



UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON
Spring 2025 Commencement

COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY

Saturday, May 10, 2025
Cullen Performance Hall





Commencement Ceremony
Saturday, May 10, 2025, 2:00 p.m.
Cullen Performance Hall

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Message from the President

Dear University of Houston Graduates,

Congratulations on achieving this remarkable achievement. Today's graduation marks the start of a bright new beginning. Your longtime dream becomes a reality, and I join your family and friends in celebrating this milestone with you.

As you reflect on this moment, take pride in knowing it was your hard work, intellect, perseverance and belief in yourself that got you here. Equally important was the unwavering support of those around you. These values and connections have shaped who you are today and will propel you forward in your professional journey.

As you move ahead, remember the power of paying it forward. Be a mentor to someone else who dreams of achieving what you have. Moreover, remember to express gratitude to your professors, advisors, family and friends who supported you along the way.

The Tier One education you've received at UH has provided you with the tools to thrive. This is the home of nationally top-ranked academic programs, world-renowned faculty, an NCAA Final Four basketball team, cutting-edge research and industry leaders. I have no doubt that you will join the ranks of the many successful alumni who have come before you.

Congratulations, Coogs! The world is yours.

With warm regards,

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

Renu Khator
President, University of Houston





Message from the Provost

Dear Spring 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,

Diane Z. Chase

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

University of Houston System

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University of Houston

PRESIDENT

Renu Khator

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Patricia Belton Oliver
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COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

Dennis Reynolds
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GLOBAL HOSPITALITY LEADERSHIP

Pradeep Sharma
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Kathryn M. Tart
Founding Dean
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ANDY AND BARBARA GESSNER COLLEGE OF NURSING

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Humana Endowed Dean's Chair in Optometry
COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY

Cynthia Warrick
Interim Dean
GRADUATE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK

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

University of Houston History



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 285 undergraduate and graduate programs to more than 47,000 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. This designation welcomed UH to an elite group of the nation’s most esteemed colleges and universities.

Commencement Traditions

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

Bachelor's Degree	Tassel: Violet
Master's Degree	Hood: Violet Tassel: Black

KATHRINE G. MCGOVERN COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

Bachelor's Degree	Tassel: Brown
Master's Degree	Hood: Brown Hood (Music): Pink Tassel: Black
Doctoral Degree	Hood: Pink Tassel: Red

C. T. BAUER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Bachelor's Degree	Tassel: Dark Blue
Master's Degree	Hood: Drab Tassel: Black
Doctoral Degree	Hood: Dark Blue Tassel: Red

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

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

CULLEN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Bachelor's Degree	Tassel: Orange
Master's Degree	Hood: Orange Tassel: Black
Doctoral Degree	Hood: Dark Blue Tassel: Red

CONRAD N. HILTON COLLEGE OF GLOBAL HOSPITALITY LEADERSHIP

Bachelor's Degree	Tassel: Navy
Master's Degree	Hood: Navy, Red and White Tassel: Black
Doctoral Degree	Hood: Dark Blue Tassel: Red

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
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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
Doctoral Degree	Hood: Apricot Tassel: Red

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

Bachelor’s Degree	Tassel: Peacock Blue
Master’s Degree	Hood: Peacock Blue Tassel: Black

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT SUCCESS

Bachelor’s Degree	Tassel: White
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Ceremonial Symbols



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 14th 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



Honorary Degree

NATHAN FOWLER, M.D.

Dr. Nathan Fowler, a distinguished alumnus, is considered one of the world’s foremost experts in drug development for blood cancers. As chief medical officer for BostonGene, Fowler provides strategic direction to the biomedical software company, empowering it to advance precision medicine therapies for cancer patients. The award-winning company uses AI-powered solutions to provide clinicians with actionable insights, support personalized therapy decisions, expedite drug development and improve patient outcomes.

Prior to joining BostonGene, Fowler was a professor of medicine and director of the clinical investigational and translational research program in the Lymphoma and Myeloma department at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. At MD Anderson, Fowler focused on developing groundbreaking new therapies for cancer patients, which led to FDA approval of several novel therapeutic agents in lymphoma. In addition, he led the development of one of the first combination immunotherapy regimens for untreated lymphomas and is the primary investigator for the ongoing international phase III study with the combination.

A profound researcher, Fowler has published over 175 articles in peer-reviewed journals, numerous textbooks on innovative approaches to cancer therapy and is a sought-after speaker for high-profile conferences. He graduated cum laude from the University of Houston with a bachelor’s degree in biology and a minor in Spanish in 1996, earned his medical degree from the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston in 2001, where he also completed his residency, and received fellowship training in hematology/oncology at both Georgetown University Hospital and MD Anderson.

Most impressive is Fowler’s rich history of service and community engagement. As a student at UH, he volunteered to teach officers Spanish at the Houston Police Department. His fluency in Spanish — supported by his undergraduate minor — has become a vital asset in his medical practice, allowing him to communicate directly with Spanish-speaking patients, enabling more personal, effective care. Prior to his work in medicine, he served in the U.S. Army as a nuclear, biological and chemical defense specialist. Moreover, Fowler is the founder and president of the Halo House Foundation, a Houston-based nonprofit organization providing affordable housing to blood cancer patients receiving medical treatment. His nonprofit — which charges patients only \$20 per night for fully furnished apartments — has provided over 9,000 days of housing to hundreds of families.

The Doctor of Humane Letters degrees, honoris causa, given for exemplary service to the University of Houston or society at large, is the highest honor UH can bestow.

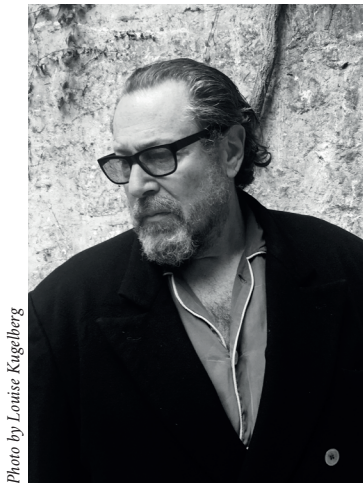


Photo by Louise Kugelberg

Honorary Degree

JULIAN SCHNABEL

A prolific and groundbreaking artist, Julian Schnabel is a world-renowned painter whose multidisciplinary work spans sculpture, architecture, furniture and film. Widely regarded as one of the most influential American artists of the last 40 years, Schnabel rose to prominence as a leading figure in the neo-Expressionist movement in the 1980s. He later became a celebrated filmmaker and continues to excel in both fields today.

An accomplished alumnus of the University of Houston, Schnabel earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in 1973. He later became the first UH graduate to be honored with a solo exhibition at the University’s Blaffer Art Museum.

His first major exhibition was a group of paintings at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Houston, in 1976. By the late 1970s, he was exhibiting at some of New York’s most prestigious galleries, including Mary Boone and the legendary Leo Castelli Gallery. The strength of Schnabel’s work lay in his use of preexisting materials not traditionally used in art making, varied painting surfaces and inventive modes of construction — breaking artistic norms of the time. His unorthodox approach helped revive painting in the United States and beyond during a period largely characterized by conceptual art and minimalism.

In the 1990s, Schnabel expanded into filmmaking, directing and writing “Basquiat” — a critically acclaimed film about the famed artist Jean-Michel Basquiat and New York’s 1980s art scene. To date, he has directed six major films, including the acclaimed “Before Night Falls”, which earned Javier Bardem an Academy Award nomination for his breakout role. His 2007 film “The Diving Bell and the Butterfly” was nominated for four Academy Awards, including Best Director, and earned Schnabel the Best Director Award at the Cannes Film Festival.

Schnabel’s paintings are housed in some of the most prestigious museums in the world, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art; the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; the Reina Sofia in Madrid; the Tate Modern in London; and the Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris. A true visionary, Schnabel transformed the language of painting and paved the way for new generations of artists.

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President’s Medallion

CONRAD N. HILTON FOUNDATION

The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, established in 1944 by hotel magnate and philanthropist Conrad N. Hilton, has long championed initiatives that alleviate human suffering and foster global goodwill. Hilton’s profound belief in the transformative power of hospitality led to a significant milestone in 1969 when he donated \$1.5 million to the University of Houston to establish the Conrad N. Hilton College of Hotel and Restaurant Management — the first hospitality school in Texas. This foundational gift laid the groundwork for what has

evolved into the Conrad N. Hilton College of Global Hospitality Leadership, a premier institution in hospitality education.

Over the decades, the Hilton Foundation’s unwavering support has been instrumental in the college’s growth and success. The foundation has contributed substantially to the college by funding critical infrastructure, innovative programs, scholarships and strategic initiatives. Notably, in 2021, amidst the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the foundation bestowed a \$10 million unrestricted endowment to aid the college in navigating the crisis and continuing its mission of cultivating future hospitality leaders.

The endowment has provided critical operational and student support, including student scholarships, research funding, professional development training, library materials, equipment acquisition, staff and clerical support, and other key areas that enrich and enhance the college.

The foundation’s commitment extends beyond financial contributions. It also provides strategic guidance to grow the world’s only hospitality program where students work and take classes in an internationally branded, full-service Hilton hotel, which is also operated by the college. In addition, the Hilton company has hired thousands of Hilton College graduates who work in Hilton hotels around the world. Their enduring support has helped students — many of whom are the first in their family to attend college — become leaders in the hospitality industry.

Today, the Conrad N. Hilton College of Global Hospitality Leadership is revered globally as one of the best in hospitality education and research thanks to the enduring support of the Hilton Foundation. Since its founding, the foundation has awarded more than \$3.6 billion in grants, bringing hope, healing and transformative change to thousands worldwide. A profoundly benevolent organization, each year the Hilton Foundation awards a multimillion-dollar prize to a nonprofit leading effort to alleviate human suffering — the world’s largest annual humanitarian award.

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.



Hewlett Packard Enterprise

President’s Medallion

HEWLETT PACKARD ENTERPRISE

Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE) is a Fortune 100, global edge-to-cloud company advancing the way people live and work.

Headquartered in the Greater Houston region, HPE helps organizations connect, protect, analyze and act on data and applications, to turn insights into meaningful outcomes to thrive in today’s complex world.

Named one of the World’s Most Ethical Companies by Ethisphere, HPE is dedicated to offering IT solutions that help their customers and partners achieve their social impact commitments. In 2018, HPE made a transformative \$10 million gift to the University of Houston’s Data Science Institute as part of a game-changing collaboration to increase innovation. The gift also funded a scholarship endowment and high-performing computing equipment to enhance data science research activities across all UH colleges. In addition, funding supports education programs for K-12 students, as well as UH students, faculty and staff.

In honor of their gift and extensive contributions, the institute was renamed the Hewlett Packard Enterprise Data Science Institute, which has become a central hub for data science education and interdisciplinary research at UH. The institute has expanded educational opportunities by offering micro-credentials and certificate programs in data analytics, artificial intelligence, high-performance computing and related fields, that are critical in today’s industries. Students benefit from hands-on experiences, industry workshops and mentorship from HPE professionals who serve as lecturers and collaborators on real-world projects. This integration of academic and industry expertise ensures that graduates are well-prepared to meet the demands of a data-driven workforce.

Furthermore, the institute actively engages with the broader community by developing programs for middle and high school students, aiming to strengthen the STEM pipeline through project-based learning initiatives. These efforts help build a diverse and skilled workforce equipped to tackle future technological challenges.

Moreover, the partnership has enhanced UH’s capacity to deploy data science tools to address major societal challenges in the health care, energy and smart materials sectors, among others. The enhanced computational power has enabled researchers to conduct advanced analyses and simulations that have transformed disaster response, advanced breast cancer detection and improved the diagnosis of lupus-related kidney disease.

By fostering education, research and community engagement, the partnership has positioned UH as a leader in data science and innovation, benefiting the University, Greater Houston, Texas and beyond.

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Message from the Dean

Dear Graduates,

It feels like a short time ago that we celebrated your arrival and welcomed you at orientation. That time was full of excitement and anticipation about what the future would hold. And here we are today, celebrating the conclusion of your training, your academic achievements, and your transformation to a doctor of optometry. This is more than a milestone, it is also a moment to pause and reflect on your journey and all that you have experienced along the way: challenges, growth, and your potential now manifest. You have earned the title that will be bestowed on you today and we are so proud to have you among us as graduates of this prestigious program.

As a graduate of the University of Houston College of Optometry, you are now a part of a select group of graduates who are among the best trained eye care providers in the world. You are also now part of a community of more than 5,000 colleagues who share a common bond shaped by the values of this university, this college, and this profession. Your experiences have created opportunities to grow, develop persistence, and learn resilience. Now you will put those traits and your new skills to work! As you step into what's next, whether it's continuing your education or beginning your career—know that you take with you more than a degree. You carry the spirit of this college, the strength of your peers, and lessons that will serve you for a lifetime.

Today, as you celebrate, I encourage you to also reflect on what you have achieved. You have grown in knowledge, but also in confidence, compassion, and character. Remember those who were with you who inspired your success. Show gratitude for where you now stand; not one of us would be here without the support of others. Go forward and embrace future challenges with confidence, knowing that regardless of where life leads, you are well prepared to succeed. Finally, know that you are now part of a greater community that supports you and celebrates your success. We are proud to have you as our alum!

Congratulations, and Go Coogs!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Michael D. Twa'.

Michael D. Twa, O.D., Ph.D., F.A.A.O.

Dean and Professor Humana Endowed Dean's Chair in Optometry



Congratulatory message from FERV

Congratulations to our 2025 graduates – our new optometric colleagues! Since 1952, the college of optometry’s foundation, Foundation for Education and Research in Vision (FERV), has been a part of your journey since the very first day of your optometric career by providing scholarships, emergency loans, educational events, student research support, awards, recognitions, and more.

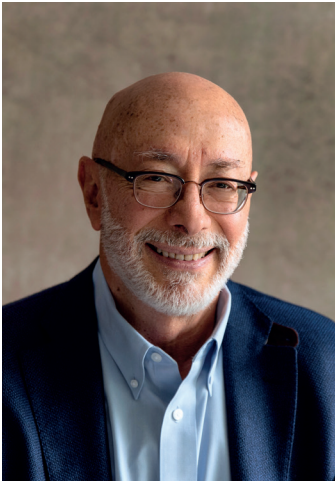
The college’s foundation works with alumni, friends, and donors to establish and grow scholarships for our students while also enhancing research and innovation at the college through financial support. The foundation is dedicated to improving the quality of life for the communities we serve by providing vital funds that support community health initiatives and other health programs that directly impact students and their education.

Our journey will continue together as you embark on life-long learning through UHCO’s continuing education and alumni social events. We know as you become successful practitioners you will help future students through your contributions to FERV.

We encourage you to support the optometric profession just as the profession has supported you.

Moes Nasser, O.D. '82
President
Foundation for Education and Research in Vision





2025 Distinguished Alumnus

Abraham Bromberg, B.Opt, O.D., M.Sc. ('80), FAAO

DR. ABRAHAM BROMBERG received his Bachelor of Optometry with honors from the Escuela Superior de Medicina at the National Polytechnic Institute (Instituto Politécnico Nacional, IPN) in 1967, his OD from the University of California, Berkeley School of Optometry in 1969, and his

Master of Science in Physiological Optics from the University of Houston College of Optometry in 1980.

Dr. Bromberg began his academic career as a professor of optometry and physiological optics at Instituto Politécnico Nacional (IPN) in 1970, later serving as Director of Optometry, where he led significant curriculum reforms, expanded the program from three to four years, and established the institution's optometry clinic. He also taught low vision at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) and, in 2016, was appointed by the President of UNAM to establish a new school of optometry in León, Mexico.

Dr. Bromberg has been instrumental in shaping optometric education and professional advocacy in Mexico. He co-founded and served as President of the College of Optometrists of Mexico City and the Mexican Association of Faculties, Schools, and Councils (AMFECCO). He currently leads Consejo Optometría México, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting optometry and continuing education.

Dr. Bromberg was the author and driving force behind the legislative bill that recognized and regulated optometry as a licensed profession in Mexico, which was unanimously approved by both the Chamber of Deputies (2013) and the Senate (2015) before being signed into law by the President of Mexico.

An accomplished author, Dr. Bromberg has written four books on optometry, including *Visión Baja* and *Historia de la Optometría en México*.

Dr. Bromberg is a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry and holds memberships with both the American Optometric Association and the World Council of Optometry. His many honors include the 2021 Essilor Award for Outstanding International Contributions to Optometry from the American Academy of Optometry, the 2023 Alumnus of the Year award and induction into the Optometry Hall of Fame at UC Berkeley, a 2025 commendation from the Senate of Mexico for his efforts in advancing optometry as a regulated profession, and most recently, the prestigious International Optometrist Award from the World Council of Optometry, in recognition of his extraordinary contributions and commitment to the development of the profession of optometry and vision care globally.

Commencement Ceremony

Golden Reunion Class of 1975

*The University of Houston College of Optometry’s faculty, staff, and students salute the Class of 1975
on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of their Commencement.*

Richard Baker, O.D.	Gloria Galan, O.D.	F. Keith Manuel, O.D.
H. Doug Barnes, O.D.	Billy Jack Garner, O.D. *	Duane Muck, O.D.
Robert Barton, O.D.	Larry Gates, O.D.	Edwin Murr, O.D.
Marvin Baza, O.D.	Gary Giesler, O.D.	Michael Poynor, O.D. *
David Beeler, O.D.	Don Glenz, O.D.	Jay Pravda, O.D.
D. Rudolph Black, Jr., O.D.	Clifford Goodman, O.D.	Jerry Redwine, O.D.
Karla Bloom, O.D. *	Mike Green, O.D.	Greg Sandy, O.D.
Paul Blystone, O.D. *	Chesley Gregory, O.D.	Tom Shelor, O.D.
Russell Bond, O.D.	Travis Gresham, III, O.D.	Steven Smith, O.D.
Craig Brammer, O.D.	Edward Harper, O.D. *	Stephen Smolins, O.D.
James Brooks, O.D.	James Harper, O.D.	Samuel Stennis, O.D. *
John Caynon, O.D.	Mark Hutson, O.D.	Harvey Sturdevant, Jr., O.D. *
Allen Chin, O.D.	Bob Joe, O.D.	Richard Swales, O.D.
Robert Christensen, O.D.	Cindy Johnson, O.D.	Lydia Tan, O.D.
Robert Colon, O.D.	Bruce Kirkland, O.D.	James Tisdale, O.D.
Robert Day, Jr., O.D.	Karl Kutch, O.D.	Charles Varcoe, O.D.
Dennis Dean, O.D.	Stanley Lassa, O.D. *	Bruce Varner, O.D.
Wade Dulin, O.D.	Wally Liles, O.D.	Dennis Vierling, O.D.
Leslie Dullnig, O.D.	David Lopez, O.D.	J. Wes Wilkening, O.D.
Robert Edwards, III, O.D.	James Luckett, O.D.	*Deceased
Charles Evans, O.D. *	Ruth Manny, O.D.	
Elise Finch, O.D.	Luis Mantilla, O.D.	

Commencement Ceremony
Saturday, May 10, 2025, 2:00 p.m.
Cullen Performance Hall

PROCESSIONAL	"Pomp and Circumstance" <i>By Sir Edward Elgar</i>
HONORARY UNIVERSITY MACE BEARER	Lisa Ostrin <i>Associate Professor</i>
HONORARY COLLEGE MACE BEARER	Scott Stevenson <i>Associate Professor</i>
HONORARY UNIVERSITY BANNER BEARER	Han Cheng <i>Clinical Professor</i>
HONORARY COLLEGE BANNER BEARER	D. Rudolph Black Jr. <i>Clinical Associate Professor</i>
PRESENTATION OF COLORS	Houston Battalion ROTC Color Guard
NATIONAL ANTHEM	Moore School of Music
WELCOME AND RECOGNITION OF SPECIAL GUESTS	Michael D. Twa <i>Dean and Professor</i> <i>Humana Endowed Dean's Chair in Optometry</i>
GREETINGS FROM UH SYSTEM BOARD OF REGENTS	The Honorable John A. McCall, Jr. <i>Vice Chairman</i>
GREETINGS	Diane Z. Chase <i>Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost</i>
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD	Distinguished Alumnus Award for 2025 Presented to Abraham Bromberg, B.Opt, O.D., M.Sc. ('80), FAAO Dean Twa
STUDENT ADDRESS	John Mark McGullion
REMARKS FROM THE FERV FOUNDATION BOARD PRESIDENT	Moes Nasser, O.D. '82 <i>President</i> <i>Foundation for Education and Research in Vision</i>
RECOGNITION OF GRADUATES	
Summa Cum Laude	Jason Porter <i>Chair of the Faculty and Associate Professor</i>
Magna Cum Laude	
GOLD KEY INTERNATIONAL MEMBERSHIPS	Ralph Herring <i>Assistant Dean for Professional Studies and Clinical Professor</i>
BETA SIGMA KAPPA SILVER MEDAL AWARD	Moriah Chandler <i>Clinical Assistant Professor</i>

University of Houston
College of Optometry

Commencement Ceremony
Saturday, May 10, 2025, 2:00 p.m.
Cullen Performance Hall

PRESENTATION AND HOODING OF THE CANDIDATES	Dean Twa
PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PHYSIOLOGICAL OPTICS DEGREE	Laura J. Frishman <i>Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Research John and Rebecca Moores Professor</i>
PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN PHYSIOLOGICAL OPTICS DEGREE	Associate Dean Frishman
PRESENTATION OF OPTOMETRY RESIDENTS AND FELLOW	Beth Harper <i>Director of Residency Programs and Clinical Associate Professor</i>
PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR DOCTOR OF OPTOMETRY DEGREE	David Berntsen <i>Chair of Clinical Sciences and Associate Professor Golden-Golden Professor of Optometry</i>
ANNOUNCEMENT OF CANDIDATES FOR DOCTOR OF OPTOMETRY DEGREE	Kimberly Lambreghts <i>Associate Dean for Professional Studies and Clinical Professor</i>
HOODING OF CANDIDATES	Anita Ticak <i>Clinical Professor</i> Nimesh Patel <i>Associate Professor</i> Kathryn T. Keyzer <i>Professor of Practice</i> Maria Walker <i>Assistant Professor</i>
PRESENTATION OF DIPLOMAS	Dean Twa Associate Professor Berntsen
CONFERRAL OF DEGREES	Provost Chase
ADMINISTRATION OF THE OPTOMETRIC OATH	Beth Robinson, O.D. '12 <i>President, Texas Optometric Association</i>
CLOSING REMARKS	Dean Twa
ALMA MATER	Moores School of Music
RECESSIONAL	"War March of the Priests" <i>By Felix Mendelssohn</i>
RECEPTION TO FOLLOW	Health I Building <i>Doctors of Texas State Optical Alumni Education Center</i>

College of Optometry Commencement Committee

Renee Armacost	Elissa Guerra	Chaminga Lorensuhewa
Lauren Brown	Victoria Hackney	Michele Luman
Lee Dempsey	Inez Hutchinson	Lorellye Macomber
Wendy Evans	Amanda Johnson	Daniel Miller
Chris Green	Cristian Loayza	Lyle Tate

Doctors of Optometry are:

Doctors of optometry are the frontline healthcare profession in the defense against vision loss and blindness in the United States. Today, there are more than 30,000 licensed doctors of optometry nationwide and more than 5,000 in the state of Texas. Optometry’s essential role in healthcare continues to grow. In 1987, doctors of optometry were recognized as physicians under Medicare. Since then, the optometric scope of practice has grown to include diagnosing and treating many of the most common health conditions affecting the eye, vision, and neurological system. Optometrists are licensed to prescribe medications to treat eye diseases including infections, glaucoma, dry eyes, and other conditions. In more than a dozen states, doctors of optometry are now licensed to perform surgical procedures for the eye and surrounding tissues. While optometrists continue to be the primary providers of vision care, including glasses and contact lenses, many also pursue post-graduate residency training to provide specialty services in low vision rehabilitation, vision therapy, pediatrics and more. Optometrists continue to be an essential part of our health care system and frequently work closely with family practitioners, internists, pediatricians, neurologists, diabetic care teams, and other health professionals to coordinate patient care across the health system.

Optometry at the University of Houston:

Our graduates have completed a 4-year undergraduate degree prior to admission to the college of optometry. They are trained for an additional four years (3,216 hours of lectures and laboratories) in applied biomedical sciences, optics, social sciences, public health, advanced human anatomy, physiology, neurosciences, systemic and ocular pathology, general and ocular pharmacology, injections, suturing, ocular laser procedures, and clinical care.

Our students have completed more than 500 eye and health examinations in general eye and vision care clinics at the University of Houston Eye Institute and in specialty clinics including: perioperative services, pediatrics, low vision, contact lenses, and community health services.

Graduates complete approximately 1,200 additional eye and vision care experiences during two 16-week externship rotations at vision and health care centers nationwide. These external training centers include private practices, military hospitals, Indian Health Hospitals, community health centers, surgical centers, Veterans Administration Hospitals, and multidisciplinary vision care centers located around the country.

Commencement Ceremony

Spring 2025 – Candidates for Graduation

Candidates’ names are followed by their hometowns; undergraduate institutions, and if applicable, graduate institutions.

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN
PHYSIOLOGICAL OPTICS

Jackson Christopher Dolce
Port Neches, TX

B.A., Lamar University

THESIS: The Effect of Pupil Size on Visual Performance in Multifocal Contact Lenses

Matthew Marinus Keyzer

League City, TX

B.A., University of Oklahoma

B.S., University of Oklahoma

THESIS: Following Ocular Changes in United States Optometry Students (FOCUS): Protocol Development and Baseline Data

Christian Alexander Lopez

Houston, TX

B.S., University of Texas at Dallas

THESIS: The Ocular and Systemic Effects of Oral Caffeine

Luis Ramirez

Austin, TX

B.S., Southwestern University

THESIS: The Role of Hyaluronan in the Maintenance of Progenitor Cells in the Murine Lacrimal Gland

Adam Ross

Los Angeles, CA

B.S., University of California at Los Angeles

THESIS: Influence of Body Position and Time of Day on Ocular Rhythms

Alexis Lee Temple

Beckley, WV

B.S., West Virginia University

THESIS: Effects of Two Weeks of Red Light Therapy on Choroidal Thickness and Axial Length in Young Adults

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
IN PHYSIOLOGICAL
OPTICS

Chloe Degre Kendrick

Syracuse, NY

B.S., State University of New York at Geneseo

M.S., University of Rochester

DISSERTATION: Optical Blur and Neural Anisotropy in the Peripheral Visual Fields

Varsha Venkata Srinivasan

Chennai, India

B.S., Elite School of Optometry, India

DISSERTATION: Estimating Retinal Ganglion Cell Content with Widefield OCT and Perimetry in Non- Human Primates

Christopher Suchuan Wu

Andover, MA

B.S., University of Massachusetts, Amherst

O.D., Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

DISSERTATION: Spatial Characteristics of Chromatic Visual Processing Mechanisms

Residents

Candidates’ names are followed by their graduate institutions and University of Houston College of Optometry residency program information.

Shabistan Asrar, O.D.

O.D., University of Houston College of Optometry

RESIDENCY: Ocular Disease at the Cedar Springs Eye Clinic

My-Lynn Dang, O.D.

O.D., University of Houston College of Optometry

RESIDENCY: Primary Care/Ocular Disease at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center

Michael Flores, O.D.

O.D., Midwestern University Arizona College of Optometry

RESIDENCY: Primary Care at The Vision Center of West Phoenix

Mihret Girum, O.D.

O.D., University of California Berkeley School of Optometry

RESIDENCY: Brain Injury Vision Rehabilitation at the University Eye Institute

Jacky Ho, O.D.

O.D., Marshall B. Ketchum University Southern California College of Optometry

RESIDENCY: Pediatric Optometry at the University Eye Institute

Joslynn Ho, O.D.

O.D., Marshall B. Ketchum University Southern California College of Optometry

RESIDENCY: Ocular Disease at the University Eye Institute

Nikkie Keeya, O.D.

O.D., University of Houston College of Optometry

RESIDENCY: Low Vision Rehabilitation at the University Eye Institute

Jack LaMoine, O.D.

O.D., Pacific University College of Optometry

RESIDENCY: Ocular Disease/Refractive and Ocular Surgery at Omni Eye Specialists of Colorado

Biviana Lie, O.D.

O.D., Marshall B. Ketchum University Southern California College of Optometry

RESIDENCY: Cornea and Contact Lens at the University Eye Institute

Kushufnoor Niazi, O.D.

O.D., University of Houston College of Optometry

RESIDENCY: Primary Care/Ocular Disease at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center

Olivia Bergeron-Oakes, O.D.

O.D., Nova Southeastern College of Optometry

RESIDENCY: Primary Care at The Vision Center of West Phoenix

Commencement Ceremony

Natalie Oberer, O.D. O.D., Michigan College of Optometry RESIDENCY: Primary Care Optometry at the New Mexico VA Medical Center	Heather Vigo-Sanchez, O.D. O.D., University of Houston College of Optometry RESIDENCY: Primary Care Optometry at the New Mexico VA Healthcare System at Albuquerque	Abigail Song, O.D. O.D., University of Houston College of Optometry RESIDENCY: Primary Care/Ocular Disease at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center
Rebeca Pham, O.D. O.D., University of Houston College of Optometry RESIDENCY: Ocular Disease at the Community Eye Clinic Fort Worth		Megan McCrory Turner, O.D. O.D., University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Optometry RESIDENCY: Primary Care Optometry at the University Eye Institute

Postdoctoral Clinical Fellow

Candidates' names are followed by their graduate institutions and fellowship information.	Jean Thomson, O.D. O.D., University of Houston College of Optometry FELLOWSHIP: Corneal and Contact Lens Fellowship at The Texas Eye Research and Technology Center (TERTC)
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Doctor of Optometry

Candidates' names are followed by academic honors if applicable; their hometowns, undergraduate institutions, graduate institutions, and fourth-year clinical externship locations.	Amy Caitlin Cantrell TULSA, OK B.S., University of Oklahoma Raymond G. Murphy VA Medical Center, Albuquerque, New Mexico Indian Health Service, Albuquerque, New Mexico	Madsen N. Cheever APEX, NC B.S., Brigham Young University Diagnostic Eye Center, Houston, Texas Vision Source Mission Bend, Houston, Texas
Yesenia Maria Aguilar <i>Magna Cum Laude</i> DICKINSON, TX B.S., University of Texas at Austin Cedar Springs Eye Clinic, Dallas, Texas Clear Lake Eye Center, Webster, Texas	Ethan Chambliss SWEENEY, TX B.S.N., Stephen F. Austin State University Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry, Tahlequah, Oklahoma Texas State Optical Dowlen Road, Beaumont, Texas	Fiona Vinod Cherian GARLAND, TX B.S., University of Texas at Dallas Community Eye Clinic, Fort Worth, Texas Cedar Springs Eye Clinic, Dallas, Texas
Nandini Amin CEDAR PARK, TX B.S.A., University of Texas at Austin McCormick Vision Source, Austin, Texas Lakeline Vision Source, Austin, Texas	Jacquelyn Chan SPRING, TX B.S., University of Texas at Austin Sharp Eye Consultants, San Antonio, Texas Northside Community Health Center, Fort Worth, Texas	Clay Ramsey Crain <i>Magna Cum Laude</i> HUFFMAN, TX B.S.A., University of Texas at Austin MyEyeDr. Spring Klein, Spring, Texas NSU College of Optometry, Tahlequah, Oklahoma
Omer Amir CALGARY, AB B.Sc., University of Calgary Northside Community Health Center, Fort Worth, Texas Community Eye Clinic, Fort Worth, Texas	Nicholas Chang <i>Magna Cum Laude</i> HOUSTON, TX B.S., University of Houston Signature Eye Care, Austin, Texas Lakeline Vision Source, Austin, Texas	Sterling William Curnutt ABILENE, TX B.S., Angelo State University Community Eye Clinic, Fort Worth, Texas Mission Eye Care, San Antonio, Texas
Bryce F. Bowles RAINIER, WA B.S., Brigham Young University, Idaho Hope Clinic, Houston, Texas Tomball VA Clinic, Tomball, Texas		Dallin Jayson d'Huart CAMARILLO, CA B.S., Brigham Young University Houston Eye Associates, Houston, Texas West Texas Eyecare, Fort Stockton, Texas

Commencement Ceremony

Jackson Christopher Dolce <i>Magna Cum Laude</i> PORT NECHES, TX B.B.A., Lamar University Northside Community Health Clinic, Fort Worth, Texas Plaza Vision Center, Dallas, Texas	Ankur Yogeshbhai Hingrajiya <i>Magna Cum Laude</i> DALLAS, TX B.S., University of Texas at Dallas Community Eye Clinic, Fort Worth, Texas Plano Eye Associates, Plano, Texas	Ansa Aman Khan KINGWOOD, TX B.S., University of Houston Cedar Springs Eye Clinic, Dallas, Texas Oak Hill Eye Care, Austin, Texas
Judith Karolina Elias HOUSTON, TX B.S., University of Houston Cedar Springs Eye Clinic, Dallas, Texas Today's Vision Bellaire, Houston, Texas	Shelley Ho BAKERSFIELD, CA B.S., University of California, Los Angeles Milton-Edgewood Eye Clinic, Milton, Washington Naval Medical Center, San Diego, California	Kha-Vi Khuu <i>Magna Cum Laude</i> APEX, NC B.S., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Cedar Springs Eye Clinic, Dallas, Texas Veteran Affairs Richmond Outpatient Clinic, Richmond, Texas
Amera Elsayed TULSA, OK B.S., University of Tulsa M.B.A., University of Tulsa Hope Clinic, Houston, Texas NSU College of Optometry, Tahlequah, Oklahoma	Elizabeth Yen-Trang Huynh RICHARDSON, TX B.S., University of Texas at Dallas Plano Eye Associates, Plano, Texas Plaza Vision Center, Dallas, Texas	Peter William Kishbaugh LAFAYETTE, LA B.S., University of Louisiana at Lafayette Cedar Springs Eye Clinic, Dallas, Texas Eyecare of Greenville, Greenville, Texas
Taeana LaChell Fisher <i>Magna Cum Laude</i> AMARILLO, TX B.S.A., University of Texas at Austin The Vision Center of West Texas, Lubbock, Texas Neuro Vision Associates of North Texas, Plano, Texas	Megan Marie Huynh DALLAS, TX B.S., University of Oklahoma Community Eye Clinic, Fort Worth, Texas Hope Clinic, Houston, Texas	Halie Lam <i>Magna Cum Laude</i> HOUSTON, TX B.S., University of Houston Cedar Springs Eye Clinic, Dallas, Texas Lakeline Vision Source, Austin, Texas
Morgan Tant Gober <i>Summa Cum Laude</i> GRAHAM, TX B.S.A., University of Texas at Austin Community Eye Clinic, Fort Worth, Texas The Vision Center of West Texas, Lubbock, Texas	Randa Hashim Ibrahim SAN ANTONIO, TX B.S., University of Texas at San Antonio Hope Clinic, Houston, Texas Diagnostic Eye Center, Houston, Texas	Duc Minh Le HOUSTON, TX B.S., Texas A&M University Janot Vision Source, Sulphur, Louisiana Veteran Affairs Richmond Outpatient Clinic, Richmond, Texas
Raley Nicole Gray <i>Summa Cum Laude</i> BURLESON, TX B.S., University of Texas at Arlington Bellaire Family Eye Care, Houston, Texas Community Eye Clinic, Fort Worth, Texas	Jinseon Jeong DALLAS, TX B.A., Texas A&M University at College Station M.S., University of North Texas Carousel Eye Care, Katy, Texas Mann Eye Institute, Houston, Texas	Kevin Tuan Le DALLAS, TX B.S.A., University of Texas at Austin Signature Eye Care, Austin, Texas Community Eye Clinic, Fort Worth, Texas
Felipe Fernando Gutierrez, Jr. RIO GRANDE, TX B.S., Texas A&M University Sitterle Vision Source, San Antonio, Texas Northside Community Health Clinic, Fort Worth, Texas	Abigail Elizabeth Kasten <i>Summa Cum Laude</i> RAPID CITY, SD B.S., South Dakota State University Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland Prairie Eye Clinic, Vermillion, South Dakota	Kierrah Marie Llanos SIOUX CITY, IA B.S., University of South Dakota Cedar Springs Eye Clinic, Dallas, Texas Janot Vision Source, Sulphur, Louisiana
Cassidy Noel Hill <i>Summa Cum Laude</i> SEARSMONT, ME B.S., University of Maine Northside Community Health Clinic, Fort Worth, Texas Golden Eye Clinic, Center, Texas	Matthew Marinus Keyzer <i>Summa Cum Laude</i> LEAGUE CITY, TX B.A., University of Oklahoma B.S., University of Oklahoma Bellaire Family Eye Care, Bellaire, Texas Diagnostic Eye Center, Houston, Texas	Rachel Erin Lootens HOUSTON, TX B.S.A., University of Texas at Austin B.A., University of Texas at Austin Cedar Springs Eye Clinic, Dallas, Texas Houston Eye Associates, Houston, Texas
		Christian Alexander Lopez B.S., University of Texas at Dallas NSU College of Optometry, Tahlequah, Oklahoma Janot Vision Source, Sulphur, Louisiana

Commencement Ceremony

Paul Minh Duc Luong <i>Summa Cum Laude</i> WAYNESBORO, VA B.A., University of Virginia Oak Hill Eye Care, Austin, Texas Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland	Christelle Nguyen <i>Magna Cum Laude</i> TOULOUSE, FRANCE B.S., University of Texas at Austin NSU College of Optometry, Tahlequah, Oklahoma Lakeline Vision Source, Austin, Texas	Riddhi Dinesh Patel HOUSTON, TX B.S., University of Houston Vision Source Mission Bend, Houston, Texas Hope Clinic, Houston, Texas
Ethan Khang Ly MANSFIELD, TX B.S.A., University of Texas at Austin Lakeline Vision Source, Austin, Texas Cedar Springs Eye Clinic, Dallas, Texas	Katie Anh Nguyen <i>Summa Cum Laude</i> BATON ROUGE, LA B.S., Louisiana State University Lakeline Vision Source, Austin, Texas NSU College of Optometry, Tahlequah, Oklahoma	Austin Dennis Peery EAGLE, ID B.S., Brigham Young University Northside Community Health Clinic, Fort Worth, Texas Louisiana Eye and Laser, Pineville, Louisiana
Dralon McCoy HOUSTON, TX B.S., University of Houston South Texas Veterans Healthcare System, San Antonio, Texas Sitterle Vision Source, San Antonio, Texas	Lauren Nguyen PEARLAND, TX B.S., University of Houston Vision Source Mission Bend, Houston, Texas Hope Clinic, Houston, Texas	Annie Le Pham <i>Magna Cum Laude</i> WICHITA, KS B.S., Wichita State University Naval Medical Center, San Diego, California Carousel Eyecare, Katy, Texas
John Mark McGullion FORT PAYNE, AL B.S., University of North Alabama Diagnostic Eye Center, Houston, Texas Community Eye Clinic, Fort Worth, Texas	Savannah T. Nguyen HOUSTON, TX B.S., Texas A&M University Oak Hill Eye Care, Austin, Texas Hope Clinic, Houston, Texas	Donovan Pham HOUSTON, TX B.S., University of Houston Northside Community Health Clinic, Fort Worth, Texas Lakeline Vision Source, Austin, Texas
Nirvi Nitesh Mehta SUGAR LAND, TX B.S., University of Houston Cedar Springs Eye Clinic, Dallas, Texas McCormick Vision Source, Austin, Texas	Steven Nguyen HOUSTON, TX B.S., University of Houston Clear Lake Eye Center, Webster, Texas Hope Clinic, Houston, Texas	Emily T. Pham HOUSTON, TX B.S., University of Houston Diagnostic Eye Center, Houston, Texas Raymond G. Murphy VA Medical Center, Albuquerque, New Mexico
Joel Mundackal DALLAS-FORT WORTH, TX B.S.A., University of Texas at Austin Neuro-Vision Associates of North Texas, Plano, Texas Northside Community Health Clinic, Fort Worth, Texas	Laura N. Ojinnaka HOUSTON, TX B.S., University of Houston Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas Santa Fe Indian Health Service, Santa Fe, New Mexico	Matthew Quy-Thinh Pham <i>Magna Cum Laude</i> QUINCY, MA B.A., University of Massachusetts Amherst B.S., University of Massachusetts Amherst Santa Fe Indian Hospital, Santa Fe, New Mexico Bellaire Family Eye Care, Bellaire, Texas
Abigail Muñoz HOUSTON, TX B.S., University of Texas at Austin Oak Hill Eye Care, Austin, Texas Diagnostic Eye Center, Houston, Texas	Nicholas Oudompradith <i>Summa Cum Laude</i> DALLAS, TX B.S., University of Texas at Austin Family Vision Solutions, Spring, Texas Cedar Springs Eye Clinic, Dallas, Texas	Dakota Wesley Phillips MIDLAND, TX B.S., Texas Tech University Carousel Eyecare, Katy, Texas
Ashley Murray NEDERLAND, TX B.S., Lamar University MyEyeDr. Spring Klein, Spring, Texas Texas State Optical Dowlen Road, Beaumont, Texas	Anjali Ajay Patel <i>Summa Cum Laude</i> EDINBURG, TX B.S.A., University of Texas at Austin Cedar Springs Eye Clinic, Dallas, Texas Lakeline Vision Source, Austin, Texas	Megan Minh Thu Phu <i>Summa Cum Laude</i> STAFFORD, TX B.S.A., University of Texas at Austin Cedar Springs Eye Clinic, Dallas, Texas Oak Hill Eye Care, Austin, Texas
Steven Quang-Huy Nguy SAN ANTONIO, TX B.S., University of Texas at San Antonio Milton-Edgewood Eye Clinic, Milton, Washington Cedar Springs Eye Clinic, Dallas, Texas	Harshal Umesh Patel DENTON, TX B.S., Texas A&M University Altig Optical, Fort Worth, Texas Cedar Springs Eye Clinic, Dallas, Texas	Athisha Piyapanee DALLAS, TX B.S., University of Texas at Austin Signature Eye Care, Austin, Texas Cedar Springs Eye Clinic, Dallas, Texas

Commencement Ceremony

Lauren S. Price
LOS ANGELES, CA
B.S., Hampton University
Cedar Springs Eye Clinic, Dallas, Texas
North Little Rock VA Eye Clinic,
North Little Rock, Arkansas

Seenu Raju
DALLAS, TX
B.S., University of Texas at Dallas
Community Eye Clinic, Fort Worth,
Texas
Plano Eye Associates, Plano, Texas

Luis Ramirez
Magna Cum Laude
AUSTIN, TX
B.S., Southwestern University
Lakeline Vision Source, Austin, Texas
South Texas Veterans Healthcare
System, San Antonio, Texas

Priya Ratanji
HOUSTON, TX
B.S., University of Houston
Oak Hill Eye Care, Austin, Texas
Cedar Springs Eye Clinic, Dallas, Texas

Kamil Riaz
HOUSTON, TX
B.S., University of Texas at Austin
Lakeline Vision Source, Austin, Texas
Hope Clinic, Houston, Texas

Adam Ross
Summa Cum Laude
LOS ANGELES, CA
B.S., University of California, Los
Angeles
Cedar Springs Eye Clinic, Dallas, Texas
Bellaire Family Eye Care, Bellaire, Texas

Christopher Rey Sanchez
AMARILLO, TX
B.S., West Texas A&M University
Louisiana Eye and Laser, Pineville,
Louisiana
Amarillo VA Healthcare System,
Amarillo, Texas

Saaleha Savani
SUGAR LAND, TX
B.S., Texas A&M University
Cedar Springs Eye Clinic, Dallas, Texas
Diagnostic Eye Center, Houston, Texas

Jonathan Schmidt
GILROY, CA
B.S., Baylor University
Plano Eye Associates, Plano, Texas
Cedar Springs Eye Clinic, Dallas, Texas

Chaoqun Shi
MCKINNEY, TX
B.S., University of Texas at Austin
Lakeline Vision Source, Austin, Texas
Cedar Springs Eye Clinic, Dallas, Texas

Erin Jennette Smith
ROANOKE, TX
B.A., Texas Tech University
Golden Eye Clinic, Center, Texas
Neuro-Vision Associates of North
Texas, Plano, Texas

Alex Lai Sov
HOUSTON, TX
B.S., University of Houston
Community Eye Clinic, Fort Worth,
Texas
Clear Lake Eye Center, Webster, Texas

Jacob Michael Tate
FORT WORTH, TX
B.S., Texas A&M University
McCormick Vision Source, Austin,
Texas
Cedar Springs Eye Clinic, Dallas, Texas

Alexis Lee Temple
BECKLEY, WV
B.S., West Virginia University
Louisiana Eye and Laser, Pineville,
Louisiana
NSU College of Optometry,
Tahlequah, Oklahoma

David Aaron Thomsen
Magna Cum Laude
ATLANTIC, IA
B.A., University of Nebraska Omaha
Bellaire Family Eye Care, Bellaire, Texas
Community Eye Clinic, Fort Worth,
Texas

Anh Minh Tran
HOUSTON, TX
B.A., Rice University
NSU College of Optometry,
Tahlequah, Oklahoma
Diagnostic Eye Center, Houston, Texas

Johnny Tran
HOUSTON, TX
B.S., University of Houston
Cedar Springs Eye Clinic, Dallas, Texas
Houston Eye Associates, Houston, Texas

Katherine Tran
Summa Cum Laude
HOUSTON, TX
B.S., University of Texas at Austin
Cedar Springs Eye Clinic, Dallas,
Texas
Family Vision Solutions, Spring, Texas

Kelly Maitram Tran
Magna Cum Laude
HOUSTON, TX
B.S., University of Texas at Austin
Navy Medical Center, San Diego,
California
Northside Community Health Clinic,
Fort Worth, Texas

Kenny Tran
Magna Cum Laude
HOUSTON, TX
B.S., University of Houston
Lakeline Vision Source, Austin, Texas
Signature Eye Care, Austin, Texas

Matthew Tran
Summa Cum Laude
BATON ROUGE, LA
B.S., Louisiana State University
Lakeline Vision Source, Austin, Texas
NSU College of Optometry,
Tahlequah, Oklahoma

Sophia Tuong Vi Tran
Magna Cum Laude
GARLAND, TX
B.S., Texas Tech University
Plano Eye Associates, Plano, Texas
Naval Medical Center, San Diego,
California

Tiffany Kha Tu Tran
Summa Cum Laude
HOUSTON, TX
B.S., University of Texas at Austin
Lakeline Vision Source, Austin, Texas
McCormick Vision Source, Austin,
Texas

Jeremy John Trevino
PORTLAND, TX
B.S.A., University of Texas at Austin
Today's Vision Bellaire, Houston, Texas
Cedar Springs Eye Clinic, Dallas, Texas

Marissa Vasquez
LA PORTE, TX
B.S., University of Houston
Mann Eye Institute, Houston, Texas
Vision Source Mission Bend, Houston,
Texas

Esmeralda Ventura
HOUSTON, TX
B.S., University of Houston
Albuquerque Indian Health Service,
Albuquerque, New Mexico
Cedar Springs Eye Clinic, Dallas, Texas

Commencement Ceremony

Nathalie Vo
Magna Cum Laude
ARLINGTON, TX
B.S., University of Texas at Arlington
Plaza Vision Center, Dallas, Texas
Cedar Springs Eye Clinic, Dallas,
Texas

Paige Comeaux Weaver
Summa Cum Laude
ABBEVILLE, LA
B.S., University of Louisiana at
Lafayette
Northside Community Health Clinic,
Fort Worth, Texas
Acadian Vision Associates, Lafayette,
Louisiana

Samuel Otto Wetzel
Magna Cum Laude
LACROSSE, WI
B.S., University of Wisconsin - River
Falls
Walter Reed National Military
Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland
Cedar Springs Eye Clinic, Dallas,
Texas

Judy Jane Xu
Summa Cum Laude
PLANO, TX
B.S.A., University of Texas at Austin
Cedar Springs Eye Clinic, Dallas, Texas
Naval Medical Center, San Diego,
California

Lama Younes
HOUSTON, TX
B.S., University of Houston
Hope Clinic, Houston, Texas
Today's Vision Bellaire, Houston,
Texas

Sarah Katherine Yun
HOUSTON, TX
B.S., University of California, Los
Angeles
NSU College of Optometry,
Tahlequah, Oklahoma
Naval Medical Center, San Diego,
California

Dinet Zaki Yusuf
PEARLAND, TX
B.S., University of Houston
Raymond G. Murphy VA Medical
Center, Albuquerque, New Mexico
Cedar Springs Eye Clinic, Dallas, Texas

The Optometric Oath

With full deliberation, I freely and solemnly pledge that:

- I **affirm** that the health of my patient will be my first consideration.
- I **will** practice the art and science of optometry faithfully and conscientiously, and to the fullest scope of my competence.
- I **will** uphold and honorably promote by example and action the highest standards, ethics and ideals of my chosen profession and the honor of the degree, Doctor of Optometry, which has been granted me.
- I **will** provide professional care for the diverse populations who seek my services, with concern, with compassion and with due regard for their human rights and dignity.
- I **will** work to expand access to quality care and improve health equity for all communities.
- I **will** place the treatment of those who seek my care above personal gain and strive to see that none shall lack for proper care.
- I **will** hold as privileged and inviolable all information entrusted to me in confidence by my patients.
- I **will** advise my patients fully and honestly of all which may serve to restore, maintain or enhance their vision and general health.
- I **will** strive continuously to broaden my knowledge and skills so that my patients may benefit from all new and efficacious means to enhance the care of human vision.
- I **will** share information cordially and unselfishly with my fellow doctors of optometry and other professionals for the benefit of patients and the advancement of human knowledge and welfare.
- I **will** do my utmost to serve my community, my country and humankind as a citizen as well as a doctor of optometry.
- I **hereby** commit myself to be steadfast in the performance of this my solemn oath and obligation.

Recognition and Awards

Doctoral students who demonstrated leadership skills
by holding office in one or more college – or state-level optometric student organizations:

- Jackson Christopher Dolce, *STOA President, 2023-2024*
- Taeana LaChell Fisher, *AOSA Chair, BSK Treasurer, 2023-2024*
- Shelley Ho, *SAAO President, 2023-2024*
- Randa Hashim Ibrahim, *NOSA Chair, Community Service, 2023-2024*
- Matthew Marinus Keyzer, *BSK President, 2023-2024*
- Kierrah Marie Llanos, *AOSA Secretary, 2023-2024*
- John Mark McGullion, *AOA PAC Representative, 2022-2023 & 2023-2024*
- Laura N. Ojinnaka, *NOSA Secretary, 2023-2024*
- Megan Minh Thu Phu, *BSK Vice President, 2023-2024*
- Lauren S. Price, *NOSA President, 2023-2024*
- Sarah Katherine Yun, *SAAO Vice President, 2023-2024*

Academic Honors

Doctoral students in the Doctor of Optometry program at the University of Houston who meet all degree requirements will graduate with academic honors based on their final grade point averages.

SUMMA CUM LAUDE – 3.75 TO 4.0

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Morgan Tant Gober | Anjali Ajay Patel |
| Raley Nicole Gray | Megan Minh Thu Phu |
| Cassidy Noel Hill | Adam Ross |
| Abigail Elizabeth Kasten | Katherine Tran |
| Matthew Marinus Keyzer | Matthew Tran |
| Paul Minh Duc Luong | Tiffany Kha Tu Tran |
| Katie Anh Nguyen | Paige Comeaux Weaver |
| Nicholas Oudompradith | Judy Jane Xu |

MAGNA CUM LAUDE – 3.50 TO 3.74

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Yesenia Maria Aguilar | Annie Le Pham |
| Nicholas Chang | Matthew Quy-Thinh Pham |
| Clay Ramsey Crain | Luis Ramirez |
| Jackson Christopher Dolce | David Aaron Thomsen |
| Taeana LaChell Fisher | Kelly Maitram Tran |
| Ankur Yogeshbhai Hingrajiya | Kenny Tran |
| Kha-Vi Khuu | Sophia Tuong Vi Tran |
| Halie Lam | Nathalie Vo |
| Christelle Nguyen | Samuel Otto Wetzel |

Commencement Ceremony

2025 GOLD KEY INTERNATIONAL OPTOMETRIC HONOR SOCIETY

Gold Key International Optometric Honor Society recognizes graduating students who have demonstrated outstanding professional and ethical attitudes through leadership and service to their class, college, and profession. Membership is limited to no more than 10 percent of the graduating class. The University of Houston College of Optometry chapter of Gold Key was created in 1974.

Jackson Christopher Dolce	Luis Ramirez	Samuel Otto Wetzel
Morgan Tant Gober	Erin Jennette Smith	Sarah Katherine Yun
Matthew Marinus Keyzer	Alexis Lee Temple	
John Mark McGullion	David Aaron Thomsen	

BETA SIGMA KAPPA HONOR GRADUATES

Beta Sigma Kappa recognizes students who stimulate scientific attainment, academic excellence, and the ethical practice of optometry. Membership is awarded based on scholastic excellence and is calculated per semester. The asterisk denotes membership since Fall 2022.

Yesenia Maria Aguilar	Matthew Marinus Keyzer*	David Aaron Thomsen
Nicholas Chang*	Kha-Vi Khuu	Katherine Tran*
Clay Ramsey Crain*	Paul Minh Duc Luong*	Matthew Tran*
Jackson Christopher Dolce	Christelle Nguyen*	Kelly Maitram Tran*
Taeana LaChell Fisher*	Katie Anh Nguyen*	Sophia Tuong Vi Tran*
Morgan Tant Gober*	Nicholas Oudompradith*	Nathalie Vo
Raley Nicole Gray*	Annie Le Pham*	Paige Comeaux Weaver
Cassidy Noel Hill*	Megan Minh Thu Phu*	Samuel Otto Wetzel*
Ankur Yogeshbhai Hingrajiya*	Luis Ramirez*	
Abigail Elizabeth Kasten*	Adam Ross*	

Outstanding Grand Rounds Presentation Award

Yesenia Maria Aguilar

Clinical Excellence Specialty Awards

CORNEA AND CONTACT LENS

Elizabeth Yen-Trang Huynh

DRY EYE CENTER

Christelle Nguyen

PEDIATRIC OPTOMETRY

Kamil Riaz

LOW VISION

Christelle Nguyen

MEDICAL EYE SERVICE

Raley Nicole Gray

Fourth Year Professional Awards

COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRISTS IN VISION DEVELOPMENT EXCELLENCE IN VISION THERAPY AWARD

Cassidy Noel Hill

COOPER VISION CONTACT LENS LEADERSHIP AWARD

Matthew Marinus Keyzer

ESCHENBACH LOW VISION AWARD

Erin Jennette Smith

EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Rachel Erin Lootens

EXCELLENCE IN OPTICS AWARD

Matthew Tran

WILLIAM FEINBLOOM LOW VISION AWARD

Matthew Quy-Thinh Pham

GP LENS INSTITUTE CLINICAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

Sarah Katherine Yun

AAOF AWARD OF EXCELLENCE IN CONTACT LENS PATIENT CARE

Morgan Tant Gober

METRO OPTICS EXCELLENCE AWARD

Paige Comeaux Weaver

OCULAR INSTRUMENTS AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

Luis Ramirez

OPTELEC LOW VISION AWARD

Kelly Maitram Tran

VSP/AAOF PRACTICE EXCELLENCE AWARD

Jackson Christopher Dolce

Luis Ramirez

Commencement Ceremony

College Administration

Michael D. Twa, O.D., Ph.D. <i>Dean and Professor</i>	Danica Marrelli, O.D. <i>Assistant Dean for Clinical Education</i>	Beth Harper, O.D. <i>Director of Residency Programs</i>
Andrew M. Archila, O.D., M.B.A. <i>Associate Dean for Clinical Operations</i>	David Berntsen, O.D., Ph.D. <i>Department Chair of Clinical Sciences</i>	Inez Hutchinson, B.A. <i>Director of Communications</i>
Laura J. Frishman, Ph.D. <i>Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Research</i>	Vallabh Das, Ph.D. <i>Department Chair of Vision Science</i>	Amanda Johnson, B.A. <i>Executive Director of Professional Relations</i>
Kimberly Lambreghts, R.N., O.D. <i>Associate Dean for Professional Studies</i>	Jason Porter, Ph.D. <i>Chair of the College Faculty</i>	Lyle Tate, M.S. <i>Director of Student Services</i>
Lucy Kehinde Darnell, O.D., Ph.D. <i>Assistant Dean for Student Services</i>	LaSaundra Cotright, M.B.A. <i>Executive Director of College Business Operations</i>	
Ralph Herring, O.D., M.H.A. <i>Assistant Dean for Professional Studies</i>	Rene Enriquez, M.S. <i>Director of College IT Support</i>	

College of Optometry Faculty

Andrew M. Archila, O.D. <i>Clinical Professor</i>	Jennifer Deakins, O.D. <i>Clinical Associate Professor</i>	Nicole Hooper, O.D. <i>Clinical Associate Professor</i>
Julia Benoit, Ph.D. <i>Research Associate Professor</i>	Tarsis Ferreira, M.Sc., Ph.D. <i>Assistant Professor</i>	Munenori Ishibashi, Ph.D. <i>Research Assistant Professor</i>
Jan Bergmanson, O.D., Ph.D. <i>Professor</i> <i>Brien A. Holden Professor</i>	Meron Fitta, O.D. <i>Clinical Assistant Professor</i>	Nange Jin, M.D., Ph.D. <i>Research Assistant Professor</i>
David Berntsen, O.D., Ph.D. <i>Associate Professor</i> <i>Golden-Golden Professor in Optometry</i>	Laura J. Frishman, Ph.D. <i>Professor</i> <i>John and Rebecca Moores Professor</i>	Michael Kalloniatis, B.Sc. (Optom), M.Sc. (Optom), Ph.D. <i>Professor</i>
D. Rudolph Black, Jr., O.D. <i>Clinical Associate Professor</i>	Janet Garza, O.D. <i>Clinical Assistant Professor</i>	Andrew Kemp, O.D. <i>Clinical Assistant Professor</i>
Alan Burns, Ph.D. <i>Professor</i> <i>Benedict-Pitts Professor in Optometry</i>	Amber Gaume Giannoni, O.D. <i>Clinical Professor</i> <i>Kevin McDaid-Vision Source Professor</i>	Tonya Ketcham, O.D., Ph.D. <i>Clinical Assistant Professor</i>
Moriah Chandler, O.D. <i>Clinical Assistant Professor</i>	Marcus Gonzales, O.D. <i>Clinical Associate Professor</i>	Kathryn T. Keyzer, O.D. <i>Professor of Practice</i>
Han Cheng, O.D., Ph.D. <i>Clinical Professor</i>	Viviana Gonzalez, O.D. <i>Clinical Assistant Professor</i>	Jung-Sun Kim, O.D., Ph.D. <i>Clinical Assistant Professor</i>
William Colton Cheek, O.D. <i>Clinical Assistant Professor</i>	Cassandra Weinberg, O.D. <i>Clinical Assistant Professor</i>	Kimberly Lambreghts, R.N., O.D. <i>Clinical Professor</i>
Vivien Coulson-Thomas, Ph.D. <i>Associate Professor</i>	Beth Harper, O.D. <i>Clinical Associate Professor</i>	Anna-Kaye Logan, O.D. <i>Clinical Associate Professor</i>
Vallabh Das, Ph.D. <i>Professor</i> <i>John and Rebecca Moores Professor</i>	Wendy Harrison, O.D., Ph.D. <i>Associate Professor</i>	Ruth Manny, O.D., Ph.D. <i>Professor</i> <i>Charles R. Stewart Professor</i>
Lucy Kehinde Darnell, O.D., Ph.D. <i>Clinical Associate Professor</i>	Ralph Herring, O.D., M.H.A. <i>Clinical Professor</i>	Danica Marrelli, O.D. <i>Clinical Professor</i> <i>North Texas Study Group Professor</i>
	Hong Dieu Ho, O.D. <i>Clinical Assistant Professor</i>	

Commencement Ceremony

Jason Marsack, Ph.D.
Associate Professor

Muriel Martinez, O.D.
Clinical Assistant Professor

Anna Matynia, Ph.D.
Associate Professor

Kimberly Meier, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor

Swati Modi, O.D.
Clinical Associate Professor

Courtney F. Morrow, O.D.
Clinical Associate Professor

Lan Chi Nguyen, M.B.A., Ed.D.
Instructional Assistant Professor

Amber Nichols, O.D.
Clinical Assistant Professor

Lauri Nurminen, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor

John O'Brien, Ph.D.
Professor
Benedict-McFadden Professor
in Optometry

Lisa Ostrin, O.D., Ph.D.
Associate Professor

Lloyd Pate, O.D.
Clinical Associate Professor

Nimesh Patel, O.D., Ph.D.
Associate Professor

Maureen Plaumann, O.D., Ph.D.
Clinical Assistant Professor

Jason Porter, Ph.D.
Chair of the Faculty and
Associate Professor

Guoting Qin, Ph.D.
Research Associate Professor

Rachel Redfern, O.D., Ph.D.
Associate Professor

Christophe P. Ribelayga, M.S., Ph.D.
Professor
FERV Professor

Eric Ritchey, O.D., Ph.D.
Assistant Professor

Luca Della Santina, Ph.D., Pharm.D.
Assistant Professor

Kaitlyn Sapoznik, O.D., Ph.D.
Assistant Professor

Diane Sayah, O.D., Ph.D.
Assistant Professor

Pat Segu, O.D.
Clinical Professor

Hamza Shah, O.D.
Clinical Assistant Professor

Justin Simbulan, O.D.
Clinical Assistant Professor

Scott Stevenson, Ph.D.
Associate Professor

Jennifer Tasca, O.D.
Clinical Assistant Professor

Anita Ticak, O.D., M.S.
Clinical Associate Professor

Michael D. Twa, O.D., Ph.D.
Professor
Humana Endowed Dean's
Chair in Optometry

Anuradha Veerappan, O.D., M.S.
Clinical Assistant Professor

Maria Walker, O.D., M.S., Ph.D.
Assistant Professor

Mary Kate Walters, O.D.
Clinical Assistant Professor

Samantha Wang, O.D.
Clinical Assistant Professor

Joe Wheat, O.D., Ph.D.
Clinical Associate Professor

Geunyoung Yoon, Ph.D.
Professor
Irvin M. Borish Chair in Optometry

Zhijing Zhang, Ph.D.
Research Assistant Professor

Emeritus Faculty

Raymond A. Applegate, O.D., Ph.D.
Harold Bedell, Ph.D.
Roger L. Boltz, O.D., Ph.D.
Yuzo Chino, Ph.D.
Karen Fern, O.D.
Suzanne Ferimer
Troy Fannin, O.D.*
Merton Flom, O.D., Ph.D.*

Ronald S. Harwerth, O.D., Ph.D.
Nicky Holdeman, O.D., M.D.
Randy Jose, O.D.
Penelope Kegel-Flom, Ph.D.
James Koetting, O.D.*
Paul Pease, O.D., Ph.D.
Marcus G. Piccolo, O.D.
Don Pitts, O.D.*

Nelson Reber, O.D.*
Jerome Rosner, O.D.*
Earl L. Smith, III, O.D., Ph.D.
Charles Stewart, O.D., Ph.D.*
Jerald W. Strickland, O.D., Ph.D.*

*Deceased

Commencement Ceremony

2024-2025 Academic Year Externship Sites Include:

Brett Bennett, O.D. <i>Louisiana Eye and Laser Center, Alexandria, Louisiana</i>	Robert Janot, O.D. <i>Dr. Robert Janot Vision Source, Sulphur, Louisiana</i>	Kristi Ramirez, O.D. <i>Sharp Eye Consultants, San Antonio, Texas</i>
Jacqueline Brending, O.D. <i>Clear Lake Eye Center, Webster, Texas</i>	Andrew Kemp, O.D. <i>Cedar Springs Eye Clinic, Dallas, Texas</i>	Samantha Reynolds, O.D. <i>Altig Optical, Fort Worth, Texas</i>
Phillip Brunson, O.D. <i>Mann Eye Institute, Houston, Texas</i>	Thanh Le, O.D. <i>South Texas Veterans Health Care System, San Antonio, Texas</i>	Jackson Robison, O.D. <i>Mission Vision, San Antonio, Texas</i>
Randy Charrier, O.D. <i>Family Vision Solutions, Spring, Texas</i>	Michael Leung, O.D. <i>Richmond VA Outpatient Clinic, Richmond, Texas</i>	Charles Shidlofsky, O.D. <i>Neuro-Vision Associates of North Texas, Plano, Texas</i>
Brian Cherry, O.D. <i>West Texas Eyecare, Fort Stockton, Texas</i>	Oliver Lou, O.D. <i>Signature Eye Care, Cedar Park, Texas</i>	Laurie Sorrenson, O.D. <i>Lakeline Vision Source, Austin, Texas</i>
Isiah Choy, O.D. <i>North Little Rock VA Medical Center, North Little Rock, Arkansas</i>	Stephanie Lozano, O.D. <i>Diagnostic Eye Center, Houston, Texas</i>	Anthony Stout, O.D. <i>Indian Health Hospital, Albuquerque, New Mexico</i>
John Coble, O.D. <i>Eyecare of Greenville, Greenville, Texas</i>	Nicole Maldonado, O.D. <i>Sitterle Vision Source, San Antonio, Texas</i>	Megan Stubinski, O.D. <i>Vision Source Mission Bend, Houston, Texas</i>
Jennifer Deakins, O.D. <i>Community Eye Clinic, Fort Worth, Texas</i>	Michael McCormick, O.D. <i>McCormick Vision Center, Austin, Texas</i>	David Trout, O.D. <i>Amarillo VA, Amarillo, Texas</i>
Daniel Detwiler, O.D. <i>Raymond G. Murphy VA Medical Center, Albuquerque, New Mexico</i>	Earlena McKee, O.D. <i>NSU College of Optometry, Tahlequah, Oklahoma</i>	Ashley Wallace-Tucker, O.D. <i>Bellaire Family Eye Care, Bellaire, Texas</i>
Teresa Erickson, O.D. <i>Milton- Edgewood Eye Clinic, Milton, Washington</i>	Donner Mizelle, O.D. <i>Acadian Vision Associates, Lafayette, Louisiana</i>	David Tybor, O.D. <i>Oak Hill Eye Care, Austin, Texas</i>
Kelly Fallin, O.D. <i>Vision Center of West Texas, Lubbock, Texas</i>	June Morikawa, O.D. <i>Santa Fe Indian Health Center, Santa Fe, New Mexico</i>	Clarence Vanderlei, O.D. <i>Prairie Eye Clinic, Vermillion, South Dakota</i>
Benjamin Franklin, O.D. <i>Lackland AirForce Base, San Antonio, Texas</i>	Clarke D. Newman, O.D. <i>Plaza Vision Center, Dallas, Texas</i>	Brooke Vegas, O.D. <i>Tomball VA Clinic, Tomball, Texas</i>
Geeta Girdher, O.D. <i>Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland</i>	Angeline Nguyen, O.D. <i>Plano Eye Associates, Plano, Texas</i>	Ann Voss, O.D. <i>Bellaire Family Eye Care, Bellaire, Texas</i>
Marcus Gonzales, O.D. <i>Cedar Springs Eye Clinic, Dallas, Texas</i>	Vu Nguyen, O.D. <i>Today's Vision Meyerland, Bellaire, Texas</i>	Mary Kate Walters, O.D. <i>Northside Community Health Center, Fort Worth, Texas</i>
Charity Grannis, M.D., <i>Houston Eye Associates, Houston, Texas</i>	Amita Patel, O.D. <i>Hope Clinic, Houston, Texas</i>	Lieutenant Brian Walton, O.D. <i>Naval Medical Center San Diego, San Diego, California</i>
Heather Ihlo, O.D. <i>Golden Eye Clinic, Center, Texas</i>	Samir Patel, O.D. <i>Texas State Optical, Beaumont, Texas</i>	David Way, O.D. <i>MyEyeDr., Spring Klein, Spring, Texas</i>
		Caroline Wells, O.D. <i>Carousel Eyecare, Houston, Texas</i>

College Timeline

1950s

- In 1952, the University of Houston College of Optometry officially opens. Charles R. Stewart, O.D., Ph.D., is named first dean of the college.
- In 1955, the Foundation for Education and Research in Vision is established to increase and promote awareness of vision and its care.
- The College graduates the first class with 11 O.D.s, entering the optometric profession in 1955.
- Mildred Carlisle, O.D., is the college's first female graduate.
- The University of Houston formally names the vision clinic the Herbert H. Moore Vision Care Clinic, in honor of the popular UHCO professor.
- The Texas Optometry Career Opportunities Program (TEXOCOP) is created with grant funds contributed from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service Administration.

1990s

- Faculty member Chester H. Pheiffer, O.D., Ph.D., assumes duties as the second dean of the college.
- The Texas Commission on Higher Education confirms the offering of optometry at the University of Houston, making the college eligible for state support.
- Charles M. Stephens, O.D., becomes the college's 100th graduate.
- Karen M. Conway, O.D., becomes the college's 2,000th graduate.
- The Weston A. Pettey Library is dedicated to honor Dr. Pettey's tireless efforts on behalf of the University of Houston College of Optometry and the profession. The Reading Room is named to honor Dr. Irvin M. Borish for his achievements in the profession.
- The college building is formally named the J. Davis Armistead Building in recognition of Dr. Armistead's enduring efforts benefiting the college, university, and the profession. Dr. Armistead is known for being the optometrist to singer Buddy Holly and having a hand in selecting the famous black frames.
- Jerald W. Strickland, O.D., Ph.D., is named the University of Houston College of Optometry's fourth dean in 1991.

1960s

- The graduate program in physiological optics is established with the Master's degree in 1970 and the Doctor of Philosophy degree in 1974. The first Master of Science degree is awarded to Norman E. Leach, O.D., a former University of Houston College of Optometry faculty member. The first Doctor of Philosophy degree is awarded to Pierrette Dahaw-Barker, a former faculty member at Salus University's College of Optometry.
- James K. Donovan, O.D., becomes the 500th graduate.
- The J. Davis Armistead Building is completed with both state and federal assistance. The state-of-the-art \$9.6 million building is home to the college's expanding clinical training facilities, vision research laboratories, and classrooms.
- The college of optometry establishes a formal partnership with the Good Neighbor Healthcare Center and on-site optometric services begin.
- William R. Baldwin, O.D., Ph.D., becomes the third dean of the University of Houston College of Optometry.
- The University of Houston College of Optometry's Reading Room becomes an official library recognized by the University of Houston.
- The Nelson Reber, O.D., Eye Open Golf Tournament is established to raise funds for student scholarships and emergency loans.

2000s

- Seren D. Ngin, O.D., becomes the college's 3,000th graduate in 2001.
- The University of Houston College of Optometry celebrates its 50th Anniversary.
- Earl L. Smith III, O.D., Ph.D., is named the fifth dean of the University of Houston College of Optometry in 2003.
- The University of Houston College of Optometry debuts its Mobile Eye Institute, designed to provide eye care throughout the Houston area in support of community care and disaster relief.

2010s

- The Molly and Doug Barnes Vision Institute within the new Health and Biomedical Sciences Building breaks ground in 2010 and officially opens in 2012.
- In 2012, the college opens the first ambulatory surgical center affiliated with a college of optometry providing state of the art surgical care and training on site.
- Bridget Ducote, O.D., becomes the 4,000th UHCO graduate in 2012.
- In 2013, Earl L. Smith III, O.D., Ph.D., is appointed to serve as the Interim Chief Health Officer for the university, and Roger L. Boltz, O.D., Ph.D., is appointed to serve as the college's Interim Dean.

1980s

- Dan Patterson, O.D., becomes the College of Optometry's 1,000th graduate.

Commencement Ceremony

- J. Davis Armistead, O.D., passes away in 2014. He was the first O.D. to serve on the UH Board of Regents and completed two terms, the longest of any optometrist. He served as an advocate for the college, university, and profession until his death.
- The college establishes the Simulation Lab in 2014 giving students state-of-the-art virtual simulators to help students learn patient examination skills. Later, the college acquires Anatomage Virtual 4D Anatomy Tables designated exclusively for optometry students. Advanced technology allows students to visualize structures in four dimensions.
- In 2015, UHCO establishes eye and vision care services at the Hope Clinic in Houston, a Federally Qualified Health Center where students provide healthcare services in 14 languages, including Mandarin, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Korean, Burmese, Arabic, and Spanish.
- The college establishes the Hall of Visionaries, naming Bill C. Benedict as the first inductee in 2015.
- In 2016, James H. Dienst, O.D., '89, is promoted to Brigadier General and is the first optometrist to achieve the rank of general in the Air Force. He received the prestigious Air Force Optometrist of the Year Award in 2001.
- Suzanne Ferimer, Librarian for UHCO's Weston A. Petter Library, is presented with the Medical Library Association President's Award in 2017. This is one of MLA's highest honors and recognizes those that have made outstanding contributions in the field of health sciences librarianship.
- Ronald S. Harwerth, O.D., Ph.D., becomes the second inductee into the Hall of Visionaries.
- The college's 100th scholarship endowment is established in 2018 providing merit-based awards for optometry students.
- Roger Boltz, O.D., '72, Ph.D., '78, is recognized for his 40 years of service to the college. He joined the college's faculty in 1978 as an assistant professor, retiring in 2018 after 40 years of service. In addition to teaching and working in the cornea and contact lens clinic, he served in a variety of roles including chief financial officer, interim dean, associate dean for finance and administration, and associate dean for professional studies.
- In 2019, following an international search, Michael Twa, O.D., Ph.D., is selected as the University of Houston College of Optometry's sixth dean.

2020s

- In 2020, the world responds to the COVID global pandemic. Teaching activities and patient services are quickly and drastically modified to maintain public health and student training progress. Online education and telehealth become urgent priorities.
- In 2023, Danica Marrelli, O.D., and Amber Gaume, O.D., become the first non-tenured faculty to hold endowed chairs.
- Between 2020 and 2024 the college hires 40 new faculty.
- The University of Houston launches 50 in 5, an initiative to increase research funding in five years. The college of optometry increases research funding by more than 100% in less than three years.
- In 2023, the College of Optometry is ranked 27th nationally in National Eye Institute research funding, surpassing UC Berkeley and all other public universities in Texas.
- The college awards more than \$1 million in student scholarships, annually.
- In 2024, Dean Emeritus, Earl L. Smith, III, O.D., Ph.D., joins Bill C. Benedict and Ronald S. Harwerth to become the third inductee into the college's Hall of Visionaries.

Invitation

At the conclusion of the ceremony, the College of Optometry and our foundation will support a reception celebrating our newest alumni.

We invite all our graduates and guests to join us for light refreshments as we honor the Class of 2025.

University of Houston Health 1 Building
The Doctors of Texas State Optical Alumni Education Center

ENHANCING HEALTH AND VISION FOR LIFE







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 scan 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!

Shazia Khan

Shazia Khan ('84)
UH Alumni Association Foundation Board President

**Have You Completed
Your Alumni Checklist?**



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



