

Commencement 2026



The University of Texas at Austin
School of Nursing



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN 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 graduates of the University of Texas at Austin School of Nursing, and to the parents, partners, family members, and friends who supported you every step of the way. Your encouragement, sacrifice, and belief have been essential in reaching this milestone.

Commencement is a meaningful tradition that celebrates all you have achieved during this journey. Today we celebrate not only your academic success, but also your dedication to learning and your commitment to serving others through the profession of nursing.

The School of Nursing is a strong and vibrant community of excellent students, dedicated faculty and staff, and supportive alumni and friends, united by a shared goal—to improve health and address the complex healthcare challenges of our time through education, research, and service. As part of this remarkable community, you have developed the knowledge, critical thinking, and compassion necessary to confront both emerging and longstanding health issues. You are now prepared to apply what you have learned in ways that will improve lives and strengthen communities.

As members of the University of Texas community, you also carry a responsibility to lead with integrity and to create positive change in Texas and beyond. You understand the value of respecting others, embracing different ideas, and ensuring opportunities for all people. Most importantly, you have grown intellectually, professionally, and personally.

Today, we send you into the world with confidence in your abilities and pride in your accomplishments. The energy, insight, and dedication you bring to nursing will help shape the future of healthcare.

It is a true honor to be associated with each of you.

Kavita Radhakrishnan

Kavita Radhakrishnan, PhD, MSEE, RN, FAAN, FAHA
Interim Dean, School of Nursing
Dolores V. Sands Chair in Nursing Research
Professor

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: KIM CHAPMAN, MSN, BSN, APRN, RN



Kim Chapman is a nurse practitioner committed to clinical excellence and compassionate patient care. A proud graduate of The University of Texas at Austin, she spent thirteen years in operating room nursing, including work with Houston cardiovascular surgeon Denton A. Cooley, MD. She later earned her Master of Science in Nursing from Drake University and became a board-certified family nurse practitioner, specializing in cardiovascular and thoracic surgery.

Kim is an active leader and advocate for nursing education and health care in Texas. She chairs the UT Austin School of Nursing Advisory Council and the School of Nursing's capital campaign, and she serves on UT's Chancellor's Executive Council and UT Southwestern's President's Advisory Board. With her husband, Jeff, she co-founded UT Southwestern's Patient and Family Advisory Council at the Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center, where she serves as a founding member. Together, they have supported the UT Austin School of Nursing through philanthropic gifts, including the Kimberly and Jeffrey Chapman Endowed Presidential Fellowship, the Billye J. Brown Professorship in Nursing Leadership, the Texas Challenge, and the UT Austin School of Nursing's Family Wellness Center.

Kim and Jeff were introduced by a mutual friend after each lost a spouse to cancer. Their shared experience has shaped a lasting commitment to supporting patients and families and advancing cancer care, including a recent gift to UT Southwestern's Oncology Excellence Initiative.

Kim is the proud mother of Drew Rosenberg, a tenured professor of political science at the University of Florida, and stepmother to Jeff's three grown children—Andra, Bill, and Morgan. She and Jeff are grandparents of seven (Sheppard, Corinne, Hudson, Logan, Grayson, Julia, and Charlotte).

In her spare time, Kim enjoys running, Pilates, and collecting art with Jeff.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**Kavita Radhakrishnan, PhD, MSEE, RN,
FAAN, FAHA**
*Interim Dean, School of Nursing
Dolores V. Sands Chair in Nursing Research
Professor*

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Kim Chapman, MSN, BSN, APRN, RN

STUDENT SPEAKERS

Jacy L. Day
Graduating Doctoral Student

Claire Elizabeth Hansard
Graduating Bachelor's Student

MASTER OF CEREMONY

Vinh T. Nguyen, PhD
Associate Dean for Student Services

RECOGNITION OF GRADUATES

Assisted by:
Cara Young, PhD, RN
Assistant Dean for Graduate Education

Nicole Murry PhD, RN
Assistant Dean for Pre-licensure Education

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*

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

Lisa Morris, DNP, APRN, FNP-C
*Clinical Assistant Professor
Director, FNP Program
Co-Director, Center for Clinical and Community
Partnerships*

**Stephanie Key, DNP, APRN, CPNP-PC,
PMHS, FAANP**
*Clinical Assistant Professor
Director Post-Master DNP Program*

Shalonda Horton, PhD, MSN, BSN
Clinical Assistant Professor

Larissa Brungot, DNP, RN, CNE
Clinical Assistant Professor

Samantha Stong, MSN, RN
Clinical Instructor

Michelle Lemaster, BA
Director, Undergraduate Admissions & Advising

CLOSING REMARKS

**Kavita Radhakrishnan, PhD, MSEE, RN,
FAAN, FAHA**
*Interim Dean, School of Nursing
Dolores V. Sands Chair in Nursing Research
Professor*

MARSHALS

Alexandra García, PhD, RN, FAAN
*Professor
Interim Director, St. David's Center for Health
Promotion and Disease Prevention Research in
Underserved Populations*

Carol L. Delville PhD, APRN, ACNS-BC, FCNSI
*Clinical Associate Professor of Nursing
The University of Texas at Austin Provost
Teaching Fellow Emeritus
NHCGNE Distinguished Educator in
Gerontological Nursing*

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

SPRING 2026 BSN GRADUATES

Tahaguas Abraha
Natalie Kate Allen*
Alexa Alvarado Lopez
Andrew Aponte
Jocelyn Azua
Samantha Banda
Valerie Basurto
Haley Bender
Brennah Birkholz
Emily Joyce Boler
Lacy Burtscher
Hannah Chong
Kate Christoff
Tiffany Chuang
Emmaleigh Clark
Lucia Collins
Arielle Del Rosario
Barbara Desouza
Zeynep Ertuna
Noelis Escobar
Amber Michelle Esparza
Marissa Flores
Amanda Foy*
Brissa Garcia
Ashlyn Gardner
Sebele Genet
Isabelle Victoria Green
Abby Grosshandler
Claire Elizabeth Hansard
Malea Harris
Tia Nashea Harris
Jay Helton
Brittany Hernandez
Estephanie Hernandez Medina
Elizabeth Yvonne Hotchkiss*
Shivani Jariwala
Gracie Jensen
Krithika Karthikeyan
Marianna Jane Latil
April Leura
Corina Elena Llorente Petrosini

Natalie Ma
Vanessa Raine Mendoza*
Divia Moorjani
Daniela Mora-Macedo
Caryse Morrison
Emma Mueller
Kayle Lam-Quynh Ngo
Michelle Noriega
Alyssa Marian Orozco
Ella Naomi Ouimet
Cindy Phan
Yasmeen Ramirez
Halle Schenk
Trinity Schroeder*
Sarah Shelton
Jazmin Tapia Ambriz
Julie Thi
Katherine Thomson
Liliana Toledo
Bianca Torres
Janet Truong*
Anna Villarreal
Grace Wesley
Grace Yake
Crystal Yohannan

FALL 2025 BSN GRADUATES

Blessing Akintoye
Abigail Arratia
Zaira Arredondo
Nereyda Barrera
Megan Beltran
Alexis Bodkin
Sawyer Broughton
Kaylee Campbell
Sarah Cantu
Cecilia Cao
Ana Carreon Avalos
Morgan Cook
Raeh Corl
Karen Coss
Avery Desparrois

Reef Doss
Ashley Edwards
Andrea El-Bitar
Aneesa Elizondo
Alina Flores
Reanne Fraga
Kaitlynn Graham
Makenzie James
Carolyn Kane-Berman
Will Knudsen
Emily Leschber
Riley Lewthwaite
Melanie Ly
Fatima Madi
Olivia Meins
Sophia Mota
Ndiiloma Muana
Lily Muniz
Thu Nguyen
Kelly Ortiz
Jasmine Pearson
Madison Phanthavong
Ella Phillips
Sarah Provost
Daniel Rivera
Madelaine Ross
Linda Rubio
Amy Santoro
Laci Scheefer
Anthony Sone
Rachael Taylor
Sadie Thurman
Luis Tovar
Christine Tran
Ashley Velasquez
Angelie Vera-Chong
Kylie Wagner
Leah Walker
Mia Walker
Emily Wilkinson
Lauren Yonke

*Honor's Program Graduate

UNDERGRADUATE HONORS PROJECTS

Natalie Allen	<i>Everyday Cognitive and Psychosocial Contributors to Sexual Satisfaction Among Women Living with Metastatic Breast Cancer: An Ecological Momentary Assessment Study</i> Ashley Henneghan, PhD, RN, FAAN, Faculty Mentor
Amanda Foy	<i>Understanding the Impact of Continuous Glucose Monitoring on Cognitive Health and Quality of Life Among Caregivers of Children With Type 1 Diabetes: A Mixed-Methods Study</i> Heather Cuevas, PhD, RN, ACNS-BC, FCNS, FAAN, Faculty Mentor
Elizabeth Hotchkiss	<i>Emotional Labor and Wellbeing in Undergraduate Nursing Students (18-24): A Descriptive Study</i> Cara Young, PhD, RN, FNP-C, FAANP, FAAN, Faculty Mentor
Vanessa Mendoza	<i>The Experiences of Hispanic Caregivers of Children with Cancer: A Literature Review</i> Ana Todd, PhD, RN, Faculty Mentor
Trinity Schroeder	<i>Experiences of Mothers with Physical Disabilities During the Perinatal Period with Healthcare Professionals</i> Lorraine Walker, RN, EdD, MPH, Faculty Mentor
Janet Truong	<i>Impact of Chronic Skin Conditions on the Quality of Life in Children and Their Parents: A Literature Review</i> Stephanie Key, DNP, APRN, CPNP-PC, PMHS, FAANP, Faculty Mentor

POST-MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

Elizabeth Akinyemi	Olivia Calder	Mollie Beth Sigler
Alyson Albion	Kameron Fassett	Grace Vanhees
Whitney Alfaro	Lisa Lopez-Dayyat	William Wright
Ashley Arceneaux	Holly Mishoe	Crystal Paz Zavaleta

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

SPRING 2026 MSN GRADUATES

Connor Argentieri
Jennifer Arthur
Ashlyn Brooke Burch
Darrell Burt
Sara Byers
Anisa Byrd
Kelsey Jonkers Campbell
Emma Cho
Nicholas Corcoran
Alyssa Nicole Cosme
Jade Nicole Dapaah
Isaac Diaz
Khalisa Arianna Esmail
Sayian Bayangos Espique
Michael Fernandez
Monique Solis Galus
Bailey McAllister Glab
Elvira Victoria Halford
Sherry He
Adam Hess
Stedman Holliman
Madison Mary Hutzler
Aalisha Barkat Karovalia
April Jinjoo Kwon
Teresa Renee Ladik
Regina Leal
Aagath Shalini Leo

Garren Lorio II
Amy Lubawy
Karen Mcallister
Corah Mondro
Angelica Montalvo
Stephanie Ryder Morris
Sydney Nobles
Bill Makana Nyaoga
Tulsi P Patel
Nancy Pham
Chi Phu
Brianda Ramirez
Lauren Reeves
Stephanie Rule
Gabrielle Renee Saucedo
Mary Semakula
Nicole Shoup
Courtney Elizabeth Stollon
Melissa Summers
ChengYi Sung
Irina Sverdlov Kaldero
MayaJoy Marcela Vizina Thode
Jessica Valadez
Kathryn Marie Van Norman
Bailee West
Sydney Elizabeth Wilson
Sarah Wood
Tracey Zuo

FALL 2025 MSN GRADUATES

Lesslye Acosta
Jamie Baines
Jordyn Brown
Brittany Campbell
Omar Cardona
Caitlyn Deleon
Roisin Duffey
Cynthia Fabela
Brissa Gaona
Leeah Gautreau
Katherine Hernandez
Remington Johnson
Lauren Kell
Avery Largent
Cristina Madero
Novitska Moore
Madison Nuessner
Nancy Pham
Bianca Ramirez
Victoria Ramos
Kaylee Samaniego
Sherika Stafford
Erica Tennesen
Elizabeth Walker

DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE

- Jennifer T. Barnes *A Scalable Educational Toolkit for Midlife Women During the Menopausal Transition*
Jennifer Hensley, EdD, CNM, WHNP-BC, FACNM, Scholarly Advisor
- Amanda Noel Boardman *De-Labeling Penicillin Allergies via Oral Challenge in Pediatric Primary Care*
Stephanie Key, DNP, APRN, CPNP-PC, PMHS, FAANP & Carly Edgar, DNP, APRN, CPNP-PC, Scholarly Advisors
- Elizabeth Cavarretta *NICU Land: Evaluating the Impact of Game-Based Learning on Post-Orientation Job Satisfaction in the NICU*
Jennifer Flippo, DNP, APRN, CPNP-PC, PMHS, CNEcl & Davika Reid, PhD, RN, Scholarly Advisors
- Mary Clipp *Assessing the Impact of a Student Clinical Preparedness Module on Preceptor Satisfaction*
Amanda Alvarado, DNP, CPNP-AC, RN-C & Teresa Bailey, DNP, APRN, NNP-BC, CNE, Scholarly Advisors
- Jacy L. Day *Advancing Family-Centered Care Competency and Workforce Readiness Through Standardized Patient Simulation*
Laura Murphy, PhD, MSN, RNC-OB & Rachel Haungs, DNP, RN, CPN, Scholarly Advisors
- Raquel J. Goytia *From Crisis to Continuity: A QI initiative to Improve Pediatric Mental Health Adherence in Hispanic/Latino Adolescents*
Carly Edgar, DNP, APRN, CPNP-PC & Stephanie Key, DNP, APRN, CPNP-PC, PMHS, FAANP, Scholarly Advisors
- Elizabeth A. Hadi *Impact of Helping Babies Breathe Training on Neonatal Resuscitation Skill Retention in Rural Kenya*
Julie Zuñiga, PhD, RN, FAAN & Jennifer Joyner, DNP, APRN, CPNP-AC, Scholarly Advisors
- Tiffany Haney *Increasing Perioperative Knowledge and Confidence with the Implementation of a GLP-1 Algorithm: An EBPOI Project*
Lisa Morris, DNP, APRN, FNP-C & Janice Hernandez, DNP, APRN, FNP-C, Scholarly Advisors
- Mistie Kocurek *Implementing an Obesity Management Protocol to Improve Cardiovascular Outcomes*
Kara Goodspeed, PhD, APRN, ACNS-BC, FCNSI & Stephanie Key, DNP, APRN, CPNP-PC, PMHS, FAANP, Scholarly Advisors
- Jeremy D. Martinelli *Improving Retention in HIV Care Through MyChart Activation: QI Initiative*
Heather Cuevas PhD, RN, ACNS-BC, FCNS, FAAN & Sherri Cook-Rousey, DNP, APRN, ACNPC-AG, CNE, Scholarly Advisors
- Toshia McKeon *Empowering Pediatric Providers: A Quality Improvement Evidence-Based Practice ADHD Initiative*
Stephanie Key, DNP, APRN, CPNP-PC, PMHS, FAANP, Scholarly Advisor
- Anna Christina Mendoza *The C.O.R.E. Series for Academic Nurse Educators*
Lisa Morris, DNP, APRN, FNP-C & Elesha Roberts, PhD, DNP, RN, CNEcl, CNE, CHSE Scholarly Advisors
- Nelofar Nagji *Improving Homeless Data: Using ICD-10 Z-code*
Stephanie Key, DNP, APRN, CPNP-PC & Jackie Gordon, DNP, APRN, CCNS, CCRN Scholarly Advisors

DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE CONT'

- Victoria Kathryn Najm *Addressing Invisible Wounds: A Quality Improvement Project - PTSD Screening and Referral*
Elizabeth Rohlich, DNP, APRN, ACNS-BC, Scholarly Advisor
- Ashley Noboa *Earlier Surgery Drives Same Day Discharge: Implementation of Standardized Pediatric Appendectomy Discharge Pathway*
Eduardo Chavez, PhD, RN & Amanda Alvarado, DNP, CPNP-AC, RN-C,
Scholarly Advisors
- José S. Perales Jr. *Diet and Physical Activity Modifications in Treating Type 2 Diabetes in Adults*
Heather Cuevas PhD, RN, ACNS-BC, FCNS, FAAN & Stephanie Morgan, PhD, RN,
FNP-BC, FNAP, Scholarly Advisors
- Jessie Maricee Smith *Building Hardiness in Graduate Nursing Students Using an Activity-Based Approach: A Pilot Project*
Carol Delville, PhD, APRN, ACNS-BC, FCNSI & Elizabeth Rohlich, DNP, APRN,
ACNS-BC, Scholarly Advisors
- Tamera Sutton *An Evidence-Based Assessment of Nurse Manager Competencies for Digital Health Transformation*
Bo Xie, PhD, FGSA & Linda Yoder, PhD, MBA, RN, AOCN, FAAN, FAMSN,
Scholarly Advisors
- Lisa E. Tolls *Factors Influencing Nurse Leader Referral to Alternative-to-Discipline Programs for Substance Use*
Alexandra Garcia, PhD, RN, FAAN & Linda Kim, PhD, RN, PHN, CPHQ, CGNC,
Scholarly Advisors
- Elizabeth Willhite *Development and Evaluation of Non-Fatal Strangulation Education for Forensic Nurses:
An Evidence-Based Practice Quality Improvement Project*
Cara Young, PhD, RN, FNP-C, FAANP, FAAN & Chris Divin, PhD, RN, FNP-BC,
Scholarly Advisors

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN NURSING

Matthew Banner*	<i>The Profound Experiences of Connection: A Descriptive Phenomenological Study of Older Adults' Narratives of Self-Transcendence</i> Lorraine Walker, RN, EdD, MPH, Dissertation Chair
Namuun Clifford	<i>Toward Precision Digital Health in Cardiovascular Disease: Characterizing Engagement Phenotypes and Trajectories to Improve Outcomes</i> Kavita Radhakrishnan, PhD, MSEE, RN, FAAN, Dissertation Chair
Cheongin Im*	<i>Exploring the Impact of Symptom Management and Social Determinants of Health on Patient Outcomes in Cardio-Oncology</i> Julie Zuñiga, PhD, RN, FAAN, Dissertation Chair
Sookja Kang**	<i>Equitable Maternal Digital Health Innovation</i> Lorraine Walker, RN, EdD, MPH, Dissertation Chair
Dongmi Kim	<i>Addressing Kidney Health Inequities: A Nursing Approach Integrating Social Determinants, Theory, And Machine Learning</i> Eun Ok Im, PhD, MPH, RN, CNS, FAAN, Dissertation Chair
Bruce Machona	<i>Exploring Women's And Providers' Perceptions of Preconception and Postpartum Care After Gestational Diabetes Mellitus</i> Julie Zuñiga, PhD, RN, FAAN, Dissertation Chair
Nicole Manley**	<i>Cumulative Violence, Psychological Resources, and Healthcare Engagement Among Midlife Sexual and Gender Minority Individuals</i> Yang Li, PhD, RN & Donna Rew, EdD, RN, AHN-BC, FAAN, Dissertation Co-Chairs
KD Oppong*	<i>Hospital-To-Home Care Transition for Dementia Patients and Family Caregivers: Discharge Planning and Decision-Making Experience of Family Caregivers</i> Jung Kwak, PhD, MSW, FGSA, Dissertation Chair
Alfonzo J. Robinson	<i>Heroes, Shortages, and the Backbone of Healthcare: A Critical Discourse Analysis of Power, Autonomy and Agency Among Nurses</i> Carolyn Phillips, PhD, RN, Dissertation Chair

*December 2025 Graduate

**Summer 2026 Graduate

IN MEMORIAM

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

DONNA G. ROLIN, PHD, APRN, PMHCNS-BC, PMHNP-BC

Faculty Member, 2013–2025

BILLYE J. BROWN, EDD, RN, FAAN

Dean Emerita, 1972-1989

We celebrate their contributions and carry their memories forward.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



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 at Austin. 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 the greatest University in the world. 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.

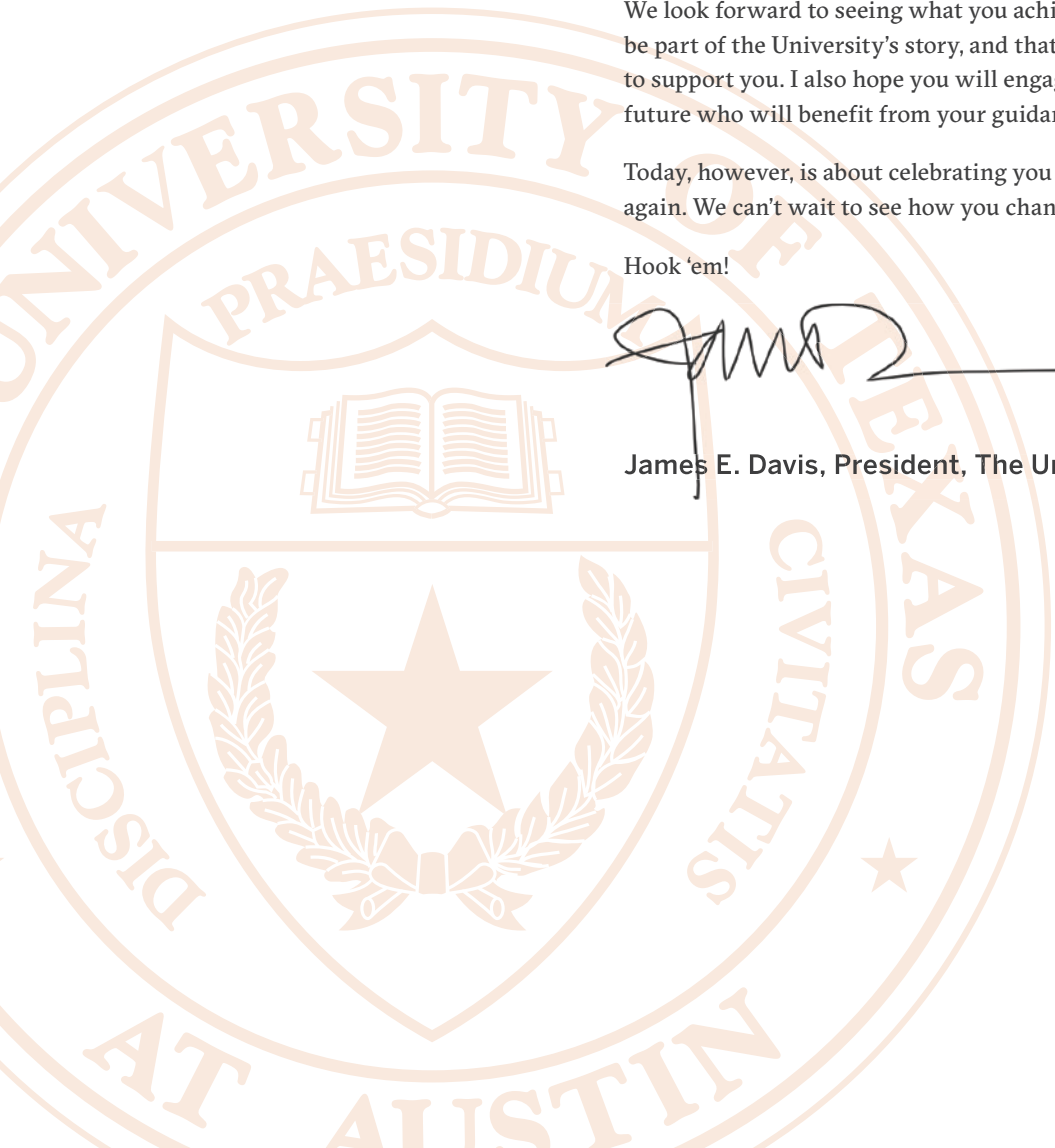
We look forward to seeing what you achieve next. Please know that you will always be part of the University's story, and that a worldwide network of Longhorns exists to support you. I also hope you will engage with the Longhorn students of the future who will benefit from your guidance and wisdom.

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

Hook 'em!

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "James E. Davis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the name.

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



“ YE SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH AND
THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE ”

