

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

UT SOUTHWESTERN SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

OF

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL CENTER



SATURDAY, DECEMBER THIRTEENTH

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FIVE

ELEVEN A.M.

TOM AND LULA GOOCH AUDITORIUM

DALLAS, TEXAS

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

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

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

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

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

THE ORDER OF EXERCISES

Academic Procession Christopher M. Hearon, Jr., Ph.D.
Marshal
David G. Wilson, M.P.O.
Marshal

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

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

Commencement Address Jonathan E. Efron, M.D.
Executive Vice President for Health System Affairs
Professor of Surgery
The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

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

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

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

Closing Remarks Ramona Dorough, Ph.D.
Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and Faculty Development
UT Southwestern School of Health Professions

Recessional

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

APPLIED CLINICAL RESEARCH

SCOTT A. SMITH, PH.D., CHAIR

**CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE OF
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY**

Magistrate Yi-Ting Tzen, Ph.D.

Degree Awarded

August 2025

Jan Karel Petric

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Effect of Backpack Weight on Biomechanical Compensatory Mechanisms in Adolescent Unilateral Below Knee Amputees During Level-Ground and Incline Walking”*

Leslie A. Gray, M.Ed. and Sophia M. Ulman, Ph.D., Mentors

Degree Awarded

December 2025

Victoria Teresa Gonzalez

Ph.D. Dissertation: *“Initial Psychometric Properties, and Implementation of a Novel Self-Report Measure of Childhood Adversity in Adult-Onset and Pediatric-Onset Multiple Sclerosis”*

Benjamin Greenberg, M.D., Mentor

**CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE OF
MASTER OF SCIENCE
HEALTH INFORMATICS**

JONATHAN REEDER, M.D., PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Magistrate Wendy Chapman, Ph.D.

Degree Awarded
May 2025

Pratikshya Aryal
Kimberly Ann Burt
Ruchira Garg
Alessandra Zoe Gipson

Degree Awarded
by the Peter O'Donnell Jr. School of Public Health
December 2025

Alvaro Fernandez Palomo
Prabu Deepa Lakshmanan
Jeremy Louissaint

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

ROSS G. QUERRY, PH.D., CHAIR

Magistrates..... Megan L. Miles, D.P.T.
Jason A. Zafereo, M.P.T., Ph.D.

Degree Awarded
December 2025

Jenna Erynn Abraham	Joseph Samuel Jules
Jackson Scott Anderson	Kasey Lea Justus
Althea Kundai Balzora	Christopher Jinwoo Kim
Silje Kristine Bergestuen	Kristen Sooyeon Lee
Nicholas Binayan	Manuel Fernando Malvaez
Ty Jason Bowring	Amy Joy McBride
Haley Reese Browning	Allisan Nealy McGowan
Quinn Morgan Callier	Alexis Anne Miles
Juan Vicente Cazares	Chidozie Chukwuma Nwankwo
Takudzwa Gabriel Chiriva	Nguyen Le Quynh Pham
Sean Dheer	Troy Julio Santos Reeves
Samantha Lillian Foreman	John Michael Riojas
Eleanor Rittenhouse Gaston	Alexandra Kate Rowlinson
Mark Joseph Gibel	Hannah Ryan Shay
Connor Briggs Gillen	Ryan Showalter
Vivianne Greene	Jasmin Antonia Sorto-Rios
Blake Patrick Hays	Randall Scott Toops
Allisyn Danielle Hollingsworth	Sylva Ineza Uwimana
Grayson Matthew Jerke	Kayla Nicole VanDerKar
Morgan E. Johnson	Geovani Zapata-Ramirez

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

JEFFREY D. BROWNING, M.D., CHAIR

Magistrates.....Lona Sandon, Ph.D.
Parul Sharma, Ph.D.

Degree Awarded
August 2025

Sidra Agarwal
Ayleen Arteaga
Erin Lindsay Blotcky
Alexis Maria Bosquez
Maria Emma Edwards
Hannah Grace Eskes
Maritza Esquivel
Aubrey Faith Freese
Natalie Marie Gean
Jordan Alison Graham

Jana Halaby
Madison Henley James
Cesia Ammi Marquez
Kylee Denise McGuire
Allison Denise Montoya
Nicole Marie Ortiz
Lauren Elizabeth Sartin
Billye Chance Silander
Jacqueline Grace Wood

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

TEMPLE S. HOWELL-STAMPLEY, M.D., M.B.A., CHAIR

Magistrates.....Azadeh Namiranian, M.P.A.S.
Teresa Sanders, M.P.A.S.

Degree Awarded
May 2025

Meagan Nicole Crowson

Degree Awarded
December 2025

Mekdes Aschalew Abera	Lauren Lim
Valeria Alvarez	Brianna Macias
Samantha Kay Anderson	Haleigh Gaybriel Malveaux
Samuel Anene	Ahmad Ibrahim Noubani
Ady Takwai Chi	Brittney Ann O'Neill
Lee Ryan Davis	Ami Patel
Aylin Delgado	Neha Pinal Patel
Luisa Nayely Dominguez Aldama	Madisyn Mackenzie Puangco
Marwa Adnan Elsaad	Randy Rey Ramirez
Isabella Olivia Garcia	Gregory David Reyes
Payton Elizabeth Garza	Sierra Janaé Jessie Richardson
Shelby Liana Gayre	Eric Balduino Rios
Jessica Rae Gerow	Cecilia Sanchez
Alyssa Marie Gonzalez	Jenus Sarvi
Elisabeth Nicole Gonzalez	Kayla Elizabeth Spillman
Christopher Joseph Grovanz	Riley Morgan Spudic
Amanda Virginia Harvey	Kayla Marie Summers
Aliasger Hatim Kapasi	Duc Cong Tran
Suhina Khalid	Rosa Le Tran
Jacob Ross Knox	Samantha Madeleine Trudeau
Kailyn Mai Le	Tony Vu
Ysabel Lee	Taylor Kristian Wong

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

(continued)

Degree to be Awarded
Spring 2026

Taylor Marie Blakley
Tayyaba Masood
Emily Tennessee Smith

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

DANE K. WUKICH, M.D., CHAIR

Magistrates.....Leslie A. Gray, M.ED.
Fabian Soldevilla, M.S.O.P.

Degree Awarded
December 2025

Sarah Elizabeth Burke	Stephanie Danielle Kubes
Rainy Hale Campbell	Carter Ryan Ledbetter
Emily Ann Castilaw	Cortney Rae Ortiz
Brooke Elizabeth Covington	Lyndsey Nicole Schultz
Kayleigh Marie Darbonne	Petr Svoboda
Grace Elizabeth Dietz	Chanh Tran
Ann Katherine Kramer	

**HONORS RECEIVED BY GRADUATES OF
UT SOUTHWESTERN SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS**

Elected to Alpha Eta Honor Society

Jenna Erynn Abraham	Cesia Ammi Marquez
Sidra Agarwal	Kylee Denise McGuire
Samantha Kay Anderson	Allison Denise Montoya
Grace Elizabeth Dietz	Ahmad Ibrahim Noubani
Eleanor Rittenhouse Gaston	Chidozie Chukwuma Nwankwo
Shelby Liana Gayre	Brittney Ann O'Neill
Mark Joseph Gibel	Ami Patel
Allisyn Danielle Hollingsworth	Jan Karel Petric
Ann Katherine Kramer	Madisyn Mackenzie Puangco
Kristen Sooyeon Lee	John Michael Riojas
Ysabel Lee	Kayla Elizabeth Spillman
Lauren Lim	Sylva Ineza Uwimana
Brianna Macias	

Elected to Pi Alpha Honor Society

Mekdes Aschalew Abera	Ami Patel
Shelby Liana Gayre	Rosa Le Tran
Jessica Rae Gerow	Samantha Madeleine Trudeau
Christopher Joseph Grovanz	Tony Vu

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

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

Ann Katherine Kramer (2025)

Gordon Green, M.D., Student Clinician Award

Aubrey Faith Freese (2024)

John Schermerhorn, M.D., Student Service Award

Grace Elizabeth Dietz (2025)

Tony Vu (2025)

ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATION BIOGRAPHIES

President

Daniel K. Podolsky, M.D., *President, Professor of Internal Medicine*, is holder of the Philip O'Bryan Montgomery Jr., M.D., Distinguished Presidential Chair in Academic Administration and the Charles Cameron Sprague Distinguished Chair in Biomedical Science. Dr. Podolsky became President of the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in September 2008. He oversees the institution's strategic priorities; its academic, clinical, and administrative operations; and its interactions with the Dallas community, the UT System Board of Regents, and the Texas State Legislature. Since arriving at UT Southwestern, Dr. Podolsky's agenda has focused on keeping UT Southwestern at the frontiers of science by enhancing its faculty and activities in basic, translational, and clinical research and on promoting clinical transformation through a commitment to excellence and innovation in patient care. His priorities also include ensuring that UT Southwestern educates and trains future physicians, scientists, and allied health care professionals in programs that optimally prepare them for the changing landscape in scientific research and health care delivery, and he has launched important new initiatives in global health and faculty development. Dr. Podolsky earned his undergraduate degree from Harvard College and medical degree from Harvard Medical School. His previous association with Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital included 20 years of service as Chief of Gastroenterology and as Chief Academic Officer of Partners HealthCare. He is internationally renowned for his contributions to the understanding of intestinal inflammatory diseases. Dr. Podolsky is an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine and a former President of the American Gastroenterological Association, from which he received the 2009 Julius Friedenwald Medal for Distinguished Service for his lifelong contributions to the field of gastroenterology.

Provost & Vice Provosts

W. P. Andrew Lee, M.D., serves as *Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, Provost, and Dean of the UT Southwestern Medical School*. He holds the Atticus James Gill, M.D. Chair in Medical Science. Dr. Lee joined UT Southwestern Medical Center in February 2019. He is responsible for advancing the academic mission of UT Southwestern's four degree-granting schools, while leading more than 3,800 faculty members. He also oversees the more than \$800 million in annual biomedical research funding awarded to UT Southwestern faculty. Dr. Lee received his undergraduate degree from Harvard College and completed medical school and a general surgery residency at Johns Hopkins, followed by plastic surgery training at Massachusetts General Hospital. Dr. Lee served as Director (Chair) of the Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. His research has focused on tolerance strategy for vascularized composite allo-transplantation (VCA) to ameliorate the need for long-term systemic immunosuppression. He established multidisciplinary programs for hand transplantation at Johns Hopkins and University of Pittsburgh using an immunomodulatory protocol based upon his laboratory investigation and led surgical teams that performed the first double hand transplant (2009) and first above-elbow arm transplant (2010) in the United States, as well as the world's first total penis and scrotum transplant (2018). Dr. Lee has served as the President of the American Society for Surgery of the Hand, Chair of the American Board of Plastic Surgery, President of the American Society for Reconstructive Transplantation, President of the American Association for Hand Surgery, and President of the American Association of Plastic Surgeons.

Joan W. Conaway, Ph.D., *Vice Provost, Dean of Basic Science Research, Professor of Molecular Biology,* is holder of the Cecil H. Green Distinguished Chair in Cellular and Molecular Biology. As a distinguished biomedical researcher, Dr. Conaway has been Vice Provost and Dean of Basic Research since July 2021, providing strategic leadership for UT Southwestern's state of the art basic biomedical research and guiding the expansion and coordination of resources that support investigations at the forefront of innovation. Before joining UT Southwestern, Dr. Conaway was an investigator at the Stowers Institute for Medical Research in Kansas City, Mo., and an Affiliate Professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the University of Kansas Medical Center. She received her undergraduate education from Bryn Mawr College, majoring in Chemistry and in Biology with honors from Haverford College. She earned her doctorate in Cell Biology from Stanford University School of Medicine and completed post-graduate training as a research fellow at the DNAX Research Institute of Molecular and Cellular Biology in Palo Alto, Calif. Dr. Conaway was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 2020 and has been a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences since 2002. Her research lab focused on molecular mechanisms responsible for the regulation of RNA polymerase II transcription, a process that, when disrupted, can lead to cancer and other diseases.

Alyssa Hasty, Ph.D., *Vice Provost and Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and Career Development, Professor of Internal Medicine,* is holder of the George A. and Nancy P. Shutt Professorship in Medical Science. Dr. Hasty joined UT Southwestern in August 2024 and in addition to her vice provost role is a Professor of Internal Medicine and a member of the Touchstone Diabetes Center. Dr. Hasty received her doctoral degree in pathology from Vanderbilt University and postdoctoral training at Tokyo University. She is a leader in the field of immunometabolism, determining the role of the immune system in obesity-accelerated diseases. She has trained 10 postdoctoral fellows and 14 PhD graduate students. In addition, she has mentored over 30 undergraduate, master's degree and medical students. Her research has been continuously funded by agencies including the National Institutes of Health, the Veterans Affairs, and American Diabetes Association, the American Heart Association, and The Mark Foundation for Cancer Research.

Sherry C. Huang, M.D., *Vice Provost and Senior Associate Dean for Education, Professor of Pediatrics,* is responsible for the successful leadership, strategic management and overall quality of education and training within the UT Southwestern campuses of the School of Medicine, the School of Health Professions, the O'Donnell School of Public Health, and the Graduate School for Biomedical Sciences. Dr. Huang plays a pivotal role as the educational liaison across the clinical partners for UT Southwestern and has guided the implementation of innovative curricula and training paradigms in the clinical learning environment to ensure alignment with the missions and priorities of the medical schools and health system. A graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Dr. Huang earned her medical degree at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. She completed residency training in pediatrics at the University of California San Diego (UCSD) followed by a fellowship in pediatric gastroenterology, hepatology, and nutrition, and postdoctoral research training with a focus on cancer genetics. Dr. Huang's research employed computational models to predict genetically predisposed colon cancer patients who can benefit from targeted prevention.

Eric Peterson, M.D., M.P.H., *Vice Provost and Senior Associate Dean for Clinical Research, Vice President for Health System Research, Professor of Internal Medicine,* is holder of the Adelyn and Edmund M. Hoffman Distinguished Chair in Medical Science and an internationally acclaimed leader in cardiovascular clinical research. Dr. Peterson joined UT Southwestern Medical Center in November 2020 from Duke University, where he was a distinguished tenured professor in the Division of

Cardiology, Department of Medicine from 2006 through October 2020 and where he served as Executive Director of the Duke Clinical Research Institute. At Duke, Dr. Peterson led numerous multicenter clinical trials, prospective registries, and implementation programs. He currently serves as Principal Investigator of the Analytic Centers for American College of Cardiology's National Cardiac Database, the American Heart Association's Get With The Guidelines database, and the Society of Thoracic Surgeons' National Cardiac Surgery Database. He earned his medical degree from the University of Pittsburgh and completed his residency at Brigham and Women's Hospital. He also completed a fellowship in general internal medicine at Harvard University and a fellowship in cardiology at Duke University. Dr. Peterson ranks among the top 1 percent of published researchers in clinical medicine and has been named one of the most highly cited researchers in the world by Thomson Reuters.

Deans, School of Health Professions

Jon W. Williamson, Ph.D., *Dean, School of Health Professions, Professor of Health Care Sciences*, is holder of the Arnold N. and Carol S. Ablon Professorship in Biomedical Science. He joined the UT Southwestern School of Health Professions Deans Office in 2007 and became Dean of the School of Health Professions in December 2015. Dr. Williamson and his team are responsible for overseeing the school's academic programs, budget and finances, strategic planning, clinical operations, and research programs. He has previously served as Interim Dean, Chair of the Department of Health Care Sciences, Assistant Dean for Research, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, as well as the Director of a Center for Interdisciplinary Research and a Center for Teaching and Learning. Dr. Williamson received his Ph.D. from the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth, and conducted research studies in Copenhagen, Denmark. He completed his training as a research fellow in cardiology at UT Southwestern and joined the faculty in School of Health Professions in 1995. He received a Master's in Management and Administrative Science from UT Dallas in 2016. He is a fellow of the American College of Sports Medicine and the Association of Schools Advancing Health Professions and serves on the Board of Directors and President. His NIH-funded research programs have focused on neural control of circulation, neuroplasticity, and cortical remapping following injury and rehabilitation. As a Distinguished Teaching Professor, he also has keen interest in student academic performance and success.

Carolyn D. Bradley-Guidry, Dr.P.H., M.P.A.S., *Associate Dean for Student Affairs, Professor of Physician Assistant Studies*, is responsible for implementing policies and programming to support health professions students' academic progress from admission to graduation. Dr. Bradley-Guidry brings 23 years of instructional experience and leadership, including eight years in the Office of the Dean. Dr. Bradley-Guidry works collaboratively with program directors, faculty, staff, and campus support leaders to ensure a positive and inclusive educational experience for all learners. She leads recruitment initiatives and outreach activities to strengthen relationships with local and regional schools and university health professions advisors. Dr. Bradley-Guidry earned bachelor's degrees in nursing from Texas Christian University and physician assistant studies from UT Southwestern Medical Center. She earned a master's degree in physician assistant studies from the University of Nebraska and a doctorate degree in public health from the University of North Texas Health Science Center, School of Public Health. Dr. Bradley-Guidry's clinical expertise is in cardiovascular disease, specifically hypertension.

Her funded research involves health professions workforce and health disparities. Dr. Bradley-Guidry is a National Institutes on Minority Health and Health Disparities Scholar. She is a member of the Southwestern Academy of Teachers and has earned the title of Distinguished Teaching Professor.

Ramona Dorough, Ph.D., *Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and Faculty Development, Assistant Professor of Health Care Sciences*, is responsible for overseeing all academic policies and processes, including educational program compliance with accreditation guidelines, educational technology and faculty development in the School of Health Professions. She joined the School of Health Professions Dean's Office in 2023 after serving as Director of Assessment in the UT Southwestern Office of Institutional Planning and Assessment since 2017. Dr. Dorough actively serves on regional, national, and international committees, representing UT Southwestern's School of Health Professions and contributing to the advancement of best practices in higher education. Her dedication to promoting excellence, ensuring compliance, and fostering a vibrant academic community is evident in her oversight of program development, faculty recruitment, and retention initiatives. Dr. Dorough earned her Ph.D. in Higher Education Leadership and Policy from the University of Texas at Arlington and brings a strong background in program development, compliance with accreditation standards, educational best practices and promotion of faculty development opportunities. Her research focuses on communication modalities in educational policies and practice, empathetic communication, effective communication skills in medical practice, medicalization, and the workforce's efforts in health equity. With a genuine commitment to fostering an inclusive and engaging academic environment, Dr. Dorough brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to her role and continually strives to enhance the academic experience for faculty, staff, and students.

Scott A. Smith, Ph.D., *Associate Dean for Research, Professor of Applied Clinical Research*, is holder of the Jere H. Mitchell, M.D. Distinguished Professorship in Clinical Research. He joined the Dean's Office in his current role in November 2012. He oversees the School's basic and clinical research programs including, but not limited to, development of projects, establishment of collaborative partnerships, grant award planning/submission, and post-award management. He is the Chair of the Department of Applied Clinical Research and manages the department's PhD program. He also serves as Director of the Human Physiology Course for first-year students. Following a bachelor's degree in biology/chemistry from Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas, he earned his master's and doctoral degrees in biomedical science from the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth. He completed a postdoctoral fellowship in Internal Medicine/ Cardiology at UT Southwestern in 2002 and joined the faculty of the School of Health Professions shortly thereafter. His NIH-funded research focuses on determining the mechanisms underlying the development of autonomic reflex dysfunction in cardiovascular disease. He is a member of the Southwestern Academy of Teachers, recipient of the UT System Regents Outstanding Teaching Award and has earned the title of Distinguished Teaching Professor. Dr. Smith has also received the prestigious Minnie Stevens Piper Professorship, awarded to the top educators in the State of Texas.

Dane K. Wukich, M.D., *Associate Dean for Clinical Innovation and Advancement, Professor of Prosthetics-Orthotics and Orthopaedic Surgery*, is responsible for promoting the school's clinical operations across the institution and facilitating integration with Health System initiatives. He is the Chair of the Department of Prosthetics-Orthotics and remains actively involved in the education of orthopaedic surgery residents. Dr. Wukich received his undergraduate education at Carnegie-Mellon University and his medical degree from Georgetown University School of Medicine. He completed his general surgery residency and Orthopaedic surgery residency at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, and

a Fellowship in Foot and Ankle Surgery at Cleveland Clinic Foundation. Dr. Wukich is a nationally renowned foot and ankle specialist, educator, lecturer, researcher, and who as an Army Medical Corps officer served as a Chief of Orthopaedic Surgery in Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield. Dr. Wukich achieved the rank of Major with the U.S. Army, receiving several Army Commendation Medals and an Army Achievement Medal. He also received the Southwest Asia Services Medal and the National Defense Service Ribbon. Dr. Wukich is recognized internationally for his work in limb salvage, management of diabetes-related complications, and education. He is board certified by the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery, and is a member of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, the American Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society, the American Orthopaedic Association, and American Diabetes Association.

ACADEMIC HERALDRY AND REGALIA

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

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

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

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

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

Cords worn with academic regalia:

Green – Alpha Eta Honor Society

Blue and white – Pi Alpha Honor Society

Red, white, and blue – US Armed Forces, Active Duty and Veterans

Green and gold – Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society

Light blue stole – Southwestern Academy of Teachers

Medals – The University of Texas Academy of Health Science Education and

UT System Regents' Outstanding Teacher Award

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