



**Dr. Courtney Crappell** serves as the Director of the Moores School of Music and as Professor of Piano and Piano Pedagogy at the University of Houston. He is author of the book, *Teaching Piano Pedagogy: A Guidebook for Training Effective Teachers*, published by Oxford University Press (2019). He has also published over forty articles on music teaching and has presented more than sixty teacher workshops at local, regional, national, and international conferences. His articles and reviews have appeared in the journals *American Music Teacher*, *Clavier Companion*, *Piano Pedagogy Forum*, and the *MTNA e-Journal*. He authors the regular column titled, “Teaching Tomorrow Today” for the journal, *American Music Teacher*. He received the 2012 *American Music Teacher* “Article of the Year” Award in 2012, and in 2018 received the Texas Music Teachers Association (TMTA) “Outstanding Collegiate Teaching Achievement” award.

Since 2008, Dr. Crappell has been as a member of the executive steering committee for the National Group Piano and Piano Pedagogy Forum (GP3) and he also serves as chair of the Committee on Collegiate Pedagogy Teaching for the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy (NCKP). An active participant of several national and international professional organizations, Dr. Crappell is a member of the Royal Conservatory of Music’s (RCM) College of Examiners, and he is an RCM Certified Teacher. He has also served as an examiner for the International Piano Performance Examination Committee in Taiwan. He is a member of the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) and holds the MTNA credential of Nationally Certified Teacher of Music (NCTM).



**Bill Elder, PhD** is Professor and Chair of Behavioral and Social Sciences at the University of Houston College of Medicine. Dr. Elder trained in clinical psychology at the UT Southwestern Medical Center and served a fellowship in the Department of Psychiatry at Presbyterian Hospital of Dallas. He comes to the UH College of Medicine after 20 years of leadership at the University of Kentucky where he was Professor of Family and Community Medicine and Director of Behavioral Health. He is a highly experienced clinician and educational innovator and researcher. Dr. Elder has created biopsychosocial training for learners at all levels and emphasizes relational, comprehensive care of patients. He has conducted federally and foundation funded tertiary clinical research and has served his community locally and led at the national level on medical education. He was an early and federally funded innovators in medical education for integrative medicine and has collaborated on training and service delivery for music therapy as a complementary treatment for cancer. He was recognized by the Secretary of Health and Human Services for his national service representing psychology and received the first Distinguished Alumni Award from UT Southwestern Medical Center's Clinical Psychology Program. As our leader of behavioral and social sciences at the UH College of Medicine, Dr. Elder will develop integrated and interprofessional didactic and experiential activities that enable our graduates to conceptualize patients at medical, psychological and social levels, to form meaningful and health empowering relationships with their patients and to participate as leaders and collaborators in advanced models of integrated and team-based care systems.



**Olivera Nesic-Taylor, PhD**, is a professor and chair of the Department of Biomedical Sciences for the University of Houston College of Medicine. She holds the Cullen Endowed Chair of Biomedical Sciences for the University of Houston. Her expertise includes neuroscience research, in the field of neurotrauma and chronic pain, and medical education.

Before coming to UH College of Medicine, she was a tenured faculty at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, the Texas Tech Paul Foster School of Medicine at El Paso and the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine. She also served as an associate dean for Biomedical Sciences at the Sam Houston State College of Osteopathic Medicine.

As a medical educator, Nesic-Taylor created pre-clerkship medical school curricula and developed interactive sessions with a strong emphasis on the blending of basic and clinical sciences. These curricular innovations extended into clerkships and residency programs. Her medical education research interests center on the various roles that basic science knowledge plays in improved clinical reasoning of future physicians, aligning with the overarching goals of UH College of Medicine to improve the quality of health care.

Nesic-Taylor has been a principal investigator of federally- and locally-funded research grants in the field of neurotrauma, and her research has been cited in more than 1,600 peer-reviewed articles. For her research work, she was awarded the Eric Nader award for breakthrough research in the field of spinal cord injury by the American Association for Spinal injury.

Her varied career spans several decades as a researcher and educator at different universities in the U.S. and abroad, but her most rewarding accomplishments have been in the personal realm — mentoring medical and graduate students, and helping their academic, research or medical careers.



**Claudia Neuhauser, PhD**, is Associate Vice President/Associate Vice Chancellor for Research and Technology Transfer and the Director of the Hewlett Packard Data Science Institute at the University of Houston. Prior to coming to the University of Houston, Claudia served as Associate Vice President for Research and Director of Research Computing at the University of Minnesota. In her capacity as Director of Research Computing she directed the University of Minnesota Informatics Institute (UMII), the Minnesota Supercomputing Institute (MSI), and U Spatial. She was the founding Director of Graduate Studies of the Biomedical Informatics and Computational Biology graduate program from 2008 to 2017. Between 2008 and 2013, she served as Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at the newly established University of Minnesota Rochester (UMR). Prior to moving to UMR, she was Professor and Head and Director of Graduate Studies in the department of Ecology, Evolution and Behavior at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities. She held faculty positions at the University of Southern California, the University of Wisconsin Madison, and the University of California Davis. Neuhauser's research is at the interface of mathematics and biology, and focuses on the analysis of ecological and evolutionary models and the development of statistical methods in biomedical applications. Her interest in furthering the quantitative training of life science undergraduate students has resulted in a calculus book (Calculus for Biology and Medicine), which is currently in its fourth edition. She received her Diplom in mathematics from the Universität Heidelberg (Germany) in 1988, and a Ph.D. in mathematics from Cornell University in 1990. She is a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Professor, a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), and a fellow of the American Mathematical Society (AMS).





**Dr. Todd Van Kekerix** currently serves as a lecturer of piano pedagogy, coordinator of class piano and faculty affiliate for the Community Arts Academy at the Moores School of Music. He recently completed a Doctor of Music in piano performance and pedagogy from the University of Oklahoma. Active as a performer and clinician, Van Kekerix has given workshops and recitals throughout the United States and China. Van Kekerix's research includes pop music pedagogy, historical piano pedagogy, teaching piano in groups, and effective practice habit development.

His former faculty positions include director of enrichment activities at the New School for Music Study in Kingston, NJ and adjunct professor of piano at Kean University in Union, NJ. His degrees include an artist's certificate and master's degree in piano performance and pedagogy from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas and a bachelor's degree from Augustana University in Sioux Falls, SD. His past teachers include Jane Magrath, Barbara Fast, Jeongwan Ham, Samuel Holland, Alfred Mouldous, Alessio Bax and Rick Andrews. Previously, he has been a faculty member at the Practical Piano Pedagogy Seminar summer series in Kingston, NJ and an instructor at the SMU Institute for Young Pianists in Dallas, Texas. He has also presented workshops at the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy and has been published in *Clavier Companion* magazine.