









## Letter from the Dean

Dear Engineering Graduates,

By nature of you being here today, you are among the best, brightest and hardest working engineers the world has to offer.

You have made it through one of the most rigorous engineering programs in the country. During your time as an engineering student, you have collectively spent thousands of hours researching, volunteering and interning in the city of Houston, adding to the strength and vibrancy of our community. When you leave our labs and classrooms to embark on your careers, your professional contributions will have a resounding impact here in the city of Houston and around the world.

You are the thinkers, doers and creators of our modern world. You will be the designers, builders, problem-solvers and inventors of our tomorrow. Although you represent a wide variety of backgrounds and disciplines, as you walk across the stage to accept your diploma, you will all have one thing in common: you are all world-class engineers.

From here, the world is at your fingertips. Work hard, give back and trust in the knowledge you have acquired during your time as a student at the UH Cullen College of Engineering. Everything else will fall into place.

Congratulations, engineering Cougars! I look forward to seeing the impact your bright careers will have on our future and our world. Please stay in touch and fill me in on all of your successes: dean@egr.uh.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph W. Tedesco". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Joseph W. Tedesco  
*Elizabeth D. Rockwell Dean & Professor*

**University of Houston**  
**Cullen College of Engineering**

**Convocation**

Friday, December 18, 2015, 9 a.m.  
Hofheinz Pavilion

PROCESSIONAL	Grand Marshal Chad Wilson <i>Assistant Professor</i> Grand Marshal Leonard Trombetta <i>Associate Professor</i> Faculty Banner Bearer Platform Party Dean Joseph Tedesco
PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS	UH Air Force ROTC
NATIONAL ANTHEM	Moore School of Music Brass Quintet
WELCOME AND INTRODUCTORY REMARKS	Joseph W. Tedesco <i>Elizabeth D. Rockwell Dean and Professor</i>
REGENT'S REMARKS	The Honorable Durga Agrawal <i>Regent, University of Houston System Board of Regents</i>
CONVOCATION ADDRESS	William Fendley <i>UH Cullen College of Engineering Alumnus</i>
PRESENTATION OF BEST DISSERTATION AWARDS	Suresh Khator <i>Associate Dean for Graduate Programs and Computing Facilities</i>
PRESENTATION OF BACHELOR'S CANDIDATES	Frank Claydon <i>Director of the Division of Undergraduate Programs and Student Success</i>
PRESENTATION OF MASTER'S CANDIDATES	Jacinta Conrad <i>Assistant Professor of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering</i>
PRESENTATION AND HOODING OF DOCTORAL CANDIDATES	Jagannatha Rao <i>Director of Online Programs and Extension Services</i>
CLOSING REMARKS	Dean Tedesco
ALMA MATER	Moore School of Music Brass Quintet
RETIRING OF COLORS	UH Air Force ROTC
RECESSIONAL	

*Event music provided by Moore School of Music Brass Quintet  
A reception will be held in the Engineering Building 1, Commons Area, 1st floor,  
immediately after the Ceremony. Refreshments will be served.*



## Convocation Speaker

Mr. William (Bill) Fendley (BSCE '71) has over 40 years of experience involving civil engineering and land surveying projects in Texas and is a proud graduate of the University of Houston 1971 class with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. Mr. Fendley worked for six years with the Houston District of TxDOT while attending the University of Houston and for nine years with a privately owned civil engineering firm before starting his own firm. In 1980, Mr. Fendley cofounded Cobb, Fendley & Associates, Inc. with just two people,

then grew the firm to more than 160 employees and eight office locations and is currently providing business development, project quality control and employee mentoring as an employee of the firm.

He is a registered Professional Engineer in six states and a Registered Professional Land Surveyor in Texas. He has held leadership positions in Professional Engineering organizations at the national, state and local levels. In 2007, he was elected President of the Texas Society of Professional Engineers (TSPE), one of the largest state societies in the United States. In this role, he worked with members to promote the image of professional engineers and their contribution to the social, economic and political aspects of communities. He was the National Director, former Chair of Legislative and Governmental Affairs Committee for the National Society of Professional Engineers. He was also the Representative to One Call Board Industry Task Force, State Legislative Committee and Sunset Commission Task Force on the Texas Council of Consulting Engineering Companies. He has held the positions of the Chair of Elected Officials Reception Committee, Chair of Special Task Force to Join CEC, Member of Board of Directors and Secretary to Board of Directors on the Houston Council of Consulting Engineering Companies. As a member of the Texas Society of Professional Engineers, he had a surplus amount of positions that included President, Vice President of Region IV, Legislative and Government Affairs Committee Chair, Chair of Professional Engineer Day at the Capitol, Northwest Houston Chapter Member of Board of Directors and President Elect, Greater Houston Chapter President, Membership Chair, State Director, Legislative Affairs Committee Chair, Leadership Forum Chair and Founder. He has served in his home county as Director of the Waller County Transportation Authority and on the 2015 Waller ISD Citizens Planning Committee and PAC.

Mr. Fendley has been an active participant in a number of organizations, including: the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE), the Texas Society of Professional Engineers (TSPE), the Political Action Committee for Engineers (PACE), University of Houston Alumni Association (UHAA), University of Houston College of Engineering Alumni Association (UHEAA), Waller County Transit Authority Board, Prairie View A&M University College of Business Advisory Board, Texas Council of Consulting Engineering Companies (TCEC) and the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). In addition, he has supported the American Heart Association Houston Heart Walk, CANstruction (benefiting the Houston Food Bank), the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo and local blood drives.

Mr. Fendley has been acknowledged for numerous awards. In 2000, he was presented the Distinguished Alumni Award by the UH Cullen College of Engineering. In 2009, Mr. Fendley became recognized as an NSPE Fellow for his exemplary service to the profession, the Society and the community. Additionally, he was given the Academy of Distinguished Civil and Environmental Engineers Award and Eichhorn Leadership Service Award by the Cullen College in 2011. In 2013, Mr. Fendley's career efforts were duly recognized, as he received two prestigious awards: Greater Houston Area Engineer of the Year and Texas Engineer of the Year. Over the last 15 years, Mr. Fendley has been, and continues to be, a constant and tireless participant and proponent for a number of engineering societies.

Throughout his career, Mr. Fendley has dedicated countless hours to speaking about the importance and benefits of the engineering profession to legislators, peers and students. Since his graduation from the University of Houston, William Fendley has been committed to promoting and strengthening the University's engineering program. He has provided value to the Cullen College of Engineering through his participation with assisting the College in working with the State Legislature and the creation of the CobbFendley Civil Engineering Endowment, the CobbFendley Telecommunications Endowment, the C. J. Tamborello Memorial Scholarship Fund, the CobbFendley Dean's Excellence Endowment and the CobbFendley Building Fund to benefit the University of Houston. Furthermore, he has devoted time to serving on the Dean's Engineering Leadership Board, the Civil Engineering Advisory Board, the UHAA Board of Directors and UHEAA Board of Directors, and was the Vice President of Constituent Relations.

In his free time, he enjoys working on his ranch in Hockley, Texas and spending time with his grandchildren.



## **Cullen College of Engineering**

The University of Houston Cullen College of Engineering, established in 1941, is accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET and is ranked among the top 100 engineering schools in the country by U.S. News & World Report.

More than 5,000 students are enrolled in engineering courses—3,764 undergraduates as well as 1,311 masters and doctoral students in biomedical, chemical, civil, computer, electrical, environmental, geosensing systems, industrial, mechanical and petroleum engineering. The college also offers interdisciplinary graduate programs in subsea, aerospace, materials, and computer and systems engineering. Chemical and mechanical engineering have ranked among the top programs nationally.

The mission of the Cullen College of Engineering at the University of Houston is to serve the Greater Houston community, Texas and the nation by educating engineers to assume leadership positions in the identification and solution of the complex technical challenges of society, to advance the state of knowledge through pioneering research and scholarly work, to facilitate the transfer of new technology to Texas and U.S. industries, to play a key role in economic development for the Greater Houston region and the state of Texas, and to benefit the public sector through service to the university, community, industry, government and the engineering profession.



## Administration

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Joseph Tedesco

*Elizabeth D. Rockwell Dean and Professor*

Hanadi Rifai

*Associate Dean for Research and Facilities*

Suresh Khator

*Associate Dean for Graduate Programs  
and Computing Facilities*

Frank Claydon

*Director of the Division of Undergraduate  
Programs and Student Success*

Metin Akay

*Chair, Department of  
Biomedical Engineering*

Michael Harold

*Chair, Department of Chemical  
& Biomolecular Engineering*

Roberto Ballarini

*Chair, Department of Civil  
& Environmental Engineering*

Badrinath Roysam

*Chair, Department of Electrical  
& Computer Engineering*

Gino Lim

*Chair, Department of  
Industrial Engineering*

Pradeep Sharma

*Chair, Department of  
Mechanical Engineering*

Thomas Holley

*Interim Chair,  
Department of Petroleum Engineering*

Russell Dunlavy

*Chief Advancement Officer*

Stephen Bangerter

*Executive Director of Business Operations*

Audrey Grayson

*Executive Director of Communications*

Jagannatha Rao

*Director of Online Programs and  
Extension Services*

Janice Quiroz-Perez

*Director of the Engineering  
Career Service Center*

Roshawnda Anderson

*Assistant to the Dean*

## National Academy of Engineering Members

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J.J. Azar

*Petroleum Engineering*

Benton Baugh

*Subsea Engineering*

Charles Cutler

*Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering*

Bonnie Dunbar

*Mechanical & Biomedical Engineering*

Christine Ehlig-Economides

*Petroleum Engineering*

John Lienhard

*Mechanical Engineering*

Dan Luss

*Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering*

James Symons

*Civil & Environmental Engineering*

Anestis Velestos

*Civil & Environmental Engineering*

Kaspar Willam

*Civil & Environmental Engineering*

## Department of Biomedical Engineering

---

Mohammad Abidian

*Associate Professor*

Metin Akay

*Professor & Chair*

Muayyad Al-Ubaidi

*Professor*

Ravi Birla

*Associate Professor*

Joseph Francis

*Associate Professor*

Howard Gifford

*Associate Professor*

Nuri Ince

*Assistant Professor*

Kirill Larin

*Associate Professor*

Sheereen Majd

*Assistant Professor*

Elebeoba May

*Associate Professor*

Chandra Mohan

*Professor and Associate Chair*

Muna Naash

*Professor*

Ahmet Omurtag

*Associate Professor*

Sergey Shevkoplyas

*Associate Professor*

Tianfu Wu

*Assistant Professor*

Yingchuan Zhang

*Assistant Professor*

## Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

---

Vemuri Balakotaiah  
*Professor*

Patrick Cirino  
*Associate Professor*

Jacinta Conrad  
*Assistant Professor*

Vincent Donnelly  
*Professor*

Demetre Economou  
*Professor*

William Epling  
*Associate Professor & Associate Chair*

Lars Grabow  
*Assistant Professor*

Michael Harold  
*Professor & Chair*

Ramanan Krishnamoorti  
*Professor*

Dan Luss  
*Professor*

Michael Nikolaou  
*Professor*

Jeremy Palmer  
*Assistant Professor*

Jeffrey Rimer  
*Assistant Professor*

Megan Robertson  
*Assistant Professor*

Gila Stein  
*Assistant Professor*

Navin Varadarajan  
*Assistant Professor*

Peter Vekilov  
*Professor*

Richard Willson  
*Professor*

## Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering

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Roberto Ballarini  
*Professor & Chair*

Abdeldjelil Belarbi  
*Professor*

Mina Dawood  
*Assistant Professor*

Egor Donstov  
*Assistant Professor*

Bora Gencturk  
*Assistant Professor*

Craig Glennie  
*Assistant Professor*

Thomas Hsu  
*Professor*

Yandi Hu  
*Assistant Professor*

Hyongki Lee  
*Assistant Professor*

Mo Li  
*Assistant Professor*

Yi-Lung Mo  
*Professor*

Kalyana Nakshatrala  
*Assistant Professor*

Hanadi Rifai  
*Professor & Associate Dean*

William Rixey  
*Associate Professor & Associate Chair*

Debora Rodrigues  
*Assistant Professor*

Ramesh Shrestha  
*Professor*

Joseph Tedesco  
*Professor & Dean*

Cumaraswamy Vipulanandan  
*Professor*

Keh-Han Wang  
*Professor*

Kaspar Willam  
*Professor*

## Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

---

Jiming Bao  
*Associate Professor*

Aaron Becker  
*Assistant Professor*

Stanko Brankovic  
*Associate Professor*

Ryan Canolty  
*Assistant Professor*

Jiefu Chen  
*Assistant Professor*

Jinghong Chen  
*Associate Professor*

Yuhua Chen  
*Associate Professor*

Ji Chen  
*Professor*

Frank Claydon  
*Professor & Director*

Jose Contreras-Vidal  
*Professor*

Xin Fu  
*Assistant Professor*

John Glover  
*Professor*

Zhu Han  
*Associate Professor*

Thomas Hebert  
*Associate Professor*

David Jackson  
*Professor*

Han Le  
*Professor*

Dmitri Litvinov  
*Professor*

Stuart Long  
*Professor*

David Mayerich  
*Assistant Professor*

Haluk Ogmen  
*Professor*

Miao Pan  
*Assistant Professor*

Shin-Shem Pei  
*Professor*

Saurabh Prasad  
*Assistant Professor*

Badrinath Roysam  
*Professor & Chair*

Paul Ruchhoeft  
*Associate Professor*

David Shattuck  
*Associate Professor*

Bhavin Sheth  
*Associate Professor*

Wei-Chuan Shih  
*Assistant Professor*

Leonard Trombetta  
*Associate Professor & Associate Chair*

John Wolfe  
*Professor*

Yan Yao  
*Assistant Professor*

Wanda Zagodzdon-Wosik  
*Associate Professor*

## Department of Industrial Engineering

---

Christopher Chung  
*Associate Professor*

Qianmei Feng  
*Associate Professor*

Ali Kamrani  
*Associate Professor*

Suresh Khator  
*Professor & Associate Dean*

Gino Lim  
*Associate Professor & Chair*

Jiming Peng  
*Associate Professor*

Lawrence Schulze  
*Associate Professor*

## Department of Mechanical Engineering

---

Ashutosh Agrawal  
*Assistant Professor*

Haleh Ardebili  
*Assistant Professor*

Richard Bannerot  
*Professor*

Yi-Chao Chen  
*Professor*

Bonnie Dunbar  
*Professor*

Matthew Franchek  
*Professor*

Hadi Ghasemi  
*Assistant Professor*

Karolos Grigoriadis  
*Professor*

Yashashree Kulkarni  
*Assistant Professor*

Dong Liu  
*Associate Professor*

Philippe Masson  
*Assistant Professor*

Anastassios Mavrokefalos  
*Assistant Professor*

Ralph Metcalfe  
*Professor*

Jagannatha Rao  
*Associate Professor, Associate Chair and  
Director*

Jae-Hyun Ryou  
*Assistant Professor*

Venkat Selvamanickam  
*Professor*

Pradeep Sharma  
*Professor & Chair*

Gangbing Song  
*Professor*

Li Sun  
*Associate Professor*

Su Su Wang  
*Professor*

Kenneth White  
*Professor*

Di Yang  
*Assistant Professor*

Cunjiang Yu  
*Assistant Professor*

## Department of Petroleum Engineering

---

Christine Ehlig-Economides  
*Professor*

Lori Hathon  
*Assistant Professor*

Thomas Holley  
*Interim Chair*

Konstantinos Kostarelo  
*Associate Professor*

Michael Myers  
*Associate Professor  
Guan Qin  
Associate Professor*

## Best Ph.D. Dissertation Awards

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### **Summer 2015 and Fall 2015 Graduates**

This semester, we have two outstanding dissertation award winners. A plaque and a check for \$1,000 will be given to the following two individuals:

Maruti K. Mudunuru

*Ph.D. in Civil and Environmental Engineering*

**DISSERTATION TITLE:** On Enforcing Maximum Principles and Element-wise Species Balance for Advective-Diffusive-Reactive Systems

**DISSERTATION ADVISOR:** Dr. Kalayana B. Nakshatrala

Nikhil Walani

*Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering*

**DISSERTATION TITLE:** Mechanics of Cellular Transport

**DISSERTATION ADVISOR:** Dr. Ashutosh Agrawal

## Fall 2015

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### DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

Firoozeh Babayekhorasani

Dynamics of Nanoparticles in Complex Media

**ADVISORS:** Dr. Jacinta Conrad and

Dr. Ramanan Krishnamoorti

Byeongjin Baek

First Principle Investigations of  
Hydrodeoxygenation over Ru/TiO<sub>2</sub>(110)

**ADVISOR:** Dr. Lars C. Garbow

Jason Alexander Clark

Understanding Structure-Property  
Relationships for Impact Polystyrene

**ADVISOR:** Dr. Ramanan Krishnamoorti

Hieu Anh Trung Doan

Computational Screening of  
Bifunctional Catalysts for Carbon  
Monoxide and Methane Oxidation

**ADVISOR:** Dr. Lars C. Garbow

Christopher S. Frei

Engineered High- Throughput Evolution  
of Whole-Cell Biosensors for Production of  
Value-Added Products

**ADVISOR:** Dr. Patrick Cirino

Gavin St. Patrick Garvey

Lithographically Fabricated Micro-reflectors  
for Sensitive Point of Care Diagnostics

**ADVISOR:** Dr. Richard Willson

Arian Ghorbanpour

Computational Modeling and Advanced  
Synthesis Techniques for the Improved  
Design of Zeolite Catalysts

**ADVISORS:** Dr. Lars Garbow and

Dr. Jeffrey Rimer

Hoang Duc Nguyen

Spatiotemporal Temperature and  
Concentration Measurements  
in a Monolith Reactor

**ADVISORS:** Dr. Dan Luss and

Dr. Michael P. Harold

Chinedu Dominic Umeasiegbu

Microstructure Studies of Tunable  
pH-Sensitive Mixtures of Cationic  
Surfactant and Hydrotrope

**ADVISORS:** Dr. Ramanan Krishnamoorti and

Dr. Vemuri Balakotaiah

Yang Zheng

Applied and Fundamental Studies of  
LNT-SCR Dual-layer Monolithic Catalysts  
for Lean NO<sub>x</sub> Emission Control

**ADVISORS:** Dr. Michael Harold and

Dr. Dan Luss

### DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN CIVIL ENGINEERING

Md Kausar Ali

Characterizing and Modeling  
Silicate based Modification of Smart  
Cement, Drilling Mud and Grout

**ADVISOR:** Dr. Kumaraswamy Vipulanandan

Prakash Singh Bhat

Cementitious Materials with Ultra-High  
Damage Tolerance for Hazards Mitigation

**ADVISOR:** Dr. Mo Li

Dongmei Pan

Enhanced Performance and  
Characterization of Synthetic Based  
Drilling Muds and Steel Corrosion

**ADVISOR:** Dr. Kumaraswamy Vipulanandan

<sup>1</sup> Summa Cum Laude - <sup>2</sup> Magna Cum Laude - <sup>3</sup> Cum Laude - <sup>4</sup> Banner Bearer (highest GPA)

<sup>5</sup> University Honors with Honors in Major - <sup>6</sup> University Honors - <sup>7</sup> Honors in Major - <sup>8</sup> Collegiate Honors



# Cullen College of Engineering

## CANDIDATES FOR GRADUATION

Aram Mohammed Raheem  
Characterizing and Modeling Ultra Soft Clay  
Soil Behavior and Filter Cake  
**ADVISOR:** Dr. Cumaraswamy Vipulanandan

Cheng Shi  
Evaluation of Steel H-Piles with Localized  
Corrosion and Rehabilitation Using  
Friction-Type Bolted Steel Plate  
**ADVISORS:** Dr. Abdeldjelil Belarbi and  
Dr. Mina Dawood

Seyed Mohammad Mehdi Zomorodian  
Behavior of FRP Strengthened Reinforced  
Concrete Elements Subjected to Pure Shear  
**ADVISOR:** Dr. Abdeldjelil Belarbi

### DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

Sevda Agaoglu  
A Statistical Approach to Visual Masking  
and Spatial Attention  
**ADVISOR:** Dr. Haluk Ogmen

Apeksha Santosh Awale  
Fabrication of Integrated Optical- Fiber  
Based Reliable Optrodes for Optogenetic  
Interrogation of Neural Networks  
**ADVISOR:** Dr. Jack Wolfe

Minshan Cui  
Angle-Based Dimensionality Reduction and  
Sparse Representation-Based Classification  
For Remote Sensing Imagery  
**ADVISOR:** Dr. Saurabh Prasad

Qing Ji  
Piezoceramic Transducer based Acoustic  
Communication and Waveform Design for  
Energy Charging in Solid Structures  
**ADVISOR:** Dr. Gangbing Song

Yang Li  
Study of Optical Properties of Cobalt Oxide by  
Fourier Transform Infrared, Raman scattering  
and Photoluminescence Spectroscopy  
**ADVISOR:** Dr. Jiming Bao

Yan Xu  
Unsupervised Discovery and  
Representation of Subspace Trends  
in Massive Biomedical Datasets  
**ADVISOR:** Dr. Badri Roysam

Yuhang Zhang  
Advanced Data Fusion for Multi-  
source Data Classification  
**ADVISOR:** Dr. Saurabh Prasad

### DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN GEOSENSING SYSTEMS ENGINEERING

Arpan Kusari  
Precise Registration of Laser Mapping  
Data by Planar Feature Extraction  
for Deformation Mapping  
**ADVISOR:** Dr. Craig Glennie

### DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING

Maryam Zaghian  
Radiation Therapy Optimization Considering  
Uncertainties and Biological Effects  
**ADVISOR:** Dr. Gino Lim

### DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN MATERIALS ENGINEERING

Xinwei Cai  
Solution Fabrication of Multifilamentary  
Second Generation High-Temperature  
Superconductor  
**ADVISOR:** Dr. Venkat Selvamannickam

<sup>1</sup> Summa Cum Laude - <sup>2</sup> Magna Cum Laude - <sup>3</sup> Cum Laude - <sup>4</sup> Banner Bearer (highest GPA)  
<sup>5</sup> University Honors with Honors in Major - <sup>6</sup> University Honors - <sup>7</sup> Honors in Major - <sup>8</sup> Collegiate Honors

Szu Te Lin

Laser Manufacturing Modeling and  
Experimental Simulation on Metal Matrix  
Composite of Rapid Formation

**ADVISOR:** Dr. Ali K. Kamrani

Carmen Victoria Pascente Carnevale

Microfabricated Surfaces and Particles for  
Advanced Immunoassay Platforms and High-  
efficiency Electrowetting Heat Transfer System

**ADVISOR:** Dr. Paul Ruchhoeft

## **DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING**

Guoyan Cao

Modeling for Cluster-based Correlation of  
Severe Driving Events with Time and Location

**ADVISOR:** Dr. Karolos M. Grigoriadis

Dengke Chen

Elucidating the Mechanical Properties  
of Crystalline Interfaces from Thermal  
Fluctuations

**ADVISOR:** Dr. Yashashree Kulkarni

Gregory Donald Joseph

A Novel Approach to Robust Design  
Using Recent Advances in Robust and  
Multiobjective Optimization Methods

**ADVISOR:** Jagannatha R. Rao

Xiaobao Li

The Coupling Between Elasticity  
and Quantum Mechanics

**ADVISOR:** Dr. Pradeep Sharma

Shengjie Tang

Thermal Transport Across Grain Boundaries  
by Molecular Dynamics Simulations

**ADVISOR:** Dr. Yashashree Kulkarni

Nikhil Walani

Mechanics of Cellular Transport

**ADVISOR:** Dr. Ashutosh Agrawal

Shengyou Yang

Surface Instability and Bifurcation  
of Elastic Materials

**ADVISOR:** Dr. Yi-Chao Chen

## **MASTER OF SCIENCE IN AEROSPACE ENGINEERING**

David C. Thoerig

## **MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING**

Jose R. Granda

## **MASTER OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERING**

Michael Harville

Brian A. Heasley

Jieni Li

## **MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CHEMICAL ENGINEERING**

Padma Clare Schwenzer

## **MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CIVIL ENGINEERING**

Awad Khalid Altom

Mohammad Amini

Kathryn Elizabeth Anderson

Yara Hassan Bittar

Manisha Chelluri

Mustafa Dal

Mahesh Gupta Kapuganti

Jawad Mohammad Khalid

Norma Ali Khan

Vivek Kummari

Zhiyang Li

Christopher Michael McClusky

<sup>1</sup> Summa Cum Laude - <sup>2</sup> Magna Cum Laude - <sup>3</sup> Cum Laude - <sup>4</sup> Banner Bearer (highest GPA)

<sup>5</sup> University Honors with Honors in Major - <sup>6</sup> University Honors - <sup>7</sup> Honors in Major - <sup>8</sup> Collegiate Honors

**Cullen College of Engineering**  
**CANDIDATES FOR GRADUATION**

Abrar Mohammed  
Guru Prasad Panda  
Tejasree Mohan Phatak  
Mohammed Aleem Uddin Siddiqui  
Aleksandra Simicevic  
Roshan Sirsat  
Omar Jamal Solaija  
Priyanka Tirumalaraju  
Jeremy Thanh Vo  
Yun-Chen Wu  
Yueyue Xie

**MASTER OF SCIENCE  
IN COMPUTER AND SYSTEMS  
ENGINEERING**

Kranthi Kishore Chintala  
Venkata Ravi Teja Varma Kalidindi  
Vishakha Laddha  
Jawahar Babu Macha  
Anukrati Maheshwari  
Siddharth Pathak  
Keerthika Rengarajan  
Srujan Kumar Reddy Thummala

**MASTER OF ELECTRICAL  
ENGINEERING**

Azeem Akram  
Reginald A. Banez  
Sandeep Burri  
Apoorva Reddy Chamala  
Pratik Abhay Ghatpande  
Nicholas Craig Hernandez  
Krishna Saketh Joginapally  
Muhammad Ahsan Khan  
Veda Gayathri Anusha Madabhushi  
Quinn E. Manley  
Ramann Bharadwaj Mantha  
Amin Merouane

Afsar Pasha Mohamad Abdul  
Austin Wayne Mortimer  
Victor A. Nelce  
Nayana Panduranga  
Syed Shah Mohammed Quadri  
Janani Radhakrishnan  
Vrajesh Kumar Ramini  
Anchal Shahi  
Sravya Suryadevara

**MASTER OF SCIENCE  
IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING**

Jielian Guo  
Uday Kiran Karlapudi  
Shiyang Zhao

**MASTER OF SCIENCE IN  
ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING**

Divya Rishi Dhiman  
Aeman Javed  
Joanne Macdougall

**MASTER OF INDUSTRIAL  
ENGINEERING**

Kedarnath Ananth  
Gopala Krishna Atmakuru  
Harish Balakrishnan  
Jesus Alberto Barrios Carvallo  
Poonam Barve  
Rachna Boddu  
Vishwa Srivatsava Chandramouli  
Irulappan Chandrasekaran  
Umesh Chandra Chappela  
Nanda Kishore Chinta  
Keerthi Kiran Reddy Devagiri  
Chantal Karam  
Anupama Kolli

<sup>1</sup> Summa Cum Laude - <sup>2</sup> Magna Cum Laude - <sup>3</sup> Cum Laude - <sup>4</sup> Banner Bearer (highest GPA)  
<sup>5</sup> University Honors with Honors in Major - <sup>6</sup> University Honors - <sup>7</sup> Honors in Major - <sup>8</sup> Collegiate Honors

Kamala Priya Kommineedi  
Saideep Koppaka  
Nagarjuna Kothamasu  
Vivek Maddukuri  
Julian David Munoz Bermudez  
Pankaj Mutheneni  
Mayur Ajay Patil  
Krishnamurthy Practur Lakshminarasimhan  
Alay Prakashbhai Prajapati  
Vignesh Ramesh Sankar  
Rajat Saxena  
Ajairaj Selvaraj  
Jay Mitenkumar Shah  
Vivek Baldevbhai Sharda  
Abhinav Singhal  
Balajee Sumathi Radhakrishnan  
Vipin Tamane  
Venkata Naga Gopi Krishna Vemavaram  
Chengran Wang

### **MASTER OF SCIENCE IN INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING**

Balaji Anbunesan  
Mamta Shrikrishna Dandekar  
Imane Outmal  
Venkata Satya Pruthvi Naidu Seeramreddi  
Rohit Krishna Sridhar

### **MASTER OF SCIENCE IN MATERIALS SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING**

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Ahmet Akturk  
Saeid Amiri

Anil Kumar Balireddy  
Akash Bheemavarapu  
Pejman Bidad  
Saravanan Boopathy  
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Tarun Barthwal  
Li Shi  
Patrick Alan Storer  
Juyu Wang  
Hui Zhang

<sup>1</sup> Summa Cum Laude - <sup>2</sup> Magna Cum Laude - <sup>3</sup> Cum Laude - <sup>4</sup> Banner Bearer (highest GPA)

<sup>5</sup> University Honors with Honors in Major - <sup>6</sup> University Honors - <sup>7</sup> Honors in Major - <sup>8</sup> Collegiate Honors

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Felix Tran  
Cesar Oswaldo Vasquez Flores <sup>2,4,5</sup>  
Ethan Windish

<sup>1</sup> Summa Cum Laude - <sup>2</sup> Magna Cum Laude - <sup>3</sup> Cum Laude - <sup>4</sup> Banner Bearer (highest GPA)

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Matthew Lawrence Gong  
Alec Nicholas Gutierrez <sup>3</sup>  
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Tuong Vi Thi Nguyen  
Nehemiah Niccum  
Nicole Nunez  
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Francisco Riveros <sup>8</sup>  
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Aron Troppe  
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Vladimir V. Zaitsev

<sup>1</sup> Summa Cum Laude - <sup>2</sup> Magna Cum Laude - <sup>3</sup> Cum Laude - <sup>4</sup> Banner Bearer (highest GPA)  
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## Summer 2015

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### DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING

Naze Gul Avci

The Influence of Human Umbilical Vein Endothelial Cells in the Formation of Glioblastoma Spheroids in Three-Dimensional Microwells

**ADVISOR:** Dr. Metin Akay

Hasan Onur Keles

Investigation of Neurovascular Coupling with Multimodal Imaging System: A FNIRS- EEG Study

**ADVISOR:** Dr. Ahmet Omurtag

### DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN CHEMICAL AND BIOMOLECULAR ENGINEERING

Tayebah Hamzehlouyan

Interactions Between Sulfur Oxides and a Pt-Based Diesel Oxidation Catalyst

**ADVISOR:** Dr. William Epling

Ivan Liadi

High-Throughput Single-Cell Functional and Molecular Profiling of Immune Cells in Cancer Immunotherapy

**ADVISOR:** Dr. Navin Varadarajan

Balakrishnan Ramesh

Engineering Substrate Specificity of Mammalian Proteases

**ADVISOR:** Dr. Navin Varadarajan

Sachi Shrestha

Understanding the Behavior of Bi-functional Catalyst in Selective Catalytic Oxidation of Ammonia to Nitrogen

**ADVISOR:** Dr. Michael P. Harold

### DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN CIVIL ENGINEERING

Hossein Karagah

FRP-Confined Grout Systems for Underwater Rehabilitation of Corroded Steel Bridge Piles

**ADVISOR:** Dr. Mina Dawood

Amirhossein Mohammadipour

Interface Fracture in Masonry Composites: A Lattice Approach

**ADVISOR:** Dr. Kasper Willam

Maruti Kumar Mudunuru

On Enforcing Maximum Principles and Element-Wise Species Balance for Advective-Diffusive-Reactive Systems

**ADVISOR:** Dr. Kalyana Babu Nakshatrala

Guang Yang

Material Laws of FRP Strengthened Reinforced Concrete Under Uniaxial Tension and Biaxial Tension-Compression Stress Fields

**ADVISOR:** Dr. Abdeldjelil Belarbi

### DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

Ela Bulut

Reaction Kinetics of Metal Deposition by Surface Limited Redox

Replacement of UPD Monolayer

**ADVISOR:** Dr. Stanko R. Brankovic

Ruoli Jiang

Manipulating Cells with a Dynamically Reconfigurable Electro-Magnetic Coil

**ADVISORS:** Dr. Ben Jansen and Dr. Ji Chen

Linsen Wu

Reconfigurable Optical Networks and Multi-Photon Quantum Cryptography

**ADVISOR:** Dr. Yuhua Chen

<sup>1</sup> Summa Cum Laude - <sup>2</sup> Magna Cum Laude - <sup>3</sup> Cum Laude - <sup>4</sup> Banner Bearer (highest GPA)

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Xiyao Xin

Wireless Power Transfer for  
Oil Well Applications

**ADVISOR:** Dr. Ji Chen

**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN  
ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING**

Daniel Burleson

Modeling Vulnerability of a Highly  
Industrialize Estuary to Storm Surge with a  
Coupled ADCIRC, SWAN and EFDC System

**ADVISOR:** Dr. Hanadi Rifai

**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY  
IN MATERIALS SCIENCE  
AND ENGINEERING**

Katrina Irene Sunga Mongcopa

Phase Behavior of Polymer-Grafted  
Nanoparticles

**ADVISOR:** Dr. Ramanan Krishnamoorti

Wenlan Qiu

Application of Gettering Layers for Low  
Temperature Conversion of Magnetic Oxides  
into Ferromagnetic Metals in Thin Films,  
Multilayers, and Nanostructured Arrays

**ADVISOR:** Dr. Dmitri Litvinov

**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY  
IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING**

Guoliang He

Investigation of Dielectrophoresis-Directed  
Fluidic Assembly

**ADVISOR:** Dr. Dong Liu

Shuyin Jiao

Molecular Dynamics Study of Radiation and  
Creep Response of Nanotwinned FCC Metals

**ADVISOR:** Dr. Yashashree Kulkarni

Ali Khadimallah

Processing for Improved Creep Behavior of  
Ultra-High Temperature Ceramics

**ADVISOR:** Dr. Kenneth White

Lingling Yin

Aeroelastic and Hydrodynamic  
Loads and Structural Dynamics of  
Large MW-Scale Offshore Wind  
Turbines in Shallow-Water GOM

**ADVISOR:** Dr. Su Su Wang

Fatemeh Zamanian

Nonlinear Controller Design  
for Regulating Systems

**ADVISOR:** Dr. Matthew Franchek

**MASTER OF SCIENCE  
IN CHEMICAL ENGINEERING**

Ryan Dowty

**MASTER OF SCIENCE  
IN CIVIL ENGINEERING**

Dewan Rakibul Islam

Jared Kowis

Lilian Nguyen

Sara Ranjbarian

**MASTER OF ELECTRICAL  
ENGINEERING**

FNU Priyanka

Jorge Sosa

Srinath Vedantam

**MASTER OF SCIENCE IN  
ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING**

Caitlin Meyer

<sup>1</sup> Summa Cum Laude - <sup>2</sup> Magna Cum Laude - <sup>3</sup> Cum Laude - <sup>4</sup> Banner Bearer (highest GPA)

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**MASTER OF PETROLEUM  
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Jae Ho Lee  
Kanat Takhanov

**MASTER OF SCIENCE  
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Nitinkumar Lalitkumar Chaudhary  
Supriya Gupta

**MASTER OF SCIENCE  
IN PETROLEUM COMPLETION  
AND WELL INTERVENTION  
ENGINEERING**

Frederick Woodward

**MASTER OF SCIENCE  
IN PETROLEUM WELL DESIGN  
ENGINEERING**

Mark Smith

**MASTER OF SCIENCE  
IN SUBSEA ENGINEERING**

Nebolisa Egbunike  
Benjamin Mobolaji Oviolu  
Rohit Pandurang Todkar

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IN BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING**

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**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE  
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James Patrick McConathy  
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Aaron John Petryk  
Adam T. Work  
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<sup>1</sup> Summa Cum Laude - <sup>2</sup> Magna Cum Laude - <sup>3</sup> Cum Laude - <sup>4</sup> Banner Bearer (highest GPA)  
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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.

## Academic Regalia

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**THE ATTIRE** of the participants dates back to the 12th and 13th centuries, when universities began to be established in Europe. In 1321, at the University of Coimbra in Portugal, gowns were required attire not just for faculty members, but also for students of all classifications. Other European universities started requiring gowns, but there was not a standard design. In 1887, Gardner Leonard volunteered to design the graduation gowns for his class at Williams College. His design, as well as the standardization of colors to denote areas of study, were later adopted by an intercollegiate commission, and are the ones used today by most United States colleges and universities.

**GOWNS.** The bachelor's gown has long pointed sleeves; the master's gown has an oblong sleeve open at the wrists (some older gowns may be open near the upper part of the arm); the doctoral gown is fuller than the others with full-length velvet panels on the front and three velvet crossbars on each sleeve in black or in the color distinctive to the academic discipline of the wearer's degree.

**HOODS.** The hood, worn by master's and doctoral degree recipients, drapes over the shoulders and down the back and indicates the academic discipline to which the degree pertains; the field of the hood denotes the university that conferred the degree. The size of the hood indicates the level of the degree.

**CAPS.** The black mortarboard is the most common cap used. The tassel fastened to the center of the cap is black, although it may be the color appropriate to the subject of the degree. The tassel for the doctoral cap may be of gold thread. Candidates for bachelor's degrees wear the tassels on the right side, shifting it to the left side after being awarded their degrees. Candidates for master's and doctoral degrees wear their tassels on the left side from the outset and do not shift them after receiving their degrees.

<b>BACHELOR'S DEGREES</b>	<i>Gown: Black</i> <i>Tassel: Orange</i>
<b>MASTER'S DEGREES</b>	<i>Gown: Black</i> <i>Hood: Orange</i> <i>Tassel: Black</i>
<b>DOCTORAL DEGREES</b>	<i>Gown: Black</i> <i>Hood: Dark Blue</i> <i>Tassel: Old Gold</i>

A special thanks to the Convocation Committee and volunteers who assisted in making this memorable event possible.

## Convocation Committee

---

Fallon Noel

*Convocation Co-Coordinator and Administrative Assistant*

Brandon Green

*Convocation Co-Coordinator and*

*Academic Records Coordinator, Undergraduate Student Success*

Shirley Mate

*Academic Advisor III*

Miranda Vernon-Harrison

*Academic Records Coordinator*

Roshawnda Anderson

*Assistant to the Dean*

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Abraham Blanco

Sree Boyapalli

Yolanda Brooks-Brown

Fei Fei Cheng

Rachel Craig

Ambria Deweber

Jenna Donnelly

Jennifer Dunn

Cyrena Edwards

Veronica Ellison

Katelyn Finnegan

Kenneth Garcia

Sharon Hall

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Charisma Lattao

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My-Dung Lieu

Olga Litvinova

Caitlin MacNeil

Kaitlin Mallory

Emily McGovern

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Vaibhave Patel

Tracy Pringer

Jose Rodriguez

Lesley Sisk

Cecily Smith

Nicolette Solano

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Monica Trevino

Shanequea White

Brandie Yale





