





University of Houston
Hobby School of Public Affairs

Commencement Ceremony
Thursday, May 11, 2023, 7:00 p.m.
Cullen Performance Hall

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Message from the President

Dear University of Houston Graduates,

Congratulations, class of 2023! Today you graduate with a first-class education from one of the nation's leading universities. We are so proud of you for reaching this important milestone.

Over the years, you've made new memories and friends, and grown in character and wisdom. And now it's time to take what you've learned and go chart a new course in the world. I know in my heart that you will do well and make a positive impact on our society.

The support of your family and friends, and the encouragement of your UH faculty, advisers and staff have also played a significant part in your success. Thank them for their contribution, as we thank you for choosing our university.

UH is the home of world-renowned researchers and professors, award-winning sports and academic programs. The knowledge and experience you've gained here have prepared you to rise to the top in your field. Many graduates who have come before you have earned national recognition and highly esteemed awards and honors for their work. And now you're joining this great class of alumni. Congratulations! I know you will make us proud.

With my best wishes for a bright and rewarding future, Go Coogs!

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Renu Khator'.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Diane Z. Chase', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

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*
Jack B. Moore, *Vice Chairman*
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University of Houston

PRESIDENT

Renu Khator

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Diane Z. Chase
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

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Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance

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

University of Houston Deans

Leonard M. Baynes

UH LAW CENTER

Andrew Davis

Founding Dean

Cullen Foundation Endowed Dean's Chair

KATHRINE G. MCGOVERN COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

Jim Granato

HOBBY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Catherine Horn

Interim Dean and Moores Professor

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Athena N. Jackson

Elizabeth D. Rockwell Endowed Dean's Chair

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON LIBRARIES

Sarah C. Larsen

Interim Dean

GRADUATE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK

Stuart Long

Interim Dean

THE HONORS COLLEGE

Daniel P. O'Connor

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Patricia Belton Oliver

ACSA Distinguished Professor

GERALD D. HINES COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN

Paul A. Pavlou

Cullen Distinguished Chair

C. T. BAUER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

F. Lamar Pritchard

Humana Endowed Dean's Chair in Pharmacy

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

Dennis Reynolds

Barron Hilton Distinguished Chair

CONRAD N. HILTON COLLEGE OF

GLOBAL HOSPITALITY LEADERSHIP

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

Joseph W. Tedesco

Elizabeth D. Rockwell Endowed Dean's Chair

CULLEN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Michael Twa

Humana Endowed Dean's Chair in Optometry

COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY

Dan E. Wells

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>

University of Houston

Commencement Ceremony

UH LAW CENTER

Master's Degree	<i>Hood: Purple Tassel: Black</i>
Doctoral Degree	<i>Hood: Purple Tassel: Red</i>

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Bachelor's Degree	<i>Tassel: Citron</i>
Master's Degree	<i>Hood: Citron Tassel: Black</i>
Doctoral Degree	<i>Hood: Dark Blue Tassel: Red</i>

TILMAN J. FERTITTA FAMILY COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

Doctor of Medicine Degree	<i>Hood: Kelly Green Tassel: Red</i>
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COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

Bachelor's Degree	<i>Tassel: Golden Yellow</i>
Master's Degree	<i>Hood: Golden Yellow Tassel: Black</i>
Doctoral Degree	<i>Hood: Dark Blue Tassel: Red</i>

ANDY AND BARBARA GESSNER COLLEGE OF NURSING

Bachelor's Degree	<i>Tassel: Apricot</i>
Master's Degree	<i>Hood: Apricot Tassel: Black</i>

COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY

Master's Degree	<i>Hood: Gold Tassel: Black</i>
Doctor of Philosophy Degree	<i>Hood: Royal Blue Tassel: Red</i>
Doctor of Optometry Degree	<i>Hood: Seafoam Green Tassel: Red</i>

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

Bachelor's Degree	<i>Tassel: Olive</i>
Master's Degree	<i>Hood: Olive Tassel: Black</i>
Doctor of Philosophy Degree	<i>Hood: Royal Blue Tassel: Red</i>
Doctor of Pharmacy Degree	<i>Hood: Olive Tassel: Red</i>

GRADUATE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK

Master's Degree	<i>Hood: Citron Tassel: Black</i>
Doctoral Degree	<i>Hood: Citron Tassel: Red</i>

HOBBY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Master's Degree:	<i>Hood: Peacock Blue Tassel: Black</i>
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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





Hobby School of Public Affairs
UNIVERSITY OF **HOUSTON**

Message from the Dean

Well...you made it! Congratulations!

Today, we all — family, friends, faculty, administrators, and staff — celebrate your accomplishment.

Your hard work paid off. As I will tell past, current (you!), and future graduates, it is my firm belief the “Hobby way” of training provides you with a firm foundation and an advantage to compete with anybody in the marketplace.

Looking to the future, and I may have mentioned this to some of you before, there are three additional things that will help you in your *successful* journey.

First, and 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.

And 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 — and then go back to rule number one and make changes and adapt.

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

And in this process, you will also become a person that people will turn to for assistance. Being a “go to” person in any organization or endeavor creates a reputation and with it momentum to go further in fulfilling your aims during your journey.

And now it is time celebrate. You are now members of the Hobby School Alumni. The faculty and staff pledge to work with you in all endeavors — great and small.

Wishing you all a rich and rewarding future.

Jim Granato
Dean

University of Houston
Hobby School of Public Affairs

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Cullen Performance Hall

PROCESSIONAL	Moores School of Music
PRESENTATION OF COLORS	Houston Battalion ROTC Color Guard
NATIONAL ANTHEM	Moores School of Music
CALL TO ORDER OPENING REMARKS	Jim Granato <i>Dean</i>
GREETINGS FROM THE HOBBY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION	Matthew Moseley
STUDENT ADDRESS	Jon Bumann
AWARD PRESENTATION	Sunny Wong <i>Associate Dean for Graduate Studies</i>
Garnet Coleman Award for Student Excellence	Karen Banda
COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER	The Honorable Teneshia Hudspeth <i>Harris County Clerk</i>
PRESENTATION OF DEGREE CANDIDATES	Associate Dean Wong
CANDIDATE NAMES READ BY	Dean Granato
CONFERRAL OF DEGREES	Dean Granato
CLOSING REMARKS	Dean Granato
ALMA MATER	Moores School of Music
RECESSIONAL	Moores School of Music



Commencement Speaker

THE HONORABLE TENESHIA HUDSPETH

Harris County Clerk

TENESHIA HUDSPETH is County Clerk of the third-largest county in the nation and the largest county in the State of Texas. Harris County has a population of more than 4.7 million. She is also the first African-American woman to serve in this role. Clerk Hudspeth is a native of Austin, Texas, but has called Houston home for more than 20 years. She and her husband Samson Babalola are the happy parents of Josiah.

Clerk Hudspeth has been with the County Clerk's office for more than 17 years and has served under four County Clerks. She began her career as a Mickey Leland Congressional Intern and went on to work in the County Clerk's Office as the Public Affairs Administrative Assistant. She was then promoted to Voter Outreach Coordinator and Public Information Officer, eventually becoming the Administrator of Communications and Voter Outreach. In January 2020, she was appointed Chief Deputy responsible for office operations, and in less than a year, was elected Harris County Clerk.

Clerk Hudspeth earned her degree in Communications at Texas Southern University. She is also a graduate of the Leadership Houston (Class 34 or XXXIV) and the Women's Campaign School at Yale University. Clerk Hudspeth is currently First Vice President of the Houston Chapter of Women Professionals in Government and serves as Second Vice President for the Executive Board of the International Association of Government Officials; however, these are only a few of the many community organizations she supports. Clerk Hudspeth's innate desire to serve the community through volunteer work and leadership positions has taught her that service to the community is not a chore, but a way of life.

Recent office awards include the National Association of Counties Achievement Award, International Association of Government Officials Innovator Award, and the Texas Five Star Vital Registration Award. Personal awards include 50 Most Influential Women of 2020-2021, She Said. She Led. She is. Initiative, Top 30 Most Influential Women, Greater Houston Black Chamber of Commerce Mickey Leland Public Service Award, and the 2022 Faces of Fortitude.

As County Clerk, her primary goal is to provide the public with quality customer service. She is committed to improving government services through new technology to make them readily available and accessible.

Fall 2022 – Graduates

MASTER OF PUBLIC POLICY

Karen Banda
Kimberley Castro
Emily Eubanks
Andrew Marks

**MASTER OF ARTS IN
APPLIED ECONOMICS/
MASTER OF PUBLIC POLICY**

Brad Selsberg

**GRADUATE CERTIFICATE
IN PUBLIC POLICY**

Kimberley Castro

**GRADUATE CERTIFICATE
IN PUBLIC POLICY:
DATA ANALYTICS**

Megan Rose

**GRADUATE CERTIFICATE
IN PUBLIC POLICY AND
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**

Robert Sandage

Spring 2023 – Candidates for Graduation

MASTER OF PUBLIC POLICY

Tempestt Bui
Jon Bumann
Allison Dean
Katy De La O
Caitlin Fuller
Lauren Fuller
Ashley Gelato
Jessica Hulett
Bradley Mushinski

Syed Naqvi
Alysa Sides
Hannah Urie
Kelly Vlaskamp
Sarah Webb
Kacey Williams

**GRADUATE CERTIFICATE
IN PUBLIC POLICY**

Sonya Andrews

**GRADUATE CERTIFICATE
IN PUBLIC POLICY:
DATA ANALYTICS**

Binh Bui

**GRADUATE CERTIFICATE
IN PUBLIC POLICY AND
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**

Gaylon Caldwell

Summer 2023 – Candidates for Graduation

**MASTER OF ARTS IN
APPLIED ECONOMICS/
MASTER OF PUBLIC POLICY**

Carolina Lopez-Herrera

Pi Alpha Alpha Honor Society Graduates

Pi Alpha Alpha is the global honor society for public affairs and administration. The minimum requirements for graduate students to be inducted are to achieve and maintain a 3.7 or above GPA, and the completion of more than 50% of coursework in a public policy/public administration degree.

Karen Banda
Tempestt Bui
Jon Bumann
Allison Dean

Katy De La O
Ashley Gelato
Carolina Lopez-Herrera
Andrew Marks

Syed Naqvi
Brad Selsberg
Hannah Urie
Kacey Williams

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 Master of Public Policy program.

Karen Banda



Message from the UH Alumni Foundation Board President

Congratulations 2023 Graduates!

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, using your UH Go app to login as an alumnus, joining a group, coming to events, to becoming a Life Member, the opportunities to engage are endless.

To start your journey as an alumnus, please scan the QR code below so you can enjoy all the activities that soon await you. In the meantime, enjoy this moment and continue to soar.

True we'll ever be and Go Coogs!

Wayne Lockett ('74)
UH Alumni Association Foundation Board President

**Have You Completed
Your Alumni Checklist?**



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