

Live Graduation of Class of 2021 Sparkles at Lincoln Center



(Left to Right) NYCPM's 110th commencement honored (left to right) Joseph C. D'Amico, DPM, John T. Pellicone, MD, and Hussein M. Matari, MD. TCUS/NYMC President Alan Kadish, MD (left) and Metropolitan Hospital CEO Cristina Contreras greeted ceremony attendees.

"I am so glad not to be virtual!" exclaimed honoree **John T. Pellicone, MD**, at the live, outdoors, graduation ceremony of the Class of 2021 at Damrosch Park at Lincoln Center on May 27th. Graduates, faculty and guests at the 110th commencement were bathed in sunshine as they witnessed 72 NYCPM seniors receive their doctorates of podiatric medicine. Last year's graduation, of the Class of 2020, was virtual due to the dictates of the pandemic, which was raging at the time.

After graduates and faculty entered the park and took their seats, **Dean of Student Services and Enrollment Lisa Lee** initiated the proceedings and turned them over to **President and CEO Louis L. Levine, MA, LHD, CSW**, who presided over the ceremony. First, greetings were extended by **Alan Kadish, MD**, President of Touro College and University System and New York Medical College (NYMC), and by **Cristina Contreras, LMSW, MPA, CEO** of NYC Health + Hospitals/Metropolitan Hospital. Afterwards, **Michael J. Trepal, DPM ('81), FACFAS**, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean, conferred honorary degrees upon three distinguished physicians; each of the three received the degree of Doctor of Science, Honoris Causa:

Alumnus **Joseph C. D'Amico, DPM**, coordinates and chairs our Schuster Memorial Biomechanics Seminar, which attracts experts from the world over. Dr. D'Amico is a professor in orthopedics and pediatrics at the College and is a past chair of our division of orthopedic sciences. He has authored many research publications that deal with lower extremity biomechanics and computerized gait examination.

Live Graduation of Class of 2021 Sparkles at Lincoln Center, cont'd



Left: Gathered onstage post-ceremony were (left to right): Mark H. Swartz, MD, FACP; Alan Kadish, MD; Hon. Louis L. Levine, MA, LHD, CSW; Trustee Kathleen Reilly Fallon, DPM, LHD; Trustee Jordan Heller, MBA, CPA, CFA, CFP, LHD.
Right: President Levine presents The Steven Seifer Goodfellow Award to faculty member Susan M. Rice, DPM.

Husein M. Matari, MD, is Chief of Radiology at Metropolitan Hospital, is professor of clinical radiology at New York Medical College, and is an adjunct professor of radiology at NYCPM. **John T. Pellicone, MD** is Chief Medical Officer at Metropolitan. Trained in pulmonary and critical care medicine, Dr. Pellicone is also an assistant professor of medicine at NYMC. Ms. Contreras assisted Dr. Trepal in conferring the honorary degrees upon Drs. Matari and Pellicone.



Graduating residents – (left to right) Daniel Yaeger, Keith Sherman, Samantha Landau – each received certificates from Residency Director Thomas Vitale, DPM (left in photos) and Cristina Contreras (right).

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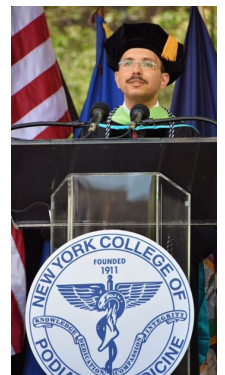


Newly minted DPMs recite the Hippocratic Oath for the first time.

After these honors and formalities, it was the students' turn to shine. Due to COVID, the students receiving awards and honors could only stand in place as their names were called, rather than crossing the stage. At the end of this portion of graduation, a faculty member – **Susan M. Rice, DPM ('88)**, who had just announced the list of student winners -- herself received The Steven Seifer Goodfellow Award, an honor conferred by her fellow faculty members.



Graduates were presented by Dean Lee and DID cross the stage to receive their diplomas from Dean Trepal. The three graduating residents of the NYCPM/Metropolitan residency program received their certificates onstage from Residency Director Thomas Vitale, DPM and Ms. Contreras of Metropolitan Hospital. Afterward, all newly minted doctors of podiatric medicine and faculty stood to recite the Hippocratic Oath, and President Levine officially conferred the degree of doctor of podiatric medicine upon the graduates. 2021 Class President **Ashley Taylor Russo, DPM** offered concluding remarks, as did Class Valedictorian **Beshoy W. Khalil, DPM**. As the graduates found their families and friends after the ceremony, the sun continued to shine on NYCPM's first live graduation after a most difficult year.



Left: 2021 Class President Ashley Taylor Russo, DPM, offered concluding remarks.

Right: 2021 Class Valedictorian Beshoy W. Khalil, DPM, made concluding remarks.