



UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO

# COMMENCEMENT

*School of Nursing and Health Professions*  
*May 15, 2025 ♦ 6:00 P.M.*

# MISSION STATEMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO

## **MISSION**

Since 1855, the University of San Francisco has dedicated itself to offering a daring and dynamic liberal arts education in the Jesuit, Catholic tradition. As a community, we empower and hold accountable our students, faculty, librarians, staff, administrators, alumni, and community partners to be persons for and with others, to care for our common home, including the native lands on which our campuses reside, and to promote the common good by critically, thoughtfully, and innovatively addressing inequities to create a more humane and just world.

We seek to live USF's Mission by nurturing a diverse, ever-expanding community where persons of all races and ethnicities, religions, sexual orientations, genders, generations, abilities, nationalities, occupations, and socioeconomic backgrounds are honored and accompanied. We are committed to educating hearts and minds to cultivate the full, integral development of each person and all persons; pursuing learning as a lifelong humanizing and liberating social activity; and advancing excellence as the standard for teaching, scholarship, creative expression, and service. Inspired by a faith that does justice, we strive to humbly and responsibly engage with, and contribute to, the cultural, intellectual, economic and spiritual gifts and talents of the San Francisco Bay Area and the global communities to which we belong.

*Approved by the Board of Trustees, September 24, 2021.*

166th Annual Commencement Exercises

# UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO

SCHOOL OF NURSING AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS

**MAY 15, 2025, 6:00 PM**

Today, the University welcomes you — the graduates and candidates of the class of 2025 — into the ranks of the proud alumni of the University of San Francisco.

We also welcome your families and friends to the celebration, mindful and appreciative of their contribution to your achievement, through their support, sacrifice, and encouragement.

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*The University of San Francisco has made every attempt to include in this program all persons deserving of recognition. If there have been any errors or omissions, please accept our sincerest apologies.*

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*Vice Provost, Global Education, Immersions and  
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*Dean, University Library*

**Otgontsetseg Erhemjamts, Ph.D.**  
*Dean, School of Management*

**Eileen K. Fry-Bowers, Ph.D., JD, RN, CPNP-PC, FAAN**  
*Dean, School of Nursing and Health Professions*

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*Dean, School of Law*

**Shabnam Koirala Azad, Ph.D.**  
*Dean, School of Education*

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*Interim Dean, College of Arts and Sciences*

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*Associate Vice President, Tax Compliance,  
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*Associate Vice President, Labor and Employee Relations  
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*Rector, Loyola House Jesuit Community*

**Angélica Nohemi Quiñónez, Ed.D.**  
*Director, University Ministry*

**Lawrence Williams, JD**  
*Director, Athletics*

## ORDER OF CEREMONY

### Procession

The University Mace  
The Flags of the University  
The University Commencement Marshals  
The Class of 2025  
The Faculty of the School  
The Academic Directors of the School  
The Alumni Board of Governors  
The Student Speakers  
The Deans of the School  
The University Leadership Team  
The Members of the University Board  
of Trustees  
The Honorary Degree Recipient and  
Commencement Speaker  
The Interim President of the University

### Prelude Processional

Baroque Ceremonial Music  
"Pomp and Circumstance" by Sir Edward Elgar

### Master of Ceremonies

**Eileen Chia-Ching Fung**  
*Provost and Vice President, Academic Affairs*

### National Anthem

**Kassandra Dolores Lopez**  
*Candidate, Bachelor of Science in Nursing*

### Invocation

**Sundiata Rashid**  
*Muslim Chaplain*

### Official Opening of the Ceremony

*Member, Board of Trustees*

### Student Addresses

**Nicole Leigh Stevens**  
*Candidate, Bachelor of Science in Nursing*

and

**Chinenye Ngozika Obiaga**  
*Candidate, Doctor of Nursing Practice*

### Presentation of the Honorary Degree

**Eileen K. Fry-Bowers**  
*Dean of the School*

### Recipient

**Terry T. Fulmer PhD, RN, FAAN**  
*President, The John A. Hartford Foundation*

### Commencement Address

**Terry T. Fulmer PhD, RN, FAAN**

## Presentation of Candidates for Undergraduate Degrees

**Eileen K. Fry-Bowers**

*Dean of the School*

and

**Lynette Apen**

*Associate Dean, Academic Affairs and  
Faculty Development*

## Formal Conferral of Undergraduate Degrees

**Rev. John P. Fitzgibbons, S.J.**

*Interim President and Chief Mission Officer*

## Presentation of Candidates for Graduate Degrees

**Eileen K. Fry-Bowers**

*Dean of the School*

and

**Erin Grinshteyn**

*Associate Dean, Health Professions*

## Formal Conferral of Graduate Degrees

**Rev. John P. Fitzgibbons, S.J.**

*Interim President and Chief Mission Officer*

## Presentation of Candidates for Doctoral Degrees

**Eileen K. Fry-Bowers**

*Dean of the School*

and

**Megan O'Banion**

*Senior Associate Dean*

## Formal Conferral of Doctoral Degrees

**Rev. John P. Fitzgibbons, S.J.**

*Interim President and Chief Mission Officer*

## Salutation to the Graduates

**Rev. John P. Fitzgibbons, S.J.**

*Interim President and Chief Mission Officer*

## Benediction

**Rev. Dónal Godfrey, S.J.**

*University Chaplain*

## Recessional

"Crown Imperial" by Sir William Walton

## UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN PUBLIC HEALTH

Sofia Isabella Barrera Angulo  
John Carlo Baliscao Bienes  
Rafael Haddis Desta  
Lauren Elizabeth Hall

Leatitia Kenda Ngandu  
Leanna Priscilla Perez  
Yasamin H. Yassini

## BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

Benedict Corpuz Abadilla\*❖  
Zuhra Issa Alazzeah\*❖  
Serena Bachar Alhadad\*\*\*❖  
Sarah Grace Arington\*\*❖  
Patrick Ubaldo Bautista\*❖  
Kacey Ariel Brewer  
Ruby Brook  
Carolina Calderon-Sanchez  
Victoria Lizbeth Campollo\*❖  
John Pierre Palaroan Cayabyab\*❖  
Prabsharan Singh Chauhan  
Kaitlyn Abigail Clark\*❖  
Giana Trish Sarmiento Cordova  
Raenalyn Micaela Cruz-Balleza\*\*\*❖  
Adrienne Marie De Borja\*\*\*❖  
Christian Judge Javier Decano\*\*\*❖  
Arianne Mae Pascual Delos Santos\*\*❖  
Mitchell Stephen Duea\*\*\*❖  
Sriya Duggempudi\*❖  
Christine Albarracin Escalante

Sarah Lisel Estipona\*❖  
Angelica Anne Mantaring Fajardo  
Kate Marie Freeman  
Felicity Ruth Trinidad Fuentes\*❖  
Cedric J. Fung\*❖  
Chelsa Mila Antonio Galimba  
Jocelyn G. Gallardo\*\*\*❖  
Adriel Cabigao Garcia\*❖  
Xiaoxi Xuan'en Gardner\*❖  
Ella Jordan Geronimo\*\*\*❖  
Angel Felix Gonzalez\*❖  
Vrenelli Banez Guzman\*\*❖  
Alicia Samyin Ho  
Angela Wan Ying Hu\*❖  
Elysia Hung\*\*❖  
Sarah Dean Izenstark\*\*❖  
Cherry Hope Tingas Jordan\*\*\*❖  
Marilyn Kahue  
Gregory Anthony Royo Kakilala  
Kanyinsola Kanmi Jones

## UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING *(continued)*

Mette Tao Knutzen\*\*\*❖  
William Lan  
Katelyn Taylor Choi Lee\*\*\*❖  
Kelsey Rose Lee\*\*\*❖  
Samantha Lee\*\*❖  
Iris Y. Lei\*❖  
Annie Liang\*\*❖  
Jennie Liang\*\*\*❖  
Megan Julie Littlejohn\*\*\*❖  
Kassandra Dolores Lopez\*❖  
Breanna Lu  
Tuanh Luong\*\*\*❖  
Marielle Grace Sison Magno\*❖  
Kavita Surina Mahajan\*❖  
Nikhil Manidaw  
Kristen Myel Legaspi Martinez\*\*\*❖  
Marni Elizabeth Matuska  
Maite Isabel Picazo Mercado\*\*\*❖  
Jasmine Moreno\*\*\*❖  
Emma Wanjiru Muiruri\*\*\*❖  
Valisidy Charisse Nelson\*\*\*❖  
Alyssa Phan Nguyen\*\*❖  
Amanda Nguyen\*\*\*❖  
Britney Hue Nguyen\*\*\*❖  
Cassandra Nguyen\*\*\*❖  
Cynthia Nguyen\*❖  
Tiffany Thu Nguyen\*\*❖  
Jana Mielle Rapisura Olano\*\*\*❖  
Maya Elena Oliveros\*❖  
Karen Ortiz-Salazar\*\*\*❖  
Alison Ouyang\*\*\*❖

Shelley Shaine Refol Paningbatan  
Francise Langit Panlaqui\*\*\*❖  
Camila Isabel Pardi Rodriguez\*❖  
Juwon Park\*\*❖  
Tanvi Patel\*\*\*❖  
Charlotte Theresa Phan\*\*\*❖  
Tia Liane Picson\*\*❖  
Christy-Ann Dolores Marie Michelle Pierre\*\*\*❖  
Sofia Mei Rios\*❖  
Matthew-Tyler Deluna Ruiz\*❖  
Ava Salazar  
Maryam Fatimah Siddiqui\*\*❖  
Inderjit Singh\*\*\*❖  
Daniella Precious Son\*\*\*❖  
Blair Elizabeth Stephenson  
Nicole Leigh Stevens\*\*\*❖  
Haven Marie Talbert\*\*\*❖  
Clement Q. Tang  
Ayana Yasmeeen Nicole Tasby\*\*\*❖  
Citlali Tizo  
Ethan Hoang To\*❖  
Leticia Vargas  
Alina Michelle von Bernath Scheiber\*\*❖  
Chloe Vuong\*\*\*❖  
Maile Janice Walls\*\*\*❖  
Gia Nicole Watson  
Elise Mackenzie Wong  
Serena Yiwen Wong\*❖  
Melanie Christine Woon\*\*\*❖  
Samantha Isabella Zarate

## GRADUATE DEGREES MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Michael David Blampye

## MASTER OF SCIENCE

### Clinical Psychology

Ane Avetisyan

### Digital Health Informatics

Guru Lakshmi Priyanka Bodagala  
Monique Joyce de Villa-Torres  
Krishna Sagar Ghiya  
Chandni Kella  
Nithin Pillai  
Bhoomi Snehal Shah  
Likhitha Velma

## MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

Marisela Elizabeth Acevedo-Padilla  
Alexandria Erica Adams  
Augustine Eberechi Akor  
Benjamin Au  
Diamynz Kamani Bruce  
Angelique Naomee Lomboy Calimlim  
Jakelin Elizabeth Cerna Escobar  
Alice Hoi Yan Cheng  
Shaun Christian Cunanan  
Gabriela Alejandra Davila Barajas  
Catherine Heather De La Torre  
Jocelyn Yvette Esquivias  
Alejandra Maria Fernandez  
Marisa Elise Gauna  
Elyas Gul  
Stephen Hoefler  
Jasmeen Kaur

Cathline Ma  
Charlie Wren Madison  
Atticus Felix Madrid  
Andrea Kelly Munoz Vera  
Britney Yee Ng  
Kaela Kanani Nguyen  
Czijay Robyn Simpelo Oliveros  
Sierra Brooke Poe  
Sheina Sunjotika Lata Rai  
Sophia Robledo  
Yunxuan Su  
Gianna Marie Susa  
Guodong Tian  
Jennyline Rose Lee Tiangco  
Braeden R. Woods  
Emily Audrey Yu  
Wendong Will Zhu

## **DOCTORAL DEGREES DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE**

Sonja Ann Alli-Casella

Joseph Nathan Blinder

Jin Chen

Michelle Samaniego Concepcion

Nicole Anne Leonce

Kristin Elizabeth Moser

Nica Rianne Recella Nuguid

Remigus C. Nwaokoro

Chinenye Ngozika Obiaga

Arslan Amir Rashid

Douglas Seangmany

Aman Kaur Shergill

Katerina Shikhvarg

Navjot Singh

Rocio Jazmin Tapia-Nuss

Adam Thai

## UNDERGRADUATE COMMENCEMENT HONORS

### University Honors

\* Cum Laude                      \*\* Magna Cum Laude                      \*\*\* Summa Cum Laude

To be considered for University Honors, undergraduate candidates must have completed at least 60 credits of academic course work graded "A" through "F" at the University of San Francisco and have a minimum USF grade point average of:

- 3.85 for Summa Cum Laude
- 3.75 for Magna Cum Laude
- 3.50 for Cum Laude

### School of Nursing and Health Professions Honors

To be considered for School of Nursing and Health Professions Honors (designated with a ❖), undergraduate candidates must have a minimum USF grade point average of 3.5.

### Candidacy

Candidacy for degrees and academic honors is based on a preliminary review of the academic records of students petitioning for graduation in the respective term. Degrees and honors are considered official when all grades are received and all requirements for degree fulfillment and/or honors are met. Some students listed as candidates may already have been notified that they have met all requirements, but, because of printing deadlines, are listed here as candidates.

## TERRY T. FULMER PhD, RN, FAAN PRESIDENT, THE JOHN A. HARTFORD FOUNDATION

Internationally respected authority in the field of geriatrics.

Brilliant scholar whose pioneering research illuminated the need to identify at-risk elders.

Mission-driven nurse, enlightened educator, visionary academic leader, and vigorous advocate for aging adults.

Dr. Terry Fulmer is widely recognized and celebrated for her cutting-edge research in geriatrics that transformed clinical protocols in elder care. Fulmer was first to advocate urgently for integrating detection and protection from abuse, mistreatment, and neglect into care-with-dignity practices to safeguard older adults. Her lengthy, wide-ranging and deeply meaningful resume details her astounding litany of professional positions, broad outreach, and significant accomplishments over more than four decades. Her unrelenting tenacity, vision, and commitment to serving her patients, students, and clients underscores the tremendous impact she has had throughout her career in nursing, healthcare, and academia. She will move mountains to fully address the needs of others.

As president and chief strategist of the John A. Hartford Foundation since 2015, Fulmer remains an advocate for older adults and a powerful voice for the support needed to provide them with age-friendly care. Under her far-sighted leadership, the Hartford Foundation has developed, advanced, and funded one-of-a-kind programs that foster social connections, reframe aging and analyze policies that impact older adults. She has noted that meeting the vital and ever-dynamic needs of the nation's aging population means acknowledging, planning for and celebrating the good news of increasing longevity.

Fulmer's heroic efforts on behalf of older adults are invested in her vision of a nation where all elders have access to high-value, evidence-based health care, and are treated with respect and dignity, while having their goals and preferences honored. These are the founding principles of the Age-Friendly Health Systems, the social movement she conceptualized and developed. More than 5,000 hospitals, practices, and long-term care organizations are recognized participants. She also kick-started another innovative national program, Nurses Improving Care for Healthsystem Elders, or NICHE. Her career includes many other firsts. She was the first nurse to serve as the dean of health sciences at Northeastern University, the first nurse elected president of the Gerontological Society of America, and the first non-physician named to the board of the American Geriatrics Society.

Fulmer is an NYU-certified post-doc geriatric nurse practitioner whose extended family boasts generations of nurses. She earned a master's in clinical nursing and a doctorate in higher education administration — both with high honors — from Boston College. Though she later held leadership roles in academia and policy work, she also remained an attending nurse at New York's Mt. Sinai Hospital until the COVID-19 pandemic hit. Always a nurse at heart and in practice, her stellar academic career includes appointments as a distinguished professor and dean at Northeastern University, as well as a professor of public policy and urban affairs. She was founding dean of NYU's College of Nursing, where she was named to an endowed professorship. She also has held faculty appointments at Boston College, Columbia, Yale, and Harvard, among others.

Fulmer's extraordinary contributions throughout her all-points career in healthcare, geriatric wellness, and academia are widely recognized. She received the 2023 Healthcare Legacy Award from the New York Academy of Medicine and the 2022 Champion for Change Award from the Weinberg Center for Elder Justice. She was named a 2021 Living Legend by the American Academy of Nursing, received the 2021 Dean Rita P. Kelleher Award from Boston College, and the 2019 Donald P. Kent Award from the Gerontological Society of America. She was named a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing, among many honors.

That all may know of our esteem for you and our support for your decades of unwavering and critical work in geriatric research, tireless advocacy for elder-care-with-dignity, and heroic efforts to protect older adults, the University does, therefore, confer upon you, Terry T. Fulmer PhD, RN, FAAN, President, The John A. Hartford Foundation, the degree of Doctor of Humane letters, *honoris causa*, with all the rights and privileges pertaining thereunto, given this fifteenth day of May, two thousand and twenty-five, and the hundred and seventieth year of the University, in San Francisco, California.

## Professional Doctoral Projects

# SCHOOL OF NURSING AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS DOCTORAL PROJECTS

The following is a listing of Doctor of Nursing Practice projects completed during the 2024-2025 academic year. The assisting faculty member's name is listed below the candidate's name.

### Doctor of Nursing Practice

Developing a Trauma-Informed Family-Centered Care Toolkit for Neonatal Intensive Care Nurses

*Sonja Ann Alli-Casella*

DR. ALICIA KLETTER

Prescreening for Food Insecurities in Patients Living with Diabetes

*Joseph Nathan Blinder*

DR. RICKY NORWOOD

Enhancing Emergency Preparedness: A Disaster Education Initiative for Nursing Students

*Jin Chen*

DR. JO LOOMIS

A Professional Development Training on Eating Disorders for School Nurses: Leading the School Team

*Michelle Concepcion*

DR. ALICIA KLETTER

Trauma-Informed Care: A Therapeutic Communication

*Nicole Anne Leonce*

DR. ALICIA KLETTER

Tracking Invisible Populations: Adults with Severe Mental Illness Living with Aging Parents

*Kristin Elizabeth Moser*

DR. JO LOOMIS

Effects of Opioid Toolkit on Psychiatric Health Care Worker Knowledge

*Nica Rianne Recella Nuguid*

DR. DEEPIKA GOYAL

Saving Lives: Naloxone Education and Training for Mental Health Re-Entry Program Providers

*Remigus C. Nwaokoro*

DR. ALICIA KLETTER

# SCHOOL OF NURSING AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS DOCTORAL PROJECTS

The following is a listing of Doctor of Nursing Practice projects completed during the 2024-2025 academic year. The assisting faculty member's name is listed below the candidate's name.

## Doctor of Nursing Practice (continued)

Addressing Mental Health Stigma Among African Americans: Strategies to Enhance Nursing Students' Knowledge

*Chinenye Ngozika Obiaga*

DR. DEEPIKA GOYAL

Educating Community Health Workers: To improve Maternal and Infant Health in Rural Areas

*Katerina Shikhvarg*

DR. JO LOOMIS

Thinking Long-Term: Nursing Education on Long-Acting Injectable Antipsychotics

*Arslan Amir Rashid*

DR. ALICIA KLETTER

Empowering School Nurses: A Comprehensive Approach to Suicide Prevention and Student Mental Health

*Navjot Singh*

DR. ALICIA KLETTER

Improving Access and Retention of Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) for Minority Inmates at the Substance Abuse Treatment Facility (SATF), California State Prison System: A Quality Improvement Initiative Using a Culturally Competent Approach

*Douglas Seangmany*

DR. RICKY NORWOOD

Bridging the Gap: Enhancing Medical Interpreter Utilization for Patients with Limited English Proficiency in Healthcare Settings

*Rocio Jazmin Tapia-Nuss*

DR. DEEPIKA GOYAL

Empowering Mental Health Support Staff with Motivational Interviewing Training to Enhance Eating Disorder Recovery

*Aman Kaur Shergill*

DR. ALICIA KLETTER

Community-Based Toolkit for Parents and Their Children with Severe Mental Illness

*Adam Thai*

DR. JO LOOMIS

## UNIVERSITY-WIDE AWARDS

### Senior Leadership Award

This award will be given to a graduating senior who has consistently worked and succeeded in enriching and having an impact on student life and the values of University Life (leadership, social justice, and cultural competency) throughout their careers at USF. This year's honor is awarded to:

*Jana Mielle Rapisura Olano*

## SCHOOL OF NURSING AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS STUDENT AWARDS

### Pam Bunnell CNL Excellence Award

Pam Bunnell forged a fifty-year career in nursing and nursing education. She had a passion for the CNL role and was instrumental in developing the MSN program at USF. Pam had a gift for passing her passion for the CNL role to her students, other faculty, and practicing nurses and managers. The purpose of this award is to honor a graduating Master's Entry MSN student who shared Pam's passion for the role and who was instrumental in advocating for the implementation of the role in health care settings. This certificate is awarded to:

*Sheina Sunjotika Lata Rai*

### Frances Monet Carter Award for Clinical Excellence in Psychiatric Nursing

This award is given to graduating seniors in the Baccalaureate degree program in the School of Nursing and Health Professions who, in the opinion of the psychiatric nursing faculty, have demonstrated outstanding clinical practice in psychiatric/mental health nursing, and who have applied the principles inherent in psychiatric/mental health nursing to individuals experiencing emotional pain in other clinical settings. This certificate is awarded to:

*Inderjit Singh*

### Dean's Medal for Promoting Professionalism

A bronze medal, awarded to the graduating students who have contributed most to promoting professionalism among the students in the School of Nursing and Health Professions, is awarded to:

*Michelle Samaniego Concepcion*

*Shaun Christian Cunanan*

*Monique Joyce de Villa-Torres*

*Jana Mielle Rapisura Olano*

## SCHOOL OF NURSING AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS HONOR SOCIETIES

### Alpha Sigma Nu (ΑΣΝ)

Alpha Sigma Nu is the national Jesuit Honor Society organized to honor students who have distinguished themselves in scholarship, service and loyalty to the University. Graduating members are:

*Kristen Myel Legaspi Martinez*

*Maite Isabel Picazo Mercado*

*Melanie Christine Woon*

### Male Student Nurses Society

The purpose of the Male Student Nurses Society is to empower the male student nurse population at the University of San Francisco. It is founded on the values of scholar, valor, and endeavor. Through active involvement in volunteerism and activities that build moral character both on and off campus, the members of MSNS strive to develop leadership, academic, and fundamental nursing skills while creating a peer-mentor relationship. The graduating student nurses from this organization will wear stoles of navy and light blue representing the colors of MSNS. The graduating members are:

*Victoria Lizbeth Campollo*

*Iris Y. Lei*

*Tiffany Thu Nguyen*

*Alison Ouyang*

*Ava Salazar*

*Daniella Precious Son*

*Clement Q. Tang*

*Ethan Hoang To*

## SCHOOL OF NURSING AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS HONOR SOCIETIES

### Nursing Student Association USF/NSA

The University of San Francisco/Nursing Students Association (USF/NSA) is an organization developed to promote professionalism and personal growth in nursing students. It is a chapter of the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) and the California Nursing Students' Association (CSNA), the only national and state organization for all nursing students. As an active organization that includes school and community involvements, members of USF/NSA assume responsibility for contributing to nursing education in order to provide the highest quality of care, provide programs representative of fundamental interests and concerns to nursing students, and aid in the development of the whole person, his/her professional role, and his/her responsibility for health care of people in all walks of life. The graduating members of the University of San Francisco Nursing Students Association (USF/NSA) are:

*Zuhra Issa Alazzeh*  
*Victoria Lizbeth Campollo*  
*Sriya Duggempudi*  
*Xiaoxi Xuan'en Gardner*  
*Kelsey Rose Lee*  
*Kavita Surina Mahajan*  
*Valisidy Charisse Nelson*  
*Tiffany Thu Nguyen*  
*Jana Mielle Rapisura Olano*  
*Tanvi Patel*  
*Nicole Leigh Stevens*  
*Alina Michelle von Bernath Scheiber*  
*Melanie Christine Woon*

### Sigma Theta Tau Honor Society (ΣΘΤ)

Sigma Theta Tau is the national Honor Society of Nursing. Members have demonstrated superior scholastic achievement, evidence of professional leadership potential, and a minimum grade point average of 3.00. Graduating members, signified by the wearing of a lilac cord, are:

*Marisela Elizabeth Acevedo-Padilla*  
*Sonja Ann Alli-Casella*  
*Sarah Grace Arington*  
*Gabriela Alejandra Davila Barajas*  
*Alice Hoi Yan Cheng*  
*Raenalyn Micaela Cruz-Balleza*  
*Shaun Christian Cunanan*  
*Adrienne Marie De Borja*  
*Alejandra Maria Fernandez*  
*Elyas Gul*  
*Stephen Hoefler*  
*Cherry Hope Tingas Jordan*  
*Kelsey Rose Lee*  
*Nicole Anne Leonce*  
*Kristen Myel Legaspi Martinez*  
*Jasmine Moreno*  
*Britney Yee Ng*  
*Alyssa Phan Nguyen*  
*Kaela Kanani Nguyen*  
*Jana Mielle Rapisura Olano*  
*Czijay Robyn Simpelo Oliveros*  
*Tanvi Patel*  
*Charlotte Theresa Phan*  
*Christy-Ann Dolores Marie Michelle Pierre*  
*Sierra Brooke Poe*  
*Sophia Robledo*  
*Aman Kaur Shergill*  
*Nicole Leigh Stevens*  
*Melanie Christine Woon*  
*Emily Audrey Yu*

## ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

### Honors College Scholars

The Honors College provides exceptional undergraduate students with a rigorous and transformative education grounded in the arts and humanities. Through interdisciplinary inquiry, community engagement, and independent research, Honors College Scholars broaden their intellectual perspectives and develop a sense of ethical responsibility as global citizens. Graduating Honors College Scholars are:

*Adrienne Marie De Borja*

*Ella Jordan Geronimo*

*Kassandra Dolores Lopez*

*Camila Isabel Pardi Rodriguez*

*Nicole Leigh Stevens*

*Ethan Hoang To*

*Alina Michelle von Bernath Scheiber*

*Melanie Christine Woon*

## UNIVERSITY-WIDE AWARDS

### Community Engaged Learning Faculty Award

The University Community Engaged Learning Faculty Award recognizes the work of full-time faculty in developing service-learning opportunities for USF students. The awardee shall be a full-time faculty member who has demonstrated a commitment to service learning through the integration of service-learning into the curriculum; innovation in employing a reflective teaching methodology to connect community and public service experience with academic study; and demonstration of leadership that promotes service-learning on campus.

*Gabby King, School of Law*

### Distinguished Adjunct Teaching Award

A purse and a plaque, awarded jointly by the USF Faculty Association and the University, to a part-time faculty member for extraordinary dedication to teaching and students, and for innovative and gifted approaches to teaching and the classroom at USF, are awarded to:

*Beth Packer, College of Arts and Sciences*  
*Karl Soehnlein, College of Arts and Sciences*  
*Zehlia Babaci-Wilhite, College of Arts and Sciences*

### Distinguished Research Award

A purse and a plaque, awarded jointly by the USF Faculty Association and the University, to a full-time faculty member whose recent research and scholarship have made an outstanding contribution to his or her academic discipline, are awarded to:

*Joyce P. Yang, College of Arts and Sciences*

### Distinguished Teaching Award

A purse and a plaque, awarded jointly by the USF Faculty Association and the University, to a full-time faculty member for extraordinary dedication to teaching and students, and for innovative and gifted approaches to teaching and the classroom, are awarded to:

*James Sikes, College of Arts and Sciences*

### Educational Effectiveness Award

The Educational Effectiveness Award (EEA) is given out annually to one team in recognition of excellence in assessment practices at the University of San Francisco. The recognized assessment work should show evidence of student learning, use of student learning evidence, and help the University, or any part of the University or community, achieve its learning outcomes, goals or mission. Exemplary assessment work should also support a culture of assessment at USF, and include a plan for closing the loop.

*Laura Chyu, School of Nursing and Health Professions*

## UNIVERSITY-WIDE AWARDS

### Excellence in Academic Leadership Award

The Excellence in Academic Leadership award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated exceptional leadership and vision, particularly during times of uncertainty and transition. The awardee has gone beyond the traditional scope of their role, showing resilience, creativity, and a profound commitment to supporting the USF community. Through navigating challenges, advocating for innovation, and leading transformational change, this leader has made a lasting impact and inspired others through collaboration and leadership.

*Megan O'Banion, School of Nursing and Health Professions*

### Inclusive Excellence Award

Presented by the Office of ADEI to recognize a faculty member, librarian, or staff member who has made exceptional contributions to advancing access, fostering belonging, and promoting inclusion within the USF community.

*Genevieve Negron-Gonzales, School of Education*

### Ignatian Service Award

Ignatian Service Award recognizes an exceptional commitment to the service of students, the University, and the community at large, in light of the religious and moral legacy of St. Ignatius. The awardee shall be a full-time faculty member who has demonstrated an ongoing and creative commitment to the realization of this legacy through his/her actions and accomplishments.

*Timothy Godfrey, School of Nursing and Health Professions*

### Innovation in Global Initiative Award

Recognize a faculty, librarian, or staff member who demonstrates innovation in facilitating global educational opportunities, (study abroad, immersion programs, internships, research opportunities) or bringing global perspective to campus (incorporating global into courses, developing new global courses, or broadening access to global perspectives).

*Julianne Cartwright Traylor, School of Law*

### Innovation in Instruction Award

The Innovation in Instruction Award is granted to a part-time faculty member that utilizes creative or innovative teaching methods, approaches, and techniques in their courses.

*Sara Marinelli, College of Arts and Sciences*

## UNIVERSITY-WIDE AWARDS

### Innovation in Teaching with Technology Award

The CIT Awards honor faculty or staff who have demonstrated excellent use of technology in education. Recipients have supported the development of teaching and learning contributing to the overall quality of the USF learning environment.

*Liat Berdugo, College of Arts and Sciences*  
*Megan Hutchinson, School of Law*

### Mentor of the Year Award

The Mentor of the Year Award was created by the Provost Council in order to recognize a faculty member or a staff person who furthers the Vision, Mission and Values of the University through their demonstrated commitment to and excellence in advising and mentoring our graduate and undergraduate students. The award recognizes individuals who help our students (1) identify their academic goals; (2) establish relationships between their curricular and co-curricular activities; (3) develop the expertise, skills and values that support academic and personal achievement; and, (4) discern how their USF experience will assist them in forming a more humane and just world, and is awarded to:

*Khulan Zagd, Learning Center, Office of Student Life*

### Outstanding Teamwork in Advancing the University's Strategic Plan Award

The Outstanding Teamwork in Advancing the University's Strategic Plan Award was created by the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs in order to recognize and honor a team of faculty, librarians and/or staff who have made exceptional contributions to advancing USF's Strategic Plan, with an emphasis on creative co-design, collaboration, and cross-departmental/ divisional teamwork.

*Louise Goupil, College of Arts and Sciences*  
*Joshua Gamson, College of Arts and Sciences*

### Sr. Vicky Siu Award for Outstanding Contributions and Service to the University of San Francisco

A purse and a plaque, awarded jointly by the USF Faculty Association and the University, to a part-time faculty member who has volunteered to organize workshops, performances, lectures, or other opportunities for students at USF — beyond the responsibilities of their teaching position, are awarded to:

*Kimberly Carfore, College of Arts and Sciences*

## **SIGNIFICANCE OF THE NURSING PIN AND LILAC CORD**

Each School of Nursing and Health Professions has a unique pin that is given to graduates of the specific nursing program. The pin serves to identify the School of Nursing and Health Professions no matter where the nurse may practice in the world.

The University of San Francisco School of Nursing and Health Professions pin represents three important traditions for our graduates. The three traditions include the Sisters of Mercy, the Jesuits and the University of San Francisco.

The Sisters of Mercy are represented by the Mercy Crest and the year "1954." The year is when St. Mary's Hospital School of Nursing, a diploma program, in conjunction with the University of San Francisco merged together and began to offer a baccalaureate degree in Nursing (BSN). Sister Mary Beata Baumann, S.M. was the founding dean for the School of Nursing. Today the School of Nursing and Health Professions is the only school at USF to offer a baccalaureate degree, a master degree, and a doctoral degree.

The Jesuit community is represented by the Ignatian crest. The Ignatian crest represents St. Ignatius Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits. The initials A.M.D.G. stand for "Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam" which translates into "For the greater glory of God."

The University of San Francisco is represented by the USF crest. This represents the rich multicultural environment of the University and the city of San Francisco where the School of Nursing and Health Professions provides service for all people.

The lilac cord signifies membership in Sigma Theta Tau, the Nursing Honor Society.

The colorful attire worn by the graduates, the faculty, and officers of the University on the occasion of these Commencement Exercises has historic roots in medieval times. Dressed as they are in cap and gown, the graduates and their professors form part of a long tradition which dates back to Paris and Bologna, to Oxford and Cambridge in the days of their Catholic glory.

The precise origins of the several parts of the academic garb are not easy to discover. However, since medieval students enjoyed the status of clerics during their university years, one is hardly far wrong in asserting that their attire found its inspiration in the clerical dress of medieval times. The gown seems to be an adaptation of the robe of friar or priest; the hood, of the monk's or friar's cowl; and the mortarboard cap of today, the end product of curious evolution, recalls the skull cap of days when tonsured heads needed protection against the drafts of medieval classrooms.

Academic attire began to appear quite generally on United States campuses in the late 1890s. Since that time, its use has become universal for solemn university functions, and its pattern highly uniform.

## THE GOWN

The gowns are three in number and styling. That of the bachelor is a yoked, closed-front garment, with long, pointed sleeves; that of the master is cut to be worn open front, its sleeves are long and closed, slit cut just above the elbow to allow the forearm to protrude; the gown of the doctor is also worn open and has full bell-shaped sleeves. Only the doctor's gown is trimmed—with velvet panels down the front and three velvet bars on each sleeve.

Though black velvet is proper trimming for all doctor gowns, the color and material of the panels and sleeve bars is often varied in order to indicate the faculty which granted the wearer's degree; dark blue for Philosophy (PHD); light blue for Education (EDD); white for Arts and Letters (LITTD); gold-yellow for Science (SCD); orange for Engineering (ENGD, DCE); purple for Law (LLD, DCL, JD, JUD, JCD); green for Medicine (MD); scarlet for Theology (STD, DD).

## THE HOOD

The hood at first seems to have been worn over the head and was attached to the gown. When the skull cap was introduced, the hood was retained, but detached and worn much as it is today. Each degree (bachelor, master, doctor) has a right to a hood, which varies in length and, in the case of the doctor's, also in pattern. The bachelor's hood is three feet long; the master's hood, three and one-half; the doctor's hood, four, with wide panels on either side.

The color or colors with which the hood is lined are those of the college or university that granted the wearer's degree—for example, the University of San Francisco is known by the gold chevron on the field of Kelly green. The colored velvet binding or edging of the hood, in different widths for bachelor, master, doctor, is a key to the faculty granting the degree. The velvet colors include white for Arts, gold-yellow for Science, drab for Business, apricot for Nursing, light blue for Education, royal blue for Nonprofit Administration, peacock blue for Public Administration, scarlet for Theology, purple for Law, and so forth.

## THE CAP

The mortar board has become the universally accepted style in United States colleges and universities. Many European institutions still retain distinctive forms of academic headdress—for example, the University of London's tam-o-shanter cap.

The doctor, following graduation, has the right to wear a gold tassel on the mortar board; black, however, is perfectly proper and perhaps more common.



UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO  
CHANGE THE WORLD FROM HERE