

20  
24



FRIDAY · MAY 24 · 2024

commencement

Paramount Theatre  
OAKLAND · CALIFORNIA



## content hyperlinks

[Today's Program](#)

[About the Degrees](#)

[About Awards and Honors](#)

[Master of Occupational Therapy](#)

[Doctor of Occupational Therapy](#)

[Doctor of Physical Therapy](#)

[Doctor of Podiatric Medicine  
– and Residencies](#)

[About Samuel Merritt · MD](#)

[Academic Costume](#)

[The Hippocratic Oath](#)

[Faculty](#)

[Board of Regents  
and Administration](#)

### — FIRE NOTICE —

There are sufficient exits in this building  
to accommodate the entire audience.

The exit indicated by the lighted exit sign nearest  
your seat is the shortest route to the street.

In case of fire, please do not run; walk through that exit.

Smoking and vaping are not permitted anywhere in the theatre.

# 2024 commencement

**FRIDAY · MAY 24 · 2024**

## PRESIDING

**Brian Clocksin · PhD**

*Provost and Executive Vice President  
for Academic Affairs/Student Affairs*

## WELCOME

**Amy Anderson · MA**

*Assistant Provost for Strategy*

## PROCESSIONAL

*Pomp and Circumstance March N<sup>o</sup> 1*

## GREETINGS

**Ching-Hua Wang · MD, PhD**

*President*

## COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

**Gary Hall, Jr.**

*Founder, Sea Monkeys  
Co-Founder, The Race Club*

## STUDENT REMARKS

**Michael Altamirano**

*Department of Physical Therapy  
Class of 2024*

## PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

## PRESENTATION of CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

## PRESENTATION of MASTERS CANDIDATES of OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

## HOODING of DOCTORS

### Occupational Therapy

**Kate Hayner · EdD, OTR/L**

*Professor,  
Department of Occupational Therapy*

**Yvette Meré-Cook · EdD, OTR/L**

*Associate Professor and Chair,  
Department of Occupational Therapy*

## HOODING of DOCTORS

### Physical Therapy

**Heidi McGregor Garske · PhD, DPT, PT**

*Assistant Professor,  
Department of Physical Therapy*

**Preeti Nair · PhD, PT**

*Associate Professor,  
Department of Physical Therapy*

## HOODING of DOCTORS

### Podiatric Medicine

**Timothy Dutra · DPM**

*Assistant Professor,  
College of Podiatric Medicine*

**William Stiers · MD**

*Assistant Professor,  
College of Podiatric Medicine*

## HIPPOCRATIC OATH

## CONFERRING of DEGREES

**Alvin McLean · PhD**

*Chair, Board of Regents*

## CLOSING REMARKS

## RECESSIONAL



# AWARDS *and* HONORS

## **Outstanding Occupational Therapy Student Award**

This award is given to the student who has demonstrated a commitment to service, has a strong academic record, and has demonstrated a high level of professionalism and outstanding teamwork.

## **Outstanding Physical Therapist Student Award**

This award is given to a graduating student who has demonstrated strong leadership while in the program and outstanding achievement in at least two of the three following areas: service, clinical practice, and scholarship.

This award is meant to exemplify the highest level of achievement and potential in relation to the mission and values of the Department of Physical Therapy.

## **Podiatric Medicine Scepter Award**

The Scepter Award was established by the former California College of Podiatric Medicine Board of Trustees and the College of Podiatric Medicine (CPM) Alumni & Associates to symbolize their commitment to academic excellence. Each year the graduating students and the faculty have an opportunity to recognize a member of the senior class who exemplifies the scholarly and humanitarian qualities of podiatric medicine. The Scepter is symbolic of the attributes of mind and heart that characterize the true podiatric physician.

## **Delta Phi Tau National Physical Therapy Student Honor Society**

Graduates who have been inducted into the National Physical Therapy Student Honor Society have demonstrated excellence, integrity, and professionalism in areas of academic achievement, leadership, and service during their time as a student.

### **Pi Delta National Podiatric Medicine Honor Society**

Election into Pi Delta recognizes high standards of intellectual and scholarly activity. Students inducted into the Pi Delta Society must be in the top twenty percent of their class after the second academic year and must maintain at least a ninety percent grade point average thereafter. Graduates who are members of Pi Delta can be identified by the gold honor sashes worn with their academic regalia.

### **Graduation Speaker**

The student graduation speaker rotates on a yearly basis among the programs. In 2024, the Department of Physical Therapy has the honor of selecting the student speaker.

This honor was awarded to the student who demonstrates great potential to exemplify the values of the discipline: professionalism, leadership, scholarship, excellence in the art and science of practice, and service to profession and community.

### **Other Occupational Therapy Honors**

In keeping with department tradition, the chair leads the graduates in the procession.

### **Other Physical Therapy Honors**

Graduating DPT students elect a member of their class who they believe represents leadership and professional values to lead the graduating class during the procession.

### **Other Podiatric Medicine Faculty Honors**

Each year members of the graduating class participate in a balloting process to determine those faculty members who will lead the graduates in the procession and hood the candidates. Faculty members who are so honored at graduation are considered by the students to best represent the ideals and principles of an educator and a physician.

20  
24

## graduating class

**Master of Occupational Therapy**

Carol Lai Chin

Arielle Tagulao Cook

Lam-Thuy Huynh

Sabrina Elsa-Angelica Lee

Melissa Jane Lieu

Luis Ivan Ochoa-Lopez

Erica Maria Sanchez

Hanna Catherine Stovall

John Valencia

Dovyn Nicole F. Villena

**Doctor of Occupational Therapy**

Cristyn Diana Amaral \*\*

Cassandra Danika Angela

Christine P. Chan

Alia Coalwell

Kayla Phyllis Renae Crawford

Belinda Cuaresma

Wendy Diego

Julie Duong

Tamica C. Edwards

Ariel Angelina F. Estavillo

Angel Margaret  
Penetrante Garza

Kaila Monet Graham

Jazzlene Arianna  
Herrera Ramirez

Denisse P. Junio

Kimberly Melody Lee

Melinda Hong-ern Lee

Tristan Maki

Leslie Manrique

Brenda Morelia Martinez

Nasjah C. McKay

Jahari J. McKnight

Cynthu Maraiya Muthusamy

Thomas Edward Oliva

Helen On

Domonique Rieger Pinata

Lindsey Ribota

Jonathan Rios Navarro

Katie Nicole Rodgers

Jo'Sean Snell

Alvina Tat

Anai Tolentino Navez

Claire Kelly Watry

Carlissia Unique Winston

Gillian Shigemi Yamagiwa

**Doctor of Physical Therapy**

Nyasha Malika Abrams

Robyn Anne Squillante Almario

Michael Samuel Altamirano

Bach Quan Thanh ▼ \*

Daniel Teklai Berhe

Natalia Katharina Maria  
Binnewies Castillo ▼ \*\*

James W. T. Buck \*\* ▼ \*

Alexis Camacho

Marie Camp \*

Kelsey Leonor Carpenter

Serena Cheung

Angela Davini \*

Eric Du

Karina Ileana Estrada \*

Sarah Elizabeth Fong ▼ \*

Cerita Jane Leyva Gabriela

Rene Antonio Garcia

Paloma E. Granados

Alex Gudino

Raymond Hartman

Mary K. Henderson

Lorraine Theresa Jessel

Joseph Gilbert Aquino Katigbak

Emmy Kolanz

Christian Leigh ▼ \*

Doran C. Lewis

Katrina Li ▼ \*\*

Clarie Liang

Jasmine Lejano Mercado

Jason Jheff Panugaling

Lizett Perez

Vivian Isabel Perez

Selene Prado Rodriguez ▼ \*\*

Kalia Alma De Souza Prince

Shannon Sonia Ram

Caitlyn Elizabeth Reyes

Kimberly Rodriguez \*

Adonis Raul Salazar

Briana Sanchez

Jasmine Kaur Sandhu

Rosarin Saraburin

Stacey Swan ▼ \*

Robert Yu

▼ Recipient Delta Phi Tau National Physical Therapy Student Honor Society Award

\* Graduating with Honors

\*\* Recipient of Outstanding Student Award

# graduating class 2024

## Doctor of Podiatric Medicine

- Allison Pabelonia Anguren** **PA**  
*St. Mary's Medical Center*  
 —San Francisco, California
- Yvette Bumatay Arca** **PA**  
*Kaiser Permanente Medical Center*  
 —Vallejo, California
- Anne M. Ashley**  
*HCA Houston Healthcare Kingwood*  
 —Houston, Texas
- Andrew Attia** **PA**  
*Chino Valley Medical Center*  
 —Chino, California
- Larson R. Bergquist**  
*John Peter Smith Hospital*  
 —Fort Worth, Texas
- Vishnupriya Bodempudi**  
*Kaiser Permanente Medical Center*  
 —Vallejo, California
- Nicole Francesca Camaratta**  
*Pending*
- Matthew Garth Cazier**  
*Intermountain Medical Center*  
 —Murray, Utah
- Alex Brian Chen** **PA**  
*Stony Brook University Hospital*  
 —Stony Brook, New York
- Raissa Cain Zarzosa**  
*Geisinger-Community Medical Center*  
 —Scranton, Pennsylvania
- Amar Dholakia** **PA**  
*Scripps Mercy Hospital San Diego*  
 —San Diego, California
- Shaleen Kaur Duhra** **PA**  
*DVA / New Mexico VAHCS and Kaiser Foundation Hospital*  
 —Albuquerque, New Mexico
- Lynn-Indora Edmond**  
*Reading Hospital Westing*  
 —Reading, Pennsylvania
- Fraciella Gastelum**  
*DVA / Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center*  
 —Phoenix, Arizona
- Rateb Nasrallah Haddad**  
*Larkin Community Hospital -*  
 —South Miami, Florida
- Salma Haider**  
*Cleveland Clinic Foundation*  
 —Cleveland, Ohio
- Claire Ruiz Herrera**  
*Rochester General Hospital*  
 —Rochester, New York
- Linda Sohee Hong**  
*Wyckoff Heights Medical Center*  
 —Brooklyn, New York
- Natania Kapoor**  
*University of California,*  
 Los Angeles  
 —Los Angeles, California
- Razmig Karageuzian**  
*Cedars-Sinai Medical Center*  
 —Los Angeles, California
- Bhavkaranjeet Kaur**  
*DVA / Palo Alto Health Care System*  
 —Palo Alto, California
- Peter Luo**  
*DVA/ Palo Alto Health Care System*  
 —Palo Alto, California
- Olivia Lim Ly-White**  
*St. Mary's Medical Center,*  
 San Francisco  
 —San Francisco, California
- Youssef Moustafa**  
*Community Health Network*  
 —Indianapolis, Indiana
- Jeffrey Nguyen**  
*DVA / Palo Alto Health Care System*  
 —Palo Alto, California
- Ojiugo Onwukwe**  
*New York Presbyterian/Brooklyn Methodist Hospital*  
 —Brooklyn, New York
- Christopher Duane Overton** **PA**  
*Saint Joseph Health System*  
 —Mishawaka, Indiana
- Yash Parikh**  
*Hunt Regional Medical Center*  
 —Greenville, Texas
- Maria Engracia Peña Felix** **PA**  
*Scripps Mercy Hospital San Diego*  
 —San Diego, California
- Stacy Elaine Peralta**  
*Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center*  
 Boston, Massachusetts
- Vi Xuan Pham**  
*DVA / Miami VA Healthcare System*  
 —Miami, Florida
- Gladys M. Rastegari**  
*DVA / Medical Center, San Francisco*  
 —San Francisco, California
- Komal Saini**  
*Phoenixville Hospital*  
 —Phoenixville, Pennsylvania
- Payal Sethi**  
*Beaumont Health / Wayne*  
 —Wayne, Michigan
- Pavan Shrestha**  
*Henry Ford Wyandotte Hospital*  
 —Wyandotte, Michigan
- Taylor Jacob Shumway**  
*Intermountain Medical Center*  
 —Murray, Utah
- Kirthana Srikanth**  
*DVA / Medical Center, San Francisco*  
 —San Francisco, California
- Brady Leon Stewart-Chester**  
*North Colorado Medical Center*  
 —Greeley, Colorado
- Vy Cao Tran**  
*UCI Health, Fountain Valley Regional Hospital and Medical Center*  
 —Fountain Valley, California
- Adelbert Xavier Wang**  
*DVA / Jerry L Pettis Memorial Veterans' Hospital*  
 —Loma Linda, California
- Jacquelyn Nicole Woodcock**  
*Community Health Network*  
 —Indianapolis, Indiana

### **PA** Pi Delta National Podiatric Medicine Honor Society

PLEASE NOTE: The preceding list of graduates is based on information supplied by the Registrar's Office. Although every effort was made to ensure that the information was correct at the time the program was printed, a student's status may change after that date. Graduation status, degree completion, and academic honors are subject to a final degree requirements evaluation by the Registrar's Office. The posting of the earned degree on the official transcript record in the Registrar's Office remains the official testimony of the possession of the degree.

DEGREE CANDIDATES: If your name has been misspelled, misplaced, or wrongly omitted, please advise the Registrar's Office.



# DR. SAMUEL MERRITT

## A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

**SAMUEL MERRITT, MD** was born in 1822 in Harpswell, Maine, and graduated from the Medical School of Maine at Bowdoin College. After practicing medicine in Plymouth, Massachusetts for three years, Dr. Merritt joined the great migration of 1849 to California. Here he made his fortune as a businessman and his reputation as one of the leading founders of the Bay Area.

When Dr. Merritt died forty years later in 1890, the *Oakland Tribune* called him the man most prominent in the establishment and building of the City of Oakland. He had touched every aspect of public life here, serving as the thirteenth Mayor of Oakland, and one of the original Regents of the University of California. Dr. Merritt played a significant role in the creation of Lake Merritt and the construction of the Oakland Public Library and City Hall. As the first president of the Mountain View Cemetery, he continued to influence the architectural landscape of the city. In his will, Dr. Merritt provided for the establishment of Samuel Merritt Hospital and the training school for nurses that has now evolved into Samuel Merritt University.

Dr. Merritt died before Samuel Merritt Hospital and its school were built. However, his fortune and forward thinking made the founding of the institution possible. Today the women and men who carry on his mission — as students, faculty, and staff — are looking ahead to the next one hundred years. The transformation of Samuel Merritt University in the twenty-first century continues the tradition started long ago by this extraordinary individual who had a mighty vision for the quality and well-being of the East Bay community.



# ACADEMIC COSTUME

The history of the academic dress worn by those participating in the graduation processional reaches far back into the early days of the oldest universities. The academic costume consists of the gown, hood, cap, and tassel. The hoods worn by the participants are lined with the official color or colors of the college or university from which they received the degree. The edging of the hood is in widths of two inches, three inches, and five inches for the bachelor's, master's, and doctor's degrees, respectively. The color of the hood edging is indicative of the subject to which the individual's degree pertains. For all academic ceremonies the colors associated with the different subject areas are as follows:

DEGREE	COLOR	DEGREE	COLOR
Agriculture	Maize	Music	Pink
Arts/Letters	White	Nursing	Apricot
Commerce/Business	Drab	<b>Occupational Therapy</b>	<b>Green</b>
Oratory	Silver Gray	Dentistry	Lilac
Pharmacy	Olive Green	Philosophy	Dark Blue
Economics	Copper	<b>Physical Therapy</b>	<b>Teal</b>
Education	Light Blue	Physician Assistant	Green
Engineering	Orange	<b>Podiatric Medicine</b>	<b>Nile Green</b>
Fine Arts	Brown	Public Administration	Peacock Blue
Forestry	Russet	Public Health	Salmon Pink
Journalism	Crimson	Science	Golden Yellow
Law	Purple	Social Work	Citron
Library Science	Lemon	Theology	Scarlet
Medicine	Green	Veterinary Medicine	Gray



# *The* HIPPOCRATIC OATH

**I SWEAR TO FULFILL**, to the best of my ability and judgement, this covenant:

**I WILL** respect the hard-won scientific gains of those in whose steps I walk, and gladly share such knowledge as is mine with those who are to follow.

**I WILL** respect the privacy, rights and dignity of all individuals.

**I WILL** act with compassion and caring.

**I WILL** act with respect for differences and in ways that promote inclusion.

**I WILL** act with integrity and exercise sound judgement in ethical and legal practice.

**I WILL** not be ashamed to say, "I do not know," nor will I fail to call in my colleagues when the skills of another are needed for a patient's recovery.

**I WILL** remember that I am treating a whole person and will advocate for their needs and rights to services and resources.

**I WILL** use my professional skills and knowledge to improve the health and wellbeing of the diverse communities I serve.

**I WILL** remember that I remain a member of society, with special obligations to all my fellow human beings.

**I MAKE THESE PROMISES** solemnly, freely, and upon my honor.

# FACULTY

## COLLEGE of HEALTH SCIENCES

**Evaon Wong · PhD** *Professor and Dean, College of Health Sciences*

**Ben Barr · PhD** *Assistant Professor and Chair, Department of Social Work*

**Keith Schildt · PhD** *Professor and Associate Dean for Programming*

**Sergio Serna · MSW, LCSW** *Instructor and Director of Practicum Placement, Department of Social Work*

## BASIC SCIENCES

**Kamla Ahluwalia · PhD** *Assistant Professor and Co-chair, Department of Basic Sciences*

**Mary Premenko-Lanier · PhD**, *Associate Professor, Co-chair, Department of Basic Sciences*

Akash Khare · MD

Karissa Legleiter · EdD

Richard Rocco · PhD

Rhea Kimpo · PhD

Lisa Margerum · PhD

## OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

**Yvette Meré-Cook · EdD, OTR/L** *Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Occupational Therapy*

Elizabeth Ching · OTD, OTR/L

Jessica Richman · OTD, OTR/L

Domenique Embrey · OTD, OTR/L

Chi-Kwan Shea · PhD, OTR/L

Gordon Muir Giles · PhD, OTR/L

Quiara Smith · MOT, OTR/L

Kate Hayner · EdD, OTR/L

Diane Tom · OTD, OTR/L

Jack Kleine · OTD, OTR/L

Robyn Wu · OTD, OTR/L

FACULTY CONTINUED...

## DOCTOR *of* PHYSICAL THERAPY

**Sharon Gorman · DPTSc, PT, GCS** *Professor and Chair, Department of Physical Therapy*

---

Sheryl Ettinger · DPT, PT, PCS

Jose Reyna · DPT, PT, OCS

Kristen Waller · DPT, PT, NCS

Heidi McGregor Garske · PhD, DPT, PT

Angela Rusher · PhD, DPT, PT, NCS

Andy Weyer · PhD, DPT, PT

Preeti Nair · PhD, PT

Jeffrey South · DPT, PT, OCS

Robert Nee · PhD, PT

Tracey Wagner · DPT, PT, OCS

## COLLEGE *of* PODIATRIC MEDICINE

**Eric Stamps · DPM** *Assistant Professor, Dean, College of Podiatric Medicine*

**Cherri Choate · DPM** *Assistant Professor, Associate Dean, College of Podiatric Medicine*

---

Joel Clark · DPM

Esther Kwon · DPM

David Tran · DPM

Mona Dini · DPM

Christina Pratt · DPM

Mher Vartivarian · DPM

Timothy Dutra · DPM

Mark Razzante · DPM

Bennett Zier · MD

Louis Gilles · DPM

Alexander Reyzelman · DPM

Stephen Hill · PhD

William Stiers · MD

Arman Kirakosian · DPM

Charles Starrett · DPM



# BOARD *of* REGENTS

## Neptaly Aguilera · BA

*Retired,  
California Department  
of Health Care Services*

## Bradley Barber · JD

*Assistant Vice President  
Emeritus for Institutional  
Advancement,  
University of California*

## Melanie Bell-Mayeda · MBA

*Partner and Managing Director,  
IDEO*

## Caroline Cabias · BA

*Vice Chair, Board of Regents;  
Retired,  
State Board of Equalization*

## Elizabeth Chaney · BA

*Account Executive  
and Regional Director,  
Jones Lang LaSalle Inc.*

## Kevin Hart · BS

*Senior Vice President  
and Regional Business  
Information Officer,  
Kaiser Permanente*

## Anna Kiger · DNP, DSc

*Chief Nurse Officer,  
Sutter Health*

## Amber Luther · BA

*Associate/Architect, Populous*

## Alvin McLean, Jr · PhD

*Chair, Board of Regents,  
Dean, College of Psychology,  
John F. Kennedy University*

## Dennis O'Connell · BA

*Director, Bailard, Inc.*

## Shefali Parikh · MOT

*Vice President,  
Resenex Corporation*

## Eric Roberts · MBA

*Retired, Morrison & Foerster*

## Saul Rosenbaum · BA

*Managing Director,  
Prager, Sealy & Co., LLC*

## Kate Schapiro · BA

*Investment Research  
and Portfolio Management,  
KS Investment Consulting*

## Conrad Vial · MD

*Senior Vice President  
and President,  
Sutter Health Network,  
Sutter Health*

## Ching-Hua Wang · MD, PhD

*President,  
Samuel Merritt University*

## Lisa Zuffi · BA

*Senior Vice President  
and Relationships Manager,  
East Bay Regional Office  
Presidio Bank*

# ADMINISTRATION

## Brian Clocksin · PhD

*Provost and  
Executive Vice President of  
Academic Affairs/Student Affairs*

## David Lawlor · BA

*Executive Vice President  
Chief Operating Officer*

## Emily Prieto-Tseregounis · PhD

*Vice President of External Affairs  
and Chief of Staff to the President*

## Gina Squara · BS

*Vice President of Strategic Growth  
and Marketing*

## Ching-Hua Wang · MD, PhD

*President*

▲ [BACK TO CONTENT LINKS](#)

# CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2024!



*[samuelmerritt.edu](http://samuelmerritt.edu)*