mom, Dad, and Vishaal for endlessly supporting me and encouraging me while I pursue my dreams. I'm grateful for you guys, Love you."

Jenna Littmann, MD '20

Native language: English

"Thank you to my parents, siblings, and close friends for all your love and support through this crazy roller coaster we called medical school! I love you all. :)"

Honoree reflections *(continued)*

Jessie Louis, MBS-Scranton Class of 2020

Native language: Haitian Creole

"Chonje lòd mwen te ba ou! Mete gason sou ou! Pa janm dekouraje! Ou pa bezwen tranble, ou pa bezwen pè, paske Seyè a, Bondye ou la, ap toujou kanpe la avèk ou kote ou pase." *Jozye 1:9*

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." – Joshua 1:9

Rex Luong, MBS-Scranton Class of 2020

Native language: Cantonese

"Mom, no one can take your place but you take the place of so many others. Thank you for all that you do."

Jada Mack, MBS-Scranton Class of 2020

Native language: English

"Thank you GOD for all the blessings in my life and giving me the strength to keep going, and I want to thank my family, friends, and faculty/staff for your support. I love you all."

Peace Nwankwo, MBS-Doylestown Class of 2020

Native language: Igbo

Ana'm ekele nne'm na nna'm na ihe nile ha mare mu.

"I am grateful for my parents for giving me the opportunity and the education they never got a chance to have!"

Christian Pardo, MBS-Scranton Class of 2020

Native language: Spanish

Quiero agradecer a todos mis seres queridos. Siempre estan en mi corazon mostrandome su apoyo.

"I want to thank all my loved ones. You are always in my heart showing me your support."

Amy Phou, MBS-Scranton Class of 2020

Native language: English

"Thank you to my siblings, Annie, Lee, and Lin, and my parents who've shown me what resilience means. To Dr Averill, for the support and who pushed me to always be better."

Honoree reflections *(continued)*

Kwame Quaye, MD '20

Native language: English and Twi

"I could not have accomplished this without the support of my fellow M4s and the dedicated faculty and staff at GCSOM and the Central Campus."

Jasmine Quintana Avila, MBS-Scranton Class of 2020

Native language: Spanish

"Quiero agradecer a mis padres por ser bastante valiente para entrar en este país y darme la vida con la cual siempre han soñado. Este diploma es para mis padres, llegaron sin nada y me lo dieron todo."

"I want to thank my parents for being brave enough to come into this country and give me the life they have always dreamed of. This degree is for them; who came here with nothing but gave me everything."

Mike Rotstein, MD '20

Native language: English

"Be the change you wish to see in the world."

Zonia Rueda-Juarez, MBS-Scranton Class of 2020

Native language: Spanish

Quiero agradecer a mi familia y amigos por el amor y el apoyo durante mi educación. Que Dios los bendiga hoy y siempre!

"I would like to thank my family and friends for the love and support throughout my educational career. God bless you always!"

Abigail Snitzer, MBS-Scranton Class of 2020

Native language: English

"I would like to thank my family and friends for providing endless support through out my journey. Especially my nana, you're my rock!"

Honoree reflections *(continued)*

Carol Tang, MD '20

Native language: English and Mandarin

謝謝你們對我的支持。謝謝公公在天上一直保護著我 幫助我回家。

"Thank you to my family and friends who were there through the highs and lows of medical school and the process of getting there. You believed in me when I couldn't and I couldn't appreciate you more."

Ben Truong, MBS-Scranton Class of 2020

Native language: Vietnamese

Con cam on ba me.

"Without the inspiration, drive, and support of my family, I might not be the person I am today."

SooYoung VanDeMark, MBS-Scranton Class of 2020

Native language: English

"...Every member of the family, without realizing it, repeated the same path every day, the same actions, and almost repeated the same words at the same hour." – *One Hundred Years of Solitude* by Gabriel García Márquez, Gregory Rabassa (Translator)

Makeda Warde, MBS-Scranton Class of 2020

Native language: English

"Thank you to my family, friends and of course to my amazing professors."

Daria Zucchi, MBS-Scranton Class of 2020

Native language: English

"Thank you to everyone who believed I could do it and everyone who believed I could not."

Thank you

Center for Learning Excellence

Department of Medical Education

Facilities

IT Services

Marketing and Communications

Media and Public Relations

Office for Student Engagement, Diversity and Inclusion

President's Office

School of Graduate Education

Student Affairs

Special thank you to the
First-Generation and Ally Student Support Committee;
the First-Generation Celebration of Achievement Subcommittee;
and Janis Williams and Sharon Bednarz for going
above and beyond to make this and all events
hosted by Student Affairs a success!

Please note that this event is being recorded.

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