



**UNIVERSITY OF  
HOUSTON**

*Spring 2026 Commencement*

**COLLEGE OF  
PHARMACY**

*Thursday, May 14, 2026  
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, slightly informal 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

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### 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.  
Beth Madison  
Lynden B. Rose, Sr.

## University of Houston

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### PRESIDENT

Renu Khator

### PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Raymond S. Bartlett  
*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*

Russell T. Dunlavy  
*Vice President for Advancement and Alumni*

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

Claudia Neuhauser  
*Vice President for Research*

Eddie Nuñez  
*Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletics*

Jason Smith  
*Vice President for Government and Community Relations*

## University of Houston Deans

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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

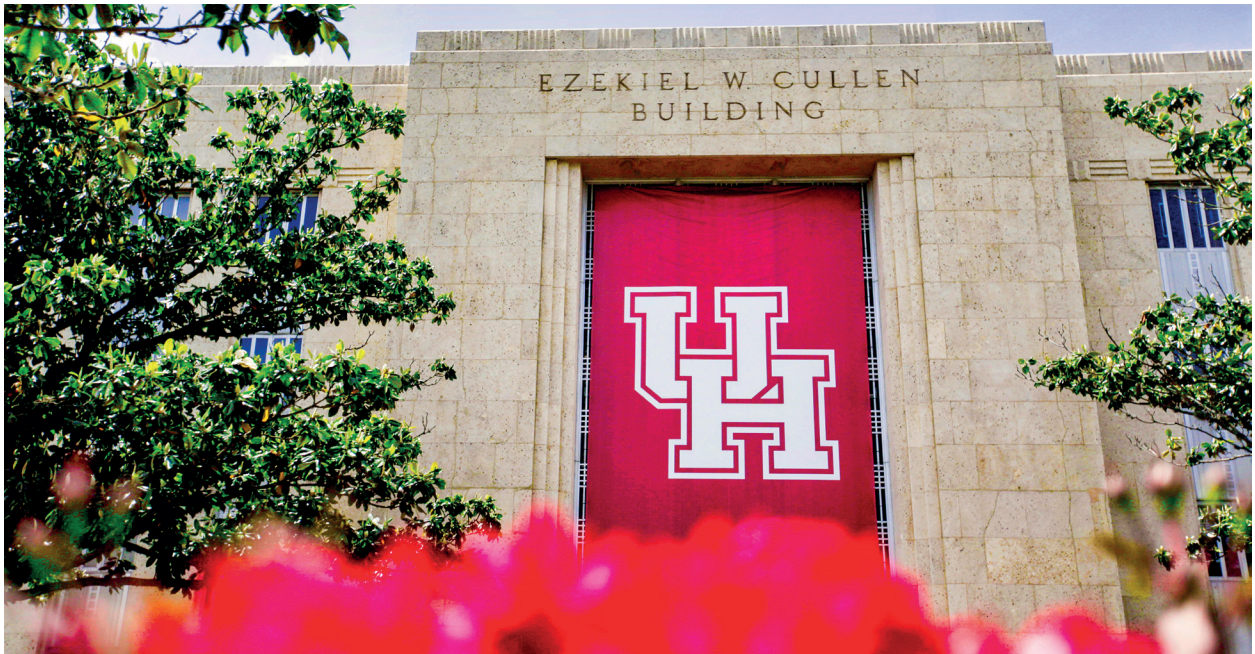
Michael Twa  
Dean  
Humana Endowed Dean's Chair in Optometry  
COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY

## University of Houston

### Commencement Ceremony

## University of Houston History

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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

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

### KATHRINE G. MCGOVERN COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

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

### C. T. BAUER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

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

### COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

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

### CULLEN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

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

### CONRAD N. HILTON COLLEGE OF GLOBAL HOSPITALITY LEADERSHIP

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



## Honorary Degree

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### JERICO 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.

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The Doctor of Humane Letters degrees, honoris causa, given for exemplary service to the University of Houston or society at large, is the highest honor UH can bestow.



## Honorary Degree

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### 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.

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The Doctor of Humane Letters degrees, honoris causa, given for exemplary service to the University of Houston or society at large, is the highest honor UH can bestow.





### Message from the Dean

Dear Graduates,

On behalf of the University of Houston College of Pharmacy family, I want to extend a heartfelt congratulations to the College's Class of 2026. You have been exceptional representatives of the College and University. I have no doubt that you will continue to serve as outstanding ambassadors for the College, strengthening and expanding our tradition of excellence wherever your career takes you.

I believe what sets our graduates apart is not individual career paths, but a shared commitment to service. Whether you pursue community practice, health systems, industry, research, or policy, you will have daily opportunities to improve lives. As you begin this next chapter, I encourage you to lead with the same purpose that brought you here, and with the values that will sustain you: compassion, honesty, integrity, and a focus on improving the health of our communities.

Today is also a celebration of the people who helped you reach this milestone. To the parents, spouses and partners, children, friends, mentors, and colleagues who encouraged you—thank you. Your steady support, patience, and belief made a real difference, and this accomplishment belongs to you as well.

As you take your next steps, please know that UH College of Pharmacy will always be your home. We would love to stay connected and celebrate the impact you will make, whether that means sharing milestones, welcoming you back to campus, mentoring a future student, or simply staying in touch. Wherever your path takes you, you carry this community with you, and we will take great pride in everything you accomplish.

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

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Arash Bashirullah'.

Arash Bashirullah, Ph.D.  
*Dean*

**University of Houston**  
**College of Pharmacy**

Commencement Ceremony  
Thursday, May 14, 2026, 2:00 p.m.  
Cullen Performance Hall

<b>PROCESSIONAL</b>	Pomp and Circumstance: March 1 <i>Sir Edward Elgar</i>
<b>COMMENCEMENT MARSHALS</b>	Elizabeth Coyle <i>Associate Dean for Academic Affairs</i>
	Louis Williams <i>Associate Professor</i>
<b>GOLDEN COUGARS</b>	Class of 1976
<b>BANNER BEARER CANDIDATES</b>	Barbara Mae Abad
	Chad Aaron Johnson
	Kason Dane Landman
	Cynthia Ma
	Lyna Q. Pham
	Nadia Salim
<b>PRESENTATION OF COLORS</b>	Houston Battalion ROTC Color Guard
<b>NATIONAL ANTHEM</b>	Moore School of Music
<b>WELCOME</b>	Arash Bashirullah <i>Dean</i>
<b>GREETINGS FROM UH SYSTEM BOARD OF REGENTS</b>	The Honorable Bryan F. Clark <i>Member</i>
<b>GREETINGS</b>	Diane Z. Chase <i>Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost</i>
<b>STUDENT RESPONSE</b>	Aniqa Virani <i>PharmD Candidate</i>
<b>RECOGNITION OF GOLDEN COUGARS CLASS OF 1976</b>	Dean Bashirullah
<b>RECOGNITION OF HONORS</b>	Executive Associate Dean Pitman
<b>PRESENTATION OF DEGREE CANDIDATES</b>	Dean Bashirullah
<b>CONFERRAL OF DEGREES</b>	Provost Chase
<b>OATH OF A PHARMACIST</b>	Executive Associate Dean Pitman
<b>CLOSING REMARKS</b>	Dean Bashirullah
<b>ALMA MATER</b>	Moore School of Music
<b>RECESSIONAL</b>	Moore School of Music

## Oath of a Pharmacist

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

In fulfilling this vow:

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

***I will*** promote inclusion and belonging, respect differences in all individuals, and address health disparities to advance health equity for all people.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Summer 2025 – Graduates

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### DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES, PHARMACEUTICAL HEALTH OUTCOMES AND POLICY CONCENTRATION

Sahar Yazdanfard

The Evaluation of Place of Service on  
the Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder

ADVISOR: Dr. Douglas Thornton

CO-ADVISOR: Dr. Tyler J. Varisco  
(University of Texas at Austin)

### DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES, PHARMACOLOGY CONCENTRATION

Sayantap Datta

High Mobility Group Box-1 As a  
Novel Therapeutic Target for the  
treatment of Nicotine Induced  
Glomerulosclerosis

ADVISOR: Dr. Krishna Boini

Anika Nusrat

From Morphogenesis to Remodeling:  
Role of Numb Family Proteins in  
Heart Development and Disease

ADVISOR: Dr. Mingfu Wu

Mohammad Atiqur Rahman <sup>4</sup>

Mechanistic Approaches for the  
Prevention and Treatment of  
Smoking-Induced Glomerular  
Sclerosis

ADVISOR: Dr. Krishna Boini

### DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES, PHARMACEUTICS CONCENTRATION

Adnan Akif

Targeting Neuroinflammation for  
Therapy of Vascular Dementia

ADVISOR: Dr. Jiukuan Hao

### DOCTOR OF PHARMACY

Benjamin Z. Garcia

Alex Q. Vu

## Fall 2025 – Graduates

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### DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES, PHARMACEUTICAL HEALTH OUTCOMES AND POLICY CONCENTRATION

Bilqees Fatima

Treatment Patterns & Clinical  
Effectiveness of GLP-1 Receptor  
Agonists versus SGLT2 Inhibitors in  
Patients with Type 2 Diabetes

ADVISOR: Dr. Susan Abughosh

Olajumoke Olateju <sup>4</sup>

Immune-Related Adverse Events  
Associated with Immune Checkpoint  
Inhibitors in Older Adults with  
Advanced Non-Small Cell Lung  
Cancer

ADVISOR: Dr. Douglas Thornton

### DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES, PHARMACOLOGY CONCENTRATION

Hala Y. Abdelnasser

K2P Potassium Channels Affect  
Endothelin A Receptor and  
Vasoreactivity in Idiopathic  
Pulmonary Fibrosis–Pulmonary  
Hypertension (IPF–PH) Patients

ADVISOR: Dr. Bradley McConnell

Tahmid Faisal

Sex Difference in the T Cell Profile  
and Immunomodulatory Role of  
Angiotensin II Type 2 Receptor in  
Acute Kidney Injury

ADVISOR: Dr. Tahir Hussain

Jacob K. McPherson <sup>4</sup>

Targeting the PolC-Type DNA  
Polymerase III for Narrow-Spectrum  
Antibiotic Development Against  
*Clostridioides difficile* Infection

ADVISOR: Dr. Kevin W. Garey

### DOCTOR OF PHARMACY

Daniellina Chidimma Anozie

Neda Faghieh Abdollahi

Taktom R. Farokhi

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

## Spring 2026 – Candidates for Graduation

### DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES, PHARMACEUTICAL HEALTH OUTCOMES AND POLICY CONCENTRATION

Javeria Khalid

Treatment Outcomes of First-line  
Antiviral Therapy in Older Adults  
with Chronic Hepatitis B

ADVISOR: Dr. Rajender R. Aparasu

### DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES, PHARMACEUTICS CONCENTRATION

Jie Chen

Investigation into Pharmacokinetics  
and Disposition of Buprenorphine and  
Related Opioids and Pharmacological  
Effects of Buprenorphine-O-  
Glucuronide

ADVISOR: Dr. Ming Hu

Fatima Dagher

Co-formulation of Calciprotiol  
with Paclitaxel for the Treatment of  
Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma

ADVISOR: Dr. Diana S-L. Chow

### DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES, PHARMACOLOGY CONCENTRATION

Rui Zuo

Hepatocyte Asah1-Mediated NAFLD  
and Cardiovascular Dysfunction:  
Therapeutic Potential of Targeting  
Liver Sinusoidal Endothelial Cell  
(LSEC) Dysfunction

ADVISOR: Dr. Yang Zhang

### MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PHARMACY LEADERSHIP AND ADMINISTRATION

Megan Bareis

A High-Dollar Medication Satellite  
Pharmacy to Optimize Inventory  
Management using RFID Technology

ADVISOR: Dr. Abdulwhab Shremo Msdi

Sadika Eslaminejad

Evaluation of Pharmacy Practice  
Experiential Learning Onboarding  
and Orientation Structures within  
Health Systems in the Texas Area

ADVISOR: Dr. Mabel Truong

Kristin G. Etuk

MedFAST: Redesigning Automated  
Dispensing Cabinet Restocking  
Workflows to Improve Operational  
Efficiency

ADVISOR: Dr. Onyebuchi Ononogbu

Adam Siddique

Implementation and Optimization  
of Low Unit of Measure Inventory  
Management Using Lean Six Sigma  
Methodologies

ADVISOR: Dr. Divya Varkey

Kailey Ngoc To

Understanding the Behavioral Drivers  
of Overstocking Medications in  
Health-System Pharmacies:  
A Qualitative Study

ADVISOR: Dr. David A. Wallace

Jamison R. Willborn

Evaluating Process Efficiency and  
Turnaround Time in Outpatient  
Parenteral Antimicrobial Therapy  
Across a County Health System

ADVISOR: Dr. Taryn Eubank

### DOCTOR OF PHARMACY

Barbara Mae Abad <sup>1, 4, 6</sup>

Lizette Nuibim Akwou <sup>2</sup>

Haley Madison Alexander

Shahad Salim Alfartosy <sup>2, 4</sup>

Nada T. Alhaj

Muhammed Alnakkash <sup>3</sup>

Zainab Imad Alsarraj <sup>2</sup>

Ali A. Al-Tahhan

Jeimmy Stephanie Amaya Melara

Maryam R. Anderson <sup>2</sup>

Julia Ashley Arriazola <sup>2</sup>

Joseph K. Asthappan

Wilma Bankston

Romafou S. Bates <sup>5</sup>

Victoria A. Briggs <sup>2, 4</sup>

Christian Nathaniel Brown <sup>3</sup>

Julia M. Bui <sup>2</sup>

Alison Cano

Sydney Mae Chavez <sup>2</sup>

Andy Dang <sup>3</sup>

Chastity Dao

Andalib L. Dauva <sup>3</sup>

Izel Fernández <sup>2</sup>

Kelsey Dominique Fisk

Ashley Maria Flores <sup>2, 4</sup>

Glory Anne Gines Garcia <sup>3, 5</sup>

Aryonne K. Gibson

Alyssa Renee Glass <sup>1, 4, 5</sup>

Leslie Ann Gomez

Rebecca Ruby Gonzalez <sup>2</sup>

Adriana Gonzalez Alejandro

Taylor Nicole Guerrero

Tuqa Ali Haikal

Payam Hesari <sup>2</sup>

Jennifer Hoang

Madeline Hogan <sup>1, 4</sup>

Megan Huang Frazier <sup>3, 5</sup>

Aya Munadhil Hussein <sup>2</sup>

Katy Vy Huynh <sup>3</sup>

Chad Aaron Johnson <sup>1, 4, 6</sup>

Victoria Hellner Johnson

Braxton S. Jones <sup>3, 5</sup>

Raymond Kaing <sup>3</sup>

Gowri Kalyani

Marriam Khan <sup>3</sup>

Susan Nghi Lam <sup>3</sup>

Kason Dane Landman <sup>1, 4, 6</sup>

Susan Le

Grace Liu <sup>2</sup>

Vy Thao Ly <sup>3</sup>

Cynthia Ma <sup>1, 4, 6</sup>

Minoo Madi <sup>3</sup>

Jasmine Malhotra <sup>2, 5</sup>

Annie Man <sup>3</sup>

Veronica Mares

Kayla Christina Marsh

Casey Bricann Martin

Diego Mascorro <sup>3</sup>

Shakira McDuffus

<sup>1</sup> Summa Cum Laude Honors – <sup>2</sup> Magna Cum Laude Honors – <sup>3</sup> Cum Laude Honors

<sup>4</sup> Rho Chi Academic Honor Society – <sup>5</sup> Phi Lambda Sigma Leadership Society – <sup>6</sup> College Banner Bearer

**University of Houston**  
**College of Pharmacy**

**Commencement Ceremony**

Abdullahi Mohamed  
Sydney Elaine Mohr <sup>1, 4</sup>  
Ariana Nicole Moorer <sup>5</sup>  
Harris Vy Nguyen <sup>2</sup>  
Sean Dinh-Duy Nguyen  
Ogechi C. Ngwakwe <sup>2, 4, 5</sup>  
Janvi Anand Patel <sup>3, 5</sup>  
Anh Duc Pham <sup>3</sup>  
Lyna Q. Pham <sup>1, 4, 5, 6</sup>  
Minh Pham <sup>2, 4</sup>  
Ash D. Pretty <sup>2</sup>  
Dewan Rahnuma Protiva  
Jenna Ramadi  
Jacob Paul Rickman  
Nadia Salim <sup>1, 4, 6</sup>  
Pat Sangtong <sup>1, 4</sup>

Se Song <sup>1, 4</sup>  
Sydni Dion St. Julian  
Maliha Sultana  
Meheret Bewketu Tadesse <sup>1, 4</sup>  
Amy Ai Mi Tran  
Brandy Tran  
Gia Diha Tran <sup>2</sup>  
Truc Thao Trinh  
Richard Truong  
Aniqa Virani <sup>5</sup>  
Alice U. Vu <sup>2, 4, 5</sup>  
Kevin Nguyen Vu  
Tam Vu <sup>2, 4</sup>  
Brittany Vuong <sup>3</sup>  
Xinshi Wang  
Robert David Williams III

Kaitlyn M. Wong <sup>2</sup>  
Emily Yao <sup>2</sup>  
Dana Yun  
Mahnoor Zahra  
Oscar Gabriel Zambrano <sup>2, 4</sup>  
Muhammad Zohaib

**PHARMACY CERTIFICATE  
IN HISPANIC  
HEALTHCARE**

Izel Fernández  
Rebecca Ruby Gonzalez  
Adriana Gonzalez Alejandro  
Diego Mascorro

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

## College Administration

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Arash Bashirullah  
*Dean*

Paige Pitman  
*Executive Associate Dean*

Tahir Hussain  
*Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Programs*

Elizabeth A. Coyle  
*Associate Dean of Academic Affairs*

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

Nancy D. Ordonez  
*Assistant Dean of Experiential Programs*

Jason Eriksen  
*Assistant Dean for Graduate Programs*

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

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

Miranda McMorris  
*Executive Director of Business Operations*

### DEPARTMENT CHAIRS

Rajender R. Aparasu  
*Pharmaceutical Health Outcomes and Policy*

Gregory Cuny  
*Pharmacological and Pharmaceutical Sciences*

Kevin W. Garey  
*Pharmacy Practice & Translational Research*

## Pharmacy Honor and Leadership Societies

### Rho Chi



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

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

#### RHO CHI GRADUATING MEMBERS

Barbara Mae Abad  
Shahad Salim Alfartosy  
Victoria A. Briggs  
Ashley Maria Flores  
Alyssa Renee Glass  
Madeline Hogan  
Chad Aaron Johnson  
Kason Dane Landman

Cynthia Ma  
Jacob K. McPherson  
Sydney Elaine Mohr  
Ogechi C. Ngwakwe  
Olajumoke Olateju  
Lyna Q. Pham  
Minh Pham  
Mohammad Atiqur Rahman

Nadia Salim  
Pat Sangtong  
Se Song  
Meheret Bewketu Tadesse  
Alice U. Vu  
Tam Vu  
Oscar Gabriel Zambrano

### Phi Lambda Sigma



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

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

#### PHI LAMBDA SIGMA GRADUATING MEMBERS

Romafou S. Bates  
Glory Anne Gines Garcia  
Alyssa Renee Glass  
Megan Huang Frazier

Braxton S. Jones  
Jasmine Malhotra  
Ariana Nicole Moorner  
Ogechi C. Ngwakwe

Janvi Anand Patel  
Lyna Q. Pham  
Aniqa Virani  
Alice U. Vu

**College of Pharmacy Class of 1976 – Golden Cougars**

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The University of Houston College of Pharmacy's faculty, staff, and students salute the Class of 1976 on the occasion of their 50th Anniversary of their Commencement.





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

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

Life Member, the opportunities to engage are endless.

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

True we'll ever be and Go Coogs!

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/>





