

7TH ANNUAL CEREMONY

Commencement

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**MARSHALL B.
KETCHUM
UNIVERSITY**

College of Pharmacy

Friday, May 22nd, 2026 | 10:00 A.M.





ABOUT MARSHALL B. KETCHUM UNIVERSITY

In 1904, Dr. Marshall B. Ketchum, a pharmacist and physician began a school in Los Angeles, California with the humble mission of teaching students how to refract and fit glasses to help people see better. His commitment to compassion, innovation and excellence set the highest standards for the field. With a deep responsibility to students, patients and the community, the University’s vital role in shaping the best and brightest minds in health care lives on.

In 2009, under the leadership of President Kevin L. Alexander, the campus responded to the changing face of health care with the decision to add other health care programs. To accommodate new programs, the University was established in 2013, and named after Marshall B. Ketchum. The result is a model institution immersing students in an interprofessional environment and expecting the highest quality of care and discovery from every student who passes through our doors.

Today, Marshall B. Ketchum University is leading a momentous change in health care education. Each student optometrist, PA or pharmacist has the ability and opportunity and work together to positively affect the lives of those seeking health care. In this way, our institution remains dedicated to providing only the highest level of education preparing students for the interprofessional delivery of health care.

To the College of Pharmacy Class of 2026, welcome to your new opportunity to contribute as health care providers, alumni mentors and proud believers in the value of your Marshall B. Ketchum University education.

The future is expecting you.

Board of Trustees

Ray M. Baker, MD, *Chair*
 Wynette C. Augustine, OD, ‘84
 Cindy Siu Blancq, OD, ‘00
 Gaye Breyman, LLD
 Gene Calkins, OD, ‘68, JD
 Lynn Caffrey Gabriel, OD, ‘78

David K. Gibson
 Hilary Hawthorne, OD
 Edward Hernandez, OD
 Benjamin Kaska, MPAP
 Dawn M. Miller, OD, ‘83
 Patricia Nguyen, PharmD, MBA, MHA

Marshall B. Ketchum University

Julie A. Schornack, OD, MEd
University President

College of Pharmacy

Gail Orum-Alexander, PharmD, EdD
Dean



ORDER *of* EXERCISE

- 1 **PRELUDE**
- 2 **PROCESSIONAL**
Pomp and Circumstance
Sir Edward Elgar
- 3 **WELCOME**
Julie A. Schornack, OD, MEd
President of the University, Presiding Official
- 4 **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
Jaswinder Gill
Class President
- 5 **INTRODUCTIONS AND CONGRATULATIONS**
President Julie A. Schornack

Ray M. Baker, MD
MBKU Board Chair
- 6 **THE COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS**
Kevin Komoto, PharmD, MBA
- 7 **CONFERRING OF THE PROFESSOR EMERITUS TITLE**
President Julie A. Schornack
Javad Tafreshi, PharmD, BCPS, BCCP, FAHA, APP
- 8 **RECOGNITION OF HONOR RECIPIENTS**
Gail Orum-Alexander, PharmD, EdD
Dean
Salutatorian: Ogechukwu Nzeogu
- 9 **VALEDICTORIAN ADDRESS**
Chei Wei Miao
- 10 **GRADUATION HONORS**
Dean Gail Orum-Alexander
- 11 **PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR THE DOCTOR OF PHARMACY DEGREE**
Tiffany Khieu, PharmD, '21
Assistant Professor
- 12 **CONFERRING OF THE DOCTOR OF PHARMACY DEGREE**
President Julie A. Schornack
- 13 **ADMINISTRATION OF THE OATH OF A PHARMACIST**
Javad Tafreshi, PharmD, BCPS, BCCP, FAHA, APP
Professor Emeritus

Doctor of Pharmacy degree recipients are requested to stand and take the pledge by reading aloud, with Dr. Javad Tafreshi, "Oath of a Pharmacist." Members of the audience holding the Doctor of Pharmacy degree are invited to stand and take this opportunity to reaffirm "Oath of a Pharmacist" together with today's degree recipients. The oath is located on the back cover of today's program.
- 14 **REMARKS TO GRADUATES**
President Julie A. Schornack
- 15 **RECESSIONAL**
The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba
George Frideric Handel

KEVIN KOMOTO, PHARMD, MBA



Dr. Kevin Komoto is a second-generation pharmacist, serving as the Chief Operating Officer of Komoto Healthcare. The organization started as a small community pharmacy in Delano, California in 1981. Founder, Brian Komoto, PharmD, started the pharmacy with the hopes of applying novel interdisciplinary care models to the community setting. From its early days, the company has looked for novel ways to apply pharmacy practice to address issues that patients faced with accessing affordable care and medications. Today, Komoto Healthcare includes community and specialty pharmacy, diabetes management, hospital readmission prevention programs, and a non-profit foundation which aims to improve access to affordable medications. Dr. Komoto oversees the development, design, and implementation of these pharmacy programs.









Dr. Komoto earned his bachelor's degree from the University of California, Berkeley prior completing his doctorate in pharmacy and master's in business administration from the University of the Pacific. He then completed a residency in contract negotiation and supply chain management through Kaiser Permanente. Dr. Komoto is the immediate past president of the California Pharmacists Association. Through the association and collaborations with health plans and health systems, Dr. Komoto advocates for pharmacy practice as a solution to address healthcare disparities, improve health outcomes, and reduce overall healthcare costs. In his free time, he enjoys mentoring future pharmacists and spending time with his family.

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CANDIDATES

FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHARMACY

Pantea Bakhtipour	Darryl Brel Leunou Ngadjou
Selasie Amewusika de-Souza	Thanh Ngo
Elika Ghoreishi	Ogechukwu Nzeogu 
Suzana Ghukasyan	Joan Taiwo Oyelakin
Jaswinder Gill	Tuyet Nhi Pham
You Jin Han	Audrey Pham
Adam Ibrahim	Alison Phasakda 
Vian Kussai Khoury	Alai Wasil Qudus 
Ellie Kosaka	Alexus Reyes
Vivian Tran Le	Susanna Kanoyan
Giovanni Leon 	Katrina Kha Han Thoi 
Richard Liou	Anthony Vu 
Chei Wei Miao 	Zenab Zafar 

 Summa Cum Laude 3.80 – 4.00

 Magna Cum Laude 3.60 – 3.78

 Cum Laude 3.40 – 3.59

**JAVAD TAFRESHI, PHARM.D.,
BCPS, BCCP, FAHA, APP**



Professor Emeritus

Dr. Javad Tafreshi served as Professor and Executive Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at MBKU College of Pharmacy until January 2026. After earning his Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) from the University of Southern California, he completed a Pharmacy Practice Residency (PGY-1) at Tucson Medical Center and a Cardiology Specialized Pharmacy Residency Program (PGY-2) at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. Dr. Tafreshi also completed two visiting fellowships – Cardiovascular/Pharmacokinetics Fellowship Program at the University of Southern California and a Heart Failure Fellowship Program at the University of Utah. Dr. Tafreshi holds Board of Pharmacy Specialties Certification in Pharmacotherapy and

Cardiology Pharmacy. He also maintains his status as an Advanced Pharmacist Practitioner (APP) in California. In 2011, Dr. Tafreshi was elected as a Fellow of the American Heart Association (FAHA), an honor bestowed upon those who have made significant contributions to cardiovascular medicine.

Prior to arriving at MBKU, Dr. Tafreshi contributed to pharmacy education across the country as a tenured faculty member at University of Louisiana- Monroe, Midwestern University, and Loma Linda University, School of Pharmacy. With respect to research and scholarship, Dr. Tafreshi has twenty-six peer-reviewed publications, more than fifty abstracts and posters, and several textbook chapters and other publications. Dr. Tafreshi has also contributed to clinical pharmacy practice through dozens of continuing pharmacy education sessions.

Dr. Tafreshi's contributions as an academic administrator have led to curricular development and implementation, operationalization of academic policies, and accreditation compliance. Students have recognized Dr. Tafreshi through a variety of teaching awards. Finally, Dr. Tafreshi's influence as an academic mentor will resonate for years to come through the careers of pharmacists and pharmacy faculty members alike.

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Congratulations to



The Class of 2026

ACADEMIC
REGALIA



The academic gowns that you see today represent a tradition that we inherited from the universities of the Middle Ages. Those institutions were founded by the church; and the students, being clerics, were obliged to wear their clerical gowns and caps at all times. Through the ages, these regalia were altered to accommodate both fashion and fancy.

In the United States, academic gowns are usually black, but the way they are worn and their cut distinguishes the wearer's academic degree. The bachelor's gown is worn closed; the master's and doctor's gown may be worn open or closed. Also, the sleeves of the gowns are shaped differently according to the level of degree: a bachelor's gown has long, pointed sleeves; a master's gown has oblong sleeves that are square in the back and have an arc cut away in the front; and a doctor's gown has bell-shaped sleeves. In addition, velvet panels and chevrons, either in black or the color representing the academic discipline, distinguish doctoral gowns.

The mortarboards or tams for all degree holders are black. The tassels attached to the mortarboards can be black, the color that the individual academic disciplines choose to represent their field, or in the case of faculty, gold. The hood is the most outstanding and colorful feature of the regalia. It is lined with the colors of the institution from which the wearers received their degrees. Its size and shape indicate the wearer's degree; and its collar is the color of the academic discipline.

Kelly green is the color used by PA. Optometry wears seafoam green. Pharmacy uses olive green. The colors are used for both the tassel and the velvet trim on the hood. The purple and gold satin lining of the hood represents the traditional colors of Marshall B. Ketchum University.

Along with the degree holder being identified by gown style and hood color, the holder is further identified by his place in the procession. Those having the highest faculty seniority are always positioned at the end of the processional.

UNIVERSITY MACE

Colleges and universities often employ a "mace" to connect the institution's customs with the best traditions of higher education dating to the first universities founded during the Middle Ages. A mace symbolizes authority, learning and scholarship, history, reputation and values. It suggests commemoration, elegance, honor, pageantry, purpose, quality, solemnity, stability and continuity.

MARSHALL B. KETCHUM UNIVERSITY

EMERITI & FACULTY

PRESIDENT EMERITI

Marshall B. Ketchum, MD | 1920
*Los Angeles Medical School of Ophthalmology
and Optometry*

Ernest A. Hutchinson, OptD, 1913, DOS | 1952
Los Angeles College of Optometry

Richard L. Hopping, OD, DOS, DSc | 1997
Southern California College of Optometry

Lesley L. Walls, OD, MD, DOS | 2008
Southern California College of Optometry

Kevin L. Alexander, OD, PhD | 2022
Marshall B. Ketchum University

PROVOST EMERITUS

Morris S. Berman, OD, MS | 2016
Marshall B. Ketchum University

VICE PRESIDENT EMERITI

William E. Heaton Jr. | 2012
Southern California College of Optometry

Lorraine, I. Voorhees, OD, '71, MS | 2016
Marshall B. Ketchum University

DEAN EMERITUS

Edward Fisher, PhD, RPh | 2022
College of Pharmacy

DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORS EMERITI

Charles A. Abel, OD, '49 | 1982
Southern California College of Optometry

James Bailey, OD, PhD | 2018
Southern California College of Optometry

Timothy Edrington, OD, MS | 2020
Southern California College of Optometry

John R. Griffin, OD, MSEd | 2002
Southern California College of Optometry

Harue J. Marsden, OD, MS, '87 | 2017
Southern California College of Optometry

Jerry R. Paugh, OD, PhD | 2024
Southern California College of Optometry

William H. Ridder, III, OD, PhD | 2025
Southern California College of Optometry

Michael W. Rouse, OD, MSEd | 2009
Southern California College of Optometry

PROFESSORS EMERITI

Morris Applebaum, OD, '68 | 1998
Southern California College of Optometry

Dorothy A. Bergin, OD, '45, MSEd | 1981
Southern California College of Optometry

Harry W. Bloom, OD, '49, DOS | 1969
Los Angeles College of Optometry

David C. Bright, OD, '76 | 2017
Southern California College of Optometry

William N. Brisbane, OD, '52 | 1991
Southern California College of Optometry

Kenneth E. Brookman, OD, '73, PhD, MPH | 2016
Southern California College of Optometry

Elizabeth E. Caloroso, OD, MOpt | 1998
Southern California College of Optometry

Freddy W. L. Chang, OD, PhD | 2002
Southern California College of Optometry

Walter Wm. Chase, OD, MS | 2004
Southern California College of Optometry

Allan N. Fried, OD | 1995
Southern California College of Optometry

James R. Gregg, OD, '48, DOS | 1984
Southern California College of Optometry

Wayne W. Hoeft, OD, '59 | 2000
Southern California College of Optometry

Siret D. Jaanus, PhD, LHD | 1992
Southern California College of Optometry

David G. Kirschen, OD, PhD | 2009
Southern California College of Optometry

James O. LaMotte, PhD, OD | 2022
Southern California College of Optometry

Charles B. Margach, OD, MS | 1987
Southern California College of Optometry

Arthur W. Nye, PhD | 1962
Los Angeles College of Optometry

Leslie W. Scown, OD, 1921 | 1954
Los Angeles College of Optometry

David P. Sendrowski, OD | 2025
Southern California College of Optometry

Frank W. Weymouth, PhD | 1961
Los Angeles College of Optometry

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR EMERITI

Tony Carnevali, OD, '75 | 2020
Southern California College of Optometry

Solomon I. Chattel, OD, '59 | 1996
Southern California College of Optometry

George W. Comer, OD, MBA | 2022
Southern California College of Optometry

Catherine L. Heyman, OD, '93 | 2023
Southern California College of Optometry

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

PROFESSOR

Gail Orum-Alexander,
PharmD, EdD
Jozef Stec, MSc, PhD
Rajesh Vadlapatla, PhD

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

Diana Cao, PharmD
Young Cho, PhD
Joshua Garcia, PharmD
Henry Hua, PhD
Ajoy Koomer, PhD, EMBA
Geneene Salman, PharmD

Amir Nasrolahi Shirazi, PhD,
PharmD
Monica Trivedi, PharmD
Joycelyn Yamzon, PharmD

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Farideh Amirrad, MD, MS,
PhD

Michael Beshir, PharmD
Tiffany Khieu, PharmD, '21
Lisa Kipper, PharmD
Miriam Morkos, PharmD, '20
Diana Roman, PharmD
Amanda Tran, PharmD
Judy Weng, PhD, PharmD

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY

PROFESSOR

Angela M. Chen, OD, MS
Susan A. Cotter, OD, MS
Jason S. Ng, OD, '03, PhD
John H. Nishimoto, OD, '87, MBA
Heidi Wagner, OD, MPH
Patrick D. Yoshinaga, OD, '83, MPH

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

Elaine Chen, OD
Raymond H. Chu, OD, MS
Kristine Huang, OD, MPH
Dawn Y. Lam, MS, OD, '04
Rachelle Lin, OD, MS
Reena Patel, OD, '09
Mark H. Sawamura, OD, '91
Lawrence R. Stark, PhD
Judy W. H. Tong, OD, '91
Julie Tyler, OD

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Shora Ansari, OD, '11
Surbhi Bansal, OD
Steven Chang, OD
Anne Arah Cho, OD, '23, MS
Ashley Deemer, OD
Benedicte Gonzalez, OD, MPH
Michael Habib, OD, '21, MS
Silvia Han, OD, '12
John H. Lee, OD
Eunice Myung Lee, OD, '99
Mark Nakano, OD
Betty Ng, OD, '18

Emily Stephey, OD, '17
Melissa Tawa, OD
Erin Tomiyama, OD, '17, PhD
Nhung Tran, OD
Lisa Wahl, OD, '13
Raymond Warner, PhD
Natalie Wilson, OD, '22
Michael Wong, OD, MS
Robert M. Yacoub, OD, '06
Jillian Youngerman, OD, '18
Jessica Yuen, OD
Lauren Zabaleta, OD, '21

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION PROFESSOR

Steven G. Ferrucci, OD
Pauline F. Ilsen, OD, '88

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

Amy Grimes, OD
Danielle Weiler, OD

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Theresa Chong-Fernandez, OD
Edward Chu, OD
Sally H. Dang, OD
Carla B. Engelke, OD
Lane T. Fujimoto, OD, '95
Brian S. Kawasaki, OD, '00
Chang H. Kim, OD, '90
Edeline Lu, OD, '06

Alyon J. Marion, OD, '99
Mark Marquez, OD
Michelle E. Matson, OD
Mark McKenzie, OD
Amanda Mendez Roberts, OD
David Mietzner, OD
Jennifer Monarrez, OD
Anh-Tuan Nguyen, OD
Jason Powell, OD
Huey-Fen Song, OD
Lee Tanner, OD, '87
Nina Tran, OD, '10
Paul A. Vejabul, OD, '02
Dale Woodfield, OD, '84
Diana M. Wu, OD, '15
Brenda S. Yeh, OD
Andrea Yiasemis, OD
Xiao Xi Yu, OD

SCHOOL OF PA STUDIES

FACULTY

Jessica Cummings, DMSc, PA-C
Robyn Dettmar, MPAS, PA-C
Andrea Galdamez, MPAS, PA-C
Martin Holt, MSIDT, PA-C
Rima Khankan, MS, PhD
Sakshi Madan, MMS, PA-C, '17

Susan Marder, MSN, ANP-C
Amanda May, MMS, PA-C, '20
Daniel L. May, MD
Erin Salcido, MPAS, PA-C
Reena Sampat, MPAS, PA-C

Katie Tan, MPAS, PA-C
Christopher Tenore, MD
Greta Vines-Douglas, MSHS, PA-C
McKenzie Yaldeh, MPAS, PA-C
Prana Yenkosky, MMS, PA-C

DOCTOR OF MEDICAL SCIENCE PROGRAM

FACULTY

Laura Love, PhD, PA-C
Robert McKenna, DMSc, MPH, PA-C

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION

Julie A. Schornack, OD, MEd
President

Wendelyn Holtzen, MS
Vice President for Human Resources

Lori Jacklin, MSA
*Vice President for Administration and Finance
& CFO*

Judy Ortiz, PhD, PA-C
Provost

Joan Rubio
Vice President for University Advancement

COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS

Eric J. Borsting, OD, MEd
Dean
Southern California College of Optometry

Greta Vines-Douglas, MSHS, PA-C
Program Director
School of PA Studies

Gail Orum-Alexander, PharmD, EdD
Dean
College of Pharmacy

Robert McKenna, DMSc, MPH, PA-C
Director
Doctor of Medical Science Program

FACULTY PARTICIPATING IN HOODING CEREMONIES

Doctor of Pharmacy

Michael Beshir, PharmD
Henry Hua, MS, PhD
Lisa Kipper, PharmD
Miriam Morkos, PharmD, '20
Geneve Salman, PharmD
Jozef Stec, MSc, PhD
Monica Trivedi, PharmD
Joycelyn Yamzon, PharmD

MARSHALS OF THE UNIVERSITY

Rajesh Vadlapatla, PhD
Chief Marshal

Erin Hales, MBA, EdD

Debbie Ponce, MS

Emily Raus, MLIS

Yvonne Rivera

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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 promote inclusion and belonging, respect differences in all individuals, and address health disparities to advance health equity for all people.

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

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

I will accept the responsibility to improve my professional knowledge, expertise, and self-awareness.

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.