

# *Graduate Hooding Ceremony*



University of Houston-Downtown

Saturday, May 10, 2025

3 p.m.





**The University of Houston-Downtown faculty and staff extend special greetings to parents, relatives, friends, and loved ones gathered for this celebration.**

# ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

## WELCOME

Dr. Deborah E. Bordelon  
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

## PROCESSIONAL

## NATIONAL ANTHEM

## OPENING REMARKS

Dr. Deborah E. Bordelon

## PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES

### **College of Humanities and Social Sciences**

Associate Dean Paul Kintzele and Faculty

### **College of Public Service**

Interim Dean Kim Martin-Long and Faculty

### **College of Sciences and Technology**

Dean Akif Uzman and Faculty

### **Marilyn Davies College of Business**

Dean Jonathan Davis and Faculty

## CLOSING REMARKS

Dr. Deborah E. Bordelon

## RECESSIONAL

# COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES

## Candidates for Graduation

### Master of Arts in Rhetoric & Composition

Enny Eniola Ligon

Rene Eduard Paniagua

### Master of Arts in Non-Profit Management

Keith Everrette Baines

Cora Marie Beach

Tamika Denise Earls

Clinton R. Hopkins

Paola A. Palacio

Indira E. Rubio

Lorena B. Stubbs

Paula Torres

Jennifer White

Lacretia Monique Williams

### Master of Arts in Strategic Communication

Michelle Ashley Dominique Duvall

Alejandra Resendez

Mykia Sharron Thomas

Felicity A. Tutu

### Master of Science in Technical Communication

Alexandria Francetic

Ruth Ann Frank

Jesse Fitzgerald Rodriguez

Kelly Susan Stowell

## WORDS OF THANKS

### Keith Everett Baines

*I would like to thank you Dr. David Branham, Professor Flores and the other staff members that taught me how to own and operate a nonprofit Organization-And thank you for allowing me to understand what it mean about people helping people.*

### Michelle Ashley Dominique Duvall

*Thank you to my son EJ, Emmanuel, my mom, and my incredible professors.  
I dedicate this degree to my daughter, Auora, in heaven—this is for you*

**Tamika Denise Earls**

*Today was ours, love—this degree, this moment, for you, me, and our girls. Forever in our hearts, Dewayne Harris Jr. 9/25/1991–10/6/2024. We made it, together.*

**Alexandria Francetic**

*I want to thank Dr. Duncan and Dr. Petts for guiding and advising me, my family for supporting me, and my boyfriend Zachary for always being by my side.*

**Ruth Frank**

*Dr. Duncan, thank you for being a remarkable mentor and guide throughout my master's journey. Your encouragement and wisdom have shaped me profoundly, and I'll always admire you deeply.*

**Paola Palacio**

*Thank you to my family for your constant love, support, and encouragement. I couldn't have reached this milestone without you.*

**Rene Paniagua**

*Thank you to the English faculty with special thanks to Dr. Dimmick, Dr. Duncan, Dr. Ellwanger, Dr. Scharold, and Dr. Waters for your faith in me. "No guts, no glory"*

**Alejandra Resendez**

*Estoy profundamente agradecida con Dios por su guía y con mis increíbles padres por su amor, apoyo y fe en mí en cada triunfo y desafío. ¡Gracias!*

**Indira Rubio**

*At UHD, opportunity met perseverance. Education became the bridge from limited options to endless possibilities, creating a ripple of hope for generations to come.*

**Lorena Stubbs**

*My deepest gratitude to my family, especially my mom and my uncle, who have been my biggest supporters every step of the way. To my friends, thank you for lifting me up, keeping me grounded, and walking beside me through every high and low. Your kindness...*

**Kia Thomas**

*This wasn't about ambition—it was about possibility. I chose this path without certainty, only capability. Thank you to the faculty and peers who shaped this unexpected, transformative chapter.*

**Paula Torres**

*With heartfelt gratitude to my family, professors, and friends- your guidance, support, and belief in me made this achievement possible. Thank you for walking this journey with me.*

**Jennifer White**

*Thank you to the professors of the nonprofit business management program for your dedication, insights and support during my journey. Your knowledge and passion will continue to inspire me to make a difference in the community.*

## COLLEGE OF PUBLIC SERVICE

### Candidates for Graduation

#### Master of Arts in Teaching

Tanya Monique Brooks  
Travis Heath Ferrell

Shuntae Magaline Golden  
Gregory Martin Twidal

#### Master of Educational Leadership

James Bell  
Michelle Ines Contreras Perkins  
Da'Quan Floyd Copeland  
Yolanda Flores  
Kevynyka Gray  
Ursula Kali Hart  
Robin Alexis Jackson  
Brandon T. Jenkins  
Emily Anne Lanza

Misty Lashay Manning  
Monica R. Patel  
Samuel Charles Rogers  
Mariana Salazar  
Dwayne Anthony Shelby  
Katia Nicoll Trancoso  
Christopher Warren Whiteley  
Justin Lloyd Williams

#### Master of Science in Criminal Justice

Jose Miguel Arroyo  
Jordan Bagwell  
Senceray A. Garrett  
Race Aston Haas

Roy L. Jackson Sr.  
Christopher Reginald Jones-Hughes  
Suni Areli Jugueta  
Christina Yvette Montemayor

## WORDS OF THANKS

### James Bell III

*A life, expanded by experience, never returns to its original size.*

### Tanya Monique Brooks

*I thank God for staying with me during the tough times in my life. I thank my son (Zjahmir) and my mom (Judy) for continuing to push me through the tough obstacles I've endured during these last two years. I thank the professors for giving us encouragement.*

**Michelle Perkins**

*I want to thank my family, Dr. Burks, and Dr. Hussein for all their support on my journey as a future school principal!*

**Travis Heath Ferrell**

*Thank you to all my wonderful professors, my fiancé Aimee, and all my children and grandsons for supporting me when I had to read and write instead of play.*

**Yolanda Flores**

*I want to thank GOD, my mom, husband, my children Netzar and Sofia, and my professors Dr. Hussein and Dr. Navarrete-Burks for always supporting me every step of the way.*

**Cindy Senceray Garrett**

*I want to express my sincere gratitude to God, my children, friends, and my love Henry. I could not do this without you guys. I am prepared for the next chapter. Let's GO.*

**Shuntae M Golden**

*Angela Pedrana, you are the motivational coach I never thought I needed. Thank you for being encouraging and pushing me to greatness. We are locked in for life!*

**Kevynyka Gray**

*I would love to thank UHD and my professors for helping me reach this achievement!*

**Rev. Roy L. Jackson Sr.**

*Thank God for His continuous blessings! With faith and perseverance, I have achieved my master's degree. "Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans." – Proverbs 16:3*

**Robin Alexis Jackson**

*I would like to dedicate & give this honor to my heavenly son, mommy pushed through! I appreciate my family, classmates and professors for not allowing me to give up. We did it! Much love & many blessings-Robin Jackson.*

**Brandon Jenkins**

*I am deeply grateful for my family's unwavering support, especially my mother's love and guidance. Thank you, University of Houston-Downtown, for uplifting me and being a true family throughout this journey.*

**Christopher Reginald Jones-Hughes**

*I want to thank my family, my Army friends, and all of my professors who were patient with me achieving my goal. Being a master's graduate is one of my greatest honors I have achieved. Thank you for sharing this honor with me. I hope I made you proud.*

**Misty Lashay Manning**

*With heartfelt gratitude, I thank my family for their unwavering love, sacrifices, and encouragement throughout my academic journey. Your support has been my strength, and I am forever grateful.*



**Emily Anne Lanza**

*Thank you to my husband and family members for supporting me on this journey! I could not have done it without you. I love you guys!*

**Monica Raoji Patel**

*This one is dedicated to my dear father who believed in me every step of the way. I know you are here in spirit and I hope I made you proud. Love you and miss you  
Papa- <3*

**Ursula Kali Hart**

*My deepest gratitude to my kids for always being proud of me and supporting me along the way. Thank you to my mom for teaching me to be brave.*

**Dwayne Anthony Shelby Sr.**

*Thank you, Shelbyville, for your endless support, love, patience, and encouragement. Your belief in me has meant everything to me "Period"*

**Katia Nicoll Trancoso**

*Thank you to D, Mom, Elaine, Adrik and Jayden for your love, sacrifices and encouragement. My friends for always being there with joy and laughter.  
Grateful to UHD and EWE!*

**Christopher Warren Whiteley**

*This achievement would not have been possible without the support of my amazing wife! I love you very much, and thank you for believing in me every day.*

**Justin Williams**

*I'm very thankful for my fellow MEDL students in UHD's first ever MEDL cohort. They are the best support group anyone could ask for.*

## COLLEGE OF SCIENCES & TECHNOLOGY

Candidates for Graduation

### Master of Science in Artificial Intelligence

Stalling Duenas  
Madhav Singh

John Garrett Strong

### Master of Science in Data Analytics

Siva Kumar Alaparthi  
Neha Ali  
Anna Amsler Montaudon  
Faisal Asif  
Gordon Wu Baliles  
Zahir Bennour  
Andy Josue Berrios  
Rimon Chemali  
Caroline J. Denegri  
Felix Birikorang Duodu  
Victor Ebubechukwu Epuna  
Jun Hao Feng  
Ines Flores  
Daniel J. Gasperini  
James Harris

Jordan Crowley Kar  
Shehroz Tahir Kayani  
Yoonjoung Kim  
William Thanh Le  
Masoud Mazhar  
Sufian Riza Mohammed  
Amrutha Nanduri  
Yasmin Noor  
Mellany Rose S. Olarte  
Bhanu Kiran Pandavula  
Hardi Nitinkumar Raval  
Azucena Teran  
Osagie Solomon Uwaifo  
Shannon Elizabeth Wenter

## WORDS OF THANKS

### Zahir Bennour

*My deepest gratitude to my wife for always standing by my side and supporting me for every step of the way. This achievement is also dedicated to my beautiful son, whose presence gives me the strength and courage to keep pushing forward in life.  
I am tha...*

### Andy Berrios

*Gracias, mamá y papá, por su amor incondicional y sacrificios. Su apoyo me ha guiado en cada paso de mi camino académico. Este logro es tan suyo como mío.*

**Felix Duodu**

*I am grateful for all the faculty and staff that helped me get to this moment. I hope to honor and make you proud post graduation as I look to make a career in this field. Thank you for challenging, and pushing me.*

**Victor Ebubechukwu Epuna**

*Thank you to my family for your love and sacrifices, and to my professors and mentors for your guidance. Your support has been the foundation of my success. I'm grateful!*

**Ines Flores**

*Having both my bachelor's degree and my masters from UHD is truly an honor as all faculty has been very knowledgeable and motivating in my education career. I strive to be a better daughter, mother, sister, friend, and over all person. Thank you all for y...*

**Jordan Kar**

*Grateful for the invaluable knowledge, support, and experiences gained throughout my Master's in Data Analytics—this journey has empowered my growth both professionally and personally.*

**Yasmin Noor**

*Thank you to my family, friends, and UHD faculty and staff for all their support and guidance towards helping me achieve my Master's degree.*

**Mellany Rose Sacluti Olarte**

*In loving memory of my parents—your love and sacrifices made this possible. Heartfelt thanks to my family and friends for their support and to my professors for their guidance and encouragement.*

**Azucena Teran**

*I'm deeply grateful for my husband Jorge, my family, and friends who supported me along the way. A mis padres, gracias de todo corazón. Mi éxito es reflejo de sus sacrificios. Camino con orgullo, llevando sus sueños conmigo y honrando todo lo que hicieron.*

# MARILYN DAVIES COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

## Candidates for Graduation

### Master of Business Administration

Amanda Lauren Aguilar  
Lissania E. Alarcon  
Kia Crystal Allen  
Ever Alvarado  
Ana Maria Alvis  
Sarah Rachel Beeman  
John Shannon Broussard  
Alexander Travis Brown  
Teniayo Oluwadamilola Busari  
Jamiee Victoria Carter  
Nicole Eileen Clemente  
Consuelo Cecilia Cordova  
Tarryn N. Davis  
Carina Delgado  
Vanessa Diaz-Martinez  
Brittany Lynn Fink  
Kristofer A. Garza-Mischer  
Alfredo D. Gonzalez  
Mariana Grijalva  
Kailun Guo  
Sara Jaber  
Charles E. Johnson  
Antonio Juarez  
Namita Kadel  
Semirat Kuku  
Mohammed Avaish Lalani

Andrew J. Malcolm  
Anh Van Nguyen  
Vania Nieves  
Isis Amor Oburu Mitoho  
Abidemi Rilwan Olaleye  
Shalini Patel  
Luis Anjel Pichardo  
Destinie J. Ross  
Najee Jacarr Ruffin  
Joshua Nicholas Salinas  
Melissa Salinas  
Manuela Serna  
Morgan Denise Sheppard  
Morgan L. Sinoski  
Jenifer Rae Thomas  
Kandice Thompson  
Ibrahim Tiendrebeogo  
Ana Guadalupe Tiznado  
Anthony Joseph Tranchina  
Maryam Oiza Uhwache  
Gabriela Patricia Vilanova  
Rogaciano Villalobos Jr.  
Juanita Villarreal  
Leonard Wayne Washington Jr.  
Shiyu Zhuang

### Master of Science in Professional Accountancy

Erika Cristina Avendano  
Sariah Elizabeth Boney  
Debbie Broussard  
Yarely Conejo  
Korika Michelle Dahlo  
Angela Stephanie Dela Garza  
Raymundo Escobar  
Ishna Hasanali

Lindsey Larsen  
Khanh M. Nguyen  
Jose Alfredo Ortega  
Jennifer Rocha  
Estefany Rodriguez Amatt  
Pierina Sanchez  
Christina Sun  
Emily Viera

## Master of Security Management

Dominique Lachae Ashton  
Tiffany Burgess  
Vanessa Carolina Cabrera  
Dwanette Marie Curry  
Kelly Jean Dartsch  
Ludovic Hermann  
Jakyle Jackson

Hien Ngoc Kieu  
Lemarcus Kinner  
Ryan Kuriakose  
Ashley Celeste Martinez  
Temitope Ogunkule  
Joy Okanu  
Debora Lorene Yawn

## WORDS OF THANKS

### Amanda Aguilar

*With deepest gratitude, I thank my family for their endless love, support, and encouragement. Your belief in me has been my greatest strength. I couldn't have done this without you!*

### Lissania Alarcon

*Grateful to have reached this milestone of graduating with my master's. I thank God and my family for their unwavering support throughout this incredible journey. I also extend my appreciation to the professors for the valuable knowledge they've shared.*

### Ever Alvarado

*I am incredibly grateful to God and everyone who helped me along the way. A special thanks to my wife—my rock—who never allowed me to quit. I love you today, always, and forever.*

### Ana Maria Alvis

*I am deeply grateful to all the Faculty members for their unwavering support, guidance, and dedication. Their mentorship has been invaluable in my academic journey, and I will always be thankful.*

### Erika Avendano

*Mom, every step I've taken, every success I've earned, is because of your strength, love, and belief in me. This moment is yours as much as it is mine.*

### Sarah Beeman

*Dr. Cedillos and Dr. Bennett, thank you for believing in me, pushing me forward, and guiding me with care. Your support has truly changed my life.*

### John Shannon Broussard

*I'm thankful to have my parents, family, and friends in my corner, I wouldn't have made it this far without them.*

**Alexander Travis Brown**

*To my amazing wife, I am forever grateful for your love and encouragement.  
Thank you to my parents for their unwavering support and generosity  
throughout this journey.*

**Korika Michelle Daho**

*Thankful to God for giving me the strength, courage and grace to  
complete this milestone.*

**Angela DelaGarza**

*Sin el sacrificio de mis padres, hermanos y mis hijos no hubiera logrado to do lo que  
hecho. Muchísimas gracias y los quiero asta el fin del mundo.*

**Carina Delgado**

*Gracias a mi familia y mis amig@s por todo. <3*

**Vanessa Diaz Martinez**

*Thank you to my family for believing, helping and guiding me to achieve this goal.  
Keep Moving Forward.*

**Brittany Lynn Fink**

*I am forever grateful to my fiancé, my dad and the memory of my late mom for their  
unwavering love, support and guidance. Their presence shapes me every day.*

**Kristofer Garza**

*Thank you Alex, Maryam, Rogaciano and Anthony for being great teammates in our  
capstone course. Y'all are amazing, and I wish you all the best!*

**Ishna Hasanali**

*Endless gratitude to my family and Hassan—your unwavering love, support, and  
belief in me made this moment possible. Thank you for standing by me every  
step of the way.*

**Charles Johnson II**

*Thank you to all my professors and most important my family for their continuous  
support. Lesly and Lively daddy loves you!*

**Antonio Juarez**

*Statistically speaking, I now have a higher chance of being invited to unnecessary  
meetings, thanks!*

**Namita Kadel**

*A heartfelt thanks to the faculty, my parents, and my husband who stood by and  
supported me throughout my MBA journey. I've made it!*

**Mohammed Avaish Lalani**

*I'd like to thank Brad Cannaday for his valuable insights, engaging activities, and  
impactful teaching as a Corporate Fellow. His guidance and concepts greatly  
enriched my learning experience in multiple classes.*

**Andrew Malcolm**

*Thank you, friends and family for supporting me through this degree, and thank you to the professors who gave me the skills to be successful in my professional career.*

**Ashley Celeste Martinez**

*Grateful for the opportunity and challenges that made me succeed in this great milestone.*

**Lindsey Larsen**

*Thank you to my husband for your constant support and encouragement. I couldn't have done this without you. Together, we're unstoppable—chasing dreams and reaching goals, side by side.*

**Anh Nguyen**

*I am deeply grateful to my family, friends, and professors for their unwavering support and guidance. Your encouragement has been invaluable on this journey, thank you for believing in me.*

**Vania Nieves**

*To my husband, thank you for believing in me, encouraging me to start this journey, and supporting me every step of the way. I am forever grateful for your love and support!*

**Temitope Ogunkunle**

*I cannot but appreciate Ms Cecilia Longoria for her dedication in listening and ever ready to help attitude. I appreciate Dr. Jude Ejiobi and Dr. Paul Berryman for their awesome knowledge impaction. Above all, thanks to UHD and college of business for the...*

**Joy okanu**

*I want to appreciate Dr Jude Ejiobi, Longoria Cecilia, and Dr Paul Berryman.*

**Estefany Rodriguez Amatt**

*Gracias mamá por guiarme hasta aquí. Thanks Adrian for walking next to me in this journey and all of your help. Baby Adrian, I love you son!*

**Melissa Salinas**

*Special thanks to my daughters for their unwavering patience, to my professors for challenging me, and to my mom in heaven—this achievement is for you. We did it!*

**Morgan Sheppard**

*I would like to thank all of my professors and group members that I have met here at UHD as well as my family and friends for their support!*

**Morgan Sinoski**

*I did this for grandma, rest in peace.*

**Kandice Marquis Thompson**

*My deepest gratitude to Professor Curran, a true leader. Her dedication, compassion, and unwavering support have gone far beyond the call of duty. She wasn't just a professor—she was a mentor, a guide, and a true inspiration. Professor Curran showed leader.*

**Maryam Oiza Uhwache**

*All thanks to God for the strength to complete this journey. I'm grateful to my dad, mom, and siblings for standing by me from start to finish through every challenge and every win. Thank you to the UHD MBA team, faculty, and my friends for the constant k...*

**Emily Viera**

*I would like to thank my sister and brother-in-law for all their support and encouragement. Without it, I would not be here.*

**Gabriela Patricia Vilanova**

*All honor and glory to God. Thankful for my parents who gave me strength and courage. Grateful for my family and friends, whose love and support mean everything to me.*

**Rogaciano "Roger" Villalobos**

*Grateful for my kids' love and support and for every professor's insightful guidance. Their encouragement made this journey possible. Thank you for inspiring growth and resilience.*

**Juanita Villarreal**

*I appreciate all my graduate professors for all their support and experience. Special thanks to Dr. Cedillos! Lots of late nights and coffee and great friends like Sarah Beeman and Anh Nguyen - thanks for your patience and partnership!*

**Leonard Wayne Washington Jr.**

*Grateful to have my loving wife and child for celebrating this milestone with me. This cherished memory will be passed down for generations.*

**Debora Lorene Yawn**

*I'm incredibly grateful for my family's unwavering support throughout my journey. Your encouragement and belief in me have been invaluable as I worked toward earning my Master of Security Management.*







## *Alma Mater*

Standing proud along the bayou,  
a Houston landmark true,  
is our noble Alma Mater,  
glorious to view.

Representing many cultures,  
races, tongues, and creeds,  
confident we now go forth to  
serve our common needs.

Studies finished, now we're leaving  
new goals to pursue,  
but our hearts to UH-Downtown  
ever will be true.

Come, let's join and raise our voices,  
praising UHD.  
may our lives forever honor  
thy dear memory.



