



# THE MISSION OF THE UNIVERSITY

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

FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 2025  
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA  
BAUGH AUDITORIUM

OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

**AUGUST 15, 2025 | 2 P.M.**

Call to Order **RACHEL HART**  
University Registrar

Processional **"POMP & CIRCUMSTANCE"**

Pledge of Allegiance **VIRGINIA SMITH**  
Associate Provost for Student Success

"The Star Spangled Banner" **ISAAC MAY**  
Grand Piano

Invocation **MEL LATORRE**  
Instructor for College of Outreach & Innovation

Introduction of Speaker **DR. BRIAN STARR**  
University Provost

Commencement Speaker **DAVID NORTH**  
Associate Professor of Computer Science  
Director of Computer Science Advancement

Presentation of Diplomas **DR. BRIAN STARR**  
University Provost

Closing Remarks and **DR. BYRON NEWBERRY**  
Benediction Graduate and Global Programs Chair

Recessional **"POMP & CIRCUMSTANCE"**

**COOKIE RECEPTION FOLLOWING IN THE CONSERVATORY.**

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## **CEREMONY PHOTOGRAPHY**

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# COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER



## DAVID NORTH M.S.

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ASSOCIATE  
PROFESSOR OF  
COMPUTER SCIENCE

DIRECTOR OF  
COMPUTER SCIENCE  
ADVANCEMENT

David North has had a distinguished, 30-year career in software development and is a member of the Association for Computing Machinery. He has been a project manager, system architect, computer systems consultant, CTO and COO. He has managed hundreds of software development projects often using cutting-edge technologies and development methods, most recently his work has been in Internet application development.

North has also been involved in the startup of several businesses. He is interested in software engineering, web and mobile application development, plus he enjoys sailing, photography and travel.

North is a deacon at Memorial Road Church of Christ, where he directs the Capitol Hill Ministry. Married to Beverly, together they have three children: Michelle, David and Daniel. The Norths have six grandchildren.

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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 ARTS IN CHRISTIANITY AND CULTURE

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EDDWARD HERRON

ANDREA PARSELLS

# COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Dr. Jeff Simmons, Dean

# GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Dr. Jeff Simmons, Dean, Chair

## GRADUATE DEGREES

MASTER OF ACCOUNTANCY

---

JOSEPH CAMERON LEWIS

DAVID MIKKAL PETERSON

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

---

DANIEL RILEY ADKINS

Finance

GLORIA BENIMANA

FRANCINE BERABOSE

Finance

**MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION CONT.**

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**IRA CLIFTON**

**CHRISTELLE GAJU**

Finance

**PATIENCE IRIBAGIZA**

**STEVE KAMANZI**

**EWA MAJA KIELAR**

**CLAIRE ALLISON MCDERMOTT**

**SOSTHENE MUNYENGANGO**

**PAOLA NSHUTI**

Finance

**ADEPEJU MARIA TELUWO**

Human Resource Management and  
Project Management

**TABATHA ROSE THURMAN**

Finance

**JULIET UMUTONI**

**MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

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**CALLI ANN COLLINS**

**NAKIA YVONNE CULLOM**

**YVES TUMUSHIMIRE**

**KRISTEN M WHITEHOUSE**

# COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

Dr. Byron Newberry, Dean

# GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

Dr. Byron Newberry, Dean

## GRADUATE DEGREES

### MASTER OF SCIENCE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

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**UTHEJA BOMMINENI**

Data Science

**ERIC BYIRINGIRO**

Cyber Security

**DANIEL G CAMPBELL**

Cyber Security

**CHARITHA NAGASAI CHANDIKA**

Data Science

**AVINASH CHEKURI**

Artificial Intelligence

**TAM DOAN**

Software Engineering

**TEJAS REDDY DUGYAMPUDI**

Software Engineering

**SAI TEJA REDDY GUNREDDY**

Artificial Intelligence

**RAHUL KODURI**

Artificial Intelligence

**MICHALLA M MECHLER**

Cyber Security

**MASTER OF SCIENCE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE CONT.**

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**JOSHUA MEEK**

Software Engineering

**VENKATA SESA PAVAN MUDDANA**

Software Engineering

**RONNIE NGUYEN**

Artificial Intelligence

**BRIAN MACHOKA OMBURA**

Software Engineering

**AARON MICHAEL PARKS**

Cyber Security

**VAMSHI KRISHNA PASUPUNUTI**

Software Engineering

**SANA AFROZE KHAN PATTAN**

Artificial Intelligence

**TAYLOR NICOLE ROBINSON**

Cyber Security

**ARNULFO VIDANA SALAS**

Artificial Intelligence

**MICHAEL TRAN**

Software Engineering

**SIRICHANDANA UPPUTURI**

Software Engineering

**DEEKSHA VEMULA**

Software Engineering

**JACOB HENRY WILSON**

Software Engineering

**ROHITH YADLAPALLI**

Software Engineering

**MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ENGINEERING**

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**ERNESTO BURCIAGA**

**THU DAO**

**ARIEL HENDERSON**

**MATTHEW PLANT**

**LOGAN SMITH**

**JEFFREY MICHAEL TALOFF**

## **BACCALAUREATE DEGREES**

**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING**

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**CLAYTON MARCUS LECK**

## **COLLEGE OF COLLEGE OF OUTREACH AND INNOVATION**

Dr. Sada Knowles, Dean

## **GRADUATE DEGREES**

**MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING AND LEARNING**

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**JOHN R. WHITE**

Secondary Social Science

**MASTER OF EDUCATION**

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**CHANDLER JENKINS**

Social-Emotional Learning

# BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

## BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

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**BRANDI BULLOCK\*\***

Interdisciplinary Studies

**CODI BURLESON\*\***

Interdisciplinary Studies

**LACIE NICOLE FERGUSON**

Interdisciplinary Studies

# COLLEGE OF SCIENCES AND EDUCATION

Dr. Brent Sykes, Dean

## GRADUATE DEGREES

### MASTER OF SCIENCE IN HUMAN SCIENCE

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ALEXANDER SCOTT CASH

Marriage & Family Therapy

AARON DEAN GRACE

Marriage & Family Therapy

## BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

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SHAYLE NICOLE WOODS\*\*

Biology

### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

---

RAPHAEL FOKUSAM

MADELINE P FRITTS

## ASSOCIATE DEGREES

### ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE

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KIARA CARTY

# OFFICERS

## OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

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**DR. KEN JONES**  
President

**JOHN DESTIEGUER**  
Chancellor

**CHRISTINE MERIDETH**  
Chief Advancement Officer

**STEPHEN ECK**  
Chief Legal Officer

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

**DR. BRIAN STARR**  
Provost

**AMY ROBERTS**  
Director of Admissions

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

**RACHEL HART**  
Registrar

**JENNIFER RAY**  
Chief Financial Officer

**SHAWN HAMIL**  
Chief Human Resources Officer

# DEANS

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**DR. JEREMIE BELLER**  
College of Bible

**DR. JEFF SIMMONS**  
College of Business

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

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

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

**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

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**MARK A. BREWER, PH.D.**  
Chair

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Secretary

**DAVID DUNCAN, D. MIN.**  
Vice Chair

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**GARY SMITH**  
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**MICHELLE S. TUCKER, M.D.**  
**MICHAEL WALKER, ED.D., J.D.**  
**GREG WEDEL**  
**BRUTE WOLF, M.D.**  
**BILL ZUKER**

\*ex officio

## LIFE TRUSTEES

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**WAYNE L. WARREN**

## PAST PRESIDENTS

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**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.