



151<sup>st</sup> Commencement  
December 11, 2024

Lakefront Arena  
6801 Franklin Avenue  
New Orleans, LA 70122

# *The Commencement Ceremony*

The audience is requested to stand during the Academic Procession, the singing of the National Anthem, and the Benediction, and to remain in place until the Recessional has left the Arena.

## **The Academic Procession**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Chief Marshal</b> .....                              | Andrew Pellett, PhD<br><i>Department Head, Cardiopulmonary Science<br/>Associate Dean for Academic Affairs<br/>School of Allied Health Professions</i>   |
| <b>Music</b> .....                                      | The Uptown Brass Ensemble  |
| <b>Bearer of the Mace</b> .....                         | Janet H. Southerland, DDS, MPH, PhD<br><i>Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs</i>   |
| <b>Procession of the Platform Party</b> .....           | Ryan F. Garrity, MLA, MA<br><i>University Registrar</i>  |
| <b>Faculty Marshals</b> .....                           | John Zamjahn, PhD, MHS<br><i>Professor of Clinical Cardiopulmonary Science<br/>School of Allied Health Professions</i><br>Todd Tartavouille, DNS, APRN, CNS-BC<br><i>Assistant Dean for Student Services<br/>School of Nursing</i> |
| <b>Procession of the Faculty</b>                        |  |
| <b>Student Marshal</b> .....                            | Jason "Jay" Mussell, PhD<br><i>Professor of Research for Department of Cell Biology and Anatomy<br/>School of Medicine</i>   |
| <b>Procession of the Students</b>                       |  |
| <b>Procession of the Candidates in Nursing</b>          |  |
| <b>Gonfalonier</b> .....                                | Molly Reece Brown<br><i>Bachelor of Science in Nursing Candidate</i>   |
| <b>Procession of the Candidates in Public Health</b>    |  |
| <b>Gonfalonier</b> .....                                | Tyler Prusisz<br><i>Doctor of Philosophy Candidate</i>   |
| <b>Procession of the Candidates in Graduate Studies</b> |  |
| <b>Gonfalonier</b> .....                                | Thomas Reed Kyllo<br><i>Doctor of Philosophy Candidate</i>   |
| <b>Procession of the Candidates in Medicine</b>         |  |
| <b>Gonfalonier</b> .....                                | Illona Sarah Brumfield<br><i>Doctor of Medicine Candidate</i>  |

# *The Commencement Ceremony*

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Opening Proclamation .....                 | Janet H. Southerland, DDS, MPH, PhD<br>Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs         |
| National Anthem .....                      | The Uptown Brass Ensemble   |
| Invocation .....                           | Lauren Elizabeth Bagneris<br><i>Doctor of Medicine Candidate</i>                    |
| Welcome and Opening Remarks .....          | Steve Nelson, MD<br>Chancellor  |
| Introduction of Commencement Speaker ..... | Steve Nelson, MD  |
| Commencement Address .....                 | James A. Caillier, PhD<br><i>President Emeritus, University of Louisiana System</i> |
| Conferring of Degrees .....                | Rémy Voisin Starns<br><i>Member, LSU Board of Supervisors</i>                       |
| Benediction .....                          | Jaden Renee' Pearley<br><i>Bachelor of Science in Nursing Candidate</i>             |
| Closing Proclamation .....                 | Janet H. Southerland, DDS, MPH, PhD   |
| The Recessional                            |   |

## *National Anthem*

O say can you see, by the dawn's early light,  
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming

Whose broad stripes and bright stars  
Through the perilous fight

O'er the ramparts we watched  
Were so gallantly streaming

And the rocket's red glare,  
The bombs bursting in air

Gave proof through the night  
That our flag was still there

O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave

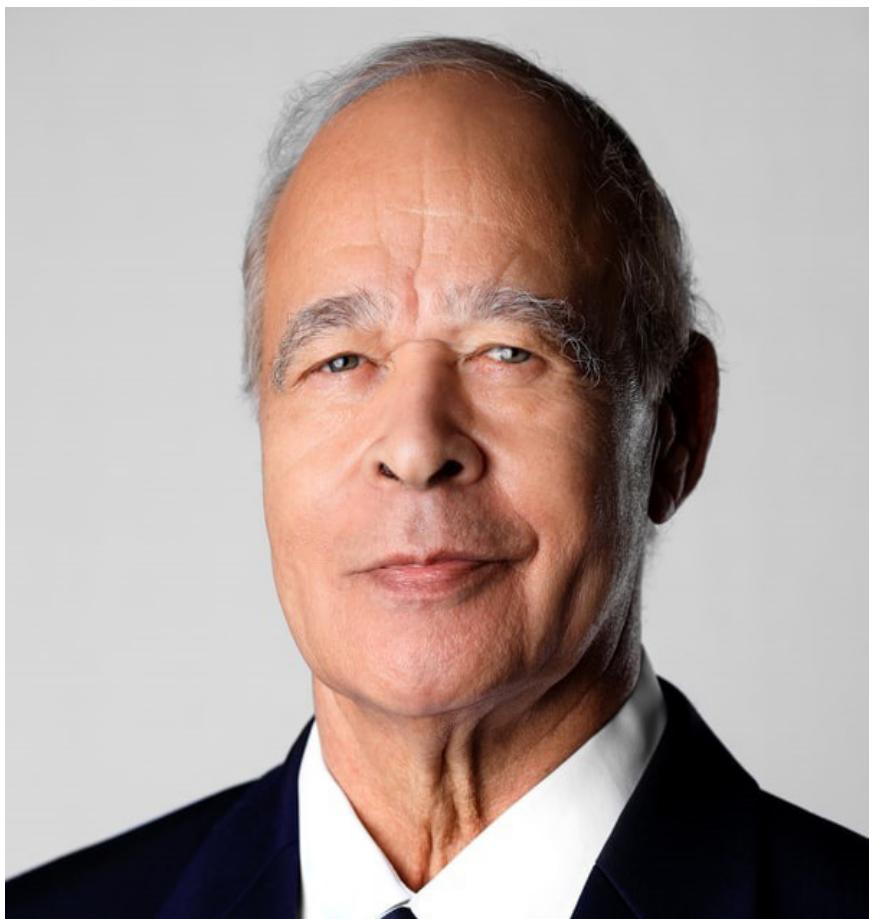
Francis Scott Key

*Appearance of a name in the Commencement program is presumptive evidence of graduation, but is not regarded as conclusive. The official Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at New Orleans transcript, sealed and signed by the Registrar, is conclusive testimony of the student's academic record and possession of degree(s) awarded by this institution.*

*Professional photographers will record each graduate as the diploma is presented and color portraits will be available for purchase, if desired.*

*Commencement Speaker*

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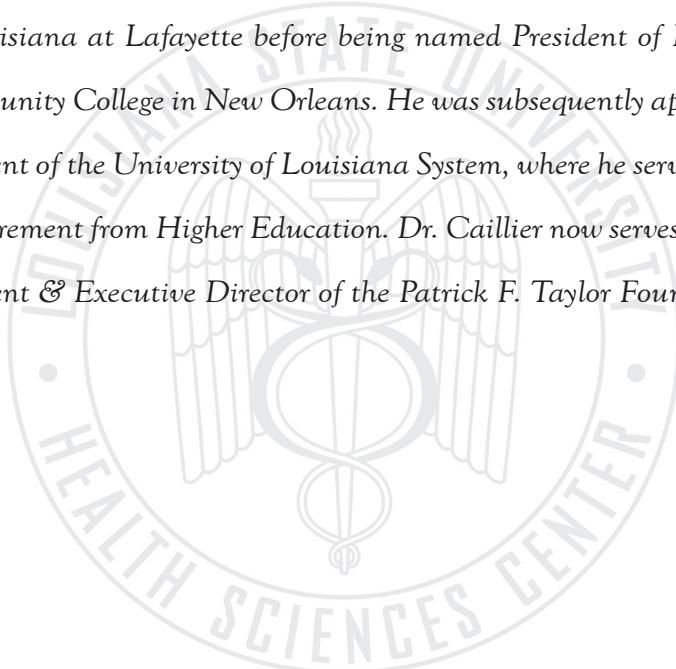
**James A. Caillier, PhD**

*President Emeritus, University of Louisiana System*

## *Commencement Speaker*

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Dr. James Caillier earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, a master's degree in chemistry from Southern University in Baton Rouge, and a doctorate in education from Louisiana State University. He began his career at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette before being named President of Delgado Community College in New Orleans. He was subsequently appointed President of the University of Louisiana System, where he served until his retirement from Higher Education. Dr. Caillier now serves as Vice President & Executive Director of the Patrick F. Taylor Foundation.

A faint watermark of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center seal is centered on the page. The seal is circular with a caduceus in the center, surrounded by the text "LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY" at the top and "HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER" at the bottom, with decorative dots on either side.

# *Degree Candidates*

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## **School of Allied Health Professions**

Presented by *Erin Dugan, PhD, Dean*

### **MASTER OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY**

Jill E Tatarski\*†

### **MASTER OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES**

Connor Mark Chamberlain\*†

Reagan Carroll LeBlanc\*†

### **DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY**

Lane Abston\*†



\* *In Absentia*

† *Degree Conferral August 10, 2024*

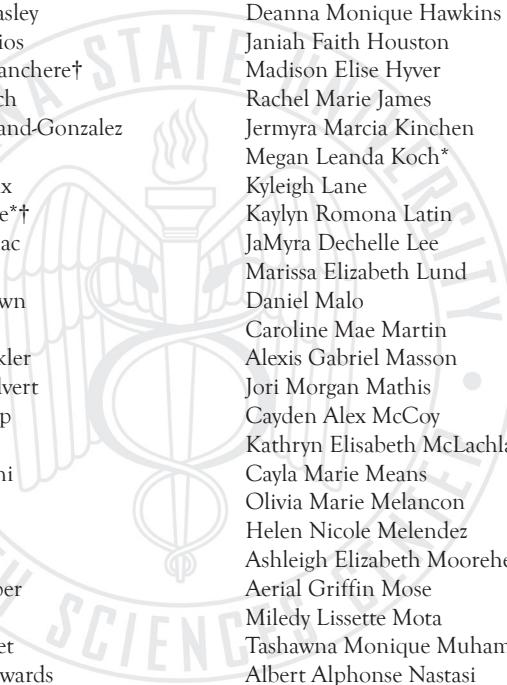
# Degree Candidates

## School of Nursing

Presented by

Demetrius Porche, DNS, PhD, ANEF, FACHE, FAANP, FAAN, Dean

## BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING



Elizabeth Grace Allen  
Markayla Rene Anderson  
Daniah Amin Awadallah  
Alyssa Rose Babin  
Makayla Nicole Bateman  
Armani Marquise Beasley  
Maria Francesca Berrios  
Vanicia Alexandra Blanchere†  
Alyssa Michelle Branch  
Lizbeth Altagracia Brand-Gonzalez  
Cecilia Claire Braud  
Camryn Renee Breaux  
Laura Leigh Breedlove\*†  
Corinne Renee Brignac  
Jadyn Roya Brooks  
Braeden Michael Brown  
Molly Reece Brown  
Ashley Elizabeth Buckler  
Reagan Charlotte Calvert  
Madison Kaylee Camp  
Kayla Rebecca Carlos  
Rileigh Rose Centanni  
Vandani Chew  
Jillian Kay Cook  
Claire Elise Cooper  
Madison Allina Cooper  
Elena Cujba  
Douglas Drake Douget  
Meghan Elizabeth Edwards  
Regan Andree Ellis  
Gianna Rose Ezeb  
Chloe Elaine Falcon  
Aline Jane Firmin  
Chassidy Monet Fontenot  
Jenna Marie Forsythe  
Marie Therese Lin Francioni  
Caleb Michael Freyder  
Justin Kenneth Gesler\*†  
Claire Ainsley Gullede  
Deanna Monique Hawkins  
Janiah Faith Houston  
Madison Elise Hyver  
Rachel Marie James  
Jermyra Marcia Kinchen  
Megan Leanda Koch\*  
Kyleigh Lane  
Kaylyn Romona Latin  
JaMyra Dechelle Lee  
Marissa Elizabeth Lund  
Daniel Malo  
Caroline Mae Martin  
Alexis Gabriel Masson  
Jori Morgan Mathis  
Cayden Alex McCoy  
Kathryn Elisabeth McLachlan  
Cayla Marie Means  
Olivia Marie Melancon  
Helen Nicole Melendez  
Ashleigh Elizabeth Moorehead  
Aerial Griffin Mose  
Miledy Lissette Mota  
Tashawna Monique Muhammad  
Albert Alphonse Nastasi  
Junyi Nie  
Allyssa Fermin Pamintuan  
Jaden Renee' Pearley  
Sydney Shea Pepin\*  
Rachel Margaret Pistorius

\* In Absentia

† Degree Conferral August 10, 2024

# Degree Candidates

Madison Rose Priar  
Cameron Price  
Piper Ranae Rigsby  
Rachel Jean Romeu  
Abby Renee Roux  
Courtney Lynn Ryan  
Elle Jane Salomon  
Brielle Elizabeth Serpas\*†  
Ekaterina Alexandrovna Shostak  
Bria Marie Snell  
Abigail Elizabeth St. Pierre  
Lauren Janelle Stentz

Leanna Elizabeth Teuton  
Leah Cherelle Tolbert  
Huy Duc Tran  
Jasmyn Ngoc Truong  
Ashley Sherrie Urbanski  
Jacob Van  
Darrel Anthony Vessel  
Tessa Grace Volcheck  
Lainey Raquel Weiss  
Andy Xiao  
Hadi Zeitoun

## DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE

Brandee Marie Bocage†  
Blake Taylor Lagarde  
Crystal Lynn Maise-Dykes

Post Masters Primary Care Family Nurse Practitioner  
Primary Care Family and Psychiatric and  
Mental Health Nurse Practitioner  
Post Masters Executive Nurse Leader

## DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN NURSING

Paula Ann Kensler  
Major Professor: Demetrius Porche, DNS, PhD, ANEF, FACHE, FAANP, FAAN  
Dissertation Title: *Authentic Leadership, Relationships Between Nurse Team Members and Leaders, Perception of Stress, and Intent to Stay and Intent to Leave*

\* *In Absentia*

† *Degree Conferral August 10, 2024*

# *Degree Candidates*

## **School of Public Health**

Presented by *Edward Trapido, MSPH, ScM, ScD, FACE, Dean*

### **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN PUBLIC HEALTH**

Dacey Lee Beck\*

Mekaylah Gabrielle Lucente

### **MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

Homa Kamyabi\*†

Joshua Christian Kragenbring

### **DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY**

Harun Or Rashid Mazumder\*†

Department: Biostatistics

Major Professor: Zhide Fang, PhD

Dissertation Title: *Adjusting For Hidden Factors in Differential Expression Analysis of Next-Generation Sequencing Data*

Tyler Prusisz†

Department: Epidemiology

Major Professor: Edward Trapido, ScD

Dissertation Title: *The Impact of Air Pollution and the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill on Health in the Gulf South*

Xiaodan Zhu\*†

Department: Biostatistics

Major Professor: Zhide Fang, PhD

Dissertation Title: *Manifold-Based Computational Algorithms on Identification of Cell Subpopulations in Single-Cell RNA Sequencing Data*

\* *In Absentia*

† *Degree Conferral August 10, 2024*

# Degree Candidates

## School of Graduate Studies Presented by Angela Amedee, PhD, Dean

### DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Ashley Sarah Henderson \*†

Department: Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics

Major Professor: Peter Winsauer, PhD

Dissertation Title: *Effects of GABA<sub>A</sub> Modulators on Learning in Rats after Shisa7 Knockdown*

Hannah Leigh Jarrell

Department: Neuroscience

Major Professor: XiaoChing Li, PhD

Dissertation Title: *Molecular Alterations in the Morphology of Medium Spiny Neurons in Area X of the Zebra Finch During Song Learning*

Thomas Reed Kyllo†

Department: Neuroscience

Major Professor: Jeffrey Erickson, PhD

Dissertation Title: *Riluzole and Novel Aminothiazole Derivative SKA-378 are Potential Antiepileptogenic Compounds in the Kainic Acid Rat Model of Temporal Lobe Epilepsy*

Kristina Farragut Larter\*†

Department: Human Genetics

Major Professor: Lucio Miele, MD, PhD

Dissertation Title: *Unraveling the Anti-Tumor Mechanism of Sulindac Sulfide in Triple-Negative Breast Cancer*

Oygul Mirzalieva \*†

Department: Biochemistry & Molecular Biology

Major Professor: Shyamal Desai, PhD

Dissertation Title: *The MUL1/ISG15 Axis Dysregulates Endoplasmic Reticulum-mitochondrial Contacts and Calcium Homeostasis in Ataxia Telangiectasia*

Tamara Morris

Department: Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics

Major Professor: Peter Winsauer, PhD

Dissertation Title: *Attenuation of the Discriminative Stimulus and Reinforcing Effects of Positive GABA(A) Modulators after Shisa7 Knockdown*

Hayley Nicole Ulloa†

Department: Human Genetics

Major Professor: Ed Grabczik, PhD

Dissertation Title: *Analysis of MLH3 Splice Redirection to Slow DNA Repeat Expansion in Mouse Models of Friedreich Ataxia and Huntington's Disease*

Ashley Nicole Winters

Department: Microbiology, Immunology, & Parasitology

Major Professor: Jennifer Cameron, PhD, MSCR

Dissertation Title: *HPV Associated Cervical Dysplasia Progression is Aided by the Dysregulation of MicroRNAs and Their Downstream Pathways*

\* In Absentia

† Degree Conferral August 10, 2024

# *Degree Candidates*

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## **School of Medicine**

Presented by Richard DiCarlo, MD, Dean

### **DOCTOR OF MEDICINE**

Hanna Almoaswes  
Lauren Elizabeth Bagneris  
Illona Sarah Brumfield  
Christine Omorotionmwani Edomwande  
Alyssa Catherine Fowler\*  
Tommy Giang  
Meredith Hayes  
Andrew Gia-Bao Hoang  
Ryan Glen Kreider\*†  
Margaret Grace Mena  
Robert Charles Mipro, III  
Holly Rene Monk



\* *In Absentia*

† *Degree Conferral August 10, 2024*

**T**he celebration of commencement is a rich tapestry of tradition. Each tradition adds to the pageantry and the majesty of one of the Health Sciences Center's most solemn, yet joyous occasions.

The conferring of degrees is formal recognition that our graduates have attained mastery of the healing arts and sciences and are fully prepared to accept the sacred trust, which will soon be bestowed upon them by their patients and clients. This is a very special day for the entire LSU Health Sciences Center family, and so that the meaning of this ceremony will be deepened and the celebration more fitting the magnitude of accomplishment of our faculty and students, the Health Sciences Center has woven a number of time-honored traditions into our commencement tapestry.

## Academic Regalia

The origins of academic regalia date back to the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. The long robe and hood were borrowed from clerical dress with a nod toward practicality for the warmth the costume provided in unheated and drafty halls. While proper academic dress was defined for the first time during the reign of Henry VIII at Oxford and Cambridge, it was not until the 19<sup>th</sup> century and, then only in the United States, that it was standardized. Colors were assigned to signify the various areas of scholarly pursuit. Green, the color of medieval herbs, was chosen for medicine, and golden yellow, representing the wealth produced by scientific research, was selected for the sciences. In 1932, the American Council on Education approved an academic costume code which, with few changes, is still used today. The principle features of academic dress are three: the gown, the cap and the hood.

**The Gown.** The flowing black gown comes from the twelfth century. It has become symbolic of the democracy of scholarship, for it completely covers dress of rank or social standing beneath. Gowns with pointed sleeves designate the Associate and Bachelor's degree; long, closed sleeves are used for the Master's degree, with a slit for the arm; and round, open sleeves indicate the Doctor's degree. The gown worn for Associate, Bachelor's or Master's degree has no trimmings. The gown for the Doctor's degree is faced down the front with velvet and has three bars of velvet across the sleeves, in the color distinctive of the faculty or discipline to which the degree pertains. For certain institutions, the official colors of the college or university may appear on the gown or its decorations.

**The Cap.** The freed slave in Ancient Rome won the privilege of wearing a cap, and so the academic cap is a sign of the freedom of scholarship and the responsibility and dignity with which scholarship endows the wearer. Old poetry records the cap of scholarship as a square to symbolize the book, although some authorities claim the mortar board is a symbol of the masons, a privileged guild. The color of the tassel on the cap denotes the discipline, although a gold tassel may be worn with any Doctor's gown.

**The Hood.** Heraldically, the hood is an inverted shield with one or more chevrons of a secondary color on the ground of the primary color of the college or university. The color of the face of the hood denotes the discipline represented by the degree; the color of the lining of the hood designates the university or college from which the degree was granted.

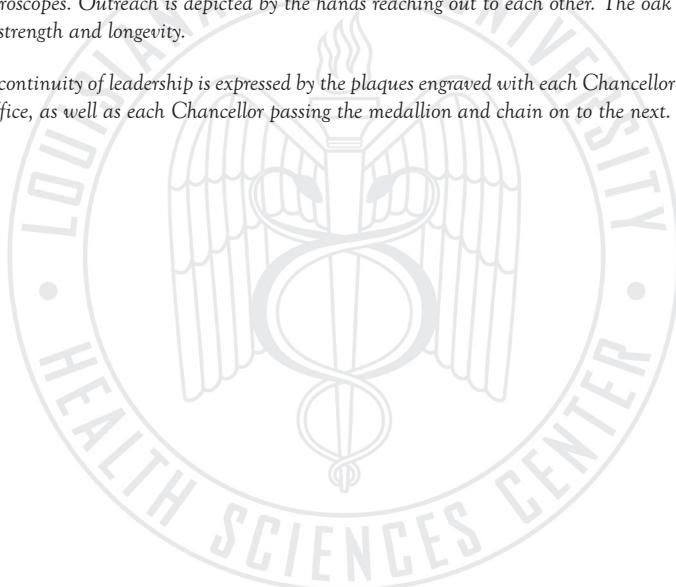
The academic colors used in LSU Health Sciences Center's commencement ceremony are green for medicine, lilac for dentistry, apricot for nursing, gold for allied health professions, dark blue for graduate studies, and salmon for public health.

### The Chain of Office

**A** symbol of authority whose origins may lie in chains bearing portraits of monarchs given to scholars as signs of honor and favor, or in the badge of office said to date back to the age of chivalry when officials were more readily identifiable by their badges of rank, the chain of office is steeped in ceremonial significance.

The Chain of Office of LSU Health Sciences Center at New Orleans, fashioned in bronze, represents the authority and great responsibility of the Chancellor as head of the university. A medallion encircling the seal of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center engraved with the year of its founding is suspended by a chain incorporating symbols of the Center's fourfold mission. Education is represented by the books upon which the names of the six schools of the center are engraved. Patient care is represented by the stethoscopes, used in clinical disciplines spanning our schools. Research is represented by the microscopes. Outreach is depicted by the hands reaching out to each other. The oak leaf clusters symbolize strength and longevity.

The continuity of leadership is expressed by the plaques engraved with each Chancellor's name and years in office, as well as each Chancellor passing the medallion and chain on to the next.



## *Academic Traditions*

### The University Mace

The academic mace comes from a heritage imbued with tradition and symbolism. Long held as a symbol of strength and authority, there are a number of theories about its origin. Although some say the word mace is derived from the French word *masse*, meaning club, one of the earliest references to a mace was an ebony-black effigy discovered in King Tut's tomb of "a King, gold-sandalled, bearing staff and mace." During medieval times, the mace of arms was cast as a weapon - a heavy staff or club often made of iron with a spiked end used by knights to penetrate and break armor. Bodyguards carried maces to protect clergy and royalty in processions.

By the 14th century, the use of maces was becoming more ceremonial, sometimes carried in processions of civil ceremonies with mayors and other dignitaries. The mace began to lose its warlike appearance, instead being adorned with jewels and precious metals. Maces were not used as weapons after the 16th century. The first dated record of the mace's transition to academia was in 1385, when a mace was carried at the University of Vienna.

Today, the British Parliament, the Congress of the United States, and many other governmental bodies use ceremonial maces. In the academic setting, the mace is traditionally carried before the university leadership in processions and is present at the conferring of degrees as an ensign of authority, dignity, succession, and the rich symbolism unique to each institution.

The current mace of the LSU Health Sciences Center at New Orleans was designed to define the University and to reflect its mission and heritage. Mirroring the caduceus found on the University Seal, the overall form of the mace honors the Health Sciences Center's roots in medical education. The shaft is made of walnut adorned with gold and is topped with a stylized lantern, symbolizing the search for knowledge. The lantern is ornamented with enameled medallions bearing the University Seal and is itself topped with a gold flame, a symbol of learning, wisdom, and enlightenment since antiquity.

# Academic Traditions

## The University Gonfalons

**A** gonfalon is a flag that hangs from a crosspiece or frame. The first gonfalons were displayed in medieval Italy as an ensign of state or office as well as in ecclesiastical processions. From the Germanic compound gund-fanon (battle flag), gonfalons were also used as flags of battle. They are frequently seen at the heads of religious or military processions, always accompanied by "valets" or "honor guards". Many universities around the world have adopted them to lead academic processions as they comprise a unique and colorful ceremonial display. The gonfalons are made in the appropriate academic color for each school, and contain a visual element representing the academic discipline of the school, as well as the university seal.

Da Vinci's Vitruvian Man is the symbol on allied health's golden gonfalon. Vitruvius, a Roman engineer of the first century B.C. influenced da Vinci's drawings of the human body. The drawing is based upon a model of ideal proportions which Vitruvius established and is the symbol most frequently representative of the specialties of the allied health professions.

The nursing gonfalon is apricot and its symbol is the burning lamp of Florence Nightingale. Florence Nightingale was called "the lady with the lamp" because she used a lamp in her selfless duty in the Crimean War, although hers was a collapsible paper cylinder which protected the flame and diffused more light. The lamp has come to symbolize nursing to honor Florence Nightingale's enormous dedication and contributions to the nursing profession, as well as to represent the lamp of knowledge.

The dentistry gonfalon is lilac with the official emblem for dentistry adopted in 1965. The design uses as its central figure a serpent entwined about an ancient Arabian cautery. The Greek letter (delta), for dentistry, and (omicron) for odont (tooth) form the periphery of the design. In the background of the design are 32 leaves and 20 berries, representing the permanent and temporary teeth.

The graduate studies gonfalon is dark blue and its symbol is DNA, the building blocks of life. These building blocks are essential in the research done in the doctoral programs of Cell Biology and Anatomy, Biochemistry, Human Genetics, Microbiology, Neuroscience, Pharmacology, and Physiology.

The medicine gonfalon is green, and its symbol is the caduceus, the staff with winding serpents topped by a pair of wings from Greek mythology that has come to represent the medical profession in the United States. In Greek and Roman mythology, the caduceus, like the staff of Aesculapius, was associated with healing and immortality. Both were used as printer's marks from the 16<sup>th</sup> century on, especially as frontispieces to pharmacopoeias in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. One theory postulates that as printers saw themselves as messengers of the printed word and thus disseminators of knowledge, they chose the symbol of the messenger of the ancient gods, Hermes. The United States Army adopted the caduceus as the official emblem of its medical department in 1902, cementing its use as such in this country.

Hygieia, the Greek goddess of health, adorns the public health gonfalon. The granddaughter of Apollo and the most important of Asclepius' five daughters, Hygieia personifies physical and psychic health. She was said to relieve illness in humans as well as animals through diet and medication. Often depicted feeding a snake wrapped around her body, Hygieia was sometimes called "The Health." Derived from the Greek word, *hygieinos*, meaning healthful, Hygieia survives today in the word *hygiene*—a basic preventive discipline in public health.