



COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES
LAMAR UNIVERSITY

MEMBER THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM™

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

MONTAGNE CENTER
FRIDAY, MAY 11, 2018

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Paul Bernazzani, Ph.D.	Acting Dean of Arts and Sciences
Enrique "Henry" Venta, Ph.D.	Dean of Business
Robert Spina, Ph.D., FACSM	Dean of Education and Human Development
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Derina Holtzhausen, Ph.D.	Dean of Fine Arts and Communication
Kevin Dodson, Ph.D.	Dean of Reaud Honors College
Sarah Tusa, M.A., M.L.I.S.	Acting Director of Library Services



MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



Greetings and Congratulations!

On behalf of the Lamar University faculty and staff, I am pleased to welcome you to the College of Arts and Sciences commencement ceremony. Together, we are celebrating your accomplishments and dedication, and the family and friends that made this milestone attainable by offering their support throughout your journey.

Lamar University, and the College of Arts and Sciences, provide a superior education based on our enthusiastic and experienced faculty, leading to the development of marketable skills that allow our graduates to integrate the community, not only as a workforce, but as team leaders that will help shape the society of tomorrow. As a graduate, you are now part of an outstanding group of individuals interconnected through your experience at Lamar University and part of a large network of alumni that strive to give back to the community.

Commencement represents a new beginning, not an end. We encourage you to continue to learn, to grow both professionally and personally, and to act as role models for the generations coming after you.

Thank you for joining us today. We are proud of you. We have great expectations of you, and hope you will continue to grow and be part of the Cardinal network. Please keep in touch.

Very best wishes in your future endeavors,

Paul Bernazzani, Ph. D.
Acting Dean and Professor of Chemistry



CEREMONY PROGRAM

Musical Prelude	Lamar University Commencement Brass Ensemble Andrew McMahan, D.M.A. <i>Director of Bands</i>
Academic Processional*	Jennifer Daniel, Ph.D. <i>Associate Professor of Mathematics</i>
<i>Crown Imperial</i> Walton	Lamar University Commencement Brass Ensemble
The National Anthem* <i>The Star Spangled Banner</i> Francis Scott Key	Debrah Greschner, M.M. <i>Instructor, Department of Music</i>
Welcome/Introductions	Paul Bernazzani, Ph.D. <i>Interim Dean</i>
Commencement Address	James Bell <i>Program Manager, United Launch Alliance</i>
Student Commencement Address	Lauren Konjoyan <i>Biology Major</i>
Certification of Graduates	Paul Bernazzani, 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.
*Associate Professor of English
and Modern Languages*

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

Concluding Remarks
and Awards

Paul Bernazzani, Ph.D.

Lamar University
Alma Mater*
G. Rhodes Smartt

Debrah Greschner, M.M.

*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*

Jennifer Daniel, 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 ARTS AND SCIENCES FACULTY

Paul Bernazzani, Associate
Acting Dean
Terri Davis, Ph.D.,
Interim Assistant Dean

Biology

Randall Terry, *Interim Chair*
Ana Christensen
Ashwini Kuchnor

Chemistry/Biochemistry

Xiangyang Lei, *Chair*
Perumalreddy
Chandrasekaran
Ozege Gunaydin-Sen
T. Thuy Minh Nguyen
Maxim Soukhodolets

Computer Science

Stefan Andrei, *Chair*
Michael Beard
Peggy Doerschuk
Xingya Liu
Tim Roden

Earth/Space Sciences

Jim Jordan, *Chair*
Joseph Kruger
Jim Westgate

English/Modern Languages

Jim Sanderson, *Chair*
Adrienne Blackwell-Starnes
Catalina, Castillón
Jesse Doiron
Sara Hillin
Katherine Hoerth

Sharon Joffe
Michael Mathis
Amy Smith
Gretchen Johnson
Melissa Hudler

History

Mary Scheer, *Chair*
Jimmy Bryan
Miguel Chavez
Tina Kibbe
Gwinyai Musorewa

Liberal Arts

Julie Alford, *Director*

Applied Arts and Sciences

Theresa Edgerton

General Studies

Rachel Klauss
Emilee Procella

Mathematics

Jeremy Alm, *Chair*
Jennifer Daniel
Jasdeep Pannu
Jose' Vega-Guzman

JoAnne Gay Dishman

Nursing

Cindy Stinson, *Interim Chair*
Mary Ford
Iva Hall
Rose Harding
Stacey Knight
Nancy McAfee

Troy Palmer
Keili Peterman
JT Seaman

Physics

Philip Cole, *Chair*
Cristian Bahrim
James Drachenberg
Cengiz Sen

Political Science

Terri Davis, *Chair*
Sara Gubala
Craig Tahaney
James P. Nelson
Brian Williams

Psychology

Edythe Kirk, *Chair*
Elizabeth Aronson
Eli Barclay
Raymond Doe
Martha Rinker
Jefferson Scheidemandel
Jeremy Shelton

Criminal Justice/Sociology/ Social Work

Stuart Wright, *Chair*
Mark Broome
Ahmet Guler
Ginder Gummelt
Karen Roebuck
Robert Worley
Lori Wright

FACULTY MARSHALS

Elizabeth Aronson
Eli Barclay
Ana Christensen
Raymond Doe

Bianca Easterly
Sara Gubala
Ozege Gunaydin-Sen
Martha Rinker

Craig Tahaney
Brian Williams
Robert Worley

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR

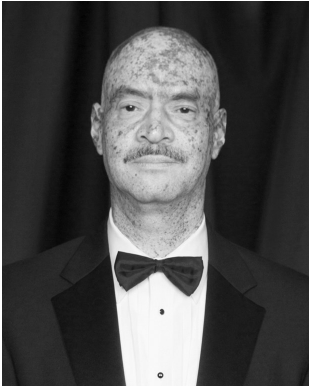
David Short Jr., *Registrar*
Barbara Price, *Assistant Registrar*
Natasha Walker, *Assistant Registrar*

COMMENCEMENT COMMITTEE

Summer Rather, *Director of Records & Registration*
Mildred Piert, *Graduation Coordinator*
Siaa Taylor, *Graduation Coordinator*



COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER



James Bell is a retired Program Manager at United Launch Alliance (ULA), headquartered in Denver, Colorado. ULA, a 50-50 joint venture between Lockheed Martin Corporation and The Boeing Company, is the nation's most experienced and reliable launch service provider. ULA designs, manufactures, integrates, and launches Atlas and Delta launch vehicles that have successfully delivered to orbit more than 120 satellites that aid meteorologists in tracking severe weather, unlock the mysteries of our solar system, provide critical capabilities for troops in the field and enable personal device-based GPS navigation.

Launch service customers include the Department of Defense, NASA, the National Reconnaissance Office, the United States Air Force, and commercial organizations.

In his last position before retirement, Mr. Bell was ULA's Program Manager that led a team responsible for mission integration, mission management and launch services for cargo resupply missions to the International Space Station. Prior to this role, Mr. Bell progressed through several positions of increasing responsibility including Integration Manager, Mission Manager and Program Manager for a variety of United States Air Force and National Reconnaissance Office missions. He also held the position of Program Operations Manager for Atlas Launch Operations at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida and Vandenberg Air Force Base in California.

Mr. Bell is a native of Port Arthur, Texas and a graduate of Lamar University where he earned an Associate of Applied Science degree in drafting technology in 1977 and a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering in 1984. He and his wife Jenny, a graduate of Colorado State University, reside in the Denver suburb of Highlands Ranch, Colorado. In addition to tackling projects around their home and caring for their dog and two cats, the Bell's enjoy fitness training, swimming, biking, and golf at a variety of scenic courses in and around the Mile High City.



STUDENT COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER



Lauren Konjoyan was born and raised in Nederland, Texas where she graduated from Nederland High School in 2014. At Lamar University, Ms. Konjoyan, is a member of the Phi-Kappa-Phi Honor Society, the TriBeta Honor Society, and the American Medical Student Association (AMSA). She has received multiple academic awards from Lamar University for maintaining a cumulative 4.0 GPA. Throughout her college career, she has been employed at Keely Jardell's School of dance, where she is a choreographer and teacher. She will graduate with a BS degree in biology with a minor in

chemistry. Following graduation she plans to obtain a job as a laboratory technician or return to Lamar University to pursue a masters in biology before attending medical school.



MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BIOLOGY

Fatema Abbasi

Dung Thi Jennifer Dang

Jason Harvey Janeaux

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CHEMISTRY

Oromidayo Peter Afolabi

Manish Dnyaneshwar Baviskar

Md Sahadat Hossen

Deepthi Kurapati

Troy Paul Selby-Karney

Manisha Shrestha

Thi Kim Tran Tran

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

Nirav Harishchandra Arora

Tarun Kumar Baireddy

Suman Basyal

Saibabu Veera Venkata Satya

Bollineni

Avijoy Chakma

Nutt Chokwittaya

Sourangshu Das

Saral Dubey

Sanket Govind Gajera

Bishal Kumar Gautam

Dolma Gurung

Ravi Teja Gutta

Kaushik Kasaju

Denish Kayastha

Khalid Khan

Akash Mainali

Sai Gavaskar Sakalam

Sulav Shakya

Nabin Sharma Rijal

Abhisek Shrestha

Shreejan Shrestha

Abhishek Singh

MASTER OF ARTS IN ENGLISH

Shelly Renee Dawson

Brittany Malachi Lawrence

Katherine Anne Waterbury

MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING SPANISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Jovann Silva Delgado

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN MATHEMATICS

Mithun Kumar Acharjee

Shangyi Bi

Tyler Prescott Evans

Success Chijioke Iheagwam

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

Alexandra Leigh Brittain

Cherlyn Logan Duncan

Blenda Kay Gregorio

Stacy Nicole Jacobs

Almera Pasasadaba

Dora Elia Passmore

Kakelly Stawarski

MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Maegan Bradlee Taft Collins

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Raul Arelis Jr.

Deneil Christian

Ivan I. Cortez

Dhonte Lamond Ferguson

Javier Gonzalez

Katina Yvette Gordon

Ashly Marie Kinard

James Samuel Moore

James P. O'Burke



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David L. Palmer
Stephen Keith Parker
Vaneesha Ariel Pruitt
Christopher Andrew Ramos
Heather Lee Rigby
Janai Nicole Sanders
Tiffany Nichole Sanders
Victoria Denise Watkins
Brittany Ann Wood

**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN
BIOLOGY AND CHEMISTRY**
Hostin Madison May

**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN
BIOLOGY**
Rachael Hayley Key Bentley
Ashlyn Leigh Berwick
Bailey Dianne Brevell*
Joy Marie Collins
Diana Sue Dorn
Andrew James Glover
Omar Angel Gonzalez
Kayla Elizabeth Kahl
Arjisna M. Karediya
Lauren Ashley Konjoyan
Judy Lang
Joseline Alejandra Mendoza
Van Hong Nguyen
Reba Leighan Peavy
Michael Je'Len Shepherd
Alexander Drew Sholl*
Paul Adam Simpson
Stephen Austin Stewart
Tayla Marissa Thibodeaux
London Anayo Umejiaku
Allie Michelle Valentine
Carlo Vanz
Kimberly Paige Williams

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Gina Argira Whitten

**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN
CHEMISTRY**
Kolby Elaine Braquet
Cristian Diaz

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COMPUTER SCIENCE**
William Bryce Angell
Randy Lee Brown
George Bryan Currie
Jose Nicolas Farro Ahumada
April Dawn Gray*
Cory Alexander Moulder
Judah A. Roden
Christopher W. York*

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COMPUTER AND INFORMATION
SCIENCE**
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John Tolbert Ellis*
Jason Lee McDonald

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Vincent Chima Duruzor
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Gwendolyn R. Gibson
Justin Michael Gonda
Daisy Consuelo Gonzalez
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Jaclean Yvette Harris
Heather Louise Harrison*



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Jerika Dawnn Barzar
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Aaron Jacob Lemelle
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Kerri Christine Sabo
Chambree Taylor Smith
Mayajean Edem Smith
Kelli Grace Stark
Heather Ann Stephens
Stephanie Nicole Swayngim
Chelsea Nicole Thibodeaux
Sereena Salomi Thomas
Jalyn Nicole Thorn
Autumn Brooke Thrasher
Karissa Lynette Times



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Rita Yvette Vargas
Crystal Alejandra Venegas
Miriam Marie Weathersby
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Gabrielle I. Flores
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Natalie Priesmeyer Blanchard
Gene Autry Boyd
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Jennifer Anne Worry

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Mariela Bishop
Clint David Bookout
Jace Elliott Campbell
Federico L. Cano Jr.
Dalton Brian Davis



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Amethyst Jean Hollowell
Caden Walker Hunt
Matthew Keith Jackson
Moesha Rene Kinard
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Sophia Beatrice Loera
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Kevin Maldonado Martinez
Chad Allan Mckinney
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Alexis Dominique Nichols
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Nathaniel Lee Ramsey
Corey Arric Rice
Timothy Joseph Riley
Braden Louis Robey
Bailey Jean Rogers
David Antonio Saldana
Sarah Ahlaina Shumake
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Nelson Lamar Tassin
Isaac Tellez
Oscar Manuel Vara
Alexander Stevenson Wiggins
Paul Richard Willenbrock
Sheena Dae Yarbrough

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SOCIOLOGY**

Freddy Cordova

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SOCIOLOGY**

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Marisela Alvarez
Ashanti Benefield Harper
Andrea LaRayne Boyken
Catherine Marie Caballero
Branda Casmire Goodie
Aaron L. Houston
Regina Ozana Jones
Chelsea Danay Ordway
Taylor Mari Marr
Uquisha Q. Mosely
Alecia Victoria Myers
Jacob Briggs Simmerman
Jodi Ann Stone
Dana Monique Wise*

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*Tiesha Yvette Ayers
Cheniya Cherrel Chatman
Ernest Graham
Katie Elizabeth Leavins
Maria Lewis
Miranda Nicole Miller
Marion Evelyn Rivera
Lisa Renee Shoemaker
Destani Paige Williams*

**Reaud Honors College Graduate*







MASTERS THESES

Acharjee, Mithun Kumar – *Air Quality and Lung Cancer: Analysis via Local Control* – Kumer P. Das, Supervising Professor

Afolabi, Oromidayo P. – *Biocompatibility of Reinforced Poly (Lactic Acid) and Ethyl Cellulose in Bone Repair* – Paul Bernazzani, Supervising Professor

Baviskar, Manish – *Microbial Analysis and Isolation of Iron-Reducing Bacteria from Marquez Crater, TX, USA* – Thi Nguyen, Supervising Professor

Chakma, Avijoy – *Particulate Matter Analysis Using Deep Convolutional Neural Networks* – Jing Zhang, Supervising Professor

Das, Sourangshu – *Sentiment Analysis of Twitter Data Using Various Classification Algorithms* – S. Kami Makki, Supervising Professor

Evans, Tyler – *Intergenerational, Interspecific Population Dynamics with Stochastic Lotka-Volterra* – Kumer P. Das, Supervising Professor

Iheagwam, Success Chijioke – *Applying Statistical Methods to Unstructured Data Sets Using Text Pattern Analysis* – Kumer P. Das, Supervising Professor

Selby-Karney, Troy – *Synthesis and Structural Characterization of Mercury (II) Coordination Polymers Based on 1,2,4,5-Tetra (Isopropylthio) Benzene Ligand* – Perumalreddy Chandrasekaran, Supervising Professor

Sharma Rijal, Nabin – *Ensemble of Deep Neural Networks for Image Analysis* – Jing Zhang, Supervising Professor

Shrestha, Manisha – *Heavy Metal Tolerance and Removal by Bacteria Isolated from Marquez Crater Soil* – T. Thuy Minh Nguyen, 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 at least one high impact educational practice and 23 hour hours of honors coursework, including an honors thesis, or 26 hours with eight hours of upper-level credits while maintaining a 3.4 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 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.