NYCPM
New York College of Podiatric Medicine

104th NYCPM Commencement Confers Doctor of Podiatric Medicine Degrees on 89 Graduates;

Todd J. Albert, MD, of Hospital for Special Surgery and Weill Cornell Medical College Delivers Keynote Address; Albert and Three Trustees Receive Honorary Degrees

Graduates recite the Hippocratic Oath at commencement.

An audience packed with proud families and friends energized the 104th Commencement of the New York College of Podiatric Medicine (NYCPM) on May 27, 2015 at Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center. NYCPM faculty, led by President and CEO Louis L. Levine, presented the diplomas and hooded the graduates.

The Hippocratic Oath was administered by Michael J. Trepal, DPM, FACFAS, VP of Academic Affairs and Dean, and President Levine conferred the degree of doctor of podiatric medicine on the 89 members of the Class of 2015. Fifteen of the graduates were hooded by family members who are doctors themselves; one graduate, Heidi Michelle Godoy, was hooded by her father, mother and sister! Ten students wore the gold cords that signified their membership in the Pi Delta National Honor Society, which recognizes their achievement in academics, research and leadership.

In addition to the graduates who received their DPM degree, two of the candidates for graduation, Endri Durim Afesllari and Yasha Mathur, were candidates for the dual degree program (DPM-MPH) with the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. Two residents – Irene Sueh Jing Loi, DPM and Niral V Patel, DPM – graduated with the added credential in reconstructive rearfoot and ankle surgery, and Caterina Obrador Riera, MSc, received her certification of her preceptorship in podiatric surgery-international studies.

The Ceremony

Michael Rothstein, MSN, President of the Faculty Council, led the faculty, family hooders and Deans into the auditorium, and presented the Seifer Scepter to Dr. Trepal, who led the seniors into Alice Tully Hall with Sara Cathcart (2016), President of the Student Council, to start the proceedings.

Joseph A. Sciandra, DPM ('80) (then) President of the New York State Podiatric Medical Association (NYSPMA), greeted the graduates, and he and Andrew Shapiro, DPM ('86), (then) President-elect of the NYSPMA, bestowed awards from the association that are based on academic excellence.

The keynote speaker was Todd J. Albert, MD, Surgeon-in-Chief and Medical Director at Hospital for Special Surgery as well as Chairman and a Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at Weill Cornell Medical College, who also

Timothy John Miller led commencement attendees in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Kevin T. Jules, DPM ('84), Professor and Chair, Department of Surgical Sciences, hooding Sameep Chandrani.

President and CEO Louis L. Levine, MA, LHD, CSW, hoods Trustee William G. Raisch, BA, MBA, as he receives an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree (LHD).

Jeffrey Cusack, DPM ('81), Assistant Professor of Orthopedics, speaking after he received the Steven Seifer Goodfellow Award.

received the Honorary Doctor of Science degree from President Levine. In addition, Dr. Albert was presented with a portrait of his father, Earl A. Albert, DPM, member of the Class of 1941 at NYCPM; the photo was taken from his yearbook, of which the elder Dr. Albert was editor.

In his speech, Dr. Albert shared lessons he's learned over the course of his distinguished career, lessons that melded "personal humility with great professional resolve." He focused on the beginning that this ceremony represented, and stressed leadership, responsibility, and high moral and ethical standards.
Three Trustees -- Andrew A. Alberti, BA, JD, Jordan Heller, MBA, CPA, CFP, and William G. Raisch, BA, MBA, -- received doctor of humane letters degrees (LHD).

Before all of the graduates received their diplomas and hoods, 11 students received awards that recognized their academic and clinical achievements, their service to College and community, and their surgical skills (several students received multiple awards). In addition, Jeffrey Cusack, DPM ('81), Assistant Professor of Orthopedics at NYCPM, received the Steven Seifer Goodfellow Award, given to a member of the faculty chosen by the faculty.

Concluding remarks were made by Mohammad Z. Rimawi, DPM, who was President of the Class of 2015, and by Class Valedictorian Brian Joseph Tuminski, DPM.

Congratulations to all!

Keynote speaker and honoree Todd J. Albert, MD (left) with Deputy Board Chairman Rock G. Positano DPM ('88), MSc, MPH, prior to the commencement ceremony.

President Levine (center) with Andrew Shapiro, DPM ('86) and Joseph A. Sciandra, DPM ('80).

Faculty Council President and Clinical Instructor Michael Rothstein, MSN, with the Seifer Scepter.