

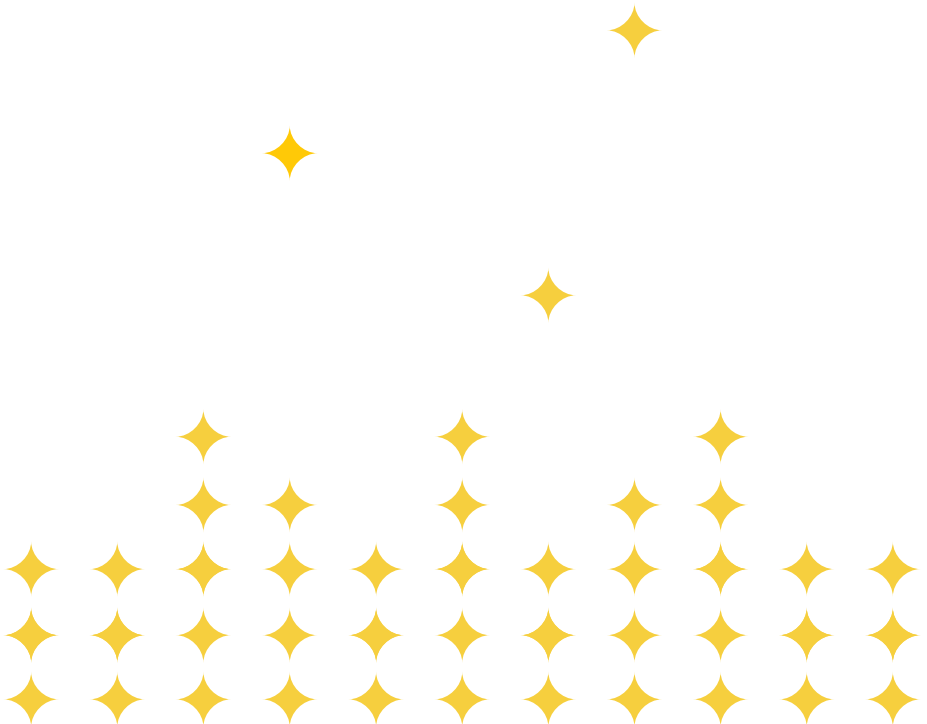


COLLEGE OF NURSING

# NEW KNIGHT NURSE CELEBRATION

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SPRING CLASS OF 2026





## **NURSING PIN:** A SYMBOL OF SERVICE TO OTHERS

While the tradition of a nursing pin has evolved over its 1,000+ year history, its purpose remains the same: to serve as a visual symbol of a commitment to serve others.

Its history dates to the Crusades in Europe when knights wore a Maltese Cross as a symbol of service. The tradition continued and in 1855, Queen Victoria presented Florence Nightingale with St. George's Cross in recognition of the care she provided British soldiers.

In honor of Florence Nightingale, the Nightingale Badge was designed and awarded to nurses who completed the Nightingale School at St. Thomas' Hospital in London. By 1916, nursing pins became a tradition in England and the U.S. Today, nursing pins — each unique to the academic institution — continue to celebrate the completion of professional education and are proudly worn on professional ID badges.

UCF's College of Nursing pins feature Pegasus, the immortal winged horse from Greek mythology and symbol for UCF. The Pegasus represents wisdom as well as the harmony between the humanities and the sciences. UCF's nursing pins also have the letters of the recipient's degree awarded inscribed at the bottom.

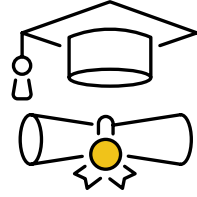
# SPRING CLASS OF 2026

**400+**

NURSING DEGREES  
BSN | MSN | DNP | PHD

**68**

STUDENTS GRADUATING  
WITH UNIVERSITY  
ACADEMIC HONORS



**15**

STUDENTS GRADUATING  
FROM BURNETT  
HONORS COLLEGE

**12**

DOCTORAL SCHOLARLY  
PROJECTS AND PH.D.  
DISSERTATIONS

**12**

GRADUATES WHO  
COMPLETED AN HONORS  
UNDERGRADUATE THESIS



FIVE HOSPITAL  
PARTNER CLINICAL  
AWARDEES

Landon Campbell, Orlando Health  
Student Excellence Award

Victoria Cardello, AdventHealth  
North Mission of Excellence Award

Kylie Deckard, Orlando Health  
Student Excellence Award

Leah Khalaf, AdventHealth Mission  
of Excellence Award

Alexandra Urzua-Geraud, Nemours  
Children's Health Student Award



**3**

ORDER OF PEGASUS AWARDEES, UCF'S HIGHEST STUDENT HONOR  
ALLYSON CRIGHTON | ABRIANNA LALLE | ILANA LOGVINOV



SCAN TO LEARN MORE  
ABOUT THE COHORT

# SPRING CLASS OF 2026 GRADUATES

## DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

### *PhD in Nursing*

#### **Laura Arkin**

“Acute Care Nurses’ Perceptions of Facilitators and Barrier to Timely Vital Sign Entry into the Electronic Health Record”

*Dissertation Chair: Sandra Galura '12PhD, RN, NE-BC*

#### **Ilana Logvinov**

“Redefining Vitality in Later Life: A Multidimensional Perspective From Older Adults”

*Dissertation Chair: Victoria Loerzel '07PhD, RN, FAAN*

#### **Valerie Martinez**

“Parenting Stress in Autism Care: Pediatric-Focused Nurse Practitioner Practices and Perceptions”

*Dissertation Chair: Susan Quelly '12PhD, RN, CNE*

#### **Sabrina Ronco**

“Health Information Competence, Coping and Psychological Well-being among Black Pregnant Women”

*Dissertation Chair: Jean W. Davis, '19PhD, DNP, EdD, APRN, FNP-BC, PHCNS-BC, FNAP*

#### **Andrea Schuermann**

“Professional Confidence Among Newly Licensed Nurses”

*Dissertation Chair: Victoria Loerzel '07PhD, RN, FAAN*

## DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE

### *Nurse Executive DNP*

#### **Eugene Harris**

“Improving Hand Hygiene Compliance in a Military Treatment Facility Through a Multimodal Intervention”

*Faculty Advisor: Jayne McMahan Willis '20DNP, RN, NEA-BC, CENP*

### *Advanced Practice Nurse DNP*

#### **Erica Campbell**

“Implementation of the STOP-Bang Questionnaire in an Outpatient Kidney Center: An Evidence-Based Practice Initiative”

*Faculty Advisor: Jennifer Dean, DNP, RN, APRN, AGACNP-BC, EBP-C*

**Megan Chipman**

“Pressure Injury Staging for Registered Nurses”

*Faculty Advisor: Susan Smith, PhD, APRN, ACNP-BC, FAANP*

**Keely Dickinson**

“Improving Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist’s Preparedness for Malignant Hyperthermia Management Through an Educational Intervention”

*Faculty Advisor: Maureen M. Covelli, PhD, RN*

**William Padron**

“Increasing Adherence to an Acute Bronchiolitis Clinical Pathway”

*Faculty Advisor: Valerie C. Martinez, DNP, APRN, CPNP-PC, PMHS, FNAP*

**Emlyn Tobillo**

“Improving Clinical Communication and Goal-Oriented Care: Development of a Standardized Pain Management Note Template”

*Faculty Advisor: Frances Armstrong, DNP, APRN, AGACNP-BC, AGPCNP-BC, CHSE*

**Rosalie Villecco**

“MAOs to Mushrooms: A Quality Improvement Project”

*Faculty Advisor: Sandra Kirkland, DNS, RN, APRN-BC, NEA-BC*

**MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING**

*Healthcare Simulation*

Joseph Walters

***Nurse Educator***

Stephanie Benavides  
Christine Benson  
Elizabeth Bermudez  
April Brunner  
Shelby Carlson  
Melissa Clettenberg  
Mackenzie Curran  
Joshua Decker  
Rebecca Finklea  
Holly Golia  
Sherolin Groce  
Taniya Joy

Irene La Make  
Shyanne Lowe  
Steven Marji  
Samantha Nave  
Paige Nelson  
Brittany Owle  
Stephanie Ruiz  
Virginia Sandbrook  
Erin Sanders  
Victoria Torres  
Vivian Vork  
Wendy Walter-Cano

***Nurse Leadership & Management***

Aleta Alvin  
Isabelle D’Ayrail  
Kimberly Dimascio  
Maria Galindo

Tonya Hendrickson  
Melody Hurley  
Germaine Jimenez  
Samantha Len

Erica Mcguirk  
Monica Mcquitty  
Hugo Montano  
Sierra Owle  
Faith Rand  
Amanda Rios

Amanda Shalvatis  
Ashley Stoutt  
Cheyenne Tuttle  
Brock Wallace  
Ashlynn Wyka

## **GRADUATE CERTIFICATE**

### *Healthcare Simulation*

Rosa Germain

## **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING**

### *Post-Licensure RN to BSN*

Marina Adjei  
Meagan Aguilar  
Christina Armand  
Asianna Arntzen  
Beniz Baitassova Mutlu  
Kayla Batchelor  
Marlene Bell  
Delia Benitez  
Jami Butler  
Jacob Cassidy  
Britanny Castellanos  
Nouri Choubane  
Amanda Chung  
Shanté Clarke  
Leslie Comas  
Brenda Cordova  
Stephanie Costa  
Elizabeth Davila  
Hadassah De souza  
Taylor Derbes  
Julissa Disla  
Thania Duarte  
Lissett Exposito  
Giovanna Fanani  
Jessica Felker  
Anne Francois

Angelica Garcia  
Yourdens Garilus  
Rachel Gonzalez Torres  
Janeen Green<sup>CL</sup>  
Van Phi Ha  
Ahmad Hamadani  
Lauren Hargrove  
Jun Wei Harmon  
Corin Hubers  
Gaelle Jacquet  
Mallicka Joseph  
Danielle Joseph  
Michal Kociuba  
Alyssa Larivee  
Alexis Le  
Cody Linaja  
Abigail Link  
Kayla Llerena  
Michael Londono  
Anaeli Lozano Perez  
Aubrey Maniscalco  
Samantha Mesa  
Kimberly Montoya Brocatto  
Skylah Osborne  
Sarah Pearaylall  
Kathy Ramirez

Christian Rivera  
Savannah Rodamer  
Sarani Rodriguez  
Katelyn Roush  
Jennifer Rubio  
Johanna Santiago  
Lynette Schaefer  
Hana Schwindler  
Aldo Soto  
Ausanya Spence  
Tallitha Tirado  
Kremline Valcin  
Vladimir Vargas  
Joseph Wallace  
Kinsey Whitaker  
Tyyonna Williams  
Le'Tavia Williams  
Casey Windham  
Matthew Woodcock  
Lindsley Wright  
Rudolf Zamor  
Karina Zografakis  
Ashlee Zuefle

### *Concurrent ASN to BSN*

#### **UCF Online, Florida College System**

Tamara Bendichoolivar  
Gustavo Blanco  
Tacyany Borges Coupart  
Taylor Bryant

Micaela Caballero  
Samantha Chahin  
Patrick Davanzo<sup>SCL</sup>  
Alexander Dieguez

Jenna Fermaintt  
Kaley Lariosa  
Kayla Lyons  
Kaelynn Medbery  
Hazel Anne Medina  
Ylannis Negron

Caroline O'mailia  
Brian Pickles  
Tyler Quach  
Ana Giulia Ricetti  
Mykenzie Williams

#### **UCF Connect, Seminole State College**

Tianna Barfield  
Marsmine Boyer  
Kylee Brock  
Nneka Brown  
Noah Cannon  
Talia Colasuono  
Nicole Davila  
Anika Duncan  
Chris Enns  
Karina Erickson  
Reed Giffin  
Kyle Graham  
Noah Hayes  
Noah Heskin<sup>MCL</sup>  
Kaitlin Jaramillo

Nicole Kawalko  
Jacob Leggio  
Bryce Mashburn  
Aryanna Matos  
Maegen Morris  
Elizabeth Palmer  
Kirsten Pelehach<sup>SCL</sup>  
Gabriella Quinones  
Marangeli Sanchez  
Nickoline Smith  
Natalie Torres<sup>CL</sup>  
Daniela Urzua  
Cole Wehrmann  
Kenneth Yoon

#### **UCF Connect, Valencia College**

Swarajit Debnath  
Emily DeCarvalho  
Maya Khan

Albert Kirk  
Angelika Taylor Miguel  
Cassandra Ross

### ***Second Degree BSN***

Yamilet Aviles  
Alisha Inshanally  
Richard Jacobs<sup>MCL</sup>  
Schimelda Louissaint

Nyah Petit-Homme  
Dana Reeves  
Charlotte Smith

### ***Traditional BSN***

#### **Cocoa Campus**

Juliana Alvarez  
Sarah Azhar  
Theodore Babcock<sup>MCL</sup>  
Katherine Brenner  
Stasia Caldwell  
Karina Carratala  
Amanda Cosgriff  
Sadharia Davis  
Kylie Deckard  
Jennifer DeStefano  
Demitry Exume

Deborah Fayomi  
Gabriel Foss  
Camila Foster  
William Fraser-Nash  
Davis Granja  
Siwapan Greenspan  
Daniela Grimaldo  
Brandon Hampton  
Alayna Harrigan  
Leitizia Jean  
Emma Jeffries

Gracie Kaye  
Jemima Laguerre  
Nicole Landron  
Jenna Lin  
Alexandria Lucey  
Noah Lutsch  
Danika McCaffrey  
Alexandra Medrano  
Sean Moyer  
Kendal Natarajan  
Katherine Neal  
Fedna Norelia

Grace Olovich  
Kaitlyn Osei-Owusu  
Lexi Rivera  
Caelin Roche  
Elaine Roman Ruiz  
Nicholas Santos  
Jaide Sellars  
David Sim  
Jamie Tatis  
Jahnya Walden  
Thomas Welman

### Daytona Campus

Ariana Armstrong  
Jazmin Barnett  
Israh Bawazir  
Madison Bell  
Stephanie Benoit  
Catherine Bilello  
Datu Bonayon  
Alexis Boris  
Kalysta Bruner<sup>MCL</sup>  
Kenadie Bukovan  
Victoria Cardello  
Bethsy-Ahnn Charlot  
Chloe Cooper  
Chase Crowder  
Norbelisse Diaz Maldonado  
Zachary Epstein  
Jeannine Foley  
Aaron Forare  
Jadyn Gillingham  
Amri Gonzalez

Franchesca Gonzalez<sup>CL</sup>  
Adam Harrington  
Fortune Hinson  
Madeline Koons  
Eunseo Lee  
Grace Lobsinger  
Kaitlyn Marcy  
Johannes Marquez  
Morgan Marx  
Eleanor McCormick  
Ailbe Mcknight  
Nicholas Muneton  
Zariah Powell  
Jade Rodriguez  
Mauricio Rodriguez  
Ashley Sterchele  
Nicole Sterchele  
Danielle Vazquez  
Lauryn White  
Amaya Woods

### Lake Nona Campus

Anghela Acosta  
Sajal Ahmed  
Ciaera Ambroise  
Anna Angstrom<sup>CL</sup>  
Mary Baker<sup>CL</sup>  
Ian Michael Balajadia<sup>CL</sup>  
Camille Baniqued<sup>CL</sup>  
Kalesta Barreto<sup>CL</sup>  
Izabella Bazan<sup>CL</sup>  
Gabriel Bedics Lopez  
Megan Blanchard<sup>MCL</sup>  
Sarae Botelho  
Jiliane Bronto  
Caitlin Brooks

Erl-Therese Buaya<sup>CL</sup>  
Ronica Bukasa<sup>SCL</sup>  
Kira Butler  
Brooke Bynum  
Willow Bynum  
Landon Campbell  
Sophie Carlton  
Isabella Caro<sup>CL</sup>  
Erin Carter<sup>MCL</sup>  
Genesis Castillo  
Alejandra Colome Garcia<sup>CL</sup>  
Alexa Colon<sup>CL</sup>  
Gabriela Casolato Coquieri  
Allyson Crighton<sup>SCL</sup>

Beatriz Cruz  
 Grace Dagher<sup>CL</sup>  
 Sophie Danner<sup>SCL</sup>  
 Giulia Frota De Avila  
 Ella DeNoyer  
 Isabella Dillon<sup>CL</sup>  
 Hope Donasco<sup>CL</sup>  
 Aminda Dubuisson<sup>SCL</sup>  
 Benjamin Edwards  
 Gabriella Emidia<sup>SCL</sup>  
 Megan Eppel<sup>MCL</sup>  
 Aiya Falhi  
 Pierina Galue<sup>MCL</sup>  
 Abril Gomez Zuniga  
 Camille Greco<sup>SCL</sup>  
 Jackson Gustman<sup>MCL</sup>  
 Natalie Hadaegh  
 Taylor Hanson  
 Anastasia Hawley  
 Victoria Hernandez<sup>CL</sup>  
 Isabella Hoffman  
 Dannuta Hyacinth<sup>CL</sup>  
 Camille James  
 Shanda Jean-Pierre  
 Marion Jones  
 Madison Kearney<sup>CL</sup>  
 Haley Keller<sup>SCL</sup>  
 Leah Khalaf<sup>CL</sup>  
 Emily Kidd<sup>CL</sup>  
 Peyton Kline  
 Kristin Kyles  
 Mikhaila Latourelle<sup>CL</sup>  
 Ryan Lebsack  
 Andrew Macapagal<sup>CL</sup>  
 McKinley MacBride  
 Serena Mangual  
 Maria Eduarda Martins Rodrigues  
 Batista<sup>CL</sup>  
 Julia Masopeh  
 Kayleigh McGraw<sup>SCL</sup>  
 Mallorie Mckyton<sup>SCL</sup>  
 Symone McLean  
 Darline Mejia  
 Olivia Milone<sup>CL</sup>  
 Morgan Moschnik  
 Zulieka Narvasa  
 Aubrey Neff<sup>MCL</sup>  
 Nia Newland<sup>CL</sup>  
 Madison Norton<sup>CL</sup>  
 Nia Owens  
 Alexander Padfield<sup>MCL</sup>  
 Ashley Parasram  
 Gabriela Perez<sup>SCL</sup>  
 Isabella Perona  
 Taylor Peters  
 Isabella Peterson<sup>CL</sup>  
 Ivy Pham  
 Mikaela Marie Pierce<sup>SCL</sup>  
 Theresa Pignatelli  
 Taylor Rackley<sup>MCL</sup>  
 Gustavo Ramos Melendez<sup>CL</sup>  
 Madison Ray<sup>SCL</sup>  
 Anthony Reyes<sup>CL</sup>  
 Daniel Rios  
 Destin Roman  
 Rayniero Saavedra  
 Rachel Sacerdote  
 Nadia Safavi  
 Leanna Saint Fleur<sup>MCL</sup>  
 Ethan Sanchez  
 Alexia Schultz<sup>MCL</sup>  
 Vaishant Sevileno<sup>CL</sup>  
 Kylie Shepard<sup>CL</sup>  
 Ava Sherota<sup>CL</sup>  
 Sofia Siegel<sup>CL</sup>  
 Merissa Sierra<sup>SCL</sup>  
 Sasha Simonet  
 Madeline Sink<sup>CL</sup>  
 Chloe Snobel  
 Delia Spanu  
 Sophia Steely  
 Bailey Stiglich  
 Mayaa Tadsare  
 Brianna Tassi  
 Riley Taylor  
 LanAnh Tran  
 Taylor Truax<sup>SCL</sup>  
 Cameron Unger  
 Alexandra Urzua-Geraud  
 Jordyn Walford  
 Julia Walsh<sup>CL</sup>  
 Tiffany Wu<sup>CL</sup>  
 Suneta Yim  
 Eryza Yuson  
 Sofia Zapatier Maya<sup>CL</sup>  
 Megan Zastawney

SCL = Summa Cum Laude MCL = Magna Cum Laude CL = Cum Laude

# **BURNETT HONORS COLLEGE GRADUATES**

## *Honors Undergraduate Thesis*

### **Ciaera Ambrose**

“Bridging the Gap: Investigating the Impact of Adequate Prenatal Care on Adverse Maternal Outcomes Among Black Women: An Integrative Literature Review”

*Thesis Chair: Kim Navarro, PhD, RN, CNM, WHNP-BC*

### **Alexis Boris**

“The Effectiveness of Nurse-Led Prenatal Education on Maternal Outcomes and Labor Satisfaction”

*Thesis Chair: Amanda Houston '20PhD, MHA, RN, CHSE*

### **Sophie Carlton**

“How does the Frequency of Visitation Impact the Quality of Life of Nursing Home Residents?”

*Thesis Chair: Norma Conner, PhD, RN, FNAP*

### **Allyson Crighton**

“Music Interventions for Critically Ill Patients: Evaluating Effects of Music on Psychoemotional Levels in Critically Ill Patients Receiving Respiratory Support”

*Thesis Co-Chairs: Vicki Loerzel '07PhD, RN, FAAN and Sotos G. Djiovanis, EdD, DMA, '20MSN, RN*

### **Deborah Fayomi**

“Addressing Barriers to Preventing Shaken Baby Syndrome in Low-Income Populations: A Pediatric Nursing Approach to Advocacy and Education”

*Thesis Chair: Isaiah Moser '22DNP, APRN, AGACNP-BC, EMT-P*

### **Francesca Gonzalez**

“Implementing Holograms to Perform Cognitive Health History Screenings”

*Thesis Chair: Desiree A. Diaz, PhD, FNP-BC, CNE, CHSE-A, ANEF, FAAN*

### **Adam Harrington**

“Evaluating Coffee and Caffeine Intake in Adults with Cardiovascular Disease: A Comparative Literature Review”

*Thesis Chair: Amanda Houston '20PhD, MHA, RN, CHSE*

### **Gracie Kaye**

“Examining the Barriers to Healthcare Among Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Populations Living in Hawaii”

*Thesis Chair: Isaiah Moser '22DNP, APRN, AGACNP-BC, EMT-P*

**Kayleigh McGraw**

“The Knowledge, Experiences, and Attitudes of Nurses Regarding Trauma-Informed Care for Sexually Abused Intrapartum Patients”

*Thesis Chair: Kim Navarro, PhD, RN, CNM, WHNP-BC*

**Ava Sherota**

“The Impact of Delayed Versus Immediate Cord Clamping on Newborn Vitality in Vaginal Deliveries”

*Thesis Chair: Kim Navarro, PhD, RN, CNM, WHNP-BC*

**LanAnh Tran**

“Examining the Effectiveness of ICU Diaries in Reducing Post Intensive Care Syndrome (PICS) Psychological Symptoms: A Rapid Review of United States-Based Studies”

*Thesis Co-Chairs: Brian Peach, PhD, RN, CCRN-K, FCCM and Sarah Rose Thornton '21MSN, RN, CCRN*

**Sofia Zapatier**

“Prevention of Pneumothoraces with the Use of an Electromagnetic Placement Device During Feeding Tube Insertion”

*Thesis Chair: Annette Bourgault, PhD, RN, CNL, FAAN*

***University Honors Scholars***

**Emily Kidd  
Kayleigh McGraw  
Gabriela Perez**

# WELCOME TO UCF ALUMNI, KNIGHT NURSE!

**Congratulations!** With your new degree, you are joining a community of 17,000+ Knight nurses — **a network of UCF College of Nursing alumni in all specialties, levels and communities here to support YOU.**

To get started in making connections, grow in your nursing career and keep reaching for the stars, **scan this QR code for a new Knight nurse checklist.**



Plus, continue to stay up to date on news and opportunities by following us on social media.



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Central Florida  
College of  
Nursing



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GIFT TODAY.

## MAKE A SENIOR CLASS GIFT

**Propel success for future generations of Knight nurses to follow in your footsteps.**

Students who celebrate becoming a #UCFGrad with a gift of **\$20.26** — the class year — will receive a graduation cord as a thank you gift.

Family and friends, honor your new #KnightNurse with a gift of any amount to support UCF's College of Nursing, fuel innovation and impact the health of our communities.

**Questions?** Contact Carla Craig at 407-823-0712 or [carla.craig@ucf.edu](mailto:carla.craig@ucf.edu)