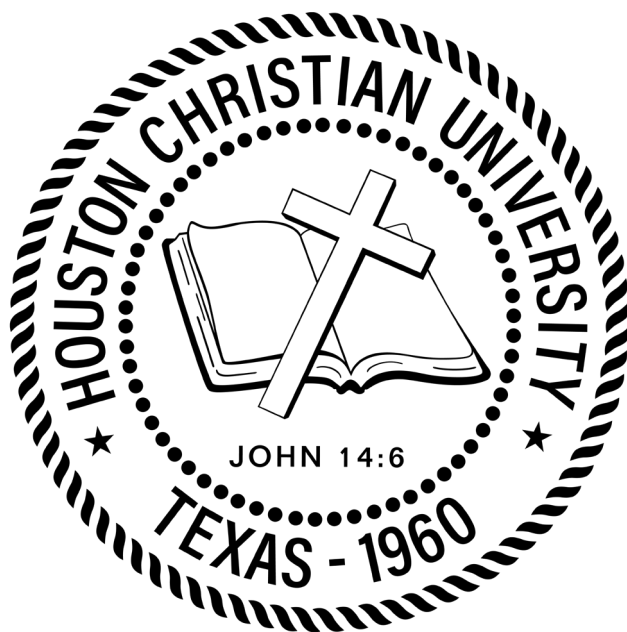




# COMMENCEMENT



AUGUST 8, 2026

# How Great Thou Art

Stuart Wesley Keene Hine, 1953

Swedish Folk Melody

♩ = 80



1. O Lord my God, when I in awe - some won - der Con - sid - er  
2. When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der And hear the  
3. And when I think that God, his Son not spar - ing, Sent him to  
4. When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion And take me



all the worlds thy hands have made, I see the stars, I hear the roll - ing  
birds sing sweet - ly in the trees, When I look down from loft - y mount - ain  
die, I scarce can take it in, That on the cross, my bur - den glad - ly  
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum - ble a - dor -



*Refrain*  
thun - der, Thy power through - out the un - i - verse dis - played:  
grand - eur, And hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze: Then sings my  
bear - ing, He bled and died to take a - way my sin:  
- a - tion, And there pro - claim, "My God, how great thou art!"



soul, my Sav - ior God, to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art! Then sings my



soul, my Sav - ior God, to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art!



# COMMENCEMENT

Nine o'clock in the morning  
August eighth, two thousand twenty-six  
Dunham Theater, Morris Cultural Arts Center

Dr. Kristina Cerling  
Presiding

- \*Welcome ..... Dr. David Kirkwood  
*Chair, Department of Music*  
*College of Arts & Humanities*
- \*Processional.....*Rigaudon* ..... André Campra  
Mr. John Kirk, *Organ*
- \*Scripture ..... Ma de Jesus Jimenez '23, MBA '26
- \*Invocation ..... John Bates MATS '26
- Greetings ..... Dr. Kristina Cerling, *Interim Provost &*  
*Vice President for Academic Affairs*
- Special Music..... How Great Thou Art..... Stuart K. Hine  
Dr. David Kirkwood, *tenor*  
Mr. John Kirk, *organ*
- Charge to the Graduates ..... Rev. Ramiro A. Peña, *Chair*  
Board of Trustees
- Recommendation of Class of 2026 ..... Dr. Kristina Cerling
- Board of Trustees Approval of Degrees ..... Dr. Chris Kouba, *Vice Chair*  
Board of Trustees
- Conferring of Degrees ..... Mrs. Sandra N. Mooney, *Acting President*
- Presentation of Degrees ..... Deans and Faculty, Colleges and Schools  
Announcement of Graduates
- Welcome to the Alumni Association..... Dr. Stacey Friendwood EdD '22
- \*Benediction ..... Ashleigh A. Todd '26
- \*Alma Mater..... *Hail the Orange and Blue* ..... Hinton-Looser  
Dr. David Kirkwood, *director*  
Mr. John Kirk, *Organ*
- \*Recessional ..... *Finale Jubilante* ..... Healey Willan  
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.

## LINDA R. DUNHAM SCHOOL OF NURSING BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Belynda Ayala  
*Kinesiology - Wellness Management*

Naomi Esme Pierce  
*Kinesiology - Wellness Management*

## MASTER OF SCIENCE

Kayla Armer  
*Kinesiology - Sport Management*

Christin Nicole Haygood  
*Kinesiology - Sport Management*

Marcus Dalton Moore  
*Kinesiology - Sport Management*

## COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Guillermo William Castro  
*Cyber Engineering*

Nadia N. Ghahremani  
*Biology*

Dawit Thomas  
*Information Systems*

## MASTER OF SCIENCE

Natasha Danielle Jones  
*Cybersecurity*

## ARCHIE W. DUNHAM COLLEGE OF BUSINESS BACHELOR OF ARTS

Karlie Barba  
*Business Administration*

Fernando J. Hernandez Alvarez  
*Business Administration*

Narome Taylor★★★  
*Business Administration*

Walter Christopher Beard  
*Business Administration*

Kacy Ray Parish★  
*Business Administration*

Gabriel Benigto Velez  
*Business Administration*

## BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Jared Nicholas Cottingham  
*Management*

Melissa Medrano  
*Management*

Julian Ward  
*Finance*

Jada Alani Edwards  
*Management*

Gabriel Alexander Rivas  
*International Business*

Jasmine Isabela Zelaya  
*Marketing*

★ CUM LAUDE

★★ MAGNA CUM LAUDE

★★★ SUMMA CUM LAUDE

## MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Adriana Carolina Caprile

Christina-Angele Ntumba Kalonji

Celestine Denice Morales

R'elle D. Duncan

Gie Ann Ugdiman Kramer

Lakeshia Lanell Walker

Jordan Alexis Jackson

Kabrinna Sade Lanier

Ashley Lauren Wilrich

Ma de Jesus Jimenez

Maridon Kay Migl

## PROFESSIONAL MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Lauren Kailey Houston  
*Management*

Grace Elizabeth Deanna Melnick  
*Management*

Roberto Carlos Turcios Escobar  
*Business Data Analytics*

## MASTER OF SCIENCE

Justice Artisst  
*Human Resources Management*

Breana Renee Herrera  
*Leadership*

Jessica A. Merida  
*Human Resources Management*

Brent Ferguson  
*Leadership*

Ashley Mendez  
*Human Resources Management*

Lily Hawa Kamara  
*Leadership*

## COLLEGE OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES BACHELOR OF ARTS

Brijhae' LyShaun Diane Adams  
*Interdisciplinary Studies*

Kenan Reid Elarton  
*Interdisciplinary Studies*

Jennifer Martine Reed Powell  
*Interdisciplinary Studies*

Miguel Estuardo Alfaro  
*History*

Ximena Gonzalez  
*Legal Studies*

Sierra Robinson  
*Interdisciplinary Studies*

Christianah Adejoke Boore★  
*Medical Humanities*

Jackson Emery Kendall  
*Interdisciplinary Studies*

Natalie Eshel Ross-Joseph  
*Legal Studies*

Kourtney L. Butler  
*Interdisciplinary Studies*

Jaden Demond King  
*Interdisciplinary Studies*

Zion Lael Amore Williams-Powell  
*Narrative Arts*

Joshua Albert Carvalho★  
*Interdisciplinary Studies*

Jarcel Lavonti Lawson Sr.  
*Interdisciplinary Studies*

Brianna Danae Wilton  
*Interdisciplinary Studies*

Nayeli Cruz Juarez★  
*Studio Art*

Nikole Yevett Maxie  
*Interdisciplinary Studies*

Josue Cuenca Martinez  
*Interdisciplinary Studies*

Camerson Brett Mccollough Jr.  
*Legal Studies*

★CUM LAUDE

★★ MAGNA CUM LAUDE

★★★ SUMMA CUM LAUDE

## BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS

Keith Valencia Ebmeier★★  
*Cinematic Arts*

## BACHELOR OF MUSIC

William DeMille Carr  
*Vocal Performance*

## MASTER OF FINE ARTS

Michael A. Coleman  
*Screenwriting*

Emily Victoria Marleaux  
*Creative Writing*

## MASTER OF LIBERAL ARTS

Melissa K. Jolly

Collin Timothy Allen Kulesha

## MASTER OF SCIENCE

Madelyn Avery Dailey  
*Criminal Justice*

## SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN THOUGHT BACHELOR OF ARTS

Chad Eric Davis★★★  
*Biblical Studies*

Nitza Gonzalez  
*Biblical Studies*

## MASTER OF ARTS

John W. Bates  
*Theological Studies*

James Tyler McQuillan  
*Apologetics*

Maria Nicolas  
*Apologetics*

Theresa Yvonne Buhl Evans  
*Theological Studies*

Joshua Delane Miller  
*Theological Studies*

Peter Adeniyi Oriyomi  
*Theological Studies*

Dagoberto Esquivel, Jr.  
*Christian Leadership*

Magin LaRue Miller  
*Theological Studies*

Myra Jean Prosper  
*Christian Leadership*

John Aaron Howell  
*Theological Studies*

Jessica Je'Tara Mitchell  
*Theological Studies*

Charity Melissa Webster  
*Christian Leadership*

★ CUM LAUDE

★★ MAGNA CUM LAUDE

★★★ SUMMA CUM LAUDE

# COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

## BACHELOR OF ARTS

Kimberly LaNea Elder★  
*Psychology*

Jennifer Chinelo Okoro  
*Psychology*

## MASTER OF ARTS

Alaina Bartholomew  
*Marriage and Family Therapy*

Gillian Carr  
*Clinical Mental Health Counseling*

Christopher Louis Lopez  
*Human Services*

Amy Alice Casto  
*Human Services*

Kyanna Maxey  
*Clinical Mental Health Counseling*

Britini Martin Del Campo  
*Human Services*

Cheryl Christie  
*Clinical Mental Health Counseling*

Analy Azenette Chavez  
*Clinical Mental Health Counseling*

Connor Isaac Navarrete  
*Christian Counseling*

Elizabeth Kay Gayle  
*Clinical Mental Health Counseling*

Tricia L. Coffee-Coates  
*Clinical Mental Health Counseling*

Melissa Lynell Nix  
*Clinical Mental Health Counseling*

Ruth G. Guerrero  
*Psychology*

Karen Elaine Cobb  
*Christian Counseling*

Ifeyinwa Okey-Eze  
*Clinical Mental Health Counseling*

Farah Akbar  
*Clinical Mental Health Counseling*

Teressa René Foster  
*Marriage and Family Therapy*

Chidinma Goodness Otti  
*Clinical Mental Health Counseling*

Melissa Alaniz  
*Psychology*

Terry Gray  
*Human Services*

Burley Byron Rutland III  
*Clinical Mental Health Counseling*

Kayla Arianna Arjona  
*Clinical Mental Health Counseling*

Shandra Haynes  
*Clinical Mental Health Counseling*

Catherine Diane Thorne  
*Human Services*

Corallyn Berger  
*Clinical Mental Health Counseling*

Savannah K. Johnson  
*Clinical Mental Health Counseling*

Eric Tadros  
*Clinical Mental Health Counseling*

Phillip Mckinley Bilal  
*Marriage and Family Therapy*

James G. Otey  
*Clinical Mental Health Counseling*

Cristina Villa Mendoza  
*Clinical Mental Health Counseling*

Gabrielle Lenhardt  
*Clinical Mental Health Counseling*

Carissa Nichole Larson  
*Clinical Mental Health Counseling*

Sydney Walker  
*Clinical Mental Health Counseling*

Lindsay Burck Cline  
*Clinical Mental Health Counseling*

Delia Esmeralda Leal  
*Psychology*

Thalia Danyell Watson  
*Clinical Mental Health Counseling*

Rebecca Taylor-Lujan  
*Clinical Mental Health Counseling*

Minhhuong Pham  
*Marriage and Family Therapy*

Larissia K. Young  
*Clinical Mental Health Counseling*

★ CUM LAUDE

★★ MAGNA CUM LAUDE

★★★ SUMMA CUM LAUDE



## MASTER OF EDUCATION

Brittnai L. Brown  
*Curriculum and Instruction*

Kimberley Nicole Fleming  
*Curriculum and Instruction*

Alyssa Rose Jemela  
*Curriculum and Instruction*

Kelly Georgia Sladeczek Tatum  
*Curriculum and Instruction*

## MASTER OF SCIENCE

Charmel S. Hines  
*Learning, Technology, and Design*

Jonathan Rangel-Salazar  
*Learning, Technology, and Design*

Kemnede Ijeoma Onwudegu  
*Learning, Technology, and Design*

Laura Elizabeth Zaldivar  
*Learning, Technology, and Design*

## DOCTOR OF EDUCATION

Parthenia Kenyetta Barry  
*Executive Leadership in Mental Health and Human Services*  
Dissertation Chair, Dr. Mary White

THE IMPACT OF INEQUALITY, DISCRIMINATION, AND  
INJUSTICE ON WOMEN'S MENTAL HEALTH IN AMERICA

Pamela Joy Blackwell  
*Executive Leadership in Mental Health and Human Services*  
Dissertation Chair, Dr. Shawn Kent

THE PERCEPTIONS OF GENERAL EDUCATION TEACHERS  
IN INTEGRATING ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY FOR  
SECONDARY STUDENTS WITH HIGH INCIDENCE  
DISABILITIES

Janay Boykin  
*Executive Educational Leadership*  
Dissertation Chair, Dr. Shawn Kent

IMPLICIT BIAS IN EDUCATION AND ITS EFFECT ON BLACK  
BOYS: A STUDY OF DISCOURAGEMENT AND DISPARITIES

Erica Antoinette Bryant  
*Executive Leadership in Mental Health and Human Services*  
Dissertation Chair, Dr. Amanda Ford

MERGING MINDS OR MAINTAINING PROFESSIONAL  
DOMINANCE? A COMPARATIVE EXAMINATION OF  
SPATIALITY, COLLABORATION, AND TEAM DYNAMICS  
IN CO-LOCATED AND DISTRIBUTED INTEGRATED CARE  
TEAMS IN TEXAS

Chevella Joynell Dennis  
*Executive Leadership in Mental Health and Human Services*  
Dissertation Chair, Dr. Denise Rios

THE MINDSET OF FORMERLY INCARCERATED MEN WHO  
ENTERED INCARCERATION DURING ADOLESCENCE: A  
PHENOMENOLOGICAL STUDY

Raleesia Joy Elmore  
*Executive Leadership in Mental Health and Human Services*  
Dissertation Chair, Dr. Leigh Kent

BELIEF SYSTEMS AS MEDIATORS: EXAMINING THE  
IMPACT OF TRAUMA ON COPING STRATEGIES IN  
RELIGIOUSLY AFFILIATED VERSUS NON-AFFILIATED  
POPULATIONS

Maria Fernanda Guerrero  
*Executive Leadership in Mental Health and Human Services*  
Dissertation Chair, Dr. Lucretia DeFlora

¿DÓNDE ESTÁN LAS LÍDERES? A SYSTEMS AND  
ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE EXAMINATION OF LATINA  
MENTAL HEALTH CLINICIANS' LEADERSHIP PATHWAYS

Fatoumata Konate  
*Executive Educational Leadership*  
Dissertation Chair, Dr. Denese Wolff-Hilliard

THE IMPACT OF PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT ON  
THE ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF WEST AFRICAN  
IMMIGRANT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Brandon W. Lee  
*Executive Educational Leadership*  
Dissertation Chair, Dr. Delesa Franklin

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM: EXPLORING THE ROLES OF  
SENSE OF BELONGING AND COMMUNITY CULTURAL  
WEALTH IN ACADEMIC PERSISTENCE AMONG AFRICAN  
AMERICAN MALE UNDERGRADUATES

Blessing Ginikachukwu Nwosu  
*Executive Educational Leadership*  
Dissertation Chair, Dr. Christopher Summers

PERCEPTIONS OF MINORITY WOMEN LEADERS: EFFECTS  
ON STUDENT MORAL GROWTH IN URBAN SCHOOLS

Maricela Delcarmen Orellana  
*Executive Educational Leadership*  
Dissertation Chair, Dr. Shawn Kent

A NARRATIVE STUDY ON THE LIVED EXPERIENCES OF  
HISPANIC COLLEGE STUDENTS AND THEIR PERCEPTIONS  
OF COLLEGE READINESS AND COLLEGE CHOICE

Tenille S. Pakoejoe  
*Executive Educational Leadership*  
Dissertation Chair, Dr. Brenda Arteaga

UNRAVELING THE THREAD: UNDERSTANDING THE  
IMPACT OF INEFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP PRACTICES ON  
TEACHER TURNOVER IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Anthony Wayne Powell  
*Executive Leadership in Mental Health and Human Services*  
Dissertation Chair, Dr. Katie Alaniz

THE EXPERIENCES AND OUTCOMES OF BLACK MEN OVER  
40 IN ONLINE HIGHER EDUCATION POST-PANDEMIC: A  
QUALITATIVE STUDY

Courtney Danielle Prudhomme  
*Executive Leadership in Mental Health and Human Services*  
Dissertation Chair, Dr. Amanda Ford

AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE IMPACT OF BRIEF  
CHRISTIAN PSYCHOEDUCATION INTERVENTION ON THE  
VOCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND FULFILLMENT OF  
DISSATISFIED MIDDLE-ADULT BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN  
MALES: A MIXED PRE-EXPERIMENTAL MULTIPLE CASE  
PILOT STUDY

Princess Beatrice Taylor  
*Executive Educational Leadership*  
Dissertation Chair, Dr. Katie Alaniz

EXAMINING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF  
TRANSFORMATIONAL CAMPUS LEADERSHIP AND  
21ST-CENTURY LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

Ashleigh Alexandria Todd  
*Executive Leadership in Mental Health and Human Services*  
Dissertation Chair, Dr. Shawn Kent

NAVIGATING THE GRADUATE JOURNEY: GRADUATE  
STUDENT PERSPECTIVES ACROSS MULTI-DIMENSIONAL  
LIFE EXPERIENCES

Imani Le'Dai Vital  
*Executive Leadership in Mental Health and Human Services*  
Dissertation Chair, Dr. Aleksander Drobnjakovic

HOLY STRENGTH OR HEAVY BURDEN: EXPLORING THE  
ROLE OF THE BLACK CHURCH IN BLACK WOMEN'S  
MENTAL HEALTH HELP-SEEKING

Uyen Kim Vo  
*Executive Educational Leadership*  
Dissertation Chair, Dr. Alan Ellinger

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN TEXAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS:  
EXPLORING ETHICAL BOUNDARIES AND MORAL  
RESPONSIBILITIES FROM EDUCATORS' PERSPECTIVES

LeQoina Pearl Williams  
*Executive Leadership in Mental Health and Human Services*  
Dissertation Chair, Dr. Matiko Austin

EXPLORING GENDERED EXPERIENCES OF WORKPLACE  
BURNOUT AMONG BLACK HOSPITALITY WORKERS AGED  
25-35 IN NEW ORLEANS, LA

Tiffani Andrea Yates  
*Executive Educational Leadership*  
Dissertation Chair, Dr. Walter Bevers

LEADING AGAINST THE ODDS: HOW MINORITY WOMEN  
NAVIGATE BARRIERS TO THE SUPERINTENDENCY

Alexis Yocum  
*Executive Leadership in Mental Health and Human Services*  
Dissertation Chair, Dr. Amanda Ford

SPIRITUALITY AND MENTAL HEALTH SYMPTOM  
MANAGEMENT AMONG ADULTS WITH SERIOUS  
MENTAL ILLNESS

## 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. Ramiro A. Peña, Chair

|                                      |                          |                            |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Rev. Garry Blackmon                  | Mr. Jody Johnston        | Mrs. Lisa Simon '76        |
| Dr. Duane Brooks                     | Dr. Chris Kouba          | Mr. Clois Smith            |
| Rev. Willie Davis                    | The Honorable Jeff Leach | Mr. Reid Smith             |
| The Honorable William Flores MBA '85 | Pastor Gregg Matte       | Dr. Barbara Taylor-Cox '81 |
| Rev. Omar Garcia                     | Mr. Ralph McBride        | Mr. Tadd Tellepsen MBA '99 |
| Mrs. Judy Graham                     | Mr. David Mobley         | Mr. Bruce Williams         |
| The Honorable Bryan Hughes           | Mrs. Judi Pyburn '94     | Dr. Diane Williams '93     |
| Mr. Keith Jacobson                   | Mr. Kevin Roberts        |                            |
| Mr. Dale Jefferson '83               | Mr. Marc Rylander        |                            |

## ADVISORY TRUSTEES

Mr. Johnny Baker  
Mr. Jim R. Smith

## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Mrs. Sandra Mooney, Acting President, Chief Financial Officer and Chief Operating Officer  
Dr. Kristina Cerling, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs,  
Associate Provost for Academic Affairs and Dean, The Graduate School  
Mr. Kevin Hartless, Vice President for Adult and Graduate Studies  
Mrs. Sharon Saunders, Vice President for Advancement and University Relations  
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Mr. Stanley Williamson, Director of Athletics

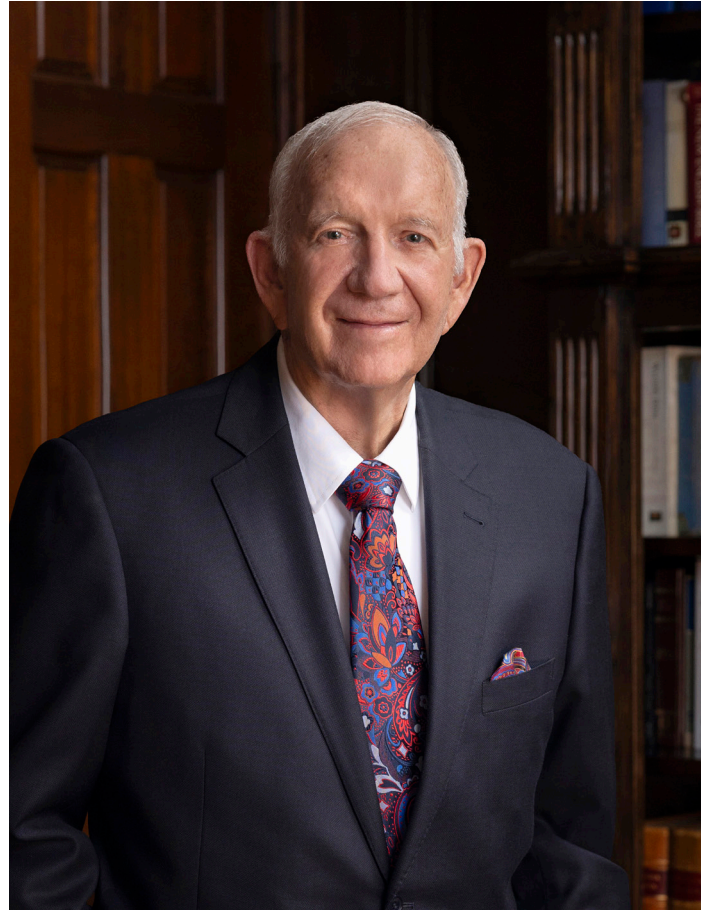
## ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP

Dr. Kristina Cerling, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs,  
Associate Provost for Academic Affairs and Dean, The Graduate School  
Dr. Katie Evans, Dean, College of Science and Engineering  
Dr. Lesli Fridge, Dean, College of Education and Behavioral Sciences  
Dr. Zadok Hakim, Associate Provost for Online Technology Programs  
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, Linda R. Dunham School of Nursing  
Mr. Michael Rome, Dean, Archie W. Dunham College of Business  
Dr. Phil Tallon, Dean, School of Christian Thought

# Honoring Dr. Robert B. Sloan, Jr.

As Houston Christian University celebrates the Class of 2026, we also pause to give thanks for the life and faithful service of Dr. Robert B. Sloan, Jr. For nearly twenty years, he led this University with a steadfast commitment to its Christ-centered mission and an abiding confidence in the transformative work of Christian higher education. He believed deeply in the enduring importance of Christian higher education and in the responsibility of a university to cultivate wisdom, character, and faithful service in every generation of students. That belief guided his leadership and became woven into the life of Houston Christian University.

Those who served alongside Dr. Sloan knew his greatest satisfaction was never found in recognition or accomplishment, but in seeing the University's mission lived out each day. Commencement was one expression of that mission fulfilled, as each graduating class represented lives prepared to lead with faith, wisdom, and purpose. While this ceremony is our first without his familiar presence, we remain profoundly grateful for the foundation he helped strengthen and the enduring direction he gave the University.



His influence continues to be reflected not only in what Houston Christian University aspires to become, but in the mission to which it remains faithfully committed.

## 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 with 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 eight lines, each starting with a measure number (1, 5, 9, 13, 17, 21, 25, 29). The final line ends with a double bar line.

1 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.



# 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

## 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