



COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

Arizona School of Health Sciences

Class of 2020

August 7, 2020

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS 1995-2020





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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Class of 2020 graduates, family, friends, and guests,

Welcome to Arizona School of Health Sciences' 2020 graduation ceremony. Today's graduates earned their degrees through endless hours of challenging study, critical assessment, and a variety of clinic experiences.

On behalf of the University's Board of Trustees, faculty, and staff, congratulations to each and every graduate on successfully achieving this life-changing milestone. While we celebrate your accomplishments through a virtual commencement this year, there is nothing virtual about the pride and admiration

A.T. Still University, your families, and friends have for you. Ten months ago, no one heard of COVID-19, now it is almost all we hear about. Graduates, thank you for your perseverance, understanding, and compassion during the past eight months. It would have been easy to give up, blame others, and complain. Instead, you made history. You rose above the distractions, supported others, volunteered, and completed the remainder of your educational requirements. Our communities, nation, and world thank you and humbly welcome your positive perspective, knowledge, and skills.

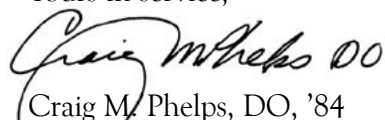
Founded in 1892 by Andrew Taylor Still, DO, as the American School of Osteopathy in Kirksville, Missouri, ATSU has grown to become a leading comprehensive health professions university with an additional residential campus in Mesa, Arizona. Dr. Still's influence on healthcare and health professions education continues nationally and internationally.

Dr. Still sought to instill in students an appreciation for the autonomic nervous system's influence on disease prevention and healing. Dr. Still believed our best chance for health and wellness required restoring the body's structure and function using medications and surgery only when absolutely needed. Today, this seems essential and intuitive; however, in the late 1800s and early 1900s, his beliefs were met with disbelief and skepticism. Thankfully, Dr. Still's philosophy continues as a foundational premise for all ATSU graduates to build upon throughout their careers.

Today, you will hear from leaders in health delivery and education, including Arizona School of Health Sciences Dean Ann Lee Burch, PT, EdD, MS, MPH; ATSU Senior Vice President–Academic Affairs Norman Gevitz, PhD; and Gary M. Wiltz, MD, chair of ATSU's Board of Trustees and CEO of Teche Action Clinic in southwest Louisiana. ATSU is grateful for their contributions.

Once again, congratulations graduates, and thank you, family members, friends, and guests, for your support.

Yours in service,


Craig M. Phelps, DO, '84
President, A.T. Still University of Health Sciences

DEAN'S MESSAGE



Today I stand with the Arizona School of Health Science-Physician Assistant Studies faculty and staff in celebration of you, Class of 2020, as together we celebrate your accomplishments.

There is a reason that all over the country, in small towns and cities, people are standing in their doorways to applaud healthcare workers who are at the forefront of the COVID-19 fight within our hospitals, community health centers, skilled nursing facilities, emergency rooms, and urgent care units. You are entering a profession that serves and cares for individuals and communities in the best of times and in the worst of times.

We celebrate your graduation from A.T. Still University today as you exemplify all that we believe in—whole person healthcare, commitment to the underserved, educational excellence, and community.

Congratulations, class of 2020!

Ann Lee Burch PT, EdD, MS, MPH

Ann Lee Burch, PT, EdD, MS, MPH
Dean and Associate Professor
Arizona School of Health Sciences

A.T. STILL UNIVERSITY'S MISSION

A.T. Still University of Health Sciences serves as a learning-centered university dedicated to preparing highly competent professionals through innovative academic programs with a commitment to continue its osteopathic heritage and focus on whole person healthcare, scholarship, community health, interprofessional education, diversity, and underserved populations.

A.T. STILL UNIVERSITY'S HISTORY

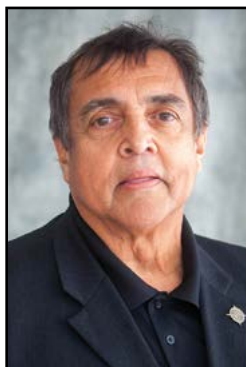
A.T. Still University of Health Sciences, established by Andrew Taylor Still, DO, in 1892, began as the founding college of osteopathic medicine. ATSU has grown from a single-discipline school on one campus in Kirksville, Missouri, to a multidiscipline health sciences university with six schools offering 23 health profession degrees on campuses in Kirksville, Missouri; Mesa, Arizona; and online.

ATSU instills within students the compassion, experience, and knowledge required to address the whole person and shape healthcare in communities where needs are greatest. Inspired to influence whole person healthcare, ATSU graduates improve individual and community health while leading with a selfless passion.



COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY

Gary M. Wiltz, MD



Gary M. Wiltz, MD, chair of A.T. Still University of Health Sciences' Board of Trustees, is CEO of Teche Action Clinic, a network of 13 federally qualified community health centers (FQHCs) in southwest Louisiana. He was appointed CEO in May 2003 after serving as medical director since his arrival at Teche Action Clinic in 1982, as part of an obligated service to the National Health Service Corps (NHSC).

A native of New Orleans, Dr. Wiltz received his medical education at Tulane University School of Medicine and became a board-certified internist. He started his career at Teche Action Clinic, initially intending to fulfill his three-year obligation to NHSC and then return to his hometown to complete a nephrology fellowship at Tulane. However, his three-year NHSC commitment turned into a lifetime of service to people in the city of Franklin and state of Louisiana.

When Dr. Wiltz arrived at Teche Action Clinic, he inherited a clinic in a tenuous position. It had been without a doctor for six months and was at risk of being defunded and closed. Unless Teche Action Clinic turned its operations around, the seasonal migrant sugar cane workers, which the clinic was funded to take care of, would be forced to seek care 50-100 miles away. Dr. Wiltz realized this clinic and serving the underserved was his divine calling. Over the next 34 years, he helped to build what has been acknowledged as one of the nation's premiere FQHCs. Teche Action Clinic has proudly grown from a staff of eight and an operating budget of \$100,000 to employing 200 people with an operating budget of \$20 million. Currently, the clinic serves more than 25,000 patients at 13 sites with one mobile unit.

In addition to his role at Teche Action Clinic, Dr. Wiltz serves as an assistant clinical professor of internal medicine at Tulane and Louisiana State University Schools of Medicine. He joined ATSU's Board of Trustees in 2013 and was appointed board chair in 2018. Dr. Wiltz is past chair of the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC), which represents more than 9,000 clinics serving 28 million people nationwide. He has served as chair of the Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) of Louisiana and president of the Southwest AHEC; chair of the Louisiana Primary Care Association; and board member and chair of the National Advisory Council for NHSC. He also served on Health Care Transition Teams of former Louisiana Govs. Mike Foster and Kathleen Blanco and served as co-chair of the Health Care Transition Team of Gov. John Bel Edwards.

Among his many honors, Dr. Wiltz received NACHC's 2018 John Gilbert Award, which recognizes people who have demonstrated a high level of excellence in the community healthcare field; was named Medical Director of the Year 1994-95 by the Louisiana Primary Care Association; and was selected as one of 10 national recipients of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's prestigious Community Health Leadership Award in 1996.

PRESIDENT'S MEDALLION DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

The President's Medallion Distinguished Service Award recognizes a community member for outstanding service and support to A.T. Still University of Health Sciences. Bestowed solely at the discretion of the University president, this award is ATSU's only overarching award and is given to individuals who have positively impacted programs, students, faculty, and staff.

The President's Medallion serves as a sign of vested authority in the University's president. Its origin dates to the medallions worn by bishops and abbots as an official insignia of their defense of truth and dogma. Today's American universities are derived from monastic and cathedral schools of Europe. The medallion design features the University seal with the perimeter of the medallion displaying the University's name and date of its founding, 1892. The center shows a replica of the statue of Dr. A.T. Still, founder of the first osteopathic medical school.

2020 President's Medallion Distinguished Service Award Recipient

Bonnie Bowles

*For outstanding service to healthcare, the osteopathic profession, A.T. Still University,
and Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine*

Bonnie Bowles served the Missouri Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons (MAOPS) for 28 years. Originally joining MAOPS as a meeting planner, she was promoted to associate executive director before becoming executive director. After her retirement, she served three additional years as director of MAOPS' government relations.

Throughout her career with MAOPS, Bowles was committed to osteopathic medicine's legislative and regulatory advocacy efforts. Bowles spent much of her time educating politicians and the public about osteopathic medicine. She traveled to colleges and residency programs across the state to provide information to students and residents about their professional association and advocacy efforts provided on their behalf. She initiated the DOc-A-Day program, where students and physicians visit the Capitol to educate legislators on healthcare issues and advocate for the osteopathic profession. Her efforts led to Missouri becoming the first state to pass legislation to require hospitals and other institutions to recognize osteopathic physicians' degree and licensure.

During her years as executive director of MAOPS, she served as president of the Association of Osteopathic State Executive Directors and was the longest-serving board member of Missouri Patient Care Review Foundation. Her dedication to MAOPS earned her the organization's Distinguished Service Award in 2011.

Past Recipients

- | | |
|------|---|
| 2019 | Thomas Curtin, MD
National Association of Community Health Centers |
| 2018 | Irvin Silverstein, DDS, MEd |

ORDER OF CEREMONY

Processional	“Pomp and Circumstance, Op. 39” by Sir Edward Elgar
Greeting	Norman Gevitz, PhD Senior Vice President–Academic Affairs A.T. Still University of Health Sciences
Commencement Blessing	George Blue Spruce, DDS, MPH Assistant Dean and Assistant Professor Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health
“God Bless America”	Mai-Ly Duong, DMD, MPH, MEd, '12 Associate Professor Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health
Dean’s Welcome and Presentation of Commencement Speaker	Ann Lee Burch, PT, EdD, MS, MPH Dean and Associate Professor
Board of Trustees Welcome and Commencement Address	Gary M. Wiltz, MD Chair, Board of Trustees A.T. Still University of Health Sciences
Presentation of Candidates for Degree Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies	Ann Lee Burch, PT, EdD, MS, MPH
Conferring of Degree	Craig M. Phelps, DO, '84 President A.T. Still University of Health Sciences
President’s Closing Remarks	Craig M. Phelps, DO
Recessional	“Summon the Heroes” by John Williams

Student participation in the commencement ceremony does not necessarily indicate completion of a degree program. The student must meet all University requirements before a degree is conferred.

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES

Physician assistants are nationally certified healthcare professionals and state-licensed medical professionals. Physician assistants practice medicine on healthcare teams with physicians and other providers. Physician assistants conduct physical exams, diagnose and treat illnesses and injuries, order and interpret tests, counsel on preventive healthcare, assist in surgery, and prescribe medications. Physician assistants' practice may include education, research, and administrative services.

Candidates for Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies

Shukufa Abdul Wahab	Krista Kay Crump
Nikki Acuff	Nickolas De Leon
Morgan L. Anderson	Kristen Dennehy
Nadine Apostu	Victoria Engle
Athena Arbuckle	Jessica C. Fisher
Megan Barber	Christine Fleming
Michelle Jeanette Delilla Bartzen	Amanda L. Goodrich
Sydney Berger	Jasmyn Hardaway
Destinee Bowden	Cassandra Henderson
Kerry Eileen Brown	Lacey June Hook
Danielle Leigh Bruno	Ha Huynh
Raven S. Burrell	Hilliary Johnson
Matthew Yates Burton	Kristen Lee
Gena Byrd-Turner	Haymee Verenice Lucio
Shelley Campbell	Amber Gabrielle Marquette
Amberly M. Cancino	Samantha Ann Loera Marquez
Megan Cantwell	Colleen Chloe McConnell
Mikey Chai	Jason D. Melton
Lisa Chau	Mark W. Nelms
Jessica Thuy Linh Chu	Alyssa G. Nelson
Jessica Clary	Kaylee Nicole Newsome
Erin Colvard	Kassandra Nunez

Candidates for Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies, continued

Colin O'Brochta

Jennifer L. Otis

Hannah Owen

Sarah Ann Pakeltis

Ji Ah Park

Taylor Alysa Pottratz

Sydney Querfeld

Daniel Ramaekers

Junior Rivera

Patricia M. Rus

Sylvia M. Seaton

Wesley Semonchuk

Caitlin Nicole Slaughter

Elaine Lynette Smith

Jordon E. Stephens

Sarianne Stradling

Zoe Swett

Mai T. Thai

Kirstin Tymkew

Alex K. Wamble

Jessica Marieb Woolgar

Shalene C. Yazzie

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FASMS, '08

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Reid Downey

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Stanley E. Grogg, DO, FACOP, FAAP, '71

Geoffrey W. Hoffa, DHSc, '14, MS, PA-C, '00,
DFAAPA

Herb Kuhn

Michelle Mayo, PhD

Paulina Vazquez Morris, JD, MBA, MHSA

Isaac R. Navarro, DMD, MPH, '08

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University Planning and Strategic Initiatives

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Dean, Missouri School of Dentistry & Oral Health

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Dean, School of Osteopathic Medicine in Arizona

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Dean, Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health

Margaret Wilson, DO, '82
Dean, Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine

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Dean and Associate Professor

Faculty Marshal

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Associate Professor, Physical Therapy

Marshal

Michelle DiBaise, DHSc, PA-C, DFAAPA
Professor and Chair, Physician Assistant Studies

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(in alphabetical order)

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ACADEMIC REGALIA

The origins of academic regalia date back to the start of higher education in the 12th century. Today, master's- and doctorate-level graduates are presented with hoods during the commencement ceremony. The hood serves as the most symbolic part of the academic regalia representing the graduate's level of degree, field of discipline, and institution. The master's hood is 3 feet, 6 inches long and has a 3-inch-wide velvet trim. The doctorate hood is longer at 4 feet in length and has a 5-inch-wide velvet trim. The color of the velvet trim declares the major field of learning. Colors lining the hood are visible from the back and identify the university granting the degree.

ATSU hood lining Light blue

Doctorate Hood trim

Athletic Training Kelly green
Audiology Spruce green
Dental Medicine Lilac
Education Light blue
Health Administration Peacock blue
Health Education Light blue
Health Sciences Sage green
Medical Science Kelly green
Occupational Therapy Kelly green
Osteopathic Medicine Kelly green
Physical Therapy Teal

Master's Hood trim

Athletic Training Kelly green
Biomedical Sciences Gold
Health Administration Peacock blue
Kinesiology Science gold
Occupational Therapy Kelly green
Orthodontics Lilac
Physician Assistant Kelly green
Public Health Salmon pink

*“I am simply trying to teach you what you are;
to get you to realize your right to health,
and when you see the cures wrought here,
after all other means have failed,
you can but know that the foundation
of my work is laid on Nature’s rock.”*

A.T. STILL, DO

“In conclusion, I want to say that I extend my love to all persons who by word or act have encouraged the unfolding of the science of osteopathy I thank you one and all from the inner depths of my soul and I wish each of you Godspeed.”

A.T. STILL, DO, 1910

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FIRST IN WHOLE PERSON HEALTHCARE