

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON
COMMENCEMENT

TDECU Stadium
May 14, 2016



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Graduates:

Congratulations!

This is one of the most important days of your life – and the University of Houston's. All our commencement ceremonies have been special, celebrating the culmination of our students' hard work and the University's commitment to their success. This year's observance is particularly memorable, because we are reviving the grand tradition of a University-wide celebration, one in which all our graduates will be participating together. What a joyous, communal occasion!

To make it even more meaningful, the historic event is taking place in UH's new TDECU Stadium, the first time it has been used for such a momentous purpose.

As notable as this new ceremony is, the most significant element in today's Commencement is you, the University's esteemed graduates. While there may be contributing factors – the support of family and friends, the inspiration and instruction of faculty, the guidance of advisers – today's success is ultimately the result of your intellectual accomplishment, personal resolve and unflagging efforts. For that, we all salute you. And we take profound satisfaction in realizing these same characteristics will serve you well as you make your way in the world.

Please leave today as proud UH graduates, confident you are the best prepared, best educated and best equipped individuals to make a substantial impact on society.

With my best wishes for a bright future,



Renu Khator
President



UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON SYSTEM

BOARD OF REGENTS

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Beth Madison, *Secretary*

Durga D. Agrawal

Spencer D. Armour III

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PRESIDENT

Renu Khator

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

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Michael Pede

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University of Houston at Sugar Land and
University of Houston System at Cinco Ranch*

Jason Smith

Vice President for Governmental and Community Relations

Eloise Dunn Stuhr

Vice President for University Advancement

Richard Walker

Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Services

Hunter Yurachek

Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletics

MESSAGE FROM THE PROVOST

Congratulations Cougars!

You have much to be proud of tonight. This is the moment that you, and so many of your family, friends, and supporters, have anticipated. We all are gathered together to celebrate you.

Be proud of your University of Houston heritage. We are taking our place on the global stage as intellectual leaders, researchers, entrepreneurs, healers, and artists. Your Cougar pedigree will serve you well as you continue to move forward in realizing your life goals.

Whether you are receiving your Bachelor's, Master's, Professional, or Doctoral degree, you have achieved a major milestone in your life. We are proud of you and we are proud you will become Tier One University alumni.

On behalf of all the University faculty and College Deans, congratulations on your achievements. You are our best and brightest and we will be proud to call you our colleagues and peers. Keep your determined University of Houston spirit strong and let nothing stand in your way of achieving your dreams.

Enjoy tonight's celebration and remember your Cougar family stands with you.

Warm regards,



Paula Myrick Short
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost



UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON DEANS

Leonard M. Baynes
UH Law Center

Roger Boltz, Interim
College of Optometry

John T. Bowen
Barron Hilton Distinguished Chair
Conrad N. Hilton College of Hotel and
Restaurant Management

Steven G. Craig, Interim
College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

William E. Fitzgibbon, III
College of Technology

Robert McPherson
Elizabeth D. Rockwell Chair
College of Education

William Monroe
Nancy O'Connor Abendshein Endowed Professor
The Honors College

Patricia Belton Oliver
Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design

F. Lamar Pritchard
College of Pharmacy

Paul R. Raffoul, Interim
Graduate College of Social Work

Latha Ramchand
C. T. Bauer College of Business

Dana C. Rooks
Elizabeth D. Rockwell Chair
University Libraries

Joseph W. Tedesco
Elizabeth D. Rockwell Chair
Cullen College of Engineering

Dan Wells
College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

82ND COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM

PRELUDIAL CONCERT

Ensembles and musicians representing the Moores School of Music

GRAND PROCESSIONAL

Banners of the University Colleges
Bachelor's Degree Candidates
Master's Degree Candidates
Doctor's Degree Candidates

The Mace of the University
The University Banner
Commencement Grand Marshal, Wynne Chin
Faculty Senate President and Professor
Commencement Marshal, Lawrence Curry
Professor Emeritus
The Faculty of the University
The Platform Party
President's Cabinet
Academic Deans
Distinguished Guests
Regents of the University of Houston System
Provost of the University, Paula Myrick Short
President of the University, Renu Khator

CALL TO ORDER

Grand Marshal Chin

PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS

University of Houston Reserve Officer Training Corp Color Guard

NATIONAL ANTHEM OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Moores School of Music Concert Chorale

WELCOME

President Khator

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Matthew McConaughey

Commencement program continues on next page.

82ND COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

PRESENTATION OF PRESIDENT'S MEDALLIONS

GREETINGS FROM THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Shaun Theriot-Smith
President

GREETINGS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Michael Pede
Associate Vice President

PRESENTATION OF ACADEMIC HONORS

Provost Short

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES HONORIS CAUSA

President Khator

REGENT'S REMARKS AND AUTHORIZATION OF DEGREE CONFERRAL

The Honorable Tilman J. Fertitta
Chairman
University of Houston System Board of Regents

PRESENTATION OF DEGREE CANDIDATES

Provost Short and Deans of the University Colleges

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

President Khator

ADJOURNMENT

Grand Marshal Chin

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON ALMA MATER

Moores School of Music and Audience

RECESSIONAL OF PLATFORM PARTY AND FACULTY

FIREWORKS AND CELEBRATION

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON HISTORY



The University of Houston's history starts with its founding in 1927 as a small educational facility named Houston Junior College and a faculty of eight people. Its first class was comprised of 230 students who attended lectures at San Jacinto High School. As the college grew, it prospered and officially became the University of Houston in 1934. Two years later, the college attained land for a permanent campus and constructed its first building, the Roy G. Cullen Building, in 1939. More than two decades later, the University earned the designation as a state institution in 1963.

Since its humble beginning, the University has grown exponentially to offer comprehensive higher education programs and services to students and to the community. The school has grown to include 13 colleges 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 to become a bustling 667-acre institution that offers more than 300 undergraduate and graduate programs to more than 40,000 students annually.

It's no surprise the University claims so many distinguished graduates. The University of Houston is a Carnegie-designated Tier One public research university. UH 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.

COMMENCEMENT TRADITIONS

ACADEMIC REGALIA

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 doctors (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.

COMMENCEMENT TRADITIONS

GERALD D. HINES COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN

Bachelor's Degree *Tassel: Violet*

Master's Degree *Hood: Violet
Tassel: Black*

C. T. BAUER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Bachelor's Degree *Tassel: Dark Blue*

Master's Degree *Hood: Drab
Tassel: Black*

Doctoral Degree *Hood: Dark Blue
Tassel: Red*

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Bachelor's Degree *Tassel: Light Blue*

Master's Degree *Hood: Light Blue
Tassel: Black*

Doctoral Degree *Hood (Ed.D.): Light Blue
Hood (Ph.D.): Dark Blue
Tassel: Red*

CULLEN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Bachelor's Degree *Tassel: Orange*

Master's Degree *Hood: Orange
Tassel: Black*

Doctoral Degree *Hood: Dark Blue
Tassel: Red*

GRADUATE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK

Master's Degree *Hood: Citron
Tassel: Black*

Doctoral Degree *Hood: Citron
Tassel: Red*

CONRAD N. HILTON COLLEGE OF HOTEL AND RESTAURANT MANAGEMENT

Bachelor's Degree *Tassel: Navy*

Master's Degree *Hood: Navy, Red and White
Tassel: Black*

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
Hood (Music Only): Pink
Tassel: Black*

Doctoral Degree *Hood: Dark Blue
Hood (Music Only): Pink
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*

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*

COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

Bachelor's Degree *Tassel: Maroon*

Master's Degree *Hood: Maroon
Tassel: Black*

CEREMONIAL SYMBOLS

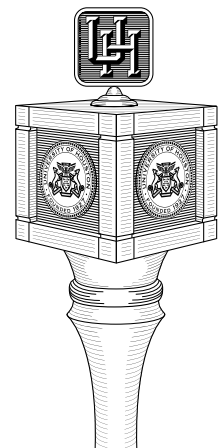
THE SEAL



Throughout history, seals have been used to authenticate official documents. The University of Houston’s and UH System’s 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 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

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

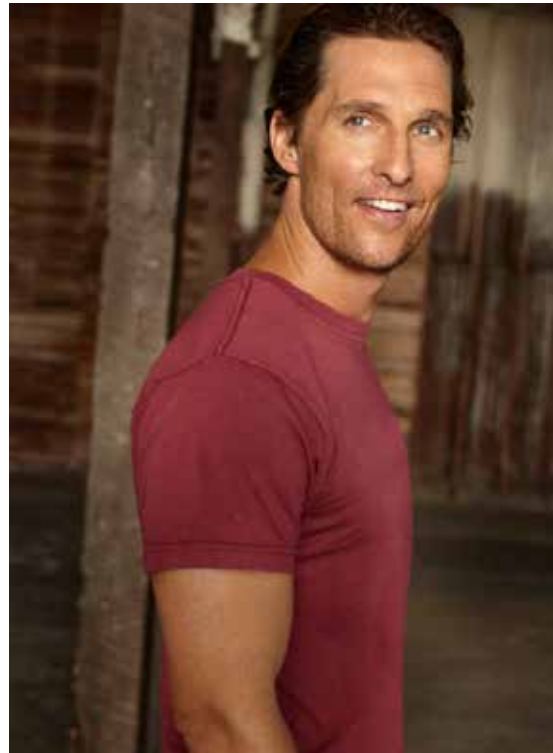
MATTHEW MCCONAUGHEY

Oscar-winning actor and native Texan Matthew McConaughey has appeared in more than 40 films, which have collectively grossed over \$1 billion at the box office.

Notably, McConaughey is also the founder of the “just keep livin” Foundation (www.jklivinfoundation.org), which is dedicated to helping at-risk high school students transform into “great men and women” through programs that teach the importance of decision-making, health, education and active living. Currently, the program reaches more than 2,000 students in California, Louisiana, Washington, D.C. and Texas.

Born in Uvalde in 1969, McConaughey lived in Longview as a teenager. His mother is a former kindergarten teacher and his late father, “Big Jim,” played football for the UH Cougars before running his own pipe supply business. McConaughey attended The University of Texas at Austin, graduating with a bachelor’s degree in radio-television-film in 1993. His original plans to attend law school gave way to a growing interest in acting. His first speaking role was in a TV commercial for the Austin American-Statesman newspaper.

Following a brief but memorable performance in “Dazed and Confused” (which produced his catch phrase “alright, alright, alright”), McConaughey eventually landed his first starring role in the legal thriller “A Time to Kill” in 1996. Subsequent movies have included “The Wedding Planner,” “We Are Marshall,” “Contact,” “Amistad,” “Tropic Thunder,” “Magic Mike,” “Bernie,” “Mud” and “Dallas Buyers Club,” for which he won the Best Actor Academy Award in 2013.



In addition, McConaughey received an Emmy nomination for his appearance in the critically acclaimed HBO series “True Detective” in 2014.

McConaughey is married to Brazilian model and entertainer Camila Alves and they have two sons, Levi and Livingston, and a daughter, Vida.

Last year, Time magazine included McConaughey in its annual list of the “100 Most Influential People in the World.”

PRESIDENT'S MEDALLION

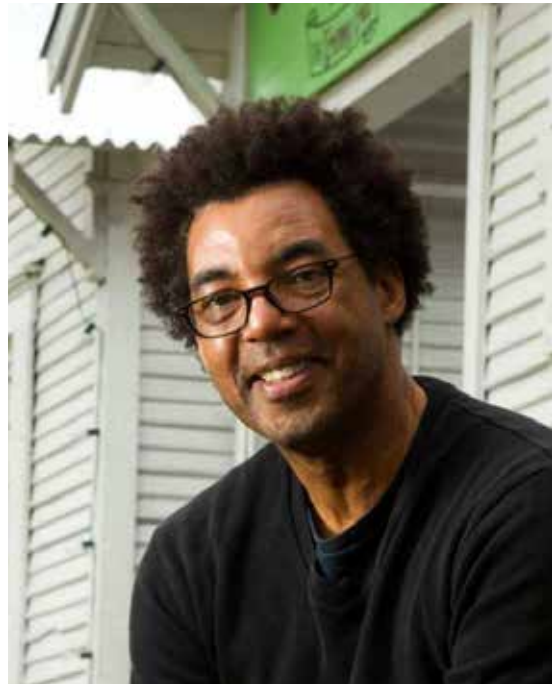
RICK LOWE

Rick Lowe admits that the focus of his art changed from politically charged pieces to community oriented works following a challenge from a high school student. The student told Lowe that artists should help create solutions. From that moment, Lowe began using his work to address the social, economic and cultural needs of the community.

Lowe is widely recognized for his work as a “social sculptor,” particularly helping rehabilitate 22 neglected homes in Houston’s Third Ward. In 1993, he and others transformed these vacant homes into art museum and community center Project Row Houses.

Project Row Houses delivers art exhibitions, events and concerts to community members. It also offers educational programming and hosts housing for single mothers. Lowe replicated this concept in projects such as the Watts House Project in Los Angeles, a post-Hurricane Katrina rebuilding initiative in New Orleans and an immigrant community in North Dallas. His creative insights also benefitted the Arts Plan for the Seattle Public Library, the Borough Project for the Spoleto Festival in Charleston, South Carolina and the Delray Cultural Loop in Florida.

Lowe also has participated in events and projects hosted by the University of Houston. These include “Communograph: Mapping Through Creative Action” (presented by the University’s Cynthia Woods Mitchell Center for the Arts) in 2011 and Creative Time Summit (presented by UH’s Center for Arts Leadership and Project Row Houses) in 2014.



As an artist, Lowe has presented works in Houston’s Contemporary Arts Museum and Museum of Fine Arts; the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles; the Gwangju Biennale in South Korea and the Venice Architecture Biennale.

Lowe was born in Alabama. He studied painting at Columbus College and visual arts at Texas Southern University. In 2014, Lowe was named a 2014 MacArthur Fellow for his creative achievements and contributions.

PRESIDENT'S MEDALLION

ROBERT A. WELCH FOUNDATION

Based in Houston, The Robert A. Welch Foundation is one of the oldest and largest private funding sources for chemical research. Its namesake – the late Houston industrialist Robert Alonzo Welch – was a firm believer in the power of chemistry and a devoted Texan.

“I have long been impressed with the great possibilities for the betterment of mankind that lay in the field of research in the domain of chemistry,” he stated in his will.

Upon his passing in 1952, a portion of his estate was dedicated to starting the foundation. It honors Welch's passion for science by supporting research grants, programs, endowed professorships, and chairs and other projects at educational institutions in Texas.

Currently, The Welch Foundation supports 22 research grants and, since its inception, it has granted \$59 million in grants to the University of Houston. In addition, The Welch Foundation supports a number

of initiatives, including the Welch Summer Scholar Program, which provides on-campus research opportunities for high school students. It also assists in UH's efforts to recruit and retain talented faculty members through the endowed Robert A. Welch Professorships and Chairs. In 2014, the foundation generously contributed \$4 million to establish UH's Center of Excellence in Polymer Chemistry.

The Welch Foundation also hosts the annual Welch Conference on Chemical Research in Houston that attracts hundreds of scientists from around the globe. The foundation also recognizes top researchers and chemists with the Welch Award in Chemistry and the Norman Hackerman Award in Chemical Research.

Accepting the President's Medallion is the foundation's chair, Wilhelmina E. “Beth” Robertson. Robertson is a former chair of the UH System Board of Regents and a previous President's Medallion recipient.

HONORARY DEGREE

JIM MCINGVALE

For decades, Jim McIngvale – better known as “Mattress Mack” – has appeared on Houston televisions offering to “save you money” on furniture and home accessories.

McIngvale is instantly recognizable as the spokesman and owner of Houston-based Gallery Furniture. Thanks to appearances in Gallery Furniture television commercials and the “Save You Money” tagline, McIngvale is a city institution.

McIngvale was born in Mississippi and attended high school in Dallas. He later played football for both The University of Texas at Austin and the University of North Texas.

In 1981, he and wife Linda McIngvale arrived in Houston. Neither could foresee the impact he would have on the city or vice versa.

With just \$5,000, he started Gallery Furniture out of the back of a pickup truck. He then expanded into roadside tents. Now, McIngvale oversees two furniture superstores in Houston, and a third is on the way.

In addition to being a prolific business leader, McIngvale’s contributions to the community have made him one of the city’s most endearing figures.

McIngvale believes in “capitalism with a cause” and offers time and support to many philanthropic efforts. The Houston Symphony, Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo and Salvation Army are among the organizations that have benefitted from his generosity. His support also helped develop the nation’s first mobile stroke unit. Likewise, he was key in raising funds for Bush-Clinton Fund following Hurricanes Katrina and Ike and the 2004 tsunami. McIngvale also has provided assistance to KickStart (aimed at social and academic development of middle school students), KIPP Academy, Baylor College of Medicine, Harvard Medical School and the Texas Heart Institute.



In 2013, he was officially recognized for his charitable work with the Daily Point of Light Award. Former President George H.W. Bush and former first lady Barbara Bush were among those applauding McIngvale as he accepted this honor.

McIngvale also has been a longtime friend to UH. He recently shared insights with students in an Organizational Leadership and Supervision course in the College of Technology. And, thanks to McIngvale, students can comfortably study and chat with friends at Cougar Grounds coffee shop. He donated all of the café’s furniture. In 2010, he received the Spirit of Social Work award from the University’s Graduate College of Social Work (where his daughter Elizabeth McIngvale earned her doctorate).

HONORARY DEGREE

MELVYN L. WOLFF

For decades, Melvyn L. Wolff has helped bring comfort and style to homes in Houston and around the Lone Star State. The University of Houston alumnus has long been a guiding force for his family business, Star Furniture.

He was born into the furniture business in 1931. His father was Russian immigrant, Boris Wolff, who fled a work camp in his native country and found a home in Houston. The senior Wolff worked to become a partner in the business that eventually became Star Furniture.

After attending San Jacinto High School and Wentworth Military School, Melvyn Wolff took a detour from the furniture industry and studied law at The University of Texas at Austin. When his father faced health issues in 1954, Wolff returned to Houston to manage his father's interests in the store.

What started as a temporary position at Star Furniture became a permanent passion for Wolff. While helping his father, he earned his Bachelor's of Business Administration degree from UH.

Following a stint as an officer in the U.S. Army, Wolff again returned to Star Furniture. In 1962, he became the company's president. Alongside his sister Shirley Wolff Toomim, he continued to grow the business.

In 1997, they sold Star Furniture to Berkshire Hathaway Company (managed by Warren Buffett). Wolff and his sister continue to help lead the company respectively as chairman and vice chair.

What began as a low-end, credit-oriented store is now a staple for upscale furniture with 10 stores. This year, Star celebrates 100 years of providing Houstonians with quality items for their homes and offices. The company also serves customers in Austin, Bryan and San Antonio.

Wolff and wife Cyvia hope to inspire future business leaders at the University of Houston. The Cyvia and



Melvyn Wolff Center for Entrepreneurship at the C. T. Bauer College of Business was founded in 1991. The center's efforts in grooming future CEOs and business owners have earned it top rankings from The Princeton Review. In its last assessment of programs, the college guide ranked the Wolff Center no. 2 in the nation.

At UH, Wolff also is an advisory director for Bauer College and a board member for its foundation.

In addition to his contributions to UH, Wolff is active with other organizations, including M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Ronald McDonald House, The University of Texas Health Science Center, Jewish Geriatric Foundation and Texas Heart Institute.

ACADEMIC HONORS

Academic honors are based on the requirements of the catalogue year students entered the university. The final designation for honors is determined by the Provost's Office upon final completion of all degree requirements.

PRE-FALL 2010 CATALOGUE

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

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

FALL 2010 CATALOGUE TO PRESENT

Undergraduate students who complete their degree requirements under, and since, the Fall 2010 catalogue will graduate with the stated academic honors if they achieve the following grade point averages earned in the last fifty-four (54) hours completed at the University of Houston.

3.90 to 4.0	Summa Cum Laude (with Highest Honors)
3.70 to 3.89	Magna Cum Laude (with High Honors)
3.50 to 3.69	Cum Laude (with Honors)

The roster of graduates and candidates for graduation does not include the names of those students who chose to withhold information under the Federal Education Rights and Privacy Act.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MESSAGE

Dear University of Houston Graduates,

Congratulations on your graduation and celebration of the hard work, sweat, time and determination in getting to this point in your lives. Now the future is in front of you.

As you take the next steps on your lifetime adventure, remember your time at the University of Houston. Remember your fellow graduates and friends that you found and built relationships during your educational path. These individuals will go out and become politicians, doctors, engineers, lawyers, business entrepreneurs, philanthropists and more. They are your peers, mentors, friends and most importantly, your fellow alumni.

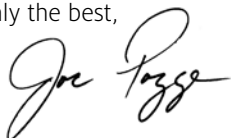
Your university is dynamic and changing on a daily basis. We are now Tier One and a well-respected institute of higher learning that is among the top research universities in the country. Your university provided you the foundation to establish goals and achieve dreams. Don't stop now. Spread your wings and use the education, common sense and relationships that you built at the University of Houston to grow and do things never done before. Make a difference.

As you head out into the real world, don't forget the University of Houston. Nurture the relationships that you started here and develop new ones with the University of Houston Alumni Association. Graduation is not a good bye – it's hello to a new adventure with your university.

The University of Houston Alumni Association welcomes you into our community. We are here to answer your questions on what we do, how we make a difference, our vision, goals and most importantly, what we can do for you.

The world awaits you graduates. Be proud; say it loud – Go Coogs!

Only the best,



Joe Pogge ('79)

President, Board of Directors

University of Houston Alumni Association



SPECIAL THANKS

**A NOTABLE COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY IS THE RESULT OF
THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MANY PEOPLE WITHIN AND OUTSIDE
THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON COMMUNITY.**

**OUR DEEPEST THANKS AND APPRECIATION GOES OUT TO
ALL THE PEOPLE AND ORGANIZATIONS THAT
HELPED MAKE THIS CELEBRATION A REALITY.**

For additional information about Commencement at University of Houston, please visit www.uh.edu/commencement.

AUTOGRAPHS AND MEMORIES

UNIVERSITY of
HOUSTON

uh.edu