

USC Mrs. T.H. Chan
Division of Occupational Science
and Occupational Therapy

2025
Commencement
Ceremony

May 16, 2025 at 4:30 in the afternoon

Epstein Family Plaza
USC University Park Campus
Los Angeles



COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM

PROCESSIONAL

Pomp and Circumstance by Elgar

OPENING REMARKS

Grace Baranek PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA
Associate Dean, Chair and Mrs. T.H. Chan Professor of
Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Swati Shah OTR/L
Director and Founder of Ascend Rehab Services, Inc.

AWARD PRESENTATIONS

Grace Baranek PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES AND GRADUATE CERTIFICATES

Faculty Directors

CLOSING REMARKS

Grace Baranek PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA

RECESSIONAL

Fight on! by The USC Marching Band

RECEPTION

Lawn South of Bridge Hall (see map)

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER



Swati Shah OTR/L

Director and Founder of Ascend Rehab Services, Inc.

Swati Shah is the director and founder of Ascend Rehab Services, Inc. a pediatric-focused rehabilitation company operating five clinical sites across the Bay Area in Northern California. She founded Ascend Rehab Services literally in her garage, and through her entrepreneurial vision built a company that today employs more than 200 occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists and physical therapists. They provide home-based, clinic-based and school-based therapies, preschool-based group therapies and early intervention services. Combined, Ascend Rehab Services treats more than 6,000 children and their families each year.

AWARDS

Penelope Louise Richardson Award

In memory of Penny Richardson, this award is presented to the doctoral student who demonstrates outstanding potential in fulfilling the future role of a faculty member. The recipient possesses qualities inherent to an academic future dedicated toward lifelong learning, diversity, student-centeredness, and a strong commitment to teaching.

Marinthea Richter

Elizabeth June Yerxa Award

In honor of Elizabeth June Yerxa, former chair of the USC Department of Occupational Therapy, this award is presented to a graduate student for academic excellence, outstanding scholarly research, and dedication toward the enrichment of the profession.

Bethany A. Gruskin

Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Award

This award is presented to the student who demonstrates effective leadership and dedication to efforts to promote diversity, access, and equity.

Adaim Mendoza-Ochoa

Lisa Marie Bucher Award

In memory of Lisa Marie Bucher, this award is presented to the student who demonstrates loyalty, trustworthiness, creativity, and the ability to make extraordinary accomplishments that further the educational mission of the division.

Sharon Han

AWARDS

Margaret S. Rood Award for Professional Promise

In honor of Margaret S. Rood, former chair of the USC Department of Occupational Therapy, this award is presented to a student for professional promise and personal excellence.

Stephanie Magaña

Outstanding Contribution in the Role of Teaching Assistant

Awarded for dedication and excellence in supporting the educational mission of the USC Chan Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy through service as a Teaching Assistant.

**Lisa Ernst Nguyen
Jhennylyn Rivera-Villano**

Political Action and Advocacy Award

This award is presented to the student who demonstrates leadership through political action and advocacy in service of occupational science and occupational therapy stakeholders, students, and/or professionals.

Stacy Sanchez

Spirit of Occupational Therapy

This award is presented to the student or group of students that best exemplify the spirit of occupational therapy through their commitment, caring attitude, spirit, and compassion for others.

Kyra Ashley Aligaen

AWARDS

Lela Llorens Award

In honor of Lela Llorens, former USC adjunct faculty member, this award is presented to an OTD student for high level of commitment and dedication with programs and ideas that contribute to the creative enhancement of occupational therapy.

Jasmine Chapman

Trojan Spirit Award

The Trojan Spirit Award recognizes loyal leadership and dedicated service toward improving the quality of student life and campus community programs within the multiple spheres of university life.

Emily Matsui

Distinguished Contribution to Research or Writing in Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy

Presented to an entry-level student who has demonstrated initiative, creativity, and skills in the research process or development of a theoretical paper.

Brigid McInnes Connelly

LEGEND

Members of the graduating Class of 2025 who have received honors and distinctions are designated in the program.

1 Summa Cum Laude

4 Pi Theta Epsilon

7 Order of Arête

2 Magna Cum Laude

5 Global Scholar Distinction

8 Order of the Laurel and the Palm

3 Cum Laude

6 Renaissance Scholar Distinction

9 Order of Troy

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Kyra Ashley Aligaen^{1 5}

Daniel Fung³

Cristina Adrianna Gotuzzo²

Lauren Hammond¹

Joseph Hsieh¹

Trinity Mecham¹

Alvin Pleitez⁹

Manuel Robles²

Berenice Rodriguez²

Lexee Sutton^{2 6}

MASTER OF ARTS IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Belen Albarran Parada

Maria Angela Gutierrez Alcober

Anas Alothman

Riana Teresa Bosita

Devanshi Hitesh Chheda

Katelyn Dagdag

Jeel Doshi

Magdalena Fadic-Repetto

Chelsea Rain Hernandez

Monina Angeli Fredeluces Hilario

Hui-Chieh Huang

Sohyun Jeon

Hsuan Chun Kao

Milan Kumar

Shin-Yu Lee

Urvashi Mistry

Yi-Hsuan Peng

Nae-Rong Shyu

Shi Rui (Tanya) Tan

Timothy Wang

Pei-Chen Wu

Sherry Yachun Yu

Shanaya Nariman Zohrabi

ENTRY-LEVEL DOCTORATE OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Ryley Aceret
Baileigh Michelle Akins
Tossho Alba
Lorena Alvarado
Delilah Anaya
Kaelyn Arcilla⁴
Rachel Bae
Jared Edward Bague
Brooke Barnard
Katharine Elizabeth Bau⁴
Elianna Clarisse Bautista
Justin Santos Benigno
Talía Bornstein⁸
Jessica Briseño
Nicole Caballa
Dayannara Campos Medina⁴
Alena Cardwell
Megan Carter
Kylie Andrea Cassotta⁴
Michelle Castro-Waters
Stacey Chang
Jasmine Chapman
Sarah Choi
Erin Hannah Chung
Annette Comerchero
Brigid McInnes Connelly⁷
Jessica Contreras
Angela Gabrielle Costes⁴

Madison Frances Crane
Jaida Alyce Lakaye Cruz
Helen Cunningham
Mary Davey⁴
Alisha Davis
Adriana De Paz
Stephanie Droz
Allison Nicole Trinidad Edquid
Cynthia Estrada
Lidia Fernandez Moreno⁴
Elizabeth Fey
Brianna Franks
Shanna Sara Gilardi
Abigail Barrios Godinez
Monique Govantes
Alyssa Greenblatt
Fady Habib
Victoria Lynne Hairston
Sharon Han⁸
India Hawkins
Chloe Headlam
Jennifer Christa Hernandez
Wendy Araseli Hernandez
Lauryn Elizabeth Holland
Roxana Honowitz⁴
Kai Hoshina
Adrienne Kendall Huffington
Natalie Hunt

ENTRY-LEVEL DOCTORATE OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

David Huynh
Mikaela Abegail Jamieson⁴
Melissa Jewkes⁴
Melanie Kijel⁴
Lisa Kil
EuiYeon Kim
Ashly King
Jadyn Koss⁴
Miel Juan Krauss⁴
Rachel Kuai⁴
Katie Lam
Aubrey Langer⁴
Eden Lee
Lena Li
Kathleen Liu⁴
Katherine Loera
Elizabeth Magaña
Stephanie Magaña⁴
Marielle Ann Mangahas
Leticia Martinez
Robyn Alexa Martinez
Cindy Matias
Emily Matsui⁷
Adaim Mendoza-Ochoa
Meaghan Merriman
Chizuko Midori
Annette Morales
Sierra Morin⁴

Ryan Moshtael
Alexandria Narvaez
Gorety Nguyen⁴
Rivka Negin Nili
Maquela Adeja Noel
Nmachi Faith Obiwuru
Sophia O'Keefe⁴
Javi Enrique Orellana⁷
Maya Saskia Ortega
Samantha Marie Osuna⁴
Natalie Palencia
Stephanie Perez
Syria Powell
Sierra Quiala
Joseph Philip Ventura Quiambao
Darrice Marie Ralota
Patrick Michael Ramirez
Mia S. Richardson
Valeria Rios
Kayla Danielle Robles
Katherine Romero
Princesse De Rossignol
Flor Rodriguez Ruelas
Nicholas Sainz
Stacy Sanchez⁷
Brianna Sandoval
Natalie Sardarov
Trevor Satow⁴

ENTRY-LEVEL DOCTORATE OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Madison Marie Saunders
Bella Alexandra Schaerf
Cristina Serrano
Clarissa Setiomiguno⁴
Kelsey Alexa Steck
Lily Stratton
Lauren Styer
Carly Swanson
Kristen Takebayashi
Madeleine Aileen Tarin
Vanessa Temblador
Jordyn Terukina

Gustavo Torres
Emily Truong
Jasmine (Pei Han) Tung
Michelle Emily Urquidi
Charlotte Magdalena Utash
Nicole Ventura
Jennifer Victoria Vera
Ana Victoria Vivas Rosas
Hannah Wangsa⁴
Rachel Ann Weldin
Yufei Wu

POST-PROFESSIONAL DOCTORATE OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Suzanne Afuso-Sugano
Angie Albanez
Samantha Amy
Alexandra Arguelles
Susmita Bhat
Tierra Boyd
Timothy Cappadona
Stephanie Cheon (Park)
Abriana Gilchrist

Liza Abigail Khou
Julie Kim
Kyra McClain
Gregory Natt
Lisa Ernst Nguyen
Chioma Ogbuehi
Jhennylyn Rivera-Villano
Veronica Marie Webb

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN OCCUPATIONAL SCIENCE

Yoko Ellie Fukumura

Exploring the Intersection of Occupational Engagement and Well-Being in Student Musicians: A Multi-Method Study

Bethany A. Gruskin

“Nesting Is More Every Day”: Theoretically Conceptualizing Nesting, Place-Making, and Resource-Seeking During Pregnancy From an Occupational Science Perspective

Katherine Loomis

Capturing the Multidimensional Process of Hand Therapy: Exploring the Landscape of Research and Clinical Documentation to Build Foundational Knowledge for Practice-based Inquiry

Marinthea Richter

Co-Occupation: The Evolution and Conceptualization of a Core Occupational Science Construct

FOUNDATIONS OF LIFESTYLE REDESIGN[®] GRADUATE CERTIFICATE

Annette Comerchero

Stephanie Droz

Kai Hoshina

Adrienne Huffington

EuiYeon Kim

Lena Li

Stephanie Magaña

Robyn Martinez

Ryan Moshtael

Rivka Negin Nili

Madeleine Aileen Tarin

Jasmine (Pei Han) Tung

SENSORY PROCESSING AND SENSORY INTEGRATION GRADUATE CERTIFICATE

Belen Albarran Parada
Kaelyn Arcilla
Katherine Elizabeth Bau
Erin Hannah Chung
Katelyn Dagdag
Adriana De Paz
Jeel Nilesh Doshi
Brianna Franks
Chelsea Rain Hernandez
Wendy Araseli Hernandez
Lauryn Elizabeth Holland
Natalie Hunt
Jadyn Koss
Miel Juan Krauss
Eden Lee
Shin-Yu Lee
Adaim Mendoza-Ochoa

Nmachi Faith Obiwuru
Chioma Ogbuehi
Yi-Hsuan Peng
Valeria Rios
Princesse De Rossignol
Natalie Sardarov
Trevor Satow
Madison Marie Saunders
Shi Rui (Tanya) Tan
Vanessa Temblador
Jordyn Terukina
Nicole Ventura
Jennifer Victoria Vera
Ana Victoria Vivas Rosas
Pei-Chen Wu
Shanaya Nariman Zohrabi

A MESSAGE TO OUR NEWEST ALUMNI

Congratulations, Class of 2025!

Today is a day for celebration that marks a special milestone in your lives. Yet in one respect, today changes nothing — you were, and still are, members of the Trojan Family.

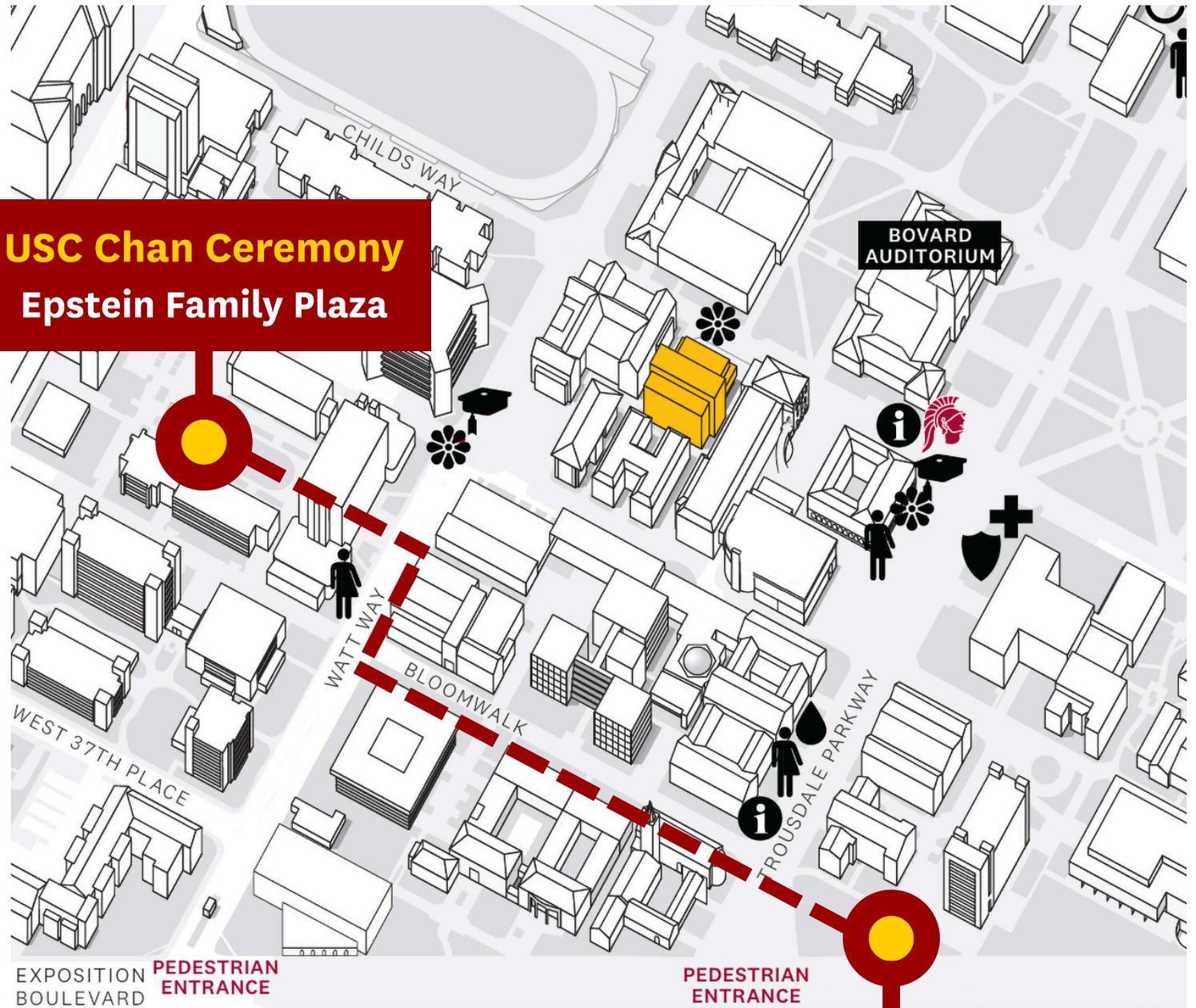
Now you join the largest part of the Trojan Family — our esteemed global alumni network. Throughout your professional and personal lives, you will continue encountering those who share your enduring bond with USC. When you do, greet them with an enthusiastic “Fight On!”

We hope you stay connected with the USC Chan Division and the University. All graduates are automatically enrolled in the USC Chan Alumni Association to receive communications about continuing education, mentoring, research and practice opportunities. Keep your contact information updated at chan.usc.edu/people/alumni.

We look forward to your many great accomplishments to come. Again, congratulations on your achievements, and

Fight On!

CAMPUS MAP (CLICK TO OPEN FULL-SIZE PDF)



USC Chan Ceremony
Epstein Family Plaza

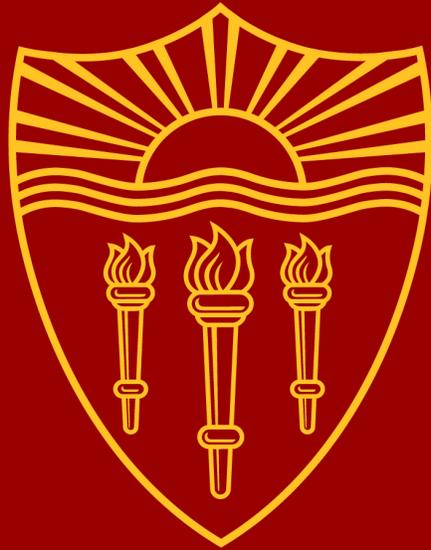
USC Chan Reception
Lawn South of Bridge Hall

Click to view [Quick Links on the USC Commencement website.](#)

- Watch live link
- Program book
- Water filling station map
- Restroom map
- Dining options

LEGEND

- | | | | |
|---------------------|--|---|----------------------|
| Academic Ceremonies | First Aid | Portable Restrooms
<i>*ADA accessible (Restrooms also available in all nonrestricted-access buildings)</i> | Water Stations |
| Bookstore | Public Safety
<i>(incl. Lost and Found)</i> | Flowers | Hood and Gown Return |
| Information | Wheelchair Pick-up | | |



*All Hail to Alma Mater
To thy glory we sing;
All Hail to Southern California
Loud let thy praises ring;
Where Western sky meets Western sea
Our college stands in majesty;
Sing our love to Alma Mater,
Hail, all hail to thee!*