UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON
FALL 2023 COMMENCEMENT

College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics
Saturday, December 16, 2023 • Fertitta Center
University of Houston
College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Commencement Ceremony
Saturday, December 16, 2023, 9:00 a.m.
Fertitta Center

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Message from the President

Dear University of Houston Graduates,

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

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

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

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

Go Coogs!

Warmest regards,

Renu Khator
President, University of Houston
Message from the Provost

Dear Fall Graduates,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Once again, congratulations!

Sincerely,

Diane Z. Chase
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, University of Houston
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

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

Raymond S. Bartlett
Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance

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Elwyn C. Lee
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Interim Vice President for Research

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Associate Vice President for Alumni Relations

Chris Pezman
Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletics

Jason Smith
Vice President for Government and Community Relations

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

Heidi Appel  
The Honors College
Leonard M. Baynes  
UH Law Center
Andrew Davis  
Founding Dean  
Cullen Foundation Endowed Dean’s Chair  
Kathrine G. McGovern College of the Arts
Jim Granato  
Hobby School of Public Affairs
Catherine Horn  
Elizabeth D. Rockwell Chair  
College of Education
Athena N. Jackson  
Elizabeth D. Rockwell Endowed Dean’s Chair  
University of Houston Libraries
Sarah C. Larsen  
Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School  
Interim Dean  
Graduate College of Social Work
Teri Elkins Longacre  
Senior Vice Provost and Dean  
Undergraduate Student Success – Integrated Studies
Daniel P. O’Connor  
College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences
Patricia Belton Oliver  
ACSA Distinguished Professor  
Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design
Paul A. Pavlou  
Cullen Distinguished Chair  
C. T. Bauer College of Business
F. Lamar Pritchard  
Humana Endowed Dean’s Chair in Pharmacy  
College of Pharmacy
Dennis Reynolds  
Barron Hilton Distinguished Chair  
Conrad N. Hilton College of Global Hospitality Leadership
Pradeep Sharma  
Interim Dean  
Hugh Roy and Lillie Cranz Cullen Distinguished University Professor  
Cullen College of Engineering
Stephen J. Spann  
Founding Dean  
Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine
Kathryn M. Tart  
Founding Dean  
Humana Endowed Dean’s Chair in Nursing  
Andy and Barbara Gessner College of Nursing
Michael Twa  
Humana Endowed Dean’s Chair in Optometry  
College of Optometry
Dan E. Wells  
Distinguished Professor of Science  
College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics
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.
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
University of Houston
Commencement Ceremony

UH Law Center
- Master’s Degree: Hood: Purple, Tassel: Black
- Doctoral Degree: Hood: Purple, Tassel: Black

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences
- Bachelor’s Degree: Tassel: Citron
- Master’s Degree: Hood: Citron, Tassel: Black
- Doctoral Degree: Hood: Dark Blue, Tassel: Red

Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine
- Doctor of Medicine Degree: Hood: Kelly Green, Tassel: Red

College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics
- Bachelor’s Degree: Tassel: Golden Yellow
- Master’s Degree: Hood: Golden Yellow, Tassel: Black
- Doctoral Degree: Hood: Dark Blue, Tassel: Red

Andy and Barbara Gessner College of Nursing
- Bachelor’s Degree: Tassel: Apricot
- Master’s Degree: Hood: Apricot, Tassel: Black

College of Optometry
- Master’s Degree: Hood: Gold, Tassel: Black
- Doctor of Philosophy Degree: Hood: Royal Blue, Tassel: Red
- Doctor of Optometry Degree: Hood: Seafoam Green, Tassel: Red

College of Pharmacy
- Bachelor’s Degree: Tassel: Olive
- Master’s Degree: Hood: Olive, Tassel: Black
- Doctor of Philosophy Degree: Hood: Royal Blue, Tassel: Red
- Doctor of Pharmacy Degree: Hood: Olive, Tassel: Red

Graduate College of Social Work
- Master’s Degree: Hood: Citron, Tassel: Black
- Doctoral Degree: Hood: Citron, Tassel: Red

Hobby School of Public Affairs
- Master’s Degree: Hood: Peacock Blue, Tassel: Black

Undergraduate Student Success – Integrated Studies
- Bachelor’s Degree: Tassel: White
Ceremonial Symbols

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
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GPA Range</th>
<th>Honor Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.90 TO 4.0</td>
<td>Summa Cum Laude (with Highest Honors)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.70 TO 3.89</td>
<td>Magna Cum Laude (with High Honors)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.50 TO 3.69</td>
<td>Cum Laude (with Honors)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

**FALL 2023**

Anahy Baca  
*Bachelor of Science in Retailing and Consumer Science*  
*Cullen College of Engineering*

Kayla Huhn  
*Bachelor of Arts in English*  
*Bachelor of Arts in Spanish*  
*College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences*

Malak Khalil  
*Bachelor of Science in Political Science*  
*College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences*

Emily Nguyen  
*Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance*  
*C.T. Bauer College of Business*

My Tran  
*Bachelor of Business Administration in Management Information Systems*  
*C.T. Bauer College of Business*

Trinity Tran  
*Bachelor of Science in Teaching and Learning*  
*College of Education*
President’s Medallion

THE HONORABLE SYLVESTER TURNER

Mayor of the City of Houston

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

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

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

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

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

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.
Message from the Dean

Dear College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics Graduates,

Congratulations! Today, we celebrate a significant milestone in your educational career.

A few years ago, you came to the University of Houston with a personal goal. Now, you have attained it. Your degree is more than a testament to your hard work; it is the foundation upon which you will build as you continue to learn throughout your lifetime.

As graduates of NSM, you have proven that you are driven by inquiry, exploration, and innovation. You will be the force behind discoveries that will revolutionize our lives and impact our state, nation, and the entire world.

As you leave UH and NSM, you hold the knowledge your professors shared with you, the wisdom you gained as you matured, and the benefit of personal experiences, professional connections, and friendships that will last a lifetime.

The faculty and staff of NSM are proud of your achievements. You have my best wishes for much success and happiness. Go Coogs!

Sincerely,

Dan E. Wells, Ph.D.
Dean and Distinguished Professor of Science
University of Houston
College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Commencement Ceremony
Saturday, December 16, 2023, 9:00 a.m.
Fertitta Center

**PROCESSIONAL**
Moores School of Music

**PRESENTATION OF COLORS**
Houston Battalion ROTC Color Guard

**NATIONAL ANTHEM**
Moores School of Music

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTORY REMARKS**
Dan E. Wells
Dean
*Distinguished Professor of Science*

**GREETINGS FROM THE NSM ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**
David Ibarra, ’10
Secretary, NSMAA

**STUDENT ADDRESS**
Fatima Mirza

**PRESENTATION OF THE DAN E. WELLS OUTSTANDING DISSERTATION AWARD**
Jeremy May
*Associate Dean, Graduate Affairs*

**PRESENTATION OF ACADEMIC HONORS**
Donna Stokes
*Associate Dean, Undergraduate Affairs and Student Success*

**RECOGNITION OF 4.0 STUDENTS**
Associate Dean Stokes

**PRESENTATION OF DEGREE CANDIDATES**
Dean Wells
Associate Dean May
Associate Dean Stokes

**CONFERRAL OF DEGREES**
Dean Wells

**CLOSING REMARKS**
Dean Wells

**ALMA MATER**
Moores School of Music

**RECESSIONAL**
Moores School of Music
Summer 2023 – Graduates

Doctor of Philosophy

Atmospheric Sciences
Ronald J. Albright
  ADVISOR: Xuem Jiang, Ph.D.
Claudia Marie Bernier
  ADVISOR: Xuxuan Wang, Ph.D.
Madeline Dolores Statkewicz
  ADVISOR: Bernhard Rappenglueck, Ph.D.

Biology
Siddarth Venkata Arza
  ADVISOR: Sanghyuk Chung, Ph.D.
Danial Asgari
  ADVISOR: Richard Meisel, Ph.D.
Ritu Bohat
  ADVISOR: Weiyi Peng, Ph.D.
Rachel K. Staples
  ADVISOR: Ricardo Azevedo, Ph.D.

Chemistry
Huanhuan Chen
  ADVISOR: Tai-Yen Chen, Ph.D.
Zipeng Gu
  ADVISOR: Robert Comito, Ph.D.
Mengnan Hu
  ADVISOR: Robert Comito, Ph.D.
Mina Omidiyian
  ADVISOR: T. Randall Lee, Ph.D.
Pooria Tajalli
  ADVISOR: T. Randall Lee, Ph.D.
Mengfan Wang
  ADVISOR: Chengzhi Cai, Ph.D.
Yuteng Zhang
  ADVISOR: Tai-Yen Chen, Ph.D.

Computer Science
Soodeh Atefi
  ADVISOR: Amin Alipour, Ph.D.
Brian Michael Holtkamp
  ADVISOR: Jaspal Subhlok, Ph.D.
Rishabh Sharma
  ADVISOR: Nikolaos Tsekos, Ph.D.

Geology
Xiang Ling
  ADVISOR: Qi Fu, Ph.D.
Claire A. Ong
  ADVISOR: Qi Fu, Ph.D.

Geophysics
Yuesu Jin
  ADVISOR: Yingcai Zheng, Ph.D.
Zhehao Li
  ADVISOR: Hua-wei Zhou, Ph.D.

Mathematics
Jasmine Bhullar
  ADVISOR: Vaughn Climenhaga, Ph.D.
Nickolas Fularczyk
  ADVISOR: Demetrio Labate, Ph.D.
Gregory Hemenway
  ADVISOR: Vaughn Climenhaga, Ph.D.
Yewen Huang
  ADVISOR: Demetrio Labate, Ph.D.
Jae Youn Kim
  ADVISOR: Andreas Mang, Ph.D.
Jennifer J. May
  ADVISOR: Bernhard Bodmann, Ph.D.
Chunmei Sun
  ADVISOR: Robert Azencott, Ph.D.
Stephen Phillip Thacker
  ADVISOR: Emanuel Papadakis, Ph.D.

Physics
Jonathan Gonzalo Ball Cap
  ADVISOR: Rene Bellwied, Ph.D.
Connor Cheek
  ADVISOR: Gemunu Gunaratne, Ph.D.
Zhenyu Dai
  ADVISOR: Ricardo Vilalta, Ph.D.
Carlos Andres Sjogreen Blanco
  ADVISOR: Lawrence Pinsky, Ph.D.

Master of Arts

Mathematics
Melissa B. Johnson

Master of Science

Applied Mathematics
Alina Rajbhandari

Biology
Carolynn Nyona Porter
Andres Navarro Roman
Sayda X. Soto

Computer Science
Mai Trinh

Geology
Oriyomi Nsikanabasi Ojelabi

Geophysics
Diego Luis Mostacceri Perez

Statistics and Data Science
Benjamin Freestone
Ruiqi Jiang
William Clark Mask
Hooi Min Ooi
Mudiaga Ovuede
Anthony Suon
Kristen Michelle Taylor
Robert Diego Trevino
Yuhong Wang
Johnny Luke Warns
Jake Zhu
BACHELOR OF ARTS
Physics
Jake A. Manahan

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE
Biochemical and Biophysical Sciences
Paulo Gonzales
Michael Hernandez
Emma M. Houn

Biology
Sakina B. Abideen
Cade Adelman
Noor Dhamin Najris Al Dhamin
Laeticia Guenoun
Carter Elliott Herweck
Lukas Taylor Isley
Long V. Lam
Fangnuo Liu
Susanna Lopez-Herrera

Shannon Manderscheid
Simin I. Mohammad
Kevin D. Morales
Hyuntak Oh
Claudia Fernanda Padilla
Maximus Ganesh Ramsaroop
Monet Kennedy Swain

Chemistry
Peter Dao

Computer Science
Dosbol Aliev
Ana C. Arredondo
Andrew Emanuel Carranza
Juliana Margaret Cruz
Tung Son Dinh
Nader Elasmar
Victor M. Rodriguez
Fardad Sadeghi
Eric Robert Schutz
Austin D. Thibodeaux
Charles C. Tran

Geology
Davidson Tan Vu

Geophysics
Joseph David McNease
Gemma Rodriguez

Mathematics
Sareef Nyaichyai
Juan Ignacio Pantoja
Ilian Vanessa Rodriguez-Perez
Erick Sanchez

Physics
Janita Hussain
Minh Ngoc Nguyen

Fall 2023 – Candidates for Graduation

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
Atmospheric Sciences
Ali Mousavinezhad
Advisor: Yunsoo Choi, Ph.D.

Biochemistry
Micah B. Castillo
Advisor: Preethi Gunaratne, Ph.D.
Sumit Gautam
Advisor: Brigitte Dauwalder, Ph.D.
Zahra Mazhar
Advisor: James Briggs, Ph.D.

Biology
Amrita Barua
Advisor: Qin Feng, Ph.D.
Scott Clark
Advisor: Kerri Crawford, Ph.D.

Nicholas Andrew Egan
Advisor: Weiyi Peng, Ph.D.
Xuan Ji
Advisor: Yu Liu, Ph.D.
Saurav Mohanty
Advisor: Arne Lekven, Ph.D.
Monali Naik
Advisor: Seema Khurana, Ph.D.
Nadine Ammar Nijem
Advisor: Arne Lekven, Ph.D.

Chemistry
Abdullah Al Mamun
Advisor: Arnold Guloy, Ph.D.
Chenggang Jiang
Advisor: Thomas Teets, Ph.D.
Natasha Kuegler
Advisor: Arnold Guloy, Ph.D.

Po Kai Peng
Advisor: Jeremy May, Ph.D.
Shirin Shabahang
Advisor: Gregory Cuny, Ph.D.

Computer Science
Steve Albuedefe Aigbe
Advisor: Christoph Eick, Ph.D.
Muhammad Naeem Akram
Advisor: Guoning Chen, Ph.D.
Suyash Bakshi
Advisor: Lennart Johnsson, Ph.D.
Siva Uday Sampreeth Chebolu
Advisor: Thamar Solorio, Ph.D.
Ayman El Aassal
Advisor: Stephen Huang, Ph.D.
MD Tanim Hasan
Advisor: Ioannis Pavlidis, Ph.D.

1 Summa Cum Laude – 2 Magna Cum Laude – 3 Cum Laude – 4 Banner Bearer
S M Salah Uddin Kadir  
**Advisor:** Stephen Huang, Ph.D.

Nassima Noufail  
**Advisor:** Fatima Merchant, Ph.D.

Urmila Sampathkumar  
**Advisor:** Fatima Merchant, Ph.D.

Amanveer Wesley  
**Advisor:** Ioannis Pavlidis, Ph.D.

**Geology**

Kamil Ahmed Qureshi  
**Advisor:** Shuhab Khan, Ph.D.

Joanna Walker  
**Advisor:** John Castagna, Ph.D.

Kuan Wang  
**Advisor:** Guoquan Wang, Ph.D.

**Geophysics**

Nour Alzamil  
**Advisor:** Aijing Li, Ph.D.

Veronica Valentina Guzman Mendez  
**Advisor:** Robert Stewart, Ph.D.

David Z. Li  
**Advisor:** Yingcai Zheng, Ph.D.

Xinyan Li  
**Advisor:** Jiayia Sun, Ph.D.

Oyedoyin Opeoluwa Pelemo-Daniels  
**Advisor:** Robert Stewart, Ph.D.

Zohreh Golnaz Souri  
**Advisor:** Yingcai Zheng, Ph.D.

Boming Wu  
**Advisor:** Hua-wei Zhou, Ph.D.

**Mathematics**

German Villalobos  
**Advisor:** Andreas Mang, Ph.D.

Lilly A. Schaffer  
**Advisor:** Oommen Varghese, Ph.D.

**MASTER OF ARTS**

**Mathematics**

Amy Maureen Germain  
Roger Ramirez

**MASTER OF SCIENCE**

**Applied Mathematics**

An T. Vu

**Chemistry**

Yen An Young

**Computer Science**

Varshitha Challa  
Praveen Kumar Chukkapalli  
Jordon K. Garza  
Mohammad Javadi  
Darshan Lakhankiya  
Rupesh Manukonda  
Anukriti Mishra  
Yashwanth Moturi  
Srajan Sai Rahul Nalla  
Durga Deepika Navuluri  
Pranitha Neerudu  
Janaki Ohillaneni  
Pushpitha Reddy Patur  
Dhanunjay Valluru  
Bhanu Prakash Reddy Vangeti  
Hari Krishna Vinjam  
Venkata Siva Sai Charan Reddy Vundela  
Jordan T. Yu

**Geology**

Mohamed Abdelfatah  
Debra L. Bailey  
Robert M. Comas  
Sydney M. Gutierrez-Gomez  
Michael Ruben Martinez  
Devin Rene McQuaig  
Kaitlin Jade Thomas  
Julia A. Vilafranca

**Geophysics**

Charles A. Clapsaddle  
Lynn Nguyen  
Sezai Simsek

**Physics**

Andres Ignacio Covarrubias

**Statistics and Data Science**

Urvashi Arora  
Ravik S. Chand  
Sheethal Ramesh Holla  
Maria Ciara Lalata  
Huy Hoang Nguyen

**BACHELOR OF ARTS**

**Chemistry**

Rabiya Selenga Yuksel

**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE**

**Biochemical and Biophysical Sciences**

Samantha Karen Agyapong  
Tawhid A. Ahmed 1  
Amal T. Altatar 1  
Khai Manh Bui 2  
Yadhira Carrillo  
Samantha Faye Chilton  
Emad Uddin Chowdhury  
Ethan K. Davis 4  
Saul A. Duran  
Desmond C. Etumnu  
Eric L. King 2  
Lucila Maria Laveran  
Rael Merry Memnon  
Kenny Huynh Nguyen 3  
Si T. Nguyen  
Tan B. Nguyen 1  
Thomas Thien Quang Nguyen  
Vanna H. Nguyen 1  
Mary Quach 2  
Cinthya E. Saravia Heyman  
Dinesh Subedi  
San My Tran 2

1 Summa Cum Laude  –  2 Magna Cum Laude  –  3 Cum Laude  –  4 Banner Bearer
University of Houston
College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics
Commencement Ceremony

Thi Ngoc Tran Tran
Alexander Vela
Maryam Zakaria

Biology
Huzafa Adnan
Zara Mubashir Ahmed
Ishmam A. Alam
Fatimah K. Al-Jaburi
Shams F. Almasfrachi
Ali B. Amer
Jimena Rosa Maria Arroyo-Soto
Meryem Mualla Atik
Oluwatoyosi Y. Ayilara
Roxana Beltran
Riti R. Bhardwaj
Afia Adiba Bhuiyan
Genie X. Bui
Raul Caballero Montes
Arian Cabrera
Eliya L. Cajiles
Giselle Lyn Campos
Ena Izabella Campos-Hensley
Aldona Cela
Bipana Chundali
Preston V. Chung
Michaela Brooke Coleman
Katelyn Marie Javier Cortez
Ivan A. Danawi
Vyshnavi Davuluri
Maria Natasha De Rosa Fahd
Princess Jemeala Deranamie
Giselle M. Duarte
Vy Hoang Thao Duong
Alan Jaime Eguia Avalos
Emmanuel Osaro Emovon
Emilio Ramon Espinosa
Alexis Eugene
Arlene Y. Garcia
Brendan Vedeja Garriel
Fiona Lynn Gavilan
Daniella Guerrero
Huy Nguyen Ha
Zaid Khaled Hamash
Nathan Edward Hanby
Tate Kristianson Haugvoll
Victor Damian Hernandez
Leandro Herrera Alvarez
Kaitlyn Hill
Hussein Samir Hoballah
Jordan M. Holub
Hasan Husain
Yazan A. Husein
Diana M. Huynh
Sanjana Rebecca Jacob
Iman Jaka
Aneise Renee Jameson
Sydni Katherine Johnson
Kci Mbangu Kalenga
Ruhai'a Isyad Khalil
Inara Rahim Khawaja
Geyassi Naidu Kondapaneni
Sophia Joy LaRochelle
Hafsa Latif
Emily A. Lee
Skye Liwag
Gabriela Melissa Lovo Argueta
Elizabeth A. Magelky
Meera Mahesh
Qusai E. Manasra
Mobin S. Marashi
Jorjale Kerwine Matsing Pessonka
Joyce S. Matta
Audrey Colleen McLaughlin
Dafne C. Medrano
Eyarico Samson Mekonen
Abigail Christina Mendoza
Vinayak Misra
Angel E. Montelongo
Madison Nicole Moore
Nor Mortaja
Cynthia Nguyen
Davis T. Nguyen
Jason Hung Nguyen
Kim Nguyen
Tien P. Nguyen
Trinh Kieu Nguyen
Healy J. Oelfke
Oyinoluwa Adesewa Ogunjobi
Stanley Chidozie Onyeagba
Lesly Esperanza Ordonez Xic
Eve Denise Perez
Catherine H. Pham
Isabella Polic
Kaylan Prater
Sakina Quaid
Yabran Samir Rabhani
Husam Karam Rassam
Brendan C. Reilly
Azhari A. Rizvi
Kendall A. Roberts
Carolina Isabel Rodriguez
Ethan Daniel Rothschild
Taylor Michelle Roy
Yheetmy Salamanca
Salomon E. Serur
Samarjit Satish Seshadri
Ryan Seto
Jonathan Shnol
Matthew Song
Hannah C. Stallings
Marina F. Stephenson
Mikaela Simone Chi Tamayo
Yasmin Torres
Emily T. Tran
Johny Tran
Kim Cuc Tran
Steven H. Trinh
Onyinyechi I. Turner
Makeda A. Uzoma
Ray Luis Vasquez
Mariah Velez
Francisco Villa
Frida E. Villalobos
Xinyan Wang
Stephanie Lynn Wenzlawsh
Jessica Erin Wiedenfeld
Matthew William
Daniel Yebo Yisa
Zania J. Yasguirre
Zakirah Zaheen
Walid Michael Zeitouni

Chemistry
Cody James Alcocer

1 Summa Cum Laude – 2 Magna Cum Laude – 3 Cum Laude – 4 Banner Bearer
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Lukas P. George</td>
<td>Summa Cum Laude</td>
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<td>Lily A. Huang</td>
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<td>Brianna D. Monroe</td>
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<td>Arwa M. Naeem</td>
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<td>Gioa Ngoc Phuong Nguyen</td>
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<td>Javier Padron</td>
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<td><strong>Computer Science</strong></td>
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<td>Zachary Marwan Abdallah</td>
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<td>Tommy T. Pham</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

1 Summa Cum Laude – 2 Magna Cum Laude – 3 Cum Laude – 4 Banner Bearer
Duong H. Phan
Benjamin David Price
Thanh H. Quach
Grace Anne A. Rabano ³
Zeyad Ramadan
Iurma Griselda Ramos
David Ramos Bautista
Guillermo Reyes
Amie Mohamed Rezki
Jason V. Roberts
Christina Elaine Rodriguez ³
Juan I. Rodriguez
Juan Manuel Rosales ²
Benjamin Lee Rosen
Miguel Angel Salamanca
Elijah C. Salandanan
Johnathan Saldana ³
Kevin Saldana Avilèz
Hatem Saleh ³
Sameer M. Salman ²
Preston Douglas Satterfield ³
Christian Joseph Schuering
Mitchell Anil Sharma ²
Benjamin Shek
Pasang Jangbu Sherpa
Bryan L. Sosa ⁴
Jason P. Suerte ³
Nibhas Sultan
Michael Summers ³
Austin Sunil
Zerubbabel W. Tadele
Mehmet Furkan Tasdelen ³
Benjamin Thomas Tat ³
Christopher P. Terry
Andy Tes
Filip James Torres
Chuong Uy Tran ¹
De Phat Tran
Francis V. Tran
Justine Yen Ngoc Tran
Nathan A. Tran ⁴
Tran N. Tran
Trong Nghia Tran
Benjamin Quang Truong ³
Lupita Valle ³
Luís Fernando Waldo ³
Aaron D. Walker
Brian I. Waobikeze
Zachary Ray Winter ²
Brandon L. Won
Misbah Yasin
Yaqi Yu
Nebil E. Yusuf
Jannatun Nahar Zaman

Environmental Sciences
Ainagul Bakenova
Kayla Michelle Dean
Justine L. Gomez
Amanda Harmon ²
Kelsey Merretta Long
Phillip Austin Murray
Angie G. Pena ³
David Rodarte
Elizabeth Rodriguez
Alicia J. Spencer
Irvin Omar Vivanco ³
Tina Vo thanh

Geology
Leo George Urnau Collier
Karen Marie Dabroï
Jameson Hampton ³
Patrick Kabeya Kabengele
Jack Robert McLaughlin ², ⁴
Emily Corinne Stivison
Abigail Torres

Geophysics
Johanna Villagomez

Honors Biomedical Sciences
Noor Shabaneh ²

Mathematics
Nathan Gregory Acosta ²
Jewel Ivy Anders ³
Colton Baker
Benjamin Davis Brecher
John Friday
Brianna Gaskamp
Justin J. George ³, ⁴
Alexander Hernandez
Amanda Grace Ivers
Terry Ellis Medford
Daabir Deedar Momin
Rohan Mukherjee ⁴
Erik Perales ³
Alan Q. Pham
Natalie Pham
Rodrigo Resendez ³
Sandra Rojas ³
Jiahao Tian
Steven T. Tran ²
Bill T. Truong
Anh Vo ³
Theodore Pascual Vo

Physics
Jeseleth Benavides ⁴

¹ Summa Cum Laude – ² Magna Cum Laude – ³ Cum Laude – ⁴ Banner Bearer
Message from the Dean

Dear Fall 2023 Graduates,

I am thrilled to congratulate the first class of fall graduates during my tenure as the Dean of the Honors College. You are a group of highly motivated and talented individuals, and we celebrate your tremendous accomplishments. We know, as you do, that teamwork and collaboration make your impressive achievements possible. I hope that you view the faculty, staff and fellow students of the Honors College as members of your team — cheering you on as you begin your careers or continue your studies in graduate or professional programs. We know that you are well prepared to lead in your chosen field and will continue to contribute solutions to the grand challenges that we face.

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

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

Go Coogs!

Heidi Appel
Dean
The Honors College Honors

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

**College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences**
Kayla Huhn
Angela L. Jardina

Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design
Isabella R. Raska

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

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences
Shrey Pranav Bhakta
Massimo Coletta
Maryam Helin Erdal
Maya Anika Garza
Juan Pablo Guardia
Melinda Herrera
Douha Karroum
Alicia Ashanti
Tatyanna Mcwilliams
Joseph Gray Mulligan
Sameen Hanif Nandolia
Yareli Olivares
Evie Louise Rickard
Helen Souza De Sampaio
Auburn Jodee Waid

College of Education
Trisha Ashish Shah

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

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

**COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS**

Nathan Edward Hanby

**COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

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

**COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

Fnu Nashita Kazim
Myra Qamar

**CULLEN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING**

Baiamir Douglasovich Edgeller
Salam Habra
Arun Suresh
Mohammad Rami Tuffaha

**HOBBY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Rachel Lauren McGregor

**COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS**

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

Membership in The Honors College

**COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

Christopher Eugene Railsback
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**KATHRINE G. MCGOVERN COLLEGE OF THE ARTS**

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**COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

Rhea Devraj Nayak

**CULLEN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING**

Minnah Imtiaz
Tarami Khalil Readus
Anh Thu N. Tran

**COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS**

Saul Duran

**UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT SUCCESS – INTEGRATED STUDIES**

Candace McCray

Honors in Major

**COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS**

Raul Caballero Montes
Message from the UH Alumni Foundation Board President

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

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

True we’ll ever be and Go Coogs!

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

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