Dear Engineering Graduates,

By nature of you being here today, you are among the best, brightest and hardest working engineers the world has to offer.

You have made it through one of the most rigorous engineering programs in the country. During your time as an engineering student, you have collectively spent thousands of hours researching, volunteering and interning in the city of Houston, adding to the strength and vibrancy of our community. When you leave our labs and classrooms to embark on your careers, your professional contributions will have a resounding impact here in the city of Houston and around the world.

You are the thinkers, doers and creators of our modern world. You will be the designers, builders, problem-solvers and inventors of our tomorrow. Although you represent a wide variety of backgrounds and disciplines, as you walk across the stage to accept your diploma, you will all have one thing in common: you are all world-class engineers.

From here, the world is at your fingertips. Work hard, give back and trust in the knowledge you have acquired during your time as a student at the UH Cullen College of Engineering. Everything else will fall into place.

Congratulations, engineering Cougars! I look forward to seeing the impact your bright careers will have on our future and our world. Please stay in touch and fill me in on all of your successes: dean@egr.uh.edu.

Sincerely,

Joseph W. Tedesco

Elizabeth D. Rockwell Dean & Professor
University of Houston  
Cullen College of Engineering  

Convocation  
Friday, December 18, 2015, 9 a.m.  
Hofheinz Pavilion  

PROCESSIONAL  
Grand Marshal Chad Wilson  
Assistant Professor  
Grand Marshal Leonard Trombetta  
Associate Professor  
Faculty  
Banner Bearer  
Platform Party  
Dean Joseph Tedesco  

PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS  
UH Air Force ROTC  

NATIONAL ANTHEM  
Moores School of Music Brass Quintet  

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTORY REMARKS  
Joseph W. Tedesco  
Elizabeth D. Rockwell Dean and Professor  

REGENT’S REMARKS  
The Honorable Durga Agrawal  
Regent, University of Houston System Board of Regents  

CONVOCATION ADDRESS  
William Fendley  
UH Cullen College of Engineering Alumnus  

PRESENTATION OF BEST DISSERTATION AWARDS  
Suresh Khator  
Associate Dean for Graduate Programs and Computing Facilities  

PRESENTATION OF BACHELOR’S CANDIDATES  
Frank Claydon  
Director of the Division of Undergraduate Programs and Student Success  

PRESENTATION OF MASTER’S CANDIDATES  
Jacinta Conrad  
Assistant Professor of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering  

PRESENTATION AND HOODING OF DOCTORAL CANDIDATES  
Jagannatha Rao  
Director of Online Programs and Extension Services  

CLOSING REMARKS  
Dean Tedesco  

ALMA MATER  
Moores School of Music Brass Quintet  

RECESSINAL  
Event music provided by Moores School of Music Brass Quintet  

A reception will be held in the Engineering Building 1, Commons Area, 1st floor, immediately after the Ceremony. Refreshments will be served.
Mr. William (Bill) Fendley (BSCE ’71) has over 40 years of experience involving civil engineering and land surveying projects in Texas and is a proud graduate of the University of Houston 1971 class with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. Mr. Fendley worked for six years with the Houston District of TxDOT while attending the University of Houston and for nine years with a privately owned civil engineering firm before starting his own firm. In 1980, Mr. Fendley cofounded Cobb, Fendley & Associates, Inc. with just two people, then grew the firm to more than 160 employees and eight office locations and is currently providing business development, project quality control and employee mentoring as an employee of the firm.

He is a registered Professional Engineer in six states and a Registered Professional Land Surveyor in Texas. He has held leadership positions in Professional Engineering organizations at the national, state and local levels. In 2007, he was elected President of the Texas Society of Professional Engineers (TSPE), one of the largest state societies in the United States. In this role, he worked with members to promote the image of professional engineers and their contribution to the social, economic and political aspects of communities. He was the National Director, former Chair of Legislative and Governmental Affair Committee for the National Society of Professional Engineers. He was also the Representative to One Call Board Industry Task Force, State Legislative Committee and Sunset Commission Task Force on the Texas Council of Consulting Engineering Companies. He has held the positions of the Chair of Elected Officials Reception Committee, Chair of Special Task Force to Join CEC, Member of Board of Directors and Secretary to Board of Directors on the Houston Council of Consulting Engineering Companies. As a member of the Texas Society of Professional Engineers, he had a surplus amount of positions that included President, Vice President of Region IV, Legislative and Government Affairs Committee Chair, Chair of Professional Engineer Day at the Capitol, Northwest Houston Chapter Member of Board of Directors and President Elect, Greater Houston Chapter President, Membership Chair, State Director, Legislative Affairs Committee Chair, Leadership Forum Chair and Founder. He has served in his home county as Director of the Waller County Transportation Authority and on the 2015 Waller ISD Citizens Planning Committee and PAC.
Mr. Fendley has been an active participant in a number of organizations, including: the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE), the Texas Society of Professional Engineers (TSPE), the Political Action Committee for Engineers (PACE), University of Houston Alumni Association (UHAA), University of Houston College of Engineering Alumni Association (UHEAA), Waller County Transit Authority Board, Prairie View A&M University College of Business Advisory Board, Texas Council of Consulting Engineering Companies (TCEC) and the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). In addition, he has supported the American Heart Association Houston Heart Walk, CANstruction (benefiting the Houston Food Bank), the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo and local blood drives.

Mr. Fendley has been acknowledged for numerous awards. In 2000, he was presented the Distinguished Alumni Award by the UH Cullen College of Engineering. In 2009, Mr. Fendley became recognized as an NSPE Fellow for his exemplary service to the profession, the Society and the community. Additionally, he was given the Academy of Distinguished Civil and Environmental Engineers Award and Eichhorn Leadership Service Award by the Cullen College in 2011. In 2013, Mr. Fendley’s career efforts were duly recognized, as he received two prestigious awards: Greater Houston Area Engineer of the Year and Texas Engineer of the Year. Over the last 15 years, Mr. Fendley has been, and continues to be, a constant and tireless participant and proponent for a number of engineering societies.

Throughout his career, Mr. Fendley has dedicated countless hours to speaking about the importance and benefits of the engineering profession to legislators, peers and students. Since his graduation from the University of Houston, William Fendley has been committed to promoting and strengthening the University’s engineering program. He has provided value to the Cullen College of Engineering through his participation with assisting the College in working with the State Legislature and the creation of the CobbFendley Civil Engineering Endowment, the CobbFendley Telecommunications Endowment, the C. J. Tamborello Memorial Scholarship Fund, the CobbFendley Dean’s Excellence Endowment and the CobbFendley Building Fund to benefit the University of Houston. Furthermore, he has devoted time to serving on the Dean’s Engineering Leadership Board, the Civil Engineering Advisory Board, the UHAA Board of Directors and UHEAA Board of Directors, and was the Vice President of Constituent Relations.

In his free time, he enjoys working on his ranch in Hockley, Texas and spending time with his grandchildren.
Cullen College of Engineering

The University of Houston Cullen College of Engineering, established in 1941, is accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET and is ranked among the top 100 engineering schools in the country by U.S. News & World Report.

More than 5,000 students are enrolled in engineering courses—3,764 undergraduates as well as 1,311 masters and doctoral students in biomedical, chemical, civil, computer, electrical, environmental, geosensing systems, industrial, mechanical and petroleum engineering. The college also offers interdisciplinary graduate programs in subsea, aerospace, materials, and computer and systems engineering. Chemical and mechanical engineering have ranked among the top programs nationally.

The mission of the Cullen College of Engineering at the University of Houston is to serve the Greater Houston community, Texas and the nation by educating engineers to assume leadership positions in the identification and solution of the complex technical challenges of society, to advance the state of knowledge through pioneering research and scholarly work, to facilitate the transfer of new technology to Texas and U.S. industries, to play a key role in economic development for the Greater Houston region and the state of Texas, and to benefit the public sector through service to the university, community, industry, government and the engineering profession.
Administration

Joseph Tedesco  
*Elizabeth D. Rockwell Dean and Professor*

Hanadi Rifai  
*Associate Dean for Research and Facilities*

Suresh Khator  
*Associate Dean for Graduate Programs and Computing Facilities*

Frank Claydon  
*Director of the Division of Undergraduate Programs and Student Success*

Metin Akay  
*Chair, Department of Biomedical Engineering*

Michael Harold  
*Chair, Department of Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering*

Roberto Ballarini  
*Chair, Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering*

Badrinath Roysam  
*Chair, Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering*

Gino Lim  
*Chair, Department of Industrial Engineering*

Pradeep Sharma  
*Chair, Department of Mechanical Engineering*

Thomas Holley  
*Interim Chair, Department of Petroleum Engineering*

Russell Dunlavy  
*Chief Advancement Officer*

Stephen Bangerter  
*Executive Director of Business Operations*

Audrey Grayson  
*Executive Director of Communications*

Jagannatha Rao  
*Director of Online Programs and Extension Services*

Janice Quiroz-Perez  
*Director of the Engineering Career Service Center*

Roshawnda Anderson  
*Assistant to the Dean*
National Academy of Engineering Members

J.J. Azar  
*Petroleum Engineering*

Benton Baugh  
*Subsea Engineering*

Charles Cutler  
*Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering*

Bonnie Dunbar  
*Mechanical & Biomedical Engineering*

Christine Ehlig-Economides  
*Petroleum Engineering*

John Lienhard  
*Mechanical Engineering*

Dan Luss  
*Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering*

James Symons  
*Civil & Environmental Engineering*

Anestis Veletos  
*Civil & Environmental Engineering*

Kaspar Willam  
*Civil & Environmental Engineering*

Department of Biomedical Engineering

Mohammad Abidian  
*Associate Professor*

Metin Akay  
*Professor & Chair*

Muayyad Al-Ubaidi  
*Professor*

Ravi Birla  
*Associate Professor*

Joseph Francis  
*Associate Professor*

Howard Gifford  
*Associate Professor*

Nuri Ince  
*Assistant Professor*

Kirill Larin  
*Associate Professor*

Sheereen Majd  
*Assistant Professor*

Elebeoba May  
*Associate Professor*

Chandra Mohan  
*Professor and Associate Chair*

Muna Naash  
*Professor*

Ahmet Omurtag  
*Associate Professor*

Sergey Shevkoplyas  
*Associate Professor*

Tianfu Wu  
*Assistant Professor*

Yingchuan Zhang  
*Assistant Professor*
Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

Vemuri Balakotaiah  
*Professor*

Patrick Cirino  
*Associate Professor*

Jacinta Conrad  
*Assistant Professor*

Vincent Donnelly  
*Professor*

Demetre Economou  
*Professor*

William Epling  
*Associate Professor & Associate Chair*

Lars Grabow  
*Assistant Professor*

Michael Harold  
*Professor & Chair*

Ramanan Krishnamoorti  
*Professor*

Dan Luss  
*Professor*

Michael Nikolaou  
*Professor*

Jeremy Palmer  
*Assistant Professor*

Jeffrey Rimer  
*Assistant Professor*

Megan Robertson  
*Assistant Professor*

Gila Stein  
*Assistant Professor*

Navin Varadarajan  
*Assistant Professor*

Peter Vekilov  
*Professor*

Richard Willson  
*Professor*

Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering

Roberto Ballarini  
*Professor & Chair*

Abdeldjelil Belarbi  
*Professor*

Mina Dawood  
*Assistant Professor*

Egor Donstov  
*Assistant Professor*

Bora Gencturk  
*Assistant Professor*

Craig Glennie  
*Assistant Professor*

Thomas Hsu  
*Professor*

Yandi Hu  
*Assistant Professor*
Dmitri Litvinov  
Professor

Stuart Long  
Professor

David Mayerich  
Assistant Professor

Haluk Ogmen  
Professor

Miao Pan  
Assistant Professor

Shin-Shem Pei  
Professor

Saurabh Prasad  
Assistant Professor

Badrinath Roysam  
Professor & Chair

Paul Ruchhoeft  
Associate Professor

David Shattuck  
Associate Professor

Bhavin Sheth  
Associate Professor

Wei-Chuan Shih  
Assistant Professor

Leonard Trombetta  
Associate Professor & Associate Chair

John Wolfe  
Professor

Yan Yao  
Assistant Professor

Wanda Zagozdzon-Wosik  
Associate Professor

Department of Industrial Engineering

Christopher Chung  
Associate Professor

Qianmei Feng  
Associate Professor

Ali Kamrani  
Associate Professor

Suresh Khator  
Professor & Associate Dean

Gino Lim  
Associate Professor & Chair

Jiming Peng  
Associate Professor

Lawrence Schulze  
Associate Professor

Department of Mechanical Engineering

Ashutosh Agrawal  
Assistant Professor

Haleh Ardebili  
Assistant Professor
Richard Bannerot  
Professor

Yi-Chao Chen  
Professor

Bonnie Dunbar  
Professor

Matthew Franchek  
Professor

Hadi Ghasemi  
Assistant Professor

Karolos Grigoriadis  
Professor

Yashashree Kulkarni  
Assistant Professor

Dong Liu  
Associate Professor

Philippe Masson  
Assistant Professor

Anastassios Mavrokefalos  
Assistant Professor

Ralph Metcalfe  
Professor

Jagannatha Rao  
Associate Professor, Associate Chair and Director

Jae-Hyun Ryou  
Assistant Professor

Venkat Selvamanickam  
Professor

Pradeep Sharma  
Professor & Chair

Gangbing Song  
Professor

Li Sun  
Associate Professor

Su Su Wang  
Professor

Kenneth White  
Professor

Di Yang  
Assistant Professor

Cunjiang Yu  
Assistant Professor

---

Department of Petroleum Engineering

Christine Ehlig-Economides  
Professor

Lori Hathon  
Assistant Professor

Thomas Holley  
Interim Chair

Konstantinos Kostarelo  
Associate Professor

Michael Myers  
Associate Professor

Guan Qin  
Associate Professor
Best Ph.D. Dissertation Awards

Summer 2015 and Fall 2015 Graduates

This semester, we have two outstanding dissertation award winners. A plaque and a check for $1,000 will be given to the following two individuals:

Maruti K. Mudunuru  
*Ph.D. in Civil and Environmental Engineering*  
**Dissertation Title:** On Enforcing Maximum Principles and Element-wise Species Balance for Advective-Diffusive-Reactive Systems  
**Dissertation Advisor:** Dr. Kalayana B. Nakshatrala

Nikhil Walani  
*Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering*  
**Dissertation Title:** Mechanics of Cellular Transport  
**Dissertation Advisor:** Dr. Ashutosh Agrawal
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
IN CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

Firoozeh Babayekhorasani
Dynamics of Nanoparticles in Complex Media
ADVISORS: Dr. Jacinta Conrad and Dr. Ramanan Krishnamoorti

Byeongjin Baek
First Principle Investigations of Hydrodeoxygenation over Ru/TiO2(110)
ADVISOR: Dr. Lars C. Garbow

Jason Alexander Clark
Understanding Structure-Property Relationships for Impact Polystyrene
ADVISOR: Dr. Ramanan Krishnamoorti

Hieu Anh Trung Doan
Computational Screening of Bifunctional Catalysts for Carbon Monoxide and Methane Oxidation
ADVISOR: Dr. Lars C. Garbow

Christopher S. Frei
Engineered High-Throughput Evolution of Whole-Cell Biosensors for Production of Value-Added Products
ADVISOR: Dr. Patrick Cirino

Gavin St. Patrick Garvey
Lithographically Fabricated Micro-reflectors for Sensitive Point of Care Diagnostics
ADVISOR: Dr. Richard Willson

Arian Ghorbanpour
Computational Modeling and Advanced Synthesis Techniques for the Improved Design of Zeolite Catalysts
ADVISORS: Dr. Lars Grabow and Dr. Jeffrey Rimer

Hoang Duc Nguyen
Spatiotemporal Temperature and Concentration Measurements in a Monolith Reactor
ADVISORS: Dr. Dan Luss and Dr. Michael P. Harold

Chinedu Dominic Umeasiegbu
Microstructure Studies of Tunable pH-Sensitive Mixtures of Cationic Surfactant and Hydrotrope
ADVISORS: Dr. Ramanan Krishnamoorti and Dr. Vemuri Balakotaiah

Yang Zheng
Applied and Fundamental Studies of LNT-SCR Dual-layer Monolithic Catalysts for Lean NOx Emission Control
ADVISORS: Dr. Michael Harold and Dr. Dan Luss

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
IN CIVIL ENGINEERING

Md Kausar Ali
Characterizing and Modeling Silicate based Modification of Smart Cement, Drilling Mud and Grout
ADVISOR: Dr. Cumaraswamy Vipulanandan

Prakash Singh Bhat
Cementitious Materials with Ultra-High Damage Tolerance for Hazards Mitigation
ADVISOR: Dr. Mo Li

Dongmei Pan
Enhanced Performance and Characterization of Synthetic Based Drilling Muds and Steel Corrosion
ADVISOR: Dr. Cumaraswamy Vipulanandan

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⁵ University Honors with Honors in Major - ⁶ University Honors - ⁷ Honors in Major - ⁸ Collegiate Honors
Aram Mohammed Raheem  
Characterizing and Modeling Ultra Soft Clay Soil Behavior and Filter Cake  
**ADVISOR:** Dr. Cumaraswamy Vipulanandan

Cheng Shi  
Evaluation of Steel H-Piles with Localized Corrosion and Rehabilitation Using Friction-Type Bolted Steel Plate  
**ADVISORS:** Dr. Abdeldjelil Belarbi and Dr. Mina Dawood

Seyed Mohammad Mehdi Zomorodian  
Behavior of FRP Strengthened Reinforced Concrete Elements Subjected to Pure Shear  
**ADVISOR:** Dr. Abdeldjelil Belarbi

**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING**

Sevda Agaoglu  
A Statistical Approach to Visual Masking and Spatial Attention  
**ADVISOR:** Dr. Haluk Ogmen

Apeksha Santosh Awale  
Fabrication of Integrated Optical-Fiber Based Reliable Optrodes for Optogenetic Interrogation of Neural Networks  
**ADVISOR:** Dr. Jack Wolfe

Minshan Cui  
Angle-Based Dimensionality Reduction and Sparse Representation-Based Classification For Remote Sensing Imagery  
**ADVISOR:** Dr. Saurabh Prasad

Qing Ji  
Piezoceramic Transducer based Acoustic Communication and Waveform Design for Energy Charging in Solid Structures  
**ADVISOR:** Dr. Gangbing Song

**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN GESENSING SYSTEMS ENGINEERING**

Arpan Kusari  
Precise Registration of Laser Mapping Data by Planar Feature Extraction for Deformation Mapping  
**ADVISOR:** Dr. Craig Glennie

**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING**

Maryam Zaghian  
Radiation Therapy Optimization Considering Uncertainties and Biological Effects  
**ADVISOR:** Dr. Gino Lim

**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN MATERIALS ENGINEERING**

Xinwei Cai  
Solution Fabrication of Multifilamentary Second Generation High-Temperature Superconductor  
**ADVISOR:** Dr. Venkat Selvamanickam

1 Summa Cum Laude - 2 Magna Cum Laude - 3 Cum Laude - 4 Banner Bearer (highest GPA)  
5 University Honors with Honors in Major - 6 University Honors - 7 Honors in Major - 8 Collegiate Honors
Szu Te Lin
Laser Manufacturing Modeling and Experimental Simulation on Metal Matrix Composite of Rapid Formation
**ADVISOR:** Dr. Ali K. Kamrani

Carmen Victoria Pascente Carnevale
Microfabricated Surfaces and Particles for Advanced Immunoassay Platforms and High-efficiency Electrowetting Heat Transfer System
**ADVISOR:** Dr. Paul Ruchhoeft

**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING**

Guoyan Cao
Modeling for Cluster-based Correlation of Severe Driving Events with Time and Location
**ADVISOR:** Dr. Karolos M. Grigoriadis

Dengke Chen
Elucidating the Mechanical Properties of Crystalline Interfaces from Thermal Fluctuations
**ADVISOR:** Dr. Yashashree Kulkarni

Gregory Donald Joseph
A Novel Approach to Robust Design Using Recent Advances in Robust and Multiobjective Optimization Methods
**ADVISOR:** Jagannatha R. Rao

Xiaobao Li
The Coupling Between Elasticity and Quantum Mechanics
**ADVISOR:** Dr. Pradeep Sharma

Shengjie Tang
Thermal Transport Across Grain Boundaries by Molecular Dynamics Simulations
**ADVISOR:** Dr. Yashashree Kulkarni

Nikhil Walani
Mechanics of Cellular Transport
**ADVISOR:** Dr. Ashutosh Agrawal

Shengyou Yang
Surface Instability and Bifurcation of Elastic Materials
**ADVISOR:** Dr. Yi-Chao Chen

**MASTER OF SCIENCE IN AEROSPACE ENGINEERING**

David C. Thoerig

**MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING**

Jose R. Granda

**MASTER OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERING**

Michael Harville
Brian A. Heasley
Jieni Li

**MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CHEMICAL ENGINEERING**

Padma Clare Schwenzer

**MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CIVIL ENGINEERING**

Awad Khalid Altom
Mohammad Amini
Kathryn Elizabeth Anderson
Yara Hassan Bittar
Manisha Chelluri
Mustafa Dal
Mahesh Gupta Kapuganti
Jawad Mohammad Khalid
Norma Ali Khan
Vivek Kummari
Zhiyang Li
Christopher Michael McClusky

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Aleksandra Simicevic
Roshan Sirsat
Omar Jamal Solaija
Priyanka Tirumalaraju
Jeremy Thanh Vo
Yun-Chen Wu
Yueyue Xie

Afsar Pasha Mohmad Abdul
Austin Wayne Mortimer
Victor A. Nelce
Nayana Panduranga
Syed Shah Mohammed Quadri
Janani Radhakrishnan
Vrajesh Kumar Ramini
Anchal Shahi
Sravya Suryadevara

MASTER OF SCIENCE
IN COMPUTER AND SYSTEMS
ENGINEERING

Kranthi Kishore Chintala
Venkata Ravi Teja Varma Kalidindi
Vishakha Laddha
Jawahar Babu Macha
Anukrati Maheshwari
Siddharth Pathak
Keerthika Rengarajan
Srujan Kumar Reddy Thummala

MASTER OF ELECTRICAL
ENGINEERING

Azeem Akram
Reginald A. Banez
Sandeep Burri
Apoorva Reddy Chamala
Pratik Abhay Ghatpande
Nicholas Craig Hernandez
Krishna Saketh Joginapally
Muhammad Ahsan Khan
Veda Gayathri Anusha Madabhushi
Quinn E. Manley
Ramann Bharadwaj Mantha
Amin Merouane

Divya Rishi Dhiman
Aeman Javed
Joanne Macdougall

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN
ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING

Kedarnath Ananth
Gopala Krishna Atmakuru
Harish Balakrishnan
Jesus Alberto Barrios Carvallo
Poonam Barve
Rachna Boddu
Vishwa Srivatsava Chandramouli
Irulappan Chandrasekaran
Umesh Chandra Chappela
Nanda Kishore Chinta
Keerthi Kiran Reddy Devagiri
Chantal Karam
Anupama Kolli

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Kamala Priya Kommineedi
Saideep Koppaka
Nagarjuna Kothamasu
Vivek Maddukuri
Julian David Munoz Bermudez
Pankaj Mutheneni
Mayur Ajay Patil
Krishnamurthy Practur Lakshminarasimhan
Alay Prakashbhai Prajapati
Vignesh Ramesh Sankar
Rajat Saxena
Ajairaj Selvaraj
Jay Mitenkumar Shah
Vivek Baldevbhai Sharda
Abhinav Singhal
Balaje Sumathi Radhakrishan
Vipin Tamane
Venkata Naga Gopi Krishna Vemavaram
Chengran Wang

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING
Balaji Anbunesan
Mamta Shrikrishna Dandekar
Imane Oual
Venkata Satya Pruthvi Naidu Seeramreddi
Rohit Krishna Sridhar

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN MATERIALS SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING
Nikhil Milind Chaudhari

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
Amyn Ajani
Ahmet Akturk
Saeid Amiri

Anil Kumar Balireddy
Akash Bheemavarapu
Pejman Bidad
Saravanan Boopathy
Thirupathi Chekuta
Shabbir Arifhusen Ezzy
Gabriela Furtado Bernardes
Jing Han
Mouhamed Husseini
Deepthi Jammula
Ajay Mathew John
Praveen Kumar Chowdary Katta
Sai Siddardha Kotha
Da Lin
Sean Liu
Prateek Reddy Madini
Sai Ram Kiran Munukutla
Kiran Kumar Reddy Nallapareddy
Raif Nazha
Navya Sree Parvathaneni
Ankit Bhupendrabhai Patel
Nikhilesh Podduturi
Abhilash Puli
Thapaswy Seelam
Musheeruddin Zubair Syed
Manohar Thummapudi
Srikar Vadamani
Sudeep Kumar Vardhanapu

MASTER OF PETROLEUM ENGINEERING
Sammie Olusegun Apetuje
Tarun Barthwal
Li Shi
Patrick Alan Storer
Juyu Wang
Hui Zhang

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Cullen College of Engineering
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MASTER OF SCIENCE
IN PETROLEUM ENGINEERING
Shail Shakunt Apte
Mohab Mohamed Kamaleldeen Dessouki
Kamaldeen Abiodun Majekodunmi
Manish Kumar Mittal
Akash Sharma
Chenxi Wang

MASTER OF SCIENCE
IN SUBSEA ENGINEERING
Peluoluwa Femi Adejugba
Gavin Echezonachukwu Akunna
Kara Anto
Mohammadhadi Azazpoursaadi
Elmer Barraza
Safia H. Cisse
Stuart Alan Holland
Dilohoa George Igbo
Benjamin Robert Kobe
Jaechol Lee
Ademola Olugbenga Oladinni
Chukwudi Dennis Omire
Charles Omoruan

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE
IN CHEMICAL ENGINEERING
Cherif Adeyemi Alade
Connor Harrison Fernandez ²
Hy K. Lai ⁶
Bin Zhang

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE
IN CIVIL ENGINEERING
Youssaira Belmokadem ²
Pedro Manuel Bonilla
Matthias Heinrich Bowman

Jennifer Renee Bradt
Angelica Monique Bustos
Oscar Cardenas
Cindy Dong
Walter Noé Garcia
Thalia Izela Gonzalez
Tyler Q. Ho
Joel Brian Huber
David R. Ibaque Gail ¹
Mengyang Jiang ³
Sara Karouni
Robyn Elaine Lancaster
David H. Le
Daniella Marina Llinas ³
Darren Minh Lu
Aaron Steven N. Mendoza
Jorge Mendoza
Johnson Huu Nguyen
Phuong Hong Thanh Nguyen ²
Tuan Quoc Nguyen
Dixie Danielle Odell
Alexsander Ortega
Carlos Enrique Pacas
Pratik Patel
Jonathan Andrew Perez
Brittnie Rose Powell
Leonel Jesus Prieto Urribarri
Michael A. Rappold
Travis J. Rhoads
Diego Armando Salinas
Aisulu Saliyeva ²
Julius Caesar Ursua Serrano
Brigitte Djouissi Simo
Christina Maureen Smith
Ayesha Sousan Sohail
Felix A. Vergara Macias ²

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⁵ University Honors with Honors in Major - ⁶ University Honors - ⁷ Honors in Major - ⁸ Collegiate Honors
Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering

Raul Orlando Cabrera Alarcon
James Douglas Crabtree

Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering

Danny Khalil Abounasr
Elmer E. Berrones
Jordan Danielle Berry
Jordan Mark Bowman ⁶
Hieu Trong Bui
Jonathan J. Cantu
Matthew Austin Casella
Antonio Cashiola
Chi-Lun Chu ²,⁸
David Eguren
Mary Hany Faltaous
Aman Fatma
Avish Paresh Gandhi ³
Cesar Helmut Garcia
Sriram Goparaju
Javier Herrera
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Hamza A. Khawaja
Orapun Phuthomdi
Ahmad Rifai
Léon Joseph Smith Jr.

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Walid Barghouti
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Ryan Alexander Kitching
Christopher Ryan Kolanek
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Michel Ross Lopez
Jesus E. Rodriguez Garcia
Joshua Charles Seitz ⁶
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Cesar Oswaldo Vasquez Flores ²,⁴,⁵
Ethan Windish

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⁵ University Honors with Honors in Major - ⁶ University Honors - ⁷ Honors in Major - ⁸ Collegiate Honors
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Summer 2015

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
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Naze Gul Avci
The Influence of Human Umbilical Vein Endothelial Cells in the Formation of Glioblastoma Spheroids in Three-Dimensional Microwells
ADVISOR: Dr. Metin Akay

Hasan Onur Keles
Investigation of Neurovascular Coupling with Multimodal Imaging System: A FNIRS-EEG Study
ADVISOR: Dr. Ahmet Omurtag

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IN CHEMICAL AND BIOMOLECULAR ENGINEERING

Tayebeh Hamzehlouyan
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Ivan Liadi
High-Throughput Single-Cell Functional and Molecular Profiling of Immune Cells in Cancer Immunotherapy
ADVISOR: Dr. Navin Varadarajan

Balakrishnan Ramesh
Engineering Substrate Specificity of Mammalian Proteases
ADVISOR: Dr. Navin Varadarajan

Sachi Shrestha
Understanding the Behavior of Bi-functional Catalyst in Selective Catalytic Oxidation of Ammonia to Nitrogen
ADVISOR: Dr. Michael P. Harold

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
IN CIVIL ENGINEERING

Hossein Karagah
FRP-Confined Grout Systems for Underwater Rehabilitation of Corroded Steel Bridge Piles
ADVISOR: Dr. Mina Dawood

Amirhossein Mohammadipour
Interface Fracture in Masonry Composites: A Lattice Approach
ADVISOR: Dr. Kasper Willam

Maruti Kumar Mudunuru
On Enforcing Maximum Principles and Element-Wise Species Balance for Advection-Diffusion-Reactive Systems
ADVISOR: Dr. Kalyana Babu Nakshatrala

Guang Yang
Material Laws of FRP Strengthened Reinforced Concrete Under Uniaxial Tension and Biaxial Tension-Compression Stress Fields
ADVISOR: Dr. Abdeldjelil Belarbi

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

Ela Bulut
Reaction Kinetics of Metal Deposition by Surface Limited Redox Replacement of UPD Monolayer
ADVISOR: Dr. Stanko R. Brankovic

Ruoli Jiang
Manipulating Cells with a Dynamically Reconfigurable Electro-Magnetic Coil
ADVISORS: Dr. Ben Jansen and Dr. Ji Chen

Linsen Wu
Reconfigurable Optical Networks and Multi-Photon Quantum Cryptography
ADVISOR: Dr. Yuhua Chen
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Wireless Power Transfer for Oil Well Applications
ADVISOR: Dr. Ji Chen

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Modeling Vulnerability of a Highly Industrialize Estuary to Storm Surge with a Coupled ADCIRC, SWAN and EFDC System
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Katarina Irene Sunga Mongcopa
Phase Behavior of Polymer-Grafted Nanoparticles
ADVISOR: Dr. Ramanan Krishnamoorti

Wenlan Qiu
Application of Gettering Layers for Low Temperature Conversion of Magnetic Oxides into Ferromagnetic Metals in Thin Films, Multilayers, and Nanostructured Arrays
ADVISOR: Dr. Dmitri Litvinov

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN MATERIALS SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

Guoliang He
Investigation of Dielectrophoresis-Directed Fluidic Assembly
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Shuyin Jiao
Molecular Dynamics Study of Radiation and Creep Response of Nanotwinned FCC Metals
ADVISOR: Dr. Yashashree Kulkarni

Ali Khadimallah
Processing for Improved Creep Behavior of Ultra-High Temperature Ceramics
ADVISOR: Dr. Kenneth White

Lingling Yin
Aeroelastic and Hydrodynamic Loads and Structural Dynamics of Large MW-Scale Offshore Wind Turbines in Shallow-Water GOM
ADVISOR: Dr. Su Su Wang

Fatemeh Zamanian
Nonlinear Controller Design for Regulating Systems
ADVISOR: Dr. Matthew Franchek

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

Ryan Dowty

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CIVIL ENGINEERING

Dewan Rakibul Islam
Jared Kowis
Lilian Nguyen
Sara Ranjbarian

MASTER OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

FNU Priyanka
Jorge Sosa
Srinath Vedantam

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING

Caitlin Meyer

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Master of Industrial Engineering
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Alican Bodur
Sai Srikanth Reddy Devireddy
Akanksha Marwaha
Ritesh Pottam
Srujana Annapurna Thimmavajjala
Maria Fernanda Veracierto Martin

Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering
Weijie Wang

Master of Petroleum Engineering
Jae Ho Lee
Kanat Takhanov

Master of Science in Petroleum Engineering
Nitinkumar Lalitkumar Chaudhary
Supriya Gupta

Master of Science in Petroleum Completion and Well Intervention Engineering
Frederick Woodward

Master of Science in Petroleum Well Design Engineering
Mark Smith

Master of Science in Subsea Engineering
Nebolisa Egbonike
Benjamin Mobolaji Oviosu
Rohit Pandurang Todkar

Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering
Austen Peterson Friedrichs
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Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering
Rawa Almadhaji

Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering
James Patrick McConathy
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Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering
Olivia Nellie Pacheco
Aaron John Petryk
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All hail to thee,
Our Houston University.
Our hearts fill with gladness
When we think of thee.
We’ll always adore thee
Dear old varsity.
And to thy memory cherished,
True we’ll ever be.

Words and music by Harmony Class of 1942
Academic Regalia

THE ATTIRE of the participants dates back to the 12th and 13th centuries, when universities began to be established in Europe. In 1321, at the University of Coimbra in Portugal, gowns were required attire not just for faculty members, but also for students of all classifications. Other European universities started requiring gowns, but there was not a standard design. In 1887, Gardner Leonard volunteered to design the graduation gowns for his class at Williams College. His design, as well as the standardization of colors to denote areas of study, were later adopted by an intercollegiate commission, and are the ones used today by most United States colleges and universities.

GOWNS. The bachelor’s gown has long pointed sleeves; the master’s gown has an oblong sleeve open at the wrists (some older gowns may be open near the upper part of the arm); the doctoral gown is fuller than the others with full-length velvet panels on the front and three velvet crossbars on each sleeve in black or in the color distinctive to the academic discipline 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 academic discipline to which the degree pertains; the field of the hood denotes 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 to the center of the cap is black, although it may be the color appropriate to the subject of the degree. The tassel for the doctoral cap may be of gold thread. Candidates for bachelor’s degrees wear the tassels on the right side, shifting it to the left side after being awarded their degrees. Candidates for master’s and doctoral degrees wear their tassels on the left side from the outset and do not shift them after receiving their degrees.

| BACHELOR’S DEGREES | Gown: Black  
|                    | Tassel: Orange |
| MASTER’S DEGREES   | Gown: Black  
|                    | Hood: Orange  
|                    | Tassel: Black |
| DOCTORAL DEGREES   | Gown: Black  
|                    | Hood: Dark Blue  
|                    | Tassel: Old Gold |
A special thanks to the Convocation Committee and volunteers who assisted in making this memorable event possible.

Convocation Committee

Fallon Noel  
*Convocation Co-Coordinator and Administrative Assistant*

Brandon Green  
*Convocation Co-Coordinator and Academic Records Coordinator, Undergraduate Student Success*

Shirley Mate  
*Academic Advisor III*

Miranda Vernon-Harrison  
*Academic Records Coordinator*

Roshawnda Anderson  
*Assistant to the Dean*

Volunteers

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- Evette Adams
- Abraham Blanco
- Sree Boyapalli
- Yolanda Brooks-Brown
- Fei Fei Cheng
- Rachel Craig
- Ambria Deweber
- Jenna Donnelly
- Jennifer Dunn
- Cyrena Edwards
- Veronica Ellison
- Katelyn Finnegan
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- Antonio Hurt
- Trina Johnson
- Sarah Kraft
- Charisma Lattao

- Andreeka Lewis
- My-Dung Lieu
- Olga Litvinova
- Caitlin MacNeil
- Kaitlin Mallory
- Emily McGovern
- Lupe Munoz
- Vaibhave Patel
- Tracy Pringer
- Jose Rodriguez
- Lesley Sisk
- Cecily Smith
- Nicolette Solano
- Anne Sturm
- Yolanda Thomas
- Monica Trevino
- Shanequea White
- Brandie Yale