College of Business
Lamar University

Commencement Ceremony

Montagne Center
Saturday, May 13, 2017
Board of Regents

Rossanna Salazar, Chairman  
William F. Scott, Vice Chairman  
Charlie Amato  
Veronica Muzquiz Edwards  
Jaime R. Garza  
David Montagne  
Vernon Reaser III  
Alan L. Tinsley  
Donna N. Williams  
Dylan J. McFarland, Student Regent

Brian McCall, Ph.D., Chancellor

University Administration

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James Marquart, Ph.D.  
Kevin B. Smith, Ph.D.  
Brenda S. Nichols, D.N.Sc.  
E. Craig Ness, M.B.A.  
John Bello-Ogunu, Sr., Ph.D.  
Priscilla Parsons, M.B.A.  
Vicki McNeil, Ed.D.  
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President
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Senior Associate Provost
Vice Provost for Digital Learning
Vice President for Finance and Operations
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Academic Deans

William E. Harn, Ph.D.  
Joe Nordgren, Ph.D.  
Enrique “Henry” Venta, Ph.D.  
Robert Spina, Ph.D., FACSM  
Srinivas Palanki, Ph.D.  
Derina Holtzhausen, Ph.D.  
Kevin Dodson, Ph.D.  
David J. Carroll, M.L.S.

Dean of Graduate Studies
Interim Dean of Arts and Sciences
Dean of Business
Dean of Education and Human Development
Dean of Engineering
Dean of Fine Arts and Communication
Dean of Reaud Honors College
Director of Library Services
On behalf of the faculty and staff, I am pleased to welcome all of you to the commencement ceremony for the College of Business at Lamar University.

As Dean of the College of Business, I am excited about our accomplishments and about the many opportunities we are exploring to strengthen our already top-notch business education. Lamar University offers our students a superior business curriculum and a well-rounded core of arts and sciences in a College of Business that is committed to being an integral part of the business community. Our primary goal is to ensure that all of our programs continue to serve the needs of evolving and dynamic business marketplaces in Southeast Texas and around the world.

Lamar University’s College of Business is distinctive because of the many important advantages we offer, including a strong and experienced faculty, who are committed to teaching and research, and who care deeply about our students. Full-time faculty teaches more than 80% of our sections, and we maintain a low student-faculty ratio; as a result, students learn in a highly interactive environment that provides close, personal attention. We also offer practical, flexible programs to respond to today’s changing marketplace. Both our undergraduate and MBA programs offer full-time, part-time and online options. Our Master of Science in Accounting program offers a fully integrated five-year experience leading to the BBA and MSA degrees. Additionally, we offer an impressive network of accomplished business alumni, whose involvement in the college provides our students with speakers, internships, career opportunities and valuable ongoing support throughout their professional lives.

Thank you for joining us today as we celebrate the achievements of our students.

Enrique (Henry) R. Venta, Ph.D.
Dean and Professor of Management
CEREMONY PROGRAM

Musical Prelude
Lamar University Brass Ensemble
Scott Deppe, Ed.D.
Director of Bands

Academic Processional*
James Slaydon, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Economics and Finance

Crown Imperial
Walton
Lamar University Brass Ensemble

The National Anthem*
The Star Spangled Banner
Craig Escamilla, B.M.A., M.B.A.
Instructor of Management and Marketing
Francis Scott Key

Welcome/Introductions
Enrique “Henry” Venta, Ph.D.
Dean

Commencement Address
Paul Trevino, B.B.A., M.B.A.
CEO of Christus Health Southeast Texas

Introduction of Student Speaker
Enrique “Henry” Venta, Ph.D.

Student Commencement Address
Katie Loftin
Advertising Communications Major

Certification of Candidates
Enrique “Henry” Venta, Ph.D.

Conferring of Degrees
Kenneth R. Evans, Ph.D.
President
Presentation of Graduating Class  Enrique “Henry” Venta, Ph.D.

Announcement of Graduates  Kaushik Ghosh, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Information Systems and Analysis

    Toni Mulvaney, J.D.
    Professor of Accounting and Business Law

Lamar University Alma Mater*  Craig Escamilla, B.M.A., M.B.A.
G. Rhodes Smartt

    Lamar to thee we’re singing
    Voices raised on high.
    We will forever love thee
    Laud thee to the sky.

    We will ever need thee
    As our guiding star.
    To us you’ll always be
    Our glorious Lamar.

Academic Recessional*  James Slaydon, Ph.D.

Please join us for an informal reception, located upstairs in the concourse area of the Montagne Center, following the ceremony.

*Audience please stand.

To maintain the dignity of the program, guests are requested to refrain from unnecessary noises (air horns, etc.) and movement during the ceremony.
College of Business Faculty

Enrique “Henry” Venta, Ph.D., Dean

Accounting & Business Law
Toni Mulvaney, Chair
Clare Burns, Director
Marleen Swerdlow, Director
Frank Badua
Melissa Baldo
Ricardo Colon
Frank Cavaliere
Tim McCoy
Gisele Moss
David Rose
Delvin Seawright
Orrin Swift
Michael Toerner

Economics & Finance
Larry Allen, Chair
Chun-Da Chen
Jai-Young Choi
Charles Hawkins
John McCollough
Jimmy Moss
Karyn Neuhauser
Donald Price
James Slaydon (Mace Carrier)
Hiroki Watanabe

Information Systems & Analysis
Kakoli Bandyopadhyay, Chair
Cynthia Barnes
Richard Drapeau (Retired Faculty)
Ashraf El-Houbi
Alicen Flosi
Purnendu Mandal
Ricardo Tovar-Silos
Yu (Audrey) Zhao
Jerry Zhang

Management & Marketing
Kabir C. “KC” Sen, Chair
Jeff Dyson, MBA Director
Soumava Bandyopadhyay
Craig Escamilla (Vocalist)
Kathy Fraccastoro
Lynn Godkin
Komal Karani
Paul Latiolais
Brad Mayer
Vivek Natarajan
Kelly Weeks

Reese Construction Management
Steve McCrary, Director
Seokyon Hwang
Mahdi Safa

Faculty Marshals
Chun-Da Chen
Ashraf El-Houbi
Komal Karani
Purnendu Mandal
Tim McCoy
Jimmy Moss
Delvin Seawright
Orrin Swift
Ricardo Tovar-Silos
Hiroki Watanabe

Directors of Graduation Ceremony
David Short Jr., Registrar
Barbara Price, Assistant Registrar

Directors of Records & Registration
Summer Rather
Natasha Walker

Graduation Coordinator
Mildred Piert
Paul Trevino is a seasoned healthcare executive with over 28 years of healthcare experience in not for profit, for profit, and managed care sectors of the healthcare market.

As the CEO of the CHRISTUS Southeast Texas Health System, he is responsible for managing the market portfolio in Southeast Texas representing a $358 million annual budget, 2,136 employees and 380,000 patient encounters annually. Mr. Trevino has worked for CHRISTUS Health for the last 23 years and has served in key executive roles in multiple regions of the organization, focusing on hospital operations, network development, and physician alignment.

Mr. Trevino is a native of Corpus Christi, Texas. He attended the University of Texas, Corpus Christi State University and St. Mary University, where he obtained a Bachelors of Business Administration and a Master of Business Administration. He has served on a variety of civic and community boards. He has been married to Kelli Hayes Trevino (a Lamar graduate) for 30 years and has three children and one new granddaughter. He and his family have spent over 16 years living in Southeast Texas.
Katie is from Saratoga, Texas where she was raised by her parents Kathy and Sam Loftin. She graduated as Salutatorian from West Hardin High School in 2013. Katie will be graduating with a Bachelor degree in Advertising Communications. She has been involved in many activities throughout her college career. She is a member of the Lamar University Ambassadors, Business Dean’s Advisory Council, and LU Advertising Federation. Katie frequently volunteers at sporting events and throughout the community with LU Ambassadors. Katie is a Smith–Hutson Scholarship recipient. Throughout her college career she has taken at least fifteen hours a semester and maintained a part-time job. Currently, Katie is a full time Retirement Services Marketing Assistant at Neches Federal Credit Union. In the future, she would like to work in the marketing/advertising industry. She would also like to work in the social media marketing field and eventually become a social media marketing manager.
**Master of Science in Accounting**

Emily Brieden Templeton  
Margie Marissa Burrell  
Kayla Lena Comeaux  
Nahian Omar Faruqe  
Elizabeth Flores Flores  
Kristeen Kimberly Reynolds  
Taylor Diana Stockton

**Master of Business Administration**

Hilary Lee Allen  
Jeremy G. Allen  
Brittany Rose Baker  
Erik Veo Camacho  
Keyana Janea’ Carr  
Dane Alexander Dennison  
Gary L. Dixon  
Rebekah Aline Drummond  
Brent William Dyson  
Marva Gail Edwards  
Eugene C. Giaquinto  
Md Noman Hossain  
Ross Evan Johnson  
David R. Jonas  
Konsetta Noel Kelly  
Catherine Eileen Healy Knuth  
Marissa Leigh LeJune  
Abby Brooke McManus  
Jessica Taylor Mendoza  
John Paul Nickum  
Collins Obikaram Nwanne  
Srinivasa Rao Para  
Mikko Matias Rajamaki  
Nicolai Tobias Riker  
Joseph Anthony Schab  
Akshay Shreekant Sutrave  
Azhar Uddin  
Yujia Wei  
Liang Liana Zong

**Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting and Management**

Devon R. Kolander

**Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting**

Heather Ann Aucoin  
Katherine M. Beebe  
Hannah Michelle Breaux  
Catherine Lynn Dunwoody  
Wesley Demetrius Ferguson  
Jordyn McKenzie Glenn  
Cherelle S. Hodges  
Tham Thi Le  
Cody Michael Meaux  
Amreen Meghani  
Kirsten Haley Rockey  
Jon Samuel Williams

**Bachelor of Science in Construction Management**

Dillon J. Bergstrom  
John S. Neil III

**Bachelor of Business Administration in Advertising Communications and Marketing**

Amina Gibic*

**Bachelor of Business Administration in Advertising Communications**

Katie Coree Loftin  
Zoey Lynn Stephenson
Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance and Economics
Natassia Rene Armstrong
Carson Field Earp
Leslie Carl Lightfoot III
Jacy Marie Little
Andrea Marie Rugg

Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance
Guadalupe Alvarez
Traci Jane Bowman
Michael Gregor Feucht
Blake Joesph Knapschaefer
Cutter Lee McDowell
Justin Thien Pham
Brittaney Leighanne Westberry

Bachelor of Business Administration in Entrepreneurship
Deunta Tramal Byrd
Cheryl Green
Patricia Noel Lauritzen

Bachelor of Business Administration in Entrepreneurship, General Business, and Management
Brynn Victoria Baca
Alexis Angelique Savoie
Sarah Ann Schultz

Bachelor of Business Administration in Entrepreneurship and General Business
Lloyd Phillip Julian

Bachelor of Business Administration in General Business and Management
Xiomara A. Jaramillo
Luke Alexander Johnson
Heather Marie Lloyd
Anna M. Spengler
Cherie Young Spillers
Calvin Wayne Thomas II
Aaron Ray Tiller
Jermaine Woodard

Bachelor of Business Administration in General Business
Christae Janeene Combs
Heather Marie Cravy
Melissa Rae Dyson
Christopher Martin Nelson
Candice Erin Radford

Bachelor of Business Administration General Business - Industrial Engineering
Johnathon Anthony Bilberry
Cody James Lacombe Jr.
BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION IN MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Tricia Lynn Contreras
Dacey Leigh Davis
David Michael Guerra
Thomas Isaiah Lightfoot II
Roshan Stany Mathew
Luandrea Cherie Pope
Eric T. Truncale

BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION IN HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Katsiaryna Lapayeva
Rafael Lance Vargas

BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION IN MANAGEMENT AND MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Benjamin Curtis Collins Jr.

*Reaud Honors College Graduate

MASTERS THESIS

Uddin, Azhar – Relationship Between Firm Value and Long Term Debt: An Empirical Analysis Using the Companies of S&P 100 – James Slaydon, Supervising Professor
HONORS

An Honor Graduate must have completed 60 hours at Lamar University for a 4-year degree. A student with a GPA of 3.5 or higher on all LU undergraduate work will be awarded honors. Cum laude is 3.5 to 3.64, magna cum laude is 3.65 to 3.79 and summa cum laude is 3.8 to 4.0.

**Alpha Lambda Delta**
Freshman Honors
Red, White and Gold Triple Cord

**Beta Alpha Psi**
Accounting Honor Society
Red or White Stole with Emblem, Red and Black Double Cord

**Beta Gamma Sigma**
International Business Honor Society
Blue and Gold Cord and Stole

**Beta Xi Chapter of Phi Beta Delta**
International Student Honors
Gold Medallion with Red and Yellow Ribbon

**LU Ambassadors**
Student Ambassadors
Red and Gold Double Cord

**LU Honors**
Latin Honors
Red and White Double Cord

**LU Veterans**
US Military Veteran
Red, White and Blue Double Cord

**Order of Omega**
Greek Honors
Gold Stole with Logo, Gold and Ivory Cord

**Phi Beta Delta**
International Honor Society
Gold Medallion with Red and Gold Ribbon
**Phi Eta Sigma**  
Freshman Honors  
Black and Gold Double Cord

**Phi Kappa Phi**  
Junior/Senior Honor Society  
Yellow Stole with Insignia on White Background, White Medallion with a Blue Ribbon and Blue Cord

**Reaud Honors College**  
Graduate who has completed 23 hours of honors coursework, including an honors thesis, or 26 hours with eight hours of upper-level credits while maintaining a 3.25 GPA.  
Bronze Medallion with Red and White Ribbon

**Ronald E. McNair Scholar**  
First generation, low income, and underrepresented graduate who has completed graduate-level research internship, including undergraduate thesis and research defense.  
NASA Blue Stole with Lettering, Lamp of Knowledge Medallion with Red, White, and Blue Ribbon

**Smith-Hutson Scholar**  
Smith-Hutson Scholarship Recipient  
Black Stole with Red Trim
In its essential features, the academic regalia worn at American college exercises had its beginning in the Middle Ages. The oldest universities in Northern Europe grew out of church schools, and both faculty and students were regarded as part of the clergy. Hence, as their regular costume, they wore clerical garb borrowed largely from the monastic dress of their day.

The academic gown and hood were first regularly adopted by the University of Cambridge in 1284 and by the University of Oxford a little later. The custom transplanted to this country in Colonial times by King’s College in New York, now Columbia University. In 1895, American universities and colleges decided to standardize their academic styles and developed the intercollegiate code of academic costume. The style follows in the vein of the Cambridge tradition. The distinctive caps, gowns and hoods worn at present-day college and university functions denote the institution that granted the degree, the field of learning in which the degree was earned and the level of the degree – bachelor, master or doctorate.

The gown is usually of black material (serge or worsted for bachelors, the same or silk for masters and silk for doctors). Bachelor’s gowns have pointed sleeves and master’s have long pouch-like sleeves, which reputedly were once used to carry books. Doctor’s gowns are faced with panels of velvet down the front and three bars of velvet across each sleeve.

The hood, worn around the neck so as to hang down the back, is the principal emblem of the nature and source of the degree held. The colors in the hood lining are the colors of the school conferring the degree. The color of the border indicates the scholarly field of the wearer. Hoods may be worn only after the degree has been granted.

The cap, the square mortarboard in American universities, but a round, short, flat velvet hat in British, Canadian and some European universities, bears a tassel which may be black, or it may be colored
according to the scholarly field of the wearer. Only the doctors’ cap may be of velvet.

The degree colors are used for the edging of all hoods and may be used for the velvet facing and sleeve bars of doctors’ gowns and tassels on bachelors’ and masters’ caps. This includes: Arts and Letters – White, Commerce – Drab, Education – Light Blue, Engineering – Orange, Fine Arts – Brown, Humanities – Crimson, Law – Purple, Library Science – Lemon, Medicine – Green, Music – Pink, Pharmacy – Olive, Philosophy (Ph.D.) – Dark Blue, Physical Education – Sage Green, Science – Golden Yellow and Theology – Scarlet.

**University Mace**

Originally a medieval weapon and later carried by Sergeants at Arms guarding kings and high church officials, the mace has gradually assumed a purely ceremonial character symbolizing authority. As used in formal academic processions, the mace derives from the early university history. The Lamar University mace is traditional in design. The mahogany shaft is crowned by a head on which are mounted four representations of the university seal. The president of the Faculty Senate, who leads the academic procession, carries the mace in today’s ceremony.

**Academic Gonfalons**

Gonfalons, banners that are designed to hang from a crossbar, have historical roots dating back to the 12th century when they served as the official emblems to represent the various districts of Florence, Italy. In more recent times, gonfalons have been adopted by academia to serve as symbols to represent each college within a university. Each college has their own representative banner with the dean from the respective college carrying the gonfalon in the academic processional.
Lamar University engages and empowers students with the skills and knowledge to thrive in their personal lives and chosen fields of endeavor. As a doctoral granting institution, Lamar University is internationally recognized for its high quality academics, innovative curriculum, diverse student population, accessibility and leading edge scholarly activities dedicated to transforming the communities of Southeast Texas and beyond.

Special appreciation is extended to volunteers for serving as ushers for today’s commencement ceremony.

This program is not an official graduation list. This printed program lists students who are eligible to graduate pending the outcome of final examinations and final grades. Therefore, it should not be used to determine a student’s academic or degree status. The student’s permanent academic record is kept by the Records Department, P.O. Box 10010, Beaumont, Texas 77710. Students, faculty and staff members are selected without regard to their race, color, creed, sex, age, disability or national origin, consistent with the Assurance of Compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Executive Order 11246 as issued and amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.