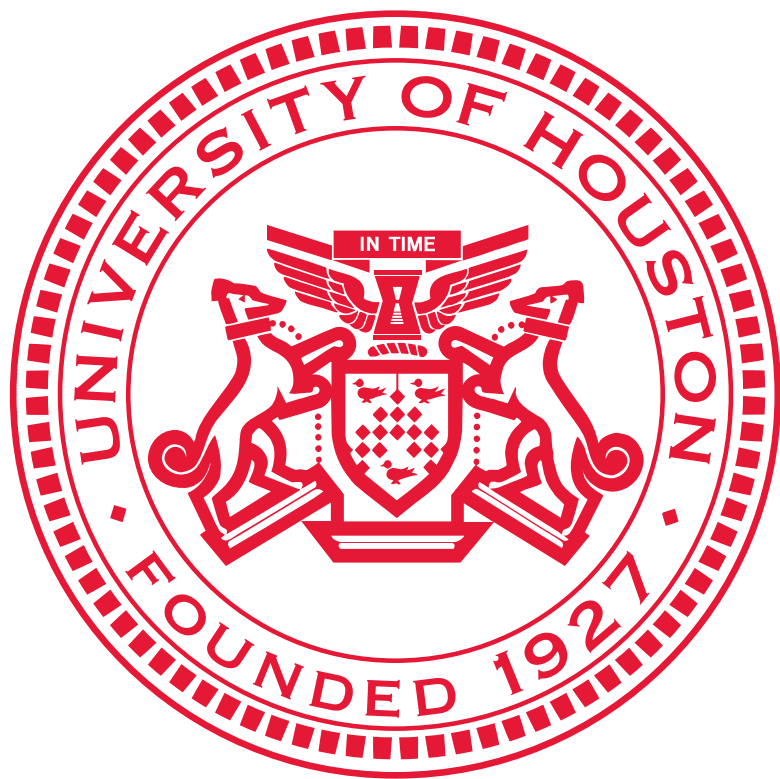




UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON SPRING 2024 COMMENCEMENT

Andy and Barbara Gessner College of Nursing

Friday, May 10, 2024 • Cullen Performance Hall





University of Houston
Andy and Barbara Gessner College of Nursing

Commencement and Pinning Ceremony
Friday, May 10, 2024, 2:00 p.m.
Cullen Performance Hall

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Message from the President

Dear University of Houston Graduates,

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

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

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

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

Go Coogs!

Warmest regards,

Renu Khator
President, University of Houston





Message from the Provost

Dear Spring Graduates,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Once again, congratulations!

Sincerely,

Diane Z. Chase

Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, University of Houston

University of Houston

Commencement Ceremony

University of Houston System

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University of Houston

PRESIDENT

Renu Khator

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

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*Vice President for Medical Affairs and
Founding Dean, Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine*

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Dean
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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

Christina H. Gola
Interim Dean
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON LIBRARIES

Jim Granato
Dean
HOBBY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Catherine Horn
Dean
Elizabeth D. Rockwell Chair
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

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

Teri Elkins Longacre
Dean
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT SUCCESS – INTEGRATED STUDIES

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

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

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

F. Lamar Pritchard
Humana Endowed Dean's Chair in Pharmacy
COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

Dennis Reynolds
Dean
Barron Hilton Distinguished Chair
CONRAD N. HILTON COLLEGE OF
GLOBAL HOSPITALITY LEADERSHIP

Pradeep Sharma
Interim Dean
Hugh Roy and Lillie Cranz Cullen
Distinguished University Professor
CULLEN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

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

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

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

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

University of Houston

Commencement Ceremony

University of Houston History



The University of Houston was established as the Houston Junior College in 1927. As the college grew, it prospered and officially became the four-year University of Houston in 1934. Two years later, the college attained land for a permanent campus, and in 1939 it constructed its first building, the Roy G. Cullen Building. The University became a state institution in 1963.

The University includes 14 academic colleges, one school, and the multidisciplinary Honors College that teach a wide array of subjects – from math, arts and engineering to law, pharmacy and business. What started as a campus with a single building has grown into a world-class university, offering more than 270 undergraduate and graduate programs to more than 46,000 students annually.

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

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

Commencement Traditions

Academic costumes of today have a history of nearly eight centuries. In medieval Europe, all townspeople wore long flowing robes and gowns. The materials and colors were governed by royal decree. Gradually, distinctive gowns were developed for the various professions, trades and guilds. Scholars wore robes and hoods to protect their shaved heads. Later, skullcaps were worn on the head, and the hoods became a cape that could be pulled over the head during unpleasant weather.

As additional universities were founded, distinctive forms of the gown and hood were adapted by their faculties for bachelor's (apprentices of the arts), master's (teachers) and doctoral (teachers who had completed postgraduate studies). When caps and hats came into fashion in the 15th century, the hoods became ornamental, draped over the shoulders and down the back.

The academic hat was first worn as a symbol of the master's degree and existed in various forms. The mortarboard style comes to us from Oxford University. When academic costumes came to America in 1754, styles were quite varied. In Europe, they still are; however, in our country, usage has been standardized by the Intercollegiate Code of Academic Costume.

GERALD D. HINES COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN

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

KATHRINE G. MCGOVERN COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

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

C. T. BAUER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

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

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

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

CULLEN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

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

CONRAD N. HILTON COLLEGE OF GLOBAL HOSPITALITY LEADERSHIP

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

UH LAW CENTER

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

Doctoral Degree *Hood: Purple*
Tassel: Red

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Bachelor's Degree *Tassel: Citron*

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

Doctoral Degree *Hood: Dark Blue*
Tassel: Red

TILMAN J. FERTITTA FAMILY COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

Doctor of Medicine Degree
Hood: Kelly Green
Tassel: Red

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

Bachelor's Degree *Tassel: Golden Yellow*

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

Doctoral Degree *Hood: Dark Blue*
Tassel: Red

ANDY AND BARBARA GESSNER COLLEGE OF NURSING

Bachelor's Degree *Tassel: Apricot*

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

Doctoral Degree *Hood: Apricot*
Tassel: Red

COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY

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

Doctor of Philosophy Degree
Hood: Royal Blue
Tassel: Red

Doctor of Optometry Degree
Hood: Seafoam Green
Tassel: Red

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

Bachelor's Degree *Tassel: Olive*

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

Doctor of Philosophy Degree
Hood: Royal Blue
Tassel: Red

Doctor of Pharmacy Degree
Hood: Olive
Tassel: Red

GRADUATE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK

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

Doctoral Degree *Hood: Citron*
Tassel: Red

HOBBY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Bachelor's Degree *Tassel: Peacock Blue*

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

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT SUCCESS – INTEGRATED STUDIES

Bachelor's Degree *Tassel: White*

Ceremonial Symbols



THE SEAL

Throughout history, seals have been used to authenticate official documents. The University of Houston and UH System seals both bear the Official Seal of Arms of General Sam Houston, as handed down to him from his noble ancestors. It includes the escutcheon in the center of the seal — consisting of checkered chevrons denoting nobility — and three martlets, gentle lowland birds that symbolize peace and deliverance. A winged hourglass is placed above the shield. Surmounting this is the motto “In Tempore,” meaning “In Time.” The greyhounds indicate speed of giving aid. The UH seal was first adopted in 1938 as the present campus was established. Although the look of the seal has evolved over the years, the first version was etched into the floor of the Roy G. Cullen Building.



UNIVERSITY MACE

The University Mace, which is carried in academic processions, is a staff symbolizing the University’s authority and unity. The tradition of the academic mace began in the late 14th century when two ancient instruments, the royal scepter and the battle mace, were combined to form a university president’s symbol of authority.

THE ALMA MATER

All hail to thee,
 Our Houston University.
 Our hearts fill with gladness
 When we think of thee.
 We’ll always adore thee
 Dear old varsity.
 And to thy memory cherished,
 True we’ll ever be.

Words and music by Harmony Class of 1942

University of Houston

Commencement Ceremony

Academic Honors

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

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

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

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

Summa Cum Laude – 4.0 GPA Graduates

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

SPRING 2024

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SPRING 2024 (continued)

Nicole Laz
Bachelor of Science in Computer Information Systems
CULLEN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

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

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

Christina Nguyen
Bachelor of Science in Health
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Tran Nguyen
Bachelor of Science in Biology
COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

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

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

Amy Penalzoza
Bachelor of Science in Teaching and Learning
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Michelle Pride
Bachelor of Science in Digital Media
CULLEN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

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

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

Melika Salehi
Bachelor of Science in Biology
COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

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



Honorary Degree

DOMINIC NG

Chairman and CEO, East West Bank

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TDECU

YOUR CREDIT UNION

President's Medallion

TDECU

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

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

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

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

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

The President's Medallion is awarded at the sole discretion of the President to individuals and organizations that have distinguished themselves by their support of the University of Houston and the community.





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! This spring we graduate the historical first cohort of Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) students. Congratulations to each of you and those who earn the BSN degree this spring, the MSN degree this summer, 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, May 10, 2024, 2:00 p.m.

Cullen Performance Hall

PROCESSIONAL	<i>“Four Seasons”</i> by Vivaldi
PRESENTATION OF COLORS	Houston Battalion ROTC Color Guard
NATIONAL ANTHEM	Moore 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 John A. McCall, Jr. <i>Secretary</i>
GREETINGS	Diane Z. Chase <i>Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost</i>
COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER	Bryan Sisk, DNP, MPH, RN, NE-BC, CENP <i>Senior Vice President and Chief Nursing Executive for Memorial Hermann Health System</i>
DESCRIPTION OF PIN	Dean Tart
HOODING AND PINNING OF DNP CANDIDATES	DNP Chairs
HOODING OF GRADUATE CANDIDATE	Dean Tart
PINNING OF GRADUATE CANDIDATE	Patricia Schrader <i>Clinical Associate Professor/Associate Dean</i>
PINNING OF BACHELOR CANDIDATES	Deborah Smith <i>Clinical Assistant Professor/BSN Director</i>
PRESENTATION OF BACHELOR, MASTER, AND DNP CANDIDATES	Associate Dean Schrader
CONFERRAL OF DEGREES	Provost Chase
FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE PLEDGE AND LIGHTING CEREMONY	Chanique Ecby <i>Clinical Assistant Professor</i>
FAREWELL FROM THE FACULTY	Cheryl Brohard <i>Associate Professor</i>
ALMA MATER	Moore School of Music
RECESSIONAL	<i>“Radetzky Waltz”</i> by Strauss



Commencement Speaker

BRYAN SISK

Senior Vice President and Chief Nursing Executive for Memorial Hermann Health System

BRYAN SISK, DNP, MPH, RN, NE-BC, CENP, serves as Senior Vice President and Chief Nursing Executive for Memorial Hermann Health System. In this role, Sisk leads the strategic direction of the organization’s nursing workforce, which is made up of more than 14,000 licensed registered nurses.

In 2022, Sisk helped launch the Memorial Hermann Institute for Nursing Excellence, a visionary initiative aimed to create an innovative health care environment that will pave the way for nurses to grow in skill and talent. The Institute leverages the voice of nurses as Memorial Hermann reimagines care at the bedside, and helps ensure care teams have the appropriate systems, processes

and time to excel in delivering care to all patients, now and for generations to come. By engaging the community and academic partners, the Institute is making careers in health care attainable and attractive, and is creating innovative opportunities to accelerate the personal and professional growth of current and future care teams.

Sisk is a 20-year veteran of the U.S. Army. He has served in various leadership roles – including preventive medicine operations at the U.S. Army Medical Center and Chief Nurse Executive at Central Texas Veterans Health Care System in Temple, Texas. Prior to joining Memorial Hermann, Sisk served as Chief Nurse Executive at HCA Healthcare’s TriStar Division health system in Tennessee.

Along with his responsibilities at Memorial Hermann, Sisk is a strong advocate for the nursing profession and remains passionate about reducing barriers to health care as a career and creating environments where nurses and health care teams thrive. He has traveled the country to speak on a variety of topics, including Reimagining a Culture of Excellence for Professional Development, Elevation of Chief Nursing Informatics Officer for Better Patient Care and Embracing Innovation and Driving Change in Healthcare. Sisk and his Memorial Herman team were fierce advocates in the passage of SB240, spending the day at the Texas Capitol to meet and speak with representatives.

Sisk, a native Texan who loves sports, music and outdoor activities, lives in Houston with his wife and their twin sons. His daughter is also a proud emergency department nurse in Central Texas.

Spring 2024 – Candidates for Graduation

DNP GRADUATES

Debra Lee Bayliss ^{4,5}
Arlena Faye Davis ⁵
Ronit O. Gerech ⁴
Courtney Ann Harris ⁴
Edwige Flore Koumfieg
Fidelia Osifo-Selormey

TRADITIONAL BSN GRADUATES

Cristy Y. Abanto ⁴
Fernando Jesus Adame
Alejandra Andrade
Sana Azeeza
Ramaa C. Bapat ³
Yolanda Esther Batz Tzul ^{3,4}

Carissa T. Boado ³
Sophia Louise Brown ^{1,4}
Cindy Duong Chau
Danny Chu ⁴
Eric A. Crooker ⁴
Mary T. Duong ³
Ivan Manuel Garcia
Jenna E. Honore ^{2,4}
Denise V. Huynh
Matthew M. Ilagan
Brianna N. Johnson ^{1,4}
Selma Shaheen Kidwai ^{3,4}
Chimuanya Faith Madubuko ⁴
Eileen L. Medrano
Juliana K. Meraz ²
Mawaddah Mohamed ³
Evelyn Mora

Faith H. Nguyen ^{3,4}
Derek N. Nguyen
Jannette T. Nguyen
Ryan Nam Nguyen
Kenneth A. Nguyen
Mariah A. Parades
Loeyis Ramirez Jordi
Gisselle A. Ramos ^{2,4}
Amanda F. Randall ^{3,4}
Cailey J. Richardson ²
Daniel Rodney Rios ^{3,4}
Mariana Silveyra Machuca ¹
Nftalem Kahsay Tekie
Somto Onyeka Ugonna ³
Ha Nhat K. Vo
Brisa M. Zuno ²

Summer 2024 – Candidates for Graduation

MSN

Zainab Razavi

1 Summa Cum Laude Honors - 2 Magna Cum Laude Honors - 3 Cum Laude Honors - 4 Sigma Theta Tau International Member - 5 Albert Schweitzer Fellow

DNP Scholarly Projects

Debra Lee Bayliss, DNP, MSN, APRN, FNP-C

Steroid Stewardship in Urgent Care

Chair: Patricia Schrader, PhD, MSN, RN, CMSRN

Clinical Associate Professor/Associate Dean

Arlena Davis, DNP, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC

**Implementation of Tele-health for Depressed Adults
in a Psychiatric Clinic**

Chair: Deborah Smith, DNP, EdD, MSN, CNE, RN

Clinical Assistant Professor/BSN Program Director

Ronit Gerecht, DNP, MSN, APRN, FNP-C, RN BSc

Prevention of Falls in Community-Dwelling Adults

Aged 65 and Older

Chair: Mary Love, PhD, MSN, RN

Assistant Professor

Hooded by Dean Tart

Courtney Harris, DNP, MSN, APRN, FNP-C

**A Survey of Appropriate Polypharmacy in the Outpatient
Older Population by Utilization of a Protocol Among
Nurse Practitioners in Outpatient Settings**

Chair: Cheryl Brohard, PhD, RN, CNS-ONC, AOCN, CHP

Associate Professor

Edwige Flore Koumfieg, DNP, MSN, APRN, FNP-C

**Hypertension Management Using DASH Diet
in African Americans Aged 30 to 65**

Chair: Beena Joseph, DNP (HSL), RN, RNC-MNN

Clinical Assistant Professor/Clinical Learning Coordinator

Fidelia Osifo-Selormey,

DNP, MSN, MSc, APRN, FNP-BC, BSN, BSc

**Improving Hypertension Through Patient Self-Care
Management at a Primary Care Practice**

Chair: Linda Connelly, PhD, DNP, MSH, CNS, ARNP, CNOR

Clinical Associate Professor/MSN and DNP Director

University of Houston
Andy and Barbara Gessner College of Nursing

Commencement and Pinning Ceremony

BSN Clinical Affiliations

Ben Taub Hospital
Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital
Fort Bend Independent School District
HCA Houston Healthcare Women's Hospital
Houston Independent Student District
Houston Methodist Continuing Care Hospital
Houston Methodist Sugar Land Hospital
Houston Methodist West Hospital

Lamar Consolidated Independent Student District
Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital
Memorial Hermann Sugar Land Hospital
Texana Center
Texas Children's Hospital
UT Health Houston Harris County Psychiatric Center
University of Houston College of Nursing Health Clinic

MSN Clinical Affiliations

Acres Home Health Center
Centra Clinic
First Response Family Clinic

Matagorda Episcopal Health
Paradigm at the Creek
University of Houston College of Nursing Health Clinic

DNP Clinical Affiliations

Brownstone Psychiatry
Centra Clinic
El Campo Memorial Hospital
Just 4 Kids Pediatrics
Medical Arts Clinic

Mobile Healthcare Solutions
Next Level Urgent Care
Pattison First Family Clinic
Texas Inpatient Consultants
University of Houston College of Nursing Health Clinic

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George & Mary Josephine Hamman Foundation
Gessner Family Nursing Scholarship
Gulf Coast Medical Foundation
HCSS Endowed Scholarship in honor of Dr. Sophie Lin Rydin
The Hamill Foundation

Lina Hidalgo Nursing Scholarship
Fred & Mabel R. Parks Foundation
Shah Family Nursing Scholarship
Paula M. Short Nursing Scholarship
Vivian L. Smith Foundation
Kathryn M. & William David Tart Endowed Scholarship
R.E. Bob & Vivian L. Smith Foundation
Warren Endowment in Nursing Scholarship
F.W. Bert & Mae Dean Wheeler Foundation

Florence Nightingale Pledge

“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*





Message from the Dean

Dear Graduates,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Go Coogs!

Heidi Appel
Dean
Professor of Biology & Biochemistry



The Honors College Honors

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

University Honors and University Honors with Honors in Major

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

Collegiate Honors and Collegiate Honors with Honors in Major

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

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

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

Honors in Major

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

University Honors with Honors in Major

GERALD D. HINES COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN

Vincent Taylor

CULLEN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Harry L. Goldberg
James Michael Valentine

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

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

Genesis Karmaria McGriggs
Elisabeth Stevens

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

Nabeeha Hasan
Danielle Antoinette Henry
Mazen Daniel Malak
Theresa Nguyen

Collegiate Honors with Honors in Major

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Veronica Nwanna

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

Paola Guevara Montoya

Honors in Major

GERALD D. HINES COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN

Hind Al Khaffaf
Andrew Chase
Michala Daniels
Christopher Torres
Mark Villa

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Emily Goff
Génesis Santillán

CULLEN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Delath De Zoysa

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Melanie Adhikary
Michelle Garcia
Layla Hanusic
Cole Harrison
Lynn Moussa Pasha
Sarah Rizvi

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

Randy Pham
Charlie Smith

University Honors

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Sarah Rupani
Holly Ann Skipton
Melody C. Wolfarth

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Elizabeth Gabriele Spencer

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Ronak Agarwal
Samih Ahmed
Eimaan Ahsan
Abhi Arumilli
Jacob Bradley
Guido Brevi
Tiffany Tran Bui
Nathan Andrew Chen
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Haaris Asif Dakri
Jennifer Enenmoh
Aamna Fazil
Shane Foreman
Christian Gonzales
Stephanie Danielle Haddad
Carson Dayne Havard
Mia Ibarra
Hamza Imran
Fayha Iqbal
Kohl Viktor Jardas
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Jeanette Mei Lam
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Diana Gabriela Maldonado
William Massaras

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Daniella Victoria Menendez
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Nick Nguyen
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Ayush Harish Patel
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Duha Humayun Pervez
Isabelle Pharamond Pham
Ethan Poedjono
Emily Poff
Philip Qin
Faizah Rahman
Charissa Ramjattan
Gavin Reyes
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Eric A. Crooker
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Message from the UH Alumni Foundation Board President

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

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

True we'll ever be and Go Coogs!

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

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

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