UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON
FOUNDED 1927
Dear College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics Graduate,

Congratulations! Today we celebrate a milestone in your life; I hope you will reflect on all that this achievement means.

• The degree that will appear on your transcript is an indelible testimony to your hard work and mastery of challenging mathematical and scientific subject matter.

• Your degree is the foundation upon which you will build as you continue to learn throughout your lifetime.

• Most importantly, the degree you have earned represents great potential for secure employment, a better quality of life and the achievement of your goals.

As you leave this campus, you will carry with you the knowledge your professors shared with you, the wisdom you gained as you matured and the personal experiences, professional connections, and friendships that will last a lifetime.

My best wishes for much success and happiness.

Sincerely,

Dan E. Wells
Dean
University of Houston
College of Natural Sciences
and Mathematics

Convocation
Thursday, December 17, 2015, 2 p.m.
Hofheinz Pavilion

PROCessional
Moores School of Music Brass Quintet

Presentation of the Colors
UH Army ROTC Color Guard

National Anthem
ManCorps

Welcome
Dan E. Wells

STUDENT ADDRESS
Kimberly Nguyen

Presentation of Academic Honors
Ian Evans
Associate Dean, Undergraduate Studies

Presentation of Degree Candidates
Dean Wells
Anne Delcour
Associate Dean, Graduate Studies
Department Chairs

Closing Remarks
Dean Wells

Alma Mater
ManCorps

Recessional
Moores School of Music Brass Quintet
College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

LEADERSHIP

Administration

Dan E. Wells, Ph.D.
Dean

Anne Delcour, Ph.D.
Associate Dean, Graduate Studies

Ian Evans, Ph.D.
Associate Dean, Undergraduate Studies

John Hardy, Ph.D.
Associate Dean, Student Success

T. Randall Lee, Ph.D.
Associate Dean, Research

Department Chairs

Amy K. Sater, Ph.D.
Biology and Biochemistry

David Hoffman, Ph.D.
Chemistry

Jaspal Subhlok, Ph.D.
Computer Science

Hua-wei Zhou, Ph.D.
Earth and Atmospheric Sciences

Matthew Nicol, Ph.D.
Mathematics

Gemunu Gunaratne, Ph.D.
Physics
Academic Regalia

The Costume of the participants in the academic procession dates back to the 14th century. Academic institutions in the United States adopted a code of academic dress in 1895.

Gowns: The bachelor’s gown has long pointed sleeves while the master’s gown has an oblong sleeve open at the wrists. The doctoral gown is fuller with full-length velvet panels on the front and three velvet crossbars on each sleeve in black or the color distinctive to the subject of the wearer’s degree.

Hoods: The hood, worn by master’s and doctoral degree recipients, drapes over the shoulders and down the back and indicates the subject to which the degree pertains and the university that conferred the degree. The size of the hood indicates the level of the degree.

Caps: The black mortarboard is the most common cap used. The tassel fastened in the center is worn in the left front quadrant after the degree is conferred. It is black or the color appropriate to the subject of the degree.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bachelor’s Degree</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tassel: Golden Yellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Master’s Degree</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hood: Golden Yellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tassel: Black</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Doctoral Degree</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hood: Dark Blue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tassel: Red</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The banners in the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics Convocation are carried by students from each department.

- **UNIVERSITY BANNER**: Kimberly Nguyen
- **COLLEGE BANNER**: Ronnie Lastra
- **DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY AND BIOCHEMISTRY**: Benjamin Cohn
- **DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY**: Garret Couture
- **DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE**: Daniel Huan Nguyen
- **DEPARTMENT OF EARTH AND ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES**: Benjamin Rosser
- **DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS**: Nikhil Jaiswal
- **DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS**: Benmaan Jawdat
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.

Pre-Fall 2010 Catalog

Undergraduate students who complete their degree requirements under any catalog prior to Fall 2010 will graduate with the stated academic honors if they achieve the following grade point averages earned in the last sixty-six (66) hours completed at the University of Houston.

- 3.75 TO 4.0 Summa Cum Laude (with Highest Honors)
- 3.50 TO 3.74 Magna Cum Laude (with High Honors)
- 3.25 TO 3.49 Cum Laude (with Honors)

Fall 2010 Catalog to Present

Undergraduate students who complete their degree requirements under, and since, the Fall 2010 catalog will graduate with the stated academic honors if they achieve the following grade point averages earned in the last fifty-four (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)
College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics
CANDIDATES FOR GRADUATION

Fall 2015

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Atmospheric Sciences
Gustavo Copstein Cuchiara
ADVISOR: Bernhard Rappenglueck, Ph.D.

Biology
Alicia Blessing
ADVISOR: Daniel Frigo, Ph.D.

Homa Dezvareh
ADVISOR: Shaun Xiaoliu Zhang, Ph.D.

Harika Nagandla
ADVISOR: Robert Schwartz, Ph.D.

Kelly Nicole Phillips
ADVISOR: Tim Cooper, Ph.D.

Ruth Anne Ritter
ADVISOR: Donald Fox, Ph.D.

Sumit Saurabh
ADVISOR: Brigitte Dauwalder, Ph.D.

Chemistry
Ying Chu Chen
ADVISOR: Scott Gilbertson, Ph.D.

Huang Chi Du
ADVISOR: Scott Gilbertson, Ph.D.

Siheng Li
ADVISOR: Chengzhi Cai, Ph.D.

Hung Vu Tran
ADVISOR: Olafs Daugulis, Ph.D.

Computer Science
Malcolm Trevor Dcosta
ADVISOR: Ioannis Pavlidis, Ph.D.

Pranav Mantini
ADVISOR: Shishir Shah, Ph.D.

Panagiotis Moutafis
ADVISOR: Ioannis Kakadiaris, Ph.D.

Ahmad Rafi Mohammad Qawasme
ADVISOR: Barbara Chapman, Ph.D.

Avinash Wesley
ADVISOR: Ioannis Pavlidis, Ph.D.

Geophysics
Pan Deng
ADVISOR: Hua-wei Zhou, Ph.D.

Wei Huang
ADVISOR: Hua-wei Zhou, Ph.D.

Hui Li
ADVISOR: Hua-wei Zhou, Ph.D.

Jiannan Wang
ADVISOR: Robert Stewart, Ph.D.

Jiangbo Yu
ADVISOR: Guoquan Wang, Ph.D.

Hemin Yuan
ADVISOR: Hua-wei Zhou, Ph.D.

Mathematics
Nathaniel T. Hammen
ADVISOR: Bernhard Bodmann, Ph.D.

Nicholas Anthony Maxwell
ADVISOR: Bernhard Bodmann, Ph.D.

Carlos M. Ortiz Marrero
ADVISOR: Vern Paulsen, Ph.D.

Benjamin Richard Preston
ADVISOR: Edward Kao, Ph.D.

Physics
Merzu Kebede Belete
ADVISOR: Gemunu Gunaratne, Ph.D.

Yanzhi He
ADVISOR: Wei-Kan Chu, Ph.D.

Shansong Jiang
ADVISOR: Arthur Weglein, Ph.D.

Chris Lee Lin
ADVISOR: Carlos Ordonez, Ph.D.

Yefeng Pan
ADVISOR: Liming Li, Ph.D.
Kalyan Sasmal  
**Advisor:** Wei-Kan Chu, Ph.D.

Keshav Shrestha  
**Advisor:** Paul Chu, Ph.D.

Wei Wang  
**Advisor:** Shuheng Pan, Ph.D.

Pengzhi Zhang  
**Advisor:** Margaret Cheung, Ph.D.

Kui Zhao  
**Advisor:** Paul Chu, Ph.D.

**MASTER OF ARTS**

**Mathematics**
Thu Hoang Mai Nguyen

**MASTER OF SCIENCE**

**Applied Mathematics**
Kamalpreet Kaur

**Biology**
Sunil Guharajan

**Chemistry**
Yi Yin Kuo

**Computer Science**
Aanchal Agarwal  
Puja Anchlia  
Yamuna Ghimire Khatiwada  
Hadi Montakahbi  
Zakariyya Saeed Mughal  
Nirmala Rai  
Madhur Thangadurai Rajendran  
Mayur Thangadurai Rajendran  
Akshay Anil Soni  
Stanislav Vladimirov Yotov

**Geology**
Michael Eric Bond  
John Benjamin Browning  
Kevin J. Foto  
Rachel C. Funk

Thomas Christopher Gabel  
Cansu Guner  
Alexander Joseph Minett  
Rebecca Louise Neill  
Kirirotha Um

**Geophysics**
Keling Chen  
Dong Je Lee  
Fabiola Del Valle Ruiz Pelayo  
Zhili Wei  
Grant Alfred Whittle  
Shan Zhang

**Physics**
Pawanjit Kaur  
Iram Saleem

**BACHELOR OF ARTS**

**Chemistry**
Norman Lee Jetty  
Alejandro Sanchez  
Maria Stathopoulos

**Earth Science**
Amanda M. Robinson

**Mathematics**
Dominic Noel S. Fontanilla  
Paola Jerez

**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE**

**Biochemical and Biophysical Sciences**
Elizabeth Oluwadamilola Ajasa  
Sasha Carolina Alonzo  
Faviola Alvarez  
Borna Russell Baktash  
Abye Wolde Beyene  
Eunice Isiguen Caducoy  
Benjamin Mycroft Cohn  
Sheryn Sariol Dawili  
Bryan J. Gonzalez

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¹ Summa Cum Laude - ² Magna Cum Laude - ³ Cum Laude - ⁴ Banner Bearers
Alex Ryan Hall  
Mustafa M. Karagoli ²
Philong H. Lam
Ashley Marquez
Trucnguyen P. Nguyen
Darlington Chukwuzubelu Oyeka
Scott T. Phetsalod
Evelyn Reyes ³
Nathan Zachary Sabulsky
Stephanie Daniela Sandri
Oladipo Temilade Soetan
Maria Letisa Torres
Mark D. Wasley

**Biology**

Nada K. Aboudaoud ³
Kristin Vaneska Acrey
Yuri J. Amons
Kelda Mary Louzann Auguste ³
Mariel Liane Balboa ³
Sean William Barnes
Diego R. Bermejo
Thuy Duong H. Bui
Kimbria Burton
Nicolas Alejandro Carvajal
Juan C. Castilla
Devdeep Chandra
Juan F. Cuellar
Alexandra Genet Damm
Danny Dinh Dang
Steven Alexander Daniel
Giselle Avis Day
Tuyet Anh Doan ³
Nadia Fatima
Urvashi Pervez Firozi ³
Claudia Yvette Galindo
Myrna Garcia ¹
Christa Ruth George
Miranda Michelle Gonzalez
Omar Gonzalez
Jason Michael Goodman
Ashley Edith Guzman

Lam Quang Ha
Taylor E. Hinchliffe ²
Phong Le Hoang ²
Huu Duc Dinh Huynh
Mahnoor Javed ²
Ashton Lacie Joyce ²
Ramandeep Kaur
France Farnaz Keshavarzi
Ammar N. Khan
Anny Ngoc Khong
Christina Renee Klein ³
Dennis F. Kunichoff
Bradley Everett Lamach
April Jessica Lopez
Arnold Lopez
Taryn Lynn Loubser ²
Anna I. Maayta
Mary Katherine Mainord
Dena Laraine Mansouri
Kevin Masoudi
Kevin E. Matzar
Deepshika Medapalli
Austin D. Miller
Cinthya Daniela Moran Caballero
Amanda Victoria Sta Napp
Jennifer Huynh Nguyen
Kathy Nguyen
Kimberly Nguyen ¹.⁴
Thai Ngoc Nguyen ³
Sarah An Nguyen
Ryan Trong Nguyen ¹
Margarete Chan Nixon
Veronica Yvette Novegil
Mariepaz H. Oculam
Constance Chimdinma Okereke
Aum N. Patel ³
Wenda Debara Pecina
Theophilus Nguyen Pham ²
Vu Tran Pham
Julie Au Phan
Khanh Kaylee Phan ¹
Simon Richard Powell

¹ Summa Cum Laude - ² Magna Cum Laude - ³ Cum Laude - 4 Banner Bearers
College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

CANDIDATES FOR GRADUATION

Sonali Rahlon
Yessica Rodriguez
Thilanka Nirmani S. Pathiranage ²
Nathan Reed Sharp
Satyam Pramod Srivastav
Phi Tat
Janette Tea
Steven Tyler Thompson ³
Jessica L. To ²
Kevin Andrew Tran
Kevin L. Tran
Theodore Wolfgang Tran
Nhi Nhi Tran
Jacqueline Trevino
Van Truong
Dina Y. Tselik
Jaimin P. Valabh
Mai Anh N. Vu ²
Hoang Lan Pham Vu
Michelle Minh Vuong
Deanna Bernice Webster
Scott Joseph Widmann
Ran Zhao

Chemistry
Adedamola A. Ademola-ojo
Shaila I. Bazaldua
Garret Anders Couture ², ⁴
Trucnguyen P. Nguyen
Jaimie V. Nguyen
Quinn Nguyen
Nada Faisal A. Qari
Weiye Shu
ViVi Truong
Krista N. Van Rickley
Kaitlin Ray Waters ³

Computer Science
Jay Michael Brandin
Juan Alberto Castillo ³
Steven Colby Cupit
Adam J. Dyer
Joseph A. Eldridge

Alicia J. Gantt ³
Yassir Anwar Jamal
Ryan S. Khondker
Ronnie Lastra ¹, ⁴
Christopher Joseph Lopez
Stuart Arjan Millner
Sarah Rhea Moore
Trung Thanh Nguyen
Parita Patel
Aidaly Monserrat Santamaria-Martinez
Faysal Sharif
William Sovath Souraphath
Stefan Michael Theard
Allen Van

Computer Science – Business
Asim Aleem
Maria F. Briceno Rojas ²
Daniel Beau Burns
Michelle E. George
Jacob Anthony Kapusta
Austin Reid Nash
Duc H. Nguyen
Javier Rivera

Computer Science – Science
Jessica R. Balanag
Alba Gabriela Chacon
Ryan Dickey
Maeghan Taylor Dickson
Altair Angel Fidone
Michael Stephen Graham
Pramudita Halim
Zaid Khayat
Allen Lin
Jainesh Rajendra Mehta
Stephen Meriwether ³
Paul J. Miller
Daniel Huan D. Nguyen ², ⁴
Brayan Paris ²
Viral Patel
Christian Andres Pesantes Torres
Jeff Phan

¹ Summa Cum Laude - ² Magna Cum Laude - ³ Cum Laude - ⁴ Banner Bearers
College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics
CANDIDATES FOR GRADUATION

Sherie L. Ruter
Maria Esther Sarabia
Parvez Kamruddin Sayani
Nicolae P. Taylor
Morgan Vegsund

Environmental Sciences
Amy D. Eggleston
Catherine D. Hobbs
Robert Alan Michael
Benjamin Daniel Rosser
Gerald J. Ruiz

Geology
Lokin Rao Casturi
Katherine Denise Cummings
Christopher Ryan Edwards
Scott W. Glezen
Roman A. Konovalov
Sean Alexander Massie
Sarah Jane Owen
Chase Alexander Parsons
Emily June Pearson
Colby Reece
Megan Lindsey Reese
Samuel P. Rossiello
Kathryn Anne Rovang

Geophysics
Jose Roberto Andrade
Katie E. Bertling
Ezedinma E. Daniel
Aslanbek Dinov
Roger A. Hajare
Salma R. Hanna
Robert Brian Hunnicutt
Kenneth C. Kitching
Yanhuan Mai
Bisiriyu Babatunde Onashokun
Jeffrey James Thaler
Fengling Wang
Christopher Frank Ward

Mathematical Biology
Nikhil R. Jaiswal
Edwin D. Santiago
Flavia Vancia

Mathematics
Aubrey Lynn Adams
Aala Mahmood Al Hasan
Maria D. Calzada
Eduardo Cerna
Francisco Flores
Cassandra Lea Ann Hardin
Ryan L. Hill
William T. Holman
Clarence Richard Hull
Victoria A. Jacob
Timothy Lee Jones
Devon H. Kruppa
Andrew Gordon Mackay
Anaick Landry Monteiro Walker
Kevin Carrington Moore
Davis H. Ocana
Yingyi Pan
Nathan Pineda
Carina E. Reyes
Shahab Uddin Shaikh
Frances Silva
Michael Dominick Slaughter
Elmer Solano
Zulema S. Sosa
Mark A. Steele
Christopher Brice Turner
Danielle Lynne Underwood
Jose M. Villalba
Long Hoang Vu
John Anthony White
Clayton J. Wilkinson
Amanda Marie Williams
Erika Yeates
Madelyn A. Zamora

Physics
Nicole Alexandra Davidson

¹ Summa Cum Laude - ² Magna Cum Laude - ³ Cum Laude - ⁴ Banner Bearers
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Biochemistry
Sharanya Maanasi Kalasekar
  ADVISOR: Jan-Åke Gustafsson, Ph.D.

Biology
Rose Y. Reins
  ADVISOR: Allison McDermott, Ph.D.

Chemistry
Yan Cui
  ADVISOR: Karl Kadish, Ph.D.
Ha Thi Do
  ADVISOR: Scott Gilbertson, Ph.D.
Qing Ji
  ADVISOR: Ognjen Miljanic, Ph.D.
Phong Quang Le
  ADVISOR: Jeremy May, Ph.D.

Geology
Felipe Alberto Lozano
  ADVISOR: Julia Wellner, Ph.D.
Bryan M. Ott
  ADVISOR: Paul Mann, Ph.D.
Mohammad Shahid Ullah
  ADVISOR: Joel Saylor, Ph.D.

Geophysics
Xin Zhang
  ADVISOR: Evgeny Chesnokov, Ph.D.

Mathematics
Pei Yang
  ADVISOR: Jingmei Qiu, Ph.D.

Physics
Rooplekha Chakraborty Mitra
  ADVISOR: John Miller, Ph.D.
Ho Yin Chan
  ADVISOR: Vassily Lubchenko, Ph.D.
Ananya Debnath
  ADVISOR: Oomman Varghese, Ph.D.
Liangzi Deng
  ADVISOR: Paul Chu, Ph.D.
Benmaan Imtihan Jawdat ¹
  ADVISOR: Paul Chu, Ph.D.
Machhindra Koirala
  ADVISOR: Zhifeng Ren, Ph.D.
Feifei Qu
  ADVISOR: Pei-Herng Hor, Ph.D.

MASTER OF ARTS

Mathematics
John Daniel Allen
Amanda Michelle Mellor
Jeffrey R. Tschoepe

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Chemistry
Xiao Liang
Robert Daniel Paredez
Lihan Zeng

Computer Science
Zeinab Kazemi Alamouti
Shiwani Bector
Alessio Paolo Buccino
David Loic Chotard
Gianluca Meloni
Cedric Pierre Robinet
Adrien Eric Sitter
The roster of candidates for graduation and graduates does not include the names of those students who chose to withhold information under the Federal Education Rights and Privacy Act.
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 honors designations.

**University Honors with Honors in Major**
Students who complete the Honors College curriculum (36 hours) and complete a senior honors thesis.

**University Honors**
Students who complete the Honors College curriculum and elect not to complete a senior honors thesis.

**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.
College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics
THE HONORS COLLEGE

Honors Recipients

University Honors

Borna Russell Baktash
Adam J. Dyer
Urvashi Pervez Firozi
Mahnoor Javed
Mustafa M. Karagoli

Aum Patel
Theophilus Nguyen Pham
Jessica L. To
Danielle Lynne Underwood
Ran Zhao

Collegiate Honors

Aubrey Lynn Adams
Mariel Liane Balboa
Nicolas Alejandro Carvajal

Taylor E. Hinchliffe
Nikhil R. Jaiswal

Membership in The Honors College

Daniel Huan D. Nguyen
Kimberly Nguyen

Ryan Trong Nguyen
Morgan Vegsund
Convocation Volunteers

A special thank you to the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics staff and students that assisted in making our convocation ceremony possible, and to our reader, Mr. Mike Lejeune.

Kendra Alexander
MyTrang Baccam
Lee Ann Carroll
Liz Castro
Jonas Chin
Susan Clements
Marcus Collins
Ashley Cook
Yvette Elder
Seth Evans
Liz Faig
Sharonda Glass
Meghan Harmon
Quang Hau
Melissa Ieans
Rosezelia Jackson
Karen Maldonado
Sladjana Maric
Kim Marx
LaTonya McQuillon
Alma Myers

Kevin Nguyen
Melissa Nieto
Emilio Onterveros
Jim Parker
Janis Parsley
Tiffany Roosa
Neha Valji
Chris Watts

NSM Ambassadors
Ashley Lee
Lowell Levo
Melanie Lindorfer
Andrew Mai
Sabrina Martinez
Cara Riffe
Sadia Tasnim
Keziah Thomas
Monica Tran
Brady Wells
College Convocation Committee

Lauren Abbott
Director of Planning and Assessment

Anne Delcour, Ph.D.
Associate Dean for Graduate Studies

Ian Evans, Ph.D.
Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies

Melissa Lowrey
Director for Graduate Studies (Co-Chair)

Kathy Major
Executive Director of Communications

Tristan Sims
Director for Undergraduate Studies (Co-Chair)
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