



**UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON**

*Fall 2024 Commencement*

**ANDY AND BARBARA  
GESSNER COLLEGE  
OF NURSING**

*Friday, December 13, 2024  
Cullen Performance Hall*







**University of Houston**  
**Andy and Barbara Gessner College of Nursing**

Commencement and Pinning Ceremony  
Friday, December 13, 2024, 2:00 p.m.  
Cullen Performance Hall

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### Message from the President

Dear University of Houston Graduates,

Today's graduation marks the start of a bright new beginning. As a college graduate, you have achieved something truly remarkable, and as president of the University of Houston, it is my honor to congratulate you on this tremendous milestone.

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 first-class education you've received at UH has provided you with the tools to thrive. You now join the ranks of UH alumni who have gone on to remarkable success in their fields — whether as business leaders, artists, educators, engineers or health professionals. I have no doubt that you will also find your path to success and reach your full potential.

Congratulations, Coogs! The world is yours.

With warm regards,

*Renu Khator*

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

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University of Houston

PRESIDENT

Renu Khator

PRESIDENT’S CABINET

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Dean  
THE HONORS COLLEGE

Leonard M. Baynes  
Dean  
Hugh Roy and Lillie Cranz Cullen  
Distinguished Chair, and Professor of Law  
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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

Praveen Kumar  
Interim Dean  
Cullen Distinguished Chair  
C. T. BAUER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Teri Elkins Longacre  
Dean  
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT SUCCESS – INTEGRATED STUDIES

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

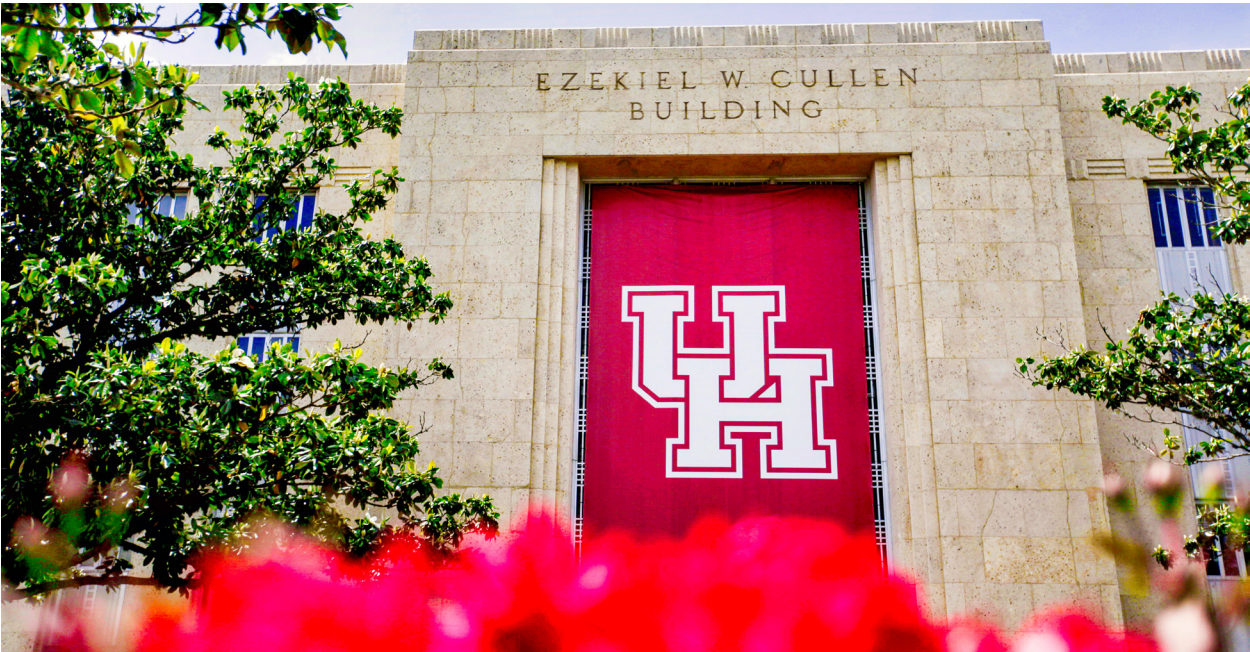
Kathryn M. Tart  
Founding Dean  
Humana Endowed Dean's Chair in Nursing  
ANDY AND BARBARA GESSNER COLLEGE OF NURSING

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 more than 270 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 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	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 –  
INTEGRATED STUDIES

Bachelor’s Degree	Tassel: White
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## Ceremonial Symbols

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### 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*

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.

FALL 2024

Jesus Arguelles  
*Bachelor of Business Administration  
in Supply Chain Management*  
C. T. BAUER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Adonees Mario Hamed  
*Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting*  
C. T. BAUER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Tanya Salimkumar Momin  
*Bachelor of Business Administration  
in Management Information Systems*  
C. T. BAUER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

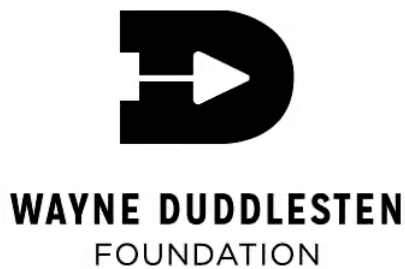
Maria Guadalupe Pizano  
*Bachelor of Science in Teaching and Learning*  
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

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

Allison Nicole Simon  
*Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting*  
C. T. BAUER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Kelvin Tran  
*Bachelor of Business Administration in Management*  
C. T. BAUER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS





## President's Medallion

### WAYNE DUDDLESTEN FOUNDATION

The WAYNE DUDDLESTEN FOUNDATION's core mission is to support programs that enable individuals to achieve their potential and become contributing members of our society. Anchored in its motto to provide "a hand up, not a hand out," the foundation awarded \$12,530,000 in grants, elevating 46 nonprofit organizations in 2023.

Its founder, the late Wayne Duddleston, was a proud Houstonian who helped shape the city as a real estate developer and philanthropist. He firmly believed in funding for education programs, as he saw education as a key to society's ills. To that end, the foundation has been a faithful supporter of the University of Houston since 1982.

Within the past decade, the foundation has funded several impactful UH programs, including a \$100,000 grant in 2014, which helped establish the Tier One Scholarship to attract high-achieving students. In 2017, a \$50,000 gift established a need-based scholarship for students in the Graduate College of Social Work.

Honoring Duddleston's business legacy and passion for mentoring young businessmen and businesswomen, a series of game-changing gifts were made to the C.T. Bauer College of Business. In 2019, a \$250,000 gift provided 25 scholarships to undergraduate students in Bauer College. In 2021, a \$4,000,000 gift established The Wayne B. Duddleston, Sr. Endowed Scholarship in Entrepreneurship, benefiting high-achieving students in Bauer College's Wolff Center for Entrepreneurship. Concurrently, the foundation gave \$1,000,000 to establish The Wayne B. Duddleston, Sr. Endowed Scholarship in Real Estate for high-achieving students in the college's Stanford Alexander Center for Real Estate.

In 2023, a generous \$5,000,000 gift established The Wayne B. Duddleston Free Enterprise Institute to expand entrepreneurship training and resources for all students at the University. Karen Duddleston, Wayne Duddleston's wife and a UH alumna, said the institute will help more people along the journey to success and help diversify and build strength within our economy for generations that follow. The transformative institute will operate in association with Bauer College's top-ranked Cyvia and Melvyn Wolff Center for Entrepreneurship.

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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.





**Andy and Barbara Gessner  
College of Nursing**  
**UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON**

### **Message from the Dean**

Dear Nursing Graduates,

You are exemplary nursing graduates from the University of Houston! Congratulations to each of you who earn the BSN degree and are being pinned with a UH Nursing pin. Thank you for being a student at the University of Houston and thank you for choosing to be a nurse!

As a graduate from the Andy and Barbara Gessner College of Nursing you are equipped for your career as a nurse leader and nurse clinician. During your time at the University of Houston as a nursing student, you, your classmates and faculty collectively spent thousands of hours on Zoom, in clinical, classroom, simulation labs, or volunteering, thus adding to the strength and vibrancy of our community and our profession.

I am especially proud of each of you as you navigated the ever challenging landscape of health care. You are prepared to embrace the future of nursing. As you graduate, you enter a work environment where nurses are incredibly needed, trusted and respected.

I look forward to seeing the impact your careers and professional contributions will have on the future of health care and nursing. You will have many experiences and opportunities in your career, and I look forward to hearing about them all as you practice nursing in the city of Houston, our state, the nation and around the world.

As lifelong learners, I invite you to stay connected with your Gessner College of Nursing. We welcome and invite you to become “life members” of the Nursing Alumni Association.

You will always have a special honor of being a UH Gessner Nurse. You will be reminded of this distinct honor each time you wear your nursing pin, engage with the Gessner College of Nursing or the University of Houston.

Congratulations Cougar Nurses!

Sincerely,

Kathryn M. Tart, EdD ('99), MSN, RN  
*Founding Dean and Professor*  
*Humana Endowed Dean's Chair in Nursing*  
*Fulbright Specialist*

University of Houston  
Andy and Barbara Gessner College of Nursing

Commencement and Pinning Ceremony  
Friday, December 13, 2024, 2:00 p.m.  
Cullen Performance Hall

PROCESSIONAL	“Four Seasons” by Vivaldi
PRESENTATION OF COLORS	Houston Battalion ROTC Color Guard
NATIONAL ANTHEM	Moores School of Music
WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS	Kathryn M. Tart <i>Founding Dean and Professor Humana Endowed Dean’s Chair in Nursing Fullbright Specialist</i>
GREETINGS FROM THE UH SYSTEM BOARD OF REGENTS	The Honorable Durga D. Agrawal <i>Member</i>
COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER	Gail M. Vozzella, DNP, RN <i>Senior Vice President and System Chief Nurse Executive at Houston Methodist and Chief Nursing Executive for Houston Methodist Hospital</i>
DESCRIPTION OF PIN	Dean Tart
PINNING OF BACHELOR CANDIDATES	Patricia Schrader <i>Clinical Associate Professor/Associate Dean</i>
PRESENTATION OF BACHELOR CANDIDATES	Dean Tart
CONFERRAL OF DEGREES	Dean Tart
FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE PLEDGE AND LIGHTING CEREMONY	E’Loria Simon-Campbell <i>Assistant Clinical Professor Second Degree BSN Track Manager</i>
FAREWELL FROM THE FACULTY	Kelsie Barta <i>Assistant Professor</i>
ALMA MATER	Moores School of Music
RECESSIONAL	“Radetzky Waltz” by Strauss



**Commencement Speaker**

**GAIL M. VOZZELLA**

**Senior Vice President and System Chief Nurse Executive  
at Houston Methodist and Chief Nursing Executive  
for Houston Methodist Hospital**

GAIL M. VOZZELLA, DNP, RN, is a senior vice president, system chief nurse executive at Houston Methodist, and chief nursing executive for Houston Methodist Hospital. Gail obtained her bachelor's in nursing (BSN) from Boston College. Her doctorate in nursing (DNP) was completed at the University of Texas School, Cizik School of Nursing. Gail has a 39-year career in multiple nursing leadership positions. Since joining Houston Methodist, her priority has been enhancing the nursing education programs and focused on innovative solutions to reduce the workload burden on bedside nurses. Her plans include innovative strategies to improve the transition to practice for new graduate nurses. Gail believes nurses at all levels will be instrumental in leading healthcare of the future. Her passion for caring for others includes encouraging nurses to support the Houston community beyond the walls of Houston Methodist. She volunteers on several non-profit boards.

Fall 2024 – Candidates for Graduation

RN-BSN

Avni Jethalal Halai <sup>4</sup>

SECOND DEGREE BSN

Tatiana Aguilar  
Diana Amador  
Abigail Bartolome Aquino  
David Paul Cepeda  
Jacqueline Diep <sup>3, 4</sup>  
Mavi-Anne Ampig Flamiano <sup>3</sup>  
Brenna Rose Flynn <sup>2, 4</sup>  
Kristianne Marie Garcia <sup>2, 4</sup>  
Francisco Javier Guzmán  
Shelby Quinn Harlin  
Everett Travis Howell <sup>3</sup>  
Kimberly Nicole Kennedy <sup>3</sup>  
Kristen Alyssa Kiang  
Emily Faith Kiang <sup>3</sup>

Benson Lin <sup>3</sup>  
Bria LaRue Merchant  
Valerie Joy Mundt  
Emily Bao Nguyen  
Anhthai Doan Nguyen <sup>3</sup>  
Kyle Pittman <sup>3</sup>  
Minu Prasad  
Stephanie Paige Ramirez <sup>3</sup>  
Shalliyah Jyostana Reid  
Lauren Richmond <sup>3</sup>  
Cindy Lizbeth Sanchez <sup>3</sup>  
Carlo Philip L. Sandil  
Devin Santos <sup>3, 4</sup>  
Rebecca Ruth Seeley <sup>2</sup>  
Buu Nhu Tran <sup>3</sup>  
Mia Verdun  
Alexa Villamayor  
Stephanie L. Wilkinson

Emma Yang <sup>3, 4</sup>  
Inciya Zaidi

TRADITIONAL BSN

Arianna A. Anchondo <sup>2, 4</sup>  
Jamenia T. Benjamin  
Jom Paralleon Derecho  
Ariel Michelle Herrera <sup>2, 4</sup>  
Denise V. Huynh  
Mia Angelica Ibarra  
Emily Martinez  
Eileen L. Medrano  
Julien Alexander Mire  
Pauleen Mae Mateo Nagpacan  
Alyssa M. Nguyen <sup>4</sup>  
Jeremiah Dave Isla Nieto  
Jasmine N. Singleton  
Kimberly Tran <sup>3, 4</sup>

1 Summa Cum Laude Honors – 2 Magna Cum Laude Honors - 3 Cum Laude Honors  
4 Sigma Theta Tau International Member

## Scholarship Donor List

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Bajwa Endowed Nursing Scholarship  
Andrew Delaney Endowed Nursing Scholarship  
Friends of Nursing  
GEER II - BSN Scholarships  
The George Foundation Nursing Scholarship  
Gessner Family Scholarship  
Gulf Coast Medical Foundation  
Hamill Foundation Nursing Scholarship  
G. and M. Hamman Foundation  
HCSS Endowed Scholarship in honor of Dr. Sophie Lin Rydin  
Sherry Luce Memorial Endowed Scholarship  
Fred & Mabel R. Parks Foundation  
Shah Family Endowed Nursing Scholarship  
R.E. Bob & Vivian Smith Foundation  
Vivian L. Smith Foundation Scholarship  
F.W. Bert & Mae Dean Wheeler Foundation

## **BSN Clinical Affiliations**

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Ben Taub Hospital  
Fort Bend Independent School District  
HCA Houston Healthcare Clear Lake Hospital  
HCA Houston Healthcare Women's Hospital  
Houston Behavioral Health Hospital  
Houston Independent School District  
Houston Methodist Clear Lake Hospital  
Houston Methodist Continuing Care Hospital  
Houston Methodist Sugar Land Hospital  
Houston Methodist Hospital – Texas Medical Center  
Houston Methodist West Hospital  
Houston Methodist Woodlands  
Lamar Consolidated Independent School District  
The Lighthouse of Houston  
Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital  
Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital  
Memorial Hermann Sugar Land Hospital  
Memorial Hermann Children's Hospital – Texas Medical Center  
St Peter's Early Childhood Development Center  
Texana Center  
Texas Children's Hospital – Texas Medical Center  
Harris County Psychiatric Center



## Florence Nightingale Pledge

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**“I solemnly pledge** myself before God and in the presence of this assembly to faithfully practice my profession of nursing. I will do all in my power to make and maintain the highest standards and practices of my profession.

**I will** hold in confidence all personal matters committed to my keeping in the practice of my calling. I will assist other healthcare providers and will devote myself to the welfare of those committed to my care.

**I will** endeavor to fulfill my rights and privileges as a good citizen and take my share of responsibility in promoting the health and welfare of the community.

**I will** constantly endeavor to increase my knowledge and skills in nursing and to use them wisely. I will zealously seek to nurse those who are ill wherever they may be and whenever they are in need.

**I will** be active in assisting others in safeguarding and promoting the health and happiness of humankind.”

— *Author Unknown*





The Honors College  
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

### Message from the Dean

Dear Fall 2024 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, be bold in ethical action and stand strong in the face of adversity. We believe in you!

Best,

Heidi Appel  
*Dean of the Honors College*  
*Professor of Biology & Biochemistry*



## The Honors College Honors

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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

Ashley Lubben

Honors in Major

CULLEN COLLEGE  
OF ENGINEERING

Carter Tristan Ung

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL  
ARTS AND SOCIAL  
SCIENCES

Joaquin Davila  
Jason Ruszkowski

University Honors

C. T. BAUER COLLEGE  
OF BUSINESS

Zohra Baig  
Benjamin Bertram  
Michelle Chen  
Michelle Flores  
Susana Flores  
Adonees Hamed  
Lauren Ho  
Kyle Jones  
Sarah Kimberly  
Jarely Leal  
Mauricio Malpica  
Daniella Menendez  
Rhea Mistry  
Inara Mohammed  
Tanya Momin  
Jobelle Navarro  
Justin Nguyen  
Emma Nicholas  
Maria Ruelas Valdovinos  
Amjad Saleh  
Yahir Sarabia  
Pranjal Sheth  
Tyler Sun  
Faizan Sundrani  
Ylleza Sylejmani  
Jimmy Tran  
Jason Trujillo  
Johana Villanueva

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Abigail Burns

CULLEN COLLEGE  
OF ENGINEERING

Sophia Grayson  
Johan John  
Adriana Lopez Cajigas  
Jacob Louis  
Robert Lucord  
Genaye Sanders  
Nikolai Sardo  
Deborah Thomas  
Tommaso Zaffaroni

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL  
ARTS AND SOCIAL  
SCIENCES

Eboni Boyd  
Alyssa Cantu  
Collin Cardenas  
Marianna Cwalinski  
Camila Flores  
Tyler Garrett  
Ariel Henson  
Talia Hirsch  
Simone Noelle Manio  
Thania Marquez  
Yuleth Martinez

Astry Miranda  
Logan Tantibanchachai  
Luke Williams  
Munira Ziauddin

COLLEGE OF NATURAL  
SCIENCES AND  
MATHEMATICS

Gail Aflalo  
Atira Anuramchand  
Grace Dreifuerst  
David Drew  
Enmanuel Escoto  
Samuel Gonzales  
Lien Han  
Noah Harrison  
Baycha Isik  
Saher Khan  
Gabrielle Lansangan  
Preston Lee  
Jesus Mendoza  
Lynna Nguyen  
Ashlyn Pro  
Laila Rahman  
Sonali Ranchod  
Celine Saidy  
Iliana Solheim  
Dena Talebi

Collegiate Honors

KATHRINE G.  
MCGOVERN COLLEGE  
OF THE ARTS

Yasdi Bejarano

CULLEN COLLEGE  
OF ENGINEERING

Trinity Avie  
David Bonilla  
Spencer Martin  
Byron Perez  
Jordan Washington

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL  
ARTS AND SOCIAL  
SCIENCES

Willow Copeland-Vallejo  
Clarke Foster  
Alexander Mizerik  
Lourdes Pinell  
Julianna Smith  
Ra’ana Williams

COLLEGE OF NATURAL  
SCIENCES AND  
MATHEMATICS

Carolyn Bergen  
Rachel Goebel  
Hasher Khan  
Baqir Salim  
Jaskaran Singh

Membership in The Honors College

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL  
ARTS AND SOCIAL  
SCIENCES

Grace Kielty  
Arianna Silvas  
William Sims  
Saraswati Stocksdale  
Catherine Weaver

COLLEGE OF NATURAL  
SCIENCES AND  
MATHEMATICS

Emilio Marin Novoa  
Kaitlin Wood

ANDY AND BARBARA  
GESSNER COLLEGE OF  
NURSING

Sheila Lopez Baltazar

UNDERGRADUATE  
STUDENT SUCCESS –  
INTEGRATED STUDIES

Azra Keskin









**Message from the UH Alumni Foundation Board President**

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

Life Member, the opportunities to engage are endless.

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

True we'll ever be and Go Coogs!

*Shazia Khan*

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

**Have You Completed  
Your Alumni Checklist?**



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





