Commencement Ceremony
Class of 2020

Saturday, May 16, 2020

California Northstate University
Elk Grove, California
MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

To the Class of 2020,

Congratulations graduates! You have accomplished so much! It has been a long hard road, but you have achieved your goal, passed all of your exams, and now it is time to celebrate your success. Many doors will now open for you as a result of all you have accomplished. Do not hesitate to take that leap just as you took the leap to join California Northstate University just a few short years ago. You should feel very proud of all you have done to reach this point in your life. Through dedication, commitment, and sacrifice, you are now among the best of the best. But remember, graduation is not the end of your learning but rather the start of the next chapter of your already extraordinary life. Continue to set high goals for yourself because you know that you can achieve them, and don’t stop until you do. Each and every one of you will go on, become successful, and represent the University in many positive ways. Look back fondly on your CNU years and look forward with hope for a bright and healthy future. There will always be setbacks and times that things don’t work out perfectly but don’t be discouraged and don’t give in. This is just part of the experience!

As members of the University Board of Trustees, we are very proud of all of our graduates and the Class of 2020 will certainly be a memorable one thanks to COVID-19. It is our honor to share in this very important moment in your life today. May your career bring you much happiness!

Thank you,
The Board of Trustees
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Candidates for the Doctorate of Pharmacy,

I am equally proud and pleased that each and every one of you selected California Northstate University College of Pharmacy four years ago to pursue your educational goal of becoming a pharmacist. Witnessing your intellectual, social, and professional growth through your individual dedication and teamwork collaborations is a joy for the founding members of the University, who established the College in 2008.

As you prepare for the final steps in earning your professional degree and your acceptance into the pharmacy profession, I invite you to reflect upon the unrelenting effort and the devoted time expended by the large number of committed preceptors, faculty, staff and administrators who have played a role in your development. We collectively wish each of you success in your professional and personal endeavors.

I would like to encourage each of you to continue to invest in yourself and the profession of pharmacy by becoming a lifelong learner and advancing the practice of pharmacy through the innovative provision of care services, along with teaching, mentoring, and research.

You have brought great honor to yourself and those who have supported you during your journey towards earning the Doctor of Pharmacy degree.

Congratulations!

Sincerely,

Alvin Cheung, PharmD, MHSA
California Northstate University President
MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Dear CNUCOP Class of 2020 Graduates,

On behalf of the California Northstate University College of Pharmacy (CNUCOP) faculty, staff and students, I extend sincere congratulations from our CNUCOP family to you and your family! Thank you for embarking on this journey with us four years ago and achieving this milestone for your profession and community.

Regardless of your career pathway or life plan, I strongly encourage our graduates to say thank you to all of your classmates and members of the CNUCOP family for being there with you for the last four years. Please stay connected with your classmates and CNUCOP family so we can continue cheering for you and growing with you. I also want to give thanks to all the family of our graduates for your unreserved love, support, trust and sacrifice during this extremely challenging, but rewarding journey. In return, now our graduates are ready to give back and serve their family, the community and the profession.

The Class of 2020 is a strong cohort embracing each challenge to build opportunity, and celebrate everyone’s achievements and pride with a team effort! Your countless awards in research, community services, clinical skill competitions, leadership and public services have created your own CNUCOP Class of 2020 legacy. We are so honored to be colleagues with you as a future pharmacist, pharmaceutical researcher, educator, business owner, entrepreneur, administrator, and a forever CNUCOP family member. We are so proud of each graduate in the Class of 2020. What you have achieved is in the history of CNUCOP, and I am very confident that the best is yet to come!

CNUCOP trains and educates every graduate to enjoy pharmacy with pride and joy, and practice pharmacy with compassion, honesty and integrity. Please be bold to take initiatives to challenge and change the roadblocks in our profession and in the community. Please be ready to lead the transformation of pharmacy practice in this era of technology and innovation. Life is never fair for those who just complain. Opportunities always belong to those who are prepared to adapt, change, build and create. Congratulations! Stay in touch!

Xiaodong Feng, PhD, PharmD
Dean and Professor
I am honored to serve as the keynote speaker for the Class of 2020 California Northstate University College of Pharmacy graduation ceremony. Obviously, it would have been a lot nicer to be there in person to celebrate such an important milestone in your journey to becoming pharmacists. Unfortunately, this pandemic has forced all of us to change the way we live, work, and celebrate milestones in our lives.

COVID 19 has brought many changes to our profession already. With change, comes many opportunities. Don’t be scared to seek out and take opportunities that may not be ideal in the short term. Those “not ideal” opportunities can turn into great career building experiences. Be humble, be patient, don’t prejudge talent, and treat patients and employees the way you want to be treated. Be a leader!

I would like to thank each and every one of the California Northstate College of Pharmacy Class of 2020 graduates. I truly wish you good luck in life and your careers.
Hello Graduates, Faculty, Family and Friends,

I am honored to write this message for you to commemorate the memories and accomplishments of our great class. Let me start off by saying congratulations Class of 2020!

Today you are officially graduates, alumni of California Northstate University College of Pharmacy. We did it! The countless hours of studying, lack of sleep, and weekends spent at the library have allowed us to finally reach the goal we set for ourselves four years ago. Graduating from a doctorate program is quite the accomplishment, and you should be proud of yourself. However, you did not get here on your own. Whether it was your spouse, partner, children, pets or friends, you had help getting here. Today, take the time to celebrate your achievement with those closest to you. Let them know how important they are not to only your success here at CNU but also to shaping the person you are now.

Today we can finally say that we’ve earned a piece of paper worth six figures that says we are a Doctor of Pharmacy on it. That piece of paper, however, is not the only thing we are leaving with. Throughout our four years at CNU, we have developed close bonds that will last a lifetime. We’ve traveled together to conferences, competed in different competitions and ran many fundraisers, organizations, and events. We have provided excellent patient care as pharmacist interns and developed real world skills at our rotations. All of which have prepared us for the future, which is now.

Today is a day of celebration but it's also the beginning of our careers. With our degree, we have been entrusted a great power to help our patients and with great power comes great responsibility. Your service is extremely valuable to the healthcare profession, especially in times like this. Go out there and make a difference. Congratulations again Class of 2020, and good luck!
Dear Friends and Family, Ladies and Gentlemen, Administrators and Professors, and my fellow Class of 2020,

I want to start by taking a moment to thank all of you that are joining us today and for giving me the opportunity to speak to you on this special occasion. It has been a long journey and we couldn’t have made it this far without each and every one of your support and guidance. You all deserve to be recognized for the positive impact that you have made in our success. To the Class of 2020, we made it!

I want to reflect on this last year, which most of us can agree was a rollercoaster. Transitioning from a classroom setting to APPEs and then abruptly dealing with the ongoing pandemic has been a challenge for all and I'm proud that we showed resilience to overcome all of these obstacles. In light of this, there were some unique lessons we’ve learned. A quote that sums it up well is:

“The razor blade may be sharp but it can’t cut a tree; the axe may be strong but it can’t cut hair. Everyone is important according to his/her own unique purpose... never look down on anyone unless you are admiring their shoes...”

-Unknown Author

No matter what profession or what area of pharmacy we wish to pursue, remember to continue with humility, and dignity while providing excellent patient care. Remember, that all pharmacists are important and are an essential part of the healthcare system, but we are never alone. Appreciate those around you and recognize each individual’s contribution and importance. Lastly, recognize that we all have our respective strengths and weaknesses, but there is never a wrong time to ask for help or offer a lending hand, as TBL has taught us.

My fellow Class of 2020, don’t think of this as a good-bye, but think of it as a see you later. When people say pharmacy is a small world, there is significant truth to that statement. Although we may all go our separate ways geographically, this field of work, this school, this graduating class will always tie us together. I wish you all the very best. Thank you for the four wonderful years and countless memories, and here is to the next chapter of our lives. Congrats everyone!
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MESSAGE FROM YOUR VALEDICTORIAN

Britney Satow, PharmD
Class of 2020

Congratulations Class of 2020! I am honored to be speaking to you today as one of your valedictorians. I know that it is bittersweet that we were not able to be together in these final few weeks and on our graduation day but we will always be connected through CNU (after all, pharmacy is a small world). Our class will be one of distinction as many of us are moving on to residencies and fellowships and we are graduating in a time of transition for the healthcare field. When we started pharmacy school four years ago, we would have never anticipated that this would be the environment in which we would be entering the pharmacy profession. Nevertheless, we’ll enter our field poised to join the front line with other healthcare professionals.

We are ready to play an integral role in the patient care process and to be a part of the healthcare team. At CNU, we were given the opportunity to work in teams everyday and our teamwork is what makes us unique. Our professors have prepared us to take care of our patients and team based learning has helped us to adapt to working with others toward common goals. I have always believed that everything can be made into a learning experience and over the past four years we have had every opportunity to grow to represent our profession. Our class strives to be leaders in pharmacy and our hard work is rightfully recognized. I personally could not have accomplished all that I have without the support of my family, the mentors I have had at CNU and my first team, team 16.

Every teammate has contributed to our communication skills; every preceptor has instilled their passion, and each one of us has grown into professional and compassionate pharmacists. We are ready to be medication experts and to advocate for our patients.

Becoming a pharmacist has been our goal for so long, and as we come to the end of this chapter, I ask you to continue to hold onto the determination that we had at the start of this journey. To quote C.S. Lewis, “You are never too old to set another goal, or to dream a new dream.” Congratulations again Class of 2020 and continue to impact the future of pharmacy!
Commcencement Ceremony

PRESIDING

Alvin Cheung, PharmD, MHSA
President

ACADEMIC PROCESSION

Grand Marshal
Leo Fitpatrick, PhD
Professor of Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Sciences

WELCOME FROM THE UNIVERSITY

Alvin Cheung, PharmD, MHSA
President

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Steve Ly, Mayor
City of Elk Grove

GREETINGS FROM THE COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

Xiaodong Feng, PhD, PharmD
Vice President of Admissions and Student Services
College of Pharmacy, Dean

COMMENCEMENT KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Anthony Perez, PharmD
Regional Healthcare Director
Walgreens
INTRODUCTION OF VALEDICTORIANS

Tiffany-Jade Kreys, PharmD, BCPP
Assistant Dean of Student Affairs & Admissions

VALEDICTORIAN ADDRESS

Ella Mokrushin, Class of 2020
Valedictorian

Parwinder Purewal, Class of 2020
Valedictorian

Britney Satow, Class of 2020
Valedictorian

CONFERRING OF DEGREES

Alvin Cheung, PharmD, MHSA
President

INTRODUCTION OF GRADUATES

Tiffany-Jade Kreys, PharmD, BCPP
Assistant Dean of Student Affairs & Admissions

OATH OF A PHARMACIST

Doris Manford, PharmD, MPH, BCPS, APh
Clinical Pharmacist
Department of Pharmacy
Dignity Health Mercy San Juan Medical Center
Alumnus, Class of 2014
Andrew Huynh
Patrick Huynh
Shant Israelyan
Huzefa Jabbar
Paniz Jenabzadeh
Andy Soohyung Jeong
Kayla Kakutani
Tejpal Kang
Laleh Karimi
Harpreet Kaur
Mankushpreet Kaur
Ravneet Kaur
Luel Kebede
Michael Kent
Raheleh Khonsari
Charlie Kim
Sarah Kim
Yesayi Kirakosyan
Adarsh Konda
Pisiwat Kongsomboonvech
Kimberly Lam
Lynn Le
Tiana Le
Tin Le
Truc Le
Christopher Lee
Houa Lee
Mayzhong Lee
Melisa Lelham
Kwan Yi Lo
Yochabel Loyola
Oanh Ma
Farah Madha
Andrew Mallen
Trisha Minoza
Commencement Ceremony  
CLASS OF 2020

Ella Mokrushin
Edit Muradyan
Annett Nazaryan
Diep Nguyen
Elizabeth Nguyen
Khai Nguyen
Khoa Nguyen
Thao Nguyen
Viet Nguyen
Angela Carla Nicdao
Chikere Nwokeji
DeAndrea Owens
Trung Pham
Vivia Phu
Parwinder Purewal
Allan Quach
Fantasia Rodriguez
Daina Saati
Anhao Sam
Britney Satow
Ryan Sauer
Urvashi Sharma
Manjinder Singh
Jerome Soriano
Christina Stephenson
Hsing Ta Sung
Maria Tacsion
Lotus Tan
Bichtien Thach
Hannah Tran
Ruthy Tran
David Trinh
Julia Truong
Vinhly Truong

Vivian Truong
Ger Vang
Janine Villaruz
Anthony Vuong
Alexandria Waurig
Fengjia Wen
Tiffany Wong
Michael Wu
Yihan Yan
Lee Vong Yang
Rebecca Yang
Shereen Zada
Fang Zhao
Commencement Ceremony

DOCTOR OF PHARMACY

ACADEMIC HONORS

Summa Cum Laude

Gurpreet Bains
Brian Chung
*Chuong Duong
Dorothy Ha
Andrew Huynh
Paniz Jenabzadeh
Harpreet Kaur
Mankushpreet Kaur
Michael Kent
Yesayi Kirakosyan
Adarsh Konda
Kimberly Lam
Lynn Le
Tin V Le
Oanh Ma
*Ella Mokrushin
Edit Muradyan
Khai Nguyen
*Parwinder Purewal
*Britney Satow
Christina Stephenson
Ruthy Tran
Fengjia Wen

*Valedictorian
Commencement Ceremony

DOCTOR OF PHARMACY
ACADEMIC HONORS

Magna Cum Laude

Alexa Ang
Richard Chung
Anh Hoang Dam
Alan Do
Kai Fong
Ravneet Kaur
Truc Le
Trisha Minoza
Diep Nguyen
Elizabeth Nguyen
Chikere Nwokeji
Fantasia Rodriguez
Urvashi Sharma
Hannah Tran
Rebecca Yang
Commencement Ceremony

DOCTOR OF PHARMACY
ACADEMIC HONORS

Cum Laude

Kyle Bakkie
Jeffrey Chan
Bixian Chen
Aya Elhage
Jonathan Gonzalez
Devon Hood
Shant Israelyan
Huzefa Jabbar
Charlie Kim
Sarah Kim
Pisiwat Kongsomboonvech
Tiana Le
Kwan Lo
Annett Nazaryan
Angela Carla Nicdao
Vivia Phu
Anhao Sam
Ryan Sauer
Manjinder Singh
Hsing Sung
Ger Vang
Tiffany Wong
Michael Wu
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Ivan Petzelka, PharmD, JD, MBA
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Simeon Kotchoni, PhD, MS
Ashim Malhotra, PharmBS, MS, PhD
Islam Mohamed, PharmBS, MS, PhD
Fitsum F. Sahle, PhD
Ruth Vinall, PhD
Hongbin Wang, PharmBS, MS, PhD
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Thank you,
The Board of Trustees
Oath of a Pharmacist

"I promise to devote myself to a lifetime of service to others through the profession of pharmacy. In fulfilling this vow:

I will consider the welfare of humanity and relief of suffering my primary concerns.

I will apply my knowledge, experience, and skills to the best of my ability to assure optimal outcomes for my patients.

I will respect and protect all personal and health information entrusted to me.

I will accept the lifelong obligation to improve my professional knowledge and competence.

I will hold myself and my colleagues to the highest principles of our profession’s moral, ethical and legal conduct.

I will embrace and advocate changes that improve patient care.

I will utilize my knowledge, skills, experiences, and values to prepare the next generation of pharmacists.

I take these vows voluntarily with the full realization of the responsibility with which I am entrusted by the public."

Reference: American Pharmacist Association
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