SPECIAL THANKS

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Mr. Antwanette (Toni) Hill
Ms. Janet Hoover
Dr. Melissa Knop
Dr. Ray Landers
Dr. Joy Quandahl
Dr. Virgil Tiemann
Reception

Welcome and Opening Remarks • Dr. Robert McPherson, Dean

Dinner

Star Award Presentations

Faculty Service Award • Dr. Catherine Horn
Presented by Dr. Pamela Butler, UH COE Alumni Association President

Outstanding Alumna Award • Dr. Loveen Bains
Presented by Dr. Ezemenari Obasi, Department Chair Educational Psychology

Outstanding Alumna Award • Dr. Tracy Ginsburg
Presented by Dr. Anthony Rolle, Department Chair Educational Leadership and Policy

Outstanding Alumnus Award • Dr. Bernard Pohl
Presented by Dr. Laveria Hutchison, Department Chair Curriculum and Instruction

Dean’s Recognition • Ms. Angela Miller
Presented by Dr. Robert McPherson, Dean

Student Scholarship Recognition
Presented by Dr. Robert McPherson, Dean

Past UH COE Alumni Association President Recognition
Presented by Dr. Pamela Butler
• Dr. Robert Borneman
• Dr. Sharon Boutwell
• Dr. Jacquie Hawkins
• Dr. Janet Hoover

Closing Remarks • Dr. Robert McPherson, Dean
HONORING

**DR. CATHERINE HORN**  Faculty Service Award

Dr. Catherine Horn serves as Associate Professor in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies. She is the Executive Director of the Institute for Educational Policy Research and Evaluation and Director of CREATE. Her research examines relationships between systemic barriers to college access and admissions for traditionally underrepresented students and the effects of poverty on educational outcomes from national and international perspectives.

**DR. LOVEEN BAINS**  Outstanding Alumna

Dr. Loveen Bains is currently a Senior Program Manager at the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, managing the Teacher Incentive Fund grant. Prior to the National Board, Dr. Bains served at the U.S. Department of Education with an extensive range of principal responsibilities. She provided direct oversight and management of *Race to the Top* on both state and district levels as part of President Obama's education reform agenda. Additionally, Dr. Bains led the creation and coordination of flagship international higher education dialogues in partnership with the U.S. State Department and foreign governments, and also administered federal education grants throughout the United States.

Dr. Bains holds a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from the University of Houston, an M.A. in Clinical Psychology from Pepperdine University and a B.A. in Psychology from the University of Arizona.
DR. TRACY GINSBURG  Outstanding Alumna

Dr. Tracy Ginsburg serves as the Executive Director for the Texas Association of School Business Officials (TASBO) and has over 30 years of public school district experience, most recently serving as the Chief Financial Officer for the Fort Bend ISD. Prior to joining Fort Bend ISD, Tracy served as the Chief Financial Officer for Round Rock ISD and also worked in El Paso and Socorro ISDs as an auditor and business official.

She received her Doctorate in Educational Leadership from the University of Houston in 2012 and has a passion for public education. She served as an expert witness in the recent school finance litigation, testifying on behalf of Fort Bend ISD and the needs of fast growth school districts with regards to facilities expansion. She is the recipient of the 2009 Austin Business Journal, Non-Profit CFO of the Year, 2011 TASBO Commitment to Excellence Award, and the 2013 ASBO Eagle Award, all of which recognize her commitment to best practices in school finance and operations in the field of education.

DR. BERNARDO E. POHL, JR.  Outstanding Alumnus

Dr. Bernardo E. Pohl, Jr. has a Doctorate of Education in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Houston. He is an Assistant Professor of Education in the Department of Urban Education at the University of Houston-Downtown.

He currently lectures on education methodology, special education/disability studies, and social studies theory. He is the author of *The Moral Debate on Special Education* by Peter Lang Publishing, *The Moral Crisis in Special Education: Redefining The Social Model of Disability in Journeys in Social Education* (C.S. W hite, Ed., 2010), and *Voices of Empowerment* (2008) published in *The English Record*. He is a frequent contributor to the *Social Studies Texan*—the flagship journal of the Texas Council of Social Studies. His current areas of research interest are disability studies, social studies methods, and moral/ethical issues in public education.

MS. ANGELA MILLER  Dean’s Recognition

As the Secondary Social Studies Curriculum Manager, Angela Miller works to support effective, engaging, and relevant social studies education in Houston ISD schools so that all students can become knowledgeable about, and involved in, civic affairs. For over a decade, she has facilitated a partnership between the College of Education and Houston ISD in four *Teaching American History* grants from the US Department of Education. These grants have amounted to millions in funding and have provided significant partnership with the College of Education by providing summer tuition for 61 HISD teachers and funding 2-3 graduate assistants each year. Angela has worked to create and sustain a mutually beneficial partnership between UH and HISD. Her efforts have enabled numerous projects including teacher preparation, global classrooms, professional development and research projects.
BOBBY ABROL
College of Education Alumni Scholarship Endowment

As a child born in a rural village in India, Bobby Abrol has come a long way to pursue a career in education. Bobby is currently pursuing her Ed.D. in Curriculum and Instruction and has served as a teacher, researcher, curriculum expert, consultant and teacher educator. She is a founding member of the Curriculum and Instruction College of Education Graduate Student Organization. With this organization, she hopes to create a platform for graduate professionals in education to network and have critical dialogue on educational issues.

SAHIFAH ANSARI
Lilie Family Early Childhood Endowment Scholarship

As a graduate from the distinguished DeBakey High School for Health Professionals, Sahifah Ansari understands the importance of proper health education. In pursuing her bachelors in Health Education, Sahifah’s ultimate goal for her future students is to instill a commitment to help others by teaching about preventative health, raising awareness of health disparities, and fostering compassion by example. Sahifah serves to be a voice against health disparities and establish healthcare as a basic right for all individuals.
SONIA BABU  
*College of Education General Scholarship*

Sonia Babu is a third year School Psychology doctoral student who has excelled in her role as a Lead Teacher’s Assistant. She has created a classroom environment that is both friendly and structured. Sonia understands the importance of effectively working with others to become an impactful leader. Sonia hopes to apply her communication, organization, and leadership skills towards her future duties as a School Psychologist.

ARTHUR BELTRAN  
*S.D. Jackson Scholarship Endowment*

Arthur Beltran is a fourth year doctoral student in Curriculum and Instruction who has focused on improving technology literacy and educational technology in area schools. Presently, Arthur is researching and designing web-based materials for learning the Spanish language through the use of the Spanish version of the popular radio broadcast, “Engines of Our Ingenuity.” He is also developing materials for the university’s Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) on Digital Storytelling and Web 2.0 Tools for educators.

JASMIN BONEY  
*Irene Smith Buckner Scholarship Endowment  
Dr. Mary Lou and Eddie Hernandez Scholarship Endowment*

Jasmine Boney knows the meaning of hard work. As a full-time student, Jasmine has maintained a full-time job and mentored young children with the U.S. Dream Academy in partnership with the on-campus organization, Collegiate 100 Women. By obtaining her M. Ed degree in Health Education, Jasmine hopes to be an advocate for others and help improve our current healthcare system.
LASHONDA CASON
Helen and Melvin Wimpelberg Memorial Scholarship Endowment
Pauline Moss Crouch Endowment Scholarship

Lashonda Cason left her home in Kansas City, Missouri to pursue a master’s degree in Curriculum and Instruction and has achieved a 4.0 grade point average. Lashonda plans to either teach high school Environmental Science or Biology for the Houston Independent School District. Lashonda strives to be an inspiration not only to her future students, but also to the current University students she assists as a resident advisor.

KARIMAH CROSSON
Helen Gore-Laird and Dov Liberman Educational Psychology Endowed Scholarship Fund

Karimah Crosson’s passion for education was solidified after she spent two months in Cape Town, South Africa studying human rights. Karimah is currently pursuing her masters in Administration and Supervision. She believes education is the gateway to combating oppression and plans to devote her life to helping students reach their potential. As the first in her family to graduate from college, Karimah plans to eventually become Dr. Crosson and inspire younger generations in her family.

EWUNÉ EWANE
Dr. Walter Cubberly Fellowship Endowment

Ewuné Ewane is a first year Counseling Psychology doctoral student with an emphasis on Health Psychology. She currently serves as a graduate student within the Hwemudua Addictions & Health Disparities Laboratory under the supervision of Dr. Ezemenari Obasi. Ewuné hopes to apply the skills garnered from the program in a career as a Counseling Psychologist and address health disparities of marginalized ethnic populations.
**RACHEL FEIN**
*Andrews Foundation Scholarship*  
*Weber Memorial Scholarship Endowment*

Rachel Fein has devoted herself to helping children with autism. As a doctoral student, she aspires to become a licensed psychologist, and specialist in school psychology to provide assessments and treatments to children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Rachel not only focuses on the children, she also provides parent training for the families and co-facilitates social skills groups.

**MONICA GONZALEZ**
*The Faith Gladstone Marshall Endowed Scholarship*  
*John Croft Memorial Fellowship Endowment Fund*

Monica Gonzalez is a second year doctoral student with a great challenge, which is to change students' negative perception about mathematics. As an assistant principal, Monica has used her extensive experience and leadership qualities to enhance students’ mathematical skills. Currently, Monica is a full-time student working on an NSF funded grant titled “Mathematical Knowledge for Equitable Teaching Project.”

**ELIZABETH HARVEY**
*College of Education Alumni Scholarship Endowment*  
*Judy McCollough Butler Endowment Scholarship*

Eby Harvey is a motivated graduate student in Curriculum and Instruction who takes pride in her work and has a positive influence on students' lives. Eby works to make these impacts through volunteer tutoring for underserved children and through her work as a member of the Presbyterian School faculty. Eby has excelled at taking full-time coursework while also starting a new career as an Elementary Lead Teacher. She is currently teaching full-time on a probationary certificate while completing her coursework and capstone.
DARRYL HENSON
Richard L. Hooker Scholarship
Richard D. Strahan Educational Law Endowment Scholarship

Darryl Henson is a Professional Leadership doctoral student and aspiring superintendent who plans to shape a culture in which high expectations are the norm for each student as evident in rigorous academic work and social development. Darryl is already an educational leader on his current campus and is a great support to his staff, faculty and administration. His goal is to benefit his students and the community.

TZU-YING HO
College of Education Alumni Scholarship Endowment
The Paul R. and Nancy G. Borneman Scholarship

Tzu-Ying Ho is an international student from Taiwan who has made the most out of her time at the University of Houston. Tzu-Ying is a full-time student pursuing her doctoral degree in Curriculum and Instruction and has been published in the Texas ASCD Journal and received the Outstanding Teaching Team Award while maintaining a 4.0 GPA. After she completes her education, Tzu-Ying plans to pursue a career in both education and research.

MARTINQUE JONES
Weltzein Endowed Scholarship

Martinque Jones is a Counseling Psychology doctoral student whose ultimate goal is obtaining a faculty position in a university setting. Her research interests include enhancing the provision of mental health services to underrepresented groups. Martinque is invested in advocating for the needs of diverse students at UH and across the nation. She plans to develop future scholars through the teaching and mentoring of university students.
HEATHER JONES  
_Loleet Usener Eckel Scholarship Endowment_

Heather Jones is a full-time doctoral student and graduate assistant. She also teaches Content Area Literacy and supervises five student teachers in the Houston area. In the summer of 2012, Heather began submitting manuscripts for publication and has been published twice and has another article under review. Her research investigates the impact of summer programs on STAAR scores. Heather hopes to eventually take the valuable information she has learned and teach college courses.

SARAH KINDEL  
_Lilie Family Early Childhood Endowment Scholarship_

Sarah Kindel is a full-time undergraduate student who is graduating this fall with a degree in Human Development and Family Studies and a certification in Early Childhood - 6th Grade Education. She has managed to maintain her place on the Dean’s List while being a wife and mother to her 4-year-old son and 3-month-old daughter. Sarah currently serves as a preschool ministry teacher at her church; an endeavor which has provided great experience for her as a future elementary school teacher.
KATHERINE LAITKEP  
*College of Education Alumni Scholarship Endowment*  
*The Don & Jacqueline Hawkins Endowed Scholarship*

Katie Laitkep is majoring in Creative Writing while seeking a Teaching Certificate for English 8–12. As a child, Katie spent a lot of her time in the waiting room of a hospital. While understanding the circumstances of children in treatment, Katie has devoted her time to teaching students at Texas Children’s Hospital and Memorial Hermann Hospital. Katie strives to understand her students as individuals in order to produce a personalized plan for their success.

JHIH-YIN LEE  
*Dr. Sheng Kuan Chung Scholarship*

Jhih-Yin Lee is pursuing her doctoral degree in Art Education and exploring how to reach students and mold them into future leaders. Jhih-Yin balances her studies of Art Education with the practice of community service, interning at the UH Blaffer Art Museum and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. She also volunteers at ArtBridge Houston, a non-profit organization that helps homeless children discover their potential with art.

KELLY LEE  
*Norman I. Kagan Scholarship*

Kelly Lee is a fifth year Counseling Psychology doctoral student. She served as the Co-President for the Educational Psychology Graduate Student Organization from 2012-2013 and is a creativity scorer with the Urban Talent Research Institute. She has also gained training through four clinical placements in counseling, taught two online courses, and has completed her dissertation.
KIRA LENHART
Nancy D. Palm Scholarship Endowment
Susan and Tom Williams Graduate Scholarship Endowment in Mathematics Education

Professionally, Kira Lenhart has excelled and has become a praised leader in her Geometry departments at the middle school and high school levels. Kira has been able to use her leadership skills to excel in the Mathematics Education Master’s Program. Kira plans to extend her positive influences past the classroom and help more students and teachers achieve their full potential.

ELIZ MARKOWITZ
Mabel Jewell Harper Endowment Scholarship
Velma Glass Chambers Scholarship Endowment

Eliz Markowitz is a third year Curriculum and Instruction doctoral student and has maintained a 4.0 GPA. She developed and implemented a program aimed at helping students pass the TExES Professional and Pedagogical Responsibilities exam. Developing this program and teaching students how to excel in test taking, has provided Eliz with great satisfaction and has helped many others achieve their dreams.

YESENIA MARTINEZ
Robert and Elizabeth Houston Scholarship

Coming back for her Master’s degree has only reassured Yesenia Martinez of her passion for teaching. She believes the purpose of education is to evolve students and help them discover new truths every day. Yesenia hopes to pursue a Ph.D. in Reading and Language Arts. She plans to continue to help students discover who they are and who they will become.
**SANDRA MONTES**  
*George Leroy and Myrajane Ereckson Hall Scholarship Endowment*  
As a second year doctoral student in Curriculum and Instruction, Sandra Montes’ childhood thirst for knowledge has become her lifelong mission. As an elementary school teacher, Sandra hopes to use her education to better inform and influence the lives of her students which include English Language Learners. Sandra believes that a well-educated student is a jubilant student and encourages her students to pursue higher levels of education.

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**KRISTAL McCORD**  
*Leslie and Kim Wheless Scholarship Endowment  
Phyllis & Mudge Miller Scholarship*  
Krystal McCord is a future middle school science teacher who plans to share her passion for science with her future students. Krystal believes that working with teenagers is an opportunity to teach students about themselves and the world around them at a vital time in their lives. As a Teaching and Learning major, Krystal understands that learning is a lifelong process and hopes to facilitate learning for people of all ages.

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**MARGO MELCHOR**  
*Larry and Phyllis Hughes Award for Leadership Studies Endowment*  
Margo Melchor is a dental hygienist pursuing a doctoral degree in Professional Leadership with an emphasis in Health Science Education. She has repeatedly displayed her talents academically and in the community. Being a first generation high school and college graduate, Margo has displayed an abundance of intellectual drive and dedication in the field of dentistry. Her passion and hard work has led her to advocate for Hispanics in dentistry, educate others in the community about the importance of oral health, and show the endless possibilities that come with an education.

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**HIROE OKAMOTO**

*College of Education Alumni Scholarship Endowment*

*Dr. Mary Lou and Eddie Hernandez Scholarship Endowment*

As a full time nurse, Hiroe Okamoto became increasingly aware of the importance of health and preventative care. Hiroe is pursuing her Bachelor of Science in Health and has assisted in the research of various health topics with UH, MD Anderson Cancer Center, and the UT Health Science Center. Through her academic studies in health, Hiroe hopes to one day have a positive impact on the community through health promotion and prevention.

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**BETTY OVUEGBE**

*John D. and Susan K. Thompson Family Scholarship Endowment*

*Insperity Endowment*

After viewing the importance of education in changing the lives of people around her, Betty Ovuegbe strives to go above and beyond in her academic career. She is pursuing a degree in Health and minoring in Kinesiology. She uses her various University of Houston leadership roles to expand her professional experience to help her on her road to become a private practice physical therapist. Betty hopes to show that education is not merely a step on the path to greatness, but the entire journey.

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**TAMMY PEREZ**

*Cecile Foerster Scholarship*

*College of Education Alumni Scholarship Endowment*

After almost 30 years of dedicated service to various non-profit organizations and industry, Tammy Perez is pursuing her dream of becoming a teacher. Tammy has consistently made the Dean’s List by maintaining a 3.9 GPA while pursuing her Bachelor of Science in Teaching and Learning. After returning to school later in life, Tammy has a deep appreciation and understanding of what happens in the classroom and how important it is to be the best for her students.
AKILAH REYNOLDS
*Kathleen Pascoe Endowment*

As a fourth year doctoral student in Counseling Psychology, Akilah Reynolds hopes to effectively use the knowledge she gained from the University of Houston to become an Independent Practitioner in Counseling Psychology. As a teaching instructor, she strives to go beyond simple memorization to get students to be more active and engaged in their own learning. Akilah’s mission in education is to encourage free thought in future generations to promote advancement in learning.

CINDY RIVERA
*Joe R. Lopez Scholarship Endowment*

While pursuing a degree in Bilingual education, Cindy Rivera uses her language skills to open the minds and hearts of her children as well as students in various activities in her community. Cindy hopes to spark understanding and knowledge in future generations. She plans to help people appreciate cultural differences and learn with an open heart and mind. Cindy believes that if she is able to help people embrace their differences, they can reach the peak of their potential.

DANNY ROJAS
*Mylie E. and Charles A. Durham Scholarship*

Danny Rojas is a masters student in Administration and Supervision. Throughout his education, Danny Rojas saw an opportunity to become a proactive leader in education reform. As a college senior, Danny recruited talented seniors on campus to join him in a movement to close the educational achievement gap across the nation. Danny’s future goals include conducting groundbreaking research and eventually becoming a President of a four-year institution.
LIONNEL RONDUEN  
*Dr. Eugene Chiapetta Scholarship Endowment*  
*Marcile Hollingsworth Scholarship*  

Lionnel Ronduen is a first generation college student enrolled full-time in the Curriculum and Instruction doctoral program. He spends his time working with at risk youth at the Juvenile Justice Center, which allows him to develop lessons that are suitable for students with special needs. Lionnel’s current research interest is in STEM integration, specifically, addressing the difficulties of integrating STEM within the K-12 classroom, and developing possible interventions to support future teachers.

PATRICK SAJOVEC  
*Basheer A. Hashmi Memorial Fellowship Endowment*  

Patrick Sajovec is a doctoral fellow who excels not only academically, but professionally. Throughout his studies, Patrick has taken a particular interest in preventing summer learning loss in math and science. For the past three years, Patrick has helped improve academic performance and graduation rates of students with ADHD through the nationally recognized Challenging Horizons Program.

JOSHUA UDY  
*E.E. Myrtle Oberholtzer Scholarship*  

Joshua Udy is a second year doctoral student in Curriculum and Instruction. As the curriculum manager for Houston ISD elementary mathematics, Joshua Udy is on his way to reaching his goal of impacting state and national policy reform in mathematics education. This position has opened Joshua’s eyes to the dire need to provide training for teachers in elementary grades regarding best practices in mathematics teaching. As a teacher-leader, Josh holds regular training with math lead-teachers throughout the district.
**TIFFANY WEEMS**  
*Allen R. Warner Scholarship  
Benbrook-Foerster Scholarship*

Volunteering and working with children at her local church for over six years helped Tiffany Weems discover her passion for teaching and working with children. Tiffany's career goal is to become a middle school math teacher. Along with her studies in Curriculum and Instruction, Tiffany has engaged in many campus activities such as participating in the leadership team at the Baptist Student Ministry.

**CODY WHEELER**  
*E.E. Myrtle Oberholtzer Scholarship*

Cody Wheeler is a graduate student in Administration and Supervision and has always enjoyed learning. As a member of the marching band, Cody learned of his strong leadership skills and ability to connect with other students. Currently, as the only full time music instructor on his campus, Cody frequently utilizes his leadership skills when working with faculty, administration and students of all levels.

**QUENTAXIA WRIGHTING**  
*Sabrina A. Marsh Undergraduate Scholarship*

Quentaxia Wrighting is a first generation college student who does not take her education for granted. She understands the positive role education plays in a person's life and strives to not only better herself, but also those around her. While pursuing her undergraduate degree in Public Health, she volunteers at her high school to help juniors and seniors prepare for college, provides tutoring for elementary children, and helps at local food banks and assisted living homes.
EVE ZEHAVI
College of Education Alumni Scholarship Endowment
Joe and Lee Mountain Scholarship

Eve Zehavi is a second year doctoral student in Curriculum and Instruction. Through an inspirational teacher in her 10th grade year, Eve Zehavi realized her passion for literacy and literature. Eve plans to foster the growth of young teachers and help them understand the importance of the history of education and its relevance today. Eve also works to bring other dedicated graduate students together in a graduate student organization that connects them not only to others in the field, but to the college.

recognizing our brightest
STUDENTS ★ ALUMNI ★ FACULTY
The College of Education Alumni Association supports the College through scholarship funding, alumni outreach events and a new mentor program.