



COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES  
**LAMAR UNIVERSITY**

MEMBER THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM™

# COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

MONTAGNE CENTER  
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2017

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Joe Nordgren, Ph.D.	Interim Dean of Arts and Sciences
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Kevin Dodson, Ph.D.	Dean of Reaud Honors College
Sarah Tusa, M.A., M.L.I.S.	Interim Director of Library Services





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 December 15, 2017. 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



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## CEREMONY PROGRAM

Musical Prelude	Lamar University Commencement Brass Ensemble Andrew McMahan, D.M.A. <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 Commencement Brass Ensemble
The National Anthem* <i>The Star Spangled Banner</i> Francis Scott Key	Serdar Ilban, D.M.A. <i>Assistant Professor of Voice</i>
Welcome/Introductions	Joe Nordgren, Ph.D. <i>Interim Dean</i>
Commencement Address	Angela Blanchard <i>President and CEO of BakerRipley</i>
Student Commencement Address	Tara Hoch <i>Political Science Major</i>
Certification of Graduates	Joe Nordgren, Ph.D.
Conferring of Degrees	Kenneth R. Evans, Ph.D. <i>President</i>
Presentation of Graduating Class	Joe Nordgren, Ph.D.



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Announcement of  
Graduates

Catalina Castillon, Ph.D.  
*Associate Professor of English  
and Modern Languages*

Jesse Doiron, M.A.  
*Instructor of English  
and Modern Languages*

Concluding Remarks  
and Awards

Joe Nordgren, Ph.D.

Lamar University  
Alma Mater\*  
G. Rhodes Smartt

Serdar Ilban, D.M.A.

*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\*

Thomas Sowers, 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.*



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## COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES FACULTY

Joe Nordgren, Ph.D.,  
*Interim Dean*  
Paul Bernazzani, *Associate  
Dean*

### **Biology**

Paul Nicoletto, *Chair*  
Ana Christensen  
Matt Hoch  
Ashwini Kucknoor  
Ian Lian  
Amanda Posey  
Matthew Pyne

### **Chemistry/Biochemistry**

Xiangyang Lei, *Chair*  
Roland Barbosa  
Ozege Gunaydin-Sen  
Christopher Martin  
Shyam Shukla

### **Computer Science**

Stefan Andrei, *Chair*  
Jane Liu  
Kami Makki  
Bo Sun  
Jing Zhang

### **Earth/Space Sciences**

Jim Jordan, *Chair*

### **English/Modern Languages**

Jim Sanderson, *Chair*  
Jerry Bradley  
Lloyd Daigrepoint  
Kevin Dodson

Elizabeth Aronson  
Eli Barclay  
Rebecca Boone  
Ana Christensen

Jesse Doiron  
Elia Hatfield  
Adam Nemmers  
Charles Popp  
Amy Smith

### **History**

Mary Scheer, *Chair*  
Rebecca Boone  
Jeff Forret  
Tina Kibbe  
Yasuko Sato

### **Liberal Arts**

Julie Alford, *Director*

### Applied Arts and Sciences

Eileen Burch

### General Studies

Emilee Davis

### **Mathematics**

Jeremy Alm, *Chair*

### **JoAnne Gay Dishman**

#### **Nursing**

Cindy Stinson, *Interim Chair*  
Mary Ford  
Iva Hall  
Michelle Hutto  
Nancy McAfee  
Troy Palmer  
J.T. Seaman  
Rebekah Seymour  
Jennifer Thedford  
Sharon Williams

### **FACULTY MARSHALS**

Sara Gubala  
Ozege Gunaydin-Sen  
Martha Rinker

### **Physics**

Philip Cole, *Chair*

### **Political Science**

Terri Davis, *Chair*  
Sara Gubala  
Thomas Sowers  
Craig Tahaney  
Brian Williams

### **Psychology**

Edythe Kirk, *Chair*  
Elizabeth Aronson  
Eli Barclay  
Geff Oztunc  
Martha Rinker  
Jeremy Shelton  
Sherri Shoefstall

### **Criminal Justice/Sociology/ Social Work**

Stuart Wright, *Chair*  
Mark Broome  
Chiung-Fang Chang  
Jesse Garcia  
Bonnie Loidice  
Jim Mann  
Karen Roebuck  
Michael Sullivan  
Lucy Tsado  
Robert Worley

Craig Tahaney  
Brian Williams  
Robert Worley

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Barbara Price, *Assistant Registrar*

Natasha Walker, *Assistant Registrar*

### **DIRECTOR OF RECORDS & REGISTRATION**

Summer Rather

### **GRADUATION COORDINATOR**

Mildred Piert



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## COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER



Angela Blanchard, President and CEO of BakerRipley, is a globally recognized expert practitioner in community development, disaster recovery, and effective long-term integration for immigrants and refugees. Blanchard's breakthrough strategies have successfully revitalized neighborhoods in Houston, while providing a powerful model for cities across the globe facing the complex challenges of community transformation.

Blanchard's genuine reverence for people and her unique ability to bring them together in unprecedented ways have played a pivotal role in the growth and impact of BakerRipley. The agency serves more than half a million people in nearly 50 counties in Texas. Her innovative, strength-based framework—Appreciative

Community Building—has set the new standard for integrating diverse populations into thriving communities.

Frequently sought out by international nonprofit organizations and government leaders, Blanchard's breakthrough achievements in community revitalization have received numerous accolades: elite awards from top institutions—including the prestigious Heinz Award in the Human Condition category, three invitations to the White House, and extensive press coverage. She has been profiled in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Atlantic*, and on CNN and NPR. *Fast Company* magazine named Blanchard one of the most creative people in the nation. She is a Nonresident Senior Fellow in the Centennial Scholar Initiative at the Brookings Institution and serves on the Board of the Business Innovation Factory and the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy at Rice University. Follow her on Twitter @CajunAngela or learn more at [AngelaBlanchard.com](http://AngelaBlanchard.com).

As President and CEO, Blanchard has provided the leadership for this internationally recognized organization since 1995. Ranking in the top 1% of charitable groups nationwide, BakerRipley is the largest community development organization in Texas. It serves more than half a million people in nearly 50 counties and operates with an annual budget of more than \$250 million.

Agency growth during Blanchard's tenure includes an increase in revenues from \$47 million (1995) to over \$250 million (2016) and a jump in net assets from \$9.6 million (1995) to \$70.2 million (2015). Over that same period, the number of employees grew from 325 to more than 1,300.

Since Houston is now the most ethnically diverse, fastest-growing city in the U.S., Blanchard is already developing solutions for community challenges that the rest of our country will face in the next decade. For those cities that will be tasked with meeting the multi-layered demands of integrating a diverse population into thriving communities, Blanchard's insightful strategies are blazing a trail for the future.



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## UNDERGRADUATE SPEAKER



Tara Hoch, daughter of Matthew and Marie Hoch, graduated from West Brook High School in 2014. She was chosen as a Mirabeau Presidential Scholar and has been an ongoing member of the Honors Student Association. Tonight she will be graduating with a BA in Political Science with a minor in Communications. During her time at Lamar, Tara has been involved in numerous organizations, including Lamar Democratic Socialists, the Reaud Honors College, Lamar University Press, Phi Beta Delta International Honor Society, and Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society. She has served as a Lamar University

Global Ambassador, President of Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science Honor Society, Head Delegate and founding member of Lamar University Model United Nations, Peer Mentor for the Honors Student Association, and Cofounder and Vice President of Lamar Allies.

Tara has studied abroad twice and has been involved in a variety of high impact activities during her time at Lamar. In January of 2017 she traveled to Belize with the Reaud Honors College where she studied Tropical Sustainability, and in June traveled to Paris, France to study French cinema and modernist French literature. She competed with Lamar University Model United Nations in Washington, D.C. (2015) and New York City (2016) and traveled to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 2016 to partake in The Washington Center's Democratic National Convention Seminar. She participated in the Reaud Honors College's Partners in the Parks Program in 2017 in Mount Rainier and worked in Lamar University's Public Relations department for two years.

Tara is the recipient of several honors and awards, including President's List for all 7 semesters, LU Academic Excellence Student Award for two consecutive years, Outstanding Position Paper Award at the National Model United Nations New York conference, Excellence in the Media Third Place Award from the Press Club of Southeast Texas, McMaster and Mirabeau Study Abroad Grants, and the Partners in the Parks McMaster Grant.

Eventually, Tara hopes to pursue a Ph.D. in Political Science and teach at a university level.



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**MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BIOLOGY**

Swathi Paleti

**MASTER OF SCIENCE IN  
CHEMISTRY**

Abhaysingh Deshmukh  
Sahithi Gadde  
Srikanth Gannaram  
Vamshi Goparapu  
Mohammad Saiful Islam  
Anusha Jampani  
Harish Maske  
Limbadri Mootha  
Mohini Maheshchandra Shah  
Shweta Singh  
Santosh Kumar Sunki  
Rucha Milind Vitonde

**MASTER OF SCIENCE IN  
COMPUTER SCIENCE**

Amar Mani Aryal  
Manideep Bollu  
Deepankar Dey  
Ramandeep Singh Gorla  
Kyeahong Kang  
Ajay Ganesh Kasoju  
Ram Prakash Mishra  
Puneeth Myneni  
Pavan Naik Nenavath  
Sagun Pandey  
Shubham Yogeshkumar Shah  
Smit Girishkumar Thakkar  
Rajesh Vuddanda  
Divya Yepuri

**MASTER OF ARTS IN ENGLISH**

Chelsey Anne Galloway  
Grace Ruth Megnet

**MASTER OF ARTS IN HISTORY**

Adam Craig Gorrell  
Grayson H. Meek  
Courtney Clay Rhodus  
John Austin Rutherford  
Cheree Noelle Simon

**MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING  
SPANISH AS A FOREIGN  
LANGUAGE**

Gabriela Claudia Properzi  
Kristal Rubio

**MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING**

Dana Holston Cirelli  
Kenithia Sade Evans  
Stacy Nicole Jacobs  
Candace Gabrielle Renfro  
Jennifer Rose Watters

**MASTER OF PUBLIC  
ADMINISTRATION**

Michael W. Hargis II  
Xavier ONeal McDaniel

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JUSTICE**

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Hailey Sue Baker  
Carrie L. Breaux  
Thomas Lloyd Carroll  
Robin Gayle Chandler  
Daniel Fredrick DeJean  
Rosemarie Estevez  
Brandee Michele Ford  
Stanley Fitzgerald Forney  
Andrew Garza  
Ana Laura Gomez  
Chelby Theresa Handy  
Derek Dwayne Kelly  
Jackie Michelle Knight  
Marcus Dwayne Levias  
Kelly Marie Loughney  
Amonique Y. Love  
Chelsea Lynn-Charlie McGill  
Cameron Ashton Miles  
Marquetta Sharquella Moss  
Angelanette Muhammad  
Vallee Sharone Phillips  
Madeleine Grace Pierson  
Julie Renee Pitts



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Rashawn Patrice Perkins Prevost  
Kashira S. Robinson  
David Lee Sarli  
Adreana Kirene Shaw  
Joshua Christian Thomas  
Clineecia Shawntelle Trotty  
Valari Destiny Valdez  
Earl Matthews Vincent IV  
Mark Edward Wild  
Brittany Ann Wood  
Shawn De'Artray Woods Jr.  
Allaundra Danielle Zeno

**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN  
BIOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL  
SCIENCE**

Traci Karen Letney

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BIOLOGY**

Victoria Elliott Adams  
Ernest Warren Beadle  
Madison Sloane Bechtol  
Courtney Nicole Garner  
Ronald Joseph Giblin Jr.  
Kenny Huynh  
Morgan Elizabeth Jeffero  
Brittany Nichole Pellerin  
Daryosha Lindsey Pouncy  
Rehan Quraishi  
Stephen Austin Stewart

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Devlin Chase Hunter

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COMPUTER AND INFORMATION  
SCIENCE**

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Lauren Brooke Forse

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ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE**

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Marissa Janell Hill  
Vanissa P. Low  
Bethany Danielle Stanton

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Kelsey Nicole Provost

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Candyce Marie Crouch  
Brandi Nicole Fuller  
JaCedric Montel Knight  
Caitlin McAlister\*  
Jose Mercedes Rodriguez  
Ryan D. Romero

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SCIENCES**

Qiana N. Adams  
Savannah Jacklyn Anderson-  
Bledsoe  
Ashlee Nichol Arceneaux  
Blaine Ashley Berryman  
Brandy Nicole Bill  
Pamela Lashell Braxton-Lee



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Kelli Marie Breaux  
Lauren Elizabeth Breaux  
Roy F. Bright Jr.  
Steven Taylor Brown  
Chelsea Monique Bunch  
Carolyn Denise Bundy  
Kimberly Ann Burkland  
Bobbie Jo Pravata Byrd  
Teresa Ann Byrd  
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Richard Corey Dunigan  
Karen Theresa Ellis  
Liza Enriquez  
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Ashley Olivia Fields  
Wilfredo Garcia  
Ashley Ann Gerald  
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Maci Lori Hendy  
Lauren Michelle Jackson  
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Chrystal Alexandra Jones  
Michael Alan Kraus  
Ashlee L'Ann Lambert  
Erica Rene' Leday  
Nicole Amanda Little  
Lucinna Nara Lugo  
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Robynn Lynn Miller  
Trissia Eagle Montez  
Michael Knox Myers  
Shelly Jo Payne  
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Shawna Lee Rone  
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Sonja Fay Shirley  
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Lectoria Sade White  
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Joe Winters  
Stephanie Ann Yates  
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Cory Jamal Johnson  
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David Justin Kenner  
Rachael Leeanne LeBlanc



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Nailah McFadden-Forest  
Tomica Tatahicia Moore  
Destiny De' Jeanne Morton  
Enrique Joshua Oquendo  
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Kelvin Rashad Young

**BACHELOR OF ARTS IN  
MATHEMATICS**

Natalie Renee Hudson

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Oxserio Benites  
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Brittany Shakay Brown  
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Joshua Aaron Byrd  
Tarshula Rosha Campbell  
Evelyn Jhazeny Chavez  
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Michelle Antoinette Coleman  
Ashlyn Brooke Cooley  
Shayla Shaquella Corbin  
Stephanie Corvino  
Nicole Crawford  
Gena Nikita Culton  
Chyna Dang  
Misty Gail Dantin  
Sarah H. Dillon  
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Destoni Janine Dunn  
Falon Elaine Duprie  
Lauren Marie Durham  
Chrystina Ulyssa Edwards  
Clay Stephen Edwards  
Patricia Amariah Ellis  
Alexandria Paige Ferguson  
McKenah Lauryn Fitzgerald  
Lauren Michelle Foster  
Danielle Elizabeth Franks  
Cara Anna Galloway  
Shi Towner Garriet  
Davina Godfrey  
Devonna Rochelle Granderson  
Ross Gray



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Kayci Nicole Grider  
LaToya Shantell Griffin  
Jada Attatrice Harvey  
Sierra Nicole Haygood  
Laura Hodges  
Jessica DeAnne Hogg  
Sarah Elizabeth Hollier  
Kimberly Dianne Holmes  
Aprelle Andrade Holtz  
Rachel Marie Ingram  
Ashley Rene Jackson  
Cheryl Ann Jones  
Rodaria DeShanae' Joyner  
Deanna Marie Karlson  
Ty'neshia Patese Kelley  
Rita Ilse Kirdahy  
Alexander Chase Kolar  
Vasanthi Konakanchi  
Kathrine Rose Kumar  
Tianna Marie Lammert  
Allison Clara Landis  
Aaron Jacob Lemelle  
Valerie Laizette Madine  
Anam Sharif Maredia  
Jacob Colin Masters  
Stephanie Ann Matthews  
Keitha Marianne McCaughey  
Deborah Kaye McKinley-  
Waggoner  
Arilla Latish McNack  
Briana Jean Mellum  
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Edna Montemayor  
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Lindsay Reagan Read  
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Alyssa Brooke Roehr  
Idaly Ruiz  
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Katherine Anne Stampley  
Ciara La'Vette Stephens  
Kimberly L. Steveson  
Jessica Nicole Sutton  
Tythia Renee Thompson  
Janneth O. Torres  
Crystal Alejandra Venegas  
Anna Marie Ventura  
Derik Paul Viator  
Brandi Marie Wargacki  
Shelby Audra White  
Krystal Rene Williams  
Latasha Lynn Williams  
Tasha Nicole Williams  
Chelsea Ann Williford  
Matthew Cain Winans  
Faith Elaine Young

**BACHELOR OF ARTS IN POLITICAL  
SCIENCE**

Tara Lashar Hoch\*



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POLITICAL SCIENCE**

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Alejandra Sosa Gomez

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Roberta Agnes Willingham  
Emma Elizabeth Willis  
Alexandra Paige Yanta

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Randy Earl Collins  
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Justin Ryan Edwards  
Shandra M. Edwards  
Daniel Matthew Floyd  
Jeffrey Linn Gotcher  
Alexis Renee' Harris  
Michael Shane Hegwood  
Samona Latrice Horton  
Andrew Christopher Huebel  
Lashaun Vaniece Jones  
Andrea L. Lawhorn  
Devin Joseph LeLeux  
Regan Nichel Long  
Nhan Henri Luu  
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Larry Marquis Murchison  
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Shawn Howard Palmer  
Ronnie Jade Perkins-Odom  
Azalea Quiroz

Marco Antonio Ramirez  
Juan Carlos Rivera  
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Jose Michael Scott Jr.  
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Matthew Brian Snure  
Gary Omar Tebo  
Joseph Wayne Tracy  
Terry Toan Tran  
Mae'Easha Elizabeth White  
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Ricci Renae Garcia  
Shellby Lee Hobbs  
Tamara Elaine Hobbs  
Sharon Gail Mathews  
Contessa Leigh Moran  
Santanchua Yeta Murphy  
Veronica Ortiz  
Carla Susana Santos  
William Blake Wheeler

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Analiese Patricia Arroyo  
Keenah O. Brazile  
Jatara Lasha Komic Hunter  
Britney Elaine Judalet  
Patrick Carey Lucas  
Yessica Nava  
Jovannah Raylisha Simmons  
Kera Latrice Thomas  
Deidrick Vonsha Young

*\*Reaud Honors College Graduate*



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## MASTERS THESES

Aryal, Amar Mani – *Discovery of Patterns in Big Spatio-Temporal Data Using Clustering Techniques* – Sujing Wang, Supervising Professor

Bollu, Manideep – *New Social Media Sentiment Analysis Algorithm for Businesses Competition* – Sujing Wang, Supervising Professor

Deshmukh, Abhaysingh – *H/D Isotope Effect in Bovine Serum Albumin Using the Different Biophysical Method and Their Potential for Chemical Interactions* – Paul Bernazzani, Supervising Professor

Gorrell, Adam Craig – *Sound and Fury: Skinheads, Neo-Nazis, and White-Power Punk Rock* – Mark Mengerink, Supervising Professor

Islam, Mohammad Saiful – *Determination of Volatile Organic Compounds in Dredged Sediments in Sabine-Neches Waterways* – Paul Bernazzani, Supervising Professor

Kang, Kyehong – *Predictive Modeling for College Student Dropout: An Online Program Case Study* – Sujing Wang, Supervising Professor

Megnet, Grace – *It's About Me: The Transformative Power of Telling One's Story* – Jerry Bradley, Supervising Professor

Mishra, Ram Prakash – *Development and Implementation of Wireless Sensor Networks (WSNS) for Measuring Water Quality* – Bo Sun, Supervising Professor

Mootha, Limbadri – *Five Coordinate Heteroleptic Iron and Cobalt Bis(Dithiolene)-Phosphine Complexes: Synthesis, Structures and Electrochemical Properties* – Perumalreddy Chandrasekaran, Supervising Professor

Properzi, Gabriela – *The Voseo in Argentina, its Assessment and Implementation in Heritage Language Classes* – Elia Hatfield, Supervising Professor



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## 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



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### **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



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## 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



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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 IS DEDICATED TO STUDENT SUCCESS BY ENGAGING AND EMPOWERING 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, STUDENT SUCCESS, AND LEADING-EDGE SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES CONTRIBUTING 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.*