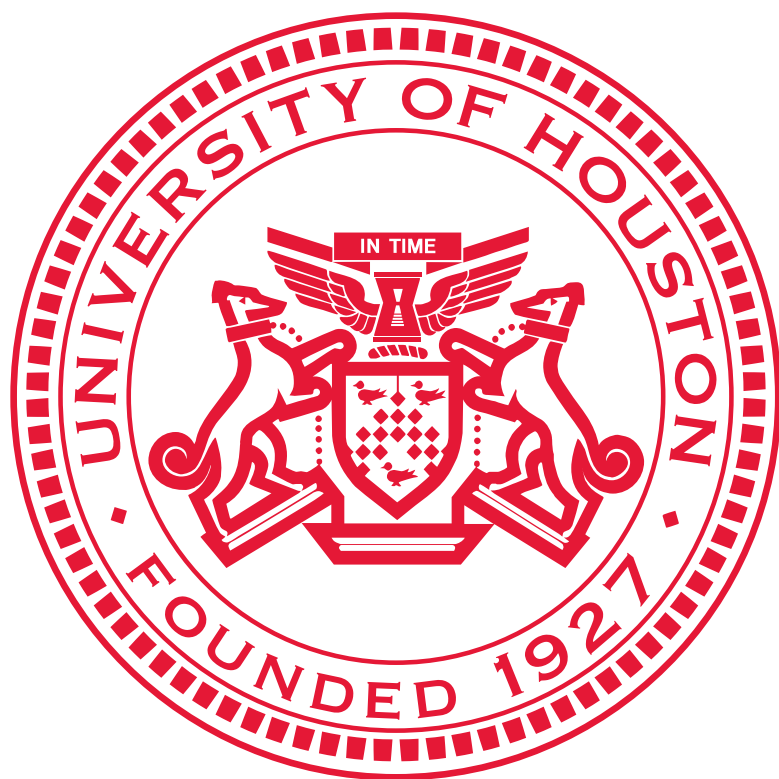




UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON SPRING 2024 COMMENCEMENT

Hobby School of Public Affairs

Thursday, May 9, 2024 • Cullen Performance Hall





University of Houston
Hobby School of Public Affairs

Commencement Ceremony
Thursday, May 9, 2024, 7:00 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

BOARD OF REGENTS

Tilman J. Fertitta, *Chairman*
Alonzo Cantu, *Vice Chairman*
John A. McCall Jr., *Secretary*
Durga D. Agrawal
Gregory C. King
Beth Madison
Jack B. Moore
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University of Houston

PRESIDENT

Renu Khator

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

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Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

Raymond S. Bartlett
Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance

Bettina Beech
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Michael Pedé
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Chris Pezman
Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletics

Jason Smith
Vice President for Government and Community Relations

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

University of Houston Deans

Heidi Appel
Dean
THE HONORS COLLEGE

Leonard M. Baynes
Dean
Hugh Roy and Lillie Cranz Cullen
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 Penalzo

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.





Hobby School of Public Affairs
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

Message from the Dean

You made it! Congratulations!

Today, the Hobby School community joins your loved ones in celebrating your accomplishment.

This commencement marks a special milestone for the Hobby School of Public Affairs, with an inaugural class of undergraduates earning a degree in public policy. The school launched the bachelor's programs in the spring of 2022 to complement graduate degree offerings in public policy. This is also the first time Master of Public Administration graduates will cross the stage as part of the Hobby School.

Your hard work paid off. I believe the "Hobby way" of training provides a firm foundation and an advantage in a dynamic marketplace.

Looking to the future, and I may have mentioned this to some of you before, here are three additional things to help you succeed in your professional journeys.

First, consider this rule number one: see things as they are and not in ways that make you feel complacent or comfortable. This is the path to constant self-improvement.

Second, don't make messes for others to clean up. This is the road to personal responsibility.

Finally, always bring your A-game. A C-game means you are not living up to your potential. If someone else is doing better, learn from them, return to rule number one, make changes and adapt.

This three-step process of self-improvement never ends. It will serve you well.

In this process, you will also become a person that people turn to for assistance. Being a go-to person in any organization or endeavor creates a reputation and, with it, momentum to further fulfill your goals and aspirations.

You are now members of the Hobby School Alumni Association. The faculty and staff pledge to work with you in all endeavors, great and small.

Wishing you all a rich and rewarding future.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J Granato'.

Jim Granato
Dean

University of Houston
Hobby School of Public Affairs

Commencement Ceremony
Thursday, May 9, 2024, 7:00 p.m.
Cullen Performance Hall

PROCESSIONAL	Moore School of Music
PRESENTATION OF COLORS	Houston Battalion ROTC Color Guard
NATIONAL ANTHEM	Moore School of Music
CALL TO ORDER OPENING REMARKS	Jim Granato <i>Dean</i>
GREETINGS FROM THE HOBBY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION	Leonard Chan (MPA, '09) <i>President, Hobby School of Public Affairs Alumni Association</i>
STUDENT ADDRESS	Enrique Garcia <i>Master of Public Policy Candidate</i>
AWARD PRESENTATION	Sunny Wong <i>Associate Dean for Graduate Studies</i>
GARNET COLEMAN AWARD FOR STUDENT EXCELLENCE	Cruz Almonaci Vargas <i>Bachelor of Science in Public Policy Candidate</i> Andrea Duhon <i>Master of Public Administration Candidate</i>
COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS	The Honorable Armando Walle <i>Texas State Representative, District 140</i>
PRESENTATION OF MASTER'S DEGREE AND GRADUATE CERTIFICATE CANDIDATES	Sunny Wong
PRESENTATION OF BACHELOR'S DEGREE CANDIDATES	Alan Witt <i>Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies</i>
CONFERRAL OF DEGREES	Dean Granato
CLOSING REMARKS	Dean Granato
ALMA MATER	Moore School of Music
RECESSIONAL	Moore School of Music



Commencement Speaker

THE HONORABLE ARMANDO WALLE

Texas State Representative. District 140

TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE ARMANDO WALLE, now in his eighth term in the Texas House of Representatives, grew up in the Aldine community and graduated from MacArthur High School. The oldest of five children raised by a single mother, he was the first in his family to attend and graduate from college. The values and lessons of his humble upbringing inform his legislative priorities, including the health, safety, and economic well-being of Houston's working families, disaster relief, and flood mitigation.

Representative Walle serves on multiple committees, including the House Committee on Licensing and Administrative Procedures, the Select Committee on Sustainable Property Tax Relief, the Select Committee on Health Care Reform, and the House Committee on House Administration. He is also a member of several legislative caucuses, including the Mexican American Legislative Caucus, for which he serves as General Counsel.

Before Representative Walle was elected to the Texas House, he served on the staffs of multiple elected officials, including Congressman Gene Green and Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee. Now a practicing attorney, Representative Walle earned his bachelor's and law degree from the University of Houston. He remains a staunch supporter of the University of Houston System and an advocate of UH. State Representative Walle lives in North Houston with his family--his wife, Debbie Walle, and their two young sons.

Fall 2023 – Graduates

MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Amanda Caceres
Taiwo Fadairo
Usman Mahmood

MASTER OF PUBLIC POLICY

Alejandro Garcia

Luis Moreno
Nicolas Nunez Corona
Edward Taylor
Vanessa Yesufu

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN PUBLIC POLICY

Diana Anzures

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN PUBLIC POLICY: DATA ANALYTICS

Matthew Kniowski

Spring 2024 – Candidates for Graduation

MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Alyssa Chapa
Dahlia Chaudhury
Abigail Culver
Andrea Duhon
Kenneth Jones
Julius Kizzee
Eliz Markowitz
Sandra Ortiz
Christian Pelaez
Chellsey Phillips Canlas
Brett Robinson
Sydney Hargroder

MASTER OF PUBLIC POLICY

Enrique Garcia
Anastasia Inman
Hamza Khan

Sana Khan
Esneider Pesca Polanco
Juhyeon Song
Trevor Toteve

MASTER OF ARTS IN APPLIED ECONOMICS/ MASTER OF PUBLIC POLICY

Michael Ogbuigwe

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN PUBLIC POLICY

Wykita Adams
Jason Frederick
Alison Tcheguini

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN PUBLIC POLICY: ETHICS

Priscila Batres

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN PUBLIC POLICY AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Alexis Bain
Dahlia Chaudhury
Arjumand Khan

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN PUBLIC POLICY

Rachel McGregor

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN PUBLIC POLICY

Sameer Abdulmajeed
Cruz Almonaci Vargas
Sergio Longoria
Elizabeth Macdonough

Summer 2024 – Candidates for Graduation

MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Jack Clanton

MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK/ MASTER OF PUBLIC POLICY

Carli Bernardo

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN PUBLIC POLICY

Dominique Lombard
Samantha Mejia

Pi Alpha Alpha Honor Society Graduates

Pi Alpha Alpha is the global honor society for public affairs and administration.

The minimum requirements for undergraduate students to be inducted are to achieve and maintain a 3.7 or above GPA and the completion of approximately 70% of coursework in a public policy degree with at least 15 hours of major-specific coursework.

The minimum requirements for graduate students to be inducted are to achieve and maintain a 3.7 or above GPA and complete more than 50% of coursework in a public policy/public administration degree.

Cruz Almonaci Vargas
Alyssa Chapa
Andrea Duhon
Enrique Garcia
Sydney Hargroder

Anastasia Inman
Dominique Lombard
Eliz Markowitz
Michael Ogbuigwe
Christian Pelaez

Brett Robinson
Juhyeon Song
Trevor Toteve

Garnet Coleman Award for Student Excellence

The Garnet Coleman Award for Student Excellence has been created in honor of former Texas State Representative Garnet Coleman's support for the Hobby School's programs and students. This award is presented to outstanding graduating students in the undergraduate and graduate programs.

Cruz Almonaci Vargas
Andrea Duhon





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

KATHRINE G. MCGOVERN COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

Emily Goff
Génesis Santillán

CULLEN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Delath De Zoysa

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

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

GERALD D. HINES COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN

Amaris Sofia Bobbio-Tarco
Sarah Rupani
Holly Ann Skipton
Melody C. Wolfarth

KATHRINE G. MCGOVERN COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

Elizabeth Gabriele Spencer

C. T. BAUER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Alvin Thomas Abraham
Ronak Agarwal
Samih Ahmed
Eimaan Ahsan
Abhi Arumilli
Jacob Bradley
Guido Brevi
Tiffany Tran Bui
Nathan Andrew Chen
Josealonso Cortez
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
Kavi Kohli
Ai-Ling Kuon
Debbie Tue Lam
Jeanette Mei Lam
Lance Christopher Lanting
Diana Gabriela Maldonado
William Massaras

Aaron Oscar Maurer
Daniella Victoria Menendez
Adryana Mina Minooe
Gayathri Moduguru
Jillian Murphy
Claire Marie Nadira
Charvi Chetan Negandhi
Annie Nguyen
Nick Nguyen
Kyvana Michelle Nguyen Velasque
Aarya Patel
Ayush Harish Patel
Vanessa Perez
Duha Humayun Pervez
Isabelle Pharamond Pham
Ethan Poedjono
Emily Poff
Philip Qin
Faizah Rahman
Charissa Ramjattan
Gavin Reyes
Jasmine Nicole Saenz
Donna Rose Samani
Mildred Hazel Sampson
Kirah Ariel Smith
Kayla Jamie Stagg
Thai Tran
Anthony Thomas Vadakekara
Johanna S. Verghese
Veena Vinod
Matthew Vuong
Diego Alejandro Yepes
Samiha Tasnim Zaman
Parker Bryan Zanchó

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Abby Bonzon
Ameera M. Faizal
Tamara Gonzalez
Huriyah Hasnain
Abigail Krupa Jeyaraj
Charvi Chetan Negandhi
Payton Lane Neubauer
Kim N. Nguyen

Dylan T. Tran
Eric Tran
Tammy Tran
Leah Yonas

CULLEN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Edip Agirbaser
Kathryn Lane Aing
Fadel A. Al Alawi
Isaiah Burdwell
Mckenna E. Campsey
Alicia Caravantes
Douglas Owen Caringer
Samuel Ethan Collins
Oselumenosen Ekhuemelo
Nusayba T. El-Ali
Dakila S. Garcia
Brandon M. Gonzales
Salvador Alejandro Gonzalez
Joseph Daniel Goolsby
Erik A. Gordillo
Hedda Anni Louise Grelz
Laila Ramsey Hammad
Abby Jackson
Joan John
Amber J. Jozwiak
Michael Alexander Klushin
Beyza Kural
Christina J. Kuruvilla
Farida Lakhani
Gabrielle Alexis Braza Lea
Eric Luna
Colton D. Marino
Hailey Ann Mcandrew
Rushil Rajesh Mehta
Anna Katherine Meyer
Nathan B. Mitchell
Bernadette Bognot Montefalcon
Harrison H. Ngo
Jonathan Do Nguyen
Paul Inue Gonzague Novoa-Gueneau
Shan Mohammed Pappa

Carlos D. Patterson
Alejandro Rivera
Dominic M. Rocha
Usosa Awele Too-Chiobi
Sydney Pauline Tough
Tony Tran
Kyle J. Tupas
Sai Srinivas Unnam
Angel Gabriel Vanegas

**CONRAD N. HILTON
COLLEGE OF GLOBAL
HOSPITALITY LEADERSHIP**

Raelee A. Maddux
Ana K. Mezta

**COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

Charlotte Kathleen Acton
Natalie Isabella Atkinson
Maame Serwaa Awuah
Briana Yasmin Azad
Zeba Bhanji
Carolina Leah Cabral
Daniela Castillo Sabido
Ada C. Cinar
Adria M. Clark
Trinity Curry
Ola Dafaalla
Lauren Ruth Defrance
Tasneem A. Dhoon
Meagan Marie Donald
Ileana Dragoi
Anna Economon
Dealla Yousef Eldiraoui
Kennedy Foxwell
Dima Mona Ghazala
Alyssa Mackenzie Green
Emily Morgan Harris
Ricky R. Hill
Helen B. Huneycutt
Deborah Alice Jacob
Stephanie Johanna Kasperick
Hafsah Khan

William David Killinger
Lilyanne Isobella Loyd
Mayerli G. Madrigal
Riley Charles Moquin
Alice Tuonglinh Nguyen
Annelaure Nguyen
Shalyn Nguyen
Malini C. Prasad
Hira A. Qazi
Hannah Duo Reeves
Kimberly Nicole Richardson
Landon Cole Richie
Jazmin Rosas
Gracie G. Sadler
Rohan Kurup Sankar
Thalia E. Sevajanes
Rida Batul Zafar Shaikh
Suheera Shaikh
Alexandrya Mai Skiddle
Genesis N. Stiggers
Matthew Joy Tao
Sabrina P. Thomas
Laura J. Thompson
Dylan T. Tran
Kim Tran
Elizabeth Weaver
Kaitlyn Elise Wells

**COLLEGE OF NATURAL
SCIENCES AND
MATHEMATICS**

Farzamuddin Ahmed
Mawada Sami Al Faisal
Noah P. Alexander
Maria Aliana Alfaro
Amal Altatar
Sophie Katherine Anderson
Fizah Arif
Bryan William Armbruster
Sophia Aisha Asif
Megan Chantal Benavides
Adrianna Blubin
Daniel Cao
David William Caycedo

Nathan Kevin Chen
Randi Culpepper
Kevin T. Dang
Mariam Dumitrascu
Nithya Erabelli
Dylan Hilton
Ghid Khaleel
Saher Ahmed Khan
Gabrielle Kostecki
Pavan Kureti
Celine C. Luu
Daniel T. Maguadog
Ethan Marfil
Or-El Meir
Jessica R. Morcilla
Hussaina Motiwala
Rheanna Shaila Mustapha
Qudsia Najwa
Carolyn Hao Ngo
Audrey Hoai Ngoc Tran Nguyen
Lily Ngoc Nguyen
Paula Nichols
Matthew Nolen
Lorrel O'Neill
Leonardo Osorio
Diya Patel
Vivienne Y.-Vi Pham
Aida Pourmousa
Kathleen Nicole Protz
Eshwar Ranganath
Rebecca Manalansan Santos
Maaham Sarfraz
Radhika Sonde
Daniel Enrique Sotillo
Arwa Tapia
Sabrina P. Thomas
Andre S. Tijerina
Anthony Tran
Elizabeth Tran
Samuel H. Tran
Tu Tran
Levi Van Ryder

**ANDY AND BARBARA
GESSNER COLLEGE OF
NURSING**

Brianna Nicole Johnson

**HOBBY SCHOOL OF
PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Cruz Estefania Almonaci Vargas

Collegiate Honors

**GERALD D. HINES COLLEGE
OF ARCHITECTURE AND
DESIGN**

Leslie P. Alamirra
Cecily Simone Coleman

**KATHRINE G. MCGOVERN
COLLEGE OF THE ARTS**

Benjamin Alexander Petree

**C. T. BAUER COLLEGE
OF BUSINESS**

Hima Martin
Rashida Rangwala

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Anna Thuy Nguyen
My-My Ngoc Pham
Morgan Haley Ward

**CULLEN COLLEGE
OF ENGINEERING**

Kaitlin Marie Arnold
Austin A. Ellis
Claudia Lizeth Garcia-Martinez
Owais Hyder Ghulam
Jorge Daniel Gonzalez
Alexandra Q. Gorman
Itzel Janaly Miranda

Ava E. Nelson
Curtis Love Purnell

**CONRAD N. HILTON
COLLEGE OF GLOBAL
HOSPITALITY LEADERSHIP**

Anthony Ziad Haddad

**COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

Andrea Isabel Alvarez
Mmesoma Anietom
Jianna Maria Dayrit Bajar
Luisa Marie Bandmann
Thomas Daniel Broughton
Courtney Calhoun
Lilly Chipman
Maria Grazia Di Fabio
Marina Coronado Fernandez
Amir Deneé Jackson
Alicia C. Lartigue
Karla Llanos
Kiara Moncada Martin
Kennedi Nicole Pierce
Bint E. Pirani
Isabella Porras
Bailey Meredith Radack
Dhara Rodgerson
Talbot Campbell Susan

Rosaleen Sweiti
Gabriela Ramirez Vasquez
Emilia Valentina Waters
Cai B. Wilson

**COLLEGE OF NATURAL
SCIENCES AND
MATHEMATICS**

Meryem Mualla Atik
Michaela Butler
Miguel Camejo
Chadi Youssef Ellaham
Joseph Garzon
Syeda Hooria Hasan
Frank Landry
Jalal Chaudhry Mohsin
Larose Mutombo
Abigail Napitupulu
Leslie Amada Santos
Abishek Shaju

**ANDY AND BARBARA
GESSNER COLLEGE OF
NURSING**

Mariana Silveyra

**HOBBY SCHOOL OF
PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Rachel Lauren McGregor

Membership in The Honors College

GERALD D. HINES COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN

Diego Contreras

KATHRINE G. MCGOVERN COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

Justin D. Estes

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Sana Al Taima

CULLEN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Rebeca Angeles-Lopez
Eleazar Israel Mora

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Cady Gibbs
Claire M. Gregory
Katia L. Hijazi
Michelle Le
Hannah Rebekah Mathew
Jonathan Thanh D. Nguyen
Arianna Michelle Silvas
Catherine Elaine Weaver

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

Roberto Jackson Baeza
James Donovan
Cady Gibbs
Klyde Mallorca

ANDY AND BARBARA GESSNER COLLEGE OF NURSING

Eric A. Crooker
Kenneth A. Nguyen



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

**Have You Completed
Your Alumni Checklist?**



<https://houstonalumni.com/recent-grads/>



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