



# THE MISSION OF THE UNIVERSITY

OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY  
EDUCATES, MENTORS AND  
INSPIRES LEARNERS TO FULFILL  
THEIR GOD GIVEN POTENTIAL.

FRIDAY, DEC. 12, 2025  
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA  
BAUGH AUDITORIUM

OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

DECEMBER 12, 2025 | 10:00 A.M.

Call to Order **TINA PETERSON**  
University Registrar

Processional Medley **GEORGE SCHRADER**  
Band Conductor

Pledge of Allegiance **BRENT SYKES**  
Dean, Sciences and Education

Invocation/Welcome **DR. JEFF SIMMONS**  
Dean, College of Business

Commencement Speaker **DR. JEREMIE BELLER**  
Dean, College of Bible

Presentation of Diplomas **DR. BRIAN STARR AND KEN JONES**

Closing Remarks **DR. BRIAN STARR**  
University Provost

"The Lord Bless You and Keep You"  
and the Alma Mater **UNIVERSITY CHORALE**  
Dan Bircher, Conductor

Benediction **DR. BILL GOAD**  
Professor, College of Business

Recessional

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## CEREMONY PHOTOGRAPHY

Genesee Photo Systems | 405.624.1002

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DECEMBER 12, 2025 | 2:00 P.M.

Call to Order **TINA PETERSON**  
University Registrar

Processional Medley **GEORGE SCHRADER**  
Band Conductor

Pledge of Allegiance **DR. JESSICA COLLS**  
Program Director, MS in Human Sciences /  
Associate Professor of Marriage & Family Therapy

Invocation/Welcome **DR. BYRON NEWBERRY**  
Dean, College of College of Engineering  
& Computer Science

Commencement Speaker **DR. JEREMIE BELLER**  
Dean, College of Bible

Presentation of Diplomas **DR. BRIAN STARR AND KEN JONES**

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# COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER



## JEREMIE BELLER Ph.D.

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DEAN,  
COLLEGE OF BIBLE

Jeremie Beller began serving as the Chair of Bible and Director of Church Relations for Oklahoma Christian University in the fall of 2022. Prior to joining OC full-time he worked in full-time ministry for 25 years serving in multiple areas including youth, young adult, radio, college, pulpit and congregational ministry. He began ministry serving four years as the Pulpit Minister for the Church of Christ in Chandler, OK before serving the Wilshire Church of Christ for 20 years as the Congregational Minister where he continues serving part-time.

Jeremie grew up in McCloud, Oklahoma and attended Oklahoma Christian University where he received a bachelor's degree in Bible with a minor in Greek, as well as a Master of Arts and Master of Divinity degrees in Ministry. In 2014 Jeremie completed a Ph.D. in Communication and Social Influence from the University of Oklahoma with a research emphasis in homiletics, religion and racism, civil religious discourse, and terror management theory. His dissertation was titled "Terror Management Theory, Religious Orientation and Dissociation: Addressing the Paradox of Religion and Racism."

Jeremie is a frequent speaker at local congregations having spoken at over 70 churches across 7 states, as well as Oklahoma Christian, Abilene Christian, and Harding Universities. He serves on the organizing committee for Affirming the Faith and is a board member for Move Youth Conference, and Quartz Mountain Christian Camp.

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## ALUMNI SURVEY

Graduates, please let us know your post-graduation plans in our alumni survey by scanning this QR code!



# COLLEGE OF BIBLE

Dr. Jeremie Beller, Dean

# GRADUATE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Dr. Jim Baird, Chair

## GRADUATE DEGREES

MASTER OF DIVINITY

---

KIRKLAND WHEELER

## BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

BACHELOR OF BIBLE

---

COLBY BABB

CADE E BERKEY \*

# COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Dr. Jeff Simmons, Dean

# GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Dr. Jeff Simmons, Dean, Chair

## GRADUATE DEGREES

MASTER OF ACCOUNTANCY

---

CARSON GREGORY THOMPSON

EMILEE WAGGONER

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

---

UMUTESI MARIE AURORE

MADISON TAYLOR BALL

NICOLAS ETIMA DARHELL BORIS

BEAU-PAUL BURABYO

CASON GREGORY

GITEGO BENJAMIN HONORE

YVANIE KAMIKAZI

LINDA KAMUGISHA

UWASE ANGE LOUISE

JOSHUA ISHIMWE MUSONERA

UWASE NADÈGE NDOLIMANA

MICHAEL NSENGIYUMVA

MIKAYLA E PHILLIPS

FIONA KAMIKAZI RUTAGENGWA  
General Business

PATRICK RUGIRA  
International Business

JOHN MURENZI RUGWE

GHYSLAINE RUSINE

KAMANZI STEVE

ANDREW MICHAEL SULLIVAN

MAHLET BETHEL SYOUM

PEARL UDAHEMUKA

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION CONT.

---

JOSIANE UMUHOZA

NANCY WAMWIZA

PARFAITE WIRIRA

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PROJECT MANAGEMENT

---

SHASHIVARDHAN REDDY ANUGU

MONIQUE MARIE REGINE PACIS EKISA

YUTO HIRAKI

MANIKANTA REDDY KASAM

BRYCE KENNEDY

JESSIE YOUJEONG LEE

KYLA LOVELACE

IRADUKUNDA LUCIE

DENYSE NTAGANDA

MOHAMMED ABDUL RAHEEM

SUPRIT RAGHAVENDRA VADVADGI

THAO THY NGUYEN VU

RIELYN MCKENZIE WILLIAMS

## DUAL DEGREES

GRADUATE & BACCALAUREATE

---

KEDRICK WAYNE GREGORY\*\*

Accountancy, Business Administration

# BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

## BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

---

ADAM ANTHONY ATKINS

Marketing Management

SHANE T. FECHT \*\*

Finance, Accounting

LUKE DANIEL HILL

Business Administration

ISAAC KWAME KOOMSON

Marketing Management

CADE M PARENT \*

Sports Management

CHRISTOPHER JOSEPH PETRIN

CARTER NEIL ROBINSON \*\*\*

Finance, Accounting

HUNTER BLAKE SIMS

Marketing Management

KALEB STAGNER \*

Marketing Management

ADEN XAVIER SUAREZ

NATHANIEL GRANT WHITEHEAD \*\*

Finance, Accounting

ONORLINE UMUGWANEZA \*\*

Finance

# COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

Dr. Byron Newberry, Dean

# GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

Dr. Byron Newberry, Chair

## GRADUATE DEGREES

### MASTER OF SCIENCE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

---

JENNIFER KAYE ABSHAGEN

Cybersecurity

RAHUL REDDY BATTULA

Software Engineering

KALEB J CANNICK

Cybersecurity

PRANAYRAJU CHEMARTHI

Artificial Intelligence

PAUL WILLIAMS DAGGUMALLI

Software Engineering

RICHARD GLEN DAVIS

Software Engineering

ZEPHYLIN DUSENGIMANA

Artificial Intelligence

ANUJ GUPTA

Software Engineering

RISHITHA REDDY MANDALA

Software Engineering

MAXWELL MECKLING

Artificial Intelligence

## MASTER OF SCIENCE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE CONT.

---

DENNIS KOJO ADU-MENSAH  
Cybersecurity

VINAY MUPPARAJU  
Data Science

CHAITANYA SAI RAM NAIDU  
Software Engineering

SRIKAR NEELISETTY  
Data Science

AN THANH NGUYEN  
Software Engineering

LAKSHMIVENKATADURGA SRI NAGESWARDUTT NIMMAGADDA  
Software Engineering

BAWI THANG  
Cybersecurity

SUBHASH VENIGALLA  
Software Engineering

## MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ENGINEERING

---

LINH THI BARBOSA

AROUBA BASHIR

SRUSHTI RAJ BEERELLI

DALTON JAMES FORSYTHE

MOUNIKA GADHE

SAI PRAKASH REDDY GANGASANI

AVINASH GUNDEKARI

HIMA BINDU HEMA VENKATA GUNTUBOINA

KELSEY ELIZABETH HOLDEN

## MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ENGINEERING

---

RAGHAVENDAR REDDY JAKKIDI

NAMITHA KAMMA

SOWMYA KANDI

VAMSHI KRISHNA KANKATI

PRAVEEN KONATHALA

KAVITHA KORRA

VENKATA NAGA SAYI VANSI KURELLA

SANDEEP LAVOORI

KYLE DUANE LEVY

SANKAR MARRI

SHYAM PRASAD REDDY MUSANI

ROHITH REDDY NIMMA

ANIL KUMAR PIRLAGUDEM

TEJA RANI RUDDAR RAJU

MATTA PUNITH REDDY

ANDY VO

NATHAN L. VOREIS

## DUAL DEGREES

### GRADUATE & BACCALAUREATE

---

GEORGE MARSHALL HARTMAN \*\* H

Computer Science, Data Science

SABRINE SHAMI KARANGANWA

Cyber Security, Artificial Intelligence

JACKLINE UMWALI \*\*

Cyber Security, Artificial Intelligence

# BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

## BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

---

**JOHNATHON LAZARO CORTEZ**

Computer Science, Gaming Animation

**ISAAC J MAY \* H**

Math

**JOHN LOGAN MURRIE**

Computer Science

**EHITNESH K TADESE**

Computer Science

## BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

---

**JACOB DANIEL COLE**

# COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Dr. Brian Simmons, Dean

# BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

## BACHELOR OF ARTS

---

**ISAAC J MAY \* H**

Music

**ZACHARY SANDERFORD**

History

## BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS

---

**SHELBY RENEE DAVIS \***

Graphic Design

**JENNA EVE LEWIS**

Interior Architecture

**REBECCA JEAN NAVARRE**

Interior Architecture

**ABBY OLDHAM \*\***

Interior Architecture

**ODEETTE PLASCENCIA**

Interior Architecture

## BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

---

**SETH D BARATZ**

Interdisciplinary Studies

**LAUREN NICOLE CARY\***

Criminal Justice

**GREGORIO DAVID MASKARINEC**

Interdisciplinary Studies

**EZRA MOSER**

Interdisciplinary Studies

**CHRISTA NEZA MUTUNZI**

Communication and Leadership

**ALLIE ELIZABETH NEILSON \***

Interdisciplinary Studies

**DENZEL JETTER TORRES RIVERA**

Public Relations and Social Media

# ASSOCIATE DEGREES

## ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE

---

ISAAC JACOB BUFFALOE  
General

# DUAL DEGREES

## BACCALAUREATE & ASSOCIATE

---

CRYSTALYNE LOUISE MATTHEWS  
Interdisciplinary Studies, General

# COLLEGE OF OUTREACH AND INNOVATION

Dr. Sada Knowles, Dean

# GRADUATE DEGREES

## MASTER OF ARTS

---

RITU AGRAWAL  
Teaching and Learning ELA

ELIZABETH CAMPANELLO  
Teaching and Learning ELA

CORTNEE CATTENHEAD  
Teaching and Learning Social Science

D'ANTE J. CROWDER  
Teaching and Learning Math

**MASTER OF ARTS CONT.**

---

**LARA LOUISE DELHEIMER**

Teaching and Learning ELA

**ELISABETH LAUREN DIGIULIO**

Teaching and Learning Elementary

**ETHAN J EDWARDS**

Teaching and Learning ELA

**KYLE ESSARY**

Teaching and Learning Math

**BARBARA BRYJA-FRIERY**

Teaching and Learning Social Science

**AMY GEIGER**

Teaching and Learning Elementary

**JAMYA MARIE LOUISE LATHAM**

Teaching and Learning Math

**CAILA KIBIBE LINDSEY**

Teaching and Learning ELA

**AMEKIA M MAZIE**

Teaching and Learning ELA

**GABRIELA ORTIZ**

Teaching and Learning ELA

**SRUJANIKA PANDA**

Teaching and Learning ELA

**LILIANA DELGADO PANIAK**

Teaching and Learning Math

**JADA RHODES**

Teaching and Learning ELA

**DEBORAH KAY RININGER**

Teaching and Learning ELA

## MASTER OF ARTS CONT.

---

**NELLIE SANDOVAL**

Teaching and Learning ELA

**AMY SERENA CALLAGHAN SPATZ**

Teaching and Learning Math

**MELISSA A. YANZY**

Teaching and Learning ELA

**BYRON D. YOUNG**

Teaching and Learning ELA

## MASTER OF EDUCATION

---

**JENNIFER LYNN BOUCHER**

Math

**PAMELA CAMPBELL**

Social Emotional Learning

**OLIVIA CAPOBIANCO**

Teaching English Learners

**CAITLYN LOUISE CAREY**

K-8 Computer Science

**KRISTEN CUNNINGHAM**

Computer Science Instruction

**ADRIANA CURREA**

Math

**DIANA ELLING**

Teaching English Learners

**MICHELLE DAWN FIELDS**

Math

**MASTER OF EDUCATION CONT.**

---

**DALTON GANDEE**

Math

**TONYA GORRELL**

Social Emotional Learning

**RACHAEL LYNN HEIS**

ELA

**MIGUEL A. PALACIOS HIDALGO**

Blended Learning

**KRISTA LEIGH HOLLEY**

Math

**ERICA HUPP**

Teach Students With Disabilities

**MEGAN ELIZABETH HUTCHISON**

Teaching Students With Disabilities

**MICHELLE LYNN IZZO**

Teaching Students With Disabilities

**LEANN SHADLE JOHNSON**

Social Emotional Learning

**JANIE SINNETT JOHNSTON**

Teaching Students With Disabilities

**AMANDA LEA KING**

Social Emotional Learning

**SARAH KAY KISER**

Teaching Students With Disabilities

**ELIZABETH KNAPP**

Blended Learning

**JASON EUGENE KNOPP**

Math

**MASTER OF EDUCATION CONT.**

---

**JENNIFER K. LENZEN**  
Social Emotional Learning

**SHIPE MAMUDI**  
Teaching English Learners

**CHARMIN MCCARTY**  
Math

**HEIDI LYNN MOSSER**  
Social Emotional Learning

**SARA MUHLHAUSEN**  
Social Emotional Learning

**TIMOTHY O'CONNOR**  
Early Literacy

**MIRANDA PARSONS**  
Math

**TIFFANY ROSA**  
Math

**AMANDA SHAFFER**  
Social Emotional Learning

**APRIL DAWN GOFF-SMITHSON**  
Social Emotional Learning

**RACHEL RENEE THACKER**  
Social Emotional Learning

**JOSEPH ADAM TROMOTOLA**  
Social Emotional Learning

**IOULIA TZEPOS**  
Early Literacy

**HASSAN WASEEM**  
Teaching Students With Disabilities

MASTER OF EDUCATION CONT.

---

EMILY JOY WISE

Social Emotional Learning

SAMARA ANN WOODS

Social Emotional Learning

## BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

### INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

---

JEREMY COLE

WENDY CARIAGA DALLIMORE \*\*

EMMETT LOGAN EDWARDS

LAUREN ABBIGALE FLOREY \*\*\*

ROBERT ALEXANDER KEITH

REGINA LACY \*\*\*

CHACE LYNN MATTHEWS \*

HAVEN REECE MILLER

MADISON RIDER

BETHANY LINN RITTER

MYCHAEL WILSON

# ASSOCIATE DEGREES

ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE

---

MIXELLE MAGANA

MIKHAILA SHOCKEY

# COLLEGE OF SCIENCES AND EDUCATION

Dr. Brent Sykes, Dean

# GRADUATE DEGREES

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN HUMAN SCIENCES

---

LINDSEY REID GREEN

Systemic Studies

SUMMER THOMAS

# BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

---

KATHRYN EMELIA CHRISTIE \*\*\*

Biology

SAMUEL GORDON HEGEMAN H

Biology

EMILY DALE MUNSON \*\*\* H

Biology

CALLIOPE JAYNE WILLIAMS

Psychology

## BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN EDUCATION

---

BRYNNLEY ROBIN HOHMANN \*\*\*

Elementary Education

DARCI LEE SORRELLS

Elementary Education

LEAH KATE WEBER \*\*

Elementary Education

## BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

---

ASHLEY BALLARD \*\*

JODI C. BALLARD

ALYSIA NICHOLE BARRIOS \*

KYLEE BLUMENTHAL

ALAYIAH LAVON BRADY

OLIVIA DANIELLE BRAXTON

ADRIANNA NICOLE BURDEX \*

JERELENE REEVES-CONDREY

RYAN MARIE CORNELL

APRIL M DAVIS \*\*

ERIN CELESTIA DENNETT \*\*

LESLIE E GOLDEN

TATEM NIKOLE GORDON

APRIL RENEE GOSSMAN

JACOB BRENT GRIFFIN

LILIAN LEKELEFAC \*

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING CONT.

---

MARICARMEN ROSALES-DE LOERA \*\*

KENDRIC ENRIQUE OSCAR LOPEZ \*

STEPHANIE RENEE MARTIN \*

ETCHU TAMBE MBENG

WILLIAM SCOTT MCCULLOUGH

JOVANNY ALDAIR MIJARES \*\*

ANNELLE NIBA NGUH \*\*

GENELLE L. NIBA NGUH \*\*

KALLIE JUNE OLSON

PAYALBEN A PATEL

AMBER DAWN RYTLEWSKI

JESSICA JAY STAFFORD

LILLIE GRACE STANFORD

ODETTE E CHICK SILATCHA

TIMETRA MARJUN TULLIS

FELICIA M WALKER \*\*\*

CHELSEA DEANN WHITE \*\*

EMILY CLAIRE WHITE

# OFFICERS

OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

---

**DR. KEN JONES**  
President

**AMY ROBERTS**  
Vice President of Admissions

**JOHN DESTEIGUER**  
Chancellor

**NEIL ARTER**  
Chief Student Life Officer  
Dean of Students

**CHRISTINE MERIDETH**  
Chief Advancement Officer

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Registrar

**STEPHEN ECK**  
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**JENNIFER RAY**  
Chief Financial Officer

**JOHN HERMES**  
Chief Information and Campus  
Operations Officer

**SHAWN HAMIL**  
Chief Human Resources Officer

**DR. BRIAN STARR**  
Provost

# DEANS

---

**DR. JEREMIE BELLER**  
College of Bible

**DR. BRIAN SIMMONS**  
College of Liberal Arts

**DR. JEFF SIMMONS**  
College of Business

**DR. SADA KNOWLES**  
College of Outreach and Innovation

**DR. BYRON NEWBERRY**  
College of Engineering and  
Computer Science

**DR. BRENT SYKES**  
College of Science and Education

Outside the academy, it is tradition to distinguish between types of doctoral credentials, including D.B.A., D.O., D.V.M., J.D., M.D., Ph.D., and others. Therefore, you will notice specific degrees listed in the Trustee list, whereas elsewhere in the program, we follow informal usage inside the academy to simplify use to "Dr." for all doctoral degree types.

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES

OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

---

MARK BREWER  
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Vice Chair

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WES GOTCHER  
STUART GRAHAM  
MIKE HENSAL  
KEN JONES\*  
DALE KNOX  
KEVIN LAWRENCE

DEWEY LEGGETT  
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LYNN MITCHELL  
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LANA REYNOLDS  
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MICHELLE TUCKER  
MICHAEL WALKER  
GREG WEDEL  
BRUTE WOLF  
BILL ZUKER  
\*ex officio

## LIFE TRUSTEES

---

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JAMES KETCHERSIDE  
RICHARD LAWSON

JACK ROWE  
MARK STANSBERRY  
THOMAS TRIMBLE  
RAY VAUGHN, JR.

## PAST PRESIDENTS

---

L.R. WILSON  
1949-1954

KEVIN E. JACOBS  
1996-2001

JOHN DESTIEGUER  
2012-2023

JAMES O. BAIRD  
1954-1974

ALFRED C. BRANCH  
2001-2002

J. TERRY JOHNSON  
1974-1995

MIKE E. O'NEAL  
2002-2012

# ACADEMIC RECOGNITION

## \* CUM LAUDE

Designated to undergraduate students who have earned a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.40.

## \*\* MAGNA CUM LAUDE

Designated to undergraduate students who have earned a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.60.

## \*\*\* SUMMA CUM LAUDE

Designated to undergraduate students who have earned a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.85.

## <sup>H</sup> UNIVERSITY FELLOWS

Indicates students who have completed the OC Honors Program with a grade point average of 3.4 or higher.

The medallions on blue and green ribbons worn by candidates indicate membership in Alpha Chi, the National Honor Scholarship Society.

The medallions on maroon ribbons worn by candidates indicate successful completion of the OC Honors Program.

The blue cord worn by candidates indicates membership in Alpha Mu Alpha, the National Marketing Honor Society sponsored by the American Marketing Association.

The purple and gold sashes worn by candidates indicate membership in Delta Mu Delta, the National Business Honor Society.

The purple and gold cords worn by candidates indicate membership in Phi Upsilon Omicron, the National Family Science Honor Society.

The silver and pink cords worn by candidates indicate membership in Kappa Mu Epsilon, the National Mathematics Honor Society.

The light blue and red cords worn by candidates indicate membership in Phi Alpha Theta, the National History Honor Society.

The gold cords worn by candidates indicate membership in Pi Lambda Theta, the National Education Honor Society.

The platinum and dark blue cords worn by candidates indicate membership in Psi Chi, the International Psychology Honor Society.

The black and red cords worn by candidates indicate membership in Sigma Tau Delta, the International English Honor Society.

The red, white and black cords worn by candidates indicate membership in Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society.

The red, white and blue cords worn by candidates indicate service in the United States military.

# FACULTY ACADEMIC REGALIA

The gowns and hoods worn by the faculty and platform dignitaries have a meaning deeply rooted in academic life. The doctoral gown is full, with three stripes on each sleeve. The master's gown has sleeves cut to allow the wearer's arms to be seen. The inside of all hoods bears the color of the institution granting the degree, while the color of the hood's border signifies the general area of the degree:

Brown:	Art	Lemon:	Library Science
White:	Arts and Liberal Studies	Pink:	Music
Drab:	Business Administration	Apricot:	Nursing
Light Blue:	Education	Dark Blue:	Philosophy
Orange:	Engineering	Yellow:	Science
Purple:	Law	Scarlet:	Theology

# CANDIDATE ACADEMIC REGALIA

White:	Bachelor of Arts Master of Arts in Christianity and Culture
Scarlet:	Master of Arts in Christian Ministry Master of Divinity Master of Theological Studies
Drab:	Bachelor of Business Administration Master of Accountancy Master of Business Administration
Brown:	Bachelor of Fine Arts
Pink:	Bachelor of Music Education
Gold:	Bachelor of Science Master of Science in Computer Science
Orange:	Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering Master of Science in Engineering
Light Blue:	Bachelor of Science in Education
Apricot:	Bachelor of Science in Nursing

# INCIDENT RESPONSE

OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM. IN THE CASE OF AN INCIDENT, PLEASE FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS GIVEN FROM THE PODIUM.

# CHARGE TO GRADUATES

As Oklahoma Christian University Trustees, we have prayed regularly for you, our students. Even after today, we will continue to pray for you and your families. On this day of celebration, we offer you these words:

First, choose to live an extraordinary life. God did not create us to coast, waste time frivolously or merely seek comfort. He calls us to love Him with all that we are and to love others like we love ourselves. He wants us to make a difference with our lives.

Second, maintain your idealism and optimism. Own a confidence that, with God's help, you can make real and lasting differences in your life and the lives of those around you. Know that you can make a difference – even when life hits you hard and you experience disappointment and failure.

When life becomes drudgery and difficult, know you can still make a difference. If your marriage is struggling and loved ones let you down, if disease attacks and your health fails, if you make serious mistakes in your life choices, know that even then you can fulfill God's intentions for your life. You can make a difference in the lives and souls of the people around you, as you lean

on God's strength and love. And, when you succeed – in your career, your finances and your relationships – do not forget that God is the source of those blessings, and do not forget the purpose for which you have been given them: to bless those around you.

Third, make learning a lifelong pursuit. By continually seeking to learn more about God and his handiwork, you will draw closer to Him and you will be equipped to serve Him and to serve others.

Finally, during your time here, you've become a part of the University. You have invested in yourself by being here, and while here, you've connected with faculty, staff and each other. You are now a part of us. We are proud you are our alumni and we are proud Oklahoma Christian is your alma mater. We challenge you to stay connected to each other and to the University. We look forward to hearing and seeing where you go from here.

We urge you to get involved and stay involved. Whatever challenges or opportunities may come your way, we pray you will seek to serve God faithfully. May God's richest blessings be yours in the days ahead.

