

University of Houston-Clear Lake 2026 Emeritus Nominations

Dr. Yvette Bendeck - College of Business

Dr. Yvette Bendeck joined the University of Houston–Clear Lake faculty in 1988 and has served the university with distinction for nearly four decades. During her 38 years at UHCL, she has been an active and influential member of the university community, most recently serving as Professor of Finance and Interim Associate Dean in the College of Business.

Her scholarship has focused on commercial banking and corporate finance, with publications in top-tier peer-reviewed journals such as the *Journal of Finance*, *Journal of Banking and Finance*, and the *Journal of Monetary Economics*. She also has contributed teaching cases and pedagogical work in the *Journal of Case Research and Inquiry*. In the classroom, Dr. Bendeck has taught a broad range of undergraduate and graduate finance courses, consistently emphasizing analytical rigor and the practical application of financial concepts.

At UHCL, Dr. Bendeck has made significant contributions in both faculty governance and academic administration. She served on the Faculty Senate and Faculty Council and later held major leadership roles in Academic Affairs and Enrollment Management, where she helped shape academic policies, enrollment strategy, and institutional operations during an important period of university growth. In 2025–2026, she also served as Interim Associate Dean for the College of Business. Beyond UHCL, she has remained active in professional and community service, including service as President of the Western Case Writers Association and as a member of the Board of Directors of JSC Federal Credit Union.

Dr. Lisa Gossett - College of Business

Dr. Lisa Gossett joined the UHCL faculty in 1993 as an Assistant Professor of Environmental Management and has devoted more than three decades to the university through teaching, leadership, and service. Since earning tenure, she has chaired the Environmental Management program and, in recent years, also led the Management Department within the College of Business.

At the university level, Dr. Gossett has been a visible and effective leader in shared governance, serving as president-elect, president, and past president of the Faculty Senate. She also has chaired the University Life Committee, served as Interim Director of the Environmental Institute of Houston, and contributed in many other university leadership and support roles. Her impact on campus culture was recognized through UHCL's Advancing the Academy Award, which honored her efforts to build constructive change, strengthen relationships across campus, and advocate for faculty, staff, and students.

Outside UHCL, Dr. Gossett has maintained an extensive record of professional and community service. She serves as board president of the Texas Health and Environment Alliance and previously led both the Engineering, Science and Technology Council of Houston and the Science and Engineering Fair of Houston. She also served as secretary of the National Association of Environmental Professionals and contributed to its Texas affiliate and other environmental and professional organizations.

Dr. Barbara Hales - College of Human Sciences and Humanities

Dr. Barbara Hales is a distinguished scholar in Germanic studies, film studies, Holocaust education, and medical ethics whose 24 years at UHCL have been marked by significant contributions in teaching, research, and public scholarship. Her interdisciplinary work draws on archival research, film studies, psychoanalysis, feminist theory, and medical ethics, and has resulted in two single-authored books, two edited volumes, 15 peer-reviewed articles, and numerous conference papers, keynote addresses, and invited lectures.

Among her major publications are *Black Magic Woman: Gender and the Occult in Weimar Germany* and *Cinematically Transmitted Disease: Eugenics and Film in Weimar and Nazi Germany*, both of which have been recognized for their innovative scholarship. Dr. Hales also has been a leading public intellectual, serving as President of the Center for Medicine After the Holocaust and advancing Holocaust education and medical ethics through museum exhibits, speaker series, international seminars, and study programs.

Her contributions to UHCL and beyond reflect a rare combination of scholarly accomplishment, teaching, and civic leadership. She founded UHCL's Film and History Speaker Series and has earned broad recognition for her work, including being selected as a UHCL Piper finalist in 2023.

Dr. Lisa Jones - College of Education

Dr. Lisa Jones joined the University of Houston–Clear Lake faculty as a tenure-track assistant professor in fall 1999 and has served the university for 26 years with a strong commitment to advocacy, servant leadership, and student, faculty, and staff empowerment. Throughout her career, she has combined scholarship, leadership, and service in ways that have made a lasting impact on both the university and the broader community.

Her research has focused on educational inequities affecting underrepresented minorities and on the best practices of culturally responsive teaching and advocacy. This work has led to publications in both research and practitioner journals. She also serves as Principal Investigator of a \$1.599 million August F. Hawkins Centers of Excellence Program Grant from the U.S. Department of Education, reflecting the significance and reach of her scholarship.

At UHCL, Dr. Jones has served as Faculty Senate President, the university's first Faculty Ombudsperson, Co-Chair and Co-Founder of the UHCL Minority Mentoring Association, and a department chair. Her contributions have been recognized through the UHCL Alumni Association Outstanding Professor Award and Fellowship and the UHCL Faculty Fellowship Award. Beyond the university, she has served in leadership roles with the National Association for African American Studies & Affiliates, taught internationally as a People's Republic of China Academic Scholar Award recipient, and contributed to the Houston community through board service and public recognition for her significant contributions.

Dr. Richard Puzdrowski - College of Science and Engineering

Dr. Rick Puzdrowski joined the UHCL faculty in 1999 and built a distinguished 27-year career marked by excellence in teaching, research, advising, and academic leadership. His research focused on comparative neuroanatomy of vertebrates, especially brain evolution in fishes, and resulted in numerous academic publications and externally funded work supported by the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, and other sources. In 2019, he was named a member of UHCL's "Million Dollar Club" in recognition of more than \$1 million in external grant funding.

At UHCL, Dr. Puzdrowski taught courses that prepared students for careers in health and science, including human anatomy, human physiology, pathophysiology, animal physiology, and neuroscience. He also served as faculty advisor to many student organizations and was recognized in 2019 by the UHCL Center for Faculty Development for having taught more than 5,000 students. His teaching excellence was further recognized through the UHCL Alumni Association Outstanding Professor Award and an Excellence in Teaching award from the UHCL chapter of the National Society for Leadership and Success.

Dr. Puzdrowski's leadership and service were equally significant. He chaired the Health Professions Advisory Committee for more than two decades, advised students pursuing careers in medicine and related fields, and led UHCL's efforts to join the Joint Admissions Medical Program, serving as UHCL JAMP Faculty Director from 2014 to 2026. He also served as chair of the Division of Natural Sciences and later the Department of Biology and Biotechnology, chaired the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee for many years, and contributed extensively to university committees and local science fairs.

Dr. Larry Rohde - College of Science and Engineering

Dr. Larry H. Rohde served as Associate Professor of Biology and Biotechnology at UHCL and provided long-standing leadership as former program chair of the Master of Science in Biotechnology and former chair of the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences. His academic preparation included doctoral work at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston and the University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer

Center, followed by postdoctoral study at Stanford University Medical Center in stem cell biology and programmed cell death.

At UHCL, Dr. Rohde became known as a dedicated teacher and mentor who worked to strengthen laboratory and biotechnology education. He reorganized existing laboratory courses and developed new offerings in tissue culture, molecular biology, genetics, and biotechnology to better prepare students for graduate study and careers in research. His teaching was recognized through UHCL's nomination for the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation Professor Award in 2007.

Dr. Rohde also maintained a productive research career supported by grants from the National Institutes of Health—National Cancer Institute and the National Science Foundation. His collaboration with NASA researchers led to several publications and an experiment on the International Space Station studying the impact of microgravity on cellular DNA repair. Over the course of his career at UHCL, he helped secure more than \$1 million in grant funding for research and equipment, further strengthening the university's scientific capacity.

Dr. Paul Wagner - College of Education

Dr. Paul Wagner has had a distinguished career of scholarship, leadership, and service at the University of Houston—Clear Lake and beyond. He founded the Council of Professors and served as its first president, held a formal joint appointment between the College of Education and the College of Human Sciences and Humanities, and taught courses in all four UHCL colleges as well as on every campus in the University of Houston System. His contributions were recognized with the university's President's Award for both research and service, as well as the inaugural Circle Award.

A prolific scholar, Dr. Wagner has published more than 120 professional journal articles in philosophy, education, and cognitive science, along with ten books and a professional training instrument in moral development for teachers. His work also appeared in major newspapers including the Houston Chronicle, Dallas Morning News, and Austin American-Statesman. He held visiting or invited appointments at Harvard University, Stanford University, and Yale University and collaborated with prominent scholars such as Lawrence Kohlberg, Israel Scheffler, Patrick Suppes, and Matthew Lipman.

Dr. Wagner has also been a leader in professional organizations and civic life. He served as President of the American Philosophical Association for Philosophers in Education, Vice President of the association for six years, and International Executive Secretary for the Philosophy of Education Society. His commitment to public engagement extended to leadership roles with organizations such as Leadership Houston, the Houston Marathon Board of Directors, and the Texas Foundation of Education.

Dr. Laurie Weaver - College of Education

Dr. Laurie Weaver has been connected to the University of Houston–Clear Lake for nearly four decades. She first attended UHCL as a graduate student from 1985 to 1988, then served as an adjunct instructor from 1988 to 1995. After two years as a tenure-track professor at Texas A&M University, she returned to UHCL as a full-time faculty member in 1997. Across her roles as student, adjunct faculty member, and professor, Dr. Weaver has been an active participant in the life of the university for 39 years.

Her research has focused on bilingual and ESL teacher preparation. In addition to her publications and presentations, she has played an important role in collaborative grant writing that resulted in nearly \$7 million in funding. Those grant projects supported students pursuing bilingual teacher certification and advanced graduate study in educational administration, library science, counseling, and teaching students from diverse backgrounds.

Dr. Weaver's service record is extensive at the college, university, and professional levels. She served as Program Director from 1998 to 2025 and, since 2007, as UHCL's Instructional Supervisor at McWhirter Elementary PDLs, a role central to the UHCL/Clear Creek Independent School District partnership. She also has served the National Association for Bilingual Education and the Texas Association for Bilingual Education in numerous leadership roles, including service on the TABE Executive Board and as co-chair of the annual conference multiple times. Her work has been recognized through a UHCL Faculty Fellowship, the UHCL Distinguished Service Award, the UHCL Distinguished Faculty Award, and recognition as the UHCL recipient of the Minnie Stevens Piper Award in Education.

Dr. Kevin Wooten - College of Business

Dr. Kevin Wooten has played a distinctive and long-standing role in the history of UHCL. A member of the university's first student cohort in 1974, he later served on the inaugural UHCL Alumni Board and joined the faculty full time in 1991. He currently serves as Professor of Management and Human Resource Management after previously serving as the university's inaugural Chief Strategy Officer and as Chair of the Management Department for more than a decade.

Over the course of his career, Dr. Wooten has developed and taught more than twenty distinct courses in management and human resource management. He twice led the curriculum model for the graduate program in Human Resource Management, co-led the American Society of Anesthesiologists Certificate in Business Administration for twenty years, and has played a significant role on curriculum boards for the American Medical Association. His teaching has been marked by strong integration of professional practice, student consulting projects, and applied leadership development.

Dr. Wooten also has had a substantial scholarly and professional impact. He has authored more than fifty peer-reviewed journal articles and abstracts and close to one

hundred academic conference presentations and posters. His work appears in prominent journals including Academy of Management Journal, Journal of Vocational Behavior, Human Resource Management Review, and Human Relations. He also is a recognized national thought leader in leadership assessment center methods for scientific leaders and serves as Director and architect of the NIH-funded TeamMAPPS program. More recently, he helped lead the formation of the Greater Gulf Coast Translational Science Alliance and the receipt of a seven-year NIH-funded grant that brought UHCL into a major strategic research and workforce development partnership.

Dr. Kwok-Bun Yue - College of Science and Engineering

Dr. Kwok-Bun Yue joined the UHCL faculty in 1988 and has served as Professor of Computer Science and Computer Information Systems since 2006. His career has been marked by sustained contributions in scholarship, teaching, academic program development, and service. His research interests include databases, concurrent programming, blockchain, Internet computing, semi-structured data, and computer science and information systems education.

Dr. Yue has published 58 refereed journal and conference papers and received 21 external grants totaling more than \$3 million, including 17 grants as principal investigator totaling \$2.7 million. Among these awards were two NASA grants on blockchain research from 2020 to 2023 totaling \$875,000. He created and led the UHCL Blockchain Investigation Group, which produced refereed publications and successfully completed the NASA-funded work. In teaching, he has taught 14 undergraduate and 10 graduate courses, designed and developed 10 new courses, and introduced leading technologies to UHCL curricula, including Java, web development, and blockchain. He also has been highly active in supervising student research, publishing 16 refereed papers with student co-authors.

Dr. Yue's service to UHCL has been equally significant. He served in chairperson roles within Computing Sciences for 22 years, including leadership of the Division of Computer and Mathematics, the Computer Science program, the Computer Information Systems program, and the Data Science program. He led multiple ABET accreditation cycles, directed the UHCL NSF STEM scholarship program for 13 years, and helped create three-degree programs: the BAS in Information Technology, the BS in Information Technology, and the MS in Data Science. His many honors include the UHCL Distinguished Teaching Award, the UHCL Alumni Association Outstanding Professor Award, the UHCL Fellowship, and the Distinguished Professorship in Computer Science and Engineering Award.

University of Houston-Downtown 2026 Emeritus Nominations

Dr. Sandra Dahlberg - Department of English

Dr. Dahlberg joined the faculty at the University of Houston-Downtown (UHD) in 1997 as an Assistant Professor in the Department of English, later achieving the rank of Associate Professor in 2002 and Professor in 2008. During her tenure as faculty at UHD, Dr. Dahlberg distinguished herself as a pioneering teacher who provided students with rigorous and engaging courses. She has taught over twenty separate courses at UHD, including lower-division courses and upper-division courses in American Literature, drama, social class, folklore, and several graduate courses supporting the MARC and MAT programs. Dr. Dahlberg has led multiple study abroad trips for UHD students to Europe, providing high impact experiences for students in her literature courses. Her scholarship has been recognized as she won the UHD Excellence in Scholarly and Creative Activities in 2024 for her outstanding record of creative activity including two books, peer-reviewed articles, and an expansive list of presentations. Her most recent monograph, *The Travels of Richard Traunter* (University of Virginia Press, 2022), received the Best Historical Materials Award (2024) from the American Library Association. Perhaps her greatest contribution to the UHD community was her time serving as the Faculty Ombuds for 8 years. In this capacity she has counseled numerous faculty members providing support and guidance during difficult times.

Dr. Dahlberg has served UHD with distinction in teaching, scholarship, and service for over 28 years and is deserving of being awarded the honorary rank of Professor Emerita.

Dr. William Waters - Department of English

Dr. Waters joined the faculty at the University of Houston-Downtown (UHD) in 2008 as an Assistant Professor of the Department of English, later achieving the rank of Associate Professor in 2012. During his time at UHD, Dr. Waters has been instrumental to the BA in English and MA in Rhetoric and Composition programs in the department of English through the wide variety of courses taught and the number of master's theses he has advised. Beyond UHD, he has served on doctoral dissertation committees for students at the University of Houston, Georgia State University, and University of Washington. Dr. Waters was an active member of many important departmental committees including as well as university committees. Dr. Waters has served the larger academic community as well. His book, *Destination Dissertation* (3 editions) helps students in a variety of disciplines to prepare and complete dissertation projects successfully.

Dr. Waters has served UHD and beyond with distinction in teaching, scholarship, and service for over 18 years, and is deserving of being awarded the honorary rank of Associate Professor Emeritus.

Professor Floyd Newsum - Department of Arts and Communication

Professor Newsum passed away in August 2024 while still an active, fully engaged member of the faculty of the University of Houston-Downtown. His distinguished 47 years of service include excellence in teaching, creative scholarship, and service. Professor Newsum's artwork and service have been recognized beyond UHD. His artwork is held in leading institutions including the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Museum of Fine Arts Houston, and several other museums and private collections across the country. His public art commissions in Houston and Fort Worth, as well as his four murals in UHD's Commerce Street Building, exemplify the prominence of his artistic contributions. In 2023, he was honored with a full-career retrospective at the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art, and a major solo exhibition at the Dixon Gallery and Gardens opened posthumously in 2025. A scholarly book on his work is currently in progress with Texas A&M University Press.

As a co-founder of the internationally recognized Project Row Houses, he helped elevate the visibility of community-engaged art and, by extension, UHD. He brought numerous artists and speakers to campus, contributed to committee work at the department, college, and university levels, and served on the University of Houston System's Public Art Committee. His mentorship of faculty and staff over several decades strengthened the institution and contributed to the development and recruitment of talent in the arts.

Professor Floyd Newsum's impact on UHD is enduring. His national reputation brought distinction to the university, and his commitment to cultivating an accessible and welcoming space for artistic inquiry enriched the academic experience of countless students. His legacy continues to shape the university's artistic and academic landscape. For these reasons, Professor Floyd Newsum deserves to be awarded the title of Professor Emeritus posthumously.

Dr. Tammis Thomas - Department of English

Dr. Tammis Thomas has served the University of Houston-Downtown and the Department of English for over 30 years as an assistant professor, associate professor with tenure, and as a professor. During her career, Dr. Thomas offered courses at all curricular levels, ranging from developmental writing and first-year composition to upper-division seminars in gender studies, cultural criticism, Holocaust literature, and German literature. Dr. Thomas committed herself to the success of first-generation and at-risk students, ensuring it through her nationally recognized expertise in high-impact pedagogical practices. Dr. Thomas served the university through her participation in over 50 committees, but her work on committees serving our First Time-in-College student population has been instrumental to UHD. She coordinated the First-Year Seminar, chaired the General Education Committee, led the Developmental Curriculum Committee, and served on the First Time-in-College Steering Committee, the Admissions Review Committee, the First-Year Success Committee, and the Student Retention

Committee, among others. In support of the university's mission, Dr. Thomas, through her curricular and institutional initiatives, has helped countless students persist and reach their full potential.

Dr. Tammis Thomas has served UHD with distinction in teaching, service, and scholarship for three decades. Her contributions to the university and our student body are transformative and enduring. As such, Dr. Thomas is well deserving of the title of Professor Emerita.

Dr. Mohsen Mobasher - Department of Social Sciences

Dr. Mobasher has devoted more than two decades of distinguished service to the University of Houston-Downtown, having joined the faculty in 2002 and serving as Associate Professor since 2006. Over the course of his tenure at UHD—spanning more than 20 years of continuous service—he has built a nationally and internationally recognized record of scholarship, teaching, and service in the fields of urban studies and the Iranian diaspora. Dr. Mobasher taught a wide range of undergraduate and graduate courses, including sociology of migration, globalization, social theory, urban sociology, and research methods and was recognized for his teaching. Dr. Mobasher is the author of the widely cited book *Iranians in Texas: Migration, Politics, and Ethnic Identity* (University of Texas Press), now in a revised and expanded 2025 edition, as well as editor of *The Iranian Diaspora: Challenges, Negotiations, and Transformations* (2018). His forthcoming edited volume on the global Iranian diaspora further demonstrates his continued intellectual leadership in the field.

Equally noteworthy is Dr. Mobasher's extensive record of service and leadership. He has held numerous administrative roles at UHD, including Director of the Cullen Center for Excellence in Teaching & Learning, Sociology & Anthropology Coordinator, and Director of the Houston Urban Research Center. In these roles, he contributed significantly to faculty development, curriculum planning, and interdisciplinary research initiatives. Beyond UHD, Dr. Mobasher has served as a reviewer for leading academic journals and publishers, participated in professional organizations, and contributed to scholarly communities both nationally and internationally.

With these accomplishments as evidence, Dr. Mohsen M. Mobasher meets the requirements for the honorary rank of Associate Professor Emeritus.

Dr. Maria Pitter Bhattacharjee - Department of Urban Education

Dr. Bhattacharjee joined the faculty at the University of Houston-Downtown (UHD) in 1996 as an Assistant Professor in the Urban Education Department, later achieving the rank of Associate Professor in 2004. Dr. Bhattacharjee retired from UHD in 2022 but returned in 2023 to serve as the Program Director for the UHD Bilingual Digital Library. In Dr. Bhattacharjee's three decades of service to UHD, she has served as the Department Chair of Urban Education and the Director of the Bilingual Program. Dr. Bhattacharjee taught a wide range of undergraduate and graduate courses in bilingual

education, literacy, and curriculum development, often designing new curricula and mentoring pre-service teachers in field-based settings. Her impact is evident in the generations of educators she has prepared, many of whom now serve in high-need urban schools. Dr. Bhattacharjee's research on emergent literacy, culturally responsive pedagogy, and technology integration has been disseminated through numerous peer-reviewed publications, conference presentations, and funded projects. Notably, she co-developed the U.S. Department of Commerce-funded UHD Bilingual E-Library, an innovative digital resource that promotes literacy and preserves cultural heritage. She has held leadership roles in professional organizations such as the National Association for Bilingual Education and has been a dedicated advocate for bilingual and ESL education at local, state, and national levels. Her long-standing partnerships with schools, particularly in Houston ISD, have strengthened the connection between the university and the Houston community.

Dr. Bhattacharjee has served UHD with distinction in teaching, scholarship, and service for over 30 years, and is deserving of the honorary rank of Associate Professor Emerita.

University of Houston 2026 Emeritus Nominations

Ruth E. Manny – Professor – Clinical Sciences, Optometry

During Dr. Ruth Manny's career at UH, she devoted her life to caring for others, especially children, and to making the world a little clearer—literally and figuratively—for generations. For more than fifty years, she served as a clinician, scientist, teacher, mentor, and advocate, always guided by a deep sense of responsibility to her patients, her students, and her community.

After completing her OD at UHCO, she earned an MS in 1979 and a PhD in 1981 before joining the faculty as a tenure-track clinician-scientist. She attained the rank of Professor in 2000 and held the Charles R. Stuart Professorship until her unexpected passing in January 2026. Dr. Manny's research changed how pediatric eye care is practiced around the world. She had over 40 years of basic, translational, and clinical research experience with over 30 years of NIH funding. She helped lead large national studies that improved the diagnosis and treatment of childhood vision problems such as amblyopia (lazy eye), strabismus (eye misalignment), and myopia (nearsightedness). The findings from these studies are now part of everyday evidence-based clinical care. Even on the day she passed away, new scientific papers bearing her name were published—quiet proof of a lifetime of sustained impact. She had over 130 peer-reviewed papers which have been cited more than 7500 times to date. She was inducted into the American Academy of Optometry's Hall of Fame (inaugural class of 100) in 2022, and she was ranked #65 among all optometrists in research impact.

Dr. Manny believed strongly in making UH the best that it could be serving on numerous campus committees including Promotion and Tenure for many years. She served on the Faculty Senate for over 25 years, including time on the Executive Committee. In 2024, she was awarded the Faculty Senate Award for Excellence in Service – Lifetime Achievement Award.

Dr. Manny reviewed hundreds of research papers and grants, served in leadership roles for national research groups such as the National Eye Institute-funded Pediatric Eye Disease Investigator Group (PEDIG), was the clinic PI for multiple NEI-funded large multi-center longitudinal studies and clinical trials, and worked behind the scenes to ensure that science was rigorous, ethical, and focused on real-world benefit.

Despite her global professional impact, Dr. Manny remained grounded and unassuming. Ruth showed up every day for her patients, her students, her colleagues, and her family. She cared deeply about fairness, access, and doing things the right way. Dr. Manny passed unexpectedly in January 2026 and the University would like to honor her memory by posthumously recognizing her with Emeritus status.

Richard F. Dole, Jr. – Professor – UH Law Center

Professor Richard Dole held the Bobby Wayne Young Chair on Consumer Law at the University of Houston Law Center and served the institution for more than four decades. He was a distinguished scholar and teacher in commercial law, bankruptcy, consumer protection, and creditors' and debtors' rights.

Over nearly 62 years of scholarship, Professor Dole authored numerous influential works, including 3 books and 28 law review articles. Professor Dole's scholarship has been cited in law review articles more than 100 times and by federal and state courts over 40 times, including the New York Court of Appeals, reflecting its lasting influence in the fields of commercial law, bankruptcy, consumer protection, and creditors' and debtors' protections. He also served as a Fulbright Scholar, visiting professor, and advisor to major legal bodies.

In addition to scholarship, Professor Dole has made significant contributions to the legal profession and public service. He has been a member of the American Law Institute for almost 50 years and has served as Chair of the Texas Commission on Uniform State Laws where his expertise informed public policy and legislative development. Notably, Professor Dole served as a consultant on the Bankruptcy Revision Project for the United States Senate Judiciary Committee. Professor Dole passed away in March 2026 and the University would like to honor his lifelong dedication to legal scholarship and his foundational contributions to serving the Law Center by posthumously recognizing him with Emeritus status.

Donna Kacmar – Professor – Hines College of Architecture

Professor Donna Kacmar has made significant contributions to the University of Houston through an exceptional record of scholarship, teaching, and service. Kacmar has led an award-winning architectural practice, receiving seven AIA Houston or Texas Society of Architects design awards for built works, both through her independent practice or in collaboration with others. Her broader overall professional achievements have also been widely recognized including the AIA Houston Chapter Young Architect Award (2000), the Texas Society of Architects William W. Caudill Award (2000), the National American Institute of Architects Young Architects Award (2004), the Tau Sigma Delta Honor Society of Texas Tech University Silver Medal Award (2005), election to the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects (2009), and the Texas A&M University College of Architecture Outstanding Alumni Award (2011).

Professor Kacmar has also built a substantial and distinguished teaching record. She has taught across the curriculum, including undergraduate design studios, first-year graduate studios, as well as, building technology and seminar courses and several study abroad programs. She was recognized by the AIA Houston with the Educator of the Year Award (2007) and twice by the college with the Outstanding Faculty Award (2009 and 2010). Most recently, she received the 2025 Texas Society of Architects Award for

Outstanding Educational Contributions, an award recognizing exceptional impact in architectural education.

She has served on the boards of the AIA Houston Chapter, Avenue Community Development Corporation, Rice Design Alliance, Architecture Center Houston Foundation, Texas Society of Architects, and the national AIA Strategic Council. She currently serves on the Greater Houston Complete Streets Coalition Steering Committee, working with local organizations to help improve walkability in Houston. Professor Kacmar's historic role, leadership, and sustained excellence fully merit the designation of emeritus status.

Julie Dunsmore – Professor – PHLS, College of Education

It is my pleasure to offer this letter to nominate Dr. Julie Dunsmore, Professor in the Human Development and Family Sciences Program, for consideration for Emeritus Status with the University of Houston. Her consistent contributions and excellence across Research, Teaching, and Service exemplify the spirit of Emeritus Status. Dr. Dunsmore has a distinguished research record, including 75 peer-reviewed articles cited 5,984 times (h-index 34) and over \$2 million in external funding as PI or Co-PI. She was elected a Fellow of the American Psychological Association in 2020.

Dr. Dunsmore has demonstrated sustained excellence in teaching through undergraduate and graduate instruction, high teaching evaluations, and multiple teaching awards. Her service record spans the department, college, university, and disciplinary levels, including leadership on university research committees and national service activities. Within the PHLS department, Dr. Dunsmore has held numerous committee memberships as well as leadership positions on search committees. These efforts are reflected at the college level as well. Her work at the university includes participation and leadership on the Conflict of Interest in Research Committee where she has been a member since 2021 and now serves as chair. She is a valued and respected member of the department and college, and her career reflects a significant and lasting contribution to the University of Houston.

Paul Kittelson – Associate Professor - School of Art, McGovern College of the Arts

Associate Professor Paul Kittelson retired in August 2025 after a 35-year career at the University of Houston. He is an internationally recognized sculptor whose large-scale public artworks—such as Bayou Beacons, Take Off, Heritage Lanterns, and Healing Trees—have become landmarks in Houston and beyond. His work has been exhibited nationally and internationally and collected by major museums including the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, and the Menil Collection.

As a faculty member since 1990, Professor Kittelson profoundly shaped the Sculpture Program through his teaching, mentorship, and leadership. He was instrumental in advocating for and helping design the Elgin Street Studios, transforming the infrastructure and integration of the program. His engagement with Houston's artistic

community, dedication to students, and lasting impact on both the university and the city make him highly deserving of emeritus status.

Alan R. Burns – Professor - Vision Sciences, College of Optometry

Dr. Alan Burns joined the University of Houston College of Optometry faculty in 2008 and was promoted to Professor in 2012. He has held endowed professorships since 2016 and is internationally recognized as a leader in corneal biology, inflammation, and wound healing. Dr. Burns has maintained continuous external funding since receiving his first NIH R01 in 2000 and has authored more than 143 peer-reviewed publications, with an h-index of 56.

In addition to his outstanding research record, Dr. Burns has made major contributions as a teacher and mentor, graduating nine PhD students and four OD/MS students and serving as a key resource in histology and imaging. His extensive service includes long-standing participation on NIH and CIHR study sections and leadership roles within the college and university. His career reflects sustained excellence and significant contribution to the University of Houston, fully meriting emeritus status.

Jonathan Middents – Associate Professor - Theatre & Dance, McGovern College of the Arts

Professor Jonathan Middents has served the University of Houston system with distinction since 1977, including nearly four decades at the UH Main Campus beginning in 1983. As Production Manager and Technical Director for the School of Theatre & Dance and the Houston Shakespeare Festival, he coordinated and supervised all technical aspects of productions through 2018.

A highly accomplished scenic and lighting designer, Professor Middents was an insightful and imaginative collaborator whose technical expertise and generosity profoundly shaped countless productions. His decades of mentoring students through hands-on production work helped launch many successful professional careers. Professor Middents remains an engaged and valued member of the School, and his sustained service, mentorship, and continued connection fully merit emeritus status.

Jerry J. Waite- Professor- Information Sciences Technology, College of Engineering

Dr. Jerry J. Waite retired as a full professor in 2023 after 50 years in the graphic communications field, including 30 years at the University of Houston. He founded the Graphic Communications Technology program in 1993 and expanded it into the Digital Media bachelor's program, now serving over 500 majors and representing a model program nationally through repeated accreditation successes.

Dr. Waite's impact as an educator, administrator, and scholar is extensive. He authored six textbooks, more than 55 peer-reviewed articles, and dozens of trade publications, while also securing significant grants and industry software partnerships valued at nearly \$2 million. His teaching excellence, professional leadership, and lasting

contributions to student success and program development fully justify his nomination for emeritus status.

Paul M. Janicke – Professor – UH Law Center

Professor Paul Janicke has had a long and distinguished career as a scholar, teacher, and practitioner in intellectual property law, joining the University of Houston Law Center in 1992 and continuing active service through a VMOE after retiring in 2016. He played a central role in founding and building the Institute for Intellectual Property & Information Law (IPIL), which consistently ranks among the nation's top IP programs.

A prolific scholar, Professor Janicke authored a widely used patent litigation treatise and 28 law review articles cited extensively by academics and courts. His outstanding teaching, national professional service, and foundational contributions to the Law Center and the field of intellectual property law fully merit the designation of Professor Emeritus.

Lawrence J. H. Schulze – Associate Professor – Industrial Engineering, College of Engineering

Dr. Lawrence J. H. Schulze has had a distinguished and sustained career in industrial engineering, occupational safety, and ergonomics, marked by exceptional contributions to teaching, research, service, and professional practice. He joined the University of Houston in 1989 and has served continuously in the Department of Industrial Engineering, providing long-standing leadership as Director of the Occupational Safety and Ergonomics Program and in the development of the Process Safety Certificate Program.

He has taught more than 3,200 students, supervised 17 master's theses and 9 doctoral dissertations, and made significant scholarly contributions through publications, conference presentations, and national and international standards work. His externally funded, industry-engaged research, extensive university and professional service, and national recognition—including Fellow status and induction into the ASSP Hall of Fame—clearly justify his nomination for Professor Emeritus.

William Rixey – Associate Professor – Civil Engineering – College of Engineering

Dr. William Rixey joined the University of Houston faculty in 1993 after an engineering career in industry and has since built an outstanding record of research, teaching, and service in environmental and civil engineering. His research has focused on soil and groundwater remediation, contaminant fate and transport, and the environmental impacts of fuels, supported by more than \$3 million in research funding and resulting in approximately 50 publications and over 100 presentations.

Dr. Rixey is widely regarded as a master teacher, having taught core undergraduate and graduate courses and mentored numerous MS and PhD students. His service as Associate Chair, journal editor, accreditation leader, and consultant to industry and

government, combined with multiple university and college teaching awards, make him highly deserving of emeritus status.

Stephanie K. Daniels – Professor - Communication Disorders, Liberal Arts & Social Sciences

Dr. Stephanie K. Daniels has had a distinguished and impactful career characterized by excellence in scholarship, leadership, teaching, mentorship, and service. She joined the University of Houston faculty in 2009 and was promoted to Professor in 2013, serving the department for over a decade including eight years as Vice-Chair. Her internationally recognized research on dysphagia and neurogenic communication disorders has resulted in more than 35 peer-reviewed publications, approximately 30 book chapters, multiple major grants, and foundational clinical texts.

Dr. Daniels' achievements include receiving the Gold Medal Award from the Dysphagia Research Society and being named a Fellow of ASHA. She has provided exceptional teaching, mentorship, and service to the department, college, university, and profession, leaving a lasting legacy of academic excellence and leadership that fully merits the designation of Professor Emerita.

Casey Dué-Hackney – Professor – Modern & Classical Languages, Liberal Arts & Social Sciences

Professor Casey Dué-Hackney joined the University of Houston in 2001 and over a twenty-five-year career built an international reputation in Classical Studies through exceptional scholarship, award-winning teaching, and sustained service. She is the sole author of three books and co-author of two additional volumes on Homeric studies, a leader in digital philology through the Homer Multitext Project, and Associate Editor of the Cambridge Guide to Homer. Her scholarship has been recognized with the UH Award for Excellence in Research and Scholarship and the CLASS Distinguished Faculty Award.

Professor Dué-Hackney is also an outstanding teacher whose courses anchor the Classical Studies program and consistently attract large enrollments. She has mentored student research, led international study programs, and secured major external funding, including multiple NEH grants. Despite an early retirement due to serious ongoing medical issues, she intends to remain active in research, mentoring, and program activities. Her sustained excellence and continued contributions fully merit the designation of Professor Emerita.

Sarah Fishman – Professor – History, Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

Professor Sarah Fishman, John and Rebecca Moores Professor of History, will retire in August 2026 after thirty-eight years of distinguished service to the University of Houston. She is an internationally recognized scholar of modern French history and women's history, authoring four single-authored monographs (two translated into French), co-editing major scholarly volumes, and co-authoring a widely used textbook. Her scholarship has been recognized with a UH Research Excellence Award and the

CLASS Distinguished Faculty Award.

Professor Fishman has also been an award-winning teacher at both undergraduate and graduate levels and a deeply committed servant of the university. She served for sixteen years as Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies in CLASS, helping to shape the college's academic culture and student-centered practices. Her sustained achievements in research, teaching, and service clearly justify the honor of Professor Emerita.

David S. Buck – Clinical Professor, Fertitta Family College of Medicine

Dr. David S. Buck has made a significant and lasting contribution to the University of Houston through distinguished leadership, service, and community-engaged scholarship. As one of the earliest senior leaders of the Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine and its founding Associate Dean for Community Health, he played a central role in shaping the College's mission, identity, and community engagement strategy during its formative years. Dr. Buck established the Health Commons model and built durable partnerships with community, governmental, and cross-sector organizations, positioning UH as a national leader in shared governance and community-based academic medicine. His nationally and internationally recognized career in community health—including the founding and leadership of multiple service organizations—strengthened the College's credibility, expanded interprofessional education, and contributed materially to the University's Carnegie Community Engagement Classification. In recognition of his sustained excellence, foundational leadership, and continuing value to the University, Dr. Buck is fully deserving of appointment as Professor Emeritus, a designation that will allow him to continue serving UH through mentorship, teaching, and service.

Paul A. Bertagnolli – Professor – Moores School of Music, McGovern College of the Arts

Professor Paul A. Bertagnolli has rendered long and distinguished service to the University of Houston through sustained excellence in scholarship, teaching, and academic service over a twenty-five-year career in the Moores School of Music. An internationally respected musicologist specializing in nineteenth-century music, he is the author of two major monographs and more than two dozen peer-reviewed articles published in leading journals, work that has been widely recognized for its originality and scholarly impact. Professor Bertagnolli is equally known as an outstanding teacher and mentor, particularly for his exceptional guidance of graduate students and supervision of a large number of doctoral documents, through which he influenced generations of musicians and scholars. His extensive service on departmental, college, and university committees further reflects his commitment to institutional excellence. In recognition of his distinguished scholarly record, exemplary teaching and mentorship, and sustained service to the University of Houston, Professor Bertagnolli fully merits appointment as Professor Emeritus.

C. Chet Miller – Professor – Decision & Information Sciences, Bauer College of Business

Professor Miller is an internationally recognized scholar in organizational studies, strategic management, and decision making. Over the course of his distinguished career, he has published extensively in many of the most prestigious journals in the management field, including *Academy of Management Journal*, *Academy of Management Review*, *Organization Science*, *Strategic Management Journal*, and *Harvard Business Review*. His research on strategic decision processes, organizational control, stretch goals, and executive cognition has had a substantial impact on both scholarship and practice. His work has received over 10,000 Google Scholar citations. He has also earned numerous national and international honors, including the Academy of Management Review Best Paper Award, the Academy of Management Annals Best Paper Award, and multiple Outstanding Reviewer and Outstanding Board Member recognitions