





Letter from the Dean

Dear College of the Arts Graduates,

Congratulations!

You are here today because of all you have achieved at the University of Houston. You have worked tirelessly to master your craft, cultivating skills that position you at the forefront of the performing and visual arts. You have collectively spent thousands of hours rehearsing, researching, performing and designing on the University campus and beyond. You have added to our city's rich and vibrant culture through community-centric projects and programs designed to promote Houston's diverse arts community.

Now, as the next generation of creators, performers, artists and collaborators, the world is at your fingertips—just waiting for you to make your mark. My advice to you is to remain curious, investigate your environment and reimagine the possibilities of creative practices in our complex, 21st century world.

As you leave the College of the Arts to embark on your career and the next stage of your life, I know your future is bright. I look forward to seeing the impact you will make on our community, our city and our world. Please stay in touch with us! You can contact me at adavis@uh.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Davis". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Andrew Davis
Dean



Convocation Speaker

STUART OSTROW was Frank Loesser's apprentice and became the Vice President and General Manager of Frank Music Corp. and Frank Productions, Inc., the Broadway co-producers of: *The Most Happy Fella*, *The Music Man*, *Greenwillow*, and *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*.

As a solo producer, his many original award-winning Broadway and West End productions include: "*M. Butterfly*," which won the Tony Award for Best Play, "*Pippin*" and "*1776*," which received both the New York and London Drama Critics Awards as well as the Tony Award for Best Musical. He also produced,

"*The Apple Tree*," produced and directed "*Here's Love*," was the associate director of "*Chicago*," and the author of "*Stages*," on Broadway.

Mr. Ostrow established the Stuart Ostrow Foundation's Musical Theatre Lab in 1973, a non-profit, professional workshop for original musical theatre, the first of its kind. Since its inception, the MTLab has presented 32 experimental new works, including "*The Robber Bridegroom*," by Alfred Uhry and Robert Waldman; "*Really Rosie*," by Maurice Sendak and Carole King; "*Up From Paradise*," by Arthur Miller and Stanley Silverman; and "*Medea*," by Robert Wilson.

Stuart Ostrow is a trained musician, choral conductor-arranger and clarinetist. He has served on the Board of Governors of The League of New York Theatres, the Advisory Committee of The New York Public Library and the Board of Directors of the American National Theatre and Academy. He has also served on The Overseer's Committee to visit Harvard's Loeb Drama Center and was a founding panel member of the Opera-Musical Theatre Program of the National Endowment for the Arts.

Additionally, Ostrow produced the original Broadway production of "*La Bête*," which also won the Olivier Award for Best Comedy, and was honored as Producer of the Year by the National Alliance for Musical Theatre. He holds the Hugh Roy and Lillie Cranz Cullen University Professorship at the University of Houston and is the author of "*A Producer's Broadway Journey*," "*Thank You Very Much: The Little Guide to Auditioning for the Musical Theatre*," and "*Present at the Creation, Leaping in the Dark; and 'Going Against The Grain: 1776, Pippin, M. Butterfly, La Bête and Other Broadway Adventures*," which was voted one of the Top Ten Arts Books 2006 by Booklist. Mr. Ostrow has served as a member of the Pulitzer Prize Drama Jury and is the Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Institute for Advanced Study in Musical Theatre. The New York Public Library For The Performing Arts Billy Rose Theatre Collection has recently acquired his archive.

University of Houston
College of the Arts

Convocation

Friday, December 16, 2016, 10 a.m.
Moores Opera House

PROCESSIONAL	Faculty Banner Bearers Platform Party Dean Andrew Davis
INTRODUCTORY REMARKS	David Bertman <i>Associate Dean</i>
NATIONAL ANTHEM	ManCorps
WELCOME	Andrew Davis <i>Margaret M. Alkek and Margaret Alkek Williams Endowed Chair & Dean</i>
PERFORMANCE	ManCorps
INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE SPEAKER	Dean Davis
CONVOCATION ADDRESS	Stuart Ostrow <i>Hugh Roy and Lillie Cranz Cullen University Professorship</i>
PERFORMANCE	School of Theatre and Dance
PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES	Rex Koontz <i>Director, School of Art</i> Fleurette Fernando <i>Director, Master of Arts in Arts Leadership</i> Blake Wilkins <i>Director (Interim), Moores School of Music</i> Rob Shimko <i>Director, School of Theatre and Dance</i>
CLOSING REMARKS	Dean Davis
ALMA MATER	ManCorps
RECESSIONAL	

Name readers: Sara Becker, *Associate Professor of Voice and Shakespeare*
Jim Johnson, *Associate Professor of Voice, Speech & Dialects*

Event music provided by Moores School of Music Brass Quintet. A reception will be held in the Lobby of the Opera House immediately after the ceremony. Refreshments will be served.



About the College of the Arts

With the launch of the UH College of the Arts in the fall of 2016, the University of Houston merged its performing and visual entities to create a mecca of creativity and collaboration in one of America's most culturally diverse cities.

The city of Houston is one of our nation's great arts destinations and one of only five U.S. cities with permanent professional resident companies in symphony, opera, ballet and theatre. Houston's creative economy is a \$26 billion industry, employing nearly 180,000 highly-skilled and talented individuals. The UH College of the Arts is committed to providing a platform for emerging young artists and educators to connect with the city through local resources, partnerships and community engagement.

Our award-winning, internationally-distinguished faculty provides top-quality instruction to artists and educators from our constituent units, which include the School of Art, Moores School of Music and the School of Theatre and Dance, as well as the Master of Arts Leadership Program, Blaffer Art Museum, the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Center for the Arts and the Center for Art and Social Engagement.

The UH College of the Arts firmly believes in the transformative power of the arts and their ability to positively shape the world. Our mission, above all else, is to enrich and empower our students, our community and the world.

Administration

Andrew Davis

Dean

David Bertman

Associate Dean

Blake Wilkins

Director, Moores School of Music

Rex Koontz

Director, School of Art

Robert Shimko

Director, School of Theatre & Dance

Karen Stokes

Director, Dance Program, School of Theatre & Dance

Fleurette Fernando

Director, M.A. in Arts Leadership

James Rosengren

Acting Managing Director, Blaffer Art Museum

Karen Farber

Director, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Center for the Arts

Sixto Wagan

Director, Center for Art and Social Engagement

School of Art

Samuel Thomas Ackerman
Instructional Assistant

Charis Renee Ammon
Teaching Fellow

Lauren Howell Anderson
Instructional Assistant

Keliy Anderson-Staley
Assistant Professor

Maryam Athari
Instructional Assistant

Robert N. Barbee
Affiliate Artist

Cheryl A. Beckett
Associate Professor

Michael W. Bise
Affiliate Artist

Heather Bisesti
Teaching Fellow

Cristina Bizman
Affiliate Artist

Suzanne Bloom
Professor Emeritus

Katherine Morris Boeckman
Instructional Assistant

James Phillip Castillo
Instructional Assistant

Carmen Melanie Champion
Affiliate Artist

Michael Ray Charles
Endowed Chair and Professor

Lauren Nicole Christlieb
Teaching Fellow

Candace Clements
Affiliate Artist

Dylan DeBock Conner
Instructional Assistant

Jillian Conrad
Associate Professor

Kyla Marie Crawford
Teaching Fellow

Adam Zachary Crosson
Affiliate Artist

Jaime M. De Vega
Affiliate Artist

Beckham Dossett
Associate Professor

Scott Dulaney
Teaching Fellow

Trey Lyndon Duvall
Teaching Assistant

Isaac Santiago Farley
Instructional Assistant

Sunni N. Forcier
Instructional Assistant

John Michael Forse
Affiliate Artist

Dana M. Frankfort
Assistant Professor

Hang Gao
Instructional Assistant

Elicia E. Garcia
Affiliate Artist

Francis A. Giampietro
Affiliate Artist

Briana G. Gonzalez
Instructional Assistant

Lauren Elizabeth Greve
Instructional Assistant

Sibylle Hagmann
Professor

John H. Hanna
Associate Professor

Erika Whitney Harper
Teaching Fellow

Natilee O. Harren
Assistant Professor

Rachel G. Hecker
Associate Professor

Laura Lee Hill
Instructional Assistant

Stephan C. Hillerbrand
Associate Professor

Geoff Elton Hippenstiel
Affiliate Artist

Clara Grace Hoag
Affiliate Artist

Danielle Aldea Hodgins
Teaching Fellow

David L. Jacobs
Professor Emeritus

Tracey Lynn Keller
Instructional Assistant

Christopher Kilgore
Instructional Assistant

Paul A. Kittelson
Associate Professor

Rex A. Koontz
Professor

Cierra Frances Linander
Instructional Assistant

Cindy Teresa Lisica
Affiliate Artist

Lauren Elizabeth Lohman
Instructional Assistant

Rick Lowe
Clinical Associate Professor

Kathryn E. Martin-Beal
Instructional Assistant

Barry Gabriel Martinez
Affiliate Artist

Patrick D. Masterson
Visiting Assistant Professor

Jessica T. McCaslin
Instructional Assistant

Fiona McGettigan
Associate Professor

Jordan Matthew McGroary
Instructional Assistant

Abinadi Meza
Associate Professor

Delilah Montoya
Professor

Laura Napier
Affiliate Artist

Hugh R. Nevitt, Jr.
Associate Professor

Luisa Orto
Affiliate Artist

Hibah Hassan Osman
Instructional Assistant

Aaron Parazette
Professor

David Politzer
Associate Professor

Leopoldine Prosperetti
Instructional Professor

James Eugene Radcliffe
Teaching Fellow

Jonathan Robert Read
Teaching Fellow

John G. Reed
Professor

Lauren Rosenblum
Affiliate Artist

Meyer R. Rubinstein
Professor

Rajab Ali Sayed
Instructional Assistant

Amanda P. Schilling
Instructional Assistant

Michael J. Sicinski
Affiliate Artist

Tom W. So
Affiliate Artist

Gael Stack
Professor

Judith Steinhoff
Associate Professor

Katherine A. Stephens
Instructional Assistant

Lindsey Rose Stern
Instructional Assistant

Christopher P. Switzer
Affiliate Artist

James Eric Thayer
Teaching Fellow

Michael Alex Toskovich
Affiliate Artist

Sharon Joy Turner
Teaching Fellow

Kelli S. Vance
Affiliate Artist

Christopher J. Wallace
Affiliate Artist

Elise Nicole Weber
Instructional Assistant

Brenda Wolf
Affiliate Artist

Sandra Zalman
Associate Professor

Master of Arts in Arts Leadership

Fleurette Fernando
Instructional Assistant Professor

Carolyn J. Hays
Adjunct Instructor

Terri Engel Golas
Adjunct Instructor

Zachary Gresham
Adjunct Instructor

Andrea Lazar
Adjunct Instructor

Brendettae Payne
Adjunct Instructor

Assata Richards
Adjunct Instructor

Jade Simmons
Adjunct Instructor

Jerome S. Socolof
Adjunct Instructor

Moore School of Music

Robert R. Atherholt
Visiting Professor

James L. Austin
Professor Emeritus

Mark Barton
Instructional Assistant Professor

Robert Bates
Professor

John M. Benzer
Lecturer

Paul A. Bertagnolli
Associate Professor

David Bertman
Associate Professor

Cora Morgan Bigwood
Lecturer

Garreth Paul Broesche
Lecturer

Wayne A. Brooks
Affiliate Artist

Chien-Jung Chen
Lecturer

Cynthia L. Clayton Vasquez
Associate Professor

David W. Clemmer
Assistant Professor

Courtney Crappell
Associate Professor

Andrew Davis
Professor

Adam L. Dinitz
Affiliate Artist

Matthew C. Dirst
Professor

Aralee Dorrough
Affiliate Artist

Aaminah O. Durrani
Clinical Assistant Professor

Joseph Evans
Professor

Jonathan Fischer
Affiliate Artist

Joel Fulgham
Affiliate Artist

Daniel C. Gelok
Instructional Assistant Professor

Andrzej Grabiec
Professor

Randall S. Griffin
Affiliate Artist

Erin Melissa Hansen
Assistant Professor

Raymond Curtis Harvey
Clinical Associate Professor

Charles S. Hausmann
Professor

Timothy E. Hester
Professor

Michael M. Horvit
Professor Emeritus

Mark Alan Hughes
Affiliate Artist

Robert Johnson
Affiliate Artist

Timothy J. Jones
Associate Professor

Julie D. Kastner
Assistant Professor

Brian Keith Kauk
Affiliate Artist

Anthony T. Kitai
Affiliate Artist

David C. Klingensmith
Affiliate Artist

Timothy Koozin
Professor

Franz A. Krager
Endowed Professor

Fredell Lack
Professor Emeritus

Cory James Lafevens
Lecturer

Barbara Rose Lange
Associate Professor

Anna C. Langley
Lecturer

Suzanne LeFevre
Affiliate Artist

Jeffrey C. Lerner
Professor Emeritus

Rebecca Jo Long
Lecturer

Noe J. Marmolejo
Associate Professor

Marcus K. Maroney
Associate Professor

Marc C. Martin
Lecturer

Robert B. Mayes
Faculty Retiree

Lynda Keith McKnight
Affiliate Artist

Ilan Morgenstern
Affiliate Artist

Tali Morgulis
Associate Professor

Jebediah Lee Mueller
Assistant Professor

Robert S. Nelson
Professor Emeritus

Mark E. Nuccio
Affiliate Artist

Ana Maria Otamendi
Visiting Assistant Professor

Howard J. Pollack
Endowed Professor

Gavin Davis Reed
Affiliate Artist

Arnold C. Ross
Endowed Professor

Chester D. Rowell
Affiliate Artist

Peggy Russell
Affiliate Artist

Vagram Saradjian
Professor

Abbey H. Simon
Endowed Professor

Robert Thomas Smith
Professor

John L. Snyder
Professor

Melanie Sonnenberg
Professor

Jeffrey S. Sposato
Associate Professor

Melissa D. Suhr
Affiliate Artist

Brian J. Suits
Instructional Associate Professor

Katherine L. Turner
Visiting Assistant Professor

Hector A. Vasquez
Affiliate Artist

Jim Cates Vassallo
Faculty Retiree

Danny S. Vinson
Affiliate Artist

Elise L. Wagner
Affiliate Artist

Robert McNamee Walp
Affiliate Artist

Paul Alexander Warren
Affiliate Artist

Mary E. Weber
Professor

Nancy E. Weems
Endowed Professor

Carl Welch
Lecturer

Lawrence B. Wheeler
Associate Professor

Mike Wheeler
Affiliate Artist

David A. White
Professor

Dennis J. Whittaker
Affiliate Artist

Blake M. Wilkins
Professor and Chair

Woodrow W. Witt
Affiliate Artist

Kirsten A. Yon
Associate Professor

School of Theatre & Dance

John J. Beasant III
Assistant Professor

Sara E. Becker
Associate Professor

Carolyn Houston Boone
Associate Professor

Rachel R. Bush
Instructional Assistant Professor

Teresa L. Chapman
Associate Professor

Alison L. Christy
Visiting Assistant Professor

Lauren E. Cohen
Lecturer

Charles G. Cooper
Instructional Assistant Professor

Jacquelynn S. deMontmollin
Instructional Associate Professor

James B. Johnson
Associate Professor

Riolama Mercedes Lorenzo-Lasa
Lecturer

Jonathan Mark Middents
Associate Professor

Jacqueline A. Nalett
Lecturer

Barbara Niederer
Instructional Assistant Professor

Adam S. Noble
Associate Professor

Melissa Lynn Noble
Lecturer

Stuart Ostrow
Professor

Firat Kazbek Ozsoy
Lecturer

Kenneth E. Poston
Visiting Assistant Professor

Theresa J. Rebeck
Distinguished University Professor

Kevin L. Rigdon
Professor

Robert B. Shimko
Associate Professor, Chair

College of the Arts

FACULTY

Karen E. Stokes
Professor

Toni Leago Valle
Lecturer

Rebecca B. Valls
Associate Professor

Claremarie H. Verheyen
Associate Professor

Steven W. Wallace
Professor

Paige A. Willson
Instructional Associate Professor

John M. Young
Associate Professor

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 graduate with Collegiate Honors. 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 graduate with Membership in The Honors College. 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.

Honors Recipients

University Honors with Honors in Major

Shaun Lesniewicz

Anna Montgomery

Membership in The Honors College

Doris Xu

MASTER OF FINE ARTS

School of Art

Art

Jaime M. De Vega

MASTER OF ARTS

Arts Leadership

Kayla Marie Boffone
Olivia Howell-Wilson
Michael McFadden

School of Theatre & Dance

Theatre

Amanda Renee Brundrett
John Christopher Castilleja
Marisa A. Galt
Jennifer Leslie Gover
Larry Johnson, Jr.
Amira Judeh
Victoria Lynn Kesling
RaMina Elizabeth Mirmortazavi
Michael Arthur Morales
Karah Lynn Roche
Kelsey Kay Scott
Laura H. Smith
Valerie Melinda Vollono

Moores School of Music

MASTER OF MUSIC

John Matthew Kirk
Lisa Renee Morales
Ramon Octavio Moreno Moran
Emily Elizabeth Whaley

**BACHELOR OF ARTS
BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS**

School of Art

Art

Debra Lyn Adams
Celina Jazmin Amezquita ³
Yusra Baig
Gabriella Lissette Bazan ³
Sarah Jennings Bramlett
Katherine Renee Bunting ³
Tien D. Dang ²
Ariel Lyvonne Davis
Susana Duran ³
Luis Erazo
Raul H. Gonzalez
Michael Graves
Stephanie Michelle Hooks ^{1,4}
Amanda Hughes
Ashton Elizabeth Kaminski-Ditzel
Joseph Hamun Kho
Matthew B. Kimball ³
Sahibah Zehra Kugshia
Marshay Nicole Lewis
Jeorgia Nicole Lippincott
William Merrill ²
Venez Kimberly Penilla
Kathryn Lynn Phelps
Logan Gray Smith
Cristal Elizabeth Soto
Jia Qi Su
Melissa Tompkins
Andrea Valdez
Victoria Verastegui
Teresa Vicinanza ²
Laura Caitlyn Weber ²

¹ Summa Cum Laude - ² Magna Cum Laude - ³ Cum Laude - ⁴ Banner Bearer (highest GPA)

Art History

Chelsea L. Cooper
Kara Elizabeth Cothorn³
Andrew P. Fowler
Marie Smith Ullrich
Edith Villasenor²

Painting

Jessica Caruso³
Heather Nicole Denuijl³
Rico Nichollas Edwards
Sierra Deguerre Forester
Roderick D. Gipson
Justin L. Henderson
Da'Vonte Lyons³
Logan A. Malloy^{1,4}
Meredith Ellen Schipper²
Douglas Wayne Wylie
Doris L. Xu

Photography/Digital Media

Carlos A. Carrasco

Sculpture

Lenore Francene Caston-Miller²
Glenn Brian Dawson³
Clare Malloy Hulfish
Kandise Jyne Ponce

Moores School of Music

Applied Music

Emilie Devereux Catlett³
Aaron Griffin³
Jacob Jordan Gutierrez

Zachary Agapito Gutierrez

Nora Catherine Henschen³
Shaun H. Lesniewicz
Gregory Andrew Lewis
Delaney K. Marth
Anna Montgomery^{2,4}
Jazmine Simone Olwalia
Lilian A. Schmidt
Stephen Thomas Wadenpfohl

Instrumental Music Education

Alan M. Cabrera³
Drake J. Eckhart
Jacob Jordan Gutierrez
Zachary Agapito Gutierrez
Ashley Denyse Lacy
Shaun H. Lesniewicz³
Melissa Ann Marandola²
Hannah E. Reed

Music

Brett Jeffrey Bousley
Dan Thuy Nguyen
John Joseph Rehak
John Amar Velasco
Justin Ryon Zarate

School of Theatre and Dance

Theatre

Leila Kousheshi
John McKee Peeples^{3,4}

Dance

Alma White

¹ Summa Cum Laude - ² Magna Cum Laude - ³ Cum Laude - ⁴ Banner Bearer (highest GPA)

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

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, as later adopted by an intercollegiate commission, and is the one 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.

DOCTORAL DEGREES	<i>Gown:</i>	Black
	<i>Hood:</i>	Royal blue
	<i>Hood (Music):</i>	Pink
	<i>Tassel:</i>	Red
MASTER'S DEGREES	<i>Gown:</i>	Black
	<i>Hood (Art):</i>	White
	<i>Hood (Music):</i>	Pink
	<i>Hood (Theatre):</i>	Brown
	<i>Tassel:</i>	Black
BACHELOR'S DEGREES	<i>Gown:</i>	Black
	<i>Tassel:</i>	Brown

A special thanks to the Convocation Team who assisted in making this memorable event possible.

Convocation Committee

Fallon Noel
Rachel Bush
Andrea Johnson
Jackie deMontmollin
Marc Martin
Kevin Rigdon
Carrie Young

Thom Guthrie, Jason Burton, Afshin Farzadfar and the Moores Opera House Staff

Sara Becker	Jim Johnson
Meera Bowman-Johnson	Lauren Keiser
Sammy Butts	Stacia Morgan
Natashia Craft	Jeb Mueller
Isaac Davis	Tracy Ngo
Kristin Deville	Stuart Ostrow
Sarah Hardin	Aaron Parazette
Allyson Huntsman	Paul Rousse, Jr.
Kelly Ibarra	Ornela Santee
Monnika Jacobs	Omar Sheikh
Erika Jimenez	Natalie Thayer

