



UNIVERSITY
ST. THOMAS
HOUSTON

Educating Leaders of Faith and Character

Check Our Pulse

Nursing School Graduates First Class of Nurses

The first graduating class of the re-established University of St. Thomas nursing school crossed the stage at the 64th Commencement Ceremony on May 17. Twenty-seven students earned Bachelor of Science in Nursing degrees.

Many of the nursing graduates already have jobs – with Harris Health, Memorial Hermann, MD Anderson Cancer Center and West Houston Medical Center – and the others are in the interviewing process and expect to hear soon about their offers.

“At UST, we help students experience nursing as a challenging profession, a call to service and a healing ministry,” said Dr. Poldi Tschirch, dean of the UST School of Nursing.



In just six years, led by Tschirch, the school has received Texas Board of Nursing approval, funded five endowed faculty chairs, equipped nursing classrooms and two simulation labs, recruited nursing majors and quality faculty, and in February, received a positive report from the site visit team of the prestigious nursing school accrediting body, the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). A vote on UST's CCNE national accreditation is expected this fall.

Board OK's Nursing School Name Honoring Peavys

During the commencement ceremony, President Robert Ivany announced the largest gift in UST's history. The UST board voted June 5 to recognize Odis Peavy and his wife Carol's generosity by naming the nursing school in their honor.

The UST School of Nursing will be renamed the Carol and Odis Peavy School of Nursing in perpetuity.



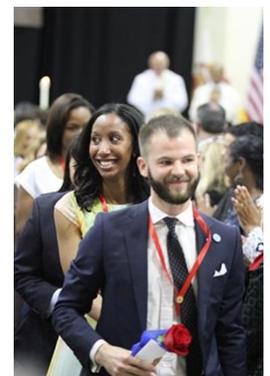
The school reopened in 2012 after a 26-year hiatus, in large part because of the personal dedication of Carol Peavy, a nursing alumna and former UST nursing faculty member.

Nursing Graduates Continue Pinning Tradition

In a long-standing tradition of welcoming graduating nursing students into the nursing profession, the School of Nursing held the Nursing Pinning Ceremony on May 14, recognizing the first class of nurses to graduate since the nursing school closed more than 25 years ago.

Dr. Angelina Chambers, associate dean of the School of Nursing, said the pins given to the nurses identify them with St. Thomas.

In the UST Jerabeck Gym, the Pinning Ceremony was part of a Mass of Thanksgiving in which 27 nursing graduates, School of Nursing faculty, administrators, members of the Founders Nursing Society, area Hospital administrators and other nurses were present to celebrate the rite of passage from student to professional nurse.



These groups formed an honor guard at the end of the ceremony, lining both sides of the path as the graduates processed out, sending them on their way to be successful nurses, to the applause of family and friends.