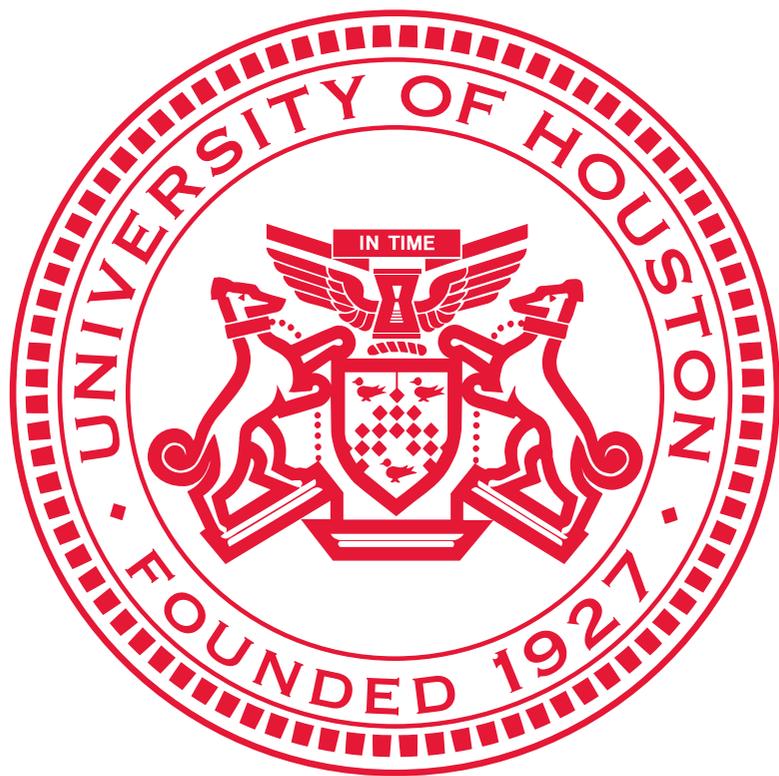




UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON SPRING 2024 COMMENCEMENT

Kathrine G. McGovern College of the Arts

Friday, May 10, 2024 • Cullen Performance Hall





University of Houston
Kathrine G. McGovern College of the Arts

Commencement Ceremony
Friday, May 10, 2024, 7:00 p.m.
Cullen Performance Hall

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Message from the President

Dear University of Houston Graduates,

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

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

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

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

Go Coogs!

Warmest regards,

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

Commencement Ceremony

University of Houston System

BOARD OF REGENTS

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

University of Houston

PRESIDENT

Renu Khator

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

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

Christina H. Gola
Interim Dean
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON LIBRARIES

Jim Granato
Dean
HOBBY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Catherine Horn
Dean
Elizabeth D. Rockwell Chair
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Sarah C. Larsen
Dean
GRADUATE SCHOOL
Interim Dean
GRADUATE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK

Teri Elkins Longacre
Dean
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT SUCCESS – INTEGRATED STUDIES

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

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

F. Lamar Pritchard
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
Interim Dean
Hugh Roy and Lillie Cranz Cullen
Distinguished University Professor
CULLEN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

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

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

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

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

University of Houston

Commencement Ceremony

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 more than 270 undergraduate and graduate programs to more than 46,000 students annually.

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

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

Commencement Traditions

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

KATHRINE G. MCGOVERN COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

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

C. T. BAUER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

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

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

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

CULLEN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

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

CONRAD N. HILTON COLLEGE OF GLOBAL HOSPITALITY LEADERSHIP

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

UH LAW CENTER

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

Doctoral Degree *Hood: Purple*
 Tassel: Red

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Bachelor's Degree *Tassel: Citron*

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

Doctoral Degree *Hood: Dark Blue*
 Tassel: Red

TILMAN J. FERTITTA FAMILY COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

Doctor of Medicine Degree
 Hood: Kelly Green
 Tassel: Red

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

Bachelor's Degree *Tassel: Golden Yellow*

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

Doctoral Degree *Hood: Dark Blue*
 Tassel: Red

ANDY AND BARBARA GESSNER COLLEGE OF NURSING

Bachelor's Degree *Tassel: Apricot*

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

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 – INTEGRATED STUDIES

Bachelor's Degree *Tassel: White*

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

University of Houston

Commencement Ceremony

Academic Honors

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

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

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

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

Summa Cum Laude – 4.0 GPA Graduates

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

SPRING 2024

Nabira Adnan
Bachelor of Science in Psychology
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Christopher Andrade
Bachelor of Science in Mathematics
COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

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

Tiffany Bui
Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance
C.T. BAUER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Zofia Bulhak
Bachelor of Arts in English
Bachelor of Arts in Economics
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Jia Chen
Bachelor of Science in Computer Science
COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

Ryan Crites
Bachelor of Business Administration in Management
C.T. BAUER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Sarah Elizabeth Gawlik
Bachelor of Arts in Psychology
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Alejandro Hadad Roura
Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

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

SPRING 2024 (continued)

Nicole Laz

Bachelor of Science in Computer Information Systems
CULLEN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Jacob Mai

Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting
C.T. BAUER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Kiara Moncada Martin

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Christina Nguyen

Bachelor of Science in Health
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Tran Nguyen

Bachelor of Science in Biology
COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

Veronica Nwanna

Bachelor of Arts in Journalism
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Isha Patel

Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting
C.T. BAUER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Amy Penalzo

Bachelor of Science in Teaching and Learning
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Michelle Pride

Bachelor of Science in Digital Media
CULLEN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Kimberly Richardson

Bachelor of Science in Liberal Studies
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Justin Rizzo

Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing
C.T. BAUER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Melika Salehi

Bachelor of Science in Biology
COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

Karenina Urquieta

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



Honorary Degree

DOMINIC NG

Chairman and CEO, East West Bank

A distinguished alumnus and longtime supporter of the University of Houston, Dominic Ng is Chairman and CEO of East West Bank, the largest publicly listed independent bank headquartered in Southern California. Since joining East West in 1991, Ng has transformed the bank from a small savings and loan association with \$600 million in assets into a global full-service commercial bank with over \$70 billion

in assets. Under his leadership, the financial powerhouse was ranked as the No. 1 performing bank in 2023 by S&P Global Market Intelligence and Bank Director.

An influential voice in finance, Ng advises heads of state and government on economic growth as chair of the 2023 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Business Advisory Council. He is also a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and serves on the governing boards of Mattel, Inc., the University of Southern California and the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures.

A thought leader, Ng has been published in *Forbes*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *Nikkei Asia*, and the *South China Morning Post*, among others. He's earned numerous honors for his business and philanthropic contributions, including the Alexis de Tocqueville Award — United Way Worldwide's highest distinction — Banker of the Year by *American Banker*, Businessperson of the Year by the *Los Angeles Business Journal* and *Forbes' 25 Most Notable Chinese Americans*.

Ng graduated magna cum laude from the University of Houston in 1980 with a bachelor's degree in accounting. He and his wife, fellow UH alumna Ellen Wong, have been financially supportive of UH since 1990. Generous with their time and resources, the two hosted multiple events in the Los Angeles area in support of the University's historic "Here, We Go" campaign.

Ng supported himself through UH by tutoring student-athletes, including football players during the glory days of Coach Bill Yeoman. Holding fast to his love for UH and connection to student-athletes, Ng and Wong made a major gift to establish the Dominic and Ellen Ng Academic Center for Excellence inside the UH Athletics/Alumni Center. The 9,000 square-foot academic-support space, which opened in 2018, fosters collegiate excellence with dedicated areas for tutoring and group study, redesigned classrooms, and technology-driven amenities.

The Center's presence has left an indelible mark on UH's student-athletes, helping propel their academic and future success.

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

TDECU

TDECU is the largest credit union in Houston and the fourth largest in Texas, providing a full range of financial services to its more than 370,000 members. Established in 1955 to provide financial help to the hourly worker, today, its original \$35 loan has turned into over \$4.7 billion in assets. Moreover, TDECU provides philanthropic support to help its local communities thrive through a focus on educational, health and economic development.

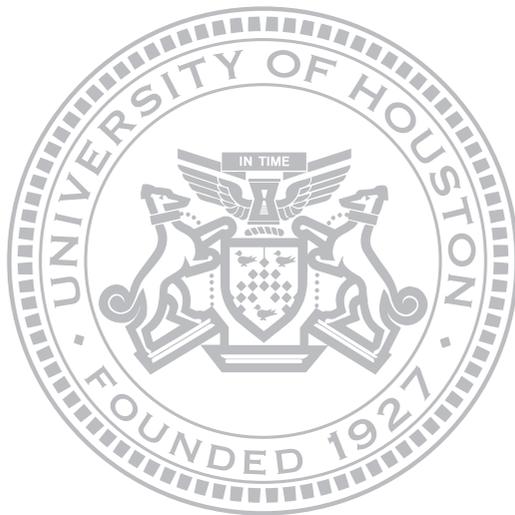
Since 2008, TDECU has generously supported the University of Houston, contributing more than \$30 million to empower its students, employees and alumni through a broad range of impactful initiatives.

In 2014, when TDECU purchased naming rights to UH's football stadium for \$15 million, it made history with the largest-ever naming rights deal for a college football stadium at that time — elevating the football program and University. Concurrently, TDECU became a sponsor of the University of Houston's Alumni Association's (UHAA) annual Cougar 100 event, which recognizes and celebrates the 100 most successful Cougar-owned or led companies. In that same year, it also opened a branch in the UH Student Center, making its financial services easily accessible to UH students, employees and the local community.

Committed to student enrichment, for years, the credit union has worked closely with the C. T. Bauer College of Business on student-led strategic research and recruited student interns from its A.R. "Tony" and Maria J. Sanchez Program for Excellence in Selling, many of whom became permanent employees.

In 2023, the credit union renewed its football stadium naming rights agreement with a \$20 million partnership, which included an expansion of its support across the University. Its renewal helped to bolster UH's prominence in the Big 12 Conference and its vision to become a top 50 university. TDECU sponsored a new loyalty program to increase fan engagement. It also expanded its support of UHAA, partnering on numerous events and programs, as well as the UH Young Alumni Association. It became a presenting sponsor of the University's Cougar Cupboard food pantry, expanding access to nutritious food, free of charge for students in need. Additionally, it began providing financial literacy workshops for student-athletes covering saving, budgeting, debt management and taxes, among other key topics. TDECU also proudly sponsored UH Athletics' Champions Circle, which connects student-athletes with leading companies that help hone and further develop their professional skills

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.





Kathrine G. McGovern
College of the Arts
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

Message from the Dean

Dear Kathrine G. McGovern College of the Arts Graduates,

Congratulations!

You are here today because of all you have achieved at the University of Houston. You have worked tirelessly to master your craft, cultivating skills that position you at the forefront of the performing and visual arts. You have collectively spent thousands of hours rehearsing, researching, performing, and designing on the University of Houston campus and beyond. You have added to our city's rich and vibrant culture through community-centric projects and programs that promote Houston's diverse arts community.

Now, as the next generation of creators, performers, artists, and collaborators, the world is at your fingertips—waiting for you to make your mark. My most important advice to you is to remain curious, investigate your environment, and reimagine the possibilities of creative practices in our complex, 21st-century world.

As you leave the McGovern College of the Arts to embark on your career and the next stage of your life, I know your future is bright. I look forward to seeing the impact you will make on our community, our city, and our world.

Please stay in touch! You may contact me anytime at adavis@uh.edu.

Sincerely,

Andrew Davis
Dean and Professor of Music
Cullen Foundation Endowed Chair

University of Houston

Kathrine G. McGovern College of the Arts

Commencement Ceremony

Friday, May 10, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

Cullen Performance Hall

PROCESSIONAL	Moore School of Music
CALL TO ORDER	Andrew Davis <i>Founding Dean and Professor of Music Cullen Foundation Endowed Dean's Chair</i>
PRESENTATION OF COLORS	Houston Battalion ROTC Color Guard
NATIONAL ANTHEM	Mariachi Pumas
INTRODUCTORY REMARKS	
RECOGNITION OF PLATFORM PARTY	Dean Davis
GREETINGS FROM THE UH SYSTEM BOARD OF REGENTS	The Honorable Ricky Raven <i>Member</i>
COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS	Khori Dastoor <i>General Director and CEO Margaret Alkek Williams Chair Houston Grand Opera</i>
RECOGNITION OF ACADEMIC HONORS	Dean Davis
PRESENTATION OF GRADUATES	Beckham Dossett <i>Director, School of Art</i> Amanda Cachia <i>Assistant Director, Arts Leadership Program</i> Brian Kai Chin <i>Director, Moore School of Music Margaret M. Alkek and Margaret Alkek Williams Endowed Chair</i> Jim Johnson <i>Interim Director, School of Theatre and Dance</i>
CONFERRAL OF DEGREES	Dean Davis
CLOSING REMARKS	Dean Davis
ALMA MATER	Angie Tovar <i>Moore School of Music Graduate</i>
RECESSIONAL	Moore School of Music



Commencement Speaker

KHORI DASTOOR

KHORI DASTOOR has served as the General Director and CEO of Houston Grand Opera since 2021. The fourth General Director in company history, Dastoor is a passionate believer in great art and culture, its power to transform society, and the importance of making it accessible to every member of Houston's diverse international community. Under Dastoor's leadership, HGO is defining current trends in the international opera industry and enjoying unprecedented fiscal stability, audience growth, and programmatic expansion.

HGO's 2023-24 season has seen an influx of new audiences to HGO. The season opened with the world premiere of Jake Heggie, Gene Scheer, and Jawole Willa Jo Zollar's internationally acclaimed world-premiere opera *Intelligence*, one of HGO's top-selling single-ticket productions in years. Speaking to the *New York Times* about *Intelligence*, Dastoor said, "We can be an important opera company, but also maintain our nimbleness and spirit of innovation. We aren't having debates about whether change is good. We're always thinking about what's next."

Under Dastoor's leadership, bringing great art and culture to all Houstonians in spaces throughout the community has become a central focus for HGO. She told the *Houston Press* earlier this year that "HGO is evolving our relationship with space. Because the theater itself isn't linked to the mission. Our mission is to create experiences for Houstonians interacting with classically trained human voices. That doesn't necessarily happen only in one place anymore. It happens online. It happens in stadiums. It happens in community centers."

A noted thought leader in the classical music industry, Dastoor was named one of Houston's Most Admired CEOs by *Houston Business Journal* in 2023 and one of Houston's 50 Most Influential Women by *Houston Woman Magazine* in 2022. She serves on the Board of Directors for OPERA America and the Advisory Board of the Asian Opera Alliance. She is an active member of the Greater Houston Executive Women's Partnership and is a frequent guest lecturer at Yale University, the National Opera Association, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Aspen Music Festival and School, the New England Conservatory, the Juilliard School, the Music Academy of the West, New York's LaGuardia Performing Arts High School, and Houston's Kinder High School for the Performing and Visual Arts.

She holds a bachelor's degree with academic honors from the New England Conservatory and completed graduate studies at UCLA under the tutelage of Philip Glass and Vladimir Chernov. She and her husband are the proud parents of two young daughters.

Commencement Ceremony

Spring 2024 – Candidates for Graduation

DOCTORAL DEGREES

Moores School of Music

DOCTOR OF MUSICAL ARTS

Olena Blahulyak
Nikolai Medtner's Forgotten Melodies
op. 39: Exploring the Narrative Mosaic of
the Cycle
RESEARCH CHAIR: Dr. Paul Bertagnolli

Bernini Chan
The International Violin Competition
of Indianapolis and the Commissioned
Works of Joan Tower and Ellen Taaffe
Zwlich
RESEARCH CHAIR: Dr. John Snyder

Kaitlin Elizabeth DeSpain
The Choral Music of Mary Howe
RESEARCH CHAIR: Dr. John Snyder

Nicholas Paul Engle
Mahler, Death Narratives, and the
Trumpet
RESEARCH CHAIR: Dr. Timothy Koozin

Eduard Alexandru Gavril
Franz Liszt in Romania and the Rhapsody
in G-minor, S. 242 no. 20, "Romanian
Rhapsody"
RESEARCH CHAIR: Dr. Paul Bertagnolli

Matthew Robert Harms
Motive and Narrative in Britten's Oboe
Chamber Works
RESEARCH CHAIR: Dr. Jonathan Guez

Cameron Kade Kubos
Cootie Williams with and without Duke
Ellington
RESEARCH CHAIR: Dr. Howard Pollack

Wen-Hsiu Angela Lai
The Wing of Dream: Exploring Aesthetic
Influences in Kaija Saariaho's Aile du
songe for Flute and Orchestra
RESEARCH CHAIR: Dr. Timothy Koozin

Eric Gregory Laine
Reframing the Puerto Rican Art Song
as a Latin American and US Genre: Five
Representative Works by Roberto Sierra
RESEARCH CHAIR: Dr. Timothy Jones

Dima Savitski
From Venice to Dresden: Tracing the
Influence of Vivaldi's Bassoon Concerti
among his Northern Followers
RESEARCH CHAIR: Dr. Matthew Dirst

Carlin Truong
Engaging in a Collaborative Social
Justice-Themed Choral Performance:
From Conception to Reflection
RESEARCH CO-CHAIRS: Dr. Julie Derges
and Dr. John Snyder

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Ji Won Chun
Deepanshi Negi
Carolina Rodriguez

School of Art

MASTER OF ARTS

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Sydney Ann Marriner
Lucas Embry Wagner

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Laura De Leon
Madelyn Mairie Foutz
Mark Francis
Garrett Griffin
Julia A. Kidd
Blya Ange Ernestine Krouba
Marc Newsome
Phillip A. Pyle II
Adrienne Meredith Simmons

Zulma C. Vega

Moores School of Music

MASTER OF MUSIC

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Christopher Ashton Carter
Jhoan Garcia
Martin Roberto Garcia Leon
McKenzie Leigh Garey
Seulji Kim
Marcio Antonio Martinez Alberti
Lauren Elizabeth Mullan
Jannina Eliana Gonzaga Pena
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Hoang Vu Pham
Thanh Nam Pham
Rufina Mae Robbins
Carolina Rodriguez
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Jordan Christopher-Michael Simmons
Boheng Wang
Ashley A. Wang
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School of Theatre and Dance

MASTER OF ARTS

Miranda Marie Keating

MASTER OF FINE ARTS

Eva Olivia Catanzariti
Austin Essa Hanna
Robert Patrick Matlock
Samantha Burns Potrykus
Emili Ramos
Allison Grace Taylor

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School of Art

BACHELOR OF ARTS

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Maria Paula Bracho
Heekyung Cho
Rylie Evan Cohen
Abigail Cruz ³
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Deja Monique Giles-Lane
Bria Holloway ³
Onassis Stewart Johnson
Madeline Princess Millar Mariano ²
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Kimberly Meeks
Amina S. Mohajir ³
Kierra D. Pipkin ³
Ana Isabel Romero Saldana
Allison M. Sanchez ¹
Grace Elizabeth Scott ²
Diana Leslie Simon ³
Stella Tewolde Gebremedhin
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Art History

Emily A. Pearson ²
Genesis G. Santillan ¹

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Diana Thanh Cao ²
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Ashley Christina Guzman ³
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Rochelle Nataly Matus ¹
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Adam Smith ³
Yebin Song ²
Ana Isabel Tejada Perez
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Jasmine Arani
Caitlyn Ma ^{1,4}
Isabel I. Poffenberger ¹
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Jack Riley
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Isabel Sanchez ¹

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Abigail Garcia
Trang T. Le ³
Elizabeth Perez ³
Hallie Evon Sessum ²

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BACHELOR OF ARTS

Music

Sebastian Roberto Freire ³
Camille May McCloskey

BACHELOR OF MUSIC

Music

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Alex M. Easley
Henry James Hamre ²
Samuel Mario Alberto Leal
Noel Conner Manning ²
Adam Edward Maynard ³
Jaime Morales ²
Liliana Moreno ³
Brant A. Pembleton
Larry Michael Penna ²
Benjamin Alexander Petree ¹
Victoria Celeste Ramirez ¹
Zabdiel Rodriguez Velazquez ³
Reid Thomas Ronsonette ²
Olivia Renee Sanchez ²
Jose Manuel Sandoval
Taylor Marie Silva ²
Elizabeth Gabriele Spencer ²

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Bailey L. Bower ¹
Jason A. Chaviers ¹
Dustin G. Cunningham ²
Alec J. Eads ³
Jordan M. Efird
Katherine Leann Garcia ²
Darius Clement Gerard ³
Emily Elizabeth Gladstone
Elian Hernandez
Rebecca Leigh Johnson ^{1,4}
Quinton S. Parmenter ³
Angie Tovar ³

¹ Summa Cum Laude - ² Magna Cum Laude - ³ Cum Laude - ⁴ Banner Bearer (highest GPA)

University of Houston

Kathrine G. McGovern College of the Arts

Commencement Ceremony

School of Theatre and Dance

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Dance

Shirlye Banuelos ²
Morgan Paige Clark
Brittany Anne Kirschner ²
Klyn B. Lopez
Taylor V. Terry ²
Sarah Gabrielle Zaragoza

BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS

Dance

Kaytee Joyce Compton
Margo Marie Smolik ²
Jayden E. Thomas ³

Theater

Ario Xavier Boentaran
Ashley Rebecca Borrell ²
Rachel Catharine Marie Bramlett ²
Nico Alexander Castillo ³
Graham L. Childers ²
Sara Denton ^{2,4}
Justin D. Estes ³
Kelsi Elizabeth Gallagher ²
Hunter Christian J. Garcia
Samuel I. Gonzalez ²
Eitel Hugh Hahn
Brisa A. Martinez ²
Caitlin Molly Meaux ²
Stephanie Perez ³
Bre'Anna Auqiesa Polite
Daniel O. Quintero ²
Amanda M. Romero ²
Sarah E. Specksgoor ³
Yuen Ching To ²
Olivia Marie Velazquez ³
Kai Womack

¹ Summa Cum Laude - ² Magna Cum Laude - ³ Cum Laude - ⁴ Banner Bearer (highest GPA)







Message from the Dean

Dear Graduates,

Congratulations on your graduation from the Honors College at the University of Houston! Your talents and motivation have culminated in the impressive achievements we recognize today. For 45 years, the Human Situation course has served as a gateway of endless possibilities for many students before you.

Think back to your first Human Situation lecture and how far you have come.

Honors courses have challenged you to think deeply about the nature of being human, as individuals and in societies. You've been encouraged to take what you learn beyond the classroom into research and community engagement.

The faculty, staff, and fellow students of the Honors College have been members of your team. They are now cheering you on as you begin your career or continue your studies in graduate or professional programs. We take pride in your achievements, and take comfort knowing that, though you are leaving on this new journey, the Honors College will always be a part of your life.

Stay connected with the College and use your success to inspire future generations and support the many programs and scholarships that you enjoyed during your time here.

We know that you are well-prepared to lead in your chosen field and to contribute solutions to the grand challenges we face in this ever-changing world. As you find your place in a new community, remember to be bold in action and to stand strong in the face of adversity. We believe in you.

Go Coogs!

Heidi Appel
Dean
Professor of Biology & Biochemistry



The Honors College Honors

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

University Honors and University Honors with Honors in Major

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

Collegiate Honors and Collegiate Honors with Honors in Major

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

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

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

Honors in Major

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

University Honors with Honors in Major

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Vincent Taylor

CULLEN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Harry L. Goldberg
James Michael Valentine

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Jayda Branch
Zofia Helena Bulhak
Riley Blue Caylor
Megan Ruth Dagnall
Sarah Elizabeth Gawlik
Nicole Gonzalez
Alivia Diane Mayfield

Genesis Karmaria McGriggs
Elisabeth Stevens

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Nabeeha Hasan
Danielle Antoinette Henry
Mazen Daniel Malak
Theresa Nguyen

Collegiate Honors with Honors in Major

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Veronica Nwanna

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

Paola Guevara Montoya

Honors in Major

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Michelle Garcia
Layla Hanusic
Cole Harrison
Lynn Moussa Pasha
Sarah Rizvi

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

Randy Pham
Charlie Smith

University Honors

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Jeanette Mei Lam
Lance Christopher Lanting
Diana Gabriela Maldonado
William Massaras

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Daniella Victoria Menendez
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Gayathri Moduguru
Jillian Murphy
Claire Marie Nadira
Charvi Chetan Negandhi
Annie Nguyen
Nick Nguyen
Kyvana Michelle Nguyen Velasque
Aarya Patel
Ayush Harish Patel
Vanessa Perez
Duha Humayun Pervez
Isabelle Pharamond Pham
Ethan Poedjono
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Faizah Rahman
Charissa Ramjattan
Gavin Reyes
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Donna Rose Samani
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Message from the UH Alumni Foundation Board President

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

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

True we'll ever be and Go Coogs!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Sachs'.

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

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