



**UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON**  
*Spring 2025 Commencement*

**COLLEGE OF PHARMACY**

*Thursday, May 8, 2025*  
*Cullen Performance Hall*







Commencement Ceremony  
Thursday, May 8, 2025, 9:00 a.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

PRESIDENT’S CABINET

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University of Houston Deans

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Xianjun Geng  
Dean  
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C. T. BAUER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

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Interim Dean  
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON LIBRARIES

Jim Granato  
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Catherine Horn  
Dean  
Elizabeth D. Rockwell Chair  
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Teri Elkins Longacre  
Dean  
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT SUCCESS

Jonathan McCullers  
Dean  
Humana Endowed Dean's Chair in Medicine  
TILMAN J. FERTITTA FAMILY COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

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

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

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

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

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

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

Michael Twa  
Dean  
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 14<sup>th</sup> century when two ancient instruments, the royal scepter and the battle mace, were combined to form a university president’s symbol of authority.

### THE ALMA MATER

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

*Words and music by Harmony Class of 1942*



## Honorary Degree

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### 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.

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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.



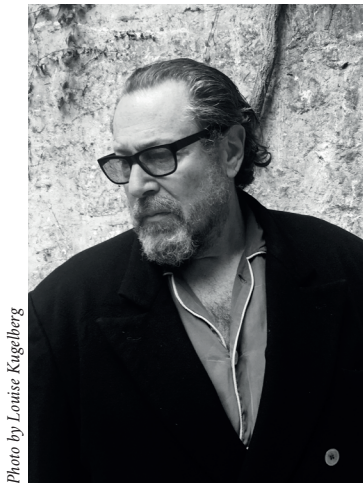


Photo by Louise Kugelberg

## 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.

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.



## 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.

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



# 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,

On behalf of the University of Houston College of Pharmacy family, I extend a sincere congratulations and best of luck to the College's Class of 2025. You have been exceptional representatives of the College and University. I have no doubt that you will continue to serve as worthy ambassadors for the college by building upon our reputation for excellence.

I believe that graduates of the College of Pharmacy are unique in that, regardless of your chosen area of practice, all of you have the opportunity to enrich the lives of those around you. As you embark upon and progress through your careers, I urge you to always remember why you chose your respective field and the sacrifices that you endured in order to make it happen: to serve our communities and improve the quality of life and health of its members with compassion, honesty and integrity.

I would also like to give special thanks to the parents, spouses, children and friends of our graduates for their patience, understanding, sacrifices and support – both moral and financial - during these challenging, but rewarding, years at the college. Although your guidance, comfort and encouragement certainly will continue to be sought and appreciated in the years to come, you can rejoice in the gradual return to “normalcy” with no more long nights of studying, get-togethers unattended and trips untaken. Yet, even more so, you can relish the shared feeling of pride in what your graduate has accomplished and the abundant opportunities ahead.

In the coming years, I would ask that you not forget your College, former professors, and fellow and future Cougars. I encourage you to not only give back to the College by supporting College activities, programs and scholarships, but also by keeping us updated on the many achievements you will experience in your careers and personal lives. We will always take great pride in your achievements.

Congratulations again to the graduates of our professional and graduate programs. The entire UH College of Pharmacy Family is very proud of you.

Take care,

F. Lamar Pritchard, Ph.D.  
Dean

Commencement Ceremony  
Thursday, May 8, 2025, 9:00 a.m.  
Cullen Performance Hall

PROCESSIONAL	Pomp and Circumstance: March 1 Sir Edward Elgar
PRESENTATION OF COLORS	Houston Battalion ROTC Color Guard
NATIONAL ANTHEM	Moore School of Music
COMMENCEMENT MARSHALS	Elizabeth Coyle <i>Associate Dean for Academic Affairs</i>  Louis Williams <i>Associate Professor</i>
GOLDEN COUGARS CLASS OF 1975	
BANNER BEARER CANDIDATES	Abigail Ann Alley  Chuong Pham  Yongqi Xiao
WELCOME	F. Lamar Pritchard <i>Dean</i>
STUDENT RESPONSE	Whitney Chinyere Dike
PRESENTATION OF PH.D. CANDIDATES	Dean Pritchard
CONFERRAL OF PH.D. DEGREES	Dean Pritchard
PRESENTATION OF M.S. CANDIDATES	Dean Pritchard
CONFERRAL OF M.S. DEGREES	Dean Pritchard
RECOGNITION OF HONORS	Executive Associate Dean Pitman
PRESENTATION OF PHARM.D. CANDIDATES	Dean Pritchard
CONFERRAL OF PHARM.D. CANDIDATES	Dean Pritchard
RECOGNITION OF GOLDEN COUGARS CLASS OF 1975	Dean Pritchard
OATH OF A PHARMACIST	Executive Associate Dean Pitman
ALMA MATER	Moore School of Music
RECESSIONAL	Moore School of Music

## Oath of a Pharmacist

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I promise to devote myself to a lifetime of service to others through the profession of pharmacy.

In fulfilling this vow:

***I will*** consider the welfare of humanity and relief of suffering my primary concerns.

***I will*** treat all patients with dignity and respect and will not discriminate against any patient.

***I will*** apply my knowledge, experience, and skills to the best of my ability to assure optimal outcomes for all patients.

***I will*** respect and protect all personal and health information entrusted to me.

***I will*** accept the responsibility to improve my professional knowledge, expertise, and self-awareness.

***I will*** hold myself and my colleagues to the highest principles of our profession's moral, ethical and legal conduct.

***I will*** embrace and advocate changes that improve patient care.

***I will*** utilize my knowledge, skills, experiences, and values to prepare the next generation of pharmacists.

I take these vows voluntarily with the full realization of the responsibility with which I am entrusted by the public.

*The revised Oath was adopted by the AACP Board of Directors and the APhA Board of Trustees in April 2025.*

Summer 2024 – Graduates

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY  
IN PHARMACEUTICAL  
HEALTH OUTCOMES  
AND POLICY

Vaishnavi Tata  
Comorbidity Burden of Depression  
Among Patients with Opioid Use  
Disorder Undergoing Buprenorphine  
Therapy  
ADVISOR: Dr. Douglas Thornton

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY  
IN PHARMACOLOGY

Renzhong Lu  
The “BioLink” and Design, Synthesis  
and Characterization of Lead  
Compounds as Anti-Inflammatory  
Drugs Targeting mPGES-1  
ADVISOR: Dr. Ke-He Ruan

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN  
PHARMACY LEADERSHIP  
AND ADMINISTRATION

Amrita Kanwar  
Evaluation of Glucometrics and  
Interventions on Hypoglycemia  
Incidence in Non-critical Care  
Patients at a Quaternary Medical  
Center  
ADVISOR: Dr. Kevin Garey

DOCTOR OF PHARMACY

Nancy Theresa Ly  
Suvin Ajith Nair  
Alexander Anh Minh Nguyen  
Chukwudi Sydney Nliam

Fall 2024 – Graduates

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY  
IN PHARMACEUTICAL  
HEALTH OUTCOMES  
AND POLICY

Marjan Zakeri  
Racial and Ethnic Disparity In Access  
To Care, Health Behavior And Health  
Outcomes Among Adults With  
Cardiovascular Disease  
ADVISOR: Dr. Sujit Sangsiry

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY  
IN PHARMACEUTICS

Lu Dai  
Polymeric Delivery with Dual  
Drug Payloads for Hepatocellular  
Carcinoma (HCC) Therapy  
ADVISOR: Dr. Diana S-L. Chow  
  
Guoyi Jiang  
A Novel Interleukin-15 Receptor  
Antagonist for the Treatment of  
Rheumatoid Arthritis  
ADVISOR: Dr. Bin Guo

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY  
IN PHARMACOLOGY,  
MEDICINAL CHEMISTRY  
CONCENTRATION

Wissarut Wijitrmekdong  
Novel Design Strategy for Potent  
and Selective CDPK1 Inhibitors for  
Cryptosporidiosis  
ADVISOR: Dr. Gregory Cuny

DOCTOR OF PHARMACY

Phuong-Linh Hoang Nguyen

Spring 2025 – Candidates for Graduation

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY  
IN PHARMACEUTICS

Junghwa Park  
Model-Informed Drug Development  
of Riluzole for Neuroprotection  
in Acute Spinal Cord Injury:  
Integrating Pharmacokinetics,  
Pharmacodynamics, and Clinical  
Outcomes for Precision Medicine  
ADVISORS:  
Diana S-L. Chow, Ph.D.  
James D. Guest, M.D., Ph.D.  
(University of Miami)

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY  
IN PHARMACOLOGY

Aniket Sunil Joshi  
The IRE1α/XBP1 Signaling in  
Regenerative Myogenesis and  
Cachexia  
ADVISOR: Dr. Ashok Kumar

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN  
PHARMACY LEADERSHIP  
AND ADMINISTRATION

Michael Tyler England  
Factors Most Impactful in the  
Ranking of Health System Pharmacy  
Administration and Leadership  
Residency Programs  
ADVISOR: Dr. Divya Varkey  
  
Alexis Hyman  
Evaluating the Impact of a Pharmacy  
Oncology Stewardship Program in an  
Academic Medical Center  
ADVISOR: Dr. Onye Ononogbu



Commencement Ceremony

Kalina Qiu Ju Korzec  
Identification of Essential OPAT  
Bundle Elements to Optimize Patient  
Outcomes in an Academic Health-  
System  
**ADVISOR:** Dr. Taryn Eubank

Reena Maheshwari  
Impact of Enterprise Inventory  
Software Optimization on Inpatient  
Pharmacy Operational Metrics  
**ADVISOR:** Dr. David A. Wallace

Michael A. Toraño <sup>4, 5</sup>  
Evaluation of Patterns in Pharmacy  
Labor Modeling and Hospital Revenue  
and Volume Indicators  
**ADVISOR:** Dr. Kevin Garey

Dianalyn Ulep  
Addressing the Pharmacy Technician  
Workforce Shortage through  
Health-System Employer Sponsored  
Certification Training Program  
**ADVISOR:** Dr. Divya Varkey

**DOCTOR OF PHARMACY**

Amal Ibrahim Sid Abdillahi <sup>3</sup>  
Hunter B. Adam <sup>2, 4, 5</sup>  
Kotoko Ai <sup>2, 4</sup>  
Abigail Ann Alley <sup>1, 4, 5, 6</sup>  
Asma M. Al-Mallah  
Monique Gail Dela Cruz Bactad <sup>3</sup>  
Dalya M. Badr  
Rim Barakat  
Bethany Denise Bluitt <sup>2, 5</sup>  
Damilola O. Dada  
Whitney Chinyere Dike  
Savitaa L. Dookran  
Serena Draper  
Julienne Pearl Dy <sup>3</sup>  
Nicole U. Ekezie  
Jane Eseosa Emovon <sup>3</sup>  
Bryant Flowers  
Taylor Kaylyn Fountain <sup>2</sup>  
Raymond George Geha  
Victoria Ivone Gloyer

Teresa K. Green  
Teyana Lane Grooms <sup>5</sup>  
Pooja Gupta  
Kathryn Michelle Guzman <sup>2, 4</sup>  
Minh Quang Ha  
Anahita Haghpars <sup>5</sup>  
Jennifer Hoang  
Megan Hoang  
Madeline Claire Hoover <sup>3</sup>  
Yinhsun Huang  
Cami Elizabeth Hunger <sup>3</sup>  
Hayden Huynh <sup>2</sup>  
Hong Trang Thi Huynh  
Kevin Khoa Huynh <sup>2</sup>  
Emmanuel Iruru <sup>1, 4, 5</sup>  
Aris Jaquez <sup>3</sup>  
Febin Jose  
Alyssa Ramiro Kahiaw <sup>3, 5</sup>  
Khaled Ayman Kanaan <sup>3</sup>  
Shifa Khan  
Danielle Helain Kucsera  
Tammie P. Lam <sup>5</sup>  
Brooke Nicole Landreneau <sup>1</sup>  
Connie Lau <sup>2, 4, 5</sup>  
Liam L. Le <sup>2</sup>  
Mai Hoang Thanh Le <sup>2</sup>  
Tai Le <sup>3</sup>  
Adyson Kerry-Hamburg Leal <sup>3</sup>  
Dorian Lewis  
Peter ISam Mashni <sup>3</sup>  
Hector Joaquin Mendez  
Chiedozi C. Modebelu  
Ugochukwu Kingsley Mozie  
Thuy-Trinh Kaitlyn Ngo  
Duy Khanh Nguyen <sup>3</sup>  
Hoa Vinh Thai Nguyen  
Mathew Hoa Nguyen  
Michelle Thanh Nguyen  
Quynh T. Nguyen <sup>3</sup>  
Valerie Nguyen <sup>2, 4</sup>  
Victor I. Odu

Nurdan Orgun <sup>2</sup>  
Trisha Nicolle Otwell  
Sally Nyrobee Pena <sup>1, 4</sup>  
Madisen Shea Pereida  
Allison Tian Pettijohn <sup>1, 4</sup>  
Chuong Pham <sup>1, 4, 6</sup>  
Julia Pham  
Lauren Hoang Pham <sup>3</sup>  
Ashlyn Nicole Pulliam <sup>2</sup>  
Dario William Quinones  
Alyza Riaz  
Casandra N. Roetzer <sup>3</sup>  
Jazmyne Samuels <sup>5</sup>  
Karina Sanchez <sup>2, 4</sup>  
Renata Sanchez <sup>3</sup>  
Rudesha Lanell Sanders <sup>3</sup>  
Shadman S. Shaikh  
Abhishek Singh <sup>5</sup>  
Paige Nicole Smith <sup>1, 4</sup>  
Hailey June Stoughton  
Mattie Bell Sullivan  
Fehmida Tahir <sup>2, 4</sup>  
Neethu Thampy <sup>3</sup>  
Adeline Danielle Torres <sup>2, 4</sup>  
Tyler Trinh  
Kim Phung Truong <sup>3</sup>  
Madiha Tukdi  
Van Kha Thien Vo <sup>5</sup>  
Casey Chau Vu <sup>1, 4</sup>  
Jessica Wang <sup>2, 4</sup>  
Kiran F. Wazir <sup>2, 4, 5</sup>  
Reagan Webber  
Julia Cristina Wheat <sup>2, 5</sup>  
Amy Elizabeth Williams  
Josiah A. Willingham  
Rachael Wong  
Yongqi Xiao <sup>1, 4, 6</sup>  
Emine Guldem Yalcin <sup>3</sup>  
Sydney Yu <sup>1, 4</sup>  
Genesis Zavala <sup>5</sup>

1 Summa Cum Laude Honors – 2 Magna Cum Laude Honors – 3 Cum Laude Honors  
4 Rho Chi Academic Honor Society – 5 Phi Lambda Sigma Leadership Society – 6 College Banner Bearer

College Administration

F. Lamar Pritchard  
*Dean*

Paige Pitman  
*Executive Associate Dean*

Tahir Hussain  
*Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Programs*

Elizabeth A. Coyle  
*Associate Dean of Academic Affairs*

Brian R. Dzwonek  
*Assistant Dean for Assessment and Accreditation*

Nancy D. Ordoñez  
*Assistant Dean of Experiential Programs*

Jason Eriksen  
*Assistant Dean for Graduate Programs*

Kimberly A. Nguyen  
*Assistant Dean of Student and Professional Affairs*

Ronnie Ozuna  
*Assistant Dean for Rio Grande Valley PharmD Satellite Programs*

Miranda McMorris  
*Executive Director of Business Operations*

DEPARTMENT CHAIRS

Rajender R. Aparasu  
*Pharmaceutical Health Outcomes and Policy*

Gregory Cuny  
*Pharmacological and Pharmaceutical Sciences*

Kevin W. Garey  
*Pharmacy Practice and Translational Research*

Pharmacy Honor and Leadership Societies

Rho Chi



The Rho Chi Society, Pharmacy’s academic honor society, was established in 1922 to encourage and recognize excellence in intellectual achievement, foster fellowship among its members, encourage high standards of conduct and character, and advocate critical inquiry in all aspects of pharmacy. The fundamental objective of Rho Chi is to promote the advancement of the pharmaceutical sciences through the encouragement and recognition of sound scholarship by bringing professional students, graduate students, and faculty members together in fraternal and helpful association. High standards of intellectual and scholarly attainment have been demanded for election to membership.

The Society’s insignia, the Greek letters, “Rho” and “Chi,” were originally selected because, when placed in the relative position in which they are found on the Rho Chi Key, they are emblematic of the prescription sign. The colors attached to the seal of membership were chosen to indicate the royalty of purple and the loyalty of white. The eight sides of the Key represent chemistry, biology, physiology, pharmaceuticals, pharmacology, and the biomedical, social/administrative, and clinical sciences.

RHO CHI GRADUATING MEMBERS

Hunter B. Adam	Sally Nyrobee Pena	Adeline Danielle Torres
Kotoko Ai	Allison Tian Pettijohn	Casey Chau Vu
Abigail Ann Alley	Chuong Pham	Jessica Wang
Kathryn Michelle Guzman	Karina Sanchez	Kiran F. Wazir
Emmanuel Iruru	Paige Nicole Smith	Yongqi Xiao
Connie Lau	Fehmida Tahir	Sydney Yu
Valerie Nguyen	Michael A. Toraño	

Phi Lambda Sigma



Phi Lambda Sigma, Pharmacy’s leadership society, was established in 1965 to honor and promote the development of leadership qualities, especially among pharmacy students. Members are selected by peer recognition. No greater honor can be bestowed upon an individual than to be recognized as a leader by one’s peers. Such recognition instills and enhances self-confidence, encourages the less active student to a more active role and promotes greater effort toward the advancement of pharmacy.

The insignia of the Society is the key pin, which bears a mortar and pestle and the Greek letters “Phi”, “Lambda” and “Sigma”. A wreath of laurel surrounds the mortar and pestle. The colors of the Society are green and gold.

PHI LAMBDA SIGMA GRADUATING MEMBERS

Hunter B. Adam	Alyssa Ramiro Kahiwat	Van Kha Thien Vo
Abigail Ann Alley	Tammie P. Lam	Kiran F. Wazir
Bethany Denise Bluitt	Connie Lau	Julia Cristina Wheat
Teyana Lane Grooms	Jazmyne Samuels	Genesis Zavala
Anahita Haghparsad	Abhishek Singh	
Emmanuel Iruru	Michael A. Toraño	

College of Pharmacy Class of 1975 – Golden Cougars



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





**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

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Your Alumni Checklist?**



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