



COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES
LAMAR UNIVERSITY

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

MONTAGNE CENTER
FRIDAY, MAY 20, 2016

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Welcome and Congratulations!

Excitement surrounds you this evening; the processional stage awaits. As the event gathers momentum, you will undoubtedly reflect upon your journey to this moment in time; perhaps an uncertain beginning followed by events that have challenged your resolve. You will also reflect upon your loved ones, your family, and your closest friends—those people whose mutual faith in your dream have kept you going. That dream is now irrevocable.

As you have experienced, a university diploma symbolizes high achievement. However, it also symbolizes a promise that you will apply your knowledge and talent to the fullest of your abilities. Complacency is not an option; do not undervalue or disappoint yourself in this regard.

By definition commencement is a beginning, not an end. You are a diverse and accomplished group of scholars, and from this day onward your lives will always be interconnected with the Lamar University Graduating Class May 20, 2016. Yes...celebrate, rejoice, wear out your cell phone cameras, and party until the lights go down. But do know that we eagerly await your future accomplishments.

Sincere Best Wishes,

Dr. Joe Nordgren

Interim Dean, College of Arts & Sciences



CEREMONY PROGRAM

Musical Prelude	Lamar University Brass Ensemble Scott Deppe, Ed.D. <i>Director of Bands</i>
Academic Processional*	Thomas Sowers, Ph.D. <i>Associate Professor of Political Science</i>
<i>Crown Imperial</i> Walton	Lamar University Brass Ensemble
The National Anthem* <i>The Star Spangled Banner</i> Francis Scott Key	Abigail Dueppen, M.M. <i>Assistant Professor of Voice</i>
Welcome	Paul Bernazzani, Ph.D. <i>Interim Associate Dean</i>
Introductions	Joe Nordgren, Ph.D. <i>Interim Dean</i>
Commencement Address	John Zerwas, M.D. <i>Texas House of Representatives, District 28 Chairman of the House Committee on Higher Education</i>
Undergraduate Address	Jordan Danielle Price <i>Bachelor of Science in Biology and a minor in legal studies</i>
Certification of Graduates	Joe Nordgren, Ph.D.

Conferring of Degrees	Kenneth R. Evans, Ph.D. <i>President</i>
Presentation of Graduating Class	Paul Bernazzani, Ph.D.
Announcement of Graduates	Catalina Castillon, Ph.D. <i>Associate Professor of English and Modern Languages</i>
	Jesse Doiron, M.A. <i>Instructor of English and Modern Languages</i>
Concluding Remarks	Paul Bernazzani, Ph.D.
Awards	Joe Nordgren, Ph.D.
Lamar University Alma Mater* G. Rhodes Smartt	Abigail Dueppen, M.M.
<i>Lamar to thee we're singing Voices raised on high. We will forever love thee Laud thee to the sky.</i>	<i>We will ever need thee As our guiding star. To us you'll always be Our glorious Lamar.</i>
Academic Recessional*	Thomas Sowers, Ph.D.

Please join us for an informal reception under the tent, located in the front 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 ARTS AND SCIENCES FACULTY

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Interim Dean
Paul Bernazzani, *Interim*
Associate Dean

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Robert Corbett
Matt Hoch
Ashwini Kucknoor
Amanda Posey

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Ching-En Chou (Marshal)
Ozge Gunaydin-Sen

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Stefan Andrei, *Chair*
Michael Beard
Peggy Doerschuk
Tim Roden (Marshal)

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Jim Westgate (Marshal)

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Heidi Bardenhagen
Adrienne Blackwell-Starnes
Catalina Castillon (Card
Reader)
Jesse Doiron (Card Reader)
Sara Hillin (Marshal)
Melissa Hudler
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Michael Matthis

Amy Smith
Steve Zani (Head Marshal)

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Rebecca Boone (Marshal)
Gwinyai Muzorewa
Jim Seratt
Lee Thompson

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Julie Alford, *Director*

Applied Arts and Sciences

Eileen Burch (Marshal)
Katherine Bruce

General Studies

Carlene Lloyd (Marshal)
Emilee Davis

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Mohsen Maesumi
Jasdeep Pannu (Marshal)
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Cindy Ceynar (Honorary
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Lisa Donnelly
Iva Hall (Marshal)
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Bogdana Bahrim
Cristian Bahrim
Rafael de la Madrid
James Drachenberg
Cengiz Sen (Marshal)

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Boyd Lanier (Marshal)
James P. Nelson
Thomas Sowers II (Mace
Bearer)
Craig Tahaney (Card Verifier)

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Raymond Doe
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Martha Rinker (Security
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Jeferson Scheidemandel
Jeremy Shelton (Marshal)

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Ginger Gummelt
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Karen Roebuck
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DIRECTORS OF RECORDS & REGISTRATION

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Faye Johnnie-Soileau Mildred Piert



Representative John Zerwas, M.D., is serving his fifth legislative term in the Texas House of Representatives. He proudly serves the citizens of Texas House District 28, which encompasses Northwestern Fort Bend County and is currently one of the fastest growing regions in the State of Texas.

Representative Zerwas currently serves as Chairman of the House Committee on Higher Education. This is his first term to serve as the chair of this committee. Chairman Zerwas is an advocate for increasing access to higher education and growing opportunities for graduate medical education. Zerwas also sits on the

Committee on Public Health, where he brings firsthand experience and knowledge of health care systems and policy to the committee.

A physician for more than 30 years, Representative Zerwas is one of four doctors in the Texas House of Representatives. His perspective is important at a time when health and human services is one of the fastest-growing areas of state spending. Dr. Zerwas is past-president of the American Society of Anesthesiologists. More than a decade ago, Dr. Zerwas co-founded a Houston area group practice, which recently became part of US Anesthesia Partners, and he remains active in the operations of the partnership. He has previously served as the President of the Memorial Hermann Health Network Providers and Chief Medical Officer of the Memorial Hermann Hospital System.

Representative Zerwas has earned countless honors for his dedication to public service, including being twice named one of the "Ten Best Legislators" by *Texas Monthly*. In 2015, the Biotechnology Industry Organization provided Dr. Zerwas with national recognition as "BIO Legislator of the Year" for writing critical legislation that will preserve patient access to innovative and cost-effective biologic medicines in Texas. He has earned numerous accolades for his dedication to public service, which include the 2014 Coalition for Texans with Disabilities Award and the 2014 American Cancer Society Cancer Action Award.

John graduated from Bellaire High School in 1973, and in 1978, he married his late wife Cindy Hughes. After graduating from the University of Houston, he earned his Doctorate in Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine in 1980.

John and his wife Sylvia reside in Richmond, Texas and together have six children and six grandchildren: Isabella, Matthew, Dasher, Oliver, Beatrice, and Tinley.





Jordan Danielle Price, daughter of Quentin and Barbie Price, graduated from West Brook Senior High School in Beaumont, Texas. She is graduating with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology, with a minor in legal studies. Throughout her time at Lamar University (LU), Jordan maintained a 4.0 GPA and received the following honors: President's List, Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society, Order of the Omega – Greek Honor Society, College of Arts and Sciences awards for academic excellence, Tri Beta – National Biological Honor Society, Pi Sigma Alpha – National Honor Society in Political Science, Alpha Lambda Delta/Phi Eta Sigma Freshman Honor Societies, W. Russell Smith Biology Scholarship, Michael E. Warren Endowed Biology Scholarship, Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges, and recognized as a Senior of Significance. She was also a Biology Lab Instructor.

Over the past four years, Jordan was involved in many campus activities: Active member of Zeta Tau Alpha Sorority (past Student Government Representative and Representative to all the College Pan-Hellenic Council on behalf of Zeta Tau Alpha), Order of the Omega (Service Chair), and served on the Pan-Hellenic Council (President, Treasurer, and Recruitment Counselor). While serving on the Pan-Hellenic Council, she attended the All-Greek Leadership Conference at Texas A&M University, and brought back new ideas to the council. She helped organize "Sisterhood Week" and "Random Act of Kindness Day" for all sororities, and regularly gave her time to raise funds for breast cancer education and awareness.

During the summer of her sophomore year, Jordan traveled to the Republic of Georgia to reunite with her middle sister, Jana, who was finishing her tour in the Peace Corps. Over a ten-week period, they backpacked across Europe, Asia, and Africa, to a total of eighteen countries. Their older sister, Jacinda, accompanied them for part of this journey. The experience had a remarkable impact on her view of the world, and it was her journey to several developing countries that instilled in her a lasting desire to make a positive impact on the world through her work. The summer before her senior year, she studied abroad in Belize, where her group, under the direction of Dr. Ana Christensen, researched several species of brittle stars (a potential indicator species of the effects of future climate change), by measuring the brittle star's metabolic rate and stress levels at increased temperatures and decreased pH levels. Also in Belize, under the direction of Dr. Mathew Hoch, they conducted research on watershed ecology to determine the human impact on water quality at several freshwater sites. The research noted the fluctuations in biodiversity, as well as dissolved oxygen concentrations, sediment levels, turbidity, and temperature. In Belize, Jordan realized first-hand the practical application of biological research and how it can positively impact society; this instilled in her a desire to continue research in her future endeavors. During her senior year, Jordan has continued research under Dr. Christensen, on light and dark preferences and temperature dependence of righting time in the brittle star *Ophiactis simplex*. She presented this research at the 2016 Lamar University Research Exposition. Under the tutelage of Dr. Terri Davis, Jordan was able to secure a legal internship, where she had the honor of working in the Federal Public Defender's Office for the Eastern District of Texas.

After seeing a documentary which exposed the living conditions in Haiti, following the 2010 earthquake, Jordan organized an initiative with the LU Staff Council to send supplies to an orphanage/school. This summer, she plans to visit Haiti to meet the children of the orphanage.

Upon graduation, Jordan plans to attend dental school. During her senior year, she accompanied several dentists and dental students to Guatemala on a dental mission trip. After helping them treat over 1,000 Guatemalan children, Jordan knew her heart was in dentistry and giving back to others!

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CHEMISTRY

Sree Priya Artham
Venkata Ranga Rao Attaluri
Kirti Badgujar
Sambasiva Rao Bandla
Vinaya Sree Bharatha
Krishnachaitanya Challampalli
Radhika Gangineni
Sravani Ghattamaneni
Naga Naresh Babu Jasti
Durga Bhavani Kalluri
Mohan Kodisana
Sravan Kommaravelli
Blessy Neeharika Kumpati
Srikanth Reddy Maddi
Avinash Mahamkali Venkata
Subramanya
Ravi Manne
Harsha Vardhan Reddy
Maramreddy
Sravanthi Reddy Nayini
Srivarsha Panguluri
Kinnari Patel
Bosu Veera Venkata Sai Naveen
Kumar Pattamsetti
Sujith Raj Reenigunta
Pranathi Reddy Salla
Anusha Vem

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

Vamsheedhar Reddy Aavula
Akhil Adulla
Sandeep Akiti
Chiranjeevi Annadi

Deep Lakshmi Sai Balusu
Pavan Rajashekhar Bantu
Rachana Reddy Bheemreddy
Leila Boti
Sampath Reddy Bussu
Supriya Chahlia
Harshitha Vaas Cheerla
Sai Venkata Raghuveer Guptha
Chitikeshi
Nitesh Reddy Choppa
Mayur N. Chovatiya
Kaushal Darury
Srikanth Goud Depally
Tejaswini Divya
Ananya Dutta
Venkata Narayana Ega
Abhinay Karthik Reddy Gade
Eshwar Ratan Kumar Gopishetty
Niharika Reddy Gosukonda
Dharaneedhar Gottipati
Swaroopa Reddy Gudimetla
Tejaswi Sri Sai Gudipudi
Mohammad Rakibul Hasan
Pramodh Jangam
Girish Kumar Kadiyala
Abhilash Reddy Kanamathareddy
Rajesh Kodipelli
Narendrakumar Pravinbhai Lakhani
Prudhvi Prakash
Lankipallesaddalagurappa
Yashwanth Maddi
Venkatesh Manche
Sharath Sai Mankala
Ramakrishna Reddy Morthala
Siva Kishor Muthukuri
Giriraj Nagaraju
Sanjay Nakka
Adithya Narayanan



Umran Noorali
Harshil Bharatbhai Parikh
Hardikkumar Dipakbhai Patel
Jay Kantilal Patel
Karthik Reddy Venkata Sai Puthi
Arnob Saha
Ojus Milind Save
Jigar Nilesh Shah
Mohammad Phakruddin Ali Ahmad
Shaik
Salman Vazirali Siddique
Bhargavi Reddy Singireddy
Praveen Thirumalapudi
Harish Kumar Reddy Vasipalli
Sai Mahit Vudi

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Kayetta Vernetta Sauls
Kelsey Elizabeth Sheppard
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Cheryl Ann Sterling
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Ebonie Elise Cooper
Quincey T. Daniels
Tieranny Sade Decuir
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Travion Devante Henderson
Shiniquia J. Henry
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Daniel Cole Kemp
Felicia Michelle Lockhart
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Toryria Shaequelle Munson
Refugio Navarro
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Guadalupe Del Carmen Pride
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Alisha Danielle Steltz
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Germaine Latrell Walls
Ryan Taylor Whitehead
Ashley Nicole Wright

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN SOCIOLOGY

Margaret Marie Burnham

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN SOCIOLOGY

April Angela Henderson
Jack Wayne Ingle
Sarra May Jackson
Sylvia Marie Keese
Sarah Danielle Toben*
Corie Ann Wells
Aunjelice Laraye Williams

BACHELOR OF SOCIAL WORK

Jaleesa Marie Celestine
Jessica M. Childs
Santiago Agustin Cirnigliaro
Brandy Rose Crane
Debriqua Sharnay Davis
Krystle Mary Durrett
Victoria Lannette Franks
Janet Lowe (Posthumous)
Dejene Katrese Pete
Kalyn Ja'Nice Pratt

**Reaud Honors College Graduate*



MASTERS THESES

Attaluri, Venkata – *Study on Kinetics of Biodegradation of Starch by α -Amylase* – Paul Bernazzani, Supervising Professor

Conder, Brea – *Gender Differences in Performance on Object Location Memory* – Jeremy Shelton, Supervising Professor

Dutta, Ananya – *Content-Based Textual Big Data Analysis and Compression* – Jiangjiang Liu, Supervising Professor

Gangineni, Radhika – *Thermal and Vibrational Analysis of Polyacrylamide (PAM-150,000) Supported Ammonia Borane Composites and Fibres* – Ozge Gunaydin Sen, Supervising Professor

Hasan, Mohammad – *Performance Evaluation of Big Data Placement Structures in Mapreduce-Based Data Warehouse Systems* – Kami Makki, Supervising Professor

Jones, Kneco – *An Inmate's Probability of Becoming a Victim of Sexual Violence in Texas State Prisons: The Most Prevalent Location in Prison* – Jim Mann, Supervising Professor

Kotz, Candice – *Effects of Transgression Severity and Point of View on Forgiveness* – Edythe Kirk, Supervising Professor

McQueen, Sarah – *Knot Theory and Gilbreath Sequences* – Jacqueline Jensen-Vallin, Supervising Professor

Mickens, Queamani – *The Effect of Facebook Profile Photos and Photo-Related Activities on Perceptions of the Big Five Personality Traits* – Edythe Kirk, Supervising Professor

Mires, Chelsea – *The Impact of Value-Relevant Involvement and Out-Come Relevant Involvement on Attitudinal Change Towards the Legalization of Prostitution* – Judith Mann, Supervising Professor

Perlik, Rain – *Ebullition Tipping Points of Domestic Violence - Decision-Making Processes in Abusive Relationships: A Narrative Analysis* – Cheng-Hsien Lin, Supervising Professor

Saha, Arnob – *Behavioral Design Pattern: The History Remainder Design Pattern* – Stefan Andrei, Supervising Professor

Vandenburg, Victoria – *Feminine Men and Masculine Women: The Subversion of Gender Binary in Lord of the Rings and The Hunger Games* – Heidi Bardenhagen, Supervising Professor

Willis, Cassie – *Childhood Physical Abuse as a Risk Factor for Adulthood Aggression* – Jim Mann, Supervising Professor

Windsor, Zachary – *The Effect of Anxiety on the Initiation of Negotiation* – Jeremy Shelton, 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 XI CHAPTER OF PHI BETA DELTA

International Student Honors
Gold Medallion with Red and
Yellow Ribbon

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Arts and Sciences Majors
with a 4.0 GPA
Gold Medallion on Red Ribbon

GAMMA NU CHAPTER OF SIGMA TAU DELTA

English Honor Society
Cardinal Red Stole with Black
Embroidered Seal, Brass Medallion
on Red Ribbon, Cardinal Red and
Black Double Cord

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

NATIONAL STUDENT NURSING ASSOCIATION

Student Nursing Association
Blue and White 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

PI MU EPSILON

Math Honor Society
Purple, Lavender and Gold
Triple Cord

Psi Chi

Psychology Honor Society
Platinum and Dark Blue Cord,
Platinum Stole, Platinum Medallion
on Navy Blue Ribbon

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

SIGMA DELTA PI

Spanish Honor Society
Red and Gold Double Cords
Gold or Red and Gold Stole

SIGMA THETA TAU INTERNATIONAL
International Nursing Honor Society
Purple and White Double Cord

SMITH-HUTSON SCHOLAR
Smith-Hutson Scholarship Recipient
Black Stole with Red Trim

UPSILON PI EPSILON
Computer Science Honor Society
Medallion on Maroon Ribbon,
Maroon and White Double Cord

PI SIGMA ALPHA
National Honor Society in
Political Science
Red, White and Black Cord
Medallion on Red Ribbon



THE ACADEMIC REGALIA

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.*