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# COLLEGE OF ALLIED HEALTH PHYSICAL THERAPY PROGRAM

Sunday, July 25, 1999

The Broward Center for the Performing Arts

Fort Lauderdale, Florida



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#### COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER



Jan K. Richardson, P.T., Ph.D., O.C.S.

Jan K. Richardson is the President of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA), a position to which she was elected by the APTA House of Delegates in June 1997 for a three-year term.

Dr. Richardson, a certified specialist in orthopedic physical therapy, has served for 23 years in leadership positions in APTA, including as president of the Orthopedic Physical Therapy Section from 1987 to 1992. She served on the APTA Board of Directors from 1992 to 1997, and served three one-year terms as an elected member of the APTA Executive Committee. Additionally, she served as a member of the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties from 1994 to 1996, and had held numerous national-level leadership and liaison positions on other professional organizations. In 1993 she was awarded the Achievement Award in Physical Therapy from the Pennsylvania Physical Therapy Association.

Dr. Richardson resides in Durham, North Carolina, where she is currently the Chairman of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy of the Duke University Health Systems and the Chair/Professor of Physical Therapy. The Duke University Graduate Program in Physical Therapy, in addition to Nova Southeastern University's College of Allied Health, is one of only a few doctoral programs in the country to award the professional degree of Doctor of Physical Therapy.

Dr. Richardson received her doctoral degree in higher education and master's degree in administration from the University of Pittsburgh. She received a bachelor of science degree in physical education and a certificate in physical therapy from the University of Pennsylvania.

In addition to her many APTA activities, she has also served as a volunteer and board member for the Western Pennsylvania Arthritis Foundation and served for more than 15 years on the Governor's Advisory Board for Arthritis. Dr. Richardson is actively involved in clinical practice, research and education, and has been a strong advocate for consumer and patient rights.

## ACADEMIC PROCESSION AND REGALIA

The Academic Processional is a long standing tradition which originated in medieval universities in the eleventh and twelfth centuries. Attired in cap, hood, and gown, the faculty would present itself and its students to the local community for inspection.

The gown was originally thought to be worn for warmth, and to denote authority and privilege. Today, black is the color of the gown for all degrees, although variations represent the difference in the level of the degree.

The medieval hood was worn as a protection from the elements, or used as a satchel to carry scrolls and books. The modern hood worn today is lined with satin in the colors of the institution conferring the degree (Nova Southeastern University colors are blue and gray). In addition, the hood is trimmed with various colors of velvet facing, each color representing the academic discipline in which the degree has been granted. Teal color has been designated to represent the physical therapy degree.

The academic cap, at one time worn by freed Roman slaves, signifies the wearer's right to academic freedom, attests to the dignity endowed upon the wearer, and the responsibility for maintaining the highest practical and ethical standards.