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Winter 1999

UTB/TSC Commencement - Winter 1999

University of Texas at Brownsville

Texas Southmost College

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Minter Commencement

The University of Texas at Brownsville

and

Texas Southmost College

December 18, 1999



Congratulations Graduates

Commencement is a celebration of the committed effort of our students and our faculty. We recognize the importance it holds for our students and their families and we are here today to honor them for their efforts.

Students – be aware of the enormous pride your families are feeling for you today. Families – we thank you for your support of our students while they have worked to accomplish the goals set before them.

Today we graduate students who have had the vision to see the value of the opportunities that lay before them and the courage to realize their dreams, despite obstacles both great and small.

As the new millennium dawns, I am confident you will successfully meet the challenges which will present themselves to you. Moreover, I know you will continue to strive for success in the coming century. You are our future and our legacy.

As we celebrate your graduation today, we trust you will always be with us in spirit as we will always consider you a most important part of our life's work together.

Congratulations to the newest graduates of The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College.

JULIET V. GARCÍA

PRESIDENT
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT BROWNSVILLE AND TEXAS SOUTHMOST COLLEGE

5th WINTER COMMENCEMENT
DECEMBER 18, 1999

PLATFORM GUESTS

Juliet V. García, Ph.D. President, The University of Texas at Brownsville & Texas Southmost College

Raymond J. Rodrigues, Ph.D. Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Wayne Moore, Ph.D. Vice President for Administration & Partnership Affairs / Interim Vice President for Business Affairs

Olivia Rivas, Ed.D. Vice President for Student Affairs

Antonio N. Zavaleta, Ph.D. Vice President for External Affairs

Margarita Roque Associate Vice President for Institutional Advancement

Farhat Iftekharuddin, Ph.D. Interim Dean, College of Liberal Arts

José Martín, Ph.D. Dean, College of Science, Mathematics & Technology

Betsy V. Boze, Ph.D. Dean, Schoool of Business

Sylvia C. Peña, Ed.D. Dean, School of Education

Edna Garza-Escobedo, R.N., Ph.D. Chair, Associate Degree Nursing Program

John Ronnau, Ph.D. Dean, Graduate Studies and Sponsored Programs

James Holt, M.B.A. Dean, Workforce Training and Continuing Education

Jill Zimmerman, Ph.D. Dean of Students

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Dolly Zimmerman Trustee

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Adelbert H. Sweet Professor of Law, Stanford University Law School

Rev. Eduardo Ortega

Vicar for Youth and Young Adults, Catholic Diocese of Brownsville

Rev. George Harris

Pastor, Our Lady Queen of the Universe, San Benito / Vicar General, Catholic Diocese of Brownsville

FACULTY MARSHALS

James Rodney Sullivan, M.S. Mace Bearer (1:00 ceremony)

Mary Sullivan, M.A. Mace Bearer (6:00 ceremony)

Cipriano Cardenas, M.A. College of Liberal Arts

Antonio Lerma, Ph.D. College of Science, Mathematics & Technology

Irma Jones, Ed.D. School of Business

Dianne Johnson, Ed.D. School of Education

John McCabe, R.R.T., CPFT School of Health Sciences

COMMENCEMENT

JACOB BROWN AUDITORIUM SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1999

Processional

"Pomp & Circumstance"

Sir Edward Elgar

Invocation

Welcome & Introduction of Special Guests

Commencement Address

Presentation of Graduating Class

Conferring of Degrees

Presentation of Honor Graduates

Presentation of Diplomas

Recognition of Alumni

Alma Mater
"Hail The Orange and White"
John C. Hunter, Jr.

Recessional

"Coronation March" Giocomo Meyerbeer Rev. George Harris (1:00 ceremony)

Pastor, Our Lady Queen of the Universe, San Benito Vicar General, Catholic Diocese of Brownsville

Rev. Eduardo Ortiz (6:00 ceremony)

Vicar for Youth and Young Adults Catholic Diocese of Brownsville

Juliet V. García, Ph.D.

President

The University of Texas at Brownsville & Texas Southmost College

Miguel Angel Méndez, J.D.

Adelbert H. Sweet Professor of Law

Stanford University

Raymond J. Rodrigues, Ph.D.

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs The University of Texas at Brownsville & Texas Southmost College

Juliet V. García

Raymond J. Rodrigues

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Tony Villarreal

Chair, UTB/TSC Alumni Association

Joe Alvear

Bachelor of Arts in Music degree student
The University of Texas at Brownsville & Texas Southmost College

Traditions are important to us as they remind us of what we value, what we hold dear, and what we build from. We have a long history of traditions at UTB/TSC. Our heritage dictates that the traditions set out by our founders continue to serve for the greater good.

Dr. Juliet V. García

President

MACE

he mace is an academic tradition that started out as a formidable weapon of warfare but is now a ceremonial staff used as a symbol of authority. Originally, the mace was a long-handled club weighted at the end, used primarily by knights during the middle ages to crush the armor of opponents. Royal bodyguards often carried maces to protect their monarch in processions. By the 14th century, maces had become more ceremonial in use and were decorated with jewels and precious metals, losing their war-club appearance. They were no longer used as weapons after the 16th century.

The ceremonial mace is usually three or four feet long. In the sessions of the British House of Commons, the mace is placed on the treasury table. In the U.S. House of Representatives, it is placed to the right of the speaker.

the speaker.

A mace is often carried in ecclesiastical processions, particularly in English-speaking countries, and frequently before magistrates in Great Britain. The mace has become one of the major accessories at commencement ceremonies for colleges and universities.

At The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College, the mace bears the UTB seal on one side and the TSC seal on the other. It is carried by the Faculty Marshal who is the most senior faculty member.

The UTB/TSC mace is made from wood which is part of one of the original support beams uncovered during the renovation of Gorgas Hall.

Built in 1868, Gorgas Hall was once the post hospital of historic Fort Brown. It was named in honor of First Lieutenant William Crawford Gorgas, whose study led to the conquering of yellow fever at Fort Brown.

The renovated Gorgas Hall maintains the distinctiveness of its historical era and is the site of the offices of the President and other administrative departments.

COLLEGE & SCHOOL BANNERS

eraldic banners, representing the colleges and schools, are a tradition borrowed from the rich heritage of heraldry. Heraldry is a hereditary system of personal recognition employing symbols (called charges) upon a shield developed among the nobles of early Christendom. These symbols were at first personal but later took on a hereditary character so that, in time, certain combinations of forms became associated with particular families.

Heraldic symbols (also called coats of arms, or arms) granted by a prince were considered to be of the highest authority and took precedence over those assumed by a man's own authority. By the 14th century there had been a transition from the assumption of arms to that of control of arms by rulers.

By the 15th century, corporations (towns and cities, colleges, universities and city companies) found it necessary to possess identifying heraldic symbols (or arms). In consequences, 15th century English kings of arms were frequently granting arms to city companies. This practice has continued to the present time

Although arms-granting institutions still exist, heraldic symbols are now commonly formulated by institutions and individuals to suit their preferences and needs.

The banner of the College of Liberal Arts features a gryphon passant, symbolizing the guarding of a horde of treasure, in this case the treasure of knowledge which the College is committed to protect and dispense. The blue bend symbolizes truth, which the College both challenges and defends. This banner contains colors which are not the traditional colors of heraldry: orange brown and deep ochre. These earth colors were chosen to symbolize the willingness of scholars to break from the traditions of the past as a way to build our future.

The banner of the College of Science, Mathematics, and Technology features a scallop or venera at the base, symbolizing the travels to inner and outer worlds scientists must undertake so that they too learn and contribute more to our knowledge of the



College of Liberal Arts



College of Science, Mathematics & Technology



Business





we see the crossed squares upon the titled quadrant, symbolizing the technologies, both basic and advanced, that humanity must use to build its future. And the color blue dominates all, symbolic of the College commitment to truth and loyalty to its disciplines.

The banner of the School of Business

world. In the upper portion of the banner

The banner of the School of Business features a Phoenix displayed, symbolizing the resurrection or the birth of the new enterprise. It is colored gold, representing the evaluation of the mind and generosity to humanity. The dominant green bars in pale represent growth and fertility, the hope that life may be made better by the enterprise of humans working for humans.

The banner of the School of Education features the fleur de lys, the flower of the lily or iris, symbolic of royalty throughout the ages, but, in the case of the School, representative of that most royal of callings, teaching. The three torches represent the three levels of education – the child, the adolescent, and the adult. Their silver colors represent the sincerity that all teachers must have and the peace that knowledge brings.

The banner for the School of Health Sciences features both a trifoliated Greek cross and a Roman cross. The cross as a basic design motif has many meanings in

many cultures. The Greek cross symbolizes the four elements of creation: air, earth, fire, and water, thus symbolizing life. The Roman cross carries the additional symbolism of faith and the ability to bestow a blessing. While the black field typically symbolizes death, the cross of life and of faith rise above it, as the health sciences must.

UTB/TSC extends its appreciation for the dedicated efforts and artistic talents of Nancy Sclight, Fine Arts Associate Professor, in the design of the banners. Ms. Sclight found color combinations that went well together and researched heraldic history to locate traditional heraldic symbols that represent the missions of the colleges and schools.

The heraldic banners were introduced at the first UTB/TSC Commencement ceremony in May of 1992.

ACADEMIC REGALIA

ne of the oldest academic traditions is the wearing of academic regalia. Academic institutions throughout the world have created a wide variety of customs including distinctive dress, color and ceremony to indicate the

accomplishments of scholars. The wearing of regalia dates from the Middle Ages, when the gowns had the practical purpose of keeping scholars warm in cold and drafty buildings. English traditions originating at Oxford and Cambridge led to the development of American academic regalia

By the 20th century, institutions of higher learning in the United States had adopted a well-defined code of academic costume, which now includes the identification of different academic degrees by distinctive gowns, hoods and colors.

For instance, the baccalaureate gown is worn closed and is identified by long, pointed sleeves. Doctoral gowns may be worn open, and they are distinguished by velvet panels around the neck and down the front of the

gown. Three horizontal black velvet bars, or the color representing the wearer's degree, also mark the doctorate.

In America, the hood is the most colorful feature of the academic regalia. The bachelor's hood, when worn, is comparatively short; the master's, a bit longer; and the doctor's, at four feet, reaches far down the back.

The outside of the hood is black and bordered with a 2-, 3-, or 5-inch band of color representing the degree received.



COLORS USED IN THE ACADEMIC REGALIA FOR MASTER'S DEGREES AT UTB/TSC

White:

Master of Arts, Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies

Drab:

Master of Business Administration

Light Blue:

Master of Education

Gold:

Master of Science; Master of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies

ALMA MATER

he graduating Class of 1994 was the first to sing the alma mater. "Hail the Orange and White" made its debut at the first visit to the UTB/TSC campus by a member of The University of Texas Board of Regents in 1993 and has now become another tradition of our college and our university. The alma mater was written by John C. Hunter, a TSC alumnus.

"HAIL THE ORANGE & WHITE"

Hail the Mighty Scorpion ... Hail the Orange and White See the Sons of Texas Rise, Loyal to the Fight

Beneath the Stars of Texas, Thy Daughters Proudly Join All for One and One for All, Together We'll Not Fall

Hail the Mighty Scorpion ... Hail the Orange and White The Fairest of South Texas through Her Days and All Her Nights

> Alma Maters, Thee We'll Honor, Hail TSC Forever Crowned with Praise and Glory, Hail UTB

All Will Look to Thee in Awe, No Matter Where We Roam And Not Forget South Texas Will Always Be Our Home.



John C. Hunter Jr.

Lyricist

Joe Alvear

Vocalist

"When I began to write the song, I looked back to my years as a student at TSC.

I wanted to draw on my experiences and bring a sense of pride that students feel.

"I took everything that is the university and the college and put it into a poem.

I feel proud knowing that my work will become part of the college
and the university and will continue past my lifetime."

- John C. Hunter Jr.

A lyricist and partner in his own music production company, John C. Hunter, Jr. has also written musical compositions for four Gorgas Science Foundation-sponsored nature films. After leaving TSC, Hunter graduated from the Berklee College of Music in Boston and is widely regarded to his extensive work in composing musical scores for commercials and films.

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COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

MIGUEL ANGEL MÉNDEZ

Adelbert H. Sweet Professor of Law, Stanford University Law School

Miguel Angel Méndez grew up in Matamoros and Brownsville, the son of a Mexican attorney, dreaming of following in his father's footsteps. A distinguished attorney whose 30-year career has placed him in the crucible of civil rights debate, Mr. Méndez teaches criminal law, evidence and trial advocacy as the Adelbert H. Sweet Professor of Law at the Law



School at prestigious Stanford University.

Texas Southmost College, Mr.Méndez says, was the springboard to his study of law and played a role in leading him to the specialties upon which he lectures and writes with such distinction today.

Born Christmas Day in 1942, Mr. Méndez is one of four children born to Miguel Angel and Isura Longoria Méndez. "I knew I was going to be a lawyer because my father was a lawyer," said Mr. Méndez. "My father died when I was in the eighth grade and it was one of the crucial events of my life."

In his office at the Law School, hangs his father's law degree. Another huge influence in Miguel's life is his mother. He rarely makes a decision without consulting her.

Following his graduation from Brownsville High School in 1961 and with his excellent academic record, Mr. Méndez could have gone anywhere to college, but family commitments kept him close to home.

At TSC, Mr. Méndez majored in pre law and excelled academically. He was elected Freshman Class President and served as editor of the college newspaper. He earned membership to Phi Theta Kappa, the honor society. When he graduated from TSC in 1963 with his Associate in Arts degree, he was second in his class.

He credits his TSC professors for providing him with an excellent start. "I'm very proud of attending TSC. I feel like I got a good education there, with a lot of individualized attention. I'm grateful to the teachers who helped me along the way."

TSC professors also encouraged him in his plans to study law and urged him to pursue an east coast education, nearer the country's seat of government. And he took their advice.

They also helped him make important contacts when he moved to Washington D.C. "That kind of individual counseling is very rare anywhere, and I got that kind of attention from the faculty at TSC. It was invaluable."

In 1965, Mr. Méndez earned his A.B. degree from George Washington University. Three years later, he was awarded his doctor of jurisprudence from The National Law Center at George Washington University. Graduating in the top ten percent of his class, Miguel was selected to the Order of the Coif.

Over the years, as an aide to the U.S. Senate, Mr. Méndez's work has involved him in many important public policy debates, such as those involving the proposed Equal Rights Amendment and public school desegregation. An amendment he drafted for Senator Allen Cranston would have given the amendment teeth by granting Congress the power to enact legislation banning discrimination against women.

The California Assembly has recognized Mr. Méndez, who has lectured on the need to protect affirmative action and other civil rights remedies, for his contributions to the Latino community and to his students.

Méndez joined the Stanford Law School faculty in 1977. He was the first Latino to be hired at the law school at Stanford and the first Latino to be promoted. He is the only Latino on the faculty of the top three law schools in the country: Harvard, Yale and Stanford. He has also taught at Santa Clara University Law School, and has worked as a public defender, as deputy director of California Rural Legal Assistance, and as a staff attorney to the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund.

Named by Hispanic magazine as one of the 100 Most Influential Latinos, Mr. Méndez lives in San Carlos, California and is a devoted father to his two daughters, Gabriela and Arabela.

SCHOLASTIC HONOR GRADUATES

1:00 p.m. Ceremony

College of Liberal Arts

College of Science, Mathematics and Technology

6:00 p.m. Ceremony

School of Business School of Education School of Health Sciences

SUMMA CUM LAUDE

Juana Maria Granado Cristina Villanueva

SUMMA CUM LAUDE

Christina Luna

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Isela Salinas
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Natalia H. Zapata

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Maria Alaniz Haitham Alhaddad Chad E. Bender Maria Carmen Caballero Ileana Delgado Rodrigo Dorantes Anna Rosa Gonzalez Pedro Hinojosa Rocio Martinez Delia Villarreal

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¹ Alpha Chi

² Kappa Delta Pi

³ Phi Alpha Theta

¹ Phi Theta Kappa

⁵ Sigma Delta Pi ⁶ Who's Who Co-Educational Society for Juniors and Seniors in Top 10% of their class

International Honor Society for Education Students with 3.5 GPA or higher International Honor Society for History Students with academic achievements

National Honor Society for Junior College Students

National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society for Spanish Majors and Minors with 3.0 GPA or higher

Who's Who Among Students in Universities and Colleges Who's Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges

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ALMA MATER

he graduating Class of 1994 was the first to sing the alma mater. "Hail the Orange and White" made its debut at the first visit to the UTB/TSC campus by The University of Texas Board of Regents in 1993. Our alma mater has now become another tradition of our college and our university. The alma mater was written by John C. Hunter, a TSC alumnus.

"HAIL THE ORANGE & WHITE"

Hail the Mighty Scorpion ... Hail the Orange and White See the Sons of Texas Rise, Loyal to the Fight

Beneath the Stars of Texas, Thy Daughters Proudly Join All for One and One for All, Together We'll Not Fall

Hail the Mighty Scorpion ... Hail the Orange and White The Fairest of South Texas through Her Days and All Her Nights

> Alma Maters, Thee We'll Honor, Hail TSC Forever Crowned with Praise and Glory, Hail UTB

All Will Look to Thee in Awe, No Matter Where We Roam And Not Forget South Texas Will Always Be Our Home.

John C. Hunter Jr.

Lyricist

Joe Alvear

Vocalist



Alumni, perhaps better than any group, represent UTB/TSC's most valuable asset. Graduates, former students and friends are invited to join the UTB/TSC Alumni Association.

Sign up for membership by calling 983-7359.