



**UNIVERSITY OF
HOUSTON**

Spring 2026 Commencement

**HOBBY SCHOOL
OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

*Friday, May 15, 2026
Cullen Performance Hall*





University of Houston
Hobby School of Public Affairs

Commencement Ceremony
Friday, May 15, 2025, 9:00 a.m.
Cullen Performance Hall

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Message from the President

Dear University of Houston Graduates,

It is my joy to congratulate you on reaching this remarkable milestone. Receiving your college degree is an incredible achievement, and today we all celebrate you.

This accomplishment not only reflects your intellect and knowledge, but also signifies your determination, drive and ingenuity. The character you've developed and invaluable life skills you've gained will propel you throughout your career and lifetime. Be confident knowing you are now equipped to reach your full potential.

As you leave this University and embark on a new path, thank your professors, advisors, family and friends who supported you throughout this journey. Moreover, stay connected to your University as a volunteer or student mentor. I know you'll continue to grow and have much to share.

You've earned your degree from a Tier One institution, world-renowned for its academic excellence, cutting-edge research and dynamic athleticism. Today, you join the ranks of thousands of alumni who have achieved incredible success — and I know you will too.

Once again, congratulations, Coogs. The world awaits you!

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Renu Khator'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Renu Khator
President, University of Houston





Message from the Provost

Dear Spring Graduates,

Congratulations! You have traveled a long and demanding road to arrive at this moment, and yet, here you are! It is an honor to congratulate you on earning your degree from the University of Houston.

Whether you are the very first in your family to cross this stage or are continuing a proud tradition as a multi-generational Cougar, today's ceremony marks a major milestone in your life. This day is equally significant for the University of Houston, as your growth and success have been our primary mission from the very first day you stepped onto our campus.

Look back at those who supported you. Reach out to the peers, professors, and staff who guided your path. Most importantly, share your gratitude with the family and friends here today—the spouses, parents, and siblings who provided the daily inspiration you needed to keep going.

While many contributed to your success, please take a moment to truly celebrate the person most responsible for this achievement: you. You balanced the heavy weight of classes, careers, and family obligations. It was a rigorous challenge, but you persevered. You are now ready to reap the lifelong rewards that come with being a UH graduate.

Though you may be leaving this campus, you will always be a vital part of the University of Houston family. You now carry forward the legacy of all the graduates who came before you. As you represent this institution in your future endeavors, carry your "Cougar Pride" with you and let the world know where you started.

Once again, congratulations on this incredible accomplishment!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Diane Z. Chase', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

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

Jack B. Moore, *Chairman*
Ricky Raven, *Vice Chairman*
Gregory C. King, *Secretary*
Alonzo Cantu
Adrian Caraves
Bryan F. Clark
Patrick J. Fertitta
Thomas A. Lucas, Jr.
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Lynden B. Rose, Sr.

University of Houston

PRESIDENT

Renu Khator

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

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Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance

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

Dona Hamilton Cornell
Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel

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*Vice President for Health Affairs and
Dean of the Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine*

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Vice President for Research

Eddie Nuñez
Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletics

Jason Smith
Vice President for Government and Community Relations

University of Houston Deans

Heidi Appel
Dean
THE HONORS COLLEGE

Arash Bashirullah
Dean
Humana Endowed Dean's Chair in Pharmacy
COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

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

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

Gregory B. Dudley
Dean
COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

Yarneccia D. Dyson
Dean
GRADUATE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK

Xianjun Geng
Dean
Cullen Distinguished Chair
C. T. BAUER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Christina H. Gola
Dean
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON LIBRARIES

Jim Granato
Dean
HOBBY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Catherine Horn
Dean
Elizabeth D. Rockwell Chair
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Teri Elkins Longacre
Dean
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT SUCCESS

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

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

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

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

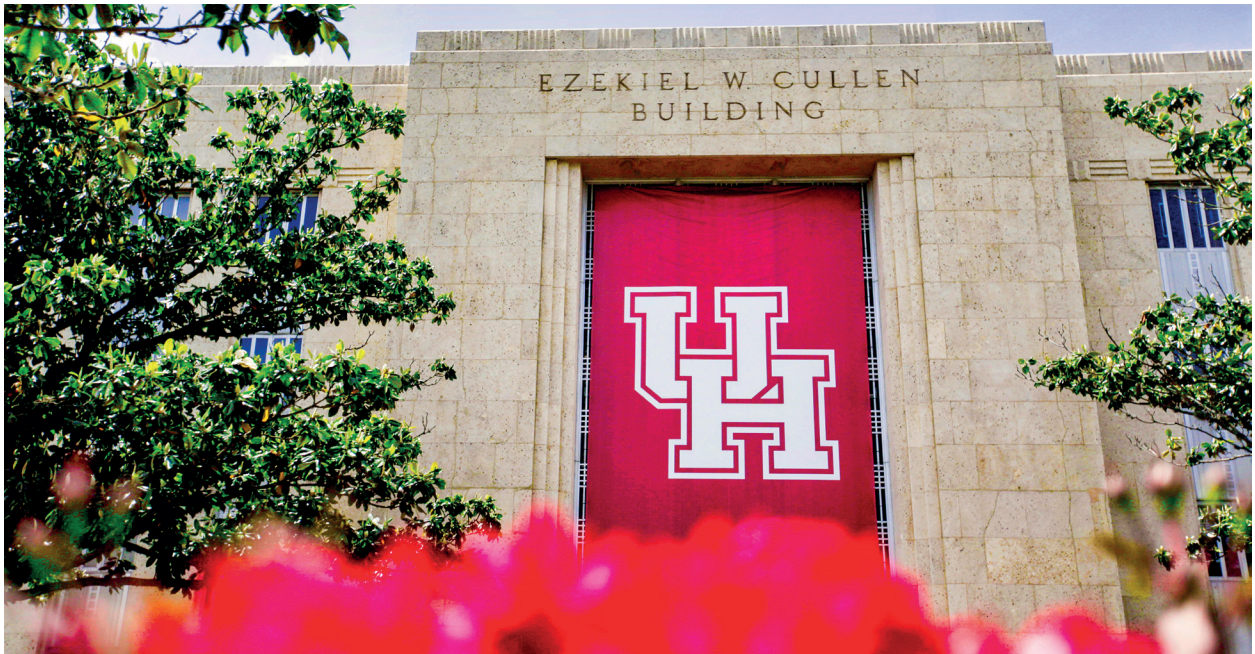
Kathryn M. Tart
Founding Dean
Humana Endowed Dean's Chair in Nursing
ANDY AND BARBARA GESSNER COLLEGE OF NURSING

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

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 a multidisciplinary Honors College, collectively teaching 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 over 285 undergraduate and graduate programs to more than 48,000 students annually.

The Cougars consistently compete at the highest levels, earning conference championships, bowl game invitations and NCAA Final Four appearances. In 2023, UH joined the Big 12 Conference — a hard-fought mission to join a Power Four conference.

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. This unprecedented success has been followed by a string of similar achievements, being awarded a Phi Beta Kappa honor society chapter, the opening of Houston's first medical school in nearly 50 years, more than tripling the number of National Academy members on the faculty and dramatically improving the graduation rates.

The University consistently earns accolades for its students' achievements, such as the top 50 of Forbes' list of America's Top Colleges and Princeton Review's "50 Best Value Public Colleges." It also ranks 36th in the nation on U.S. News & World Report's 2025 social mobility index ranking and among the top 100 universities in the world for utility patents. Moreover, President Renu Khator is boldly leading UH to become a U.S. News & World Report top 50 public university.

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

KATHRINE G. MCGOVERN COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

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

C. T. BAUER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

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

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

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

CULLEN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

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

CONRAD N. HILTON COLLEGE OF GLOBAL HOSPITALITY LEADERSHIP

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

**COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES
AND MATHEMATICS**

Bachelor's Degree *Tassel: Golden Yellow*

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

Doctoral Degree *Hood: Dark Blue*
 Tassel: Red

**ANDY AND BARBARA GESSNER
COLLEGE OF NURSING**

Bachelor's Degree *Tassel: Apricot*

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

Doctoral Degree *Hood: Apricot*
 Tassel: Red

COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY

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

Doctor of Philosophy Degree
 Hood: Royal Blue
 Tassel: Red

Doctor of Optometry Degree
 Hood: Seafoam Green
 Tassel: Red

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

Bachelor's Degree *Tassel: Olive*

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

Doctor of Philosophy Degree
 Hood: Royal Blue
 Tassel: Red

Doctor of Pharmacy Degree
 Hood: Olive
 Tassel: Red

**GRADUATE COLLEGE
OF SOCIAL WORK**

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

Doctoral Degree *Hood: Citron*
 Tassel: Red

HOBBY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Bachelor's Degree *Tassel: Peacock Blue*

Master's Degree *Hood: Peacock Blue*
 Tassel: Black

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT SUCCESS

Bachelor's Degree *Tassel: White*

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 2026

Ayman Ahmed
Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Amanda Badillo
Bachelor of Science in Teaching and Learning
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Hy Cao
Bachelor of Science in Biochemical and Biophysical Sciences
COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

Mouykeang Chhour
Bachelor of Arts in Economics
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Rachel Croom
Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance
KATHRINE G. MCGOVERN COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

Kyla Curry
Bachelor of Science in Psychology
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Musa Fareed
Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance
Bachelor of Business Administration
in Supply Chain Management
C.T. BAUER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Trey Gaw
Bachelor of Science in Political Science
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

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

Asiyah Lambay
Bachelor of Science in Health
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Bhodi Langford
Bachelor of Music in Music Theory
KATHRINE G. MCGOVERN COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

Nancy Luu
Bachelor of Science in Computer Science
COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

Richard Ma
Bachelor of Business Administration in
Management Information Systems
C.T. BAUER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

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

Arely Martinez
Bachelor of Science in Philosophy
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Jazmin Nguyen
Bachelor of Science in Teaching and Learning
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Vera Ong
Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing
Bachelor of Business Administration
in Management Information Systems
C.T. BAUER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

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

Mya Pugh
Bachelor of Science in Psychology
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

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

Emily Salinas
Bachelor of Business Administration in Management
C.T. BAUER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Soraya Sato
Bachelor of Science in Health
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Justin Todd Schnitzer
Bachelor of Science in Political Science
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

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

Frida Miranda Trigos
Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance
KATHRINE G. MCGOVERN COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

Jonathan Vuong
Bachelor of Science in Computer Science
COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS



Honorary Degree

JERICHO BROWN, PH.D.

A Pulitzer-Prize-winning poet, Jericho Brown is one of the most celebrated authors of our time. An acclaimed writer, scholar and professor, Brown has received some of the most coveted honors in American literature.

Growing up in Shreveport, Louisiana, Brown found solace at his local library and in writing. As soon as he learned of the prestigious Pulitzer Prize, he dreamed of becoming a writer. In a full-circle moment in 2020, he won the high honor for his third poetry book, “The Tradition.” The work — described by the Pulitzer board as a collection of masterful lyrics that combine delicacy with historical urgency — was also a finalist for the National Book Award.

“The Tradition” is preceded by his first book, “Please,” which won the American Book Award. His second book, “The New Testament,” won the Anisfield-Wolf Book Award. A prolific writer, Brown’s poems have appeared in *The New York Times*, BuzzFeed, *Fence*, *jubilat*, *The New Republic*, *The New Yorker*, *The Paris Review*, *TIME* and several volumes of *The Best American Poetry*. He is also the editor of “How We Do It: Black Writers on Craft, Practice and Skill” and of “The Selected Shepherd.”

In 2024, Brown received the MacArthur Foundation’s “genius grant” and was described as a “poet reflecting on contemporary culture and identity in works that combine formal experimentation and intense self-examination.” He has also received distinguished fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard and the National Endowment for the Arts. In addition, he has won the Whiting Award.

An avid scholar, Brown earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Dillard University, his Master of Fine Arts from the University of New Orleans and his Ph.D. in creative writing and literature from the University of Houston. He is the Charles Howard Candler Professor of English and Creative Writing and director of the Creative Writing Program at Emory University in Atlanta.

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.



Honorary Degree

DONALD J. KESSLER

A pioneering leader in astrophysics, Donald J. Kessler is a former NASA scientist whose breakthrough research brought attention to an unrecognized risk to space safety. He is best known for the Kessler Syndrome, which describes how orbital debris could threaten space operations, while proposing strategies to manage and mitigate those risks.

Kessler joined NASA as a University of Houston cooperative education student and, after developing an interest in the risks to spacecraft from meteoroids, recognized the greater risk created by man-made orbital debris from spacecrafts. His 1978 paper, titled “The Collision Frequency of Artificial Satellites: The Creation of a Debris Belt,” predicted an exponential

increase in orbiting fragments and increasing risk to spacecraft. In addition, he pioneered mathematical models of collision probabilities.

Following his vital research and calculations, NASA established an orbital debris program with Kessler as lead scientist and a principal in the operation and its outreach. A prolific research scientist, Kessler built the analytical capabilities that remain central to NASA’s approach to debris monitoring, mitigation practices and disposal guidelines. Moreover, he and his colleagues met with leaders from European, Russian and Asian space communities to encourage an international focus on mitigating the increasing amount of debris in Earth’s orbits. This global outreach led to the creation of the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee, a coalition of 13 national and international space agencies that develop consensus guidelines used worldwide.

A Texas native, Kessler spent three years in the U.S. Army’s Air Defense Command before enrolling at UH, where he graduated cum laude and with honors in physics in 1965. He retired from NASA in 1996 as chief scientist of the orbital debris program.

Kessler has received numerous awards for his transformational work, including NASA’s Medal for Exceptional Scientific Achievement, the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics Losey Atmospheric Sciences Award, the International Association for the Advancement of Space Safety Jerome Lederer Space Safety Pioneer Award, and he has had an asteroid named in his honor. More than four decades after his transformative discovery, Kessler’s research continues to shape global policy and safeguard the long-term sustainability of space operations for the benefit of humanity.

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.





Hobby School of Public Affairs
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

Message from the Dean

You made it! Congratulations!

Today, the Hobby School community joins your loved ones in celebrating your accomplishment.

Your hard work paid off. I believe the “Hobby way” of training provides a firm foundation and an advantage in a dynamic marketplace.

Looking to the future, and I may have mentioned this to some of you before, here are three additional things to help you succeed in your professional journeys.

First, consider this rule number one: see things as they are and not in ways that make you feel complacent or comfortable. This is the path to constant self-improvement.

Second, don’t make messes for others to clean up. This is the road to personal responsibility.

Finally, always bring your A-game. A C-game means you are not living up to your potential. If someone else is doing better, learn from them, return to rule number one, make changes and adapt.

This three-step process of self-improvement never ends. It will serve you well.

In this process, you will also become a person that people turn to for assistance. Being a go-to person in any organization or endeavor creates a reputation and, with it, momentum to further fulfill your goals and aspirations.

You are now members of the Hobby School Alumni Association. The faculty and staff pledge to work with you in all endeavors, great and small.

Wishing you all a rich and rewarding future.

Jim Granato
Dean

University of Houston
Hobby School of Public Affairs

Commencement Ceremony
Friday, May 15, 2026, 9:00 a.m.
Cullen Performance Hall

PROCESSIONAL	Moores School of Music
PRESENTATION OF COLORS	Houston Battalion ROTC Color Guard
CALL TO ORDER OPENING REMARKS	Jim Granato <i>Dean</i>
GREETINGS FROM UH SYSTEM BOARD OF REGENTS	The Honorable Adrian Caraves <i>Member</i>
GREETINGS FROM THE HOBBY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION	Leonard Chan <i>President,</i> <i>Hobby School of Public Affairs Alumni Association</i>
AWARD PRESENTATION	Sunny Wong <i>Associate Dean for Graduate Studies</i>
GARNET COLEMAN AWARD FOR STUDENT EXCELLENCE	Paola Nekane Diaz Lopez <i>Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy</i>
	Michael J. King <i>Master of Public Policy</i>
COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS	The Honorable Sean Teare <i>Harris County District Attorney</i>
PRESENTATION OF MASTER'S DEGREE AND GRADUATE CERTIFICATE CANDIDATES	Associate Dean Wong
PRESENTATION OF BACHELOR'S DEGREE CANDIDATES	Alan Witt <i>Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies</i>
CONFERRAL OF DEGREES	Dean Jim Granato
CLOSING REMARKS	Dean Jim Granato
ALMA MATER	Moores School of Music
RECESSIONAL	Moores School of Music



Commencement Speaker

THE HONORABLE SEAN TEARE, '04, J.D., '07

Harris County District Attorney

SEAN TEARE, a lifelong resident of Harris County, believes our criminal justice system should be both empathetic and efficient, balancing safety with fairness. In November 2024, he was elected Harris County District Attorney, returning to the office where he has spent the majority of his legal career.

District Attorney Teare believes in being a voice for survivors while protecting and upholding the rights of victims and the accused. Growing up, Teare was shaped by activist parents who marched for Civil Rights in the 1960s. They instilled in him an unwavering commitment to equity and community. After his mother's tragic death from addiction, Teare took on the responsibility of raising his younger siblings. He graduated from St. Thomas High School and earned his bachelor's degree in American History from the University of Houston, followed by a JD from the UH Law Center. For 11 years, Teare served as a prosecutor in the office he now leads, including six years as Division Chief of the Vehicular Crimes Division. He and Lauren Teare, his wife of 19 years, are proud to raise their four children as part of the next generation of Houstonians.

Commencement Ceremony

Fall 2025 – Graduates

MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Danyelle Davis

MASTER OF PUBLIC POLICY

Sana Dadabhoy
Tia Hufstetler
Juan Longoria
Rachel Jones
Matthew Kniowski
Jennifer Schirmer
Alfredo Prieto Pe

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN PUBLIC POLICY

Adriana Jacqueline Gonzalez Pardo

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN PUBLIC POLICY

Bryanna Anyce Nimmons
Dylan L. Berens

Spring 2026 – Candidates for Graduation

MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Kimberly Argueta
Christopher Burbridge
Danny Cornelius
Grayson Golden
Gregg Gutierrez
Lila Hiatt
Sophia Ilahi
Tonya Le
Dominick Nieswiadomy
Paula Padilla
Joseph Quartey
David Ramirez
Zohie Walker

Naila Hossain
Kamilah Kermalli
Michael J. King
Ximena Mondragon
Saron Regassa
Stephanie M. Solorzano-Colindres
Nicholas T. Weber

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN PUBLIC POLICY –DATA ANALYTICS

Courtney Durbin

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN PUBLIC POLICY –ENERGY POLICY

Loica Snelle Moudouma
Ngouessoukou

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN PUBLIC POLICY

Bryan Gilbert Cruz Primera
Anh Dao
Paola Nekane Diaz Lopez

Erick Garcia
Panagiotis Dimitri Georgantas
Owen P. Miller
Michael A. Perez
Eduardo Sanchez
Anthony Nhat-Minh Tran
Cullen Wade Watkins

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN PUBLIC POLICY

Nzubechukwu Anwaegbu
Kaylee Gallardo
Jesus Adrian Garza Perez
Angela M Guzman
Abraham Guzman
Alex Guillermo Hernandez Joya
Zahra Imam
Rebecca Elizabeth Mejia
Kadon L. Miller
Anderson T. Parets
Kelsey Nacole Rogers
Milan Sam
Maheen Sameer
Bryce A. Sweeney
Sandra Paola Teran

Summer 2026 – Candidates for Graduation

MASTER OF PUBLIC POLICY

Sara Zuka Alhalabi

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN PUBLIC POLICY

Ibrahim A. Islam

Pi Alpha Alpha Honor Society Graduates

Pi Alpha Alpha is the global honor society for public affairs and administration.

The minimum requirements for undergraduate students to be inducted are to achieve and maintain a 3.7 or above GPA and the completion of approximately 70% of coursework in a public policy degree with at least 15 hours of major-specific coursework.

The minimum requirements for graduate students to be inducted are to achieve and maintain a 3.7 or above GPA and complete more than 50% of coursework in a public policy/public administration degree.

Kimberly Larissa Argueta
Juliet Amponsah
Dylan Berens
Christopher Burbridge
Sana Dadabhoy
Jason Frederick
Niamh Cosette Gerdes
Grayson Golden

Gregg Gutierrez
Lila Marie Hiett
Naila Hossain
Tia Y. Hufstetler
Sophia Ilahi
Zahra Imam
Michael J. King
Sam LoCasto

Paola Mendez
Dominick Connor Nieswiadomy
Alfredo Prieto Pe
Joseph Ruiz
Joseph Glover Quartey
Cullen Watkins

Garnet Coleman Award For Student Excellence

The Garnet Coleman Award for Student Excellence has been created in honor of former Texas State Representative Garnet Coleman's support for the Hobby School's programs and students. This award is presented to outstanding graduating students in the undergraduate and graduate programs.

Paola Nekane Diaz Lopez
(Undergraduate)

Michael J. King
(Graduate)





Message from the Dean

Dear Spring 2026 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. Think back to your first semester and how far you have come.

Your Honors courses have asked you to think deeply about the nature of being human, both as individuals and as members of complex societies. You've been challenged to think beyond your major, to integrate perspectives across disciplines, and to carry your learning beyond the classroom into research, leadership, and community engagement. These habits will continue to serve you well long after graduation.

The faculty, staff, and fellow students of the Honors College have been members of your team, and 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 story. Stay connected with the College and use your success to inspire future generations of Honors students. Your engagement and support help sustain the programs, opportunities, and scholarships that enriched your own experience.

We know that you are well-prepared to lead in your chosen field and to contribute solutions to the grand challenges of an 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 and cannot wait to see all that you accomplish!

With pride,

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



The Honors College

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

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

Students who complete the Honors College curriculum (36 hours) and complete a Senior Honors Thesis graduate with University Honors with Honors in Major, the highest distinction that an undergraduate can earn at the University of Houston.

C. T. BAUER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Anita Igben

CULLEN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Katlinh Nguyen
Razan Yousef

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Nine Abad
Lauren Houck
Hang Nguyen
Annfaye Marrero Sternberg
Arushi Suji
Emme Tomasello

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

Sachitha Aithal
Naumi Aparanji
Sudharshini Prasanna
John Eric Richards II
Nathan Stiehl

Collegiate Honors with Honors in Major

Students who complete a Senior Honors Thesis and fulfill the requirements for the honors program in the college of their major with distinction, including 21 hours of honors courses, or by completing an Honors College minor graduate with Collegiate Honors with Honors in Major.

GERALD D. HINES COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN

Zulema Ayon
Olivia Salinas

KATHRINE G. MCGOVERN COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

Sarah Roberts

CULLEN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Christopher Robert Mobley

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Drew Buescher

Membership in The Honors College with Honors in Major

Students who affiliate with the Honors College, complete a Senior Honors Thesis and fulfill the requirements of their major graduate with Membership in the Honors College with Honors in Major.

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Lily Fletcher

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

Mohammed Jamali
Gonzalo Ramirez Pulido

Honors in Major

Students who are not members of the Honors College and complete a Senior Honors Thesis graduate with the Honors in Major.

GERALD D. HINES
COLLEGE OF
ARCHITECTURE
AND DESIGN

Yetlanetzi Chijate
Simon Chiquito
Fernanda Fragoso
Marco Inofuentes
Cameron Klassen
Kimhour Lor
Adriane Monroy
Aparna Radhakrishna Prabu
Eddy Sanchez

KATHRINE G. MCGOVERN
COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

Bhodi Langford

C. T. BAUER COLLEGE
OF BUSINESS

Ishan Dubey

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL
ARTS AND SOCIAL
SCIENCES

Ifrah Ahmad
Zahra Ali

Kelsey Middleton
Claire Ngo
Deanna Rosales
Jennifer Trejo
Noah Yi

COLLEGE OF NATURAL
SCIENCES AND
MATHEMATICS

Jose Rodriguez Mejia
Egemen Senvardarli
Havah Sterns
Madeline Tompson

University Honors

Students who complete The Honors College curriculum (36 hours) graduate with University Honors.

GERALD D. HINES
COLLEGE OF
ARCHITECTURE
AND DESIGN

Datta Mahita Chada
Norverto Esau Diaz
Trent Toxey

KATHRINE G. MCGOVERN
COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

Emily Moore
Raymond Pappas
Victor Vela

C. T. BAUER COLLEGE
OF BUSINESS

Indra Aguilar
Eesha Ahsan
Cessabella Astraquillo
Nathaniel Allen Babin
Oluwademilade Ayokunumi Banjoko
John Alexander Baumanis
Brianna Bhakta
Genevieve Casten

Sebastian Castro Duarte
Miguel Chapela
Marissa Eileen Coveler
Jose Miguel De La Torre
Charles Reyburn Douglas
Adam Elbanna
Bilal Fadhli
Musa Bin Fareed
Emily Nichole Flores
Luke Duane Germenis
Jayden Gunsolley
Rohan Gupta
Ida Hailu
Wanis Adam Hedhli
Charles Joshua Helton
Caroline Holmes
Hunter Roy Jones
Irene Kim
Michelle Jung-Sun Kim
Neha Kodali
Alanna Jaici Lewis-Lockett
Andrea Lopez
Tia Memori Maiden
Graciela Cristina Molina
Gabriela Moncur
Tasneem Monib

Minh-Nhat Nguyen
Sidney Nguyen
Tina Pham
Riya Pokhriyal
Gage Antonio Polidori
Suleman Hayee Qureshi
Isabel Elena Rasmussen
Valentino Javier Salerni Longo
Haley Danae Salinas
Jesus Yael Salinas Garcia
Manasi Saxena
Morgan Elizabeth Schaefer
Jai Prakash Shet
Kaemon Shiao
Japheth Raphael Silva
Carisma Kiara Spears
Camille Brianne Stephens
Munema Mohsin Termezy
Kayla Joyce Thompson
Matthew Thompson
Brianna Grace Wilson
Keiko Leighann Yesland
Saleem Alexander Zayed
Angel Zuniga Martinez

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Hooriya Hijab Azhar
Aiea Lin Clark
Juliana Huertas
Sara Iyer
Anjali Jacob
Amina Maria Khan
Nour-Eldean Khattab
Noelle Nguyen
Azaniah Parker-Bethany
Soraya Sato
Meagan Tran
Najiha Zaman

CULLEN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Benjamin Sean Aagard
Elias Ghassan Abdo
Asael Andrade
Sadiah Ashraf
Tzurriel X. Bernabe
Urvi Bhatia
Griffin Michael Binu
Adelina Aleksandrovna Blue
Emma McKinlee Brady
Grace S. Byrne
Katelynn Danielle De Los Reyes
Mikas P. Dunn
Luke Jarred Dvorak
Ella Grace Eger
Jonathan Gaucin
Gabriela Gonzalez
Pranav Hariharan
Hind Jaafar
Oluwatofunmi Ifeoluwa Jewesimi
Hannah Franchesca Kim
Claire Elizabeth Lewis
Michael Christopher Maar
Bereket Meگو
Jazlyn Angelina Morales
Brandon Lucas Moran
Que Huong N. Nguyen
Quynh Huong N. Nguyen
Carla Romero Parada
Adriana Rucoba
Sarah Siddiqui
Zachary A. Sparks
Benjamin K. Ta
Jimmy P. Tran
Hannah Rachel Zachariah

CONRAD N. HILTON COLLEGE OF GLOBAL HOSPITALITY LEADERSHIP

Tres Kimball

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Camryn Elise Alberigo
Gerardo Angulo
Amira Aoki
Madeline Aulbert
Ayesha Baloch
Cathryn Elizabeth Bridges
Kadilo Buzugbe
Alexis Brianna Cardon
Kathleen Dorothy Coleman
Juan Coronado
Jennifer Ailene Cruz
Kyla Curry
Juliana Christina Dahlhoff
Grayson Darwin
Aniyah Folks
Claire Garcia
Lucero Garcia Ramirez
Trey Gaw
Estella Sophia Gomez
Maja Gomola
Sarah Imam
Jenna Marie Kerkman
Aditi Kashinath Khareedhi
Isabella Marie Knoepffler
Hallie Krudy
Charles Douglas Laplante
Emily Grace Lema
Keith M Maddox
Audrey Marston
Olivia Mcgaughran
Rebecca E Mejia
Dominic Michaux
Raquel Munoz
Sidra Muntaha
John Khanh-An Pham
Kai Reed
Weidy Mia Rodriguez Castro
Haley Romine
Felicia Astrid Romland
Armesia Kasha Ryans
Justin Schnitzer
Sarah Semmel

Teasia Tamar Stewart
Margherita Tosolini
Imani Munaa Wasonga
Yara Younes
Zeina Maria Younes

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

Sarah Abebe
Deyala Ibrahim Abousaad
Nour Ahmed
Ashley Akarue
Zaineb Ali
Yahya Arain
Lina Khader Atallah
Afzila Bhojani
Kaleigh Kristine Bickley
Samuel Borrromeo
Hy Cao
Tammy Dang
Paul Daniel
Cuong Duong
Aislyn Echols
Andrea Espinosa Rios
Sarah Faisal
Jonathan Falou
Mason Diego Carlson Flores
Charlise Giang
Maja Gomola
Jennifer Gruber
Sameera Roushan Haque
Morgan Brooke Harper
Elena Marie Hernandez
Yla Frances Caguiat Herrera
Tan Hoang
Sina Jafari
Danish Jamal
Harini Kanamarlapudi
Farden Khan
Salwa Khan
Yusuf Khan
Kathryn Elisabeth Koerner
Judy Koussayer
Ankitha Lavi
Anabella Leon
Emann Loubani
Nancy Luu
Taaha Malik
Eira Mann
Sharon Manu
Hira Marrium

Aileen Kate Marzan
Helen Girma Melka
Zunaira Mirza
Meera Suha Moujaes
Shivaniah Mummidianand
Sarthak Nath
Afra Nawar
Ethan Nguyen
Larry Nguyen
Ryan Nguyen
Esther Nwana
David Odum
Ahmed Patel
Xavier Payne

Vinh Pham
Thomas More Ramsey
Ritesh Ravi
Yasmina Rezai
Carla Romero Parada
Ayaan Saleem
Alina Salinas
Salman Shaikh
Isabella Shelton
Perri Shook
Marcella Smith
Kevin Song
Soo-Ern Tan
Thomas Ton

Melody Tran
Mary Elizabeth Tulud Uyenco
Arisha Vishnani
Connie Wang
Courtney White
Sripad Yadagiri
Jean Yoo

HOBBY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Ibrahim Islam
Rebecca E Mejia

Collegiate Honors

Students who complete and fulfill the requirements for the honors program in the college of their major, including 21 hours of honors courses, or by completing an Honors College minor, graduate with Collegiate Honors.

GERALD D. HINES COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN

Kayla Woods

KATHRINE G. MCGOVERN COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

Austin David Atencio
Marina Elizondo-Collado

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Prachi Upreti

CULLEN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Hannah Louise Copland
Hana El-Toukhy
Paria Mosaffa
Tamunobarasua Ian Obomanu
Christina Hoai Tram Pham
Mohammed Abdullah Raiyan
Santiago Enrique Ramirez
Brayan Umanzor
Cherry Kim Yi

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Bianca Elizabeth Aguilar
Sofiah Ahmad
Mayse Ali
Diego Zepeda Belmares
Sadie Nicole Bostwick
Janiyah Bowman
Alyssa Lynn Box
Sebastian M Breaux
Hector Eduardo Doratt
Toluwani Efunnuga
Nour Diaa El Gendy
Gabriella Fernandez
Hannah Mone't Golden
Camila Isela Gonzalez
Daniel Malev
Haneef Mohammed
Abigail Noble
Victoria Pegues
Uyen Pham
Isabella Marie Prince
Jesse Quintero
Andrew Michael Ramirez
Catherine Olivia Rodriguez
Bella Rogers
Ashley Melany Salguero Chamorro
Bryce Edward Sheffield
Kelan Matthew Smith
Lindsey Abigail Vessels

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

Raghad Al-Gharrawi
Aihanuwa Tonye Ale-Opinion
Andrew Almasi
Samuel Roberto Alvarez
Ajit Chaney
Shukraan Hammed
Tasneem Harianawala
Jazlyn Haywood
Paige Judith Klobucnik
Mary Le
Megan Matison
Bao Duy Nguyen
Stephen Nwosu
Yahya Alp Ozay
Sayantan Pradhan
Dominick G Silva
Tatiana Tsasa

Membership in The Honors College

Students who complete and fulfill the requirements of the college of their major graduate with Membership in the Honors College.

KATHRINE G. MCGOVERN COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

Joshua Peterson

C. T. BAUER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Amnah Awda

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Sophia Anton
Chloe Dennis
Angela Vu

CULLEN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Jonathan Danery Aguilar

Daniel Alexander Guzman
Raul Sergio Ibarra

CONRAD N. HILTON COLLEGE OF GLOBAL HOSPITALITY LEADERSHIP

Michael Andrew Bender

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Mary Carroll
Ellen Clark
Similoluwa Fawehinmi
Joy Goodgine

Kelise Jones
Maisa Rguig
Adrian Stanley

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

Saptarshi De
Nicholas Nguyen
Anthony Thomas

ANDY AND BARBARA GESSNER COLLEGE OF NURSING

Robert Collier



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!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Sandy G. Lee'.

Sandy Lee
UH Alumni Association Foundation Board President

**Have You Completed
Your Alumni Checklist?**



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

