

COMMENCEMENT SCRIPT
Saturday, May 5, 2007
9:00 a.m.

Prelude and Processional Music

Processional is led by University Marshal, Michael Coleman

Stage Party:

David Daniel	- President
Hobson Wildenthal	- Executive Vice President and Provost
Darrelene Rachavong	- Vice President for Student Affairs
Austin Cunningham	- Graduate Dean
Michael Coleman	- University Marshal, Associate Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education
Brian Berry	- Dean, EPPS
Hasan Pirkul	- Dean, MGT
Euel Elliott	- Council for Graduate Education, EPPS
Mary Chaffin	- Council for Undergraduate Education, MGT
Murray Leaf	- Speaker of the Faculty
Karen Jarrell	- Registrar
Dmitri Shneider	- Student Speaker
David Friedland	- Alumni Representative
Barry Seldon	- Hooding, EPPS
Scott Robinson	- Hooding, EPPS
Susan McElroy	- Hooding, EPPS
Richard Scotch	- Hooding, EPPS
Paul Jargowski	- Hooding, EPPS
Simon Fass	- Hooding, EPPS
Donald Hicks	- Hooding, EPPS
Wim Vijverberg	- Hooding, EPPS
William Cready	- Hooding, MGT
Kruti Dholakia	- Faculty, EPPS
David Ritchey	- Faculty, MGT
John Wiorkowski	- Faculty, MGT
Laurie Ziegler	- Faculty, MGT

ORDER OF CEREMONY

Dr. Michael Coleman

Before we begin this joyous ceremony, let me remind you to turn off your cell phones and be courteous to those around you by refraining from talking during the ceremony. During the presentation of graduates, we encourage you to express your pride by applauding and cheering, but the use of air horns is expressly forbidden. Please enjoy the ceremony.

Some of you have doubtless just whispered to yourselves “a job”—or at least looking for one. Others have whispered “repaying debts.” Interestingly, both answers amount to much the same thing.

The task of the faculty is to design the curriculum. We often hear higher education spoken of as though it can be reduced to a list of “skills,” or even “job skills.” This is not so.

The fact that higher education has turned out to enable people, generally, to earn more in their lifetimes is an unintended consequence. It is a byproduct, not the main product. But while unintended, it is not unexplainable.

You will benefit personally from what you have learned for the same reason that the faculty teaches. A very peculiar property of education is that you cannot keep it yourself. To have it and use it is to share it and spread it.

The most fundamental concern of scholarship is distinguishing good ideas from bad ideas. And of course if we manage to convey the ideas that have been most powerful and important up to now, across all the main branches of knowledge, it should not be surprising that such ideas continue to be valuable into the future—and even more so the underlying ability to distinguish good ones from bad. This is precisely why civilized societies have consistently recognized the wisdom of providing education to at least some capable people at public expense, and why democratic societies by and large commit themselves to providing it to as many people as possible

Civilization is a debt. It is the best of what we have inherited from the past. It is what we owe to the future. The faculty trusts that repaying it will bring you great rewards. The faculty wishes you all success. Congratulations.

Dr. Daniel:

It is now my pleasure to introduce Mr. David Friedland, who will bring greetings from the Alumni Association. David graduated magna cum laude from UT Dallas with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration in 2002. He is a Senior Implementation Engineer for Imprivata, a company based in Boston, and currently serves as the Vice Chairman of the UT Dallas Alumni Association.

Alumni Representative: Brings greetings from the Alumni Association

Congratulations graduates! Within the next hour, all of you will become members of an elite organization – the Alumni Association of the University of Texas at Dallas. And it is MY pleasure to welcome you to the association.

As you look back on your experiences here at UTD we hope you take with you the pride and affection that all of us in the Alumni Association have for this place.

Today you begin a new role as a graduate and alumnus of UTD... that as ambassador for this university.

As an ambassador you have the opportunity to show the world what your education means as you forge your path. For some of you, that path may mean the beginning of a new career or new job responsibilities. For others, it may mean continuing your education and research here at UTD or at other institutions of higher learning.

The important thing is UTD has provided a bellwether environment where you have earned the credentials and the tools to forge ahead and leave your mark, and we wish you every success, no matter where the road may take you.

Membership in the Alumni Association has its honors, rights, privileges, and responsibilities.

As Alumni, we all have the greater responsibility of ensuring that UTD continues its upward growth. If we look around our campus today, it is amazing to see how our facilities, faculty, staff and students have expanded in number. Under Dr. Daniel's leadership we expect even more changes as we become a world-leading research University. We, as alumni, with the University leadership will ensure we get there.

We should all be excited, because excellence and growth in The University means excellence and growth in value of the degree you receive today.

I invite each of you to do as I did and become active participants in our Alumni Association. Learn about your Alumni Association; Keep in touch with your friends and colleagues; and stay aware of what's going on here at UTD.

Finally, on behalf of the Alumni Association, I again congratulate you on your individual accomplishments, and challenge each of you to join hands with us in continuing to help build and support this great University in the months and years ahead.

We know you will never forget your alma mater, and hope that you will come back often and grow with the University that is on the move. GO COMETS! WHOOSH

Thank you.

Dr. Daniel:

It is my pleasure to introduce Dr. Michael Coleman, Associate Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education.

Dr. Coleman: Introduces Student Speaker: Dmitri Shneider

Today's commencement speaker is graduating Magna Cum Laude with a degree in finance from the School of Management. He has been a member of the Financial Management Association, the Student Business Alliance, and a Senator in Student Government. He was also selected as an Archer Fellow and spent a semester in Washington DC. He has also run his own company.

This young man took some time away from UTD after having won the \$64,000 Samford Prize as the best American chess player under 25. He spent 18 months playing chess all over the world. He has represented UTD and America in a number of hemispheric and world championships. He is a two-time gold medalist from the Pan-American Chess Championships, a former President of the UTD Chess Club, and a member of the best collegiate chess team in America.

Following graduation he plans to try his hand on Wall Street where the ability to plan seven or eight moves ahead will be invaluable. Graduates, your classmate, Dimitri Shneider.

Student Speaker: Delivers address

Fellow graduates, faculty, guests, thank you for all being here. When Dean Coleman asked me to consider being your speaker today, I thought long and hard about what it is that I would like to share with you, and what you would actually want to listen to.

I asked many of my friends what they would want to hear in a commencement speech that would keep them awake. The two responses that came up most often were: "don't be boring," thanks, great advice guys; and "establish a connection with your audience."

Well, my fellow graduates, I will try to level with you. I was a bit nervous this morning about being here ...No, not because I've never given a speech of this magnitude before, which is actually true... but because I was afraid that I wouldn't be able to find a parking space.

Another suggestion that I received was to talk about the great achievements of the athletic teams at UTD. The baseball team is hosting the ASC Championship this year... The women's soccer team advanced to its third straight title game in as many years.... And the men's basketball team had its best season in program history ... And of course, March Madness was incredibly exciting, here in Dallas. Many of you may not know it, but UTD won the Final Four... Yes, I'm serious... UTD won the Final Four ... of Chess. Did you know that we have a chess team here?? You may have heard something about it. It's no big deal, really, we only have the number 1 program in the country.

Many speeches try to inspire, to tell you to dream, to encourage you to be the leaders of tomorrow, to have great careers and etc. This is very jovial and nice.

But, really, what effectiveness can these motivational words have coming from someone like me. A recent college grad, who has never had a full-time job? No, I will not try to impart any inspirational advice, nor insert clichés to appear smarter than I am. What I will do is try to share some things that I learned and that I'll miss most about UTD.

I'll miss the incredibly helpful faculty!

More than I can count on my hands how many times the faculty has gone out of their way to work with me. Whether it is a make up test, a one-to-one session to explain the material one more time, recommendations on three days notice (thank you Dr.Redman and Dr.Chaffin), or just them taking their valuable time to share advice from their vast collection of experiences.

Knowing the faculty here has been a major help, so remember to always get to know the people you work with and keep in touch with them. Of those who are more experienced, and higher in rank ask them questions, pick their brains. Learn from these people. They've been where you are, and want you to succeed! I'll miss meeting all the new people!

I've come across so many diverse people from all over the state, country and world just by hanging out late at night, at the Student Union, sipping the free hot chocolate and playing some ping-pong; putting off studying for another couple minutes for that huge midterm the next day. Sometimes, it is these unremarkable nights that help us develop the relationships that last lifetimes.

The relationships that we have developed during our journey at UTD are the most important aspects of our experience. With the recent tragic events at Virginia Tech, we witnessed the remarkable strength of the university community. It is important to remember that there is a network of hundreds of faculty, thousands of graduates, and their friends and families to be there for us if we are ever in need. Whether we end up staying in Dallas, move to the coasts or even overseas, we must never forget that we have a home away from home.

I also learned some things:

I learned that if you want something you must ask for it.

Ask for, that scholarship, fellowship, internship, job. Just asking is half the battle most of the time. I almost missed out on one of the most amazing experiences of my life, the Archer Fellowship, because I did not apply for it. At first, I rationalized to myself: "I don't have time to write these essays, to fill out this application... I probably won't be chosen anyways." But even as we get older, and have more

responsibilities, we always have time; we just have to set it aside for the things that are important.

I learned that it is necessary to do the small things.

To write thank you notes when people do you favors, to remember birthdays, to smile when ordering coffee, to buy freshmen lunch, to give rides to the airport, to attend friends plays, and athletic games, to tell your parents you love them, as well all the other things that don't take much time and effort, but mean a lot to those around you. It's these small things that make up who we are. They let our close ones know that we care, and that we appreciate what they do for us.

Primarily, though, I learned that at the end of my journey here at UTD, I still have much to learn. And this, I believe, is the whole purpose of education. To make us realize that the world is a complex place. That rarely is there only right answer; that we don't have to know everything, or plan everything twenty years in advance. And it is great. It is great to know that even though we are graduating, our life's lessons are only beginning and we can continue to discover ourselves and who we really are. This is why it is called a commencement ceremony and not a funeral.

*My fellow graduates, as the proverb goes: "Our real education begins today."
Thank you.*

Dr. Daniel: Commencement Remarks

Ladies and gentlemen, we are gathered today to celebrate the achievements of a group of exceptionally talented individuals who will be receiving Degrees from the School of Economic, Political, and Policy Sciences, and from the School of Management. There are two reasons for members of our audience to be joyous on this occasion.

The first is related to the accomplishments of today's graduates – your son or daughter, grandson or

granddaughter, wife or husband, father or mother, other relative, or friend. These graduates are important to you in your life, and you are justifiably proud of their achievement.

What you may not realize is how difficult it was to gain entry to UT Dallas or how hard they had to work to get here today.

Our entrance standards for undergraduates are among the toughest in the State and region. For the past several years, the average SAT score for entering freshman at UT Dallas has been the highest of any public university in Texas, and higher than many of the best-regarded universities in the nation.

And our graduate students represent the very best talent to be found in our region, as evidenced by the many highly ranked graduate programs. For example, rankings for our graduate programs in the School of Management, which is the University's largest School, were just released. We rank 47th among all universities in the nation, fourth in Texas, and No. 1 in the Dallas-Fort Worth region.

But once these students began their work at UT Dallas, things got even tougher for them. The University of Texas at Dallas is one of the most demanding academic institutions in Texas and the Nation. For example, we are one of only four universities in Texas with a Nobel laureate on our faculty as well as elected members of the National Academy of Sciences and National Academy of Engineering. The other three are UT Austin, Texas A&M, and Rice University.

We will not challenge these universities (even Rice) on the football field, though I would note that none has ever beaten us. Indeed, we have never been beaten in football. (But that's because we don't have a football team!) But we did win the national championship of Chess this year, our debate team usually finishes tops in the State of Texas, and I suspect that the grade point average and leadership potential of our student-athletes is unsurpassed in the State. And today, our Division III baseball team is hosting our league championship. Go Comets!!

I like our values and what they mean for today's graduates. I wouldn't trade our outstanding Division III

athletics program for anyone's because it embraces the true spirit of a student-athlete.

The degrees that we will be conferring today are being awarded by a rigorous, demanding, and top-quality institution, and are being awarded to truly exceptional students. You should be very proud of your accomplishments, as are all of us at the University.

The second reason why we should all be joyous today is because the Dallas-Fort Worth region, the State, and the Nation need these exceptionally talented people more than ever.

We are in the midst of the greatest pace of change in the history of the world. In the past, economic vitality was related primarily to regional resources such as ports and harbors, or natural resources such as timber or oil. But the world has changed. As Tony Blair said, "Talent is the 21st Century wealth."

Success in today's and tomorrow's world will belong to those regions whose people have the best minds.

Richard Florida summarized today's situation with these words: "The United States of America is now facing

its greatest challenge since the dawn of the Industrial Revolution. No longer will economic might amass in countries according to their natural resources, manufacturing excellence, or military dominance. Today, the terms of competition revolve around a central axis: a nation's ability to mobilize, attract, and retain human creative talent."

But to compete successfully in our global economy, we not only need to mobilize, attract, and retain human creative talent, we need to mobilize, attract, and retain the very best human creative talent.

I'm happy to stake my bet for our future on this group of graduates, right here at this University, to provide the leadership that we will all need to succeed in our changing world.

I close by offering my very best wishes to all of today's graduates. You worked hard, you succeeded, and now you should celebrate! Thank you, and good luck!

Dr. Daniel:

I now invite back to the podium Dr. Michael Coleman.

Dr. Coleman: Explains Honors, recognizes and congratulates honor graduates

Graduation with Honors

Students who show particular distinction in scholarship at the university are afforded the opportunity of graduating with either or both Latin Honors and Major Honors. Major Honors are indicated by a shawl worn over the academic regalia while Latin Honors are represented by medallions. In addition, those students wearing green regalia are graduates of the Collegium V Honors Program. Only grades earned at The University of Texas at Dallas are used in determining academic honors. Latin, Major, and Collegium V Honors are all reported on students' transcripts and diplomas.

Latin Honors

Graduates may earn one of three degrees of Latin Honors: summa cum laude, magna cum laude, or cum laude. Requirements for graduation with honors are as follows: The grade point average that represents the top five percent of all graduates in a particular school will be considered the threshold for awarding summa cum laude honors. The grade point average that defines the next 10 percent in each school will be the lower limit for magna cum laude. The average grade that defines the next 15 percent in each school will be considered the benchmark for awarding cum laude honors. A minimum grade point average of 3.4 is required for any Latin Honors.

Let me put this in perspective. To qualify for Cum Laude Honors, students must earn an 'A' for every 'B' they make.

Cum Laude graduates, please rise

Candidates, please be seated.

To qualify for Magna Cum Laude Honors, students must earn three 'A's' for every 'B' they make.

Magna Cum Laude graduates, please rise

Candidates, please be seated.

To qualify for Summa Cum Laude Honors, students must earn nine 'A's' for every 'B' they make. These students received an 'A' in everything but partying.

Summa Cum Laude graduates, please rise

Candidates, please be seated.

Doctoral Candidates

The doctoral degree is the ultimate academic honor the university can bestow. Those earning the doctorate have gone from being our students to our colleagues. We welcome you to the academy and hope that your students will be as bright as our have been.

Doctoral Candidates, please rise

It is now my honor to certify the candidates for undergraduate degrees. Will all candidates who are to receive the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degree please rise and remain standing.

Dr. Daniel, on behalf of the faculty, I certify to you that those candidates who have completed all of their academic requirements are entitled to receive their respective degrees.

Candidates, please be seated.

Dr. Daniel:

It is now my pleasure to introduce Dr. Austin Cunningham, Dean of Graduate Studies.

Dr. Cunningham: Remarks and Certification

I offer my congratulations to each of you for the significant accomplishment being celebrated here today. Your hard work and the personal sacrifices you made in reaching this important plateau are a true reflection of both your abilities and commitment. You are now in position to make a significant difference in the world, and I wish you continued success and prosperity.

Looking out at this assembly, I am reminded of a very different but no less joyous graduation ceremony I was privileged to attend in the fall of 1972. It was the first graduation ceremony held at UT Dallas, when we awarded just two degrees - a doctoral degree in Geosciences and a Masters degree in Physics.

I marvel at how things have changed at UT Dallas since that first ceremony. We have added undergraduates and have expanded program offerings at all levels. Course and degree changes have been incorporated to prepare students to pursue a variety of challenging post-graduate careers.....

- *By providing internship opportunities*
- *By exposing students to cross-disciplinary connections*

- *By nurturing communication, project-management and problem-solving skills*
- *By emphasizing the importance of communication and public-outreach skills*

And

- *by developing expertise in state-of-the-art technical fields*

Such approaches train scholars capable of discovering, integrating and applying knowledge and will help address the challenges of living in a fast-paced global economy.

Such expertise will find application in the classroom, in research, in business, in clinical professions, and in the non-profit sector. These skills, your skills, are essential to keeping our nation's competitive edge in the global economy.

I wish you every success in your future endeavors, and I look forward to recounting your achievements to future graduating classes.

Live long and prosper.....

Will the candidates who are to receive Doctoral Degrees please rise and remain standing. Dr. Daniel, on behalf of the faculty, I certify that the candidates who are present have completed all of their academic requirements and are entitled to receive their respective degrees. Candidates, please be seated.

Dr. Daniel:

Now by virtue of the authority vested by law in the Board of Regents of The University of Texas System, I confer upon each of you the respective academic degree for which you have been recommended, with all the rights, privileges, responsibilities, and obligations appertaining thereunto, and I offer my sincere congratulations.

It is now time for graduates to take the stage for the presentation of certificates and diplomas.

Reader: Announces degrees

Candidates will come to the stage by school and degree, but not in alphabetical order.

We will now present candidates for the Baccalaureate Degree.

Baccalaureate Degrees

(Dr. Daniel and Dean Berry go to the certificate presentation area. The President shakes the hand of the graduate and Dr. Berry hands the diploma cover to the graduate.)

Candidates from the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences receiving the Baccalaureate Degree, please come forward as your name is called.

(Dean Pirkul joins President Daniel at the certificate presentation area. The President shakes the hand of the graduate and Dr. Pirkul hands the diploma cover to the graduate.)

Candidates from the School of Management receiving the Baccalaureate Degree, please come forward as your name is called.

Reader:

This concludes the presentation of the Baccalaureate Degrees. We will now present those graduates receiving Doctoral Degrees.

Ph.D. HOODINGS

(NOTE: In all doctoral hoodings the president will present the diploma to the candidate. The supervising professor and graduate dean will hood the candidate and the school dean shakes the hand of the graduate.)

- Will **Shilpi Bihari**, certified candidate for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Economics, please come forward.

Dr. Bihari will be hooded by Dr. Barry Seldon.

- Will **Millie D. Smith**, certified candidate for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science, please come forward.

Dr. Smith will be hooded by Dr. Scott Robinson.

- Will **Andrea L. Hilburn**, certified candidate for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Public Affairs, please come forward.

Dr. Hilburn will be hooded by Dr. Susan McElroy.

- Will **Melissa A. Montgomery**, certified candidate for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Public Policy and Political Economy, please come forward.

Dr. Montgomery will be hooded by Dr. Richard Scotch and Dr. Paul Jargowski.

- Will **Janice L. Francis**, certified candidate for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Public Policy and Political Economy, please come forward.

Dr. Francis will be hooded by Dr. Simon Fass.

- Will **Ling-Chun Hung**, certified candidate for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Public Policy and Political Economy, please come forward.

Dr. Hung will be hooded by Dr. Donald Hicks.

- Will **Irene Ngugi**, certified candidate for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Public Policy and Political Economy, please come forward.

Dr. Ngugi will be hooded by Dr. Wim Vijverberg.

- Will **Yoonhwan Park**, certified candidate for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Public Policy and Political Economy, please come forward.

Dr. Park will be hooded by Dr. Paul Jargowsky.

- Will **Julia W. So**, certified candidate for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Public Policy and Political Economy, please come forward.

Dr. So will be hooded by Dr. Richard Scotch.

- Will **Fengxia Xiao**, certified candidate for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Public Policy and Political Economy, please come forward.

Dr. Xiao will be hooded by Dr. Donald Hicks.

- *Will Him-Lai L. Chan, certified candidate for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Management Science, please come forward.*

Dr. Chan will be hooded by Dr. William Cready.

This concludes the awarding of Doctoral Degrees. It is now my pleasure to turn the podium over to Dr. Daniel.

Dr. Daniel:

I would like to thank University staff who planned and executed the commencement ceremonies today, and express my appreciation to faculty and administrators who gave their time today to participate. Your presence means a great deal to our graduates. I would also like to thank our orators, Jimmy Casey and Anne McLane.

And now, graduates, please rise.

It is time to move your tassels from the right side to the left side and turn your class ring around to signify your graduation. If you ever forget which side your tassel goes on, remember that you wear it on the left side over your heart to remind you of your alma mater.

Graduates, please turn, face the audience and receive their applause.

(PAUSE while graduates receive applause.) Graduates, please be seated.

Let me be the first to offer my warmest congratulations to you for a prosperous and successful future. This day signifies a new beginning for each and every one of you. In addition to earning the degrees conferred upon you today, you have earned the right to be associated with a very special group of individuals. You can now call yourselves Alumni of The University of Texas at Dallas. This day marks a wonderful milestone not only in your lives, but also in the life of the University. I wish you all the

best as you go into your new lives as graduates of The University of Texas at Dallas. Enjoy your day of celebration with your family and friends and return to us soon.

Dr. Coleman

Please rise and join the UT Dallas Chamber Singers for the singing of the Alma Mater.

Singing of the Alma Mater – Members of the UT Dallas Chamber Singers

Dr. Coleman:

Will the audience please be seated and remain until the stage party has recessed at which time graduates are free to join their families and friends, and enjoy the music of the Encore Brass.

Thank you.

Recessional of the Stage Party