

Commencement Exercises

UT SOUTHWESTERN SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

OF

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL CENTER



SUNDAY, DECEMBER SEVENTEENTH

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE

TWO P.M.

TOM AND LULA GOOCH AUDITORIUM

DALLAS, TEXAS

THE VERNIE A. STEMBRIDGE, M.D. ACADEMIC MACE

UT Southwestern's Vernie A. Stembridge, M.D., Academic Mace is carried in processions and displayed on ceremonial occasions. This symbol of the authority of the faculty to grant degrees, like much of our current academic pageantry, dates from the Middle Ages. The Stembridge Mace was designed by a UT Southwestern alumnus in memory of Vernie A. Stembridge, M.D., a much admired and respected member of UT Southwestern's faculty from 1959 to 2000. The execution of the design was by the Wm. B. Schieffer Studio; the work was completed in 2003.

At the top of Stembridge Mace sits a Grecian amethyst. The amethyst is traditionally associated with healing of mind, body and spirit, and service and humility. Some of this amethyst's crystalline facets remain rough and natural while others are smooth and polished to suggest the effect of education upon human attributes.

The Stembridge Mace exhibits a head with seven *bas-relief* cameos: the Aesculapian staff represents the healing arts; the interwoven star indicates the close relationship of the health care professions, the health care team, and the Lone Star State; the dawn offers the promise of a new beginning, or "commencement;" the pyramid symbolizes the creative intellect; the silhouette of Texas (with Dallas indicated) stands for our State and city commitment to education, and the concurrent responsibility of students and faculty to serve our city and State; the double helix (DNA molecule) exemplifies modern biomedical discovery; and the scroll symbolizes the passing of knowledge from teacher to student over the generations.

The overall configuration of the Stembridge Mace suggests the torch of learning. The wooden shaft is made of American Black Walnut, turned and shaped to a classical fluted columnar form.

THE ORDER OF EXERCISES

Academic Procession Veronica L. Coleman, M.P.A.S.
Marshal
Alicia C. Gilmore, M.S.
Marshal

Presiding Jon W. Williamson, Ph.D.
Dean
UT Southwestern School of Health Professions

*The audience is requested to stand as the procession enters
and to remain standing for the National Anthem.*

Commencement Address Craig R. Jackson, J.D., MSW
President
Association of Schools Advancing Health Professions
Dean
Loma Linda University School of Allied Health Professions

Hooding and Conferring of Degrees Daniel K. Podolsky, M.D.
President
The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

Introduction of Programs Carolyn D. Bradley-Guidry, Dr.P.H., M.P.A.S.
Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Engagement
UT Southwestern School of Health Professions

*The audience is requested to delay applause until all candidates from
a program have received their diplomas.*

Closing Remarks Jon W. Williamson, Ph.D.

Recessional

*The audience is requested to stand during the Recessional and to remain
standing in place until the graduates have exited.*

**CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE OF
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
APPLIED CLINICAL RESEARCH
SCOTT A. SMITH, PH.D., CHAIR**

Magistrate..... Gilberto Moralez, Jr., Ph.D.

Degree Awarded
May 2023

Ophelie Puissegur

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Functional Spinal Motion and Physical Activity in Females Affected by Adolescent Idiopathic Scoliosis Initiating Thoraco-Lumbar-Sacral-Orthosis Treatment”*

Sofia M. Ulman, Ph.D., Mentor

Degree Awarded
December 2023

Patricia Tasha Champagne

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Identifying Depression in Spinal Cord Injury Utilizing Tumor Neurosis Factor- α and Endothelial Function - A Pilot Study”*

Yi-Ting Tzen, Ph.D., Mentor

John Michael Giacona

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Investigating the Role of Standing Blood Pressure Measurement and the Association between High-Density Lipoprotein and Skeletal Muscle Mitochondrial Function in Pre-Hypertensive Humans”*

Wanpen Vongpatanasin, M.D., Mentor

**CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE OF
DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY**

ROSS G. QUERRY, P.T., PH.D., CHAIR

Magistrates Emily F. Middleton, D.P.T., LPT
Jason Zafereo, P.T., Ph.D.

Degree Awarded
December 2023

Branford Thomas Barnes
Cameron Charles Berry
Trung X. Bui
William Davis Child
Kailee Claustro
Travis Fitzgerald Cook, II
Jessica Cooley
Corinne Janae Daniels
Grace Elizabeth Duffy
Sara Gerges
Brandon Hall
Taylor Deann Harris
Hailey Elizabeth Holland
Kayla Brooke Jones
Virginia Kruse
Marco Antonio Lopez
Morgan Lowe
Araceli Yanez Martinez
Alexandria Leigh McCord

Aryana Michelle Monabat
Ebelechukwu Chikodili Nduka
Chanae Maelynn Pitts Richardson
Samantha Leigh Plaster
Kathryn Lynne Rector
Kaylie Alyssa Reynolds
Madison Nicole Schroeder
Jakiron Sheffield-Jones
Emily Speciale
Samantha AnnMarie Taussig
Lindsay Jean Thor
Daniel Michael Tran
Emily Thiên-Nhi Tran
Katharine Elizabeth Tyson
Blake Elizabeth Walker
Emily Elizabeth Wiegert
Antonio Juan Williams
McKay Kellyn Winslow
Ashleigh Arrington Wood

Degree to be Awarded
Spring 2024

Brandon Tze Jie Ong

**CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE OF
MASTER OF CLINICAL NUTRITION**

JEFFREY D. BROWNING, M.D., CHAIR

MagistratesL. Anne Gilmore, Ph.D.
Lona Sandon, Ph.D.

Degree Awarded
August 2023

Laci Alaine Baker
Bethany Carrasco
Alexandra Denise Durman
Casey Jane Dutton
Hannah C. Eboagu
Brooke Alexandria Evans
Alyssa Harris
Shakirah Saree Najah Hilaire
Caitlin Nicole Howell
Brandon Scott Kelley

Aisha Javed Khan
Lujain Jameel Madani
Andrea Martinez Cueto
Kalli Emma Meinhold
Rosa Maria Montes-Casas
Elaheh Nasresfahani
Quinten Patterson
Anne Carilyn Phillips
Brooke Taylor
Renee Christine Wanovich

**CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE OF
MASTER OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES**
TEMPLE S. HOWELL-STAMPLEY, M.D., M.B.A., MACP, CHAIR

Magistrates Laura P. Mattingly, M.H.S., PA-C
Michel Statler, D.M.Sc., M.L.A., PA-C

Degree Awarded
December 2023

Hasmin Santiago Banzuelo	Shukri E. Mahaley
Rafael Gerald Basa	Ireca Ann Mance
Megan Patricia Bauer	Crystal Monique Miles
Elsabeth Belay	Donya Elaine Minor
Lianne Bencomo Tejeiro	Anusha Mithani
Yadaris Rachele Bonilla	Collin Anthony Nelson
Chase Parker Bosley	Eric Tyler Nguyen
Suave Rondane Brissett	Frances Julline Oluchukwu Njoku
Estela Cias	Ritu Pandey
Shannon Celeste Conway	Kevin-Loc Van Pham
Clara Louise Culpepper	Jennifer Gail Piazza
Nicole Sofia Delgado	Nadia Carolina Redmon
Melody Thy Duong	Janet Melissa Saenz
Morgan Victoria Eldridge	Michael Saucedo
Tracy Garcia	Alexander Shelley Devin Smith
Lisbeth Giron	Katherine Murry Snyder
Manuel Alexander Gonzalez	Anthony Arjang Solhjo
Sabrina Abigail Guevara	Vanessa Yvonne Sutter
Stephany Dayan Herchman	Andrea Rae Taylor
Lisa Hoang	Tayla Marissa Thibodeaux
Margo Bolt Hotchkiss	Alejandra Yvette Ventura
Grace Of God Innocent-Utulu	Andrew Ross Webb
Emily Katherine Jensen	Abbey Kate West
Julia John	Lauren Alexandra Winfrey
Jessica Leigh Lawrence	Mary Bernadette Royulada Ycu
Tony Le	

**CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE OF
MASTER OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES**

Degree to be Awarded
Spring 2024

Matthew Ruben Almanza
Chelsea N. Henderson
Aubrey Joy Mayes
Daniela Jocabed Ortiz Orozco

**CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF
PROSTHETICS – ORTHOTICS**

LESLIE A. GRAY, M.ED., CPO, LPO, FAAOP, PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Magistrates.....Tiffany Graham, M.S.P.O, CPO, LPO, FAAOP(D)
Fabian Soldevilla, M.S.O.P., CPO, LPO

Degree Awarded
December 2023

Jaclyn Bergman
Tyler James Cagle
Kira Nicole Donnelly
Jillian Alice Dunn
Salvador Gonzalez
Jonathan Richmond Hearn

Lauren Nicole Kersey
Luke J. Parker
Ronan Lyall Passman
Michaela Stone
Sophia Cristina Valls
Taylor Jean Wills

**CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE OF
MASTER OF SCIENCE
HEALTH INFORMATICS
CHRISTOPH U. LEHMANN, M.D., PROGRAM DIRECTOR**

Magistrates Gilberto Morales, Jr., Ph.D.
DuWayne L. Willett, M.D.

Degree Awarded
December 2023

Catherine Chen
Samantha Kay Ferguson

Nelly Estefanie Garduno Rapp
Danielle Christine Pittman

**CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE OF
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CLINICAL SCIENCE
SCOTT A. SMITH, PH.D., CHAIR**

Degree Awarded
May 2023

Rachel L. Leon
Meredith Conlon McAdams

HONORS RECEIVED BY GRADUATES OF UT SOUTHWESTERN SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Elected to Alpha Eta Honor Society

Laci Alaine Baker	Brandon Scott Kelley
Yadaris Rachelle Bonilla	Jessica Leigh Lawrence
Patricia Tasha Champagne	Morgan Lowe
Estela Cias	Donyae Elaine Minor
Jessica Cooley	Jennifer Gail Piazza
Corinne Janae Daniels	Chanae Maelynn Pitts Richardson
Nicole Sofia Delgado	Samantha Leigh Plaster
Kira Nicole Donnelly	Ophelie Puissegur
Hannah C. Eboagu	Anthony Arjang Solhjo
John Michael Giacona	Vanessa Yvonne Sutter
Stephany Dayan Herchman	Daniel Michael Tran
Shakirah Saree Najah Hilaire	Antonio Juan Williams
Kayla Brooke Jones	Taylor Jean Wills

Elected to Pi Alpha Honor Society

Shannon Celeste Conway	Jennifer Gail Piazza
John Michael Giacona	Janet Melissa Saenz
Stephany Dayan Herchman	Michael Saucedo
Crystal Monique Miles	Alejandra Yvette Ventura
Frances Julline Oluchukwu Njoku	

**UT SOUTHWESTERN SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS
STUDENT AWARDS**

Raul Caetano, M.D., Ph.D., Student Research Award

John Michael Giacona (2022)

Brandon Scott Kelley (2022)

Gordon Green, M.D., Student Clinician Award

Brooke Alexandria Evans (2022)

L. Ruth Guy, M.D., Student Leadership Award

Patricia Tasha Champagne (2023)

Kira Nicole Donnelly (2023)

Aisha Javed Khan (2022)

John Schermerhorn, M.D., Student Service Award

Travis Fitzgerald Cook, II (2023)

John Michael Giacona (2023)

ACADEMIC HERALDRY AND REGALIA

Although the people, the places, and the styles have changed, you are about to participate in a reenactment of a ceremony, which has existed for nearly nine centuries: the recognition of academic achievement.

The tradition of recognizing academic accomplishment with ceremony, bright color, and distinctive dress is an exercise, which has existed through the ages. Although the commencement ceremony and academic costume of most colleges and universities in the United States today is guided by a twentieth century standard, their roots are found in the development of the universities during the Middle Ages. The medieval universities of Western Europe, such as Paris, Bologna, Cambridge, and Oxford, have provided us with an institutional format - the university structure; a measure of progress - degrees; and a ceremony of achievement - commencement.

For centuries, students have withstood the preliminary academic trials where they attended classes, heard lectures, and engaged in debate. After passing these preliminary trials, the candidate would don a special gown and assume a seat with the *bachalari*, or bachelors. This ceremony was often followed by a feast, with wine provided by the successful candidate. The candidates presented today now become part of this long-standing tradition.

The academic hood worn by the faculty and platform participants and received by graduates at the Master's level and above is derived from the cloak worn in medieval times over the gown. Attached to the cloak at the back of the neck was a cowl hood, which hung down or could be pulled over the head for warmth. After time, this hood became a separate article worn over the shoulders and hanging down the wearer's back. With the coming into fashion of caps and hats during the fifteenth century, the hoods soon became more ornamental than functional.

Whereas it is generally understood that in Europe gowns were necessary for warmth and hoods covered the academic clerics' tonsured heads, today the American tradition has evolved toward individual expression of the institution. Although the style of the hood is not unique to each institution, the combinations of colors and chevrons have been standardized in the United States for more than 100 years. The satin colors of the hood lining represent the institution conferring the degree. The academic colors for component institutions of The University of Texas System are orange and white. The color of the academic hood's velvet trim is distinctive of the degree earned, as is the tassel on the cap. Historical associations of color continue to signify the various faculties and generally carry the traditions established by their early English counterparts. The green of medicinal herbs immediately identifies a medically related degree. Philosophy is signified by dark blue, the traditional color of truth and wisdom. The wealth of information earned through research in science is represented by golden yellow.

Cords worn with academic regalia:
Green - Alpha Eta Honor Society
Blue and white - Pi Alpha Honor Society
Red, white, and blue - US Armed Forces, Active Duty and Veterans
Green and gold - Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society
Light blue stole - Southwestern Academy of Teachers
Medals - The University of Texas Academy of Health Science Education and
UT System Regents' Outstanding Teacher Award

Degrees will be officially conferred to candidates for graduation identified in this commencement booklet who have met all requirements on the recommendation of the faculty of the Southwestern School of Health Professions and by virtue of the authority vested in the faculty and dean by the Regents of The University of Texas.