

From the University of Mississippi Medical Center Division of Public Affairs

IN LARGEST COMMENCEMENT EVER, UMMC CONFERS 846 DEGREES TO HEALTH-CARE AND SCIENCE PROFESSIONALS

Media contact: Jack Mazurak, (601) 984-1970 or jmazurak@umc.edu.

For commencement photos, [click here](#). For portraits of graduates, see instructions below. For a complete list of graduates, including their hometown newspapers, please see attached Excel sheet or [click here](#).

JACKSON, Miss. – A record 846 physicians, dentists, nurses, allied health professionals and graduate students in the health sciences were awarded degrees during the University of Mississippi Medical Center's 58th Commencement, held May 23 at the Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson.

University of Mississippi Chancellor Dan Jones and Dr. James Keeton, UMMC vice chancellor for health affairs and dean of the School of Medicine, presided over the ceremony in which the following degrees were conferred:

* In the School of Medicine, 130 graduates received the Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) degree.

* In the School of Dentistry, 36 graduates earned the Doctor of Dental Medicine (D.M.D.) degree.

* In the School of Nursing, 323 graduates received degrees – the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.) degree was awarded to 256 graduates, 61 earned the Master of Science in Nursing (M.S.N.) degree, and six earned the Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.) degree.

* In the School of Health Related Professions, 287 graduates received degrees - the Doctorate in Physical Therapy (D.P.T.) was awarded to 60 graduates, the Master's in Occupational Therapy (M.O.T.) was awarded to 38 graduates, the Master of Science (M.S.) degree was awarded to 31 graduates in health sciences, and two graduates in health informatics and information management. The Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree was awarded to 59 in radiologic sciences, 27 in dental hygiene, 28 in medical laboratory science, 33 in health sciences, seven in cytotechnology, and two in health informatics and information management.

*In the School of Graduate Studies in the Health Sciences, 24 graduates were presented the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree, and 46 received the Master of Science (M.S.) degree.

"It's a thrilling moment to see a person begin a new chapter as a health-care professional," Keeton told the graduates, reminding them they're at only the beginning of their learning process.

Said Jones: "It's good to know that there's a new generation ... that we can now look to for care. You share a common legacy with all who have gone before you: a mark of quality."

Thousands cheered as jubilant graduates crossed the stage to receive their diplomas. "Go, mama!" one audience member yelled. Others were just as passionate. "Alleluia! Thank you, Jesus!" screamed another.

The five students who received top honors were:

*Clara Maria Gomez-Sanchez of Madison, who received the Waller S. Leathers Award for the medical student with the highest academic average for four years;

*Rebecca Lynsey Cumberland of Florence, who received the Wallace V. Mann Award for the dental student with the highest academic average for four years;

*Brennan Morris Williams of Brandon, who received the Christine L. Oglevee Memorial Award as the outstanding School of Nursing baccalaureate graduate;

*Mindy Reed Lafayette of Saltillo, who received the Richard N. Graves Award given to the School of Nursing advanced-standing student deemed most outstanding in the areas of academic and clinical performance;

*Katie Summers Fondren of Sidon, who received the Dr. Virginia Stansel Tolbert Award for the highest academic average in the School of Health Related Professions; and

*Samuel Olusegun Adeosun of Ridgeland, who received the Charles Randall-Trustmark Award for outstanding research achievement in the School of Graduate Studies.

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Graduates whose portraits are available can be downloaded [here](#). You must sort the list of graduates alphabetically. To do so, see attached photo.

For more news stories from the University of Mississippi Medical Center, click [here](#).

Please forward this message to colleagues who might be interested. If you wish to be removed from this list or know of a colleague to add, send an e-mail message to: jmazurak@umc.edu.

The University of Mississippi Medical Center, located in Jackson, is the state's only academic medical center. UMMC encompasses five health science schools, including medicine, nursing, health related professions, dentistry and graduate studies, as well as the site where University of Mississippi pharmacy students do their clinical training. The Medical Center's health-care enterprise includes five hospitals and University Physicians, the faculty group practice. The Medical Center's threefold mission is to educate tomorrow's health-care professionals, conduct innovative research to improve human health, and to provide the highest quality care available to the state's population. A major goal of the Medical Center is the improvement of the health of Mississippians and the elimination of health disparities. For more information, contact the Division of Public Affairs at (601) 984-1100 or click [here](#).