

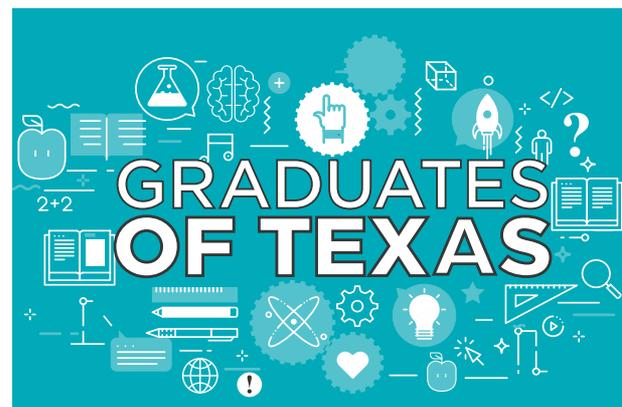


UT's Graduate School Fair Showcases Advanced Degree Options at Global Universities

The UT Graduate School Fair returns to campus on Tuesday, October 10 from 10AM-2 PM on the East Mall and Speedway Plaza. The event is free for University of Texas at Austin students to attend and explore post-graduation options from universities around the world.

More than 120 programs will be participating, featuring graduate school recruiters, as well as test prep resources. Texas programs will be well represented, along with schools from coast to coast and around the world.

Students do not need to register in advance to attend the fair. All majors are welcome, and it doesn't matter how many undergraduate hours have been completed. Simply walk down Speedway and through the East Mall, where representatives from the participating institutions will be available to answer questions, provide informa-



tional materials about their program offerings, explain application requirements, and more.

The UT Graduate School Fair is hosted by the Graduate Coordinators Network and Texas Student Media. More information about featured graduate schools can be found year-round at www.graduatesoftexas.com.

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2024 Call for Papers

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Abstracts, not to exceed two (2) pages, should be submitted that relate to any aspect of the African and African American, Hispanic and Latino, Native American, Indigenous Peoples or Asian experience. Subjects may include, but are not limited to: literature, demographics, history, politics, economics, education, health care, fine arts, religion, social sciences, business, and many other subjects.

Presentation times: Individual presentations - 25 minutes, with 5 minutes for Q&A; Panel presentations (3 or more panelists) - 45 minutes, with 15 minutes for Q&A.

ABSTRACTS WITH TITLE OF PAPER, PRESENTER'S NAME, HOME AND INSTITUTION/ORGANIZATION ADDRESS AND E-MAIL SHOULD BE POSTMARKED BY: Saturday, November 11, 2023.

SEND ABSTRACTS TO:
NAAAS & Affiliates
PO Box 545

Westbrook, ME 04098-0545
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Med School Focuses on Underserved Areas



Nestled along the serene shores of Bayou DeSiard in Monroe, Louisiana, you'll find a significant milestone in the state's healthcare landscape—the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM). This institution is Louisiana's first and only college of osteopathic medicine, which has established an important part-

nership between VCOM and the University of Louisiana Monroe (ULM).

ULM holds the distinction of housing Louisiana's exclusive public school of pharmacy, alongside schools specializing in nursing, physical therapy, kinesiology, occupational therapy, and various other health

sciences disciplines. This rich academic environment opens a world of possibilities for research initiatives and educational collaborations among students.

VCOM-Louisiana's recently constructed campus is equipped with cutting-edge amenities and is an example of a modern medical education facility, with a state-of-the-art simulation center, an expansive 4,100-square-foot anatomy laboratory and a 3,300-square-foot osteopathic manipulative medicine laboratory.

The genesis of VCOM-Louisiana arose from a critical need: the shortage of physicians in the state. Currently ranking 39th in the U.S. for per capita primary care physicians, Louisiana has declared 81% of its

territory as a health professional shortage area, according to the Louisiana Department of Health.

VCOM-Louisiana has been established in one of the most underserved regions in the nation, helping to ensure that the College will produce graduates who align with VCOM's mission to train community-focused physicians who will address the healthcare needs of rural and medically underserved populations. In short: VCOM-Louisiana will have a tangible impact on the lives of Delta region residents.

VCOM stands out as one of only 41 colleges of osteopathic medicine in the United States. The core philosophy of osteopathic medicine emphasizes the interconnected unity of all bodily systems, which func-

tion collaboratively to restore health during times of illness. Osteopathic physicians are licensed to practice the full spectrum of medicine in all states. They can prescribe medications, perform surgical procedures, and employ osteopathic manipulative medicine (OMM) as a diagnostic and therapeutic tool for patients.

In fact, one in every four medical students in the United States attends an osteopathic medical school. While a majority of VCOM students gravitate toward primary care specialties such as family practice, pediatrics or internal medicine, osteopathic physicians have the versatility to practice within any medical specialty.



PICTURE YOURSELF AT VCOM



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Whether you're drawn to VCOM's mission or its state-of-the-art facilities, you're sure to find what you're looking for along the beautiful Bayou Desiard. Our beautiful new 90,000-square-foot building with its 10-acre campus welcomed our inaugural class of 155 students in 2020. The Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM)-Louisiana is inspired by its mission to bring physicians to rural and medically underserved communities.

If you've ever pictured yourself learning how to be a physician with faculty who share your passion for medicine or making a difference in communities where it is most needed, VCOM is the place for you.



Edward Via College of
Osteopathic Medicine

LOUISIANA

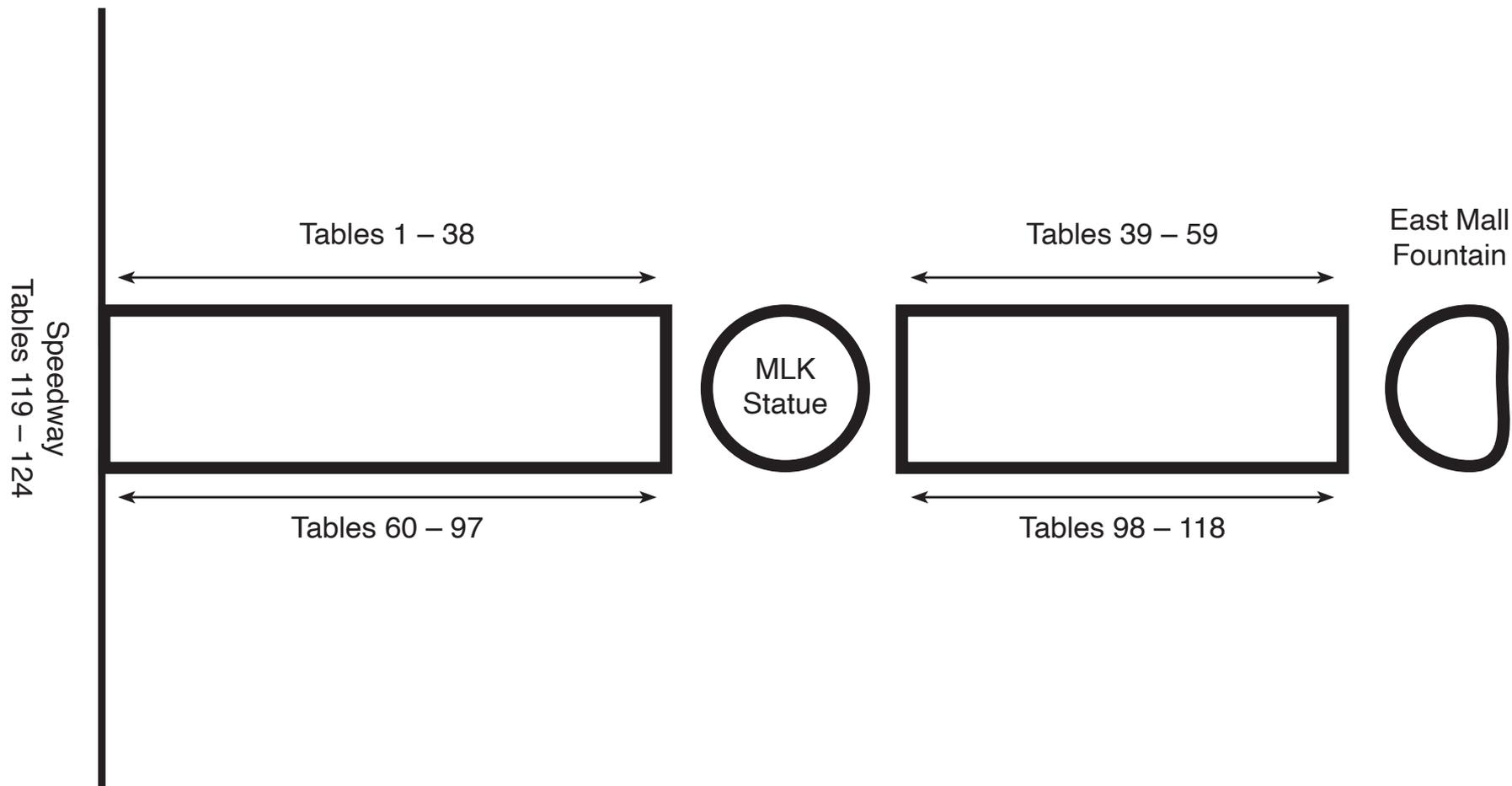
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University of Texas at Austin East Mall



UTRGV School of Podiatric Medicine



The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Podiatric Medicine (SOPM) stands as a beacon of medical education in the heart of South Texas. It holds the distinction of being the sole podiatric medical school in the state of Texas, a testament to its commitment to advancing podiatric medicine. In June 2022, the SOPM found its new home within the

Education Building, a spacious 74,000 square foot facility that serves as a hub of medical learning and innovation. The primary mission of the UTRGV SOPM is to offer a comprehensive and affordable education in podiatry. Podiatric medicine specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of conditions affecting the feet, ankles, and lower extremities, making it a crucial

aspect of healthcare. What sets the UTRGV SOPM apart is not only its dedication to this field but also its affordability. It proudly boasts the lowest tuition costs among all podiatric medical schools in the United States. Furthermore, it enjoys the unique distinction of being the only podiatric medical institution supported by the prestigious UT-System, a major university state system. The Doctoral of Podiatric Medicine (DPM) program at UTRGV SOPM spans four years, offering students a blend of rigorous classroom instruction and hands-on clinical training. The curriculum includes specialized courses in areas such as sports medicine, pediatrics podiatry, diabetic foot care, trauma, lower leg extremities, and surgery. Moreover, students gain a solid medical foundation encompassing subjects like biomechanics, radiology, cardiovascular, histology, anatomy & physiology, and more. The learning environment at

UTRGV SOPM is nothing short of state-of-the-art. The institution boasts a multi-level facility that houses a library named in honor of Dr. Mario Ramirez, a prominent figure who opened the first hospital in Starr County, Texas. This library provides students with access to an extensive array of databases, articles, and reference materials essential for medical education. With 24/7 access, students can utilize the library's study rooms for both independent and group study sessions. Complementing classroom learning, students have access to an anatomy lab that houses a remarkable plastinated collection of cadavers, enabling real-life learning experiences. The lab is equipped with a cutting-edge Anatomage Table, allowing students to dissect specimens and explore the intricacies of internal organs, cardiovascular and neurological systems, and the skeletal structure. For practical training, students utilize the Clinical Simulation Lab

and Clinical Simulation Hospital, offering a controlled environment for working with standardized patients in a hospital setting. These facilities prepare students for real-world medical scenarios, enhancing their clinical skills. UTRGV SOPM also emphasizes research as a cornerstone of its mission. Dr. Claudia Bigueti, an assistant professor of medicine, leads research efforts aimed at improving bone healing and regeneration. With substantial funding from a \$125,000 Rising STARS grant, she focuses on optimizing the natural ability of bones to repair themselves post-reconstructive surgeries. Dr. Hazifur Rahman, another assistant professor of medicine, heads a research lab dedicated to clinical and translational research concerning foot and ankle deformities. Supported by a \$250,000 Rising STARS grant, Rahman employs advanced biomechanical analysis, modeling, and simulation techniques to enhance mo-

bility, functional independence, walking performance, and overall quality of life for patients with foot and ankle dysfunctions. Prospective students interested in joining the UTRGV School of Podiatric Medicine can apply through the Texas Medical and Dental Schools Application Services (TMDSAS). For more information and details on the institution, visit the official UTRGV School of Podiatric Medicine website at <https://www.utrgv.edu/school-of-podiatric-medicine>.





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Island life experiences inspire MLIS student

By Shanzay Shabi

Growing up in Guam, Katrina Lujan found sanctuary in a small, underfunded library. Her life-long love for books led her to pursue an education and career in librarianship.

Lujan, a first-year Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) online student based in Portland, Oregon, was recently awarded a scholarship from the Information School Scholarship Fund, supported by alumni and donors. Alongside her studies, Lujan is also a library coordinator in a women-only state prison.

Her passion for librarianship and working for and within historically underrepresented communities stems from her experiences growing up in the Pacific islands. Lujan, of the Chamorro Indigenous people of Guam, recalls growing up in a rough neighborhood and turning to her local library as her personal safe haven.

“The village I grew up in was really one of the rare villages that had a library, which was really just a small building with books and one staff person,” Lujan said. “But that small library alone held such significance for me because growing up I did not have a lot of safe places where I could spend time after school.”

After experiencing firsthand the impact libraries can have on traditionally underserved communities, Lujan decided to pursue a degree that would enable her to serve communities like hers. It was this desire and set of values that drew Lujan to the MLIS program at the iSchool.

For Lujan, the University of Washington seemed ideal and the iSchool’s MLIS program was one of the few that offered classes helping support the leadership within libraries that



“When I saw the iSchool was actively working within and supporting Indigenous knowledge, it really spoke to my heart.”

she was looking for.

“UW was my dream school. I looked at it and I was like, that’s it, that’s where I want to go,” Lujan said. “And when I saw the iSchool was actively working within and supporting Indigenous knowledge, it really spoke to my heart as a minority person and being from the Pacific islands.”

Greg Williams, Lujan’s former director at her public library position and UW alum, admires Lujan’s drive and dedication.

“During the time I was fortunate enough to work with Katrina, I developed a tremendous amount of appreciation and respect for not only her skills, her ingenuity, and her problem-solving abilities, but also for her commitment to the principles and aspirations of our profession, her compassion, and her passionate belief in the power of libraries to help people and communities become the best versions of themselves,” said Williams.

Despite this being Lujan’s first year, she has already been able to apply her coursework

toward her goal of assisting in building infrastructure for communities that don’t get a lot of support. In her LIS 570 class, for example, Lujan and her research group pursued the question of what opportunities there are for librarians in prison institutions.

“We found a lot of gaps in the quality and quantity of training resources available to prison library staff,” Lujan said. “This has helped me identify areas within prison libraries that need more support and allowed me to share this knowledge with my manager to coordinate ways we can improve the opportunities and resources we’re giving to incarcerated individuals.”

Lujan is eager to continue the rest of her MLIS journey and hopes to continue to serve systematically oppressed communities through her career in librarianship.

Her advice to other prospective MLIS students is to “take the jump. ... Believe in yourself, be honest, and be true to who you are.”

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