



Conrad N. Hilton College of Hotel
and Restaurant Management

COMMENCEMENT
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2017





UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON

Letter from the President

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

Renu Khator
President, University of Houston



Conrad N. Hilton College of Hotel and Restaurant Management

Established in 1969 by one of the most iconic names in the hospitality industry, Conrad N. Hilton, Hilton College is a **world leader in hospitality education**. We offer undergraduate, graduate and doctoral degrees in hotel and restaurant management, hospitality management, global hospitality business and hospitality administration, respectively, as well as a minor in beverage management and marketing.

A small college at a major Tier One research university in the nation's fourth-largest city, Hilton College offers students a real sense of community. Our students benefit from world-class facilities – including our upscale teaching hotel, the **Hilton University of Houston**; a state-of-the-art wine-tasting lab; a student-run restaurant, Barron's; and Cougar Grounds, our student-managed coffee shop – and from the skilled instruction of our experienced, award-winning faculty. Our classes, which emphasize experiential learning in addition to more traditional, lecture-style teaching methods, ensure our students gain practical, hands-on, real-world hospitality experience while pursuing their degrees. When they graduate, they are well on their way to finding the job of their dreams.

We are also known for producing quality hospitality professionals who make an immediate impact on the industry, so our graduates are highly sought-after by recruiters from across the globe. In fact, more than 89 percent of our students already have jobs lined up when they graduate!

And with our industry connections nearly 50 years in the making, there is *no better* place for students interested in hospitality to study, learn and succeed in incredible careers the world over. At Hilton College, we prepare the hospitality leaders of tomorrow. We ARE hospitality!

Conrad N. Hilton College of Hotel and Restaurant Management



Letter from the Dean

Dear Graduates,

Today marks a major milestone in your lives—the day you officially transition from students to alumni. You’ve accomplished so much in your time at the Conrad N. Hilton College, and now you’ll build upon those experiences as you launch your careers.

Several factors have contributed to your success at the University of Houston: the support of your families and friends; encouragement from faculty and staff; and—most importantly—your own determination to learn, grow and accomplish your goals.

You’re now part of a global network of close to 8,000 Hilton College graduates, and the friendships you’ve made as students will serve as the foundation for great professional relationships in the coming years. Wherever your journey takes you, I encourage you to stay connected to your College. This is one of the finest hospitality programs in the world, but we need your support to continue to build upon that legacy.

The Fall Class of 2017 is among the best the College has ever produced and I know you’ll continue to serve as outstanding ambassadors for our program in all of your professional endeavors. On behalf of the entire Hilton College family, I offer my sincere congratulations to all of you.

Best wishes ... and Go Coogs!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dennis Reynolds". The signature is stylized and fluid, with a prominent loop at the end.

Dennis Reynolds
*Dean of the College &
Barron Hilton Distinguished Chair*

Conrad N. Hilton College of Hotel and Restaurant Management

Commencement

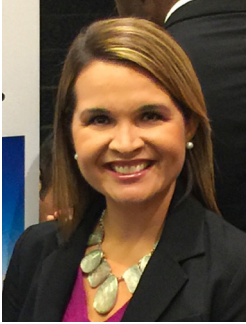
Saturday, December 16, 2017, 10 a.m.

Cullen Performance Hall

| | |
|--|--|
| PROCESSIONAL | College Banner Bearer Candidates for Graduation Faculty Platform Party |
| NATIONAL ANTHEM | Moore School of Music |
| WELCOME AND OPENING ADDRESS | Dennis Reynolds, Ph.D. <i>Dean, Barron Hilton Distinguished Chair</i> |
| STUDENT SPEAKER ADDRESS AND INTRODUCTION OF COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER | Sara Prince Little ('17) |
| COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS | Maggie Rosa, MBA, CHA <i>General Manager Hilton Houston Galleria</i> |
| INTRODUCTION OF MASTERS DEGREE CANDIDATES | Ki-Joon Back, Ph.D. <i>Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies Eric Hilton Distinguished Chair</i> |
| PRESENTATION OF GLOBAL MASTERS DEGREE CANDIDATES | Achim Schmitt, Ph.D. <i>Associate Dean École Hôtelière de Lausanne</i> |
| PRESENTATION OF UNDERGRADUATE ACADEMIC HONORS AND DEGREE CANDIDATES | Mary Dawson, Ed.D. <i>Associate Dean For Academic Affairs Donald H. Hubbs Professorship</i> |
| ALUMNI ADDRESS AND PRESENTATION OF ALUMNI AWARD FOR SCHOLASTIC EXCELLENCE | Kaitlyn Venable-Valdez ('12) <i>Board President Conrad N. Hilton College Alumni Association</i> |
| PRESENTATION OF GLOBAL MASTERS AWARDS | Catherine Cheung, Ph.D. <i>Associate Dean Hong Kong Polytechnic University</i> |
| PRESENTATION OF DEAN'S AWARDS AND CLOSING REMARKS | Dr. Dennis Reynolds |
| RECESSIONAL | |

Conrad N. Hilton College of Hotel and Restaurant Management

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER



Maggie Rosa

*Hilton Houston Galleria Area Hotel
Houston, Texas*

Maggie Rosa is the General Manager for the Hilton Houston Galleria Area Hotel and possesses over 19 years of experience in the hospitality industry.

Maggie began her career with Marriott International in 1997 while she was pursuing her undergraduate degree. She worked in several Executive Committee roles within 4 of their brands, at 6 different hotels, in 4 locations: Florida, California, Washington and Texas. In 2013, Maggie served as Assistant General Manager for DoubleTree Greenway Plaza Hotel, having participated in the successful one year transition of that property to new Ownership, new Management, new brand (formerly Renaissance Greenway Plaza) and a \$15M Renovation. In 2014, Maggie had the opportunity to continue her brand experience with Hilton and joined Hospitality Ventures Management Group as the General Manager for the Hilton Houston Southwest— an exciting project that began with oversight of an \$11 Million renovation during 2015 and recent announcement of a prestigious new name: Hilton Houston Galleria Area Hotel. She is passionate about the hospitality business, participating in numerous organizations supporting hospitality, serving her guests and more importantly working closely with her teams to develop new talent, successfully grooming young Managers just as she compliments the Mentors who guided her over the years.

Maggie Rosa graduated from Northern Arizona University with a Bachelors Degree in Hotel & Restaurant Management with a minor in Business Administration, and also has a Master of Business Administration degree from Texas Woman's University. She and her husband, Moises, are the proud parents of 4 amazing kids, Valerie 21, Tracy 18, Tre 16, and Joel 5 years old and happy to call Houston, Texas home. During her leisure time, Maggie enjoys having fun with her family and working out— keeping fit to keep up with an active family and energizing career.

Fall 2017

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT

Karla Michelle Acosta
Huan Chen
Michael Anthony Do
Renata Furtado Bernardes
Qi Huang
Miao Miao
Leah Wachuka Nganga
Kevin James O'Brien
Cindhy Gabriela Olmos Mosquera
Khanh Thi Bao Pham
Kevin Dale Schoppe
Rachael T. Smith
Ziwei Su
Mei-Fang Sung
Helin Wang
Danni Xie
Jingyue Zhang

EXECUTIVE MASTER OF HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT

Danielle Alexandra Adams
Meghan Kristine Bergaila-Gray
Matthew Garfield Decker
Michelle Ann Fitzpatrick
James M. Nelson
D'Andra Jonell Sanders
Will Smith
Gilbert Navarro Viera, Jr.

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN GLOBAL HOSPITALITY BUSINESS

Aya Amer Afifi
Theo Antoine
Peter Jeremiah Barrett
Mathilde Monique Marie Anne Bouvier

Taylor James Caldwell
Jacqueline Frances Crawford
Jolien De Pooter
Romain Vincent Dufourg
Marc Hans Guy Flautre
Han Gao
Pedro Garau Gutierrez
Lea Amelie Gibert
Daniel Hammerle
Anastasiia Horashchenko
Xinwei Hu
Yifei Jiang
Jennifer Min Ji Klar
Lukas Bernard Koller
Danyan Li
Hanrui Li
Heng Liu
Yuqi Liu
Arjun Varadaraj Nathella
Tomilola Oreoluwa Onafowokan
Filippo Papa
Gonzalo Pastrana Calderon
Xiankun Peng
Javier Osvaldo Quinonez Portales
Julie Sophie Françoise Reibell
Elia Rossi
Alejandra Ruiz De Velasco Fernandez
Théodore Pierre Richier Schmid
Jo Fan Shen
Mei Shen
Luka Smigoc
Mengqi Su
Zhenni Tang
Nachiketa Tuteja
Shawn Vaziri-Lenjani
Yi Zheng
Ruirong Zhou

**Conrad N. Hilton College of Hotel
and Restaurant Management**
CANDIDATES FOR GRADUATION

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Kelly Abreu ³
Eric Brian Aguilar
Truman Lewis Alley
Diana Carolina Alvarado Morales
Liliana K. Andrade
Jessica Banda
John-Paul Maria Behr ³
Stratton Richard Berlin
Laura Renee Blanchet
Salvador Bueno
Peter Hung Bui
Yanjun Cai ¹
Kirstie E. Carmouche
Cristian Andres Carrasco ³
Tamar Lavette Carter ¹
Maria Jose Castaneda Calderon ²
Min Ah Chang
Ashton Charlton
Jonathan Cheung
Ashley Elizabeth Christenson
Jessica C. Cortez
Emily Crolley
Erica E. Cyrus
Leila Dancuart Coelho ²
Bianca Brillante de la Fuente
Anna Deloi
Randy Don Duncan
Van Thanh Duong ²
Jeremy Edward Dyer
Angie Lynett Edwards
Ronald De'Leon Edwards, Jr.
April Michelle Eggleston
Laura Alyssa Faler ³
Kate Danielle Cabahug Ferniz ³
Micaela Ferrero Pizarro ³
Artricia Rachelle Floyd
John Ryan Foley

Sergio Franco
Cristhian Garay ²
Jonathan Gerescher
Chardonai Roselyn Goodwin ³
Kalynn Michelle Grace
Lindsey Nicole Grace ⁴
Hannah Frances Grasso
Breana E. Gutierrez
Yennie Handika ³
Tyler James Henderson
Valerie Laura Hernandez
Gabriel M. Herrera ²
Nancy Garza Herrera ³
Tooba Rafiah Iqbal
Justine Kendra Jacobson
Sara N. Johnson ¹
Kelsea Jones
Howard Donnell Joseph, Jr.
Macey Emma Keller
Chelsea Theresa Kidder
Jieun Kim ³
Kiet Thanh Lam
Chloe Cathryn Lange ²
Pauline Laversin
Huynh Le
Sarah Prince Little
Dan Parnell Lowe
Thutrang Ngoc Mai
Hafsa Malik
Cody John Mannion
Mason Alan Marth
Savannah B. Martin
Amanda Leigh Mavila-Oquinn
Jamison Rae McQuiller
Jessica Medina
Christa Yvette Mitchell
Tessa Nicole Montanez ³
Analiese Genevieve Morgan ²
Lauren E. Morse ²

¹ Summa Cum Laude - ² Magna Cum Laude - ³ Cum Laude - ⁴ Banner Bearer

**Conrad N. Hilton College of Hotel
and Restaurant Management**
CANDIDATES FOR GRADUATION

Karla Mae Nacionales
Michael Thomas Napiorkowski
Hiba Nasir ²
Estefany A. Nerio ³
Anna My Duyen Nguyen ²
Jullie T. Nguyen
Kevin Thanh Nguyen
My Mimi T. Nguyen ³
Nga Sabrina Chau Quynh Nguyen ²
Tina Dinh Nguyen ²
Whitney A. Oglesby
Jose A. Ojeda Reyes
Cristina Lizeth Paredes Vera ³
Reina Alexandra Pekola
Ana Julia Pereda Goicochea
Patrick Hoang Son Pham ³
Tien Becky Phan ²
Jose Rafael Pineda
Nicole Reyes Calle
Raul Rivera ²
Eduardo Enrique Romero ²
Fredy Aaron Romero

Joshua Trent Rucky
Emily Rebecca Sagastume-Chen ³
Christina Marie Sanchez
Tabinah Sheikh ¹
Erin Michelle Shier ²
Jingjing Song ³
Matthew Sorrels
Blair Nicole Spitaliere
Makeda E. Stewart
Dung Viet Trang ²
Matthew Alexander Truong
Wendy Rosas Valdez
Amy Vazquez
Jessica Michelle Villatoro
Victoria Ashley Wall
Kayla Washington
Travis Jason Wessner
Jasmine Mariah Williams
Selwyn Wong ²
Hui Zhu ¹
Jeffrey S. Ziegler

¹ Summa Cum Laude - ² Magna Cum Laude - ³ Cum Laude - ⁴ Banner Bearer

Conrad N. Hilton College of Hotel and Restaurant Management

THE HONORS COLLEGE

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. 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 undergraduates 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

Erin M. Shier

Collegiate Honors

John-Paul Maria Behr

Faculty

Dennis Reynolds
Dean, Barron Hilton Distinguished Chair

Mary Dawson
*Associate Dean for Academic Affairs,
Donald H. Hubbs Professorship*

Ki-Joon Back
*Associate Dean for Research and Graduate
Studies, Eric Hilton Distinguished Chair*

JéAnna Abbott
*Spec's Charitable Foundation Professor
in Social Responsibility, Attorney*

Stephen Barth
Professor, Attorney

Carl A. Boger, Jr.
*Professor, Clinton L. Rappole
Endowed Chair*

John T. Bowen
Professor

Anthony Caterina
Lecturer

Cathy Cheatham
Lecturer

Anthony G. Chevalier
Lecturer

Glenn Cordúa y Cruz
Clinical Assistant Professor

Aaron Corsi
Lecturer

Agnes L. DeFranco
*Professor, Conrad N. Hilton
Distinguished Chair*

Simone P. Doudna
Lecturer

Jason Draper
Assistant Professor

Erin Oeser Goodell
Lecturer

Nancy S. Graves
Associate Professor

Priyanko Guchait
Assistant Professor

Rachel Han
Assistant Professor

Reba Haskell
Lecturer

Alexis Hoey
*Lecturer, Director of Executive Education
Executive Director of Gourmet Night*

Nathan Jarvis
Clinical Assistant Professor

Tucker Johnson
Instructional Assistant Professor

Jaewook Kim
Assistant Professor

Kenneth Kaser
Lecturer

**Conrad N. Hilton College of Hotel
and Restaurant Management**

FACULTY

Yoon Koh
Assistant Professor

Juan M. Madera
Associate Professor

Cristian Morosan
Associate Professor

Jay Neal
*Assistant Provost - Sugar Land
Associate Professor*

Arlene D. Ramirez
Lecturer

Gloryvee Ramos
Lecturer

Tiffany Shin
Assistant Professor

Sujata Sirsat
Assistant Professor

D. Christopher Taylor
*Director of the Beverage Management
Program and Fred Parks Wine Cellar,
Assistant Professor*

Karl Titz
Associate Professor

Elizabeth Ann Whalen
Lecturer

Mark E. Young
*Archivist, Historian
Clinical Assistant Professor*

Staff

Mandi Anderson

Recruitment Manager

Chantal Atanley

Financial Assistant

Alissa Benton

Transfer Advisor

Miguel Cabrera

*Director of Development &
Alumni Engagement*

Pearl Cajoles

Manager of Digital Marketing

Caitlin Campbell

Receptionist/Secretary

Maria Corsi, Ph.D.

Assistant Archivist

Jeremy L. Dafoe

*Undergraduate Academic Advisor
and Scholarship Coordinator*

Dawn Deurell

Undergraduate Academic Advisor

Alfredo Fernandez

Accounts Receivable

Wendy E. Gary

Executive Secretary

Colleen Gleeson

*Director of Career Development/
Adjunct Lecturer*

Jennifer Glickman

Director of International Programs

Katie Guidroz

Senior Graphic Designer

Alisha Harrison

Graduate Program Manager

Lisa Hernandez

Assistant Dean - San Antonio Campus

Nick Howell

Director of Recruiting and Enrollment

Kyle Howton

*Director of the AH&LA
Information Center*

Joel Jaffe

Assistant Dean for Business Development

Deepu Kurian

Director of Business Operations

Sean Lawless

Manager of Cougar Grounds

Theodore Liang

Department Business Administrator

Khrystyane Lopez

*Recruitment Manager -
San Antonio Campus*

Debbie Maurer

Director of Communications

Flor Montelongo

Assistant Business Administrator

Andrew Purcell

AV Technician

Conrad N. Hilton College of Hotel and Restaurant Management

STAFF

Gloria Ratliff
*Career Counselor and
Internship Coordinator*

Michael Scott
*Director of Facilities and
Information Technologies*

Donna Shaw
Assistant to the Dean

Kevin S. Simon
*Director of Undergraduate Studies,
Director of Fred Parks Wine Outreach
Programs & Adjunct Lecturer*

Tara Soma
Undergraduate Advising Assistant

Gautam Taneja
Manager of Information Systems

Veronica M. Vasquez
Alumni/Development Coordinator

Tanya Venegas
*HFTP Fellow and Executive Director
of the HFTP Research Institute*

Silvia Vera
Financial Coordinator

Cassandra Wentz
Executive Secretary - San Antonio Campus

Conrad N. Hilton College of Hotel and Restaurant Management

ALUMNI AND GIVING



Alumni and Giving

The Hilton College alumni network is close to 8,000 strong. They manage restaurants, hotels and country clubs, own their own businesses and occupy executive hospitality leadership positions around the world. Doors have opened for them because they all have one thing in common—a Hilton College education.

All alumni are encouraged to take advantage of that network and join the Conrad N. Hilton College Alumni Association. Membership in the CHCAA is free and offers graduates the chance to reconnect with classmates, get involved with the College that launched their careers and take advantage of invaluable networking opportunities. Those interested in joining can simply show up at any of the College's official alumni networking events, like our monthly happy hours or our football tailgating parties.

For more information on the CHCAA, local chapters outside of Houston and reconnecting with the College, feel free to contact me.

Go Coogs!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Miguel Cabrera". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Miguel Cabrera
Director of Development & Alumni Engagement
Email: mcabrera3@uh.edu
Phone: 713.743.1523

**Conrad N. Hilton College of Hotel
and Restaurant Management**
SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many thanks to our volunteers for their help in making this event a success..

Miguel J. Cabrera
Pearl K. Cajoles
Caitlin S. Campbell
Jeremy L. Dafoe
Dawn A. Deurell
Wendy E. Gary
Jennifer D. Glickman
Mandi Harrington
Alisha Harrison
Nick Howell
Joel A. Jaffe
Khrystyane T. Lopez
Debbie Maurer
Gloria Ratliff
Kevin S. Simon

Conrad N. Hilton College of Hotel and Restaurant Management

Points of Pride

- Hilton College was founded in 1969 by hotel icon Conrad N. Hilton and is consistently ranked among the top hospitality programs in the world.
- Many of our faculty members are internationally recognized researchers who are involved in cutting-edge research projects with industry partners.
- The Hospitality Industry Hall of Honor, created in 1995 to recognize the accomplishments and contributions of some of the industry's most iconic figures and brands, is housed at Hilton College.
- The Hospitality Industry Archives, the world's largest repository for the hospitality industry, are located in the Massad Family Library Research Center at Hilton College. The archives offer more than 3,000 linear feet of artifacts, papers, memorabilia and more from iconic hospitality companies.
- The Hilton University of Houston, a full-service, 86-room hotel, serves as a teaching facility for our lodging students.
- Our state-of-the-art wine lab, the Spec's Beverage & Food Appreciation Laboratory, is the only facility of its kind between the coasts.
- The American Hotel & Lodging Association (AH&LA) Information Office and the Hospitality Financial and Technology Professionals (HFTP) Research Office are housed at Hilton College.
- Hilton College is a producing partner of the Sugar Land Wine & Food Affair, the region's largest food and wine festival.
- Our bi-annual career fairs feature recruiters from some of the top hospitality companies in the world.
- More than 80 percent of our students have jobs lined up upon graduation.
- Hilton College boasts 15 student organizations, including the nation's largest student chapter of the National Association for Catering and Events (NACE).

**Conrad N. Hilton College of Hotel
and Restaurant Management**





CELEBRATING THE BEST
IN HOSPITALITY EDUCATION
1969-2019

WE ARE **CONRAD N. HILTON COLLEGE.**

WE ARE **HOSPITALITY.**

WE ARE **THE BEST** in hospitality education and research as
regarded globally by the academic and hospitality communities.

We embrace and foster an environment that includes

Community... Relevancy... Collaboration... Multiculturalism...

Experiential Learning... Innovation... Integrity... Passion...

THIS IS OUR MISSION.

UNIVERSITY of
HOUSTON

CONRAD N. HILTON COLLEGE

Conrad N. Hilton College of Hotel and Restaurant Management
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Houston, TX 77204-3028

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