

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

2026 Commencement Ceremony

May 15, 2026, 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

Arameh Anvarizadeh OTD, OTR/L, FAOTA
Professor of Clinical Occupational Therapy and AOTA President

AWARD PRESENTATIONS

Grace Baranek PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES AND GRADUATE CERTIFICATES

Faculty Directors of Degree Programs

CLOSING REMARKS

Grace Baranek PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA

RECESSIONAL

Fight On! by the USC Trojan Marching Band

RECEPTION

Hancock Lawn (see map)

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER



Arameh Anvarizadeh OTD, OTR/L, FAOTA

Professor of Clinical Occupational Therapy

President of the American Occupational Therapy Association

Arameh Anvarizadeh is the president of the American Occupational Therapy Association, the national professional association that represents and supports nearly 250,000 occupational therapy practitioners and students. She is a founding member of the Coalition of Occupational Therapy Advocates for Diversity, a non-profit organization striving to realize more equity- and justice-centered practices in the profession. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Occupational Therapy, Master of Arts degree in Occupational Therapy, and Doctorate of Occupational Therapy degree from USC.

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.

Marshae Franklin

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.

Sofronia Ringold

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.

Elizabeth Diaz Alfaro

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.

Catherine Picard

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.

Jasmin Sanchez

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.

Maria Nicole Carmela Sombillo

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.

Sherry Younesi

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.

Megha Gala

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.

Alyssa Dharmawan

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.

Mason Suba

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

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

Katlin Siri-Ngammuang

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Janelle Bustamante³

Jolina Dantz¹

Brandon Giang²

Vincent Hang²

Nicole Ellen Lian¹

Lila Marnell²

Icesha Sanders^{1, 6}

Kaylin Tang²

Delisa Velazquez^{3, 6}

MASTER OF ARTS IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Franscent Oliveene Javier (Vannah) Alvarez

Ning-Yun Chang

Ting Hsuan Chang

Yen-Chen Chang

Ho-Lin (Celine) Chen

Jui-Yu (Jasmine) Chien

Megha Gala

En Jou Hsieh

Mariam Husain

Angela Ilaya

Sri Raagavi Devi Kumaravel

Haemin Lee

Yufang Liang

Chia-Wei Lin

Ditiksha Patel

Rebecca Wong

Yusi (Deborah) Shieh

Sin En Tien

Hsin-Yun (Hayes) Tsai

Yu-Kuan Wen

LEGEND

Members of the graduating Class of 2026 who have received honors and distinctions are designated in the program.

1 Summa Cum Laude

2 Magna Cum Laude

3 Cum Laude

4 Pi Theta Epsilon

5 Global Scholar Distinction

6 Renaissance Scholar Distinction

7 Order of Areté

8 Order of the Laurel and the Palm

ENTRY-LEVEL DOCTORATE OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Misouri Liliana Alatorre Hernandez

Nora Allata

Diana Artica-Chicas

Jocelyn Xochitl Arteaga

Marlena Backlar

Shayna Rebecca Barry Pankow

Ernesto Batres

Jonai Nanea Komaka Iko Lae Beale

Amity Beardsley⁴

Stephanie Becerril

Andres Beltran Soto⁴

Gabriella Bernal

Taylor Anne Brown

Sara Brummond

John Burich

Briana Burnett

Carolina Carrillo Perez⁴

Jowy Cenat

Cassidi Choi

Heejeong Choi

Dawn Coleman

Camryn de Caussin

Alexandria de Russy

Nicholas Antonio Delgadillo

Alyssa Dharmawan⁷

Elizabeth Diaz Alfaro⁷

Yadira Domenicucci⁴

Cindy Delgado

Kahira Pauline Embry⁴

Alexis Leticia Esparza-Rodriguez

Ellery Ewell⁴

April Lucille Flores-Melendez

Fernanda Flores

Rachel Fong⁴

Colton Fraser

Ariel Galan

Mackenzie Garcia

Beatrice Lourdes Gee

Anna Furong Glenn⁴

Antonia Marie Gomez

Madison Joan Greer

Madena Samar Hamed

Jack Hansen⁴

Gloria Maria Hernandez

Destinee Hoffman

Lydia Hong

Emma Hora

Shannon Howell⁴

Hannah Huertas

Bailey Inglis⁴

Rebecca Isabel Isip

Leslie Jarquin

Jia Charlize Javate

Ashley Jeoung

Isabelle Jewett

Jaylen Anthony Jones

ENTRY-LEVEL DOCTORATE OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Christine Joo
Talia Kristina Katayama
Anne Kenney
Esther Kim
Shannon Kim
Youngjoon (Jace) Kim⁴
McKenna Kitterman⁴
Makenna Kjellberg⁴
Jennn Mei Koo
Joy Koo
Christina Kwon
Vivianne Kim Lam
Onedit Lara-Rico⁷
Joan Le
Derek Lee⁴
Se Rin Lee
Natalia Leon⁷
Bailun Li
Christopher Fernandez Lopez
Cindy Lopez Soto
Rufina Lui
Emma Ann Radley-Luken⁴
Alitza Maarek⁴
Emily Ariana Marks⁴
Miranda Marquez
Taylor McGlothlin⁴
Chalon McGlothurn
Shivani Mehta

Essie Minzt
Audrey Mokhtarzadeh
Kennedi Moseley
Kathleen Mumina
Courtney Jade Musmann
Madison Nassirzadeh
Dana Nguyen
Hanh Nguyen^{4,7}
Elisa Elene Noh
Adi Ohana
Lynne Ohana
Grace Amarra Olado⁴
Angela Ortiz
Danielle Pacion
Rhina Sofia Padilla
Talia Paknoosh
Xuan Pan
Mimi Parrott
Lea Patao
Jason Peng⁴
Jamie Melissa Perales
Andrea Perdomo
Sophie Perez
Annika Quynh Pham Hilladakis
Katrina Kim Pho
Catherine Picard⁷
Alyssa Prigge
Maria Camila Ramos Medina

ENTRY-LEVEL DOCTORATE OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Paula Esperanza Reza | Xuege (Chris) Tong |
| Desiree Rocha | Kim Tran |
| Maria Rodriguez | Michelle Doan Trang ⁴ |
| Vanessa Marie Rosalez | Jaelynn Trout |
| Savannah Runge ⁴ | Keni Tsuno |
| Russell Sakurai | Jacqueline Uitz |
| Jasmin Yamileth Sanchez | Leslie Scarleth Valle Martinez |
| Natalie Sanchez | Patricia Vargas |
| Olivia Sanford | Maria Vasco |
| Sofia Saucedo | Lauren Weinberg ⁴ |
| Allison Schachter ⁴ | Calvin Wu ⁴ |
| Kendall Schemmer ⁴ | Alialani Yamafuji |
| Diana Serrano | Leila Yasha |
| Mason Suba ^{4,8} | Adriana Yopez |
| Asia Denise Taylor | Irene Yi |
| | Sherry Younesi ⁷ |

POST-PROFESSIONAL DOCTORATE OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Lan Carrico | Katlin (Katie) Siri-Ngammuang |
| Yung-Hsin (Cindy) Chang | Maria Nicole Carmela V. Sombillo |
| Fides Faith Goh | Shi Rui (Tanya) Tan |
| Abraham Alexander Lopez | Naomi Urquidez |
| Dairian Roberts | Beni Felucci V. Viray |

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN OCCUPATIONAL SCIENCE

Yiyang Fang

Technological Innovation in Construction: A Mixed-Methods Study Using Occupational Adaptation to Understand Changes in Work Performance and Worker Well-Being

Marshae Denise Franklin

Exploring Authentic Belonging Through the Lens of Black Neurodivergent Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Graduate Programs: A Multimethod Study

Elizabeth Isralowitz

Evaluating Arousal Responses to Caregiver Touch in Children with Autism

Loree T. Pham

Grounded Living: Exploring the Physical, Psychological, and Sociocultural Dimensions of Floor Sitting

Sofronia Munoz Ringold

The Oral Microbiome–Brain Axis in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Elinor Elise Taylor

Multiple Masks Weigh Us Down: A Qualitative Participatory Exploration of Autistic People’s Intersectional Performativity Experiences

FOUNDATIONS OF LIFESTYLE REDESIGN[®] GRADUATE CERTIFICATE

Angelique Albanez
Jocelyn Xochitl Arteaga
Carolina Carrillo Perez

Lydia Ngoc Hong
Taylor Nobuko Kamemoto
Rhina Sofia Padilla

SENSORY PROCESSING AND SENSORY INTEGRATION GRADUATE CERTIFICATE

John Gregg Burich

Yen-Chen Chang

Ho-Lin Chen

Camryn Mae de Caussin

Elizabeth Diaz Alfaro

April Lucille Flores-Melendez

Rachel Ann Fong

Mackenzie Renee Garcia

En Jou Hsieh

Jia Charlize Javate

Christina Hyangkee Kwon

Vivianne Kim Lam

Haemin Lee

Chia-Wei Lin

Madison Nassirzadeh

Grace Amarra Olado

Xuan Pan

Andrea Perdomo

Savannah Brooke Runge

Olivia Sanford

Yusi Shieh

Sin En Tien

Yu-Kuan Wen

A MESSAGE TO OUR NEW ALUMNI

Congratulations, Class of 2026!

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.

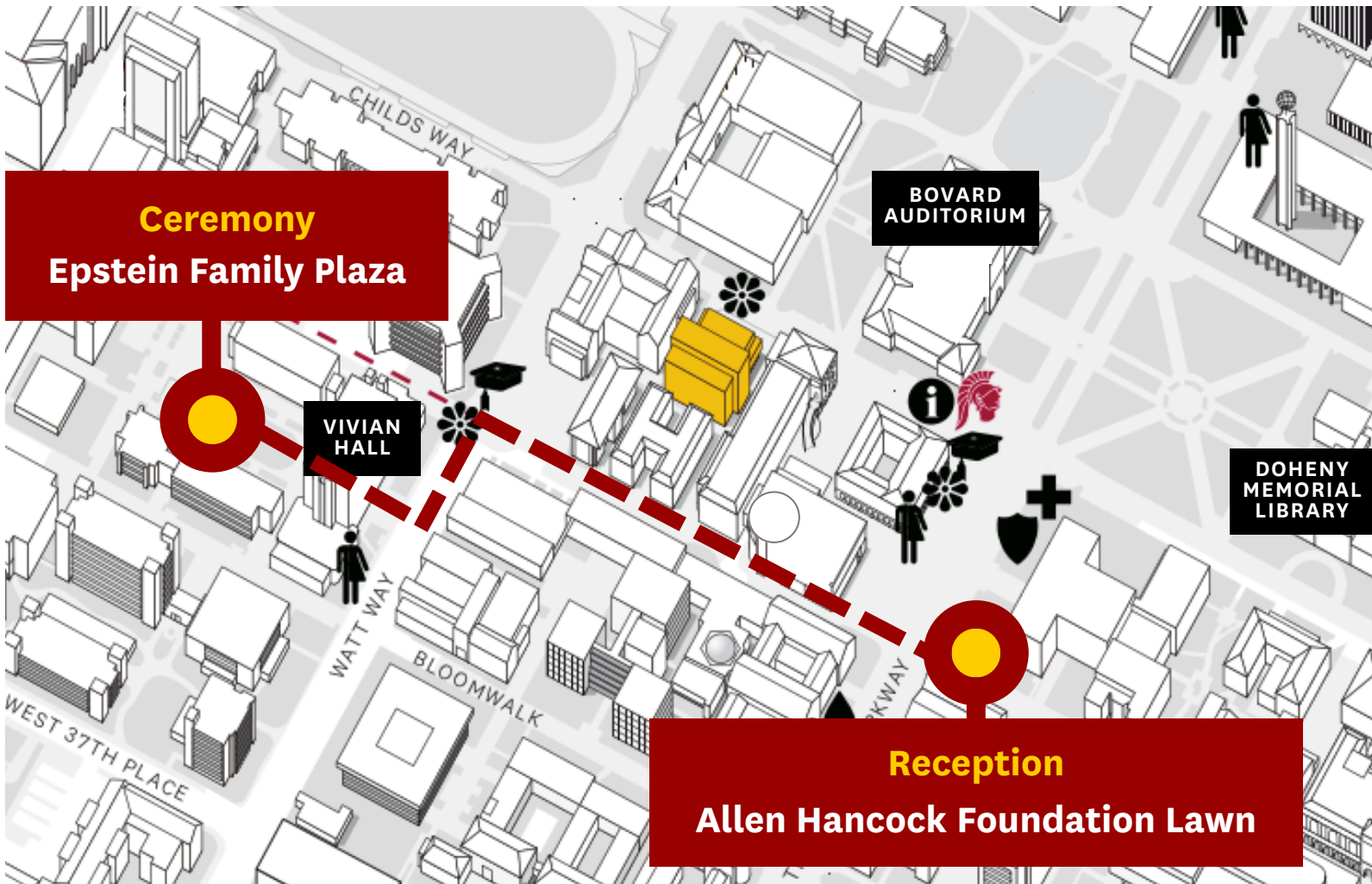
Now you join the largest part of the Trojan Family, our esteemed alumni network of more than 500,000 Trojans around the world. Throughout your professional and personal lives, you will continue encountering those who share your enduring bond with USC. When you do, greet them with an enthusiastic “Fight 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 OR TAP TO OPEN FULL-SIZE PDF)



Ceremony
Epstein Family Plaza

BOVARD AUDITORIUM

VIVIAN HALL

DOHENY MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Reception
Allen Hancock Foundation Lawn

PEDESTRIAN ENTRANCE EXPOSITION BOULEVARD PEDESTRIAN ENTRANCE EXPOSITION BOULEVARD

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

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

LEGEND

- | | | | |
|---------------------|--|---|----------------------|
| 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 | | |
| Tommy Trojan Statue | | | |



*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!*