

# COMMENCEMENT



AUGUST 5, 2023

# Lead On, O King Eternal


LANCASHIRE 7.6.7.6 D

Ernest W. Shurtleff, 1888

Henry Thomas Smart, c. 1835



1. Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, The day of march has come;  
2. Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, Till sin's fierce war shall cease,  
3. Lead on, O King e - ter - nal: We fol - low, not with fears;



Hence - forth in fields of con - quest Thy tents shall be our home;  
And ho - li - ness shall whis - per The sweet a - men of peace;  
For glad - ness breaks like morn - ing Wher - e'er Thy face ap - pears;



Through days of prep - a - ra - tion Thy grace has made us strong,  
For not with swords' loud clash - ing, Nor roll of stir - ring drums;  
Thy cross is lift - ed o'er us; We jour - ney in its light:



And now, O King e - ter - nal, We lift our bat - tle song.  
With deeds of love and mer - cy The heav - en - ly king - dom comes.  
The crown a - waits the con - quest; Lead on, O God of might.

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# COMMENCEMENT

9:00 o'clock in the morning  
August fifth, two thousand twenty-three  
Morris Cultural Arts Center, Dunham Theater

Dr. Stanley Napper  
Presiding

- \*Welcome ..... Dr. Vickey Giles  
*College of Education and Behavioral Sciences*
- \*Processional. .... *Ceremonial March* ..... Herbert Sumison  
Mr. John Kirk, *Organ*
- \*Scripture ..... Valentina Gallego Silva '23
- \*Invocation ..... Miriam Bethany Billing '23
- Hymn. .... *Lead On, O King Eternal* ..... LANCASHIRE  
Dr. David Kirkwood, *Tenor*  
Mr. John Kirk, *Organ*
- Greetings ..... Dr. Stanley Napper, *Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs*
- Special Music. .... *Take My Life, and Let it Be* ..... Frances Havergal  
Dr. David Kirkwood, *Tenor*  
Dr. Daniel Kramlich, *Piano*
- Charge to the Graduates ..... Dr. Robert B. Sloan, *President*
- Recommendation of Class of 2023 ..... Dr. Stanley Napper
- Board of Trustees Approval of Degrees ..... Rev. Garry Blackmon  
*Chair, Board of Trustees*
- Conferring of Degrees ..... Dr. Robert B. Sloan
- Presentation of Degrees ..... Deans and Faculty, Colleges and Schools  
Announcement of Graduates
- Welcome to the Alumni Association. .... Ashley Plaeger MEd '18
- \*Benediction ..... Keith A. Garvin MAA '23
- \*Alma Mater. .... *Hail the Orange and Blue* ..... Hinton-Looser  
Dr. David Kirkwood, *Tenor*  
Mr. John Kirk, *Organ*
- \*Recessional ..... *Gravement from Pièce d'orgue* ..... J.S. Bach  
Mr. John Kirk, *Organ*

*Thank you for celebrating with us at this Commencement ceremony.*  
So that the audience may enjoy the ceremony, we ask that you remember to silence your cell phone.

*\*All who are willing and able, please stand.*

# DEGREE CANDIDATES

The following degrees and certificates will be awarded upon completion of all requirements.

## ARCHIE W. DUNHAM COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

### BACHELOR OF ARTS

Angela Mai Lei Baltimore ★★  
*General Business*

Cristina Gaviria ★  
*General Business*

Chad Kimbel Ricker  
*General Business*

Franky J. Benitez  
*General Business*

Sumaiya Yasmin Khanom  
*General Business*

Maj Domen Sadic  
*General Business*

Ricardo Mauricio Flores  
*General Business*

Luis Antonio Luna, Jr.  
*General Business*

### BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Juan P. Becerra  
*Finance*

Marlon Garcia  
*Marketing*

Bryce James Toney ★  
*Finance*

Chasity Kay Carreon ★★  
*Management*

Lauren Taylor Montalvo  
*Management*

Abraham Valdes  
*Management*

Valentina Gallego Silva ★★★  
*Accounting*

Jerald S. Mundackal  
*Finance*

### MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Oyeyemi Akinremi

Nathan Bourque

Ahmad Khan

Vivian Akpovwa

Niles Nehemiah Dixon

Phillip O. Patterson

Jada Kerri Allen

Travis Ryan Gage

Caitlin Elizabeth Solano

Morris William Austin

Vernon Craig Harrell II

David Jerome Stredick

Brandon Lane Botkin

Heather Quisenberry Jacobs

### MASTER OF SCIENCE

Olumuyiwa Ayodeji Adeleke  
*Human Resources Management*

Shirolacille L. Holloway  
*Human Resources Management*

Kandra E. Marshall  
*Management & Entrepreneurship*

Teresena Phinena Catron-Wright  
*Management & Entrepreneurship*

Robyn Jeanette Nicole Kuylen  
*Management & Entrepreneurship*

July Andrea Medellin  
*Human Resources Management*

★ CUM LAUDE

★★ MAGNA CUM LAUDE

★★★ SUMMA CUM LAUDE

# COLLEGE OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

## BACHELOR OF ARTS

Valrie Kay Bumpus  
*Interdisciplinary Studies*

Dustin Sadanala Jesudason  
*Interdisciplinary Studies*

Enrique Noe Quintana  
*Interdisciplinary Studies*

DaleLynn Markee Bradshaw Settle  
*Interdisciplinary Studies*

Angellee Korine Jones ★★  
*Interdisciplinary Studies*

Will Joseph Ripoll  
*Interdisciplinary Studies*

Joshua Lloyd St. Paul Chevannes  
*Mass Media Arts*

Tyler Jason LaRue  
*Interdisciplinary Studies*

Austin Stephen Roccaforte  
*Interdisciplinary Studies*

Jada Kimberly Francis  
*Family Studies*

Adaliz Padilla  
*Interdisciplinary Studies*

Ylijaah J. Hall  
*Interdisciplinary Studies*

Crystal Mei Quintana  
*Interdisciplinary Studies*

## BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS

Miracle Antoinette Miller  
*Interactive Media & Digital Design*

Lyndie Anniston Swanson  
*Graphic Design*

## BACHELOR OF MUSIC

Miriam Bethany Billing ★★★  
*Music*

## MASTER OF ARTS

Aaron Baca  
*Philosophy*

Marzieh Naderikonpapagh  
*History*

## MASTER OF FINE ARTS

Alyssa Rachelle Savannah  
*Screenwriting*

## MASTER OF LIBERAL ARTS

Eliana Marie Wilhelm  
*Liberal Arts*

# COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

## BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Emma Diann Aguirre  
*Biology*

Kevin Lee Doan ★  
*Biology*

★ CUM LAUDE

★★ MAGNA CUM LAUDE

★★★ SUMMA CUM LAUDE

# SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN THOUGHT

## BACHELOR OF ARTS

Stacie Karchner Arguello ★★★  
*Biblical Studies*

Alec Zechariah Rodriquez  
*Biblical Studies*

## MASTER OF ARTS

Courtney Alison Bradford  
*Christian Leadership*

Keith Anthony Garvin  
*Apologetics*

Taylor Alexander Neill  
*Apologetics*

Clayton Reed Conder  
*Apologetics*

Trevor Howell Harris  
*Theological Studies*

John D. Okoro  
*Biblical Languages*

Elizabeth Cruz  
*Classics & Early Christianity*

Matthew David Hill  
*Apologetics*

Richard Alan Slaughter  
*Apologetics*

David Paul Diaz  
*Apologetics*

Monica Y. McGaskey  
*Theological Studies*

## MASTER OF DIVINITY

Francine Elvie Williams  
*Divinity*

# SCHOOL OF NURSING AND ALLIED HEALTH

## BACHELOR OF ARTS

Justice Isaiah Artisst  
*Kinesiology-Sport Management*

Enya Saoirse Maguire ★★  
*Kinesiology-Sport Management*

## BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Veronica Aguirre  
*Kinesiology-Wellness Mgmt*

Nathaniel D. Culbreath  
*Kinesiology-Wellness Mgmt*

Kayla Crishell Wilson ★  
*Kinesiology-Wellness Mgmt*

Charley-Renae Baham  
*Kinesiology-Wellness Mgmt*

Daniela Hernandez  
*Kinesiology-Wellness Mgmt*

Anna S. Briseno  
*Kinesiology-Wellness Mgmt*

Nicole V. Salazar ★  
*Kinesiology-Allied Health*

## BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

Erin Jade Rodgers ★★

## MASTER OF SCIENCE

Eric Richard Levingston  
*Kinesiology-Sport Management*

## MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

Alisha D. Bhayani  
*Family Nurse Practitioner*

## COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

### BACHELOR OF ARTS

Olawunmi Bailey  
*Psychology*

Akayla M. Jackson ★★  
*Psychology*

Dilia S. Palacios  
*Psychology*

Brianne N. Blansit  
*Psychology*

Ashlen Davies  
*Psychology*

Camila Palomino  
*Psychology*

Bryant Farkarlun  
*Psychology*

Ninette N. Kedeas  
*Psychology*

Jose Fredy Peralta, Jr.  
*Psychology*

Maia Jade Maldonado  
*Psychology*

Caroline Daphnney Mdee ★★  
*Psychology*

Adrianah Nicolle Rangel  
*Art Therapy*

Haley Delores Hurd  
*Psychology*

Oluwafunmilayo V. Olatunji  
*Psychology*

### MASTER OF ARTS

Shatterrica Alvarado  
*Human Services*

Tamara Lynne Ceaser  
*Marriage and Family Therapy*

Daisha D. Curry  
*Clinical Mental Health Counsel*

Christopher James Ayala  
*Clinical Mental Health Counsel*

Katie Cerar  
*Clinical Mental Health Counsel*

Myra Davis  
*Clinical Mental Health Counsel*

Amaka Bari-Nwizug  
*Clinical Mental Health Counsel*

Karina Evelyn Chaidez  
*Clinical Mental Health Counsel*

Briana Nicole Dugas  
*Human Services Counseling*

Brittany Shanice Blanton  
*Human Services*

Madeline Paige Cross  
*Marriage and Family Therapy*

Amy Rosemarie Flores  
*Clinical Mental Health Counsel*

★ CUM LAUDE

★★ MAGNA CUM LAUDE

★★★ SUMMA CUM LAUDE

Gabriela A. Flores  
*Human Services*

Jonathan D. Foster  
*Marriage and Family Therapy*

Carole Marie Freelon  
*Christian Counseling*

Taylor Elizabeth Gauthia  
*Clinical Mental Health Counsel*

Monica Golla  
*Clinical Mental Health Counsel*

Elnaz Hamedi  
*Marriage and Family Therapy*

Christina Hopkins  
*Clinical Mental Health Counsel*

Rex Mogul Howard, Jr.  
*Marriage and Family Therapy*

Adeola Funmilola Ibeneme  
*Clinical Mental Health Counsel*

Maricruz Annette Lopez  
*Clinical Mental Health Counsel*

Michelle Masterson  
*Clinical Mental Health Counsel*

Zeenia Rafik Momin  
*Clinical Mental Health Counsel*

Austin Tyler Nichols  
*Clinical Mental Health Counsel*

Laurencia Vivi Nwankwo  
*Marriage and Family Therapy*

Angela Marie Perreau  
*Clinical Mental Health Counsel*

Shanequa Shuntayvia Marques' Hawkins Riley  
*Human Services*

Brittani Dior Royston  
*Instructional Design*

Trevor Ewing St. Denis  
*Clinical Mental Health Counsel*

Brenda Katherine Ward-Burns  
*Psychology*

## MASTER OF EDUCATION

Leah Ann Breckenridge  
*Curriculum and Instruction with Certification*

Ebony Princess Cockrell  
*Higher Education*

Tarinesha Nichole Jonae Jerrols  
*Curriculum and Instruction*

Tanisha T. Johnson  
*Educational Administration*

Ladayjha Monae Lee  
*Curriculum and Instruction*

Javonte' Emmanuel Mims  
*Higher Education*

Jason E. Montgomery, Sr.  
*Educational Administration*

Brogan Marie Nunez  
*Educational Administration*

Sharon Anuoluwapo Ogundeko  
*Curriculum and Instruction*

## MASTER OF SCIENCE

Gerald Tyrone Dolphus  
*Learning, Technology & Design*

## DOCTOR OF EDUCATION

KATHY LYNN JONES-BANKS  
*Special Education Leadership*

THROUGH THE LENS OF EDUCATORS: THE IMPACT OF  
DEMOGRAPHICS ON THE OVERREPRESENTATION OF  
AFRICAN AMERICAN MALES IN SPECIAL EDUCATION  
PRE K-12

DECONDA LYNN KENDALL  
*Executive Educational Leadership*

INSTRUCTOR EFFECTIVENESS IN BARBER/COSMETOLOGY  
PROGRAMS: THE ROLES OF INSTRUCTOR PREPARATION,  
CERTIFICATION, TURNOVER, AND HOW THEY IMPACT  
STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

TIFFANY-ANNE KING  
*Executive Educational Leadership*

PERCEIVED BARRIERS TO POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENT  
FOR RURAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS: A QUALITATIVE  
STUDY FROM SCHOOL COUNSELORS' PERSPECTIVES

RENOTA ROGERS  
*Executive Educational Leadership*

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PRINCIPAL SELF-EFFICACY  
AND CAMPUS ACCOUNTABILITY RATINGS

★ CUM LAUDE

★★ MAGNA CUM LAUDE

★★★ SUMMA CUM LAUDE



## UNDERGRADUATE HONORS

- ★ cum laude: grade point average of 3.50 to 3.69 on a 4.00 scale
  - ★★ magna cum laude: grade point average of 3.70 to 3.89 on a 4.00 scale
  - ★★★ summa cum laude: grade point average of 3.90 to 4.00 on a 4.00 scale
- (Based on a minimum of 60 semester alpha hours in residence.)

## THE PAGEANTRY OF ACADEMIC REGALIA

One of the more colorful aspects of a university commencement is the tradition of academic regalia developed by academic institutions in recognition of the accomplishments of scholars. American academic dress in the twenty-first century identifies specific degrees by distinctive robes and hoods.

### The Robe

The robe for the bachelor's degree has pointed sleeves and is designed to be worn closed. The robe for the master's degree has an oblong sleeve, open at the wrist, with the sleeve base hanging down in the traditional manner. The robe for the doctor's degree has a bell-shaped sleeve, with velvet panels and sleeve chevrons in black velvet or in distinctive colors representing the academic discipline.

### The Hood

The hood is the most colorful feature of academic regalia. The outside of the hood is black trimmed with an edging of velvet or velveteen, in a color distinctive of the subject to which the degree pertains.

<i>White</i>	Arts, Letters and Humanities
<i>Drab</i>	Business Administration
<i>Copper</i>	Economics
<i>Light Blue</i>	Education
<i>Brown</i>	Fine Arts
<i>Peacock Blue</i>	Government
<i>Purple</i>	Law
<i>Lemon</i>	Library Science
<i>Pink</i>	Music
<i>Apricot</i>	Nursing
<i>Dark Blue or Black</i>	Philosophy
<i>Gold</i>	Computer Sciences, Statistics and Science
<i>White</i>	Sociology
<i>Scarlet</i>	Theology or Divinity

The hood is lined with the official color or colors of the university conferring the degree. HCU graduates proudly wear the Orange and Blue of their Alma Mater.

## THE UNIVERSITY MACE

The university mace is borne by the college marshal preceding the president in all academic processions. A mace was carried as a readily available weapon for the opening of official events in medieval England but later became a ceremonial symbol of office.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Rev. Garry Blackmon, Chair

Dr. Duane Brooks	Pastor Gregg Matte	Mr. Clois Smith
Rev. Willie Davis	Mr. Ralph McBride	Mr. Jerome Smith
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The Honorable Bryan Hughes	Mr. Matthew W. Morris	Mr. Tadd Tellepsen MBA '99
Mr. Keith Jacobson	Mr. Tom Mosley	Dr. Dan S. Wilford
Mr. Dale Jefferson '83	Rev. Ramiro Peña	Mr. Bill Williams
Mr. Stephen M. Kerns	Mrs. Judi Pyburn '94	Mr. Bruce Williams
Dr. Chris Kouba	Mr. Marc Rylander	Dr. Diane Williams '93
The Honorable Jeff Leach	Mrs. Lisa Simon '76	

## ADVISORY TRUSTEES

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Mr. Jim R. Smith

## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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Mr. Steve Moniaci, Director of Athletics  
Mrs. Sandra Mooney, Chief Financial Officer and Chief Operating Officer  
Dr. Stanley Napper, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Dr. Steven Peterson, Vice President for Online and Digital Learning  
Mrs. Sharon Saunders, Vice President for Advancement and University Relations  
Dr. James Steen, Vice President for Enrollment Management and Marketing

## ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP

Dr. Kristie Cerling, Associate Provost for Academic Affairs; Dean, The Graduate School  
Dr. Jay Spencer, Associate Provost for Online and Digital Learning  
Dr. Katie Evans, Dean, College of Science and Engineering  
Dr. Lesli Fridge, Dean, College of Education and Behavioral Sciences  
Dr. Jodey Hinze, Dean, College of Arts and Humanities  
Dr. Gregory Keiffer, Executive Associate Dean, Archie W. Dunham College of Business  
Dr. Carol Lavender, Dean, School of Nursing and Allied Health  
Mr. Michael Rome, Dean, Archie W. Dunham College of Business  
Dr. Phil Tallon, Dean, School of Christian Thought

# TEN PILLARS 2030

## THE CORE CONVICTIONS OF HCU

Pillar I: God, the Creator of a Good and Knowable World

Pillar II: A Plan of Restoration

Pillar III: The Importance of Human Agency

Pillar IV: A Renewed People

Pillar V: A Mandate to Understand the World

Pillar VI: Learning and Teaching as Discipleship

Pillar VII: Life, Marriage, Gender, and Humanness

Pillar VIII: Governmental Institutions

Pillar IX: The Christian University

Pillar X: The Mystery of Unity in Christ

Houston Christian University has a history of affirming these particular ways of thinking and living, which we hereby describe as Ten Pillars. These convictions are an essential part of the traditional beliefs and commitments of the University. They are set forth here to bring to mind the ten physical pillars that are now iconic on our campus and thus represent the durable historical and theological commitments that undergird our practices and enable us to translate our worldview, Preamble, and mission into academic programs, curricular structures, and habits of the mind and heart. HCU confesses and takes shelter under these Ten Pillars.

Unanimously approved by the Board of Trustees  
September 20, 2022

## OUR MISSION

The mission of Houston Christian University is to provide a learning experience that instills in students a passion for academic, spiritual, and professional excellence as a result of our central confession, “Jesus Christ is Lord.”

Unanimously approved by the Board of Trustees  
February 24, 2009

# Hail the Orange and Blue

William H. Hinton

Donald Looser

The musical score is written on a single staff in 3/4 time, featuring a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some measures containing rests. The lyrics are printed below the staff, aligned with the notes. The score is divided into measures by bar lines, with measure numbers 5, 9, 13, 17, 21, 25, and 29 marked at the beginning of their respective lines.

In the great state of Tex - as, Hous-ton, U. S. A.

5  
Stands our no - ble al - ma ma - ter, Christ say - ing, "I am the way."

9  
In our search for know - ledge, tem - pered with thy love.

13  
Seek - ing our place of ser - vice with wis - dom from a - bove.

17  
Give us cour - age, strength and faith. To face a world filled with fear.

21  
E - ver on - ward to the chal - lenge, know - ing Thou art near.

25  
God bless our school. Keep her safe and true.

29  
God bless our al - ma ma - ter. Hail the Orange and Blue.



After several years of consideration, research, and prayerful review, the leadership of Houston Baptist University unanimously approved the decision to change its name to Houston Christian University. This new name more accurately reflects our student body, faculty, staff, alumni, and the community we serve. The name “Houston Christian University” is welcoming to the many students enrolled who come from many different denominations of the Christian faith, as well as those who claim no faith. It clarifies who we are, a distinctly Christian university that welcomes all students to benefit from our excellent academic programs.

The Nature of the Institution was approved by the Board of Trustees in 1961 ... and will not change. Likewise, the mission of Houston Christian University remains unchanged.

In announcing the name change to University family and friends, Dr. Robert Sloan stated, “This University is truly a transformative place because of your support. Like you, we believe that authentic and faithful Christian higher education, rooted in a scriptural worldview, is ever more critical in a fractured society in need of reconciliation, hope, and healing. Thank you for the many ways—by prayer, word of mouth, financial contributions, and influence—that you allow all of us to be part of God’s work in this world.

The University’s mission and core convictions, which we call The Ten Pillars 2030, remain the same, deeply rooted in the authoritative Word of God. HCU’s historic Christian commitments have not and will not change.”

## The Nature of the Institution

The Houston Christian University is a Christian liberal arts university dedicated to the development of moral character, the enrichment of spiritual lives, and the perpetuation of growth in Christian ideals. Founded under the providence of God and with the conviction that there is a need for a university in this community that will train the minds, develop the moral character and enrich the spiritual lives of all people who may come within the ambit of its influence, HOUSTON CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY shall stand as a witness for Jesus Christ expressed directly through its administration, faculty and students. To assure the perpetuation of these basic concepts of its founders, it is resolved that all those who become associated with Houston Christian University as a trustee, officer, member of the faculty or of the staff, and perform work connected with the educational activities of the University, must believe in the divine inspiration of the Bible, both the Old Testament and New Testament, that man was directly created by God, the virgin birth of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, as the Son of God, that He died for the sins of all men and thereafter arose from the grave, that by repentance and acceptance of and belief in Him, by the grace of God, the individual is saved from eternal damnation and receives eternal life in the presence of God; and it is further resolved that the ultimate teachings in this University shall never be inconsistent with the above principles.

Preamble to the Bylaws  
February 1961