

The University of Texas  
Medical Branch  
at Galveston

**SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS  
50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
CELEBRATION**



2018  
Commencement  
Exercises

School of Health Professions  
Established 1968

Friday, August the Seventeenth  
Two Thousand and Eighteen

Moody Gardens Convention Center  
Seven Hope Boulevard  
Galveston, Texas  
Two O'Clock in the Afternoon

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# The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston

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## UTMB Executive Committee

DAVID L. CALLENDER, MD, MBA, FACS	President
ANISH BHARDWAJ, MD, MBA, CPE, FACMPE, FACHE, FAHA, FCCM, FAAN, FANA	Interim Provost
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CHERYL A. SADRO, CPA, MSM	Chief Financial Officer
VICKI FREEMAN, PhD, MASCP, MLS (ASCP) <sup>cm</sup> SC <sup>cm</sup> , FAACC	Interim Dean, School of Health Professions
DEBORAH J. JONES, PhD, MSN, RN	Senior Vice President and Dean, School of Nursing
CHARLES P. MOUTON, MD, MS	Interim Dean, School of Medicine
CAROLEE “CARRIE” KING, JD	Senior Vice President and General Counsel
BECKY KORENEK	Senior Vice President, Strategic and Business Planning
DAVID W. NIESEL, PhD	Senior Vice President and Dean, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Chief Research Officer
BEN G. RAIMER, MD, MA, FAAP	Senior Vice President, Health Policy and Legislative Affairs

## Administration School of Health Professions

VICKI S. FREEMAN, PhD, MASCP, MLS(ASCP) <sup>cm</sup> SC <sup>cm</sup> , FAACC	Interim Dean
KENNETH J. OTTENBACHER, OTR, PhD, FAOTA	Senior Associate Dean for Graduate Education and Research
CHRISTINE P. BAKER, EdD, PT, FAPTA	Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs

## Department Chairs

JOSE SALAZAR, Ph.D., MLS(ASCP) <sup>cm</sup>	Clinical Laboratory Sciences
BLAKE RASMUSSEN, PhD	Nutrition & Metabolism
PATRICIA FINGERHUT, PhD, OTR	Occupational Therapy
CAROLYN UTSEY, PhD, PT	Physical Therapy
COURTNEY M. TOWNSEND, Jr., MD	Physician Assistant Studies
KENNETH OTTENBACHER, OTR, PhD, FAOTA	Rehabilitation Sciences
JOSE D. ROJAS, PhD, RRT	Respiratory Care

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## Program

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PRELUDE	The Chamber Brass Quartet
PROCESSIONAL	Faculty, Alumni, Guests & Graduating Class (Audience please remain seated)
GRAND MARSHAL OF THE GRADUATING CLASS	April Cowan, OTR, OTD, CHT <i>Associate Professor</i>
“THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER”	Ingrid Gonzalez <i>Vocalist</i> (Everyone please stand)
INVOCATION	Rev. Kathy Ozenberger
WELCOME	Vicki S. Freeman, PhD, MASCP, MLS(ASCP) <sup>cm</sup> SC <sup>cm</sup> , FAACC <i>Interim Dean School of Health Professions</i>
FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATION INTRODUCTIONS	Dr. Freeman
INTRODUCTION OF DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA AND COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER	Dr. Freeman
COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS	Marco Rodriguez, OTR <i>2018 Distinguished Alumnus Recipient</i>
AWARDS AND HONORS	Christine P. Baker, PT, EdD, FAPTA <i>Associate Dean for Academic &amp; Student Affairs</i>
INTRODUCTION OF SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION	Sarah Tyson, OTR, CARS <i>President of SHP Alumni Association</i>
ANNOUNCEMENT OF GRADUATES	Michael J. Cromie <i>Assistant Director Office of Student Life</i>
CONFERRING OF DEGREES	David Callender, MD, MBA, FACS <i>President</i>
PROFESSIONAL PLEDGE	April Cowan, OTD, OTR, CHT
“THE EYES OF TEXAS”	Ingrid Gonzalez <i>Vocalist</i> (Everyone please stand)
BENEDICTION	Rev. Kathy Ozenberger
RECESSIONAL	
(Audience, please remain seated until the faculty and graduates have recessed.)	

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## Special Guests

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**Robert E. Beach, MD** is an Adjunct Professor and Director of Program Curriculum Assessment in the UTMB Physician Assistant Studies program. He also holds the Honor of Scholar Emeritus for the John McGovern Academy of Oslerian Medicine.

**Boris Bratovich, PA-C** is an adjunct Assistant Professor in the Physician Assistant Studies Program. He is Program Director, Cardiovascular Surgery Physician Assistant Residency Program at Houston Methodist Hospital.

**Juan David Garcia, MBA, MT** directs the Laboratory Services at UTMB Health in Galveston. He received his MBA from University of Miami and a BS in Medical Laboratory Sciences from the University of Valle in Cali, Columbia. Juan is Lean/Six Sigma certified and a voluntary laboratory inspector for CAP. He also is a consultant for AACC's Latin America Working Group (LAWG).

**Nina Partin Godsey, PA-C, DFAAP** is a member of the external advisory council of the School of Health Professions. She is an alumna of our Physician Assistant Studies program, class of 1998 and a former faculty member and preceptor in the Department of Physician Assistant Studies.

**Deborah J. Jones, PhD, MSN, RN** is a Senior Vice President and Dean of the UTMB School of Nursing. She joined the School of Nursing from the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, School of Nursing, where she served as Associate Dean for Professional Development and Faculty Affairs. Before moving to Houston, Dr. Jones was a Clinical Project Supervisor and adjunct faculty member at the Virginia Commonwealth University, School of Nursing. Dr. Jones is known for her outstanding mentorship, excellence in education, as well as commitment to research. She has taught in nursing programs from the baccalaureate to the doctoral levels.

**Michael Laposata, MD, PhD** is chairman of the Pathology Department at UTMB.

**Michael Levine, MD** is a member of the external advisory council of the School of Health Professions.

**John C. McKee, PhD** is an Adjunct Assistant Professor and Director of Program Assessment in the department of Physician Assistant Studies. He is also Associate Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness at UTMB.

**Charles Mouton, MD, MS** currently serves as Interim Dean for the School of Medicine, Vice Dean for Academic Affairs and Tenured Professor of Family Medicine at University of Texas Medical Branch School of Medicine in Galveston, TX. He formerly served as Senior Vice President for Health Affairs, Dean of the School of Medicine and Tenured Professor of Family and Community Medicine at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, TN. Dr. Mouton received his M.D. degree from Howard University College of Medicine and his Master of Science degree in Clinical Epidemiology from the Harvard School of Public Health. He completed his Family Medicine residency at Prince George's Hospital Center in Cheverly, MD and his fellowship in Geriatrics at The George Washington Medical Center. Dr. Mouton is board certified in Family Medicine and holds a Certificate of Added Qualifications in Geriatrics.

**Annalisa Na, PhD, DPT** is a clinician researcher who serves as Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Physical Therapy and a post-doctoral research fellow in the Department of Orthopedic Surgery and Rehabilitation and the Division of Rehabilitation Sciences. She is board certified in Orthopedics and received her PhD from the University of Delaware and her DPT from Duke University.

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## Special Guests

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**David W. Niesel, PhD** is the Chief Research Officer, and Senior Vice President and Dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences.

**Premal Patel, MD, MSc** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine. She also serves as the Associate Director of the Global Health Education Program at UTMB and is co-coordinator of the Global Health Inter-Professional Core Course (GHICC). Dr. Patel earned her medical degrees from UTMB and completed her residency and internship at the Warren Alpert School of Brown University.

**Sachin Patel** is a clinical instructor in the Respiratory Care Department.

**Jeanne Pellis, JD** is a member of the School of Health Professions external advisory council. She is a financial advisor with Ameriprise Financial Services.

**Terry Sablatura, PT** is an Emeritus member of the external advisory council of the School of Health Professions.

**Theresa Smith, PhD, OTR, CLVT** is a former Associate Professor in the Occupational Therapy Department.

**Janet H. Southerland, DDS, MPH, PhD** is the Vice President for Interprofessional Education, Institutional Effectiveness and Health Education Center at UTMB.

**Polly Turner, MPH, DrPH, RPh** is an Emeritus member of the external advisory council of the School of Health Professions. She is a retired Associate Professor from Texas Southern University College of Pharmacology and Health Sciences, Houston.

**Helen Young, MBA, CIA, CISA, SFE, CCSA** is a member of the external advisory council of the School of Health Professions. She is a principal in Coastal Advisory Services in Austin.

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## 2018 Distinguished Alumna & Commencement Speaker

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### Marco Rodriguez, OTR



Marco Rodriguez, OTR graduated from UTMB School of Health Professions in 1992. He is the Chief Executive Officer for M&D Legacy, PLLC and Transformations Rehabilitation Services in El Paso, Texas and also serves on the Board of Directors for the Autism Society of Texas at El Paso. Mr. Rodriguez is recognized for being a pioneer for shifting the perception for children diagnosed as neurologically atypical and developing outpatient rehabilitation services for corrective therapeutic treatment.

Mr. Rodriguez was the recipient of the Commitment to Quality Award for his leadership in the development of the first EHR for Tenet Corporation's network, over 30 inpatient rehab hospitals nationwide, and was one of five nationally recognized professionals to participate in this endeavor. In 2011 he received his entry-level certification as a neurofeedback practitioner; in 2012 he received certification as an alpha-theta neurofeedback specialist and in 2013 he was certified as an infra-low frequency neurofeedback practitioner from the EEG institute.

In 2012 he received the Latino American Who's Who recognition for his achievement in advancing the culture of the Latin American Business community. In 2013 Mr. Rodriguez founded M&D Legacy and Transformations Rehabilitation Services, an outpatient rehabilitation facility dedicated to serving children diagnosed as neurologically atypical such as ADD/ADHD and Autism. Since then, his practice has expanded and now provides services to people with physical disabilities, as well. In the past 5 years Transformations Rehabilitation Services has proudly served over 950 families.

As a philanthropist, Mr. Rodriguez has provided over \$1 million dollars of therapeutic services to families unable to pay. Transformations Rehabilitation is recognized as a premier facility and partners with UT-El Paso, Occupational Therapy Program, Anamarc College, Pima Medical Institute, Western New Mexico University, Vista College, as well as several other out of state universities.

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## School of Health Professions Awards

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### John G. Bruhn Award for Professionalism

Hannah Bree Fifer  
Occupational Therapy

The John G. Bruhn Award for Professionalism recognizes a graduate who consistently displays personal and professional conduct that brings credit to himself or herself, the school and the health profession he/she represents. Candidates are nominated by faculty, clinical instructors, and others who have firsthand knowledge of the student's excellence. The selection committee thoroughly reviews each nominee and ensures the nominee reflects significant characteristics of former SHP dean, Dr. John G. Bruhn—energy, humanity and creativity. The recipient receives a plaque and monetary award. Five other outstanding students were nominated for the 2018 John G. Bruhn Award for Professionalism:

Amanda Leigh Self~, Clinical Laboratory Sciences  
Madeline Elizabeth Hanson~, Nutrition & Metabolism  
Javier Antonio Aguilar Moran, Physician Assistant Studies  
Sarah Elizabeth Hill, Physical Therapy  
Justin Tyler Horsley, Respiratory Care

Occupational Therapy graduate Hannah Fifer is the recipient of the 2018 John G. Bruhn Award for Professionalism. Her interactions with patients, preceptors, faculty, staff and fellow students epitomize Dr. Bruhn's professional ideals.

Throughout her time at UTMB, Hannah has been a consummate professional with a steadfast commitment to upholding and advancing the values, ethics, knowledge and mission of the OT profession and the School of Health Professions. She is an amazing person who exemplifies professionalism in her energy, creativity and humanity. During a weeklong medical mission trip to Guatemala, her humanity stood out as she worked alongside her peers to promote health and bring joy to children with disabilities and their families.

Throughout her time at UTMB, Hannah has been involved in community service. She was a student director of the St. Vincent's student-run Occupational Therapy Clinic. She coordinated clinic activities, greeted clients, provided student OT services and frequently served as a Spanish translator. She volunteered at Galveston Urban Ministry to tutor children from low socioeconomic backgrounds in reading. She also volunteered at Frontera de Salud, Seeding Galveston, United to Serve, the Galveston Coastal Community Church for Hurricane Harvey Disaster Relief and as a Mardi Gras Parade volunteer for Tideway and the Transitional Learning Center of Galveston.

Hannah has been a leader in the classroom and has maintained a 4.0 cumulative GPA in an intense and condensed MOT curriculum. She is insatiable in her pursuit of knowledge, committed to compassionate service, volunteerism, and leadership in the profession. The Occupational Therapy faculty welcome Hannah into the profession as a distinguished protégé of Dr. John G. Bruhn.

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## School of Health Professions Awards

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### Student Honor Award

Michael Austin Chamberlain  
Physical Therapy

The Student Honor Award recognizes the graduating student whose contributions to his or her peers, the school, the university and the community merit special recognition. The many criteria for the award include school and community participation, professional involvement and responsibility as well as scholarship. Being nominated for the award is, in itself, high praise. Five other distinguished nominees for the 2018 Student Honor Award were:

Grazielle Bernalou Rabara Pagao~, Clinical Laboratory Sciences

Brenda Velarde~, Nutrition & Metabolism

Caroline Kelly Banick, Occupational Therapy

Hannah Nicole Kelly, Physician Assistant Studies

Soraya Elizabeth Toghani, Respiratory Care

The 2018 Student Honor Award is presented to Michael Chamberlain, Physical Therapy. Michael exemplifies excellence in all things he has been involved in, and he is a role model of professionalism and leadership. Because of his academic prowess and involvement in the department, school, profession and community, Michael has received two prestigious national awards, the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions (ASAHP) Scholarship of Excellence and an additional recognition from them as the Thomas Elwood Scholar.

Michael maintained a 4.0 grade point average. Because of his outstanding academic performance and his ability to teach his classmates, he is a tutor for the PT Department. He tutors both Neurosciences and Movement Science 1.

In addition to his dedication to academic and clinical excellence, he is also very service oriented. He regularly volunteers at the pro-bono Physical Therapy clinic, St. Vincent's Hope Clinic, as a student ambassador. He not only provides effective rehabilitation to patients who have limited access to health care, but he also mentors younger students in developing treatments and evaluation of patients. He also volunteers with the Adaptive Sailing Program at Sea Star Base in Galveston helping athletes with varying levels of abilities from TIRR, a neurorehabilitation hospital system, the DeBaKey Veteran's Affairs Hospital and local veteran's outreach programs, to learn to sail for enjoyment and competition.

Michael is a unique student who has taken to heart the importance of supporting his institution as well as his profession. He served as chair of the Student Campaign for UTMB Innovations in Mind. In this capacity he was the leader of the committee for students in the School of Health Professions and they raised \$807,795 to help support the development of a new Health Education Building.

Michael meets all the standards for receiving the Student Honor Award. His example permeates across campus and is seen to better the outcomes of those seeking care.



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## Interprofessional Scholars

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### IPE Scholar Medal

The Interprofessional Scholar Medal is awarded to students who embody UTMB's interprofessional philosophy of working collaboratively with healthcare professionals, community-based providers, patients, and patients' families to enhance health care. To obtain this distinction, students must participate in collaborative interprofessional activities and document their involvement through reflective writings that are included in a student's professional website. In addition, these students serve as leaders for annual Interprofessional Day. Before graduating, students complete and present a scholarly project with an interprofessional team of students. The student's work is mentored by a UTMB faculty member.

The Interprofessional Education and Practice department is pleased to present Interprofessional Scholar Medals to the following School of Health Professions students:

Brook Brooks, Occupational Therapy  
Sarah Butler, Clinical Lab Sciences  
Alyssa Chow, Physician Assistant Studies  
Reagan Davis, Physician Assistant Studies  
Blaine Eubank, Physician Assistant Studies  
Meghan Hall, Occupational Therapy  
Katherine Hensley, Occupational Therapy  
Erica Hsu, Occupational Therapy  
Angela Husted, Physician Assistant Studies  
Muriel Jimenez, Occupational Therapy  
Emily Leib, Physician Assistant Studies  
Margot Lutz, Occupational Therapy  
Holly Matthews, Physician Assistant Studies  
Shannon McCollum, Occupational Therapy  
McKenna Merten, Physician Assistant Studies  
Nancy Ortega, Physician Assistant Studies  
Kaitlin Papaioannou, Physician Assistant Studies  
Charlotte Peeters, Physician Assistant Studies  
Kacy Priddy, Occupational Therapy  
Cayla Schaner, Physician Assistant Studies  
Hannah Stafford, Physician Assistant Studies  
Megan Starks, Physician Assistant Studies  
Kathryn Virant, Physician Assistant Studies  
Lillian Wang, Physician Assistant Studies  
Jordan Wiseman, Physician Assistant Studies  
Taylor Wiseman, Physician Assistant Studies

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## **SHP Departmental Awards**

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### **Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences**

*Outstanding Clinical Laboratory Sciences Research Award*

Stevany Shamoon

*Outstanding Clinical Laboratory Sciences Student Award*

Sarah Morgan Butler

*Outstanding Service in Clinical Laboratory Sciences*

Mathew Miller

*William J. & Mary K. McGanity Award*

Amber Kay Underwood

### **Department of Occupational Therapy**

*Award for Excellence in Practice*

Lucille Ann Byers

*Outstanding Graduate Award*

Rachel Ann Perry

*Professional Excellence Award*

Kimberly Vaccaro Guillois

*Service Award*

Caroline Kelly Banick

### **Department of Nutrition & Metabolism**

*Outstanding Professionalism*

Jennifer Chase Cleveland~

*Outstanding Leadership*

Ashlyn Elaine Evans~

*Outstanding Student*

Avesta Yakob~

### **Department of Physician Assistant Studies**

*Faculty Award for Clinical Excellence*

Mark David Pedigo

*Outstanding Physician Assistant Student Award*

Shelby Pichon Thompson

*William J. and Mary K. McGanity Award*

Kelly Elaine Drago

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## **SHP Departmental Awards**

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### **Department of Physical Therapy**

#### **Traditional DPT**

*Gertrude A. Freeman Award for Professional Growth*  
Osmara Kazi

*Outstanding Clinical Excellence Award*  
Nathaniel Michelle Fagnant  
Kaylee Knoll  
Whitney Lynn Pearson

*Outstanding Physical Therapy Research Awards*  
Neurologic – Bethany Joann Spain  
Specialty – Caitlin McKernan  
Orthopedic – Nicole Marie Bardaji

*Outstanding Physical Therapy Student Award*  
Jesus Gustavo Urzua  
Julia Carol Jennings

#### **PTA to DPT Bridge**

*Clinical Excellence Award*  
Sheena Marie Sager<sup>¥</sup>

*Christine Baker Professional Development Award*  
Emily Joy Elliott<sup>¥</sup>

*Outstanding Student Award*  
Shelley Menk<sup>¥</sup>

*Outstanding Research Award*  
Ladislao Farias Aguilar<sup>¥</sup>  
Carra Dudley<sup>¥</sup>

### **Department of Respiratory Care**

*Outstanding Respiratory Care Academic Student Award*  
Justin Tyler Horsley

*Outstanding Respiratory Care Clinical Student Award*  
Audrey Christine Bone

*Outstanding Respiratory Care Leadership Award*  
Soraya Elizabeth Toghani

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## **Academic Honors**

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Each year the School of Health Professions recognizes baccalaureate students in the top 15 percent of each department's graduating class. The distinctions of Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude and Summa Cum Laude will be announced as each student is introduced, and the designation will appear on each graduate's diploma.

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## Honor Societies

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### **Alpha Eta Honor Society**

The University of Texas School of Health Professions at Galveston established a chapter of the Alpha Eta Society in 1982. Alpha Eta Society is the national honorary society of the allied health professions. The society's goal is to promote scholarship and friendship and to recognize high achievement in the allied health professions.

The criteria for student membership are based on academic and leadership achievement as determined by each allied health program. The candidates must have a minimum grade point average of 3.5 and must have demonstrated leadership potential in their professions. They are designated by (A) in the listing of graduates.

These graduates wear green and white honor cords on their gowns.

### **Lambda Tau National Medical Technology Honor Society**

Lambda Tau National Medical Technology Honor Society recognizes scholastic excellence, school and community activities, and involvement in a professional society. Medical technology students who demonstrate ability in the above areas and have a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale are offered membership. They are designated by (λ) in the listing of Clinical Laboratory Sciences graduates.

These graduates wear green and gold honor cords on their gowns.

### **Physical Therapy Pro Bono National Honor Society**

The Physical Therapy Pro Bono National Honor Society recognizes physical therapy student graduates who demonstrate commitment to providing underserved clients and communities with quality physical therapy care while maintaining the standards and requirements of their physical therapy curriculum and the physical therapy profession. The Honor Society aims to encourage the development of altruism and social responsibility. The candidates must be in good academic standing and have completed > 100 hours of pro bono service by the time of their degree completion. They are designated by (P) in the listing of graduates.

These graduates wear teal and salmon honor cords on their gowns.

### **Pi Alpha Honor Society**

Pi Alpha Honor Society is the national Physician Assistant honor society organized for the promotion and recognition of significant academic achievement, leadership, research, community and professional service and related activities, and the encouragement of a high standard of character and conduct amongst both physician assistant students and graduates. Physician assistant students who demonstrate excellence in research, publishing, community and professional service, or leadership, have a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale, and are in the top 15 percent of their graduating class may be invited for induction into the society. They are designated by (II) in the listing of Physician Assistant Studies graduates.

These graduates wear emerald green and royal blue honor cords on their gowns.

### **Pi Theta Epsilon**

Pi Theta Epsilon (PTE) is the Occupational Therapy National Honor Society. The Department of Occupational Therapy at UTMB's School of Health Professions established a chapter of PTE in 1985 to encourage scholastic excellence among students and to contribute to the advancement of the field of occupational therapy through scholarly activity.

Candidates for Pi Theta Epsilon must be in the top 20 percent of their class academically, with a minimum grade point average of 3.5. They must also demonstrate involvement in professional organizations, prior scholastic recognition or recognized scholarly endeavors. They are designated by (Θ) in the listing of occupational therapy graduates.

These graduates wear blue and yellow honor cords on their gowns.

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## Candidates for Degrees

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### Bachelor of Science in Clinical Laboratory Sciences

#### Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences

Amal Alharthi <sup>~</sup>	Yolanda Melchor-Chavez <sup>¥</sup>
Ashlie Michelle Atchison	Spencer Andrew Middleton <sup>λ</sup>
Andrea M. Billones <sup>~</sup>	Matthew Miller
Liliana Sarahi Blanco	Mahdere Sibhat Misganaw
Hana Leykun Brhanu <sup>¥</sup>	Jane Nguyen
Sarah Morgan Butler <sup>λ</sup>	Chukwuemeka Obazei
Maria Paula Felisa Calimlim	Aaron Ajisola Ogundipe
Antoinette Irene Cardenas <sup>~</sup>	Talmurah Olivera
Nicole Marie Casey <sup>~</sup>	Mary Elizabeth Pajestka <sup>λ</sup>
Navil Cruz <sup>~</sup>	Maricela Pantoja
Kristina Marie Cuthbertson	Jessica Jane Pineda <sup>~</sup>
Huyen Quang Dao <sup>¥</sup>	Arianna Lynne Phalen <sup>D</sup>
Abdigani M. Daud	Kun Qian <sup>~</sup>
Flor Estela Davila	Chi M. Quiceno
Kathryn Lynn Day <sup>~</sup>	Alex Valle Rios <sup>~</sup>
Loc H. Duong	Yaowapa Sakaew
Joy Amarachi Eleoba	Joanne Marie Saldivar <sup>~</sup>
Megan Alexis Flores	Jorge Adrian Salinas, Jr.
Sulma Y. Flores <sup>~</sup>	Veronica Sue Sicko <sup>¥</sup>
Daisy Gonzalez	Victoria Linnette Snyder
Kelsey Lynn Green	Sheena Stephens Johnson <sup>λ</sup>
Rahma B. Hassen	Nancy Aparicio Tezino <sup>~</sup>
Tori Dannette Holiday <sup>~</sup>	Pratima Thapa <sup>¥</sup>
Ashley Leanne Hooser <sup>~</sup>	Jemi Roshan Thomas
Dale Irvin <sup>~</sup>	Amber Kay Underwood <sup>λ</sup>
Matthew Johnson III	Gabriela Celeste Valeriano
Jennifer Renee Lapham	Allison Marie Veteikis
Theresa Ray Martin <sup>D</sup>	Michael Wood
Elizabeth Martinez	Kelli Elaine Worthey
Carrie Anissa McMillin	Olga Cristina Yackee

### Master of Science in Clinical Laboratory Sciences

#### Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences

Amelia Arellano <sup>~λ</sup>	Rachel Louise Marks <sup>~λ</sup>
Julie Elizabeth Bayer-Vile <sup>D</sup>	Diana Munoz <sup>~</sup>
Jenina Marie Bernardo <sup>~λ</sup>	Grazielle Bernalou Rabara Pagao <sup>~λ</sup>
Amber Walters Diaz <sup>¥</sup>	Amira Rodriguez <sup>D</sup>
Zahra Ebrahim <sup>~</sup>	Amanda Leigh Self <sup>~λ</sup>
Brennen Emil Hohn <sup>~λ</sup>	Stevany Shamon
Marlisa Simone Jacobs <sup>D</sup>	Chanchala Thusa Acharya <sup>~</sup>
Keshia Marie Jones <sup>¥</sup>	Jing Wang
Nicholas Mapp <sup>~λ</sup>	James Patrick Weizer <sup>~</sup>

D Degree conferred December 15, 2017

~ Anticipated graduate December 14, 2018

¥ Degree conferred April 20, 2018

λ Lambda Tau National Medical Technology Honor Society

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## Candidates for Degrees

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### Master of Science in Transfusion Medicine Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences

Erica Antell

Katrina Lorraine Billingsley<sup>D</sup>

Jessica Suzanne Drouillard<sup>¥</sup>

Lauren Fredrickson<sup>D</sup>

Monica Kalvelage<sup>D</sup>

Kanaeko Rita Ravenell

Claire Szatkowski<sup>¥</sup>

Lindsey Claire Wlosinski<sup>¥</sup>

### Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Care Department of Respiratory Care

Rosette Tetuh Acha<sup>¥</sup>

Erica Rosario Amaya

Reena Yzabelle Dimaano Austria

Rose Balderaz

Carlyn Nicole Boles

Audrey Christine Bone

Melissa Gonzalez

Justin Tyler Horsley

Lauren McCall Logan

Samantha Alison Lopez

Kosar Naz Macknoja

Cindy Mai

Katherine Anne Villa Holgado Mazzola

Sadaf Ali Momin

Nebil Siraj Muktar

Andrew Franklin Nguyen

Sandra Ankapong Okai

Eunice Rodriguez

Brittany Danielle Roman

Soraya Elizabeth Toghani

Jonathan Tran

Megan Lee Turner

Brittany Elise White

Shuji Dylan Yamada

### Master of Science in Health Professions Department of Respiratory Care

Rishika Adhvaryu<sup>~</sup>

Jimmy Avira<sup>~</sup>

Denitra Moore Dunn

Loren Nicole Kemp<sup>D</sup>

### Master of Science in Nutrition and Metabolism Department of Nutrition and Metabolism

Allison Noel Aguirre<sup>~</sup>

Laurel Leigh Bagwell<sup>D</sup>

Lauren Ashley Cambias<sup>D</sup>

Dannah Louise Casto<sup>D</sup>

Jennifer Chase Cleveland<sup>~</sup>

Maria Elisa Diaz<sup>D</sup>

Mary Catherine Ellard<sup>~</sup>

Ashlyn Elaine Evans<sup>~</sup>

Clarissa Marie Ferris<sup>~</sup>

Maria Nieves Garcia<sup>~</sup>

Dianna Jocelyn Gonzalez<sup>D</sup>

Delaney Nicole Gove<sup>~</sup>

Madeline Elizabeth Hanson<sup>~</sup>

Kristen Davis Howe<sup>D</sup>

Jillian Elizabeth Hungate<sup>D</sup>

Madysen Lynne Jourgensen<sup>D</sup>

Rae Michele Kretzmer<sup>D</sup>

Melanie Elizabeth Lammers<sup>D</sup>

Samantha June Lane<sup>~</sup>

Martha Anne Mack<sup>D</sup>

Erin A. Maxwell<sup>~</sup>

Abigail C. McIlvain<sup>~</sup>

<sup>D</sup> Degree conferred December 15, 2017

<sup>~</sup> Anticipated graduate December 14, 2018

<sup>¥</sup> Degree conferred April 20, 2018

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## Candidates for Degrees

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### Master of Science in Nutrition and Metabolism

#### Department of Nutrition and Metabolism

*continued*

Colleen McKenna<sup>D</sup>  
Rachel Nannola<sup>~</sup>  
Julia Nicole Newsom<sup>D</sup>  
Katie Anne O'Brien<sup>D</sup>  
Stephanie Rochelle Ortiz<sup>~</sup>  
Jaclyn Perkins<sup>~</sup>  
Danielle Elizabeth Phalen<sup>D</sup>

Sara Kathryn Richards<sup>D</sup>  
Paige Roberts<sup>~</sup>  
Brenda Velarde<sup>~</sup>  
Stephanie Wells<sup>~</sup>  
Avesta Yakob<sup>~</sup>  
Lauren Elizabeth Zeto<sup>D</sup>

### Master of Occupational Therapy

#### Department of Occupational Therapy

Caroline Kelly Banick<sup>θ</sup>  
Hannah Marie Bate  
Rachel Diane Bingham  
Haley Denise Bowman<sup>θ</sup>  
Jena Alice Boyd<sup>θ</sup>  
Amber Elaine Brobst  
Brooke Taylor Brooks  
Lauren Marie Bubak<sup>θ</sup>  
Lucille Ann Byers  
Molly Paige Camp  
Gabriela Gisselle Chen  
Emily Schawen Chiou<sup>θ</sup>  
Samantha Lee Cuellar  
Amy Michelle Dreier  
Hannah Bree Fifer<sup>θ</sup>  
Alyssa Marie Garcia  
Melissa Gil  
Bethany Alyse Guarrero  
Kimberly Vaccaro Guillois<sup>θ</sup>  
Meghan Elle Hall  
Emily Nicole Hebert  
Katherine Jo Hensley  
Nicole Christine Hilo  
Erica Ann Hsu  
Olivia Marie Hubbard  
Muriel Kim Ortega Jimenez  
Katherine Victoria Joseph  
Gabrielle Junqueira  
Emily Jeannette Kaiser  
Mary Margaret Adelle King

Elizabeth Marie Knight  
Savannah Pearl Landry  
Stacey Wungsee Lau<sup>θ</sup>  
Margot Quinn Lutz<sup>θ</sup>  
Michelle Kimberly Marguette  
Shannon Leigh McCollum  
Christina Alejandra Mooneyham  
Ellen Elizabeth Moosa  
Delaney Michele Neighbors  
Jennifer Marie Njus<sup>θ</sup>  
Carla Fernanda Peña de la Paz  
Rachel Ann Perry<sup>θ</sup>  
Kacy Keitha Priddy<sup>θ</sup>  
Karli Ann Richardson  
Sarah Alysa Richardson<sup>θ</sup>  
Kelly Nicole Rose  
Courtney Lee Rosenow  
Laurel Jo Sabol  
Roberta Ann Schoenmakers  
Ashley Glynne Shaw  
Brittany Leigh Ann Stark  
Julia Straiton  
Lauren Ashley Walton<sup>θ</sup>  
Laura Leigh Wettig<sup>θ</sup>  
Meghan White<sup>θ</sup>  
Alyssa Kate Wilson<sup>θ</sup>  
Kaitlin Helena Wilson  
Jessie Nichole Y'Barbo  
Kaitlin Nicole Young

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## Candidates for Degrees

---

### Master of Physician Assistant Studies Department of Physician Assistant Studies

Sofia Mohammad Abdulaziz	Gabrielle Elizabeth Kroon
Kellie Nicole Achord	Courtney Elizabeth Laughlin
Javier Antonio Aguilar Moran	Emily Rose Leib
Rachael Dee Arend	Robert Lewis
Kelsey Aileen Assarian	Marley Elizabeth Lites
Rachael Slator Baker	Holly Morgan Matthews
Jenna Capri Calabro	Curtis Daniel McCloud
Kyle Reagan Callahan	McKenna Jo Merten
Jasmine Bryana Chaisson	Rachel Anne Murray
Sara Caitlin Chandlee	Cyndi Quynh-Thy Nguyen
Alyssa Danielle Chow	Trang Thi-Thuy Nguyen
Keegan Cathrene Collins	Nancy Dalia Ortega
Reagan Dylan Davis	Kaitlin Anderson Papaioannou
Ashton Taylor de Cardenas	Mark David Pedigo
Kelly Elaine Drago	Charlotte Peeters
Emily Grace Dunn	Christopher Floyd Raymond
Megan Paige Eckman	Reem Ata Razeq
Emily Elizabeth Edens	Taylor Kate Rubin
Taylor Kell Ely	Ashlyn Elizabeth Rude
Jacob Daniel Ethridge	Megan Frances Runge
Blaine Jenae Eubank	Fiorella Lucia Saavedra
Janelle Colleen Fauchaux	Cayla Schaner
Linda Lydia Garcia	Sierra Shen
Brenna Suzanne Gardell	Kendall Lea Shirey
Nikole Gase	Anita Suzanne Shiwach
Anthony Clark Gibbs	China Kathleen Adair Smith
Brandon John Glenn	Hannah Elizabeth Stafford
Ana Maria Gomez-Rubio	Megan Elizabeth Starks
Amanda Marie Gonzalez	Rachael Kathleen Strom
Megan Leigh Graunke	Shelby Pichon Thompson
Ashna Gupta	Brittany Nicole Tijerina
Heather Marie Haigler	Zachariah Austin Tiner
Ylan Erin Ho	Anay Vallejo
Cecilia Hoston	Kathryn Rose Virant
Angela Tatavak Husted	Jessica Ann Walsh
Lisa Beth Jeffery	Lillian Wang
Courtney Nicole Jersey	Stephanie Wheeler
Gregorio Jimenez	Bailey Wilcox
Jordan Kathleen Johnson	Micah Elise Williams
Kaitlin Brooke Johnson	Jordan Leigh Wiseman
Sawrabhya Varughese Kalapurakkal	Taylor Linn Wiseman
Remy Boby Kandathil	Margaret Woodley
Hannah Nicole Kelly	Mark Allyn Wyma
Erin Grace Kinsella	Xi Zhang
Phillip Joseph Kolarczyk, Jr.	



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## Candidates for Degrees

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### Master of Science in Health Professions

#### Department of Physical Therapy

Helen Abimbola Laogun

### Doctorate of Physical Therapy

#### Department of Physical Therapy

Ladislao Farias Aguilar<sup>¥</sup>

Jennifer Lynn Alexander

Lance Ferrel Angelle<sup>P</sup>

Adam Keith Aspaas

Danielle Alyse Bailey

Nicole Marie Bardaji

Erin Renee Beam<sup>~</sup>

Shonda Renise Bell<sup>¥</sup>

Michael David Bishop<sup>¥</sup>

Laurene Bramlett<sup>¥</sup>

James Daniel Burke<sup>D</sup>

Corey Burney<sup>¥</sup>

Robin Lucas Burns

David Larence Cagle

Femie Mondia Catacata<sup>D</sup>

Travis Ceccacci

Karen Lynn Ceraso<sup>¥</sup>

Michael Austin Chamberlain

Michael Jim Chen

Anna Ciufu

Hannah Nicole Smith Cleveland<sup>P</sup>

Allyson Rae Cook-Lindsay<sup>P</sup>

Karla De La Rosa<sup>¥</sup>

Bryan Aseoche Diamante<sup>D</sup>

Brycen Arthur Dowd

Carra Dudley<sup>¥</sup>

Jacob Dybdahl

Brianna Denaye Eby

Sandra Lyn Ehrett<sup>¥</sup>

Lauren Rae Elizondo

Emily Joy Elliott<sup>¥</sup>

Nathaniel Fagnant

Genna Nicole Ferraro

Abram Jacob Flores

Claudia M. Garduño<sup>D</sup>

Natalie Giesen

Dora Romo Glaser<sup>¥</sup>

Colleen Deborah Grant<sup>D</sup>

Marc Kennon Gueniot

James Derk Harrington<sup>¥</sup>

Sarah Elizabeth Hill<sup>P</sup>

Bryan Hock<sup>¥</sup>

Cara Elizabeth Hughes<sup>P</sup>

Zachary Scott Jacobs

Julia Carol Jennings

Christopher Paul Jew

Rolando Garcia Jocson, Jr.<sup>D</sup>

Tressa Johnston<sup>¥</sup>

Joy Kanany

Osmara Kazi

Kelsey Marie Kelley<sup>¥</sup>

Kaylee Michele Knoll

Kelsey Taylor Kusnerik

Steven James Lacore

Armando Loera, Jr.

Shelley Temple Maple<sup>¥</sup>

Michelle Lynn Martin<sup>¥</sup>

Caitlin McKernan

Arlis McMullan

Summer Medlin<sup>¥</sup>

Shelley Menk<sup>¥</sup>

Jennifer Merimonti<sup>D</sup>

Camille Mikulencak<sup>¥</sup>

Jeffery Lloyd Moore<sup>¥</sup>

Jessica Simone Moreno

Allison Anne Morgan

Travis William Morrison

Samantha Leigh Moseley

Deja Crystal Netz<sup>¥</sup>

Gregory James Olson

Isaura Patricia Orozco<sup>D</sup>

Nathaniel Paredes

Whitney Lynn Pearson<sup>P</sup>

Tiffany Nicole Pitre<sup>¥</sup>

Susan Riley<sup>¥</sup>

Rebecca Analicia Russell<sup>¥</sup>

Sheena Marie Sager<sup>¥</sup>

Kristina Marie Schommer

<sup>D</sup> Degree conferred December 15, 2017

<sup>~</sup> Anticipated graduate December 14, 2018

<sup>¥</sup> Degree conferred April 20, 2018

<sup>A</sup> Alpha Eta Honor Society

<sup>λ</sup> Lambda Tau National Medical Technology Honor Society

<sup>P</sup> Physical Therapy Pro Bono National Honor Society

<sup>θ</sup> Pi Theta Epsilon

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## Candidates for Degrees

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### Doctorate of Physical Therapy Department of Physical Therapy

*continued*

Lauren Elizabeth Shoopman<sup>P</sup>

Randolph Lynn Spiering<sup>¥</sup>

Wendy Emille Schell<sup>D</sup>

Bethany Joann Spain<sup>P</sup>

Chisako Sugiyama-Murray<sup>¥</sup>

Jeremy Tsongwei Tan

Vinil Chacko Thomas<sup>D</sup>

Amanda Janell Tucker<sup>P</sup>

Jesus Gustavo Urzua

Wen-Liang Wang

D Degree conferred December 15, 2017

¥ Degree conferred April 20, 2018

P Physical Therapy Pro Bono National Honor Society

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## School of Health Professions Office of the Dean's Message

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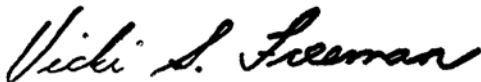
Dear Graduate,

On behalf of the faculty of the School of Health Professions, I extend my warmest congratulations to you and your families on your graduation. You have worked hard getting to this point, and you deserve every accolade on your achievement.

As you prepare to enter your career as a health professional, I know that you are filled with anticipation. You are anticipating your first professional position, and the learning that will occur as you expand your experience. You will have the opportunity to work with other health professionals in delivering quality health care and use the knowledge you have gained at UTMB to achieve excellence as a health care provider. You will find that you work in an environment that fosters your continued competence and growth throughout your career. You will put the interests of others before your own as you are trusted with confidential information that you safeguard on behalf of those who need your help. Finally, you will foster the elimination of health disparities and discrimination in health care and improve access to health care.

The faculty has put you on a path for life-long learning so that you can continue to rise to meet the challenges your patients and clients face. I am confident that you have just begun the discovery of who you will become as a health care professional. I hope that you will continue to demonstrate your commitment to knowledge, wisdom and compassion as a professional. Good luck in all of your future endeavors. It is a privilege to welcome you as a colleague.

Sincerely,



Vicki S. Freeman, PhD, MASCP, MLS(ASCP)<sup>cm</sup>SC<sup>cm</sup>, FAACC  
Interim Dean School of Health Professions

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## UTMB School of Health Professions External Advisory Council Message

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Dear Colleagues and Guests,

Congratulations on your graduation. On behalf of the graduates who have gone before you, I am pleased to welcome you as a graduate and one of more than 12,000 alumni of the UTMB School of Health Professions. You are joining a consortium of distinguished clinicians and educators.

We have seen many changes in health care trends in the recent past. Now more than ever, the marketplace is searching for creative and energetic allied health professionals. Many opportunities await you, and we are certain that you are prepared not only to meet them, but to be leaders to help find solutions to the many challenges that you will face.

As you go your separate ways, the members of the SHP External Advisory Council encourage you to continue in the UTMB tradition—practicing clinical excellence, participating in community service, promoting a healing and caring environment and helping educate future leaders like yourselves.

We hope you will continue a close association with the school. A continued relationship with the school offers you an excellent opportunity to stay abreast of changes in the school and around the UTMB community. You are joining an extensive network of alumni in all allied health disciplines who are established professionals across this nation.

Again, congratulations to each of you. We wish you the very best on your journey ahead. We look forward to staying in touch with you.

Best regards,



Kevin Smith  
Chair, External Advisory Council  
UTMB School of Health Professions

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## Previous SHP Distinguished Alumni Recipients

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**1982**

Jeanette Winfree, 1961  
*Physical Therapy*

**1983**

Arene M. Gustafson, 1953  
*Medical Technology*

**1984**

Ruby Decker, 1961  
*Physical Therapy*

**1985**

Herbert J. Sauer, 1957  
*Physical Therapy*

**1986**

John W. Young, Jr., 1973  
*Physician Assistant Studies*

**1987**

J.D. Wendeborn, 1959  
*Physical Therapy*

**1988**

Susan McPhail Wittjen, 1974  
*Physical Therapy*

**1989**

Richard R. Rahr, 1975  
*Physician Assistant Studies*

**1990**

Dorit Haenosh Aaron, 1977  
*Occupational Therapy*

**1991**

Mary Rapp Daulong, 1970  
*Physical Therapy*

**1992**

Linda Diane Veale, 1975  
*Occupational Therapy*

**1993**

Beverly R. Dickerson, 1972  
*Medical Record Administration*

**1994**

M. Irma Alvarado, 1982  
*Occupational Therapy*

**1995**

Janet R. Bezner, 1981  
*Physical Therapy*

**1996**

Mary Beth Murphy, 1945  
*Medical Technology*

**1997**

Jaclyn Faglie Low, 1973  
*Occupational Therapy*

**1998**

E. Camellia St. John, 1966  
*Medical Technology*

**1999**

Lodie H. Massey, 1975  
*Physician Assistant Studies*

**2000**

Dianna D. Puccetti, 1974  
*Occupational Therapy*

**2001**

Larry Feeler, 1977  
*Physical Therapy*

**2002**

Claire Peel, 1973  
*Physical Therapy*

**2003**

Bert Nash, 1974  
*Medical Technology*

**2004**

Barbara A. Railey, 1979  
*Medical Technology*

**2005**

Terry Sablatura, 1980  
*Physical Therapy*

**2006**

Linda Pilzner Vaclavik, 1973  
*Occupational Therapy*

**2007**

James R. Bluhm, 1990  
*Physical Therapy*

**2008**

Diane Doehne Rath, 1975  
*Physical Therapy*

**2009**

Karen R. Chapman, 1988  
*Physical Therapy*

**2010**

Michael Pirkle, 1997  
*Occupational Therapy*

**2011**

Bonnie Benkula, 1996  
*Health Care Administration*

**2012**

Steven R. Shelton, 1975  
*Physician Assistant Studies*

**2013**

Terra Ruppert, 1983  
*Occupational Therapy*

**2014**

Cecilia Graham, 1978  
*Physical Therapy*

**2015**

Mario M. Celis, 1994  
*Physician Assistant Studies*

**2016**

Dana L. Wild, 1986  
*Physical Therapy*

**2017**

Laura Wiggs, 1991  
*Physical Therapy*

**2018**

Marco Rodriguez, OTR, 1992  
*Occupational Therapy*

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**UTMB School of Health Professions  
External Advisory Council**

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Dorit Aaron <i>Houston, Texas</i>	Kevin Harrington <i>Galveston, Texas</i>	Terry Sablatura <i>Columbus, Texas</i>
Bonnie Benkula <i>League City, Texas</i>	Bobbie Hurt <i>Galveston, Texas</i>	James Selig <i>Galveston, Texas</i>
Patti Berkstresser <i>Stafford, Texas</i>	Jill Kaiser <i>Santa Fe, Texas</i>	J. Barry Shaw <i>Kerrville, Texas</i>
Frederick Black <i>League City, Texas</i>	Peaches Kempner <i>Galveston, Texas</i>	W. Myles Shelton <i>Galveston, Texas</i>
Mary Campbell <i>Corpus Christi, Texas</i>	Michael Levine <i>Galveston, Texas</i>	Kevin Smith <i>Galveston, Texas</i>
Mario Celis <i>Dickinson, Texas</i>	Brent Masel <i>Galveston, Texas</i>	James Spittler <i>Galveston, Texas</i>
Karen Chapman <i>Galveston, Texas</i>	Ronald Mlcak <i>Bayou Vista, Texas</i>	Polly Turner <i>Houston, Texas</i>
John Clyburn <i>Galveston, Texas</i>	Apryl Neal <i>Missouri City, Texas</i>	Linda Pilzner Vaclavik <i>Victoria, Texas</i>
David Cordova <i>Pueblo, Colorado</i>	Monica O'Donohoe <i>Galveston, Texas</i>	Donald Wagner <i>Houston, Texas</i>
Alexander Duarte <i>Galveston, Texas</i>	Jeanne H. Pellis <i>Pearland, Texas</i>	Armin Weinberg <i>Houston, Texas</i>
Shelley Ellison <i>Houston, Texas</i>	Barbara Railey <i>Galveston, Texas</i>	Susan Wittjen <i>La Marque, Texas</i>
Nina Godsey <i>Houston, Texas</i>	Sophie Rydin <i>Houston, Texas</i>	Helen S. Young <i>Austin, Texas</i>

**UTMB SHP Alumni Association  
Board of Directors 2018**

*President*

Sarah Tyson, OTR, CAPS, 2012

*President-Elect*

Open

*Immediate Past President*

Leonce H. Thierry, MS, MT(ASCP)CHES, 1993

*Board Members*

Mario Celis, MS, PA-C, 1994

Emma Lowry, OTR, 2016

Emily Skinner, OTR, 2011

Dana Wild, PhD, PT, PCS, 1986

*Faculty Liaison*

Laurie Farroni, PT, DPT

*Parents Council Liaison*

Toni Kercher

*Ex-Officio Members*

Vicki S. Freeman, PhD, MASC, P,  
MLS(ASCP)<sup>cm</sup>SC<sup>cm</sup>, FAACC

Interim Dean, School of Health Professions

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## UTMB School of Health Professions Alumni Association

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On behalf of the School of Health Professions Alumni Association Board of Directors, I want to welcome the class of 2018 to an alumni family that spans Texas and the nation.

Since the inception of the school, we have granted more than 12,000 Health Profession degrees and, today, you are joining a proud tradition of graduates.

As you enter the next chapter of your life and pursue your endeavors, I know that you will have fond memories of your time at the School of Health Professions at UTMB. We encourage you to maintain the relationships that you have formed and continue your bond with the school through the Alumni Association.

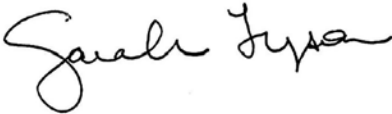
As a new graduate, you have received a one-year free membership to the School of Health Professions Alumni Association. The Alumni Association provides opportunities for alumni to stay connected with UTMB through communications, programs and services that foster a lifetime relationship with the University of Texas Medical Branch.

After your complimentary year, I encourage you to continue your membership and become an active part of the Alumni Association to ensure the mission of the School of Health Professions continues to flourish.

Your membership dues enable the Alumni Association to provide annual scholarships, as well as to recognize Distinguished Alumni for their outstanding service to the profession.

As a representative of all the alumni who have walked the halls of the School of Health Professions, congratulations on reaching this important milestone in your life!

Sincerely,



Sarah Tyson, OTR, CAPS, 2012  
President  
School of Health Professions Alumni Association  
<https://alumni.utmb.edu>  
Follow us on Facebook: UTMB Alumni  
LinkedIn: UTMB Alumni Relations

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# The University of Texas Medical Branch School of Health Professions

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## A History

Opening its doors in 1968 as the School of Allied Health Sciences, it was the first school of its kind in the Southwest. Now known as the School of Health Professions, it has awarded more than 12,000 degrees and certificates to graduates in such vital areas as clinical laboratory sciences, physical therapy, health information management, occupational therapy, radiologic health sciences, health care administration, physician assistant studies and respiratory care. Today the SHP offers baccalaureate degrees in Clinical Laboratory Sciences and Respiratory Care, master's degrees in Clinical Laboratory Sciences, Occupational Therapy, Health Professions, Nutrition & Metabolism and Physician Assistant Studies, and a professional doctorate in Clinical Laboratory Sciences and Physical Therapy. In addition to designing and implementing innovative ways to deliver instruction to students at distant locations, the school continuously explores opportunities to expand its program offerings and interprofessional learning.

The quality education students receive at the School of Health Professions is supported by the excellent training and clinical facilities available at UTMB. A wide variety of medical and health care specialties exist in UTMB's network of hospitals and outpatient clinics. In addition, the school has nearly 600 clinical affiliation sites throughout Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Louisiana, Nevada, Georgia and New Mexico.

The school continues to strive for excellence in many ways: setting ambitious goals, strengthening the quality of the faculty, expanding student recruitment, connecting with alumni, and broadening course offerings and clinical affiliations to provide students with the greatest variety of learning opportunities. Today the school proudly continues its 50-year tradition of preparing competent and caring professionals who epitomize respect, integrity and compassion.

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## The Academic Procession

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Opening this ceremony is an academic procession whose roots reach back into the earliest days of the oldest colleges and universities.

Leading the academic procession is the Grand Marshall, the person elected annually by the School of Health Professions graduating students to preside over the graduation ceremonies. The mace bears the seal of the University of Texas to signify the power and authority vested in the institution.

Administration and faculty, garbed in academic regalia that distinguish them and their fields of learning, follow graduating students. The procession manifests a collegiality of thought and action, while maintaining appropriate distinctions.

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## The Ceremonial Mace

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The mace was originally a hand weapon designed to pierce armor. As its usefulness as a weapon waned, the mace became a symbol of peaceful leadership used primarily by legislative bodies in ecclesiastical ceremonies, and at educational institutions. The mace is now a symbol of authority, dignity, and privilege.

Both the U.S. House of Representatives and the British House of Commons have ceremonial maces. The mace was one of the first symbols of authority and has been added to academic ceremonies as a symbol of authority. English universities have used a mace in academic processions for many centuries. Graduation maces typically display the university seal and decorations symbolic of significant achievements in university history.



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## Modern Scholars in Ancient Garb

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*by Harold Seymour, Former Chairman, History Department, North Shore Community College, Beverly, Mass.*

The color and pageantry marking a college commencement are rooted in long-standing tradition. Academic degrees have been awarded for more than 800 years, the first known being conferred by the University of Bologna in the 12th century. The caps and gowns worn by the faculty and the graduating class are also inherited from early medieval universities. Scholars of those days wore the gown and its attached hood for the dual purpose of keeping warm in drafty, unheated buildings and of identifying the particular clerical order to which they belonged.

### **The Gown**

The style of modern academic costume in America is based on an intercollegiate code established in 1895. The gown is commonly black, differing in type according to the level of the degree held. Gowns of foreign universities and a few American institutions are often red or other brilliant hues. The doctor's gown is paneled in velvet, and has bell-shaped sleeves, each trimmed with three matching velvet bars. The velvet may be black or of the color representing the field of learning in which the degree was earned. For example, the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) the highest degree that a university can confer, is designated by blue, for centuries the color associated with wisdom and truth. The Doctor of Theology (ThD) may be indicated by red, a traditional color of the church; and the Doctor of Jurisprudence (JD) by the royal purple of the king's court. (The title of doctor refers to the degree one holds, not to a profession or occupation, and by ancient definition means an eminently learned person, one sufficiently skilled in any branch of knowledge to teach it.) Master's and bachelor's gowns have no trim. Sleeves of the master's are extra long, and are open at either the forearm or the wrist. Those of the bachelor's gown are pointed.

### **The Cap**

The mortarboard cap is proper for all American degrees, and is worn both indoors and out on all occasions when gowns are used. The tassel, worn over the left front quarter of the cap, may be black or may be in a color representing the degree. Only holders of doctor's degrees may wear a gold tassel.

### **The Hood**

The hood is the most striking feature of the academic costume. Its shape, size and colors show both the degree of the wearer and the college which conferred it, so that anyone attending an academic function in America can distinguish holders of bachelor's, master's, and doctor's degrees, and at the same time tell the university or college where it was obtained. The shell or base of the hood is invariably of black material, but the lining is in the color of the college or university granting the degree. The color of the border or edging of the hood designates the field of learning in which the degree was earned: for instance, white represents arts; scarlet, theology; golden yellow, science; blue, philosophy; pink, music; lemon, library science; brown, fine arts; purple, law; light blue, education; and drab, business administration.

*continued*

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## Modern Scholars in Ancient Garb

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The bachelor's hood has a two-inch velvet border, the master's a three-inch border, and the doctor's a five-inch border. The size of the hood also helps identify the degree. The bachelor's hood is three feet long, the master's three and a half, and the doctor's four feet. College trustees or members of the advisory boards are permitted to wear a doctor's gown, but the hood they wear must designate only the degree they actually hold.

### Departmental Colors

Departmental colors for the School of Health Professions have been selected. Faculty and students wear identical colored tassels to indicate their affiliation:

Clinical Laboratory Sciences:	Maroon
Masters in Health Professions:	Olive Green
Nutrition and Metabolism:	Sage Green
Occupational Therapy:	Navy
Physical Therapy:	Teal
Physician Assistant Studies:	Gold
Respiratory Care:	Royal Blue

Each graduate is wearing an Ashbel Smith medallion, a gift from the University.

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## Administration of Professional Pledge

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**April Cowan, OTD, OTR, CHT**

Associate Professor

Department of Occupational Therapy

### **Professional Pledge School of Health Professions**

I pledge and commit myself to the ethical, responsible and diligent practice of my profession. I will respect and uphold the laws that govern my profession and adhere to its ethical principles.

I pledge faithfully to honor the inherent dignity of all, to treat those who depend on my help with respect, consideration and appreciation for our diversities.

I pledge always to protect the rights and confidentiality of those who seek my help, and to act only for their benefit.

I pledge continually to strive to learn, to further my professional competence and to share my knowledge with those who seek it.

I pledge always to serve to the best of my ability, to conduct myself with dignity and to place service to humankind before personal or material gain.

With honor and pride, I commit myself to my profession.

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## Commencement Songs

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### *“The Star-Spangled Banner”*

Oh say, Can you see, by the dawn's early light,  
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming,  
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous fight,  
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?  
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,  
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there;  
Oh say, does that Star-Spangled Banner yet wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

### *“The Eyes of Texas”*

The Eyes of Texas are upon you\*  
All the live long day.  
The Eyes of Texas are upon you  
You cannot get away.  
Do not think you can escape them,  
At night or early in the morn'.  
The Eyes of Texas are upon you  
'Til Gabriel blows his horn.

\*“The eyes of Texas are upon you” was a favorite saying of former University of Texas President William Lambden “Colonel” Prather (1848–1905). Prather was known for including the phrase in his speeches—admonishing students that the state of Texas was watching and expecting the students to go out and do great things.

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## **Commencement Photographs Available Online**

School of Health Professions Commencement Ceremony  
photographs can be purchased online at [www.partypics.com](http://www.partypics.com)  
Password: shp0818

Join the Commencement conversation by using our official hashtag:

**#UTMBGrad**

Share your commencement news and photos on social media!

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