



# The University of Texas Medical Branch

## School of Health Professions

Commencement Exercises  
Friday, August 18, 2023

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# The University of Texas System

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*(as of Aug. 15, 2023)*

The University of Texas  
Medical Branch  
at Galveston

2023  
Commencement Exercises

School of Health Professions  
Established 1968

Friday, August the Eighteenth  
Two Thousand and Twenty-three

Moody Gardens Convention Center  
Seven Hope Boulevard  
Galveston, Texas  
Ten o'clock in the Morning

**Join the livestream online at**  
<https://utmb.us/452>

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# The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston

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## UTMB Executive Leadership

JOCHEN REISER, MD, PhD	President
TIMOTHY J. HARLIN, DSc, MBA, FACHE	Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer, UTMB Health System
BECKY KORENEK, MHA, MBA	Executive Vice President, Business Development and Chief Strategy Officer
CHARLES P. MOUTON, MD, MS, MBA	Executive Vice President, Provost and Dean, John Sealy School of Medicine
DAVID A. BROWN, PT, PhD, FAPTA, FASAHP	Senior Vice President and Dean, School of Health Professions
DEBORAH J. JONES, PhD, MSN, RN, FAAN	Senior Vice President and Dean, School of Nursing
OWEN MURRAY, DO, MBA	Senior Vice President, Offender Health Services
VICENTE A. RESTO, MD, PhD, MBA, FACS	Senior Vice President and Chief Physician Executive
GULSHAN SHARMA, MD, MPH, FCCP	Senior Vice President and Chief Medical & Clinical Innovation Officer
MELINDA SHEFFIELD-MOORE, PhD	Senior Vice President and Dean, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences
M. KRISTEN PEEK, PhD	Senior Vice President and Dean, School of Public and Population Health

*(as of Aug. 15, 2023)*

## School of Health Professions Administration

DAVID A. BROWN, PT, PhD, FAPTA , FASAHP	Senior Vice President and Dean, School of Health Professions
CHRISTINE P. BAKER, PT, EdD, FAPTA	Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs
EDDIE SALAZAR, PhD, MLS(ASCP) <sup>CM</sup>	Associate Dean for Faculty Development and Chair, Clinical Laboratory Sciences
CAROLE TUCKER, PT, PhD	Associate Dean for Research and Chair, Physical Therapy
DANA WILD, PT, PhD	Assistant Dean for Student Affairs

## Department Chairs

JYOTHI GUPTA PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA	Occupational Therapy
ELIZABETH J. LYONS, PhD, MPH	Nutrition, Metabolism, and Rehabilitation Sciences
JOSE D. ROJAS, PhD, RRT	Respiratory Care

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## Order of Program

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Prelude	The Chamber Brass Quartet
Processional (Audience please remain seated)	Faculty, Alumni, Guests & Graduating Class
Dean's Opening Remarks	David A. Brown, PT, PhD, FAPTA, FASAHP <i>Senior Vice President and Dean, School of Health Professions</i>
"The Star-Spangled Banner" (Everyone please stand)	Amy Brennan Larison Vocalist
Invocation	Chaplain Jenny Schindler, BCC
Introduction of Provost	Dr. Brown
Welcome	Charles P. Mouton, MD, MS, MBA <i>Executive Vice President, Provost, and Dean of the John Sealy School of Medicine The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston</i>
Dean's Welcome, Administration & Faculty Introductions	Dr. Brown
Introduction of Distinguished Alumna and Commencement Speaker	Dr. Brown
Commencement Address	Melissa Cathcart Thurlow, MBA, OTR/L, CHT <i>2023 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	Janet Enderle, PhD, BS, MLS(ASCP) <sup>cm</sup> <i>President of SHP Alumni Association</i>
Presentation of Graduate Candidates	Dr. Brown
Conferring of Degrees	Dr. Mouton
Announcement of Graduate Candidates	Mr. Mike Cromie <i>Director, Student Life</i>

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## Order of Program

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Professional Pledge by the Grand Marshal  
of the Graduating Class

Memrie D. Ferguson, PT, DPT  
*Assistant Professor of Instruction*  
*Department of Physical Therapy*

Closing Remarks

Dr. Brown

“America the Beautiful”  
(Everyone please stand)

Amy Brennan Larison  
Vocalist

Benediction

Chaplain Jenny Schindler, BCC

Recessional

(Audience, please remain seated until the faculty and graduates have recessed.)

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## Commencement Special Guests

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**Jeremy Brown** is chair of the School of Health Professions External Advisory Council.

**Colleen Bradford** is a School of Health Professions External Advisory Council member.

**Shelley Ellison** is a School of Health Professions External Advisory Council member.

**Michael Furtado, PT, DPT, EdD** is an Associate Professor and Chair of the Physical Therapy Department at the University of North Texas Health Science Center, Fort Worth, Texas.

**Sonya Young-Gary** is a member of the School of Health Professions External Advisory Council.

**Michael Jay Levine, M.D.** is a School of Health Professions External Advisory Council member.

**Apryl Neal, DPT** is a School of Health Professions External Advisory Council member.

**Patrick Riley, PT, DPT, OSC, FAAOMPT** is an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Physical Therapy. He is a 2010 DPT graduate of this program.

**Helen Rogers, PT, MA, PhD**, recently retired from her position as Associate Professor in the Department of Physical Therapy after 18 years. She continues to assist in multiple courses across the three PT degree programs as an Adjunct Assistant Professor.

**Rishika Vaidya** received her Bachelor and Master of Science in Respiratory Care from UTMB. She is the Administrative Director of Clinical Operations at Methodist and Methodist Childrens Hospital in San Antonio, Texas.

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## Distinguished Alumnus & Commencement Speaker

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Melissa Cathcart Thurlow, MBA, OTR/L, CHT  
*Class of 1981*



Melissa (Missy) Cathcart Thurlow was born and raised in Shreveport, Louisiana. After high school, she attended Baylor University pursuing therapy. Her interest was piqued after watching a late 1960s TV series, *Ironside*, where a police inspector was paralyzed in the line of duty and subsequently, used a wheelchair. A recruiter from UTMB visited Baylor to talk to interested students about allied health programs. Occupational Therapy (OT) would prove to be her perfect match for years to come, while UTMB would become her place of study. While there, she enjoyed all that Galveston and UTMB had to offer. Thurlow is a proud alumnus of the Class of 1981.

With a degree in hand, Thurlow headed back to her Louisiana roots and took a position in Baton Rouge as a specialist in burn and upper extremity rehabilitation. She enjoyed working in a multidisciplinary setting of Physicians, Nurses, Physical Therapists, OTs, and Psychologists with a dedicated team approach to best serve their patients. There she found a love for this special population as well as Cajun food.

A move to Atlanta had her earning her Neurodevelopmental (NDT) certification and her experience in Atlanta has been extensive. Thurlow assisted with opening an in-patient rehabilitation unit for patients with cerebrovascular accidents, head trauma and orthopedic injuries. While working with a hand surgeon in 1992, Thurlow became a Certified Hand Therapist (CHT). She specialized in shoulder, elbow, and hand therapy while working in several outpatient rehabilitation clinics. Currently, at Peachtree Orthopedics, a physician-owned practice, Thurlow collaborates with physicians and patients to give achieve great outcomes by providing the best care. While raising her family, she also received a Master's in Business Administration (MBA) from Brenau University.

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## Distinguished Alum & Commencement Speaker

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Thurlow believes staying active in your chosen profession state-wise and nationally is the best form of giving back. She has donated many hours to mentoring and training OT students from universities across Georgia and maintains membership in the American Society of Hand Therapists (ASHT), American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), and American Society for Surgery of the Hand (ASSH). She currently serves as the ASHT's 2023 annual conference chair, Accreditation Evaluator for AOTA, Ambassador for Georgia with the National Board of Certification for OTs, and President of the Georgia Hand and Upper Extremity Special Interest Group. Thurlow loves getting friends and classmates together by helping organize the UTMB OT Class of 1981 reunions.

By serving the OT community well, Thurlow has received several prestigious awards. In 2023, she received the Master of Health Sciences Award given by Brenau University and in 2019 received the Paul Brand Humanitarian Award given by ASHT.

Thurlow has the heart of a servant and has joined many mission trips in Honduras, Haiti, Juarez, Mexico, and the Dominican Republic. She serves others with a smile and a friendly helpful nature.

Missy Thurlow is a mom to two sons, both engineers in Savannah, and lives with her husband of 35 years, Greg. She enjoys spending time with her grandson, Owen, and her identical twin sister, Kim. Traveling is a passion that she hopes to continue in the future.

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## School of Health Professions Awards

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### School of Health Professions Student Professionalism Award

Frank Joseph Albano, Jr. ~, *Nutrition, Metabolism & Rehabilitation Sciences*

The School of Health Professions Student Professionalism Award, formerly known as the John G. Bruhn Award for Professionalism, honors a graduating student who consistently exemplifies personal and professional conduct that reflects positively on themselves, the school, and the broader health profession they represent. Faculty, clinical instructors, and other individuals with direct knowledge of the student's outstanding qualities nominate candidates. The selection committee meticulously assesses each nominee, seeking attributes that embody the spirit of the former SHP dean, Dr. John G. Bruhn – qualities such as energy, compassion, and ingenuity. The recipient is presented with a plaque and a monetary award.

Among the exceptional students nominated for the 2023 Student Professionalism Award were:

Leslie Alexandra Duran, *Respiratory Care*

Alyssa Fick, *Physical Therapy*

Loan T. Nguyen<sup>¥</sup>, *Clinical Laboratory Sciences*

Sarah Nicole Reeder, *Occupational Therapy*

Frank Albano embarked on his journey with the School of Health Professions in the fall of 2022 as part of the Department of Nutrition, Metabolism & Rehabilitation Sciences Combined Master of Science and Dietetic Internship (MS/DI) program. Swiftly distinguishing himself as an outstanding student with a promising future, Frank's notable academic accomplishments, robust leadership involvement, unwavering community service, and fellow students' mentorship epitomize this distinguished award's essence.

After graduating Summa Cum Laude from California State University, Frank earned a Bachelor of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics, boasting a remarkable 4.0 GPA. In recognition of his academic prowess, Frank was bestowed with the Dean's Academic and Competitive Scholarship for this past academic year and received the Edgar and Grace Gnitzynder Endowed Scholarship. Frank sustained an impressive 3.875 GPA throughout his tenure, capitalizing on opportunities to collaborate with allied health practitioners and actively participating in local and state-level nutrition conferences.

Frank's unwavering commitment to civic responsibility shines brightly. Engaged with the St. Vincent's HOPE Garden, faculty and MS/DI students undertake garden maintenance and food pantry operations during their rotation hours. Frank voluntarily extended his rotations to assist with additional grocery deliveries and even innovatively crafted personalized toiletry and grocery bags for clients.

Endowed with boundless energy and innovative thinking, Frank consistently seeks ways to elevate existing practices. His dedication to patient interaction is evident in his approach to clinical rotations. Frank devised an intricate spreadsheet with formulas to streamline energy, protein, enteral, and parenteral nutrition calculations, optimizing his time for patient communication.

Post-graduation, Frank envisions a career dedicated to enhancing nutrition and food security in urban settings, mainly focused on fostering healthy aging. He aspires to further his education, positioning himself for a role in nutrition leadership and advocacy. Frank is an exceptional student, a beacon of commitment, and a testament to professional excellence through his volunteer work, leadership engagement, and community service.

The Nutrition, Metabolism & Rehabilitation Sciences department and the School of Health Professions eagerly anticipate Frank's future accomplishments as a valued member of the healthcare community. It is with great honor that we recognize him as a distinguished protégé of the esteemed Dr. John G. Bruhn.

<sup>¥</sup> Degree conferred April 26, 2023

~ Anticipated graduate December 15, 2023

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## School of Health Professions Awards

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### Student Honor Award

Summer Grace Meacham, *Respiratory Care*

The Student Honor Award acknowledges the achievements of a graduating student whose exceptional contributions to peers, the school, the university, and the community warrant distinctive acknowledgment. This accolade encompasses a broad spectrum of criteria, including engagement within the school and community, active participation in professional circles, a strong sense of responsibility, and outstanding academic performance. Earning a nomination for this award is a testament to remarkable accomplishments.

Noteworthy nominees for the 2023 Student Honor Award were:

Monisola Akiwowo, *Occupational Therapy*

Kelsey LeNea Heflin, *Physical Therapy*

Audrey Jones, *Clinical Laboratory Sciences*

Sara Asha Vogel~, *Nutrition, Metabolism & Rehabilitation Sciences*

Summer Meacham joined the School of Health Professions after completing a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Oklahoma. A flawless 4.0 cumulative GPA underscores her exceptional academic prowess at UTMB. She has consistently earned placement on the Dean's List throughout her enrollment. She was honored with the Dean's Academic and Competitive Scholarship the this past academic year.

Summer's commitment to leadership is evident through her active engagement in student governance and her role as the Respiratory Care Student Association president. Furthermore, she is an avid participant in prominent professional organizations at the national level (American Association for Respiratory Care and The Coalition for Baccalaureate and Graduate Respiratory Therapy Education) and the state level (Texas Society for Respiratory Care). Her unwavering involvement in campus interprofessional activities and dedicated volunteering at St. Vincent's student-operated interprofessional clinic further showcase her strong commitment to civic duty. Additionally, she generously volunteers her time on the SHP Grievance and Appeals Committee and the Professionalism Committee, exemplifying her strong sense of citizenship.

Summer embodies the qualities of a servant leader in leadership, citizenship, and school service. Her compassion and empathy mirror the attributes of an exceptional healthcare provider. In extracurricular involvement, Summer is an active member of the UTMB Respiratory Care Student Association, the Texas Society for Respiratory Care, the American Association for Respiratory Care, and CoBGRTE. Remarkably, she balances her participation in these organizations alongside the demands of a rigorous curriculum.

Summer has the potential to emerge as a remarkable leader in respiratory care. Her boundless energy, enthusiasm, and academic aptitude distinguish her as a standout among her peers, making her an indisputable choice for the Student Honor Award.

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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 patient's 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 on a student's professional website. In addition, these students serve as leaders for the 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 awarded Interprofessional Scholar Medals to the following School of Health Professions students:

Jamie Anh Le, *Occupational Therapy*  
Keely Dawn Peterson, *Occupational Therapy*

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## Student Ambassador Society

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### Student Ambassador Society

The purpose of the Student Ambassador Society is to provide service to the UTMB School of Health Professions alumni (past), current students (present), and incoming students (future). This organization of enthusiastic student representatives provides campus tours, service to the surrounding community of Galveston County, and event support for the Office of Academic and Student Affairs and Alumni Relations.

Bethany Summerhill Flippin, *Occupational Therapy*  
Victoria O. Flores, *Respiratory Care*  
Emily Fuss, *Clinical Laboratory Sciences*  
Madeline Hoffman, *Physical Therapy*  
Kaitlyn Nicole Horn, *Occupational Therapy*  
Laryn Lynn Kropik, *Occupational Therapy*  
Kaylyn Mae Searcy, *Occupational Therapy*  
Clare Shea<sup>D</sup>, *Clinical Laboratory Sciences*

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## SHP Departmental Awards

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### Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences

#### *Outstanding Bachelor of Science in CLS Student Award*

Anupama Kandal

#### *Outstanding Master of Science in CLS Student Award*

Anh Le~

#### *Outstanding Master of Science in Transfusion Medicine Student Award*

Audrey Marie Jones¥

#### *Outstanding Pathologists' Assistant Student Award*

Audrey Jones

#### *Outstanding Doctor of Clinical Laboratory Sciences Student Award*

Sarah Beth Bergbower

#### *Outstanding Service in Clinical Laboratory Sciences*

Emily Fuss

#### *Outstanding Clinical Laboratory Sciences Research*

Yuan Huang~

#### *William J. & Mary K. McGanity Award*

Andrea Purser

### Department of Nutrition & Metabolism

#### *Outstanding Professionalism*

Martha Grace Pennywell~

#### *Outstanding Leadership*

Taylor Mason Brodeur~

#### *Outstanding Student*

Alexis Kel McLain~

### Department of Occupational Therapy

#### *Award for Excellence in Practice*

Renson Susan Orr and Taylor Renae Ysaguirre

#### *Outstanding Graduate Award*

Cora Anne Carrillo

#### *Professional Excellence Award*

Keely Dawn Peterson

#### *Service Award*

CeCe Rose Madison

¥ Degree conferred April 26, 2023

~ Anticipated graduate December 15, 2023

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## **SHP Departmental Awards**

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### **Department of Physical Therapy–Residential DPT Program**

#### ***Gertrude A. Freeman Award for Professional Growth***

Iriana Marie Vega

#### ***Outstanding Clinical Excellence Award***

Fermin Garcia, Jonathan Tyler Gonzalez, and Ryan Christopher Snow

#### ***Outstanding Physical Therapy Research Awards***

Peter J. Jo and Reagan Lynette Trent

#### ***Outstanding Physical Therapy Student Award***

Caitlin Laine Koch and Ryan Christopher Snow

#### ***Perseverance Award***

Safi Momin

### **Department of Physical Therapy–PTA to DPT Bridge Program**

#### ***Clinical Excellence Award***

James Raymond Guzman and Juan Sanchez

#### ***Christine Baker Professional Development Award***

Sandra Jimenez

#### ***Outstanding Student Award***

Clay A. Canterbury and Jarrett Keith Nelms

#### ***Outstanding Research Award***

Clay A. Canterbury, James Raymond Guzman, Cynthia Vanessa Huerta,  
Maggy Alora Martin, and Caitlin Monaghan

#### ***Perseverance Award***

Kaitlyn Jones and Kenia E. Suarez

### **Department of Respiratory Care**

#### ***Outstanding Respiratory Care Clinical Student Award***

Victoria O. Flores

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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.

### **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.

### **American Council of Academic Physical Therapy Honor Society**

The American Council of Academic Physical Therapy (ACAPT) Honor Society recognizes physical therapy student graduates who demonstrate excellence, integrity, and professionalism in areas of achievement (top 25%), leadership, service or research and strong moral character, ethics and the core values of the physical therapy profession. They are designated by (Δ) in the listing of graduates. These individuals are selected by representatives from their respective ACAPT member educational institution.

These graduates wear teal and gold 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 at least 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 Theta Epsilon Honor Society**

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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## Academic Honors

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### **National Society of Leadership and Success**

The NSLS is the nation's largest leadership honor society. Students are selected by their college/university for membership based on either academic standing or leadership potential. Candidacy is a nationally recognized achievement of honorable distinction. In addition to honorable distinction, the NSLS provides a step-by-step program for members to build their leadership skills through participation at their campus or online. Upon completion of the program, members receive their leadership certificate and take their place among the top student leaders at their campus and across the country. Members are able to list their affiliation on all statements of personal accomplishment, including their resume.

These graduates wear black and platinum 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

Bianca Felicia Aguilar <sup>D</sup>	Laura Paez <sup>¥</sup>
Annette Barragan	Rachel Park
Shekinah Breland	Krutika Patel
Brittany Nicole Faust Burlette <sup>¥</sup>	Punnya Prajith <sup>D</sup>
Rolando Cervantes	Christopher J. Prevost
Kadidiatou Laura Dayamba Dembele	Andrea Purser
Freddy Delgado	Virginia Rodriguez <sup>D</sup>
Emily Fuss	Leonilyn Hasal Roskelley
Hien Thanh Huynh <sup>λ</sup>	Samantha Rumbaoa
Anupama Kandel <sup>λ</sup>	Inzalah Saeed
Luckia Kasasa <sup>λ</sup>	Pieryn Sinwiroon <sup>λ</sup>
Mario Daniel Macias <sup>D</sup>	Joshua Smith
Josephine Alyssa Mills	Zachary Micahel Suico <sup>¥</sup>
Ha Mo	Michael Suzuki <sup>D</sup>
Thao Nguyen	Daniel Torres
Marie Ogedegbe <sup>λ</sup>	Lilian Vu <sup>D</sup>

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

Kari Nicole Brokovich <sup>D</sup>	Anh Le <sup>~λ</sup>
Taurai Chiku	Baongoc Quynh Le <sup>~λ</sup>
Linh Khanh Do <sup>D</sup>	Fazeelat Nizarali Mahesania <sup>D</sup>
Maria Luisa Ferrigno <sup>λ</sup>	Meia L. Rachel <sup>~</sup>
Yuan Huang <sup>~λ</sup>	Clare Shea <sup>D</sup>
Egide Ishimwe <sup>D</sup>	Emilio Vasquez <sup>¥</sup>

### Master of Science in Pathologists' Assistant Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences

Kailey Shae Garrigus <sup>¥</sup>	Katherine Elaine Najera <sup>¥</sup>
Alexis Noel Haase <sup>¥</sup>	Loan T. Nguyen <sup>¥</sup>
Audrey Marie Jones <sup>¥</sup>	Serena Elizabeth Roy <sup>¥</sup>
Faith Kaiser <sup>¥</sup>	Haotian Wu <sup>¥</sup>
Gulzora Mamadjanova <sup>¥</sup>	Salam Zaidan <sup>¥</sup>

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

Eden Alcoseba <sup>~</sup>	Simon K. Lui <sup>D</sup>
Sydney Klausing	Arrey Njock Takang <sup>λ</sup>

<sup>D</sup> Degree conferred December 16, 2022

<sup>¥</sup> Degree conferred April 26, 2023

<sup>~</sup> Anticipated graduate December 15, 2023

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

*The inclusion of a particular student's name in this commencement program does not represent official documentation of graduation from a University of Texas Medical Branch school.*

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## Candidates for Degrees

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### Doctorate of Clinical Laboratory Sciences Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences

Sarah Beth Bergbower <sup>λ</sup>	Mindy Noelle Manek <sup>λ</sup>
Elina Esmaeilzadeh Gharehdaghi <sup>λ</sup>	Herve Nyenti <sup>λ</sup>
Amy Fountain <sup>D</sup>	Randy Earl Phillips Jr. <sup>D</sup>
Daniela Gill <sup>D</sup>	Kriston N. Williams <sup>¥λ</sup>
Habunamboka Kilonda <sup>λ</sup>	Christopher Zimmerman <sup>¥</sup>
Koy Wayne Kubala <sup>λ</sup>	

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

Monica Areli Barron	Myesha Hill <sup>£</sup>
Whitney Goodbread <sup>¥</sup>	

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

Leslie Alexandra Duran <sup>A</sup>	Summer Grace Meacham <sup>A</sup>
Victoria O. Flores	Evan Mullen
Jenna Gonzalez	Rajal Rajesh Thakor

### Master of Science in Health Professions Department of Nutrition, Metabolism, & Rehabilitation Sciences

Hareem Ali	Letitia C. Powers <sup>D</sup>
Gideon A. Daniel <sup>D</sup>	Russell Allen Rodecap <sup>¥</sup>
Hannah Marie Fuller <sup>¥</sup>	Hoonsup Shin
Jia Hesson <sup>¥</sup>	Virginia T. Wall <sup>D</sup>
Su Hyun Kim	Rebecca Angulo Whitton <sup>¥</sup>
Ye Eun Oh	Leah Ine Wokoma <sup>¥</sup>
Abiodun Oluwatoba <sup>D</sup>	Altini Yarima <sup>¥</sup>

### Master of Science in Nutrition and Metabolism Department of Nutrition, Metabolism, & Rehabilitation Sciences

Frank Joseph Albano, Jr.~	Martha Grace Pennywell~
Xochilt Albiter Loyola~	Gladys Arianna Puga~
Danielle Bennetsen~	Mary Steiner~
Taylor Mason Brodeur~	Anna Victoria Ruth Stevens~
Lauren Elizabeth DeMasie~	Madison Dee Stultz~
Olivia DiCarlo~	Sara Asha Vogel~
Maelys Gazeau~	Brooke G. Wilson~
Francisco Jaime~	Eyad Hisham Youssef~
Alexis Kel McLain~	

D Degree conferred December 16, 2022

¥ Degree conferred April 26, 2023

~ Anticipated graduate December 15, 2023

λ Lambda Tau National Medical Technology Honor Society

£ Degree awarded posthumously

A Alpha Eta Honor Society

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## Candidates for Degrees

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### Doctorate of Occupational Therapy Department of Occupational Therapy

Eastlyn Rhyannon Adams-Mosley	Kaitlyn Nicole Horn <sup>D</sup>
Monisola Akiwowo	Jenna Barbara Itani <sup>D</sup>
Victoria Madelyn Arline	Sabrina Tara Jahanfar
Candace Hebert Baumgardner	Shania Jones
Brenden Shea Beck	Alexia Maria Kammitsis
Gillian Bentley	Kendall Marie Kannmacher <sup>Ω</sup>
Brittany Nicole Birkenfeld	Shannon Marie Kelly
Sharlie Bradley <sup>D</sup>	Joan Elizabeth Kelso
Summer Martin Bullock <sup>D</sup>	Laryn Lynn Kropik
Cora Anne Carrillo <sup>Ω</sup>	Melinda Senwah Lau
Jenny Lynn Chau	Jamie Anh Le
Kayli Chiasson <sup>D</sup>	Sophia Miranda Lee <sup>Ω</sup>
Nicole Kay Cloutier	Abby Nicole Locascio <sup>Ω</sup>
Amanda Ann Chilcote Temple <sup>D</sup>	CeCe Rose Madison
Rebecca Cintron <sup>Ω</sup>	Elizabeth Kay Marshall McGuigan <sup>D</sup>
Jaymie Claire Clack <sup>D</sup>	Morgan Kelicia McKnight
Cassidy Joan Coffman	Emily Catherine McMahan
Roxana Alvarez Cortez <sup>D</sup>	Jessica Elizabeth Nelson
Anna Marie Council	Renson Susan Orr <sup>Ω</sup>
Konner Windham Dean	Allison Attal Penna <sup>D</sup>
Dana Clarissa Eufrazio	Keely Dawn Peterson
Hannah Farrell <sup>Ω</sup>	Armeen Shiraz Pirali
Jo-Ellen Marie Felton <sup>D</sup>	Mythili Ramachandran <sup>D</sup>
Bethany Summerhill Flippin	Sarah Nicole Reeder <sup>Ω</sup>
Hannah Elizabeth Fontenot	Oscar Robles
Haylee Jo Frizzell	Kaylyn Mae Searcy
Amy Michelle Froehlich	Kajol Shah <sup>Ω</sup>
Abigail Gamez	Madeline Grace Snell
Amanda Garza <sup>Ω</sup>	Jayden Marie Songer <sup>Ω</sup>
Michelle Nicole Gonzalez <sup>Ω</sup>	Rebecca Mae Tilley <sup>Ω</sup>
Sophia Graziosi	Patricia Eileen Tully <sup>D</sup>
Jacquelyn Joy Greenwood	Karla Mandalay Cantu Usnick <sup>D</sup>
Laurel Jo Groh <sup>D</sup>	Carrie Jo Wielfaert
Kayla Guice	Courtney Renee Wilkins
Cameron Lee Guthman	Nancy E. Yáñez
Ali Katherine Hansford-McKinney	Jamie Lynne Young <sup>Ω</sup>
Brittany Taylor Hoff	Taylor Renae Ysaguirre <sup>Ω</sup>
Baylee Renee Hopper <sup>D</sup>	

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## Candidates for Degrees

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### Doctorate of Physical Therapy Department of Physical Therapy

Bridget Leanne Abraham	Kala Brown Kegarise <sup>D</sup>
Chase Edgar Agustin	Caitlin Laine Koch <sup>P</sup>
Melissa Christine Aleman <sup>P</sup>	Ashley Koncir <sup>P</sup>
Jenna Rae Allen	Roopesh Krishnamoorthy <sup>~P</sup>
Jacy Lynnette Attaway <sup>Δ</sup>	Chandra Lamichhane
Chelsea Banawis	Ernest Leal
Alejandro Batista-Martin	Juliann Lin <sup>PA</sup>
Martha Lizzeth Bazan <sup>D</sup>	Eleanor Rose Magdaleno
Bailey Renee Benson <sup>PA</sup>	Maggy Alora Martin
Clay A. Canterbury <sup>Δ</sup>	Madeleine Glenn Mele <sup>P</sup>
Alyssa Cantu	Safi Momin <sup>P</sup>
Joseph Robert Carneglia	Caitlin Monaghan
Andrew Carroll <sup>Δ</sup>	Daniela Moreno <sup>P</sup>
Tony Chao	Tomas Munilla
Lisa Katherine Chavez <sup>Δ</sup>	Jarrett Keith Nelms <sup>AA</sup>
Elizabeth Crabtree	Sarah Nesrsta <sup>Δ</sup>
Brittany Michelle DeAvila	David D. Nguyen
Dason Dominguez	Luong Nguyen
Mark Fernando <sup>Δ</sup>	Natalie Nguyen <sup>P</sup>
Alyssa Fick <sup>PAΔ</sup>	Meagan Lera Onaca <sup>PA</sup>
Rebecca Fletcher <sup>P</sup>	Malinda Joyce Prystash <sup>P</sup>
Jordon Foster	Sarah Noemy Reyes <sup>P</sup>
Fermin Garcia <sup>P</sup>	Alfredo Rivero
McKenzie E. Garner <sup>P</sup>	Trevor Rook
Seth George <sup>P</sup>	Juan Sanchez
Shelby Gilbert <sup>D</sup>	Leonel Estrada Santibanez
Jonathan Tyler Gonzalez <sup>P</sup>	Nicholas Michael Scalerio
Cecilio Gutierrez	Emily Brooke Sikes
James Raymond Guzman <sup>Δ</sup>	Melanie Smith
James C. Harkey	Ryan Christopher Snow <sup>Δ</sup>
Angela Hayes	Lindsay Morgan Spitaletto <sup>P</sup>
Kelcee LeNea Heflin <sup>P</sup>	Lauren Falgoust Stiegler
Joshua Samuel Heinrich <sup>P</sup>	Kenia E. Suarez
Victoria Anne Hermann <sup>PA</sup>	Summer O'Kief Swift
Kevin James Hodder <sup>Δ</sup>	Tracy A. Thurmond
Madeline Hoffman <sup>P</sup>	Kevin Tran
Cynthia Vanessa Huerta <sup>Δ</sup>	Reagan Lynette Trent <sup>P</sup>
Eric Joseph Hundl	Yung Ling Annie Tsai <sup>P</sup>
Lisette Marie James <sup>Δ</sup>	Samantha Elizabeth Vanderburg
Kelly Marie Janak <sup>P</sup>	Iriana Marie Vega <sup>P</sup>
Sandra Jimenez	Caroline Leila Welch <sup>P</sup>
Jestina Jimmy <sup>~</sup>	Benjamin Williams
Peter J. Jo <sup>P</sup>	Benjamin Wong
Kaitlyn Jones	

D Degree conferred December 16, 2022  
~ Anticipated graduate December 15, 2023  
A Alpha Eta Honor Society  
Δ National Physical Therapy Student Honor Society  
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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On behalf of the School of Health Professions' faculty and staff, I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations to you and your families on your graduation. Your journey to this point has been marked by hard work, and you should take immense pride in your accomplishment.

As you embark on your path as a healthcare professional, I recognize the sense of anticipation you hold. Your first professional role and the learning that accompanies it are eagerly awaited. Collaborating with fellow healthcare experts, you will contribute to delivering high-quality care, applying the knowledge you've gained at UTMB to make a meaningful difference in your client's lives. We anticipate your ongoing growth and competence in an environment that prioritizes your development throughout your career. Entrusted with confidential information, you'll put others' needs before your own, safeguarding their well-being.

Moreover, I encourage you to actively pursue opportunities that combat health disparities and promote equal access to healthcare. While we can't foresee healthcare's future trends, our faculty and staff have equipped you with a foundation for lifelong learning. This will empower you to rise to your diverse patient and client base's challenges. I am confident you are only beginning to uncover your potential as a healthcare professional. Your dedication to knowledge, wisdom, and empathy as a practitioner will undoubtedly shape your path.

Best of luck in your forthcoming ventures. It is an honor to welcome you as a colleague.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David A. Brown', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David A. Brown, PT, PhD, FAPTA, FASAHP  
Senior Vice President and Dean  
George T. Bryan Distinguished Professor

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## UTMB School of Health Professions External Advisory Council Message

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Dear Graduates and Distinguished Guests,

Warm congratulations on reaching this significant milestone. On behalf of those who have previously walked this path, I extend a hearty welcome to the ranks of UTMB School of Health Professions' alumni, a community boasting over 10,000 accomplished individuals. By joining our esteemed group, you become part of a network of esteemed clinicians and educators.

The landscape of healthcare has undergone numerous transformations in recent times. There is a growing demand for innovative and dynamic allied health professionals. As you step into the future, a realm filled with possibilities, we have every confidence that you are equipped to embrace these opportunities and be poised to assume leadership roles, thereby contributing to resolving the multifaceted challenges ahead.

As your paths diverge, the SHP External Advisory Council members encourage you to carry forward the UTMB ethos. Embrace clinical excellence, engage in community service, cultivate compassionate and healing environments, and educate the next generation of leaders, much like yourselves.

We implore you to nurture an enduring connection with the school. Sustaining this relationship grants you a remarkable avenue to remain informed about developments within the institution and the broader UTMB community. You are now part of an expansive network of alumni spanning diverse health disciplines, all of whom have established themselves as accomplished professionals nationwide.

Once again, heartfelt congratulations to each of you. We extend our best wishes for the journey that lies ahead. Anticipating future interactions, we eagerly look forward to maintaining contact with you.

Best regards,



Jeremy Brown  
Chair, External Advisory Council  
UTMB School of Health Professions

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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>	James Selig <i>Galveston, Texas</i>
Kyle Albright <i>Galveston, Texas</i>	Martye Hunt <i>Galveston, Texas</i>	J. Barry Shaw <i>Kerrville, Texas</i>
Kimberly Bachmeier <i>Galveston, Texas</i>	Bobbie Hurt <i>Galveston, Texas</i>	W. Myles Shelton <i>Galveston, Texas</i>
Bonnie Benkula <i>League City, Texas</i>	Jill Kaiser <i>Santa Fe, Texas</i>	Kevin Smith <i>Seattle, Washington</i>
Patti Berkstresser <i>Stafford, Texas</i>	Peaches Kempner <i>Galveston, Texas</i>	James Spitler <i>Pueblo, Colorado</i>
Colleen Bradford <i>Houston, Texas</i>	Michael Levine <i>Galveston, Texas</i>	Linda Pilzner Vaclavik <i>Shiner, Texas</i>
Elizabeth Brantley <i>Galveston, Texas</i>	Brent Masel <i>Galveston, Texas</i>	Danielle Tullier Vice <i>League City, Texas</i>
Jeremy Brown <i>Pearland, Texas</i>	Denise McElyea <i>League City, Texas</i>	Donald Wagner <i>Houston, Texas</i>
Karen Chapman <i>Galveston, Texas</i>	Ronald Mlcak <i>Bayou Vista, Texas</i>	Armin Weinberg <i>Houston, Texas</i>
David Cordova <i>Pueblo, Colorado</i>	Apryl Neal <i>Missouri City, Texas</i>	Gaddis Wittjen <i>La Marque, Texas</i>
Mindy Dement <i>Galveston, Texas</i>	Monica O'Donohoe <i>Galveston, Texas</i>	Susan Wittjen <i>La Marque, Texas</i>
Alexander Duarte <i>Galveston, Texas</i>	Jeanne H. Pellis <i>Pearland, Texas</i>	Helen S. Young <i>Austin, Texas</i>
Shelley Ellison <i>Houston, Texas</i>	Barbara Railey <i>Galveston, Texas</i>	Sonya Young-Gary <i>Houston, Texas</i>
Nina Godsey <i>Houston, Texas</i>	Terry Sablatura <i>Columbus, Texas</i>	

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## UTMB SHP Alumni Association

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### Board of Directors 2023-2024

#### *President*

Janet Enderle, PhD, BS, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>, 2007

#### *President-Elect*

Niti Vyas, DCLS, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>

#### *Immediate Past-President*

Karen R. Chapman, PT, DPT, 1988

#### *Board Members*

Cecilia Akers, PT

Rebecca Byrd, MSHP, RRT-NPS, RCP

Carla Cuney, MBA, RHIA, CHC

Sachin Patel, BSRC, RRT

Alterra-Zoe M. (Terra) Ruppert, OTR, PhD

Jeremy Stovall, OTR

Sheree Talkington, OTR

Melissa Yanes, MS, RRT-ACCS



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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 and its Board of Directors, I want to congratulate the class of 2023. You now join 55 years of allied health professionals who have graduated from UTMB since the school's inception in 1968. Each of you is now a member of the UTMB alumni family, proudly holding a degree from the first allied health school in the Southwest.

I have gotten to know some of you in my role as faculty in the CLS program, and others through the interprofessional work many of you do as students in the occupational therapy, physical therapy, nutrition, metabolism and rehabilitation, and respiratory care programs serving in our community clinics.

I know you will go into your respective professions as leaders in health care, always representing UTMB and your patients to achieve the very best outcomes possible.

During your time at UTMB, you have demonstrated exploration, growth, self-discovery, knowledge, and expertise. While we know your family, friends, and classmates were your foremost cheerleaders, behind the scenes you were being supported through challenging times by many people unknown to you. I'm referring to the dedicated members of the School of Health Professions Alumni Association.

Our Dean, Dr. David Brown, recognizes the importance of membership. In addition to becoming a member of the association himself, he issued a challenge to the class of 2023 to join the Alumni Association as a Lifetime Member and committed to match 50% of the cost for the first 20 graduating students.

Today is the last day to take advantage of this once-in-a-lifetime offer. After the ceremony, the Alumni Relations team will be available in Expo A to assist you as you exit and return your regalia. This will be your last chance to join us as a Life Member for only \$150!

As a new SHP alum, we hope you will always be looking for ways to pay forward the benefits of your UTMB education.

Once again—congratulations on reaching this important milestone in your life!

Sincerely,



Janet Enderle, PhD, MLS(ASCP)<sup>cm</sup>, Class of 2007

President

School of Health Professions Alumni Association

<https://alumni.utmb.edu>

Follow us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/utmbAlumni>

LinkedIn:

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/utmb-alumni-relations-66983a98>

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## Previous SHP Distinguished Alumni Recipients

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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>1982</b></p> <p>Jeanette Winfree, 1961 <i>Physical Therapy</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>1996</b></p> <p>Mary Beth Murphy, 1945 <i>Medical Technology</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2010</b></p> <p>Michael Pirkle, 1997 <i>Occupational Therapy</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>1983</b></p> <p>Arene M. Gustafson, 1953 <i>Medical Technology</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>1997</b></p> <p>Jaclyn Faglie Low, 1973 <i>Occupational Therapy</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2011</b></p> <p>Bonnie Benkula, 1996 <i>Health Care Administration</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>1984</b></p> <p>Ruby Decker, 1961 <i>Physical Therapy</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>1998</b></p> <p>E. Camellia St. John, 1966 <i>Medical Technology</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2012</b></p> <p>Steven R. Shelton, 1975 <i>Physician Assistant Studies</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>1985</b></p> <p>Herbert J. Sauer, 1957 <i>Physical Therapy</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>1999</b></p> <p>Lodie H. Massey, 1975 <i>Physician Assistant Studies</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2013</b></p> <p>Terra Ruppert, 1983 <i>Occupational Therapy</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>1986</b></p> <p>John W. Young, Jr., 1973 <i>Physician Assistant Studies</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2000</b></p> <p>Dianna D. Puccetti, 1974 <i>Occupational Therapy</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2014</b></p> <p>Cecilia Graham, 1978 <i>Physical Therapy</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>1987</b></p> <p>J.D. Wendeborn, 1959 <i>Physical Therapy</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2001</b></p> <p>Larry Feeler, 1977 <i>Physical Therapy</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2015</b></p> <p>Mario M. Celis, 1994 <i>Physician Assistant Studies</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>1988</b></p> <p>Susan McPhail Wittjen, 1974 <i>Physical Therapy</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2002</b></p> <p>Claire Peel, 1973 <i>Physical Therapy</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2016</b></p> <p>Dana L. Wild, 1986 <i>Physical Therapy</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>1989</b></p> <p>Richard R. Rahr, 1975 <i>Physician Assistant Studies</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2003</b></p> <p>Bert Nash, 1974 <i>Medical Technology</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2017</b></p> <p>Laura Wiggs, 1991 <i>Physical Therapy</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>1990</b></p> <p>Dorit Haenosh Aaron, 1977 <i>Occupational Therapy</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2004</b></p> <p>Barbara A. Railey, 1979 <i>Medical Technology</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2018</b></p> <p>Marco Rodriguez, OTR, 1992 <i>Occupational Therapy</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>1991</b></p> <p>Mary Rapp Daulong, 1970 <i>Physical Therapy</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2005</b></p> <p>Terry Sablatura, 1980 <i>Physical Therapy</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2019</b></p> <p>Phillip Sizer, Jr, PT, PhD, OCS, FAAOMPT, 1985 <i>Physical Therapy</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>1992</b></p> <p>Linda Diane Veale, 1975 <i>Occupational Therapy</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2006</b></p> <p>Linda Pilzner Vaclavik, 1973 <i>Occupational Therapy</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2020</b></p> <p>James Hury, III, 2004 <i>Clinical Laboratory Sciences</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>1993</b></p> <p>Beverly R. Dickerson, 1972 <i>Medical Record Administration</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2007</b></p> <p>James R. Bluhm, 1990 <i>Physical Therapy</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2021</b></p> <p>Wendy B. Katzman, 1973 <i>Physical Therapy</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>1994</b></p> <p>M. Irma Alvarado, 1982 <i>Occupational Therapy</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2008</b></p> <p>Diane Doehne Rath, 1975 <i>Physical Therapy</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2022</b></p> <p>Chad Davenport, 2007 &amp; 2011 <i>Physical Therapy</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>1995</b></p> <p>Janet R. Bezner, 1981 <i>Physical Therapy</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2009</b></p> <p>Karen R. Chapman, 1988 <i>Physical Therapy</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2023</b></p> <p>Melissa Cathcart Thurlow, 1981 <i>Occupational Therapy</i></p>

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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 13,000 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, Health Professions, Nutrition and Metabolism, Pathologists' Assistant, Transfusion Medicine, Respiratory Care, and professional doctorates in Clinical Laboratory Sciences, Occupational Therapy, 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 and international sites in Haiti, Mexico, and Kenya.

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
MS in Health Professions:	Olive Green
Nutrition and Metabolism:	Sage Green
Occupational Therapy:	Navy
Physical Therapy:	Teal
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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**Memrie D. Ferguson, PT, DPT**

*Assistant Professor of Instruction*

*Department of Physical 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?

### *“America the Beautiful”*

O beautiful for spacious skies,  
For amber waves of grain,  
For purple mountain majesties  
Above the fruited plain!  
America! America!  
God shed His grace on thee  
And crown thy good with brotherhood  
From sea to shining sea!

O beautiful for pilgrim feet,  
Whose stern, impassioned stress  
A thoroughfare for freedom beat  
Across the wilderness!  
America! America!  
God mend thine every flaw,  
Confirm thy soul in self-control,  
Thy liberty in law!

O beautiful for heroes proved  
In liberating strife,  
Who more than self their country loved  
And mercy more than life!  
America! America!  
May God thy gold refine,  
Till all success be nobleness,  
And every gain divine!

O beautiful for patriot dream  
That sees beyond the years  
Thine alabaster cities gleam  
Undimmed by human tears!  
America! America!  
God shed His grace on thee  
And crown thy good with brotherhood  
From sea to shining sea!

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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)

Available only to students who took studio portraits

Password: **SHP2023**

Join the Commencement conversation by using our official hashtag:

**#UTMBGrad**

Share your commencement news and photos on social media!

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