2024
COMMENCEMENT
The University of Texas at Austin
School of Nursing
THE CORE PURPOSE OF THE UNIVERSITY
To transform lives for the benefit of society

OUR CORE VALUES

LEARNING
A caring community, all of us students, helping one another grow

DISCOVERY
Expanding knowledge and human understanding

FREEDOM
To seek the truth and express it

LEADERSHIP
The will to excel with integrity and the spirit that nothing is impossible

INDIVIDUAL OPPORTUNITY
Many options, diverse people and ideas, one university

RESPONSIBILITY
To serve as a catalyst for positive change in Texas and beyond
LETTER FROM THE DEAN

Congratulations to all our University of Texas at Austin School of Nursing students who are graduating today. Also, congratulations to the parents, partners, family, and friends who have supported and nurtured the graduates, enabling and facilitating their success. This commencement honors all that you have accomplished throughout the program and celebrates your continuous passion and commitment for nursing and your future leadership and contributions to nursing.

Our School of Nursing includes an excellent and strong community of outstanding students, dedicated faculty and staff, and highly supportive alumni and friends. Our community is committed to addressing significant local, national, and global health care challenges through education, research, and service.

As a part of this extraordinary University of Texas community, you have learned to lead and make promising changes in Texas and beyond with necessary competencies, compassion, and integrity. We are very proud that we had the opportunity to educate you—future nurse leaders—who will not only make an impact in the State of Texas but also in the world.

Today, we are sending you out to the world so that you can make positive changes in Texas and beyond. I am highly excited about all the promising changes that you will bring to the nursing profession, and I am also deeply impressed with all the intellectual commitment and life experience that you will bring to the delivery of health care. This outstanding community of yours will always be here to support and celebrate your future journey and accomplishments.

Congratulations again.

Eun-Ok Im, PhD, MPH, RN, CNS, FAAN
Dean
Professor and Laura Lee Blanton Chair in Nursing
Dr. Mary Wakefield’s career has focused on bringing nursing expertise to health policy.

She has served in senior positions in federal government, including eight years in the United States Senate as Chief of Staff to North Dakota Senators and serving as temporary Senior Counselor to the Director of the HHS Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (August 2022-March 2023).

In 2015, Dr. Wakefield was appointed by President Obama to serve as Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, making her the highest-ranking nurse in the U.S. government and the first nurse to hold this senior executive position. Earlier, Dr. Wakefield served as the HHS Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration.

Dr. Wakefield is a member of the National Academy of Medicine and has chaired or co-chaired committees, including the committee that produced The Future of Nursing 2020-2030. She has served on the boards of Sigma Theta Tau International and the American Academy of Nursing.

Her contributions to health care include serving on the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, chairing the HHS Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality’s National Advisory Council, participating as a member of HHS/HRSA’s Office of Rural Health Policy’s National Advisory Committee and as a member of the Commonwealth Fund’s Commission to Create a High Performing Health System.

She serves on the Veterans Health Administration’s Special Medical Advisory Committee, the Macy Foundation Board of Directors, and the Medical Advisory Board of the University of Washington Health Systems.

Dr. Wakefield was recognized as a Living Legend by the American Academy of Nursing.

With an enduring commitment to educating next-generation nurses, Dr. Wakefield has taught hundreds of nursing students at undergraduate and graduate levels, including as a Visiting Professor at The University of Texas at Austin School of Nursing.

Her Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing is from the University of Mary in Bismarck, North Dakota and her Master’s and Doctoral degrees in Nursing are from The University of Texas at Austin.
WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKERS

Eun-Ok Im, PhD, MPH, RN, CNS, FAAN
Dean
Professor and Laura Lee Blanton
Chair in Nursing

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Mary Wakefield, PhD, RN, FAAN

STUDENT SPEAKERS

Jennifer Joyner, MSN, CPNP-AC
Graduating Doctoral Student

Crystal Guy
Graduating Master’s Student

Helen Kalleb
Graduating Bachelor’s Student

MARSHAL

Janice F. Hernandez, DNP, RN, FNP-C
Clinical Assistant Professor

RECOGNITION OF GRADUATES

Vinh T. Nguyên, PhD, M.Ed.
Associate Dean for Student Services

Assisted by:
Gayle Timmerman, PhD, RN, CNS, FNAP, FAAN
Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Professor

Alexandra García, PhD, RN, FAAN
Assistant Dean for the Graduate Programs and Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs Professor

Ana Todd, PhD, RN
Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Programs Clinical Assistant Professor

Laura Murphy, PhD, MSN, RNC-OB
Clinical Assistant Professor
Graduate Advisor

Leigh A. Goldstein, PhD, RN, ANP-BC, CNE
Director of Learning Enhancement and Academic Progress Center Clinical Associate Professor

Larissa Brungot, DNP, RN, CNE
Clinical Assistant Professor

Shalonda Horton, PhD, MSN, RN
Clinical Assistant Professor

Teresa Bailey, DNP, APRN, NNP-BC, CNE
Clinical Assistant Professor

Tracy Demchuk, EdD, MA
Senior Director for Graduate Program Advising & Admissions

Michelle Barajas, BSHDFS
Director, Undergraduate Admissions & Advising

CLOSING REMARKS

Associate Dean Vinh T. Nguyên
UNDERGRADUATE HONORS PROJECTS

Goodness Agabi  
*Racial Disparities in Dementia Caregiving*  
Jung Kwak, PhD, MSW, FGSA, Faculty Mentor

Layla Ismail  
*Nurse-Patient Communication with Mechanically Ventilated Patients*  
Elizabeth Heitkemper, PhD, RN, Faculty Mentor

Sara Kothia  
*The Representation of Reported Race/Ethnicity Data in Cancer-Related Cognitive Impairment Research Amongst Cancer Patients*  
Ashley Henneghan, PhD, RN, FAAN, Faculty Mentor

*Honor’s Program Graduate*
### MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

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<tr>
<td>Audrey Abawi</td>
<td>Maia Goldfarb</td>
<td>Thomas Mumpuni-Simes</td>
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<td>Elise Balasa</td>
<td>Erica Greathouse</td>
<td>Emily Murphy</td>
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<td>Sarah Baxter</td>
<td>Anna Gamble</td>
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<td>Jayme Beahm</td>
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<td>Sana Amelia Isaac Powell</td>
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<td>Rachel Bershad</td>
<td>Crystal Guy</td>
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<td>Amanda Boardman</td>
<td>Leighton Henderson</td>
<td>Quinton Bradley Rosser</td>
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<td>Makenna Burke</td>
<td>Kathy Hu</td>
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<td>Kristen Cowings</td>
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<td>Marija Davis Andrade</td>
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<td>Pragati Desai</td>
<td>Cassidy Lapp</td>
<td>Jennifer Marie Smith</td>
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<td>Monica DeSantiago</td>
<td>Chloe Magali Marien Casey</td>
<td>Linda Thi</td>
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<td>Caroline Dixon</td>
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<td>Melany Vaca Lizano</td>
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<td>Arie Emde</td>
<td>Kaitlin Miesch</td>
<td>Jonathan Waknine</td>
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<td>Kelsey Evans</td>
<td>Morgan Mull</td>
<td>Nichole Wolf</td>
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### POST-MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

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<tr>
<td>Kiely Kristine Hansen</td>
<td>Marcia Jovel Landin</td>
<td>Ashley Whatley</td>
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<td>Kimberly Anne Hillman</td>
<td>Laurette Elizabeth Rivers</td>
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<td>Ryan Keech</td>
<td>Rachel Schroer</td>
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Janette J. Adams  
MSN, APRN, NP-C  
The Effects of a 3D Body Composition Scan on the Mental Wellness of Weight Loss Patients: A Retrospective Chart Review  
Megan Hebdon, PhD, DNP, RN, NP-C, Scholarly Advisor

Carter Andrew Crain  
MSN, APRN, CPNP-AC, CCRN  
Assessment of the Interest for Expanded Clinical Role of the Advanced Practice Provider in an Academic Medical Center  
Teresa Bailey, DNP, APRN, NNP-BC, CNE, Scholarly Advisor

Joy Eguavoen  
MSN, APRN, PMHNP-BC  
Developing an Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) Screening Protocol for the Veteran Population: A Quality Improvement  
Marc Webb, DNP, APRN, PMHNP-BC, Scholarly Advisor

Christopher Jake Blanca Gonzales  
MSN, RN, CMSRN, CENP, NEA-BC  
Implementation of Weather-Related Disaster Training and Competency  
Li-Chen Lin, PhD, RN, CNRN, Scholarly Advisor

Victoria Goodwin  
MSN, APRN, ACNP-BC  
Stop the Revolving Door! Reducing 30-Day Heart Failure Readmissions with Interdisciplinary Quality Improvement  
Li-Chen Lin, PhD, RN, CNRN, Scholarly Advisor

Jennifer Joyner  
MSN, CPNP-AC  
Cost Predictors for the Care of Late Preterm Infants: A National Perspective  
Teresa Bailey, DNP, APRN, NNP-BC, CNE & Jane Dimmitt Champion, PhD, DNP, MSN, MA, FNP, AH-PMH-CNS, FAAN, FAANP, Scholarly Advisors

Lisa Marie Newton  
MSN, FNP-BC  
United Front: Building Couples-Centered Support for Military Families Facing Breast Cancer  
Megan Hebdon, PhD, DNP, RN, NP-C & Heather Becker, PhD, Scholarly Advisors

Michelle O’Rourke  
MSN ACNP-BC  
The Lived Experiences of Nurse Practitioners During a Nursing Strike  
Jane Dimmitt Champion, PhD, DNP, MSN, MA, FNP, AH-PMH-CNS, FAAN, FAANP, Scholarly Advisor

Jacob Don Paul  
MSN, APRN, ACNPC-AG, CCRN  
An Evidence-Based Practice Project Focused on Intensive Care Unit Delirium  
Linda Yoder, PhD, MBA, RN, AOCN, FAAN, Scholarly Advisor

Kristin Roeseler  
MSN, APRN, CPNP-PC, PMHS  
Forging a Foster-Friendly Facility  
Stephanie Key, DNP, APRN, CPNP-PC, Scholarly Advisor

Thomas C. Sargent  
MSN, APRN, PMHNP-BC  
Protecting Those Who Care: A Systematic Review of Effective Interventions to Reduce Workplace Violence Against Nurses in United States Acute Care Hospital Settings  
Nico Osier, PhD, BSN, BS, RN, Scholarly Advisor

Caroline Grace Turnbull  
MSN, APRN, NP-C  
Geriatric Mental Health Program Evaluation and Assessment of Depression, Anxiety, and Quality of Life: A Pilot Study  
Megan Hebdon, PhD, DNP, RN, NP-C & Carolyn Phillips, PhD, RN, ACNP, Scholarly Advisors

Yu Zhong  
MSN, APRN, FNP-C  
Assessing the Effectiveness of Nursing Virtual Reality Simulation for ESL Students to Decrease Anxiety in Clinical Courses  
Jane Dimmitt Champion, PhD, DNP, MSN, MA, FNP, AH-PMH-CNS, FAAN, FAANP, Scholarly Advisor
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<td>Rodolfo Aguilar,** MD, PMHNP-BC, APRN</td>
<td>A Study of Sexual and Mental Health Among Baby Boomers in the United States</td>
<td>Lynn Rew, EdD, RN, AHN-BC, FAAN, Dissertation Chair</td>
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<td>Benedicta C. Anikputa, MPH, RN</td>
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<td>Jeeyeon Kim,* BSN, RN</td>
<td>The Influence of Music on Cognitive Function in People With Type 2 Diabetes</td>
<td>Heather Cuevas, PhD, RN, ACNS-BC, FCN, Dissertation Chair</td>
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<td>Julie Mellin, MSN, APRN, PMHNP-BC</td>
<td>Sexual Activity As Self-Injury</td>
<td>Cara Young, PhD, RN, FNP-C, FAANP, FAAN, Dissertation Chair</td>
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*Summer 2024 Graduate

** Summer 2023 Graduate
At this world-class institution, you worked hard, and you prevailed.

But commencement means beginning, and now the real change starts.

At Texas, you learned to think big.

Go change the world.