TWENTY-NINTH
Commencement Ceremony
May 2, 2009
The MGH Institute of Health Professions gratefully acknowledges the use of the Harvard Medical School Quadrangle and the assistance of its staff with the arrangements for the Commencement festivities.

The US flag on the platform was flown over the US Capitol on August 27, 2001, at the request of The Honorable Senator Mitch McConnell. The flag was presented to Dr. Sandra Jones, program coordinator for the Hanson Initiative for Language and Literacy (HILL), by the Paducah, Kentucky Rotary at the request of Dale Hanson, co-founding donor of the HILL. Dr. Jones accepted the flag on behalf of the HILL, the Graduate Program in Communication Sciences and Disorders, and the MGH Institute of Health Professions.

The Institute also acknowledges with thanks the participation of the administration, faculty, staff, and students who contributed their ideas, time, and energy to ensure the success of these Commencement events.
MGH Institute of Health Professions
Twenty-ninth Commencement Ceremony

SATURDAY, THE SECOND OF MAY
IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND NINE
AT TWO O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON

The Harvard Medical School Quadrangle
Boston, Massachusetts
History of the
MGH Institute of Health Professions

In 1873, MGH established one of the first schools of nursing—the Boston Training School for Nurses—based on the principles of Florence Nightingale, which became the Massachusetts General Hospital Training School for Nurses in 1896 and the Massachusetts General Hospital School of Nursing in 1940. When this diploma school closed in 1981, it was the oldest continuously operating school of nursing in the United States and was the predecessor to the MGH Institute's School of Nursing.

Since many health care professions evolved from hospital-based needs, the MGH Institute's educational programs initially developed through onsite clinical training activities. Departures from this pattern came during the 1940s and 1950s as colleges and universities assumed responsibility for health professions education. The shift from hospital-based to academy-based education raised several issues; the separation often caused a lack of integration between clinical and didactic aspects of health care curriculum.

Ruth Sleeper, Director of the MGH School of Nursing from 1946 to 1966, recognized the implications of these changes in nursing education and in 1964 promoted the idea of a freestanding, degree-granting institution at MGH. In the late 1960s, Dr. John Hilton Knowles, MGH General Director, expanded the idea to include all non-physician education programs for health care professionals and proposed a hospital-based program at an advanced level, referred to internally as “MGH University.”

In the early 1970s, Dr. Charles Sanders, Knowle's successor, pursued the idea of a degree program along with Dr. Henry Mankin, Chair of the MGH Committee on Teaching and Education, and John E. Lawrence, then the chair of the MGH Board of Trustees.

Acting faculty, comprising MGH department heads, planned academic programs in nursing, speech, physical therapy, dietetics, social work, respiratory therapy and radiologic technology. In 1975, a petition to grant degrees was submitted to the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education. A visiting committee conducted a site visit and a public hearing was held, at which local colleges and universities voiced opposition to the establishment of a free-standing school governed by the hospital.

In 1977, Massachusetts General Hospital was awarded degree-granting authority by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The first Provost and program directors in dietetics, nursing, physical therapy and social work were hired. The Institute officially opened as the MGH Institute of Health Professions in 1980, admitting its first students in Physical Therapy and Social Work.

The following year the first students enrolled in the Dietetics program and the Institute held its first graduation, awarding four certificates in social work. In 1982, the first nursing students were admitted, and in 1983 the first degree, a Master of Science, was awarded in Physical Therapy. That year the Institute also hired the first program director for Speech-Language Pathology.

In 1985, the MGH Institute was incorporated with its own Board of Trustees, hired its first President, received initial accreditation from the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), and began granting degrees for the Master of Science in Nursing. Throughout the 1980s and early 1990s, the MGH Institute continued to change and grow.
A faculty award for excellence in teaching, given annually at Commencement, was established and later named in honor of Nancy T. Watts, Professor Emerita, physical therapist and educator, who was instrumental in the founding of the Institute. The Nursing program was accredited by the National League for Nursing, the Social Work program closed, students enrolled in the speech program, renamed Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD), and the Institute moved to 101 Merrimac Street—the first time faculty, staff and students were all together under one roof.

By 1994, when Partners HealthCare was formed by the Massachusetts General Hospital and Brigham and Women’s Hospital, the MGH Institute’s enrollment had reached 500 students. The following year, the entry-level Physical Therapy program opened, the Dietetics Program closed, and the Graduate Program in Nursing revised its curriculum to prepare nurse practitioners. In 1996, the Institute received degree-granting authority in Clinical Investigation, and the CSD program was awarded teacher certification by the Massachusetts Department of Education.

The year 1997 saw the MGH Institute’s endowment reach $15 million. The Alumni Association was established, the first students were admitted to the Clinical Investigation program, the CSD program received accreditation from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, and the Professional Program in Physical Therapy was accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education. In 1998, the Institute celebrated its 20th anniversary and graduated its 1,000th alumnus. In 1999, the first Clinical Investigation student graduated, and the Institute began offering courses online.

The new century brought many changes. The Institute converted its entry-level Master of Science in Physical Therapy to the new Doctor of Physical Therapy. The Hanson Initiative for Language and Literacy (HILL) was established within the CSD program to advance whole school reform for how reading is taught. The Institute purchased Building 36 in the Charlestown Navy Yard. Working with a $2 million gift from the Catherine Filene Shouse Foundation, renovations turned Building 36 into a state-of-the-art educational facility. The Institute moved in December 2001, renaming it the Catherine Filene Shouse Building.

By 2002, the endowment exceeded $20 million. That June, the Institute celebrated its 25th anniversary and formally dedicated the Catherine Filene Shouse Building, having raised $4.4 million toward it. In 2003, the Institute received degree-granting authority for the Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Medical Imaging and the first students enrolled in the program in the fall of 2004.

As enrollment grew, the Institute was creating new traditions while honoring its historical roots. The 2004 Commencement activities were expanded to include an Honors Convocation. The nursing faculty created a nursing honor society—which is now the Upsilon Lambda chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International—and inducted the first honorees. With a grant from the MGH Nurses’ Alumnae Association, the former MGH School of Nursing’s archives were permanently relocated to a new, climate-controlled space on campus.

The Distinguished Alumni Award was established in 2005 and the first recipient was honored at the 25th Commencement, which featured an academic procession with alumni from each of the preceding twenty-four years carrying their class flags. Alumni were led by a representative from the MGH Nurses’ Alumnae Association, carrying the flag of the MGH School of Nursing,
symbolizing the historical link between the School of Nursing and the Institute’s nursing program. Each year representatives from the graduating class and from the MGH Nurses’ Alumnae Association lead the academic procession, and their flags join those from the previous classes. In 2006, the Distinguished Alumni Award was named in honor of Bette Ann Harris ’83, the first graduate of the MGH Institute.

In 2007, the endowment exceeded $36 million. That summer marked the inauguration of two new annual events: an official Reunion Weekend for five, ten, fifteen, and twenty-year classes, and a Scholarship Gala to benefit the President’s Scholarship endowment. The nursing program accepted its first students into a new Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program, and became one of the first nursing programs in the country to offer the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree, a new clinical doctorate for master’s prepared nurses.

Earlier this year, the Graduate Program in Nursing was designated a School of Nursing, to better reflect the size and breadth of its academic offerings. Today, enrollment at the MGH Institute exceeds 800 full- and part-time students across nursing, physical therapy, communication sciences and disorders, medical imaging and clinical investigation.
Commencement Ceremony

PROCESSIONAL
Lesley A. Maxwell, Faculty Marshal

WELCOME
George E. Thibault, Chair, Board of Trustees

GREETINGS FROM THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL

OPENING REMARKS
Janis P. Bellack, President and John Hilton Knowles Professor

GREETINGS AND WELCOME FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
Patrick Alexis '03, President, Alumni Association

STUDENT COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER
Parneet Kaur, Physical Therapy Class of 2009

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS
Amy Whitcomb Slemmer, Executive Director, Health Care for All

BETTE ANN HARRIS DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD
Dr. Deborah L. Givens, '90, '05

NANCY T. WATTS AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

CONFERRING OF DEGREES

George E. Thibault, Chair
Board of Trustees

Janis P. Bellack, President and
John Hilton Knowles Professor

Alex F. Johnson, Provost and
Vice President for Academic Affairs

Bryan P. Bergeron, Acting Director
Graduate Program in
Clinical Investigation

Gregory L. Lof, Director
Graduate Program in Communication
Sciences and Disorders

Richard Terrass, Director
Graduate Program in
Medical Imaging

Margery Chisholm, Dean
School of Nursing

Leslie G. Portney, Director
Graduate Programs in
Physical Therapy

Carolyn F. Locke, Dean of
Student Affairs

RECESSIONAL
The audience is requested to remain in place until the academic procession has withdrawn.
Commencement Speaker

AMY WHITCOMB SLEMMER JD, BA
Executive Director, Health Care For All

Amy Whitcomb Slemmer is a health care attorney who brings more than twenty years of health policy and management experience in national and local arenas to Health Care For All. During her career, Ms. Slemmer has earned a reputation for her commitment to social justice, her ability to foster collaborations and partnerships, and for leading with vision and passion.

Prior to joining Health Care For All, Ms. Slemmer was the Executive Officer of Biomedical Services for the American Red Cross in Washington, DC, which is responsible for supplying nearly half of the nation’s blood supply. As President of Slemmer & Associates Grassroots Advocacy, she provided advice and counsel to a diverse group of health care organizations as they negotiated the federal legislative process.

During her tenure as Executive Director of DC Vote, Ms. Slemmer gained national recognition and attention for her advocacy efforts on behalf of DC residents’ fight to gain full voting rights in Congress.

Ms. Slemmer has served as Legislative Counsel for the National Association of People with AIDS and as Director of Public Education for the Health Care Reform Project. She began her health policy career as a member of Senator Edward M. Kennedy’s Health Staff.

Ms. Slemmer graduated with honors from Wheaton College with a Bachelors of Arts degree and earned a Juris Doctor from Georgetown University Law Center. She is admitted to the Massachusetts Bar. Ms. Slemmer is a member of the Washington Interfaith Network, an IAF affiliate, a founding member of Project Northstar Homeless Tutorial Project and a Board Member of the National Episcopal AIDS Coalition.

Ms. Slemmer’s work has been published by a number of organizations, including the American Red Cross, the Poverty & Race Research Action Council, the Washington Post, and the National Association of Public Hospitals.
MGH Institute of Health Professions

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2009 Commencement Ceremony Degree and Certificate Candidates

CERTIFICATE OF ADVANCED STUDY IN CLINICAL INVESTIGATION

Mark K. Moody
Sreemathy Ramaswamy
Marion Louise Rideout
Laurie A. Roper
Guoming Zhu

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CLINICAL INVESTIGATION

Christopher M. Begley
Cheryl Lemmon Bernier
Christian Andrés Chaves Coronel
Michael Raymond Dion
Daniel Patrick Eggers
Gregory M. Fine
Angela René Fleming
Yamini Sudha Gundimeda
Davina Ayana Henry
Paul Mganga Magao

Ravina Miles
Mary Therese Morgan
Margaret Nowak
Tahira Sharmeen Ranjitkar
Caroline Harvey Rodberg
Kenny Joe Smith
Lindsey M. Strum
Jessica A. Viau
Michelle Lee Westbrook
Kanwen Yang

CERTIFICATE OF ADVANCED STUDY IN READING

Alberta A. Chirico
Patricia M. K. Comeau
Kristen M. Delmonte
Susan M. Fulginiti
Laura A. Lee
Francis J. Lunney
Tina Pastrana-Nadeau
Debra J. Pellerin
Marianne Baird Sargent
Constance Preston Scanlon
Kellie J. Spillane
Deborah White

*Degree in progress  ¦ Degree or certificate awarded in January 2009
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY*

Jennifer Suzanne Abramson  
Ahuod Arab  
Rebecca Lynn Baars  
Stephanie Rose Baldwin  
Cara Anne Ball  
Courtney A. Boyd  
Alina Michelle Carter  
Shannon Marie Clarkin  
Jeffrey Paul Davis  
Alissa Smythe Elwin  
Katie Lynn Eriksen  
Hilary Robyn B. Frost  
Katherine Grace Greash  
Kaitlin Marion Hanley  
Alison Bernadette Hanno  
Alyson B. Hoarty  
Lauren MacNeil Kearney  
Patricia Cuddy Kelley  
Yumna Zahra Nadezhda Khan  
Kerri Michelle Kjorvestad  
Emily H. Laubscher  
Laura Lee Manzanares Licuanan  
Elizabeth S. Logar  
Sara Look  
Michelle Low  
Christina Marie McCarrick  
Meredith Beadle Millen  
Amanda Lee Morin  
Jessica A. Morse  
Lauren E. Moses White  
Jenna Muri-Rosenthal  
JungAh Nam  
Sirad Shirdon  
Alla Ruth Soreanu  
Gillat Simcha Sternberg  
Elizabeth Walton Vaughan  
Sydney Ann Wesolowski  
Erin M. White  
Courtney Campbell Wilkins  
Meredith Adelle Wright  
Jessica Elaine Wu

POST-BACCALAUREATE CERTIFICATE IN MEDICAL IMAGING

Sandra Marie Barbosa  
Stephen Edward Boxer  
Tara Joyce Connolly  
Diane Silvia Foley  
Mary Ellen Graham  
Celeste High  
Terri B. Humphrey  
Kristen Leigh Hurley  
Julie-Ann Keane  
Ann Marie Murphy  
Sean O'Brien  
Marissa L. Vakerlis  
Michael R. Van Nostrand

*Degree in progress  'Degree or certificate awarded in January 2009
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING*

Andrea Banouvong
Oleksandr Barchuk
Erin Beechinor
Caitlin Bermingham
Shannon Marie Buckley
Heather Cheri Bullis
Yi-Ju Fenny Chang
Laura Catherine Childs
Sandra Colasacco
Debbie A. Cullen
Johanna Lee Cusolito
Sarah Lynn Dewitt
Jennifer Lee Dooley
Daniel Arturo Dovalina
Richard Spencer Fitzgerald II
Christine Patricia Fleming
Wadia Gilles Fowler
Sarah Louise Fullam
Amy Ruth Kehaulani Gearheard
Kelly Michelle Hoyt
Rachael Carol Hylar
Brianna Christine Jakubik
Karanja Kabuga
Juliet Owusu Koko
Elizabeth E. Kopec
Melinda Luber
Karen A. Malone
Stacey Lyn Mandeville
Keri Ann McGlocklin
Erin Lyons McManus
Neeti R. Mehta
Shawna Alexandra Melin
Megan Elizabeth O’Connor
Katelyn Elizabeth O’Toole
Elke Aliyah Pravda
Joanne P. Prendergast
Alissa Rose Reiner
Colleen O’Connell Russell
Jeffrey Francis Silvia
Nicole Solk
Brandon Sutton
Dawn Alicia Teixeira
Colleen Jennifer Travers
Sanjeev Wadhwa
Shauna Natasha Worrell-Waldron

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

Danielle Adamczyk*
Jaeger Andrea Agraz
Naomi Haqq Amudala
Katherine Schaffer Attea
Alayna Hope Barnes-Nessa
Wendy Paige Beaumier
Stavroula Birmbas*
Haley M. Boissonneault
Lindsay S. Brunel
Jennifer Christine Canesi
Melissa L. Clifford
Lauren Elizabeth Collins
Sara G. Del Vecchio
Nicole Diorio Kruggeris
Joanna Marie Dixon
Janet M. Dorrwachter
Kate V. Fogarty
Nina Margreth Gadmer
Sarah Elizabeth Geary
Christie Kay Granfield
Jennifer Ann Gross
Amy Katherine Groszky
Phyllis Ann Guy
Margarita Hermosa
David Alan Higgins
Wendy Rehn Hitschler
Christina Marie Houllahan
Alice Maraya Husted
Moriane Joseph
Sonya Marie Kao
Shana L. Kaplan
Linda Kathryn Kelly
Kathryn Sheila Kieran
Sophal Lam
Lisa Jan Liss
Janet Lorang
Jessica Ann Lynch*
Chantelle Frances Marshall

*Degree in progress  ’Degree or certificate awarded in January 2009
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING (Continued)

Raymond E. Martin  
Dana Marie McCabe  
Kara Lynne Moran  
Catherine Alexis Morin  
Karen B. Mueller  
Melissa M. New  
Christine Reynholds Ordway  
Diana Taylor Page  
Emily Susannah Parker  
Yolanda Ann Perez-Shulman  
Katherine Elaine Petersen  
Lindsey Marie Piper  
Nicole Ann Potvin  
Corinne Margery Prigo  
Almas Rathod  
Marion Louise Rideout  
Jessica Lynn Rodriguez  
Teresa Ann Rufo  
Cyllene Arice SainteLien*  
Lori Ann Schulman  
Adrienne E. Schulten  
Bronwyn Elizabeth Sewell  
Dana Lynn Sheer  
Catherine Ann Silva  
Sarah Katherine Sjostrom*  
Autumn Mariah Smith  
Jill St. George  
Mari Stackpoole  
Molly Elizabeth Sweezy*  
Elizabeth Tanguy  
Jason Andrew Telles  
Sarah Elizabeth Terry  
Crystal Dawn Therrien  
Leigh Ann Oppenheimer Thomas  
Andrea Hopkins Thurler  
Leigh C. Tiedemann  
Vinessa Anne Tjoa  
Kiki Constance Venios  
Elizabeth Chopin Vitale*  
Meghan Lane Walsh  
Elisabeth R. Warner  
Julia Catherine Weeks  
Marlena Wirzak  
Stephen Paul Wood  
Jesse Zaitchik

DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE

Margaret Ann Ackerman  
Sherley Belizaire*  
Lisa Marie Colombo*  
Janet M. Crosier*  
Wendye Marie DiSalvo*  
Elena L. Freydin*  
Kimberly Ann Goc'  
Michelle Judith Lespasio*  
Linda M. Liu*  
Janet E. Mayne*  
Madeline Marie O'Donnell*  
Miguel Olmedo*  
Joseph Oseghale*  
Marketa Rejtarova*  
Amy Rebecca Smith  
Susan Patricia Stevens*  
Mary Helena Sylvia-Reardon*  
Carol Ann Tykienski*

*Degree in progress  'Degree or certificate awarded in January 2009
**DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY**  
*Professional Program in Physical Therapy*

Jeanna Marie Allegrone  
Katherine Lydia Booth  
Kyle Brahaney  
Susan Marie Breunig  
Emilie Elizabeth Calvin  
Stephanie Anne Chin  
Mary Helen Elizabeth Curran  
Lyndsay Catherine D'Amato  
Anna Marie Demos  
Stephen Evitts  
Christine K. Farabaugh  
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Dana Lynn Harrison  
Lenore Jane Herget  
David M. Kelley  
Amanda Marcoux Kunkel  
Aimee Rae Lake  
Benjamin A. Larner  
Lisa Beth Leach  
Laura Suzanne Little  
Reggie Mendiola  
Douglas Miller  
Andrew Douglas Mish  
Lacey Mobley  
Kara L. Mortifoglio  
Alyssa Renee Okun  
Stephen Patrick Pickering  
Kristen Marie Reynolds  
Sandra Robinson  
Tessa Baker Rowin  
Ashley Erin Saulnier  
Alexandra Schwartz  
Dawn Marie Sink  
Jaana Kathryn Siple  
Letitia Noelle Smith  
Jenna Lynn Sommer  
Stephanie Allison Sprout  
Alexandra Penelope Terpos  
Minhee Throneburg  
Karine Lyndsay Trattner  
Juliana Klosson Walch  
Elissa Beekman Wolf

**DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY**  
*Post-Professional Program in Physical Therapy*

Melissa Aspuru-Rovner  
Suresh Babu  
Ann M. Bissonnette  
Mary C. Bourgeois  
Rebecca D. Brewster-Taylor  
Lisa E. Brown  
Carolina Carmona  
Nidhi V. Chudasama  
Gregory Evans Crossman, Jr.  
Holly Elizabeth Curry  
Elizabeth Mary Cyr  
Sheilah Nicole Davis  
Johan Christian de Besche  
Giselle Candice DeFreitas  
Julia Anne DeMaria  
Susan Bradway Donnelly  
Cornelius J. Donnelly  
Mahmoud Abd El Raouf Abd El Naby El Sayed  
Susan Marie Esty  
Megan Bright Eyyazzadeh  
Tara Patrick Garrison  
Anne Elizabeth Gould  
Molly Schmitt Grabowski  
Jill Marie Hackney  
Corrine Frances Hatt  
Brian Christopher Hay  
Stephanie Anne Haynes  
Eric Shinobu Honbo  
Ritchie Luoh Jong  
James Joseph  
Thomas Robert Kascak  
Jessica Lauren Konter  
Betsey A. Kurián  
Eileen Foley Lang  
James Joseph Leonardo  
Lauren Marie Lydon

*Degree in progress  
'Degree or certificate awarded in January 2009
DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY (Continued)
Post-Professional Program in Physical Therapy

Moshe Markov
Karin Ruth Massey
Jill Nancy McDougall
Robert John McElroy
Deirdre Patricia McLoughlin
Kristin McNealus
Joti Melwani
Susan Plumer Miller
Marcia Gottesman Moore
Karen Ann Morgan
Robin Osburn Myers
Gentian Shepherd Nuzzo
Ogechukwu Charles Okoli
Carla Owens
Rakesh Reddy Paladugu
Sheila Pallotta
Katrina Anne Pataska
Sandy Elizabeth Payne
Rodney Ray Plunkett
Arie V. Poremba
Gretchen Anne Roman
John Christopher Rossi
Lori Beth Rubenstein
Irene F. Saad
Heather Joy Salon
Dianne Ruth Scully
Abha M. Shah
Yingshan Shyu
Amy Elaine Smith
Brian Taber
Alison Ferrari Thaxter
Robin Catherine Tracy
Timothy J. Vasques
Ramadevi Venkataramani
Rajiv Vijayakumar
Jessica Catherine Viscomi
Karen D. Waak
Martha Mary Wichert
Shuyan Alex Wong

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PHYSICAL THERAPY

Lamia H. Alzayer
Monika Chhabra
Ritu Kunal Chhabriya
Ankita R. Choksi
Aparna Arvind Dandekar
Nishita Kishore Desai
Anant Prabhakar Ingle
Gurneet Kaur
Parneet Kaur
Arva Morbiwala
Nikita S. Nabar
Nisha Prakash Nagpal
Neeti Hasmukh Nand
Spyridon Papagiannopoulos
Raina J. Ranparia
Ajit Anant Sankhe
Shruti Saxena
Ajit Sharma
Neha Krishna Singh
Padmini Vignesh Solai
Shobhna Tandon
Shikha Yadav

CERTIFICATE OF ADVANCED STUDY IN PHYSICAL THERAPY

Matthieu Pascal Boisgontier

The listing of the names in this program in no way implies an obligation on the part of the MGH Institute of Health Professions to award a given degree.

*Degree in progress  †Degree or certificate awarded in January 2009
Awards and Honors

BETTE ANN HARRIS DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

In 2005 and in recognition of the Twenty-fifth Commencement Ceremony, the Institute established the Distinguished Alumni Award to be conferred annually at Commencement. It is the highest form of recognition bestowed upon an alumna or alumnus of the MGH Institute of Health Professions. It is given to a graduate who has demonstrated outstanding leadership, achievement and service in advancing health care through the professions and in support of the mission of the MGH Institute in one or more of the following ways:

- Expanding and refining the scientific basis for clinical practice through research and scholarship
- Contributing to new models of practice to foster provision of effective, affordable and ethical health care
- Contributing significantly to advancing the mission, reputation and standards of the MGH Institute

The Distinguished Alumni Award is named in honor of Bette Ann Harris, the first graduate of the Institute. A distinguished alumna herself, she exemplifies all the award criteria through her contributions as a physical therapist, Institute faculty member and, for ten years, Director of the Institute’s Graduate Programs in Physical Therapy.

Past Recipients of the Bette Ann Harris Distinguished Alumni Award

2006 Jennifer Bottomley ’86
2007 Sheila Davis ’97, ’08
2008 Leoni Nelson ’84, ’02

NANCY T. WATTS AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

In 1989, the Institute established an Award for Excellence in Teaching to recognize individual faculty members for outstanding achievement in teaching. Professor Emerita Nancy T. Watts was the first recipient of the award, and in 1996 the award was renamed in her honor. The award, given annually at Commencement, honors a distinguished Institute faculty member who exhibits creativity in teaching methods, has demonstrated ability to mentor faculty and students, and is recognized by faculty colleagues as outstanding in the field of teaching.

Past Recipients of the Watts Award for Excellence in Teaching

1989 Nancy T. Watts
1990 Sylvia D. Paige
1991 Barbara F. Willson
1992 Daniel A. Dyrek
1993 Michael D. Smith
1994 James M. Hodgson
1995 Patrice K. Nicholas
1996 No award given
1997 Carol H. Kammer
1998 Janice Bell Meisenhelder
1999 Inge B. Corless
2000 Mary P. Watkins
2001 Lesley A. Maxwell
2002 Bette Ann Harris
2003 Kathleen Gill-Body
2004 Pamela E. Hook
2005 Marjorie L. Nicholas
2006 Ann McCarthy-Jacobson
2007 Linda C. Andrist
2008 Sharon P. Sullivan
THE FOLLOWING AWARDS WERE PRESENTED
AT THE ANNUAL HONORS CONVOCATION ON MAY 1, 2009

CLINICAL INVESTIGATION
Award for Academic Excellence
Yamini Sudha Gundimeda

Exceptional Advanced Practice
Clinician and Mentor Award
Janet Mayne

Judith Fong Bressler Nursing Faculty Prize
Lesley E. Adkison

Faculty and Student Recognition for
Outstanding Leadership
Accelerated Baccalaureate Nursing Program
Richard Spencer Fitzgerald II

Faculty Recognition for Academic/
Clinical Excellence
Accelerated Baccalaureate Nursing Program
Sarah Lynn DeWitt

Kenneth N. Stevens Student Research Award
Asako Masaki Wehner

Brianna Christine Jakubik

Academic Excellence Award
Tara Joyce Connolly

The Lavinia Lloyd Dock Award for
Doctor of Nursing Practice Program
Susan Patricia Stevens

Diane Silvia Foley

Miriam “Mim” J. Huggard, SON ’31
Erin Lyons McManus

Student Award for Innovation
Stephanie Rose Baldwin

Nursing Scholarship
Stephanie Rose Baldwin

MEDICAL IMAGING
Clinical Excellence Award
Julie-Ann Keane

Academic Excellence Award
Tara Joyce Connolly

Excellence in Clinical Instruction Award
Barry D. Hall

Diane Silvia Foley

PHYSICAL THERAPY

Rebecca Colvin Prize
Katherine Elaine Petersen

Mirjorie K. Ionta Awards
for Clinical Excellence
Minhee Throneburg, Professional Program
Ritu Kunal Chhabriya,
Post-Professional Program

Josephine Mangio Keaveney Memorial
Nursing Prize
Janet M. Dorrwachter

Adams Fellow Awards
Laura Suzanne Little, Professional Program
Lamia H. Alzayer, Post-Professional Program

Mary Mankin Prize
Lamia H. Alzayer

OUTSTANDING CLINICAL EDUCATOR AWARD
Deborah Couture
Academic Regalia

Academic regalia is a unique academic custom that began in the Middle Ages when scholars at European universities wore hoods and gowns as their customary daily attire. The distinctive gowns, caps and hoods were designed to represent various trades and professions and to reflect the different levels of education. Bachelors of Arts were apprentices; Masters of Arts were teachers; and Doctors were teachers who had completed post-graduate studies. The regalia worn in academic ceremonies in modern day America is derived primarily from the gowns worn at Oxford University.

The Master’s gowns are set apart by pleated front panels and an oblong sleeve that falls below the knee. The sleeve is squared at the end into which a semi-circle is cut. The Doctor’s gowns are more elaborate with velvet panels down the front and around the neck with three velvet stripes running across the bell-shaped sleeves. The variety of styles and colors seen in the procession reflects a university’s own distinguishing custom for its doctoral robes. Other symbolic characteristics are sometimes worn on the gown, such as ribbons or cords, to symbolize honors such as Phi Beta Kappa.

All levels of degree candidates and recipients wear the square mortarboard caps. Doctors sometimes wear the soft, beret-style cap. The tassels worn on both mortarboards and berets are sometimes color-coded by the major field of learning but may be black for any degree. The gold metallic thread tassel is reserved for doctors and/or the governing officials of institutions. Candidates for graduation wear the tassel on the right side, changing it to the left side after the degree is conferred.

The most distinctive characteristics in academic regalia are found on the hood, an ornamental and symbolic article draped over the shoulders and back which connotes the level of degree, the field of study, and the degree-granting institution. The size of the hood and width of velvet trimming conveys level of degree. The color of the velvet border identifies the field of study. Listed below are some of the colors represented in the academic procession today:

- Communication Sciences and Disorders..........Gray
- Education.............................................Light Blue
- Medicine .............................................Green
- Nursing...............................................Apricot
- Philosophy (PhD).................................Dark Blue
- Physical Therapy (post-professional)..........Yellow
- Physical Therapy......................................Teal
- Public Health ......................................Salmon Pink
- Science .............................................Golden Yellow
- Social Work ........................................Citron

The silk lining of the hood denotes the colors of the institution granting the highest degree earned by that individual. Hoods for the MGH Institute of Health Professions are lined in teal and silver.
Faculty of the MGH Institute of Health Professions

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This list reflects faculty appointments and titles as of April 30, 2008.
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Mary Bourgeois   Aimee B. Klein

LEADING TODAY’S PROCESSION

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CLASS OF 2009 FLAG BEARER
Shauna Natasha Worrell-Waldron, BSN Class of 2009