

# COMMENCEMENT 2025



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

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Congratulations to The University of Texas at Austin School of Nursing students 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 to the nursing profession. We also honor your future leadership and contributions to nursing.

Our School of Nursing includes a strong community of outstanding students, committed and 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.

You will make the world healthier and better using the knowledge and skills you gained here at the Forty Acres.

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 proud to call you our nurse leaders 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. Hook'em Horns!

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eun-Ok Im'.

**Eun-Ok Im, PhD, MPH, RN, CNS, FAAN**

*Dean*

*Professor and Laura Lee Blanton Chair in Nursing*

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER: MOLLY COOK, TEXAS SENATOR: DISTRICT 15

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Sen. Molly Cook is a sixth-generation Texan, born and raised in the Houston area.

She earned her nursing degree from The University of Texas at Austin and her dual nursing and public health graduate degree from Johns Hopkins University. As an emergency room nurse and grassroots organizer, Molly advocated for the health and safety of her neighbors, and she is honored to continue that work from the Texas Senate.

Molly's community advocacy helped pass a citizen-driven amendment to the City of Houston charter, and she has been recognized by the Houston Chronicle as one of Houston's transportation leaders.

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

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### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKERS

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

### KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**Molly Cook, MSN, BSN, RN**  
*Texas Senator: District 15*

### STUDENT SPEAKERS

**Nicole Bray, MSN, RN, CCRN, CNE, NPD-BC**  
*Graduating Doctoral Student*

**Megan Anderson, BA, RN**  
*Graduating Masters Student*

**Edgar Salas**  
*Graduating Bachelor's Student*

### MARSHAL

**Ashley Henneghan, PhD, RN, FAAN**  
*Associate Professor*

### RECOGNITION OF GRADUATES

*Assisted by:*

**Gayle Timmerman, PhD, RN, CNS,  
FNAP, FAAN**  
*Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs  
Professor*

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

**Janice Hernandez, DNP, RN, FNP-C**  
*Clinical Associate Professor  
Division Chair, Holistic Adult Health Nursing  
Director, Leadership in Diverse Settings (LeaDs)  
MSN Program  
Academic Co-Sponsor, Hispanic Nursing  
Student Association*

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

**Larissa Brungot, DNP, RN, CNE**  
*Clinical Assistant Professor*

**Shalonda Horton, PhD, RN**  
*Clinical Assistant Professor*

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

**Jennifer Williams, MSN, RN, NEA-BC, CEN**  
*Clinical Instructor*

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

**Michelle Lemaster, BSHDFS**  
*Director, Undergraduate Admissions & Advising*

### CLOSING REMARKS

**Gayle Timmerman, PhD, RN, CNS,  
FNAP, FAAN**  
*Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs  
Professor*

## BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

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Dom Bender	Arleen Gomez	Lesley Patching
Grace Borer	Ariona Gonzales	Tammy Tuyet Nhi Pham
Caleigh Broome	Maryn Gresell	Jenna TuTran Phan
Madeleine Bryant	Isabel Harwood	Hadley Powers
Carlos Celio	Denise Hernandez	Paulina Quiroz Castrejon
Alejandra Chee*	Sadé Hurley	Chardelene Kelsy Quimco Reyes
Kate Crawford	Si Hyun Kim	JoAnn Robledo
Maire Laura David	Ashton Logan	Alejandra Maria Romero
Ava DePrang	Adriann Lugo	Patricia Carmen Ruiz
Connor Dunnihoo	Brianna Hoang Luong	Edgar Salas
Jillian Hong-Tam Duong	Alexis Mari Clavecilla Maceda	Christian Kid Santos
Galilea Del Mar Dupree*	Amulya Madugula	Katherine Lynlee Schraub
Leah Jane Easton	Faith Mayse	Ian Siders
Danielle Esquibel	Sophie McDowell	Abigail Sitzman
Shawn Fan	Yamila Mello	Valeria Talamantes
Morgan Franklin	Anjali Mistry	Rylee Tonacao
Megan Ashley Fruge	Haylie Montemayor	Han Gia Tran
Joshua Ely Garcia	Lillie Morenz	Millie Walls
Leila Garza	Madeline Thein-Ha Nguyen	Jordan Ward
Kasey Gershon	Jeffrey O'Brien	Madeline Rose Young
Madelyn Gilbert	Osarhuname James Omo-Iyamu	

## UNDERGRADUATE HONORS PROJECTS

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Alejandra Chee	<i>Facilitators and Barriers on Medication Management: Lessons Learned in the Spanish-Speaking Communities</i> Li-Chen Lin, PhD, RN, CNRN, Faculty Mentor
Galilea Dupree	<i>Indebted by Blood: Examining the Impact of “Familismo” on Latinx Millennial Caregivers</i> Megan Hebdon, PhD, DNP, RN, NP-C, Faculty Mentor

\*Honor's Program Graduate

## MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

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Justin Aaron	Jasmine Eagan	Audrey Nicole Knodell
Suroor Ali*	Courtney Ebeling	Jeremy Martinelli
Megan Anderson	Frida Estrada	James Mataska
Catherine Bailey	Gabrielle Gallardo	Cassandra Ngong
Macy Banfield	Lilly Gant	Bryn Olsen
Veronica Bissar	Rachel Graham	Fernanda Osnaya-Banner
Julisa Marlén Bosquez	Rina Haack	William Richard Petricone III
Brandi R. Buford	Hattie Hazen	Allison Salter
Betsy Lynn Bunt	Meagan Hefley	Linda Seefeldt
Eldredge Calhoun*	Shelby Hicks	Brianna Smith
Kendall I Clarkson	Sarah Higgins	Jessie Marieee Smith
Katheryn Grace Danko	Hannah Hopkins	Matthew Vitemb
Caitlyn DeLeon	Lily Isbell	Yang Yang
Erica Duran	John Jung	

## POST-MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

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Natalie Bogue	Lauren Meadows	Neal Shotwell
Ashley Ebanks	Corinna Romantic	Lila Tenenbown
Josiane N. Hulkan	William Rice	

## DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE

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Stephen Berry  
MSN, APRN, AGCNS-BC, CFRN

*Development and Evaluation of a Training Program for the Igel Supraglottic Airway in Sub-acute Care*  
Carol Delville, PhD, APRN, ACNS-BC, FCNSI & Sherri Cook-Rousey, DNP, APRN, ACNPC-AG, CNE, Scholarly Advisors

Nicole Bray  
MSN, RN, CCRN, CNE, NPD-BC

*Peer Mentorship in Undergraduate Nursing Education*  
Shalonda Horton, PhD, RN, Scholarly Advisor

Marc Duke  
MSN, EMT-B, APRN, AGCNS-BC

*Evaluation of Invasive Ventilation Weaning & Tracheostomy Decannulation Readiness Tool in the Post-Acute Setting*  
Carol Delville, PhD, APRN, ACNS-BC, FCNSI & Sherri Cook-Rousey, DNP, APRN, ACNPC-AG, CNE, Scholarly Advisors

Arie Emde  
MSN, APRN, AGCNS-BC, CCRN

*Just-in-Time Training in Critical Care: A Pilot Study*  
Carol Delville, PhD, APRN, ACNS-BC, FCNSI, Scholarly Advisor

Ayumi Fielden  
SN, RN, CCRN, CPAN

*Quality Improvement in Malignant Hyperthermia Response*  
Katie Sanders, DNP, RN, CNE & Lisa Morris, DNP, RN, Scholarly Advisors

Laurely Fusilero  
MBA, BSN, RN, NEA-BC

*Measuring the Impact of a Vascular Access Team on Central Line-Associated Blood Stream Infections in a PICU*  
Amanda McKinney Alvarado, DNP, CPNP-AC, RN-C & Larissa Brungot, MSN, RN, Scholarly Advisors

Karen Harshman  
MSN, RN

*Knowledge and Practice of Perioperative Nurses on Inadvertent Perioperative Hypothermia*  
Li-Chen Lin, PhD, RN, CNRN, Scholarly Advisor

Amy Vanessa Hernandez  
MSN, RN, CNE, CRRN

*Integration of Mindfulness Practices into a BSN Clinical Course: A Quality Improvement Project*  
Cara C. Young, PhD, APRN, FNP-C, FAANP, FAAN, Scholarly Advisor

Dawn McElvain  
MSN, APRN, CPNP-PC

*Improving Sleep-Related Care for Pediatric Headache Patients: A Quality Improvement Initiative*  
Stephanie Key, DNP, APRN, CPNP-PC, PMHS & Jennifer Flippo, DNP, APRN, CPNP-PC, PMHS, CNEcl, Scholarly Advisors

Laura Michele Ortiz Carter  
MSN, RN, CCRN, RNC-OB, C-EFM

*Code Mom: A Pilot Optimizing Team Performance in Maternal Cardiac Arrest*  
Jennifer Hensley, EdD, CNM, WHNP-BC, FACNM, Scholarly Advisor

Andrew Saldiva  
MSN, APRN, FNP-C

*Introducing Evidence-Based Practice Guidelines Regarding Preexposure Prophylaxis into a Student Health Clinic: A Quality Improvement Project*  
Jane Dimmitt Champion, PhD, DNP, MSN, MA, FNP, AH-PMH-CNS, FAAN, FAANP, Scholarly Advisor

Michelle Anne DuPrey Spencer  
MSN, APRN, FNP-C, CPN

*Integrating Telehealth Simulations to Prepare Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Students: A Quality Improvement Project*  
Carly Edgar, DNP, APRN, CPNP-PC & Cara C.Young, PhD, RN, FNP-C, FAANP, FAAN, Scholarly Advisors

Olivia Tristan  
MSN, RN, CPC

*A Quality Improvement Project: Implementing Culturally Tailored Mental Health Resources for Hispanic Patients with Type 2 Diabetes within the Primary Care Setting*  
Heather Cuevas, PhD, RN, ACNS-BC, FCNS, FAAN & Stephanie Morgan, PhD, RN, FNP-BC, FNAP, Scholarly Advisors



## DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN NURSING

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Oscar Y. Franco-Rocha\*  
M.Ed., RN

*Health Promotion of Sexual and Gender Minority Populations with Cancer:  
Theoretical Formulation and Empirical Testing*  
Ashley Henneghan, PhD, RN, FAAN, Dissertation Chair

Jonathan Hecht\*  
MSN, APRN, ACNS-BC,  
CCRN, CNRN

*An Examination of Rapid Response Team Activation and the Characteristics  
of Clinical and Rapid Response Team Nurse Expertise*  
Elizabeth Heitkemper, PhD, RN & Linda H. Yoder, PhD, MBA, RN,  
AOCN, FAMSN, FAAN, Dissertation Co-Chairs

Kristen Layton Sinay  
MSN, RN

*Nurse Practitioners' Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices Regarding Menstrual Cycles  
of Children and Adolescents in Primary Care: A National Survey*  
Karen Johnson, PhD, RN, FSAHM, FAAN, Dissertation Chair

Jason Spees  
MSN, MAOM, APRN, L.Ac.,  
FNP-C, Dipl. Ac. & C.H.

*The Social Construction of Sex Trafficking in LGBTQ+ Youth*  
Jane Dimmitt Champion, PhD, DNP, MSN, MA, FNP, AH-PMH-CNS,  
FAAN, FAANP, Dissertation Chair

Katie Trainum  
BSN, RN

*Nursing Staff Perspectives on the Role of Care Robots in Long-Term Care Settings*  
Karen Johnson, PhD, RN, FSAHM, FAAN & Bo Xie, PhD, FGSA,  
Dissertation Co-Chairs

Shenell Tiara Wood\*\*  
PhD, RN

*Time Pressure, Decision Stressors, and Diabetes Self-Management*  
Gayle M. Timmerman, PhD, APRN-CNS, FNAP, FAAN &  
Heather Cuevas, PhD, RN, ACNS-BC, FCNS, FAAN Dissertation  
Co-Chairs

\*Summer 2025 Graduate

\*\*Fall 2024 Graduate

## IN MEMORIAM

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The School of Nursing honors the lives of two individuals from our community who passed away over the last year.

### MIYONG KIM, RN, PHD, FAAN

Faculty Member, 2013–2024

### TRAVIS TALLENT, RN

Doctor of Nursing Practice Student & Alternate Entry Master of  
Science in Nursing / Adult-Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist  
Student – 2022-2024

# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

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Dear Graduate,

Congratulations and welcome to your convocation! The diploma you will receive today reflects the determination and fortitude that you have shown throughout your time at The University of Texas. It is also a tribute to the support of your family, friends, faculty, and others who have supported and encouraged you throughout your academic journey.

You have earned a degree from one of the world's great universities. That degree is a symbol of your academic and personal growth over your time on the Forty Acres, and it should always remind you of your capacity for excellence.

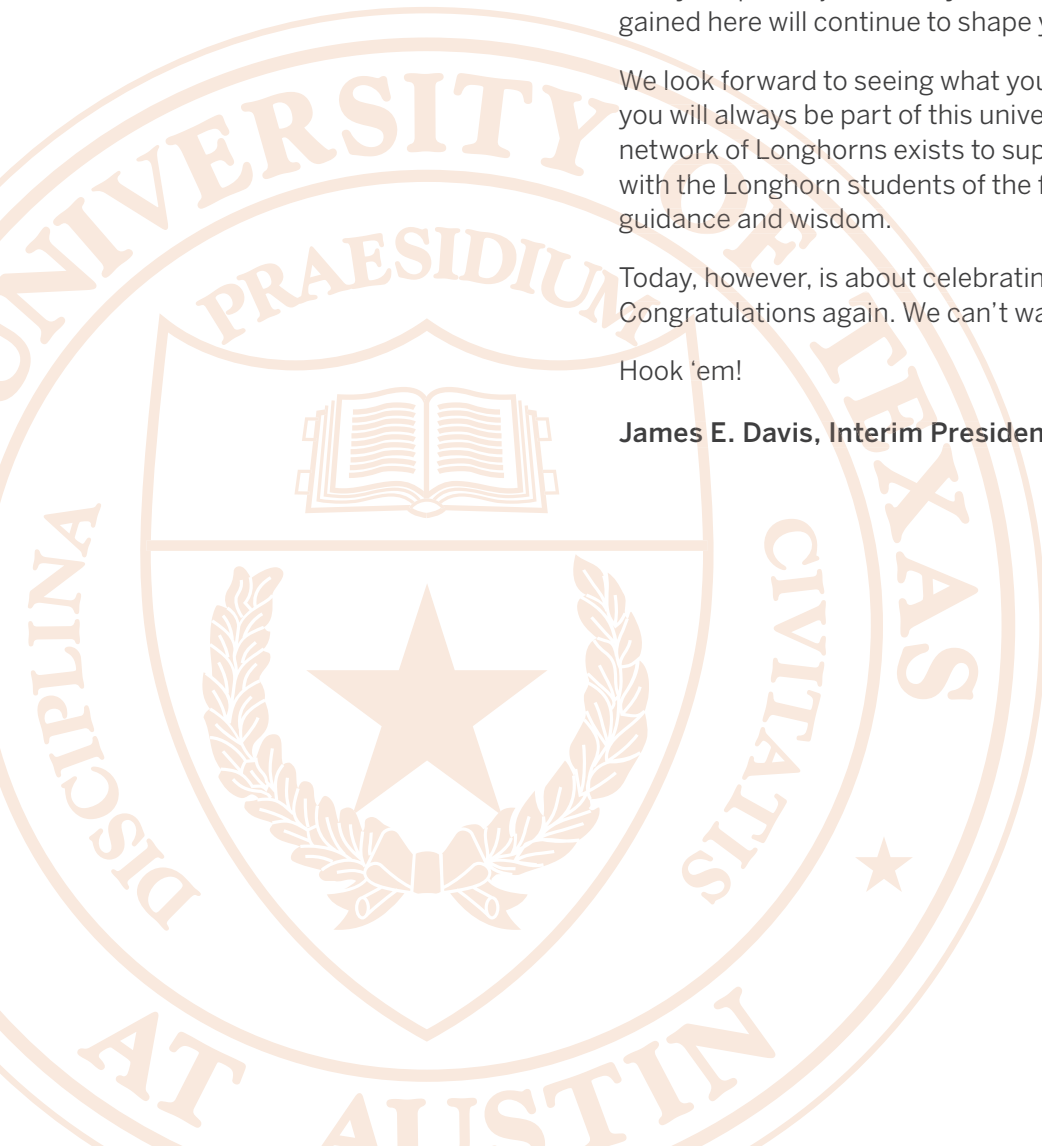
I also want to express our gratitude for the invaluable contributions you've made to our community throughout your time as a student. Every Longhorn helps enrich the vibrancy of our campus, both inside and outside the classroom. You've shared your knowledge and experiences with your peers, just as they have with you, and the lessons you've gained here will continue to shape your future.

We look forward to seeing what you achieve next. Please know that you will always be part of this university's story, and that a worldwide network of Longhorns exists to support you. I also hope you will engage with the Longhorn students of the future who will benefit from your guidance and wisdom.

Today, however, is about celebrating you and your achievement. Congratulations again. We can't wait to see how you change the world.

Hook 'em!

**James E. Davis, Interim President, The University of Texas at Austin**





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.



**The University of Texas at Austin**  
**WHAT STARTS HERE CHANGES THE WORLD**