

UConn

SCHOOLS OF MEDICINE AND DENTAL MEDICINE

The Joseph M. Healey, Jr. 2020 Convocation

FOR THE MEDICAL & DENTAL CLASSES OF 2024

August 13, 2020
8:00 a.m.
Virtual Ceremony



The Convocation Themes

Convocation honors the entering classes and has been held at the beginning of each academic year since 1985. The dual theme of convocation is the importance of viewing medicine and dentistry as vocations of service to others, and the need for physicians and dentists to maintain interest and activity beyond the health care sciences to assure a sense of balance and perspective in their personal and professional lives.

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The Joseph M. Healey, Jr. Convocation for the Medical and Dental Classes of 2024

Master of Ceremonies

Ms. Miriam Sedrak, M'22
MDSG Immediate Past President

Welcome

Administration

Dr. Bruce T. Liang
Dean, School of Medicine
Dr. Steven Lepowsky
Interim Dean, School of Dental Medicine

Faculty

Dr. Christy Lottinger
Assistant Professor, Division of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
2020 Kaiser Permanente Teaching Award Winner

Musical Interlude

Mr. Frank Amaefuna D'23
"Lift Every Voice and Sing"
by James Weldon and John Rosamond Johnson

Student Address

Mr. Christopher Bessette M'23
MDSG President 2020-2021

Featured Speaker

Dr. David Lam
School of Medicine
Class of 2018

Musical Interlude

Mr. Frank Amaefuna D'23
"Amazing Grace"
by John Newton

David Lam, M.D.
Class of 2018
School of Medicine



David C. Lam, M.D. is a third year Anesthesiology resident at Yale New Haven Hospital and is a member of the UConn School of Medicine Alumni Committee.

Dr. Lam first began his career in medicine as an Emergency Department Technical Associate at Yale New Haven Hospital in high school. During his undergraduate education at Washington University in St. Louis, David was on a pre-law track with a major in political science and minor in public health, while working as an intern for a state congressman. After graduating, he attended the University of Connecticut's Post-Baccalaureate program with the intention of pursuing a career in medicine. In medical school, Dr. Lam acted as a student representative for the Medicine Clerkship Committee, as well as the Vice President of the UConn Medical and Dental Student Government.

A Connecticut native, David enjoys the shoreline beaches and trying the variety of breweries and restaurants in the area during his free time. To keep it balanced, he continues to remain active by playing squash, golf, and boxing with friends and colleagues. Upon the completion of residency, he hopes to pursue a fellowship in either Cardiothoracic Anesthesiology or Pain Medicine.

Joseph M. Healey, Jr., J.D. (1947-1993)

When Joseph Healey died in 1993, a former medical student said that he couldn't quite picture the School of Medicine without him, a sentiment shared universally by colleagues and two decades of students.

Professor Healey joined the faculty of the School of Medicine in 1975 in the Division of Humanistic Studies in Medicine. His official role was to teach students how law and medicine interact and to lend his legal knowledge to discussions of social policy, including patient rights, the doctor-patient relationship, malpractice, and end-of-life issues.



His influence quickly extended far beyond his "official" role. He soon was called "Jay" by colleagues and students who flocked to discuss everything from issues facing health-care providers to baseball, one of his passions.

Soon after his arrival at the Health Center, Professor Healey described his position in this way: "My job is not to give the answers, but to ask the difficult questions."

He asked these questions constantly in the first-year course, "Legal and Ethical Aspects of Medicine and Dentistry," which he established. Students responded enthusiastically to his probing, but respectful, questioning of their views. Six classes awarded him certificates for outstanding teaching. In 1980 he won the coveted Loeser Award for teaching excellence, awarded by the second-year class. Another Loeser Award was given to him posthumously.

Fellow faculty members also responded to his warmth and intelligence. They elected him chairman of the faculty council from 1979 to 1981, a tribute to a lawyer from physicians and dentists.

At the 1988 Commencement, Jay offered the following thoughts. They serve as fitting remarks for welcoming classes today: "In the quiet moments, when we can see through our pretensions and be most honest with ourselves, we recognize the debts we owe to others. We affirm, to paraphrase Robert Coles, the importance of making the effort to live our lives uphill, against the discouragements around us, in such a way as to explore the mysteries, to take on the tragedies, the evils, the joys of living, in such a way as to reduce the pain and spare each other at least some of life's nonsense. These are the gifts to others which truly enhance our own lives."

"...you will have many opportunities to make such gifts, and such generosity should always be at the core of your vision...It is no false sense of humility which results in the recognition of how much we owe each other and how great is our obligation to give in return for all that has been given to us."



Past Student Speakers



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|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Benjamin Abt | David Carter | Kathaleen Gravel | Donna Randall |
| Selorm Adzaku | Mary Cearley | Christopher Hanrahan | Kristen Russomanno |
| Ami Amini | Leila Chahine | Alaina Kessler | Gregory Rutkowski |
| Ashley Amini | Kevin Clark | Peter Khang | Eric Sassu |
| Mark Anestis | Joy Cocchiola | Todd Kiskaddon | Kierstin Savastano |
| Stefanie Aquilina | Adam Cohen | Sharon Langshur | Rachel Schultz |
| Greg Armstrong | David Cordes | Meg McNamara | Miriam Sedrak |
| Linda Arnold | Carmelina D'Arro | Mirna Mohanraj | Christine Shapter |
| Aaron Baggish | Susan Diaz | Uju Momah | Perry Smith |
| Adam Bartholomeo | Sarah Dry | Christopher Morosky | Dave Sobanski |
| Cheyenne Beach | Cathy Dukasz | Kathleen N. Mueller | Tarryn Strating |
| Miriam Bergman | Kirsten Ek | John Nano | Alexis Wasserman |
| Carl Berliner | David Fantarella | Timothy O'Brien | Kathleen White |
| Jeffrey Blasius | Jonathan Feldman | Joshua Osborne | Kathryn Wilhelms |
| Sarah Jane Borch | Sarah Fleet | Adrian Pacheco | Emily Wilkins |
| Lisa Brailey | Colleen Fogarty | Kelly Palchik | David Woods |
| Vernon Burke | Cavelle Gallant | Patrick Pollak | Michael Woods |
| Brendan Campbell | Christopher Gibson | Andrew Putnam | |

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Musical Selections

Lift Every Voice and Sing

written as a poem
by NAACP leader
James Weldon Johnson
(1871-1938)
and then set to music
by his brother
John Rosamond Johnson
(1873-1954)
in 1899.

Amazing Grace

written in 1772
by
English poet
and
Anglican clergyman
John Newton