One Hundred and Forty-Eighth Commencement

May 6, 2023 · Donald W. Reynolds Center

THE UNIVERSITY of TULSA
Today, The University of Tulsa celebrates its 148th commencement ceremony, a distinguished tradition that dates to the founding in 1894. The university’s history is born of a deep and abiding partnership with our namesake community. More than a century ago, a group of Tulsa’s business and civic leaders determined they needed an institution of higher learning to secure the future of their oil boom town. Pooling their resources, these men made a generous offer to purchase Henry Kendall College in Muskogee and move it to Tulsa.

TU’s academic enterprise comprises five colleges and a graduate school that offer more than 100 bachelor’s, master’s, doctoral and juris doctor degree options. The university has established itself as a resource and a destination for scholars and visitors worldwide through its distinguished academic programs; its world-class research; the historic McFarlin Library and its Special Collections; the Oklahoma Center for the Humanities; and the renowned Gilcrease Museum, which TU operates in a management agreement with the City of Tulsa.

TU’s 200-acre campus is designed to create a vibrant, residential experience just minutes from downtown and the thriving Tulsa Arts District. TU’s supportive but challenging environment consistently attracts the nation’s top students and faculty to learn, teach and live in the nation’s heartland. We welcome you to campus today as we honor our graduates and recognize this important milestone in their lives.

OUR MISSION

We are a student-centered research university that cultivates interconnected learning experiences to explore complex ideas and create new knowledge in a spirit of free inquiry. Guided by our commitment to diversity, equity, and service, we prepare individuals to make meaningful contributions to our campus, our community, and our world.
**ORDER OF EXERCISES • GRADUATE SCHOOL**

Prelude .................................................................................................................................................................The University of Tulsa Symphony Orchestra
Conducted by Richard Wagner, M.M., Director of the School of Music

Processional ............................................................................................................................................................“Pomp and Circumstance”
Edward Elgar, Composer
Ram Mohan, Ph.D., Marshal & Mace Bearer
Audience, please remain seated during the processional.

Procession ............................................................................................................................................................“America, the Beautiful,” Jordan Demetriades
Degree Candidate, Music & Speech Pathology

Invocation ...............................................................................................................................................................Jeffrey C. Francis, B.M.Ed. ’78, M.A. ’88, Ph.D. ’90
Sharp Chaplain

Greetings .................................................................................................................................................................Marcia McLeod, B.S. ’75, J.D. ’80
Chair, Board of Trustees

Welcome .................................................................................................................................................................Brad R. Carson, J.D.
President, The University of Tulsa

Faculty Research Award Presentations ............................................................................................................................Ram Mohan, Ph.D.
President, Faculty Senate

Charge to the Graduates ...........................................................................................................................................Christy Mather, A.S., B.S.
President, Graduate Student Association, 2022-23

Commencement Address ..........................................................................................................................................President Carson

Presentation of Candidates for Degrees ............................................................................................................................Provost Justice

Conferring of Degrees ..................................................................................................................................................President Carson
The graduates will move their tassels from right to left.

Presentation of Diplomas (By College) ..........................................................................................................................President Carson
Jennifer Airey, Ph.D.
Vice Provost for Academic Initiatives and Dean of the Graduate School

Alma Mater ...............................................................................................................................................................Mason Hopper
Degree Candidate, Music Education – Vocal Performance

Benediction .................................................................................................................................................................Rev. Francis

Recessional .................................................................................................................................................................The University of Tulsa Symphony Orchestra
Andrew Anderson, D.M.A., TU Director of Bands

*In keeping with the solemn nature of this ceremony, please maintain quiet in the arena and on the main concourse.*

*During the program, only students, faculty, staff and the press are allowed on the main floor.*

*Only the platform party and faculty will participate in the recessional; graduates will exit following the program.*
ORDER OF EXERCISES • UNDERGRADUATE

Prelude .........................................................................................................................................................The University of Tulsa Symphony Orchestra
Conducted by Richard Wagner, M.M., Director of the School of Music

Processional ............................................................................................................................................................“Pomp and Circumstance”
Edward Elgar, Composer
Ram Mohan, Ph.D, Marshal & Mace Bearer
Audience, please remain seated during the processional.

“America, the Beautiful” (first verse) .................................................................................................................Madyson Mitchell
Degree Candidate, Vocal Performance

Invocation .........................................................................................................................................................Jeffrey C. Francis, B.M.Ed. ’78, M.A. ’88, Ph.D. ’90
Sharp Chaplain

Greetings .........................................................................................................................................................Marcia McLeod, B.S. ’75, J.D. ’80
Chair, Board of Trustees

Welcome .........................................................................................................................................................Brad R. Carson, J.D.
President, The University of Tulsa

Marcy Lawless Award Presentation ............................................................................................................................Ram Mohan, Ph.D.
President, Faculty Senate

Faculty Award Presentations .................................................................................................................................Ram Mohan, Ph.D.

Charge to the Graduates ........................................................................................................................................Bennett M. Miller, B.A. ’90
President, Board of Directors, TU Alumni Association
Justin Yang
President, Student Association, 2022-23

Address ...............................................................................................................................................................President Carson

Special Honors ..................................................................................................................................................Chaplain Francis

Presentation of Candidates for Degrees .........................................................................................................................George Justice, Ph.D.
Provost

Conferring of Degrees ..............................................................................................................................................President Carson
The graduates will move their tassels from right to left.

Presentation of Diplomas (By College) ................................................................................................................................Ron Walker, Ed.D., Interim Dean, Oxley College of Health Sciences
Kathy Taylor, J.D., Dean, Collins College of Business
Michael Keller, Ph.D., Interim Dean, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences
Kirsten Olds, Ph.D., Interim Dean, Kendall College of Arts and Sciences

Graduates announced by Rich Fisher, B.M. ’84
General Manager, Public Radio Tulsa/KWGS-EM

Alma Mater ..............................................................................................................................................................Bryson Miller
Degree Candidate, Vocal Performance

Benediction ..............................................................................................................................................................Chaplain Francis

Recessional .............................................................................................................................................................Platform Party and Faculty
The University of Tulsa Symphony Orchestra
Andrew Anderson, D.M.A., TU Director of Bands

In keeping with the solemn nature of this ceremony, please maintain quiet in the arena and on the main concourse.
During the program, only students, faculty, staff and the press are allowed on the main floor.
Only the platform party and faculty will participate in the recessional; graduates will exit following the program.
Brad Carson is The University of Tulsa’s 21st president. Having built a distinguished career in public service, law and education, before becoming president of TU, Carson was a professor at the University of Virginia, teaching courses related to national security and public sector innovation. He also served as a senior advisor at Boston Consulting Group. In 2015, President Barack Obama appointed Carson acting under secretary of defense for personnel and readiness at the U.S. Department of Defense. There, he oversaw the human resources, military readiness, education, training and health care of the nearly 5 million service members, civilian employees and their dependents within the Department of Defense and managed an internal organization of 30,000 employees.

Prior to that, Carson served as the under secretary of the U.S. Army, where he managed the daily operations of the largest military service, and as general counsel of the U.S. Army, where he oversaw the service’s worldwide legal operations. Carson is widely published and is a noted authority on national security, energy policy and American politics. From 2001 to 2005, Carson served two terms as a U.S. congressman, representing Oklahoma’s 2nd District. Later, he was appointed to the faculty of TU’s Collins College of Business and College of Law, where he taught courses on energy policy, property law, negotiation and game theory, globalization and law and literature. In 2008, Carson deployed during Operation Iraqi Freedom as an intelligence officer and was awarded the Bronze Star for his service.

Carson brings to TU a strong commitment to diversity and inclusion, having spent most of his career working, directly or indirectly, in this area. This interest arises naturally from his childhood growing up on Indian reservations around the country and, later, representing the congressional district that is home to the Cherokee Nation. Carson served as president and chief executive officer of Cherokee Nation Businesses, where he refocused the organization’s corporate strategy and governance and significantly increased revenues. Raised in Oklahoma, Carson received his BA from Baylor University and was a Rhodes Scholar at the University of Oxford. He then went on to earn a JD at the University of Oklahoma.
2022-23 UNIVERSITY OF TULSA TRUSTEES

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Professor of Mechanical Engineering
Faculty Senate Vice President Matt Lamkin,
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Jennifer Airey, Graduate School

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Michael Keller (interim), College of Engineering and Natural Sciences

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2022-23 UNIVERSITY OF TULSA OUTSTANDING TEACHERS

The Outstanding Teacher Award is among the highest honors The University of Tulsa bestows. It may be won only once. Past winners have set a high standard that has made this honor coveted and respected, in large part because nominations must come from students.

A member of TU’s faculty since 2013, Senior Instructor KIMBERLY ADAMS has taught a generation of students in the calculus I and II sequence and contemporary mathematics. She also teaches a course that focuses on the teaching of mathematics to children. Adams serves the community through the Tulsa Girls Math Circle, Tulsa Math Teachers’ Circle, GenCyber and Hurricane Mathfest.

BEN PETERS, the Hazel Rogers Chair of Media Studies, came to TU in 2011. He has established an international reputation as a historian of digital culture and theorist of new media. His first book, How Not to Network a Nation, received awards in computer history and Slavic studies and was a top 20 book selection by Nature magazine for 2016.

MIKE TROILO, Chapman Chair and Professor of Marketing and International Business, joined TU in 2007. He has led courses and seminars in China, Germany and Poland and has instructed TU students in a series of study abroad courses, including doing business in China and emerging markets, the global financial crisis and technology and innovation in South Korea.

2022-23 UNIVERSITY OF TULSA OUTSTANDING RESEARCHERS

The Outstanding Researcher Award is a lifetime honor. It may be received only once by an individual. The award is intended to honor career-spanning achievements, validated by recognition from the scholar’s professional field.

SANDIP SEN is a professor in TU’S Tandy School of Computer Science with primary research interests in artificial intelligence, intelligent agents, machine learning and evolutionary computation. He is completing 30 years of teaching, service and research at TU. He was the first TU professor to receive the prestigious NSF CAREER award in 1997.

SIAMACK A. SHIRAZI is a professor of mechanical engineering at TU, where he also serves as director of the Erosion/Corrosion Research Center and TU Sand Management Projects. He is widely recognized for his contributions to the field of erosion mitigation for oil field applications, with more than 33 years of teaching and research experience at TU.

ROB TETT is a professor and chair of TU’S Department of Psychology where he has taught courses in personnel selection, psychometrics, statistics, theories of personality, leadership and evolutionary psychology. He joined the TU faculty in 2000, served as industrial-organizational program director for more than 10 years and was honored as a fellow of the Society for I-O Psychology in 2013.
EMMA OPOKU

Emma Opoku, a biological sciences major from Fenton, Missouri, has been named the recipient of The University of Tulsa's 2023 Marcy Lawless Service Award. This honor is recognized each year to a graduating senior who exemplifies a generous spirit, creativity, vision and pursuit of excellence in their service to others on campus and in the Tulsa community.

Opoku plans to apply to medical school this fall. As a peer health educator with Take Control Initiative, she advocates for women's health initiatives and equal access to health care. She hopes to work on improved community health outcomes as a primary care physician.

In addition to rigorous academic study and her work as an undergraduate research assistant in TU’s Perinatal Psychobiology Lab, she remains committed to helping others. "Pursuing a career in the medical field at times feels daunting, but community service is a way for me to recenter and remind myself how rewarding it is to serve others,” she said.

Opoku's firsthand experiences influence the way she strives to serve others. “Whether tutoring elementary students or creating safe spaces for college students, I want to help others in a way that I needed when I was in those phases of life,” she said.

Following her return to classes after the pandemic, Opoku identified a need for women of color to connect. She chartered the Women of Color Collective, a student organization that forms bonds through social and networking events. The organization makes it easier for students of color to feel connected when they arrive on campus and throughout their time at TU. “I think of the community service I am involved in today as service that would have benefitted my younger self,” she said.

If you are a student interested in serving the campus and community, please visit TU's Office of Civic Engagement.
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JOIN THE
1894
WINE CLUB!

As a member of the 1894 Club, proceeds from your membership support our great institution and continues our legacy of excellence, offering a unique way to blend celebrating and supporting our University!

Enjoy premium world class wine, hand crafted and made in America’s most renowned wine country, Napa Valley, from Fairwinds Estate Winery. Each package will be delivered to your doorstep in a handmade vintage fire-branded wooden crate.

landfallnapa.com

The University of Tulsa’s Official Wine & Club
THE MACE

The grand marshal of the ceremony carries the mace, a traditional symbol of authority that enhances academic ritual. The cylindrical upper portion of the mace, constructed of pewter, is eight inches in diameter and is characterized by protruding die-formed shapes. The flat areas contain hand-engraved surfaces, slowly and painstakingly applied in order to achieve a sparkling, jewel-like quality. Semi-precious stones, black onyx in particular, are bezel set on the surface of the pewter. The University of Tulsa seal suspends above the whole form and is the highest point of the mace. In all, the upper portion of the mace exhibits a formal quality.

The handle, or shaft, is turned from cocobolo, a dense, exotic hardwood that provides dramatic contrast between dark and light lines. The wood is rich in color, an elegant red-orange-brown.

The mace is approximately four feet in length, from top to bottom.

The designer and creator of the mace is William R. Derrevere, a principal of Tulsa-based Derrevere Designs and an instructor of art at Tulsa Community College. He holds a 1967 Bachelor of Fine Arts degree and a 1969 Master of Arts degree from The University of Tulsa.

HONORARY MARSHALS

Marshals from four of the colleges and the Graduate School are selected based on their overall grade point average and willingness to serve.

Kendall College of Arts & Sciences: Kierstyn Barnes, Lilah Jacobs, Owen Gilstrap
Collins College of Business: Abby Heidemann, Paula Carbin
College of Engineering & Natural Sciences: Joseph Naddy
Oxley College of Health Sciences: Chastity Hooker
Graduate School: Jack Tilbury, Ann Grue, Kishori Paudel, Amorita Christian
Homecoming 2023 set for November 2-5
Make plans to return to campus and celebrate with alumni, parents, friends and family at the Pep Rally and Bonfire, TU on Tap, Tent Party and more during Homecoming 2023!

TUALUMNI.COM/HOMECOMING

Which mascot will lead TU down the field to victory?
Do you remember the first time that you stepped on campus? Or the moment you realized TU was exactly where you were supposed to be? Will you ever forget getting to ring the Kendall Bell after that last final exam? As alumni of this incredible university, we get to carry those memories and that pride with us for a lifetime, because your TU experience doesn’t end here. As you make plans for the future, remember that no matter where you go, you are always a member of the TU family, and automatically a member of the TU Alumni Association. TU alumni are living and working on all seven continents and all 50 states. Whether you are visiting Antarctica or buying a home in Zephyrhills, Florida, you will find TU alumni working each day to improve the lives of their families and communities. I encourage you to come back and visit TU often, especially at Homecoming. Just because you’ve graduated, your TU story doesn’t end here today. We look forward to welcoming you back to campus, learning more about your professional growth, and working together to make TU an even better place for the next generation of students. On behalf of the TU Alumni Association, congratulations on everything you have achieved. We wish you all the best on your future and Go TU!

Bennett M. Miller, B.A.’90
President
The University of Tulsa Alumni Association, 2021-23

**Charge to the Graduates**

During your time as a student, you probably accumulated countless items that were milestones of your TU experience:

- a shirt commemorating an organization’s get-together
- a souvenir cup from a bowl game
- a program from a music performance or campus theatre production
- a poster advertising a popular campus event, or
- uniforms: cheer, band, spirit squad, athletics.

These collectibles define your time at TU and tell the university’s distinctive story. The university is asking all alumni to check their closets and attics for some of these TU-related items that may be donated to the university for its Heritage Collection. Your TU memorabilia will be properly preserved and may be used in the university’s heritage displays. If you are not quite ready to part with your treasures, we would be pleased to receive them on loan for a few months where they will be displayed securely.

**Celebrating TU’s Heritage**

For more information about donating heritage items, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 918-631-2555, or www.TUAlumni.com/heritage.
TU ALMA MATER

Hail to thee Alma Mater, gold and blue,
Praise from thy sons and daughters, old and new.
Pride in our hearts, our voices let us raise,
Filled with devotion we will sing thy praise.
Alma Mater, now we honor, loyal, always true,
We will lift our voice in chorus. Hail to Tulsa U!