2017

COMMENCEMENT

The University of Tennessee
Health Science Center
The University of Tennessee
Health Science Center

COMMENCEMENT

Thursday, December 14, 2017 | 1:30 pm
Cannon Center for the Performing Arts

Two Hundred and Twenty-Third
Year of the University
THE UTHSC IMPACT
More than 3200 students enrolled

950 graduates in 2017

97% graduation rate

94% first-time board pass rate

Over 100 clinical training sites throughout Tennessee

6 health care colleges
Dentistry | Graduate Health Sciences
Health Professions | Medicine
Nursing | Pharmacy

1 mission
Transform health care
To the Class of 2017

Congratulations on becoming a University of Tennessee Health Science Center graduate!

The UTHSC community is honored to acknowledge your outstanding achievement. We are privileged to have helped shape your development as a health care professional.

Your journey may have seemed daunting as you navigated challenging courses, stimulating laboratory work and rewarding clinical rotations. You remained steadfast in your goals of transforming health care through research and clinical care to improve the lives of the people you will serve.

Today we mark the end of one journey and the beginning of another. We look forward to learning of your accomplishments as you become a leader in your community, provide compassionate care or answer important scientific questions. You have the ability to shape the health care landscape to provide the highest level of care to the citizens of Tennessee and beyond.

As the newest graduates of UTHSC, be proud of your accomplishments. Again, I congratulate you, and best wishes for a bright future.

Sincerely,

Steve J. Schwab, MD
Chancellor
Program

Prelude ................................................................. Brass Menagerie

Mace Bearer ......................................................... Martin E. Donaldson, DDS
President of the Faculty Senate
University of Tennessee Health Science Center

Processional* ....................................................... Pomp and Circumstance
Brass Menagerie

Head Marshal ......................................................... Allen Overton Battle, PhD,
MA, BS, ABPP, KtM, OSJ
Professor of Psychiatry

Presiding .............................................................. Steve J. Schwab, MD
Chancellor of the University of Tennessee
Health Science Center

National Anthem ..................................................... William Compton
Soloist
College of Dentistry

*Audience please rise when the academic procession enters the Ballroom.

Guests are requested to remain at your seat during the processional,
ceremony, and the recessional.

Photography: Individual photographs of each graduate receiving the diploma and the hood are being made by a contracted photographer. Proofs may be viewed at StroudPhotography.com beginning December 27th. The password is uthsc2017 (lower case). Individual photos may be made by family and friends. We request that such photos not interfere with the graduation progress.
Presentation of Candidates for Graduation

College of Graduate Health Sciences..............Donald B. Thomason, PhD
Dean of the College of Graduate Health Sciences

College of Medicine......................................Matthew Ennis, PhD
Interim Associate Dean of Medical Education
College of Medicine

College of Dentistry.................................Edward J. DeSchepper, DDS
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
College of Dentistry

College of Nursing.................................Wendy M. Likes, PhD, DNSc
Dean of the College of Nursing

College of Health Professions.............................Lori S. Gonzalez, PhD
Interim Dean of the College of Health Professions

Conferring of Degrees....................................Steve J. Schwab, MD
Chancellor of the University of Tennessee Health Science Center

College of Graduate Health Sciences
Doctor of Philosophy
Master of Science
Master of Dental Science
Project Option
Master of Science Project Option

College of Medicine
Doctor of Medicine
Master of Medical Science – Physician Assistant Studies

College of Dentistry
Doctor of Dental Surgery
Master of Dental Hygiene
Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene

College of Nursing
Doctor of Nursing Practice
Bachelor of Science in Nursing

College of Health Professions
Doctor of Physical Therapy
Master of Science in Clinical Laboratory Sciences
Master in Health Informatics and Information Management
Master of Science in Speech – Language Pathology
Bachelor of Science in Audiology and Speech Pathology
Bachelor of Science in Medical Laboratory Sciences
Presentation of Hoods and Diplomas

Readers.....................................................................................................John V. Cox, PhD
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
Associate Professor of Microbiology,
Immunology, and Biochemistry,
College of Graduate Health Sciences

Susan Brewer, MD
Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Admissions
Associate Professor of Medicine
and Medical Education
College of Medicine

Stephanie Storgion, MD
Chair, Department of Physician Assistant Studies
College of Medicine

Edward J. DeSchepper, DDS
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
College of Dentistry

Shelley Y. Hawkins, PhD
Professor & Associate Dean of Academic Affairs
College of Nursing

Jacque Bradford, DPT
Assistant Professor College of Health Professions

Induction into the University of Tennessee Alumni Association.............................Besty Brasher
President of the University of Tennessee Alumni Association

Announcements

Recessional* .................................................................Brass Menagerie

*Guests are requested not to approach the stage area during the ceremony or the recessional.
College of Graduate Health Sciences

Doctor of Philosophy

Rashid John Darbandi (in absentia)*
Dissertation Title: Metabolic Regulation of Cellular Signaling
Research Advisor: Leta K. Nutt, PhD

Taren Ong
Dissertation Title: Germinal Zone Interaction Regulates Primary Ciliogenesis and Migration in Cerebellar Granule Neurons
Research Advisor: David Solecki, PhD

Qinghui Wang (in absentia)**
Dissertation Title: Discovery of Novel Tubulin Inhibitors and Selective Survivin Inhibitors for Advanced Melanoma and Total Synthesis of Bioactive 20S-hydroxyvitamin D3
Research Advisor: Wei Li, PhD

Xue Yang (in absentia)
Dissertation Title: Revealing a Non-canonical Role of Anti-apoptotic MCL-1 in Early Embryonic Development
Research Advisor: Joseph T. Opferman, PhD

Samuel S. McAfee (in absentia)
Dissertation Title: Assessing Neuronal Synchrony and Brain Function Through Local Field Potential and Spike Analysis
Research Advisor: Detlef H. Heck, PhD

Mary Cameron Ogg (in absentia)
Dissertation Title: Habituation and Dishabituation in the Olfactory Bulb: From Neural Responses to Behavior
Research Advisor: Max Fletcher, PhD

Master of Dental Science

Nicholas Gregory Norvell (in absentia)*
Thesis Title: Comparison of Digital Surface Displacements of Maxillary Dentures Based on Non-invasive Anatomical Landmarks
Research Advisor: Tom V. Korioth, DDS, PhD
Master of Dental Science (continued)

Aaron Jay Omura (in absentia)*
Thesis Title: Antimicrobial and Biocompatibility of Silver-loaded Chitosan-Amorphous Calcium Phosphate Microspheres
Research Advisor: Liang Hong, DDS, PhD

Paula Stepp (in absentia)
Thesis Title: Microleakage of Cements in Prefabricated Zirconia Crowns
Research Advisor: Martha Wells, DDS, MDS

Master of Science

Julie Alyse Lowell
Thesis Title: Retrieval Analysis of Necropsy Total Hip Replacements: Considerations Beyond the Implant
Research Advisor: William M. Mihalko, MD, PhD

Ben Sagot (in absentia)*
Dissertation Title: Pitx3Null Mutant (Striatally Dopamine-Deficient) Mice are Deficient in Baseline Striatonigral Spiking and Show Exaggerated Spiny Projection Neuron Responses to L-DOPA and D1 Agonism
Research Advisor: Fu-Ming Zhou, PhD

Master of Science (Project)

Tusita Adris (in absentia)*
Uchenna Anunobi (in absentia)*
Ladd Caballero (in absentia)*
Tracy Faith Carter
David Walker Coates (in absentia)*
Elizabeth Walton Crowder (in absentia)*
Rachna Raj Dave (in absentia)*
Ashley Carol Dodd (in absentia)*
Martha Anna Halford (in absentia)*
Aaron Hollifield
John David Kee (in absentia)*

Allison R. Krenzer
Eric Ly (in absentia)*
William Garnett Murphy (in absentia)*
Hallie Elizabeth Norman (in absentia)*
SaeRam Oh (in absentia)*
Mark Benedict Schneider (in absentia)*
Thomas Schroeppel (in absentia)*
Andrew Paul Schultz (in absentia)*
William Hunt Stafford (in absentia)*
Warner Thomas (in absentia)*
Jared Nicholas Woodward (in absentia)*

*June 2017 graduate
** August 2017 graduate
College of Medicine Graduates

Doctor of Medicine
Aaron Fuller Kala
Jeremy Nass
Anderson Webb (in absentia)

Master of Medical Science – Physician Assistant Studies
Roopa Achuri
Nasir Ali
Andrea Vanessa Belcher
Bailey Johnson Bethell
Maria Montano Brady
L. Paige Carr
Sara Elizabeth Cowell
Rachel Ann Davis
Haley Elizabeth Ellison
Genevieve Lois Gourlay
Michael Oliver Hessel
Jessica Lynne Higginbotham
Sangeetha Kandan
Andrew Brian Kirkland

Hannah Grace Mabry
Thomas Michael McLellan
Anne Marie Medved
Brianna Amanda Miller
Jenna Mayfield Morton
Abigail J. Olson
Christopher Weston Pope
Landon Patrick Prather
Kenan Stewart Prentice
Jessica Elise Schneider
Paxton Kimber Sisson
Colleen Rose Valdez
Whitney Kristine Woodbridge

College of Medicine Honors

Physician Assistant Studies High Honors
Christopher Pope
Hanna Mabry

Physician Assistant Studies Honors
Anne Medved
Brianna Miller

Pi Alpha Honor Society Inductees
Maria Brady
Rachel Davis
Sangeetha Kandan
Whitney Woodbridge
College of Dentistry Graduates

Doctor of Dental Surgery
Christopher Michael Adkins (in absentia)
Bradley Thomas Gaw (in absentia)
Bryan Raphael Lee (in absentia)

Master of Dental Hygiene
Chrystal Jnae Costello (in absentia)
Amber Dawn Shuler (in absentia)
Demario Lishun Walls

Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene
Theresa Lynette Wells
College of Nursing Graduates

Doctor of Nursing Practice
Patricia O’Sullivan Allmon
Beth Crouch
Summer Rae Culbert
Avery Lynette Dale
Joshua James Fowler
Carrie Gann
Cristina Nicole Martinez
Tonya Lashale Newsom
Cassandra Faye Newsome
Brian Sterling Paramore
Takiyah Rowe
Gregory Tipton
Rita Marie Trivette
Dale Andrew Viox

Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Anttrenika Anderson
Candace Janell Barnett
Kelly Maureen Barton
Nicole Leann Beal
Anne Beyens
Yvette Leonora Bussell-Taylor
Lauren Elizabeth Campbell
Taylor Diane Chesser
Madison Raye Cobb
Madison Klein Cowherd
Chelsea Lyn Cranford
Posonya Currie
Mary Alicia Delgado
Rachel Claire France
Britton Gage Friedman
Frankie E Graves
Wesley Gray
Rita Hall
Daniel Hawkins
Catherine Hayes
Alexandria Hearn
Shelby Husband
Matthew Keathley
Robert Monroe Kirby
Ashley Monet Lewis
Tiara Littlejohn
Carrie Janelle Mabry
Allie Davis Mackimm
Juanita Latrice Martin Bonds
Madison Jayne Mcclanahan
Kristina Ruth Milford
Haley Carolyn Moore
Katherine Muth (in absentia)
Lauren Kelsey Nollner
Anna Jane Parks
Janice Peters
Ta’Couria Rena Rayford
Lydia Raquel Reid
Diana Leigh Sabin
Jacob Kyle Schmidt
Marcia Scott
Callie K Smith
Allie Lauren Sparks
Autumn Janine Spight
Sherman Christian Stauffer
Bailey Kristen Sullivan
Margaret Sydney Teed
Camri T. Thompson
Philip Clark Thompson
Yevheniya Leonidivna Tidwell
Grant Lee Ulmer
Thomas W Van Duren
Kate Lyndell Vincent
Grace Ann Wegener
Carmen Elizabeth Woods
Ariel J. Yates
College of Nursing Awards

Alumni Award

Presented by the Alumni Association of The University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Nursing, to a student who has displayed genuine enthusiasm for learning and nursing, in addition to superior skill in providing patient care and an outstanding ability to interact with peers, patients and staff.

Rita Marie Trivette (DNP)
Sherman Christian Stauffer (BSN)

Doctor of Nursing Practice Leadership Award

The DNP Leadership Award is presented by the DNP faculty to a member of that graduating class which exemplifies the leadership role of the DNP graduate in the development of clinical practice models, health policy, and standards of care.

Patricia O'Sullivan Allmon

Doctor of Nursing Practice Clinical Award

The DNP Clinical Award is presented by the DNP faculty to a member of the graduating class who demonstrates advanced levels of clinical judgment or scholarship in nursing practice while integrates professional values and ethical decision-making.

Cristina Martinez

Faculty Award

The Faculty Award is presented to a BSN graduating student(s) in recognition of high scholastic achievement. It is presented to the graduate with the highest cumulative grade point average.

Nicole Beal
BSN Class Award

The BSN Class Award is presented to a member of the graduating class who has been chosen by his/her classmates as an outstanding role model. Some of the qualities this award recognizes include: enthusiasm, empathy, motivation, humor and respect for others.

Sherman Christian Stauffer

Sigma Theta Tau Leadership Award

This award is presented to a BSN graduating student who has shown a high level of professionalism. This recipient is respectful, non-judgmental to patients, families, peers and the healthcare team, displays a positive attitude, serves as a role model and mentor to peers, and seeks learning opportunities and ways to improve patient outcomes.

Robert Kirby

Student Nurses Association (SNA) Award

The Student Nurses Association (SNA) would like to award and honor a member who embodies the qualities of nursing (caring, professionalism, advocacy, and leadership) and has fulfilled exemplary participation in the activities of SNA at UTHSC.

Robert Kirby

Honors

The students who will be graduating from their college with Highest Honors, High Honors, and Honors will be wearing an orange stole to symbolize their outstanding scholastic achievement while a student at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center.

With Highest Honors
Nicole Lean Beal (DNP)

With High Honors
Diana Leigh Sabin (DNP)

With Honors
Wesley Hayes Grave (DNP)
College of Health Professions Graduates

Master of Science in Clinical Laboratory Sciences*
Lillian Bryant
Christina Dudash (in absentia)
Thuy Huynh
Kouevi Kodjovi
Jasity Murphy
Joshua Paschal
Kelsey Ray
Ryleigh Taylor
Ashley Taylor-Massey
Shaniqua Williamson

Master of Health Informatics and Information Management
Ashley Nicole Frakes
Victoria Claire Hammond (in absentia)
Catherine Hupf
Kimberly Joyce Isom
Nidhi Patel (in absentia)
Taylor Woodroof (in absentia)
Sue Xiong

Master of Science in Speech – Language Pathology**
Caroline Boccarossa
Sarah K. Bodak
Courtney Nicole Bowers
Sarah Gray Jordan
Ruchira Joshi

Bachelor of Science in Audiology and Speech Pathology***
Sarah Crisp
Juliana Brooke Musick
Laura Ann Skirius

Bachelor of Science in Medical Laboratory Science
Deana Cail
Dana Hunt
Angela Nicole McDaniel
Dominic R. McLendon
Shannon Lee Mincks (in absentia)
Sarah Schremser (in absentia)
Jennifer Ann Sere
DeNisha Washington

*Master of Science in Clinical Laboratory Sciences Degrees were conferred August 2017
**Master in Speech Language Pathology will be conferred in Knoxville, TN December 14
***Bachelor of Science in Speech Pathology, Degrees will be conferred in Knoxville, TN on December 15, 2017.
College of Health Professions Awards

Alpha Eta Society

Alpha Eta is the National Honor Society of Health Professions. Eligibility for membership is based on scholarship and capacity for leadership and achievement in the chosen allied health field.

Bachelor of Science in Clinical Laboratory Science

Sarah Schremser

Master of Science in Clinical Laboratory Science

Shaniqua Williamson
  Ryleigh Taylor

Health Informatics and Information Management

Taylor Woodroof
  Sue Xiong

Sigma Xi, The Society for Scientific Research

Health Professions Student Excellence in Research Award

Clinical Laboratory Science

Thuy Huynh
Title:  “Gene Expression and Function of Tetraspanin Proteins in Oral Squamous Cell Carcinoma”
Mentors/Site:  Yanhui Zhang, PhD, Franklin Garcia-Godoy DDS, PhD, Dept. of Bioscience Research, College of Dentistry, UTHSC

Christina Dudash
Title:  “Real-Time PCR Assay for Qualitative Detection of Enterotoxigenic E. coli (ETEC) With SYBR® Green”
Mentor/Site:  Amy M. Woron, MS, PhD M (ASCP), MB
  TN Dept. of Health, Lab Services, Nashville, TN
Health Informatics and Information Management

Taylor Woodroof
Title: “Optimizing the Turnaround Times of a Prescription Discharge Service at an Academic Medical Center”
Mentor: Dr. Rebecca B. Reynolds, EdD, RHIA, FAHIMA, Dept. of Health Informatics and Information Management, College of Health Professions, UTHSC

Sue Xiong
Title: “Perceptions of Medical Professionals about Electronic Health Records (EHRs)”
Mentor: Dr. Rebecca B. Reynolds, EdD RHIA, FAHIMA, Dept. of Health Informatics and Information Management, College of Health Professions, UTHSC

Brenta G. Davis Outstanding CLS Graduate Student Award
The award is presented to a graduate of the Master of Science in Clinical Laboratory Science program who demonstrates scholarship, character and dedication to the highest ethical and professional standards. The student must achieve a GPA of 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale. The award honors Dr. Brenta G. Davis, Professor Emeritus, who is a visionary leader in the laboratory science profession.

Shaniqua Williamson

Mary “Mamel” McCain Achievement Award
This award is presented to a graduating Health Informatics and Information Management student who demonstrates scholarship, character and dedication to the highest professional and ethical standards. The recipient is chosen by the health informatics and information management faculty. This award is not necessarily given each year.

Taylor Woodroof

Tennessee Health Information Management Association Outstanding Student Award
This award is presented to a graduating entry-level HIIM student for outstanding academic and clinical ability. The recipient is chosen by health informatics and information management faculty.

Ashley Frakes
Frances Guthrie Outstanding Student Award

This award is presented to a medical laboratory science graduating student who has demonstrated exceptional ability based on academic and professional criteria. The recipient is chosen by faculty and fellow students. The award is not necessarily given each year.

Dana Hunt

Honors

The students who will be graduating from their college with Highest Honors, High Honors, or Honors will be wearing an orange cord to symbolize their outstanding scholastic achievement while a student at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center.

With Highest Honors
Ryleigh Taylor
Shaniqua Williamson

With High Honors
Ashley Taylor-Massey

With Honors
Sarah Schremser
The Imhotep Society

The Imhotep Society is a leadership organization at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center that annually recognizes students who have significantly contributed to student government and student life. The following 2017 graduates have been installed as members of the Society:

Robert Monroe Kirby, College of Nursing
Allie Lauren Sparks, College of Nursing
Margaret Sydney Teed, College of Nursing

The Mace and Chain of Office

Effectively symbolizing the heritage and future of the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, the ceremonial mace has been used in commencements since 1978. Historically, the mace was a medieval weapon used as a club. In modern times, the ornamental staff has become a symbol of authority, and the office of Mace Bearer is a ceremonial one.

Designed to reflect this institution’s traditions and aspirations, the Health Science Center mace is made of sterling silver and rosewood. Atop the mace is the gold-plated seal of the University of Tennessee, supported by a circle of arches representing the archway connecting the O.W. Hyman Administration Building and the R.L. Crowe Building. Between two inscribed bands commemorating the founding of the university and the Health Science Center, are shields displaying symbols of six colleges. The lower end of the mace is a silver replica of a space capsule, indicating the future of humans and of science may transcend this planet.

Symbolizing the chief authority of this campus, the sterling silver Chain of Office is worn by the chancellor for formal academic ceremonies. Designed to complement the Mace, the chain includes 12 links cast in the Health Science Center logo, alternating with shields displaying the emblems of six colleges. A silver medallion bearing the gold-plated seal of the university hangs from the necklace.

Academic Regalia

Dress

Academic dress first appeared in America in colonial days, as many regulations from British universities were transplanted to this side of the Atlantic. In 1895, a uniform code, drafted by an intercollegiate commission, was adopted prescribing designs for caps, gowns and hoods. The code also prescribed the colors and materials to be used to represent different types of degrees and various universities in the United States. This code has been modified only slightly by succeeding committees of the American Council on Education.
Gowns

Different types of gowns have been devised for bachelor, master and doctoral degrees. The official gown for the bachelor’s degree candidate is black with a stiff yoke, shirring across the shoulder, pleated front panels and may be distinguished by long, pointed sleeves. It is worn closed and without adornments.

Until 1960, master’s gowns were worn open with the material forming an oblong drape. Since the gown was especially cumbersome, the American Council on Education modified the design to create a closed style similar to the bachelor’s dress.

The doctoral gown is distinguished by velvet panels along the front edges. Cut fuller than the other gowns, it may be ornamented in color and has three horizontal bars decorating the full, bell-shaped sleeves. The velvet trim may be black or the color of the academic discipline. Although most doctoral gowns are black, some gowns may be the color of the institution that conferred the degree.

Hoods

Originally used as a head covering, shoulder cape or bag for collecting alms, the hood is retained for tradition in academic attire today. Its shape dates from the period when wigs were fashionable; and wearers did not wish to cover their elaborate hairstyles, but kept the hoods merely for symbolic and decorative effect.

The shape and size of the American hood is determined by the degree of the wearer, with doctoral hoods being the longest. The color of the velvet border denotes the academic discipline of the degree earned, and the color or colors of the lining are the official colors of the institution conferring the degree.

Colors

The color of the velvet border is determined by the academic field in which the degree is taken. Some of the colors and the disciplines that may be seen today are:

- Green .................................................. Medicine
- Lilac .................................................. Dentistry
- Olive .................................................. Pharmacy
- Apricot .................................................. Nursing
- Sea Green .............................................. Health Professions
- Blue .................................................... Health Science

The name of the institution conferring the degree is designated by the colors of the hood lining. The University of Tennessee hood is lined in orange and white.
All qualified applicants will receive equal consideration for employment and admissions without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, pregnancy, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, physical or mental disability, or covered veteran status.

Eligibility and other terms and conditions of employment benefits at The University of Tennessee are governed by laws and regulations of the State of Tennessee, and this non-discrimination statement is intended to be consistent with those laws and regulations.

In accordance with the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, The University of Tennessee affirmatively states that it does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, or disability in its education programs and activities, and this policy extends to employment by the University.

Inquiries and charges of violation of Title VI (race, color, national origin), Title IX (sex), Section 504 (disability), ADA (disability), Age Discrimination in Employment Act (age), sexual orientation, or veteran status should be directed to the Office of Equity and Diversity (OED), 910 Madison Avenue, Suite 826, Memphis, Tennessee 38163, telephone 901-448-7382 (TTY available). Requests for accommodation of a disability should be directed to the ADA Coordinator at the Office of Equity and Diversity.