WELCOME

ACADEMIC PROCESSION
School of Nursing administrators, School of Nursing faculty, candidates for the degree Bachelor of Science in Nursing, candidates for the degree Master of Science in Nursing, candidates for Post-Master's Certificate Nurse Practitioner, candidates for the degree Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing Practice and candidates for the degree Doctor of Philosophy

MISTRESS OF CEREMONY
Gerrie Meyer, Ph.D., RN, CNE, CNL
Professor

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES
Presented by:
Karen M. Cuvar, Ph.D., RN, CNE
Associate Professor of Nursing

CANDIDATES FOR BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING DEGREE
CANDIDATES FOR MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING DEGREE
CANDIDATES FOR MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING DEGREE, ACCELERATED
CANDIDATES FOR MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING DEGREE, CLINICAL NURSE LEADER

CANDIDATES FOR POST-MASTER CERTIFICATE FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER
CANDIDATES FOR THE DOCTORATE OF NURSING PRACTICE
CANDIDATES FOR DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN NURSING

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

FACULTY EXCELLENCE AWARD
Joanne L. Thanavaro, DNP, APRN, AGNP-CNP-BC, AGACNP-BC, DCC, FAANP
Associate Dean, Graduate Nursing Education, Professor of Nursing

STUDENT AWARDS
Gerrie Meyer, Ph.D., RN, CNE, CNL
Professor

OTHER PRESENTATIONS

RECOGNITION OF NOMINEES FOR AND RECIPIENTS OF AWARDS AND HONORS
Gerrie Meyer, Ph.D., RN, CNE, CNL
Professor

INVOCATION
David Suwalsky, S.J.
Vice President for Mission and Identity

WELCOME AND REMARKS
Danny G. Willis, DNS, RN, PMHCNS-BC, CNE, FAAN
Dean, School of Nursing

PRECOMMENCEMENT SPEAKER
Jeremy Fotheringham, RN, MHSA, JD

BENEDICTION
David Suwalsky, S.J.
Vice President of Mission and Identity

THE ACADEMIC COSTUME AND THE MEANING OF THE HOOD
The colorful attire worn by the graduates, the faculty and officers of the University on the occasion of Commencement Exercises has historic roots in the distant medieval past. Dressed as they are in cap and gown, the graduates and their professors form a part of a long tradition which dates back to Paris and Bologna, to Oxford and Cambridge.

The precise origins of the several parts of the academic garb are not easy to discover. Since the medie-val students enjoyed the status of clerics during their university years, however, one is hardly 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 the friar or priest, and the hood, of the monk’s or friar’s cowl. The mortar-board of today, the end product of a curious evolution, recalls the skull cap of days when tonsured heads needed protection against drafts of medieval classrooms.

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

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 its special hood which varies in length and, in the case of the doctor’s hood, also in pattern.

The color or colors with which the hood is lined are those of the college or university which granted the wearer’s degree. For example, Saint Louis University is known by the blue chevron on the field of white. The colored velvet binding or edging of the hood, in different widths for bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees, is the key to the discipline in which the degree was earned. The color signifying nursing is apricot.
The tradition of the nursing pin dates back to 1880. The school of nursing that initiated this tradition was Bellevue Hospital School of Nursing in New York. The Saint Louis University School of Nursing pin, which dates back to 1928, expresses by its symbolism the spirit and objectives of the School. The upper left section of the shield displays a representation of what was the seal of the Sisters of Saint Mary (now the Franciscan Sisters of Mary) under whose direction the School of Nursing was first conducted as a University school for Sisters and lay nurses (1928). The seal of the Sisters of Saint Mary exhibited as its central feature a large capital “M” representing the name of Mary. The upper arms of the letter “M” enclose a heart, symbolic of Christ and His love. This compound symbol rests in the angle made by two crossed arms, one representing Christ, and the other, Saint Francis, whose spirit the Sisters of Saint Mary adopted.

In the lower right section of the shield is the seal of Saint Louis University. A modified American Eagle, taken from the Great Seal of the United States, symbolizes the presence of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) in the United States. The large shield on the breast of the eagle exhibits the letters HIS (Iota, Eta, Sigma), the first three letters of the Greek name for Jesus and the symbol of the Society of Jesus. In the right talon, the eagle holds a cross, signifying the primary reason the Jesuits came to America—to teach Christianity. In the left talon, the eagle holds a laurel branch or palm, signifying the Jesuits’ secondary purpose for coming to America—to teach liberal arts. Around the eagle, there are three fleur-de-lis, the symbol of France and that of King Louis IX, the saint after whom the City of St. Louis and the University are named.

In the upper right small triangular field is the caduceus, which is universally accepted as the symbol of the medical profession. Traditionally, it is the wand of the god Mercury who was regarded by the Romans, the Greeks, and the nations of the Roman period as the god of healing or health. It reflects two serpents intertwined around a central staff. From the head of the staff springs a pair of outstretched wings. A capitol “N” overlying the caduceus represents Nursing.

In the lower left of the shield, there is a lamp of science and of truth. Florence Nightingale is represented traditionally as carrying such a Roman lamp and is referred to as the “Lady with the Lamp.” For this reason, a lamp has been adopted as a symbol of nursing. The pin itself is shaped as a defensive shield with a very rigorous outline around the edges to symbolize the vigor and strength of the School. The border in the original design, though not in the pin, is blue enamel and the field of the shield is white. The two colors, blue and white, are the colors of the University. The blue signifies the Jesuits’ devotion to the Blessed Mother Mary, and the white, the color of the lilies of France.