



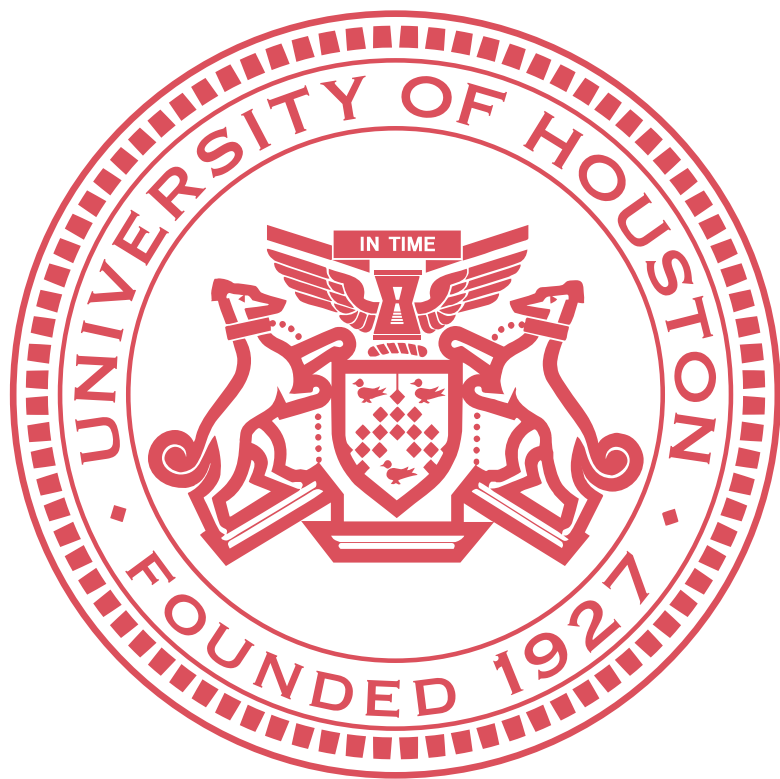
# UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

## FALL 2023 COMMENCEMENT

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

Friday, December 15, 2023 • Fertitta Center







**University of Houston**  
**College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences**

Commencement Ceremonies  
Friday, December 15, 2023, 9:00 a.m.  
Fertitta Center

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### Message from the President

Dear University of Houston Graduates,

Congratulations on receiving your college degree. Today, your longtime dream becomes a reality, and I join your family and friends in celebrating this milestone with you. I am a big believer in the power of dreams and resiliency. To graduate from college, despite the challenges of the past few years, is a testament to your unwavering commitment and ability to dream big.

Whether you're the first in your family to graduate from college or hail from collegiate scholars, your hard work and determination have brought you to this milestone. You are a generation who faced a global pandemic yet stayed focused on your studies and goals. You excelled against the odds, and this adversity has prepared you to face the professional world with more grit than any generation before. I applaud you for all that you have achieved.

Please take time to thank your professors, advisors, family and friends who supported you on this journey. It takes community to accomplish your goals, and I ask that you stay humble and give back to those in need as you go on to even greater heights.

You have received a Tier One education from the University of Houston. This is the home of industry leaders, nationally top-ranked academic programs, world-renowned faculty, an NCAA Final Four basketball team, cutting-edge research and so much more. I know in my heart that you are now ready to compete and become leaders in your chosen careers. Now, work hard, dream big and shine on.

Go Coogs!

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Renu khator'.

Renu Khator  
*President, University of Houston*







### Message from the Provost

Dear Fall Graduates,

You've traveled a long road to reach this moment, but here you are! Congratulations on earning a degree from the University of Houston.

Whether you're the first in your family to graduate from college or perhaps a second-generation Cougar, today's ceremony marks a significant moment in your lives. It's also special for the University of Houston as your success has been our priority since you first stepped foot on campus.

Now, you embark on new journeys. Some of you may be entering the workforce. Others may be headed to graduate school. No matter your destination, please remember those who helped you get to this point.

Stay in touch with peers, professors and staff members and remind them that their guidance supported your academic journeys. Also, thank your spouses, siblings, parents, grandparents and others in attendance today for their daily inspiration.

Of course, be sure to truly recognize the one person responsible for today's celebration—you! You balanced classes, work, family and other obligations. It wasn't easy, but you did it. Now, you are poised to reap the rewards of a degree from UH.

Although you are leaving this wonderful campus, you will remain a member of our University family. You now carry the proud tradition of past UH graduates and will represent our institution in your professional endeavors. Be proud of your time here, and let others know that you are now and forever a Cougar.

Once again, congratulations!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Diane Z. Chase', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Diane Z. Chase

*Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, University of Houston*

## University of Houston

Commencement Ceremony

## University of Houston System

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### BOARD OF REGENTS

Tilman J. Fertitta, *Chairman*  
Alonzo Cantu, *Vice Chairman*  
John A. McCall, Jr., *Secretary*  
Durga D. Agrawal  
Gregory C. King  
Beth Madison  
Jack B. Moore  
Tammy D. Murphy  
Ricky Raven  
Mielad Ziaee

## University of Houston

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### PRESIDENT

Renu Khator

### PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Diane Z. Chase  
*Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost*

Raymond S. Bartlett  
*Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance*

Bettina Beech  
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Eloise Brice  
*Vice President for University Advancement and Alumni*

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*Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel*

Susie Gronseth  
*President, UH Faculty Senate*

Lisa K. Holdeman  
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Michael Johnson  
*Chief of Staff*

Ramanan Krishnamoorti  
*Vice President for Energy and Innovation*

Elwyn C. Lee  
*Vice President for Neighborhood and Strategic Initiatives*

Daniel M. Maxwell  
*Interim Vice President for Student Affairs*

Claudia Neuhauser  
*Interim Vice President for Research*

Michael Pedé  
*Associate Vice President for Alumni Relations*

Chris Pezman  
*Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletics*

Jason Smith  
*Vice President for Government and Community Relations*

Stephen J. Spann  
*Vice President for Medical Affairs and  
Founding Dean, Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine*

## University of Houston Deans

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Heidi Appel  
*THE HONORS COLLEGE*

Leonard M. Baynes  
*UH LAW CENTER*

Andrew Davis  
*Founding Dean*  
*Cullen Foundation Endowed Dean's Chair*  
*KATHRINE G. MCGOVERN COLLEGE OF THE ARTS*

Jim Granato  
*HOBBY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS*

Catherine Horn  
*Elizabeth D. Rockwell Chair*  
*COLLEGE OF EDUCATION*

Athena N. Jackson  
*Elizabeth D. Rockwell Endowed Dean's Chair*  
*UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON LIBRARIES*

Sarah C. Larsen  
*Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School*  
*Interim Dean*  
*GRADUATE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK*

Teri Elkins Longacre  
*Senior Vice Provost and Dean*  
*UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT SUCCESS – INTEGRATED STUDIES*

Daniel P. O'Connor  
*COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES*

Patricia Belton Oliver  
*ACSA Distinguished Professor*  
*GERALD D. HINES COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN*

Paul A. Pavlou  
*Cullen Distinguished Chair*  
*C. T. BAUER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS*

F. Lamar Pritchard  
*Humana Endowed Dean's Chair in Pharmacy*  
*COLLEGE OF PHARMACY*

Dennis Reynolds  
*Barron Hilton Distinguished Chair*  
*CONRAD N. HILTON COLLEGE OF*  
*GLOBAL HOSPITALITY LEADERSHIP*

Pradeep Sharma  
*Interim Dean*  
*Hugh Roy and Lillie Cranz Cullen*  
*Distinguished University Professor*  
*CULLEN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING*

Stephen J. Spann  
*Founding Dean*  
*TILMAN J. FERTITTA FAMILY COLLEGE OF MEDICINE*

Kathryn M. Tart  
*Founding Dean*  
*Humana Endowed Dean's Chair in Nursing*  
*ANDY AND BARBARA GESSNER COLLEGE OF NURSING*

Michael Twa  
*Humana Endowed Dean's Chair in Optometry*  
*COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY*

Dan E. Wells  
*Distinguished Professor of Science*  
*COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS*

## University of Houston

### Commencement Ceremony

## University of Houston History

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The University of Houston was established as the Houston Junior College in 1927. As the college grew, it prospered and officially became the four-year University of Houston in 1934. Two years later, the college attained land for a permanent campus, and in 1939 it constructed its first building, the Roy G. Cullen Building. The University became a state institution in 1963.

The University includes 14 academic colleges, one school, and the multidisciplinary Honors College that teach a wide array of subjects – from math, arts and engineering to law, pharmacy and business. What started as a campus with a single building has grown into a world-class university, offering more than 270 undergraduate and graduate programs to more than 46,000 students annually.

UH is a Carnegie-designated Tier One public research university, and its public service and community activities, such as cultural offerings, clinical services, policy studies and small business initiatives, serve a diverse metropolitan population. Likewise, the resources of the Gulf Coast Region complement and enrich the University's academic programs, providing students with professional expertise, practical experience and career opportunities.

In keeping with the University's commitment to excellence, UH raised the benchmark of academic achievement when Phi Beta Kappa, the nation's oldest and most prestigious academic honor society, awarded UH the approval to start a chapter in 2015. This designation welcomed UH to an elite group of the nation's most esteemed colleges and universities.

## Commencement Traditions

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Academic costumes of today have a history of nearly eight centuries. In medieval Europe, all townspeople wore long flowing robes and gowns. The materials and colors were governed by royal decree. Gradually, distinctive gowns were developed for the various professions, trades and guilds. Scholars wore robes and hoods to protect their shaved heads. Later, skullcaps were worn on the head, and the hoods became a cape that could be pulled over the head during unpleasant weather.

As additional universities were founded, distinctive forms of the gown and hood were adapted by their faculties for bachelor's (apprentices of the arts), master's (teachers) and doctoral (teachers who had completed postgraduate studies). When caps and hats came into fashion in the 15th century, the hoods became ornamental, draped over the shoulders and down the back.

The academic hat was first worn as a symbol of the master's degree and existed in various forms. The mortarboard style comes to us from Oxford University. When academic costumes came to America in 1754, styles were quite varied. In Europe, they still are; however, in our country, usage has been standardized by the Intercollegiate Code of Academic Costume.

### GERALD D. HINES COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN

<b>Bachelor's Degree</b>	<i>Tassel: Violet</i>
<b>Master's Degree</b>	<i>Hood: Violet Tassel: Black</i>

### KATHRINE G. MCGOVERN COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

<b>Bachelor's Degree</b>	<i>Tassel: Brown</i>
<b>Master's Degree</b>	<i>Hood: Brown Hood (Music): Pink Tassel: Black</i>
<b>Doctoral Degree</b>	<i>Hood: Pink Tassel: Red</i>

### C. T. BAUER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

<b>Bachelor's Degree</b>	<i>Tassel: Dark Blue</i>
<b>Master's Degree</b>	<i>Hood: Drab Tassel: Black</i>
<b>Doctoral Degree</b>	<i>Hood: Dark Blue Tassel: Red</i>

### COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

<b>Bachelor's Degree</b>	<i>Tassel: Light Blue</i>
<b>Master's Degree</b>	<i>Hood: Light Blue Tassel: Black</i>
<b>Doctoral Degree</b>	<i>Hood (Ed.D.): Light Blue Hood (Ph.D.): Dark Blue Tassel: Red</i>

### CULLEN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

<b>Bachelor's Degree</b>	<i>Tassel: Orange</i>
<b>Master's Degree</b>	<i>Hood: Orange Tassel: Black</i>
<b>Doctoral Degree</b>	<i>Hood: Dark Blue Tassel: Red</i>

### CONRAD N. HILTON COLLEGE OF GLOBAL HOSPITALITY LEADERSHIP

<b>Bachelor's Degree</b>	<i>Tassel: Navy</i>
<b>Master's Degree</b>	<i>Hood: Navy, Red and White Tassel: Black</i>
<b>Doctoral Degree</b>	<i>Hood: Dark Blue Tassel: Red</i>

## University of Houston

### Commencement Ceremony

#### UH LAW CENTER

**Master's Degree**      *Hood: Purple*  
*Tassel: Black*

**Doctoral Degree**      *Hood: Purple*  
*Tassel: Red*

#### COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

**Bachelor's Degree**      *Tassel: Citron*

**Master's Degree**      *Hood: Citron*  
*Tassel: Black*

**Doctoral Degree**      *Hood: Dark Blue*  
*Tassel: Red*

#### TILMAN J. FERTITTA FAMILY COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

**Doctor of Medicine Degree**  
*Hood: Kelly Green*  
*Tassel: Red*

#### COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

**Bachelor's Degree**      *Tassel: Golden Yellow*

**Master's Degree**      *Hood: Golden Yellow*  
*Tassel: Black*

**Doctoral Degree**      *Hood: Dark Blue*  
*Tassel: Red*

#### ANDY AND BARBARA GESSNER COLLEGE OF NURSING

**Bachelor's Degree**      *Tassel: Apricot*

**Master's Degree**      *Hood: Apricot*  
*Tassel: Black*

#### COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY

**Master's Degree**      *Hood: Gold*  
*Tassel: Black*

**Doctor of Philosophy Degree**  
*Hood: Royal Blue*  
*Tassel: Red*

**Doctor of Optometry Degree**  
*Hood: Seafoam Green*  
*Tassel: Red*

#### COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

**Bachelor's Degree**      *Tassel: Olive*

**Master's Degree**      *Hood: Olive*  
*Tassel: Black*

**Doctor of Philosophy Degree**  
*Hood: Royal Blue*  
*Tassel: Red*

**Doctor of Pharmacy Degree**  
*Hood: Olive*  
*Tassel: Red*

#### GRADUATE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK

**Master's Degree**      *Hood: Citron*  
*Tassel: Black*

**Doctoral Degree**      *Hood: Citron*  
*Tassel: Red*

#### HOBBY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

**Master's Degree**      *Hood: Peacock Blue*  
*Tassel: Black*

#### UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT SUCCESS – INTEGRATED STUDIES

**Bachelor's Degree**      *Tassel: White*

## Ceremonial Symbols

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### THE SEAL

Throughout history, seals have been used to authenticate official documents. The University of Houston and UH System seals both bear the Official Seal of Arms of General Sam Houston, as handed down to him from his noble ancestors. It includes the escutcheon in the center of the seal — consisting of checkered chevrons denoting nobility — and three martlets, gentle lowland birds that symbolize peace and deliverance. A winged hourglass is placed above the shield. Surmounting this is the motto “In Tempore,” meaning “In Time.” The greyhounds indicate speed of giving aid. The UH seal was first adopted in 1938 as the present campus was established. Although the look of the seal has evolved over the years, the first version was etched into the floor of the Roy G. Cullen Building.



### UNIVERSITY MACE

The University Mace, which is carried in academic processions, is a staff symbolizing the University’s authority and unity. The tradition of the academic mace began in the late 14<sup>th</sup> century when two ancient instruments, the royal scepter and the battle mace, were combined to form a university president’s symbol of authority.

### THE ALMA MATER

All hail to thee,  
Our Houston University.  
Our hearts fill with gladness  
When we think of thee.  
We’ll always adore thee  
Dear old varsity.  
And to thy memory cherished,  
True we’ll ever be.

*Words and music by Harmony Class of 1942*

## University of Houston

### Commencement Ceremony

## Academic Honors

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Academic honors are based on the requirements of the catalog year students entered the University. The final designation for honors is determined by the Provost's Office upon final completion of all degree requirements.

Undergraduates who have graduated with the stated academic honors have achieved the following grade point averages earned in the last 54 hours completed at the University of Houston.

<b>3.90 TO 4.0</b>	Summa Cum Laude (with Highest Honors)
<b>3.70 TO 3.89</b>	Magna Cum Laude (with High Honors)
<b>3.50 TO 3.69</b>	Cum Laude (with Honors)

This roster does not include the names of degree holders who chose to withhold information under the Federal Education Rights and Privacy Act.

## Summa Cum Laude – 4.0 GPA Graduates

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The following graduates are recognized for achieving Summa Cum Laude with a 4.0 cumulative grade point average while also completing their degree within four years of starting their first semester in college at the University of Houston.

### FALL 2023

Anahy Baca  
*Bachelor of Science in Retailing and Consumer Science*  
CULLEN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Kayla Huhn  
*Bachelor of Arts in English*  
*Bachelor of Arts in Spanish*  
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Malak Khalil  
*Bachelor of Science in Political Science*  
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Emily Nguyen  
*Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance*  
C.T. BAUER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

My Tran  
*Bachelor of Business Administration*  
*in Management Information Systems*  
C.T. BAUER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Trinity Tran  
*Bachelor of Science in Teaching and Learning*  
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION





## President's Medallion

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### THE HONORABLE SYLVESTER TURNER

#### Mayor of the City of Houston

SYLVESTER TURNER is the 62<sup>nd</sup> mayor of Houston, a position he has held since 2016. Born and raised as one of nine children in the Acres Homes community of northwest Houston, Turner was a natural-born leader. During high school, he was president of Student Council, a member of the science, chess and Mu Alpha Theta clubs, and class valedictorian. He earned his bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Houston in 1977 and graduated from Harvard Law School in 1980.

Since taking office, Turner has passed seven balanced budgets, led the city's remarkable rebound from Hurricane Harvey, championed historic pension reform, created the Hire Houston Youth program and launched Houston's first Climate Action Plan – a comprehensive strategy for Houston to lead the global energy transition. One of Turner's signature priorities is Complete Communities – an initiative to revitalize and improve Houston's most underserved neighborhoods. In complement of the initiative, in 2018 he announced a \$30 million joint agreement with Harris County to transform seven streets around UH and Texas Southern University.

Before becoming mayor, Turner served for 27 years in the Texas House as the representative for District 139. During his tenure, he served on the House Appropriations Committee, Legislative Budget Board, as Speaker Pro Tem and on several budget conference committees.

Turner has received numerous honors including the Ohtli Award, the Mexican government's highest honor; Rice Kinder Institute's Stephen L. Klineberg Award; the United States Conference of Mayors Local Arts Leadership Award; and the President Bush Medal for Empowerment of People with Disabilities, among others.

He's been a proud and vocal supporter of UH, recognizing its symbiotic relationship with the city. For his unwavering dedication and service, Turner has been awarded UH's Distinguished Alumni Award, the Elected Public Official of the Year award and its Pioneer of Public Service Award. The Sylvester Turner Academic Distinction Scholarship and the Sylvester Turner Scholarship Endowment Fund within the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences were established in his honor.

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The President's Medallion is awarded at the sole discretion of the President to individuals and organizations that have distinguished themselves by their support of the University of Houston and the community.





College of Liberal Arts  
and Social Sciences  
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

### Message from the Dean

**Class of 2023: Congratulations on your graduation from the University of Houston!**

Commencement is a time for reflection, celebration, and looking to the future. During your time as a student at UH, you demonstrated that you are resilient, both individually and as a group. Your determination, along with the support of family, friends, classmates, faculty, and staff, provided you the drive needed to complete your degree.

You have persevered, and you have succeeded. Today we celebrate that success!

I believe that challenges along your path, and there were many challenges these past few years, were opportunities for you to grow, gain wisdom, and learn to adapt. The faculty and staff of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences aimed to challenge your thinking, strengthen your knowledge, and deepen your appreciation of the world in all its complexity and diversity. We now applaud your accomplishment.

Your experiences at UH will serve you well as you transition to the next phase of your life. Your graduation is the first step, a very large step, on your path to great achievements.

As a new graduate, you have the opportunity to contribute constructively to society, utilizing the knowledge and skills you have acquired here. You have the privilege of shaping a brighter future for all of us. I look forward to the future that you will create.

The College is delighted to welcome you into the ranks of our alumni. I hope you will keep in touch with your classmates and maintain strong ties with the University of Houston. We need the energy and support of our alumni as the University of Houston becomes a top 50 public research university, and beyond. I know we can rely on you.

Please accept my best wishes for your continued success. Be well, stay safe and Go Coogs!

Dr. Daniel P. O'Connor  
*Dean*

**University of Houston**  
**College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences**

**Commencement Ceremony**

Friday, December 15, 2023, 9:00 a.m.

Fertitta Center

<b>PROCESSIONAL</b>	Moore School of Music
<b>PRESENTATION OF COLORS</b>	Houston Battalion ROTC Color Guard
<b>NATIONAL ANTHEM</b>	Moore School of Music
<b>RECOGNITION OF PLATFORM PARTY</b>	Todd Romero <i>Associate Dean, Undergraduate Studies</i>
<b>WELCOME REMARKS</b>	Daniel P. O'Connor <i>Dean</i>
<b>GREETINGS FROM UH SYSTEM BOARD OF REGENTS</b>	The Honorable Ricky Raven <i>Member</i>
<b>GREETINGS</b>	Renu Khator <i>President</i>
<b>INTRODUCTION OF PRESIDENT'S MEDALLION HONOREE</b>	Dean O'Connor
<b>PRESENTATION OF PRESIDENT'S MEDALLION</b>	President Khator  The Honorable Sylvester Turner <i>Mayor, City of Houston</i>
<b>RECOGNITION OF ACADEMIC HONORS</b>	Sally Connolly <i>Associate Dean, Student and Faculty Success</i>
<b>PRESENTATION OF DOCTORAL CANDIDATES</b>	Susan Scarrow <i>Associate Dean of Graduate Studies</i>
<b>PRESENTATION OF MASTER'S CANDIDATES</b>	Associate Dean Scarrow
<b>PRESENTATION OF BACHELOR'S CANDIDATES</b>	Associate Dean Romero
<b>CONFERRAL OF DEGREES</b>	President Khator
<b>CLOSING REMARKS</b>	Dean O'Connor
<b>ALMA MATER</b>	Moore School of Music
<b>RECESSIONAL</b>	Moore School of Music

## Fall 2023 – Candidates for Graduation

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### DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

#### Department of Economics

Luis Eduardo Salinas Huerta  
Two Essays in Empirical Finance in Mexico.  
**FACULTY ADVISOR:** Bent Sørensen, Ph.D.

#### Department of English

Justin Perle Dykes  
Intervening in First-Year Composition: Overcoming Writing-Related Trauma through Reflective Journal Writing.  
**FACULTY ADVISOR:** Nathan Shepley, Ph.D.

Katherine M. Highfill  
A Political Anatomy of Rhetoric & Composition's Job Market.  
**FACULTY ADVISOR:** J. Kastely, Ph.D.

Liam Michael Stone  
"Being What You Are": Exploring Compulsory Cisgenderness in Early Twentieth-Century Modernism.  
**FACULTY CO-COMMITTEE CHAIRS:** Maria Gonzalez, Ph.D. and Margot Backus, Ph.D.

#### Department of Hispanic Studies

Valentina Käthe Jager Lopezllera  
Guía de Campo al Bosque Nacional Sam Houston: Necroturismo y turismo verde en Texas.  
**FACULTY ADVISOR:** Guillermo De Los Reyes, Ph.D.

Julio Antonio Molinete  
Agua menores: diabetes, familia y migración.  
**FACULTY ADVISOR:** Cristina Rivera Garza, Ph.D.

#### Department of History

Patrick Donovan Higgins  
Palestinian Revolution and World Imperialism in the 'American Century,' 1945-1972.  
**FACULTY ADVISOR:** Abdel Razzaq Takriti, Ph.D.

### Department of Psychology

#### Clinical Psychology

Angela Lynn Richardson  
The Longitudinal Impact of Gratitude and Hope on PTSD and Well-Being in U.S. Armed Forces Veterans.  
**FACULTY ADVISOR:** Matthew W. Gallagher, Ph.D..

### MASTER'S DEGREES

#### Jack J. Valenti School of Communication

Symone Daniels  
Olivia Donnelly  
Grace Eseoghene Egwede  
Sophia Pakravan  
Keylee Paz  
Diana R. Reyes

#### Department of Comparative and Cultural Studies

### MASTER OF ARTS IN ANTHROPOLOGY

Anna V. Escobedo  
Colleen A. Kennedy  
Christian J. New

#### Department of Economics

#### Applied Economics

Michael Yekele Ogbuigwe  
Kadjo Frederika Amelie Debora Yapo

#### Department of English

Madison Elizabeth Brown

### Department of Health and Human Performance

### MASTER OF ARTS IN SPORT AND FITNESS ADMINISTRATION

Oluwatoke Awofala  
Bowen Liu  
Ajala Chanelle McGregor

### MASTER OF SCIENCE IN HUMAN NUTRITION

Valeria Amari

#### Department of History

Eric Nathaniel Boutin-Bloomberg  
Nicole Deere McCarthy

#### Department of Philosophy

Rose Elizabeth Sanchez

#### Department of Psychology

Ebenezer O. Edema-Sillo  
Joshua Michael Garcia  
Nicole Amber Hall  
Lillian Reed Jackson  
Mariana Selene Lopez  
Iliia Markov  
Andrea I. Mustafa  
Kalifa Nailah Thomas

#### Department of Sociology

Wanjun Chen  
Fatma Demirtas  
Emilie R. Fisher  
Nasim Koohi

Commencement Ceremony

**BACHELOR OF ARTS**  
**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE**

**Jack J. Valenti School  
of Communication**

**BANNER BEARER**

Daniela A. Castro <sup>1</sup>

**Advertising**

Rose Therese Hayden  
Jung Won Yang

**Communication Studies**

German Amaya  
Abigail Nicole Arriaga  
Mariam Bano <sup>3</sup>  
Alyssa Marie Curiel <sup>3</sup>  
Gavin Santilli Gately  
Cao Kim Ngoc Hoang <sup>2</sup>  
Allison T. Mestayer  
Yareli Olivares  
Monica Alejandra Ruiz <sup>2</sup>  
Samantha Erin Zumwalt

**Corporate Communication**

Naeemah I. McCants  
Mireille Hassenboehler Patman <sup>1</sup>

**Health Communication**

Sharifa Z. Al-Hashimi  
Taahir Kamal Busaidy  
Leslie Gonzalez <sup>3</sup>  
Alyssa Hernandez  
Talynn Nichell Webb  
Stephanie Leigh Wentworth

**Interpersonal Communication**

Jessica Faythe Hurwitz

**Journalism**

Auyana Ajalae Aird  
Winter Kamilie Bogan  
Chelsie Celestino <sup>3</sup>  
Clarke Deaton Crawford  
Kaitlyn Daniels  
Ismael Senir Figueroa  
Nohemi Yamileth Flores <sup>2</sup>

Diana Maria Gutierrez  
James F. Gutierrez  
Caitlyn Gisele Herrera <sup>1</sup>  
Alexis H. Laugermann <sup>3</sup>  
Amy Marquez  
Alicia A. McWilliams  
Kayla N. Montano <sup>2</sup>  
Alyssa Montemayor  
Alonzo Moses  
Jo'tavia Norbert <sup>3</sup>  
Alexandrine A. Perin  
Paige E. Rincon  
Trevor Ryan Stall <sup>3</sup>  
Sunni Walker <sup>3</sup>

**Media Production**

Sofia A. Armintor  
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Andrea Lizeth Perez<sup>3</sup>  
Luisa Elena Perez<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Summa Cum Laude – <sup>2</sup> Magna Cum Laude – <sup>3</sup> Cum Laude

**University of Houston**  
**College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences**

**Commencement Ceremony**

Yasmine Arionna Perez <sup>3</sup>  
Thu Uyen Thien Pham <sup>3</sup>  
Dejanique R. Piper  
Valerie Guadalupe Ponce  
Samantha Christine Portele  
Zoya Rahman  
Yanari Yazmine Raines <sup>1</sup>  
Carla Ramirez  
Megan Ramos  
Mariana Ramos-Celedon  
Erin C. Randall  
Valery Vanessa Raudales <sup>2</sup>  
Kendall Cymone Raymond  
Lauren Guadalupe Reyes  
Reign Julianne R. Reyes <sup>3</sup>  
Rosa Isela Reynoso  
Jonathan Michael Kirk Rightmire  
Grace Catherine Riley  
William Jackson Rivenbark  
Hannah Aliya Rivera  
Meghan E. Rivera  
Andrea Rodriguez  
Leslie Rodriguez  
Valerie Ann Rodriguez <sup>3</sup>  
Amanda C. Rogers  
Arelly J. Romero  
Sonia Melissa Romero  
Mony Botom Ros  
Destiny Brook Rose  
Annalise R. Rosenbaum <sup>2</sup>  
Aya Safie <sup>1</sup>  
Rabeeka Saif  
Laysha Guadalupe Saldana <sup>3</sup>  
Monica K. Sanny  
J'Ana E. Saunders  
Katelyn Samantha Scranton <sup>3</sup>  
Zaina Siddique  
Saamia Siddiqui  
Calista Paige Silva-Ford  
Sophia Isabelle Silva-Trevino

Ava M. Singleton  
Trinity Amaris Skipper  
Halie Hope Smith  
Gabriela Sorto  
Gabriela C. Sotelo  
Matthew Christian Stacey  
Hajara Oluwajuwon Sule  
Monica S. Sutton-Bryant  
Dana Rachel Tauriello  
Jakob Raymond Teng <sup>2</sup>  
Eshwarjot Singh Thandi <sup>1</sup>  
Brianna Simone Thomas  
Michael Tibebe <sup>2</sup>  
Paul Romany Tony  
Grecia C. Torres <sup>2</sup>  
Karielys Vazquez Torres <sup>1</sup>  
Nicole Monica Tapia Torres  
Megan P. Tran <sup>3</sup>  
Jordan Trompler <sup>1</sup>  
Tessa Virginia Twiford  
Alexandra S. Calderon Ujueta <sup>2</sup>  
Mariana Beatriz Urdaneta <sup>1</sup>  
Victoria Ureste <sup>3</sup>  
Elizabeth Marie Valdez <sup>1</sup>  
Minnu Anna Varghese  
Martin Vazquez  
Angelina M. Vega <sup>2</sup>  
Emily E. Vela  
Gabrielle R. Vela <sup>2</sup>  
Anthony Victor Velasco  
Maya Venugopal  
Ambereen A. Wahab <sup>3</sup>  
Ramsha Wahab  
Auburn Jodee Waid <sup>3</sup>  
Julie Sara Weiman <sup>1</sup>  
Lauryn Nicole White <sup>1</sup>  
Reginald Kolby White  
Tyra D. White  
Riley I. Wiland  
Zaria Akile Williams

Katrina Michael Wilson <sup>1</sup>  
Zheng Xing  
Sofia I. Young  
Milca B. De Leon Zapata <sup>3</sup>  
Gule Zehra  
Ian J. Zela <sup>3</sup>

**Department of Sociology**

**BANNER BEARER**  
Maria I. Magana <sup>1</sup>  
  
Emma Catherine Burniston  
Amanda Marie Camario  
Lauren Chauvin  
Alma Delia Cortazo  
Salma Daoud  
Davien A. Denney  
Brandon Q. Do <sup>3</sup>  
Ashleigh M. Frank <sup>3</sup>  
Adrianna Garcia  
Rita E. Goebel  
Amani Nahje Gries <sup>2</sup>  
Daniel Osaro Ivbievbiokun  
Esmeralda Ledezma  
Maria I. Magana <sup>1</sup>  
Katelyn M. Mealer  
Santiago Naranjo  
Delina Negash <sup>2</sup>  
Perla Yazmin Ramirez  
Rohit Shajan <sup>2</sup>  
Gurpreet Singh  
Katerina Solyst <sup>2</sup>

**Department of Women's,  
Gender and Sexuality Studies**

**BANNER BEARER**  
Eli Erin Cochran <sup>3</sup>  
  
Eli Erin Cochran <sup>3</sup>  
Mikelcey Paige Green  
Lydia Sanchez <sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Summa Cum Laude – <sup>2</sup> Magna Cum Laude – <sup>3</sup> Cum Laude







### Message from the Dean

Dear Fall 2023 Graduates,

I am thrilled to congratulate the first class of fall graduates during my tenure as the Dean of the Honors College. You are a group of highly motivated and talented individuals, and we celebrate your tremendous accomplishments.

We know, as you do, that teamwork and collaboration make your impressive achievements possible. I hope that you view the faculty, staff and fellow students of the Honors College as members of your team — cheering you on as you begin your careers or continue your studies in graduate or professional programs. We know that you are well prepared to lead in your chosen field and will continue to contribute solutions to the grand challenges that we face.

During your time with us, the Honors College has challenged you to ask big questions in the Human Situation and in your upper division courses. You've been guided to go beyond the classroom and take part in the many offerings in research or service learning. You have been encouraged to find your place in this community and be bold in action to make UH, the Honors College and Houston a better place. You are not in the same place you were when you began this journey. I urge to you to take stock of how far you've come since your first Human Situation lecture. Keep exploring and engaging with big ideas in your next chapter, whatever that may be.

Although you're graduating, the Honors College will always be a part of you. I encourage you to keep in touch and share your personal and professional experiences with us. We take pride in your achievements. I also hope that you will give back to support future Honors College scholars. Continued support from alumni and friends is essential to the success and growth of the Honors College and the generations of students that will come behind you.

Go Coogs!

Heidi Appel  
*Dean*



## The Honors College Honors

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The Honors College at the University of Houston offers students special opportunities to develop their academic abilities. Below are the Honors College designations.

### **University Honors and University Honors with Honors in Major**

Students who complete the Honors College curriculum (36 hours) graduate with University Honors. If students also complete a senior honors thesis, they graduate with University Honors with Honors in Major.

### **Collegiate Honors and Collegiate Honors with Honors in Major**

Students who fulfill the requirements for the honors program in the college of their major, including 21 hours of honors courses; who complete an Honors College minor, or who complete 21 hours of approved honors courses. If students also complete a senior honors thesis, they graduate with Collegiate Honors with Honors in Major.

### **Membership in The Honors College and Membership in The Honors College with Honors in Major**

Students who affiliate with the Honors College during their undergraduate years and complete fewer than 21 hours of honors courses. If students also complete a senior honors thesis and fulfill the requirements of their major with distinction, they graduate with Membership in The Honors College with Honors in Major.

### **Honors in Major**

Students who complete a senior honors thesis but are not members of the Honors College.



## University Honors with Honors in Major

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### COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Kayla Huhn  
Angela L. Jardina

## University Honors

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### GERALD D. HINES COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN

Isabella R. Raska

### C. T. BAUER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Garance Alfon  
Samay Hassan Azhar  
Brianna Denise Chambers  
Megan Chen  
Enoc Curiel  
Allison Nga Dang  
Anjali Rajesh Dharamshi  
Valentina Patricia Diemer  
Ben Drewell  
Alyssa Nadia Durrani  
Kayla Amy Ehman  
Sarah Elizabeth Evans  
Andrea Mishelle Ibanez-Flores  
Macy Carlisle Katapodis  
Lindsay Michelle Klotz  
Smriti Korampally  
Mai Lan Vy Le  
Calvin Mai  
Jumana Motiwala  
Steven Nguyen  
Nithya Ramankulangara  
Simone Semple  
Perla Silva Perez  
Francesca Hoang Su  
Mark Jeffrey Theeuwes  
Natalie Khiet Tran  
Tam Truong

### COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Shrey Pranav Bhakta  
Massimo Coletta  
Maryam Helin Erdal  
Maya Annika Garza  
Juan Pablo Guardia  
Melinda Herrera  
Douha Karroum  
Alicia Ashanti  
Tatyanna McWilliams  
Joseph Gray Mulligan  
Sameen Hanif Nandolia  
Yareli Olivares  
Evie Louise Rickard  
Helen Souza De Sampaio  
Auburn Jodee Waid

### COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Trisha Ashish Shah

### CULLEN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Smithson Arrey-Tabot Arrey  
Karen Majala Beck  
Wesley Michael Salazar Cherry  
Andrei Lucian Coarfa  
Ravi N. Desai  
An H. Dinh  
William Garrett Lipscomb  
Itzel Muñoz Monroy

### COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

Kabeer Ali  
Amal Altatar  
Meryem Mualla Atik  
Melanie Bustos  
Natalie Bustos  
Aldona Cela  
Katelyn Marie Javier Cortez  
Ethan Davis  
Vyshnavi Davuluri  
Giselle M. Duarte  
Desmond Etumnu  
Justin John George  
Juan Pablo Guardia  
Amanda Harmon  
Kaitlyn Hill  
Sanjana Rebecca Jacob  
Sophia Joy LaRochelle  
Ayan Mammadova  
Dafne Medrano  
Arwa M. Naeem  
Nha Nguyen  
Alexis Ruiz  
Noor Shabaneh  
Filip J. Torres  
Alexander Vela  
Daniel Yebo Yisa

## Collegiate Honors with Honors in Major

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### COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

Nathan Edward Hanby

## Collegiate Honors

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### COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Somtochi S. Anyalebechi  
Christianna Avouris  
Zaina Boriek  
Tyler Austin Hermes  
Rohit Shajan

### COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Fnu Nashita Kazim  
Myra Qamar

### CULLEN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Baiamir Douglasovich Edgeller  
Salam Habra  
Arun Suresh  
Mohammad Rami Tuffaha

### HOBBY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Rachel Lauren McGregor

### COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

Julio Cacho-Bravo  
Lukas P. George  
Momin Hamdani  
Diana Huynh  
Iman Jaka  
Hafsa Latif  
Gabriela Melissa Lovo Argueta  
Jorale Kerwine Matsing Pessonka  
Rael Merry Memnon  
Preston Douglas Satterfield  
Salomon E. Serur

## Membership in The Honors College

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### COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Christopher Eugene Railsback  
Kendall C. Raymond

### KATHRINE G. MCGOVERN COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

Frank Thomas Eddy

### COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Rhea Devraj Nayak

### CULLEN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Minnah Imtiaz  
Tarami Khalil Readus  
Anh Thu N. Tran

### COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

Saul Duran

### UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT SUCCESS – INTEGRATED STUDIES

Candace McCray

## Honors in Major

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### COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

Raul Caballero Montes







**Message from the UH Alumni Foundation Board President**

Let me be the first to welcome you to the UH Alumni Association. You are joining a global network of over 305,000 Cougars. With your participation, we can only grow stronger. As you embark on this next chapter, know that your Alumni Association is here to help you stay connected with your beloved alma mater. From volunteering at an event, joining an Association or Network, signing on to UH Link, to becoming a Life Member, the opportunities to engage are endless.

Please click the QR code below to enjoy all the activities that soon await you. In the meantime, savor this moment and continue to soar.

True we'll ever be and Go Coogs!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Michael Sachs'.

Michael Sachs ('97)  
*UH Alumni Association Foundation Board President*

**Have You Completed  
Your Alumni Checklist?**



<https://houstonalumni.com/recent-grads/>







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**HOUSTON**

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