College of Nursing

Graduation and Pinning Ceremony
Saturday, December 16, 2017
December 2017

Dear University of Houston Graduates:

Congratulations on this most memorable day of your college career! The degree you are about to receive symbolizes the world-class, tier-one education you obtained at the University of Houston.

There were many factors that contributed to your success. The support of your parents, families and friends, and the encouragement of your faculty, advisors and staff played a significant part. But what made it all possible was the personal commitment, drive and resolve that helped you cross the finish line. We take profound satisfaction in knowing these same attributes will serve you well as you make your mark in the world.

Please leave today as proud UH graduates, confident you are the best prepared, best educated and best equipped individuals of your generation. I know in my heart that you are now ready and able not just to compete, but to succeed and be leaders in your chosen careers.

With my best wishes for a bright and rewarding future,

Renu Khator
President, University of Houston
Letter from the Dean

Dear Nursing Graduates,

You are exemplary nursing graduates from the University of Houston! You have earned the BSN or MSN degree and you are now UH Nurses ready to be pinned with UH Nursing pin. Thank you for being a student at the University of Houston and thank you for choosing to be a nurse!

Your education at the College of Nursing has equipped you to embark upon your career as a nurse leader and nurse clinician. During your time at the University of Houston as a nursing student, you have collectively spent thousands of hours in clinical, classroom, simulation labs, and volunteering, thus adding to the strength and vibrancy of our community and our profession. I am especially proud of those who volunteered during and after the hurricane. Thank you.

I look forward to seeing the impact your careers and professional contributions will have on the future of healthcare 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 College of Nursing. We welcome and invite you to become “life members” of the UH alumni association. You will always have a special honor by being a UH Nurse. You will be reminded of this distinct honor each time you wear your nursing pin, engage with the College of Nursing or the University of Houston.

Congratulations Nursing Cougars!

Sincerely,

Kathryn M. Tart, EdD, MSN, RN
Founding Dean and Professor
Speaker

Kathryn M. Tart, EdD, MSN, RN  
Founding Dean and Professor  
The University of Houston, College of Nursing

Dr. Tart serves as founding dean and professor for the College of Nursing at the University of Houston. The nursing programs are offered at the University of Houston, UH Sugar Land and Victoria, Texas. She earned her bachelor’s degree in nursing from Luther College, in Decorah, Iowa; master’s degree in nursing from the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio; and doctorate in Higher Education Supervision and Administration, with an emphasis in Educational Leadership and Cultural Studies, from the University of Houston. Her work in nursing education includes teaching at Victoria College, in Victoria, Texas, Texas Woman’s University in the Texas Medical Center where she coordinated the undergraduate program, and the Founding Dean for the University of Houston-Victoria. She was a Helene Fuld Fellow with American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) and completed the HERS Summer Institute for Women in Higher Education Administration at Bryn Mawr College in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania. UH’s undergraduate and graduate nursing programs have full accreditation by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education and full approval from the Texas Board of Nursing. She received the inaugural American Association of Colleges of Nursing Advocate of the Year award in 2009 for her work in advocating for nursing education. She serves on the Government Affairs Committee for the American Association of Colleges of Nursing in Washington, DC. She is past President of the nursing honor society, Phi Chi Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International. Dean Tart research includes the Advancement in Nursing Education in Nursing I and II (APIN) grants, funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. She is President-Elect for the Texas Association of Deans and Directors of Professional Nursing Programs for the State of Texas. The College of Nursing ranks in the top 5% of the nation with a 100% NCLEX-RN first time pass rate for 2015, 2016 and 2017. The first three graduating classes of Family Nurse Practitioners have a 100% first time pass rate on the national certification exam. The College of Nursing received the inaugural Health Professions Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) award in 2016 and 2017. It is the only national award for diversity and inclusion in higher education.
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
University of Houston
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PROCESSIONAL  “Four Seasons” by Vivaldi

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS  Kathryn Tart, EdD, MSN, RN
Founding Dean and Professor

REGENT REMARKS  Durga D. Agrawal
Member, UH System Board of Regents
President, CEO Piping Technology & Products, Inc.

SPEAKER  Dean Tart

DESCRIPTION OF PIN  Dean Tart

PINNING OF BACHELOR CANDIDATES  Patricia Schrader, MSN, RN, CMSRN
Assistant Clinical Professor/
Second Degree BSN Manager

Sandra Lee, PhD, MSN, RN, CNE
Assistant Clinical Professor/RN to BSN Manager

HOODING AND PINNING OF MASTER CANDIDATE  Kathleen Reeve, DrPH, ANP-BC, FNP-C
Associate Dean and Clinical Professor
and College of Nursing Faculty

Dean Tart

PRESENTATION OF BACHELOR AND MASTER CANDIDATES  Dr. Kathleen Reeve

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES  Dean Tart

FLORENCHE NIGHTINGALE PLEDGE AND LIGHTING CEREMONY  Sonya Wade, DNSc, APRN, FNP-BC, RN

FAREWELL FROM THE FACULTY  Dr. Kathleen Reeve

ALMA MATER  Andrea Montano
Moore School of Music

RECESSIONAL  “Radetzky Waltz” by Strauss
College of Nursing

GRADUATING STUDENTS

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Fall 2017

SECOND DEGREE BSN GRADUATES

Nimmy Abraham
Fereshteh Abuzar
Asrar Ahmed
Allison Anne Artz
Meghan Elizabeth Atchison
Chika I. Ayozie
Gloria Jenina Banuelos
Amber Barnes
Angelina Nicole Beitzel
Alyson Catherine Bell
Shelby L. Bilbrey
Eseigenete Chrishell Biresaw
Lindsay Boone
Yelineth Del Carmen Bradburn
Suzanne Callejo
Haley Marie Colley
Christopher Cesar Corredor
Devan Crawford
Tarik D. Devic
Elizabeth Anne Di Francesco
Anh Thu Nguyen Dinh
Laura Fernanda Dorsch
Dorte Equitz
Ashraf A. Farhoud
Tomas Josue Feliciano
Ana L. Fernandez
Janette Gonzalez
Adriana Gutierrez
Emily Anne Hardy
Elizabeth June Hawkes
Catherine Rose Hopkins
Merlia L. Hughes
Angelise Y. Jacquet
Christalina J. John
Nelline Johnson
Elena Juarez
Bailey M. Kahn
Britney Kasmir
Jessica Lee Kidwell
Amber Lea Lane
Drew A. Lawler
Jeralyn An Lee
Mary Elizabeth Loughran
Jenna Macha
Kasey Lynn Macha
Amber Nicole Manus
Madison Martin
Brittany Cooper McClain
Monet McKenzie
Silibia Mendoza
Rachel L. Millender
Alyssa C. Mitchell
Aashaqali Momin
Niki Momin
Demetrius S Moore
Gabriela Morrison
Diem Nguyen
Caroleena Ortiz
Gloria Padilla Castro
Jordan Nicole Parker
Jinal V. Patel
Vy Pham
Darla Richelle Pierce
Edward Shen Qu
Erica Lynn Rambo
Isabel Rincon

1 Summa Cum Laude Honors  
2 Magna Cum Laude Honors  
3 Cum Laude Honors  
4 Sigma Theta Tau International Member
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GRADUATING STUDENTS

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Elizabeth Renee Rocha
Katlyn Alyssa Rodriguez
Christina Isabella Saenz
Sarah Valentina Sgarbi
Elizabeth Shaji
Megan Shull
Lara Sizemore
Lakeshia Danielle Stafford
Ahmad Tabbara
Mallory Ann Taber
Lana Kay Taylor
Kimchau Ngoc Tran
Thanh Tan Tran
Sandra Valdez
Stephanie Vargas

James R. Webster
Madeleine Youngblood
Jennifer Jade Zibili

RN TO BSN GRADUATES

McCall Avree Draeger
Sonia M. Ilag
Neal Ryan Labrador
Rebecca Ann Longoria
Stephanie L. Mitchell
Thuong Trong Tran

MASTER GRADUATE

Julie Melynn Zurek

1 Summa Cum Laude Honors 2 Magna Cum Laude Honors 3 Cum Laude Honors
4 Sigma Theta Tau International Member
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Administration

Kathryn Tart, EdD, MSN, RN
Founding Dean and Professor

Kathleen Reeve, DrPH, ANP-BC, FNP-C
Associate Dean and Clinical Professor

Staff

Joan Bauman, BS
Secretary

Marcela Diaz-Ordorica, AS
Secretary

Jo Ann Medina, BSLE
Program Coordinator II

Faye Obey, MS, RN
Retention Specialist

Samer Shammas, MSA
College Business Administrator

Leigh Ann Smith, BS
Executive Administrative Assistant to the Dean

Roberto Tonsul, BS
Information Technology Manager

Tammy Whatley, BAAS
Student Affairs Director
Faculty

Cheryl Brohard, PhD, RN, AOCN, CHPCA, CNS-ONC  
Assistant Professor
Terry D. Kirk, EdD, RN, NEA-BC  
Associate Clinical Professor
Sandra Lee, PhD, MSN, RN, CNE  
Assistant Clinical Professor/ RN to BSN Manager
Lee Anne Lightfoot, MS, RN, NE-BC  
Assistant Clinical Professor
Tracy McManaman-Bridges, MSN, RNC-OB, C-EFM  
Lecturer
Lenora A. McWilliams, PhD, RN  
Assistant Professor

Rosalinda Morales, PhD, APRN, FNP-BC, FAANP  
Assistant Clinical Professor
Earline Moreland, MSN, RN, FNP-BC  
Assistant Clinical Professor
Danielle Quintana, MSN, RN, CNOR  
Assistant Clinical Professor
Patricia Schrader, MSN, RN, CMSRN  
Assistant Clinical Professor/ Second Degree BSN Manager
Shainy Varghese, PhD, MSN, RN, CPNP  
Associate Professor
Sonya Wade, DNSc, APRN, FNP-BC, RN  
Assistant Clinical Professor

Adjuncts

Sylvia Anasi, MSN, RN  
Davida Chatman, MSN, RN  
Lorraine Cull, MSN, RN  
Shermel Edwards-Maddox, MS, RN  
Christina Garza, MSN, RN  
Sofia John, MSN, RN  
Edtrina Moss, MSN, RN  
Kristine Murray, MSN, RN  
Michelle Obey, MSN, RN  
Arielle Olivares, MSN, RN  
Maria E. Perez, BSN, PhD  
Wilhelmina Rich, MSN, RN  
Melissa Wade, MSN, RN, FNP-BC
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Scholarship Donors
Suzanne Benson, Trustee
Vivian L. Smith Foundation
Blomstrom Endowed Scholarship
The George Foundation
Gulf Coast Medical Foundation
Montgomery Family Trust
Fred & Mabel R. Parks Foundation
Provost Paula Myrick Short
Nursing Scholarship
Vivian L. Smith Foundation

Second Degree BSN Clinical Affiliations
CHI St. Lukes Sugar Land Hospital
Cypress Independent School District
Devereaux Advanced Behavioral Health
Fort Bend Independent School District
Harris County Psychiatric Center
Harris Health System
Ben Taub and LBJ Hospitals
Houston Community College-Stafford/
Mental Health America
of Fort Bend County
Houston Independent School District
Houston Methodist Texas Medical Center
Houston Methodist Sugar Land
Houston Methodist West
Houston Methodist Willowbrook
Katy Independent School District
MD Anderson Cancer Center
Memorial Hermann
Memorial City Hospital
Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital
Memorial Hermann Sugar Land Hospital
Shriner’s Hospital
St. Peter’s Preschool
Texana Early Childhood Development Center
Texana Crisis Center
Texas Children’s Hospital
Texas Medical Center
Westpark Springs

RN to BSN Clinical Affiliations
CHI – St Lukes
Memorial Hermann Memorial City
Memorial Hermann Southwest
Memorial Hermann Sugar Land
Houston Hospice
Vantage Hospice

MSN Practicum Affiliation
SE Memorial Hermann
Memorial Hermann,
Texas Medical Center
College of Nursing

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UH Nursing Pin Design Committee

Dean Kathryn Tart (EdD ’99)
Tammy Whatley (Student Affairs Director)
Faiza Akhter (BSN ’15)
Taylor Demeny (BSN ’15)
Amanda Dennler (BSN ’15)
Heather Gray (BSN ’15)
Courtney Harris (BSN ’15)
Heather Haug (BSN ’15)
Teresa Hernandez (BSN ’17)
Adrienne New (BSN ’15)
Adryanne Rozo (BSN ’15)
Julie Schrader (BSN ’15)
Tricia Smith (BSN ’15)

The pin was created by the Pinning Committee in 2015. The pin was designed with thought, precision, and unity. The goals of the design were to represent the school, profession, and contribution to society. The interlocking UH in the center of the circle represents the student’s journey and partnership with the University of Houston and relationships formed along the way. The color red represents passion, advocacy, love, caring, and leadership which are values of UH nursing. The placement of the BSN or MSN on the banner represents the nursing profession and the culmination of the nursing student’s focus. The pin is a symbol of the student’s ultimate goal of earning their nursing degree.
Academic Regalia

College of Nursing

**Bachelor’s Degree**  
*Tassel:* Apricot

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

**Gold Cords**
Undergraduate students who complete the degree requirements with academic honors with 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)

**Purple Cords**
Sigma Theta Tau International, Phi Chi Chapter, the only international honor society in Nursing.

**Red and White Cords**
Spirit cords indicating philanthropy to the College of Nursing.
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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