

# Convocation

BURMAN UNIVERSITY

*Friday, the Thirtieth of April to  
Sunday, the Second of May,  
Two Thousand and Twenty-One*

*Presiding: Noble Donkor, PhD  
Vice President for Academic Administration*

*College Heights Seventh-day Adventist Church  
on the Campus of Burman University*

# Class Officers

President.....	Romando Carey
Vice President.....	Kira Bruggemann
Secretary.....	Phil Honest
Treasurer.....	Buhle Sibanda
Pastor .....	Ralph Magsalin
Sponsors.....	Tennyson Samraj, Professor of Philosophy Chloe Weir, Chair, Assistant Professor of Education

## *Graduation Motto*

“Do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God.” Micah 6:8

## *Graduation Aim*

Live Boldly. Live Vulnerably. Live on Purpose.

Burman University is located within hereditary indigenous land and acknowledges that the land on which we gather is Treaty 6 territory, established in 1876, the traditional home, and meeting ground for many Indigenous peoples, including the Blackfoot, Dene, Cree, and Métis.

Burman University is committed to doing its part to address the legacy of broken promises and rebuild productive, partnership relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples in Central Alberta and across Canada.

Convocation services are streamed live on the web at [livestream.com/burmanu](http://livestream.com/burmanu)

# Consecration

Friday, April 30, 7:30 p.m.

Virtual Service

Welcome.....Noble Donkor  
Vice President for Academic Administration

Prayer ..... Kenneth Appiah Kubi

Tribute to School and Teachers..... Shaun Young

Tribute to Families ..... Noreen Moise

Special Music “Hills and Valleys” ..... T. Wells  
Breann Coutain

Introduction of Speaker.....Chermilyn Pederal

Address: “A Revolution of Justice, Mercy, and Walking Humbly with God ”.....Stephen Reasor  
Chair, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, Burman University

Prayer ..... Ryan McNulty

# Baccalaureate

Saturday, May 1, 12:00 p.m.

Livestream service

Song Service..... Grad Praise Team

Welcome & Invocation .....Loren Agrey  
President

Call for Offering.....Solomon Agdon  
Parent of Graduate

Scripture *Hebrews 12:1-3*.....Carroline Dzingirayi  
Parent of Graduate

Special Music “This is Living”.....A. King, J. Davies, L. Moore  
Kathryn McNulty; Brandon Napod, Guitar

Pastoral Prayer and Introduction of the Speaker .....Jeff Potts  
Parent of Graduate

Sermon “Gritty Vulnerability” ..... Massiel Dávila-Ferrer  
Chaplain, Burman University

Closing Song “The Blessing” ..... Grad Praise Team

Benediction.....Loren Agrey

Grad Praise Team:

*Kira Bruggemann*

*Jayda Burton*

*Romando Carey*

*Sean Kapakasa*

*Moriah Kennedy*

*Ines Ruzindana*

Musicians:

*Larry Abimbola, Piano*

*Glory Loki, Drums*

*Mariano Zelaya, Bass*

Organist:

*Eduardo Sola*

# Commencement

Sunday, May 2, 10:00 a.m.

Virtual Service

Processional “Trumpet Tune” .....	<i>D. Johnson</i>
Marshal .....	Peter Otieno Professor of Chemistry
Welcome, Invocation & Introduction of Speaker .....	Loren Agrey President
Address: “Extending Community: Walking Jesus’ Radical Path” .....	Melanie Humphreys President, The King’s University Edmonton, Alberta
Recognition of Emeritus Faculty .....	Loren Agrey
Presentation of Burman University Faculty Excellence Awards .....	Noble Donkor Vice President for Academic Administration
Presentation of Candidates .....	Noble Donkor
Presentation of Presidential Medals of Excellence .....	Noble Donkor
Musical Selection “How Great Thou Art” .....	<i>D. Forrest</i> Ubuntu
Message from the Class President .....	Romando Carey Class of 2021 President
Alumni Recognition .....	Adam Deibert President, Alumni Association
Musical Selection “Liuyang River” .....	<i>J. Wang</i> Anna Sawatzky
Benediction .....	Sandra Acquah Assistant Professor of Biology
Recessional “Epilogue” .....	<i>H. Willan</i>

Organist: Wendy Markosky, Professor of Music

# Candidates for Graduation

Burman University Programs

## Certificate in Health Sciences

Ian Ross Agdon  
Sol Arizelle Eliseo Agdon †  
Winolla Anose Jesudasan  
Kanchana Bernelle Puchero Bergonio †  
Esther Boateng †  
Tomi-Gaye Latoya Clarke †  
Mary-Lyn Ebifegha †  
Wairimu Njeri Gitaka  
Elizabeth Akuot Kuany †  
Abigail Tendai Nyamuzuwe  
Chestelle Jade Puedivan †  
Divya Sharma †  
Shannon-Jane Theron

## Bachelor of Arts (Three-Year)

Hannah Amankwah (General Studies) †  
Kelly Ikirezi (Business Administration) ‡  
Kathryn Lynn Varona McNulty (General Studies)  
Autumn Laurie Stuart (General Studies) ‡  
Jeremy John Wellman (Religious Studies) *cum laude*

## Bachelor of Science (Three-Year)

Breann Lavender Coutain (Wellness Management) *cum laude*  
Thandizo Thato Henderson (Wellness Management)  
Michael Gitego Kayijaho (Psychology)  
Alexia Paige Kelly (Biology) ‡  
Christelle Labelle (Biology) ‡  
Sarah Nichols (General Studies) *cum laude*  
Damian Nathaniel Tetz (Biology) *summa cum laude*

## Bachelor of Arts (Four-Year)

Monique Marie-Snyder Abrahams (International Studies)  
Jacques Moise Alexandre (Religious Studies: Pre-professional Track) †

Kenneth Appiah Kubi (Religious Studies: Pre-professional Track) *magna cum laude*  
Benjamin Macabatao Arias (Religious Studies: Pre-professional Track)  
Sarah Gem Asi Bacabac (International Studies) †  
Romando Carey (Religious Studies: Pre-professional Track) *summa cum laude*  
Courtney Jenna Christensen (Adventure Based Counselling)  
Askim Chisomo Chundu (Religious Studies)  
Alessandro Del Piero Coronado Pajuelo (Religious Studies)  
Max Joseph Fernandez Davila (Religious Studies: Pre-professional Track) *cum laude*  
James Hulme (Religious Studies)  
Jaemin Kim (Religious Studies: Pre-professional Track)  
Marc Everton Leslie (Religious Studies: Pre-professional Track) *cum laude* ‡  
Jacob Keiran Link (Religious Studies: Pre-professional Track)  
Mikayla Lorenza Lussier (English) †  
Ralph Jerold Magsalin (Religious Studies)  
Noreen Ramilee Moise (Religious Studies: Pre-professional Track)  
Chermilyn Pedernal (Religious Studies: Pre-professional Track) *magna cum laude*  
Jasmine Nicole Pickett (English)  
Danielle Placide (Religious Studies)  
Nadine Faith Potts (Adventure Based Counselling) ‡  
Michelle Taylor Prince (Adventure Based Counselling)  
Kailey Phyllis Adlam Smith (Behavioural Science) ‡  
Yeukai Netsai Tsikira (Behavioural Science)  
Shaun Paul Young (Religious Studies: Pre-professional Track) *cum laude*

#### **Bachelor of Business Administration (Four-Year)**

Quennel Christopher Anderson (Accounting Track) *magna cum laude*  
Michael John Villareal Conde (Accounting Track) *cum laude*  
Sibusisiwe Tinotenda Dzingirayi (Accounting Track)  
Ryan Varona McNulty (Management Track) ‡  
Rochie Marvin Silva Roldan (Accounting Track) ‡  
Kenn Edrussel Romero (Accounting Track)  
Buhle Sibanda (Accounting Track)

#### **Bachelor of Education (Four-Year)**

Keaton McKenna-Lynn Briere (Secondary: Biology) *magna cum laude* ‡  
Morgan Sage Hope Edgson (Elementary)  
Maress Isome Emmons (Elementary)  
Christopher Neil Gordon (Elementary)  
Brianna Paige Hermary (Elementary) *summa cum laude*  
Megan J Hunt (Elementary)

Kennedy Lechelle Krips (Elementary)  
Lucy Lynett (Elementary) *cum laude*  
Julie Morency (Secondary: Mathematics)  
Miora Evelyne Razafiarivony (Secondary: English) *cum laude*  
Monique L Scott (Elementary) *cum laude*  
Jessica-Robyn Louise Strachan (Elementary)  
Melissa Thomas (Elementary)  
Troysia Ashley Thomas (Secondary: Social Studies)  
Melissa Ann Tschirren (Elementary)  
Thomas James Waddell (Elementary)  
Marlee Jordan Waldron (Elementary) *magna cum laude*

### **Bachelor of Education After Degree (Two-Year)**

Kaye Beloso (Elementary)  
Ronald Reginald Carrick (Secondary) *cum laude*  
Catherine E DeMerchant (Elementary) *cum laude*  
Jill Alaina Jenkins (Elementary Education) *magna cum laude* †  
Nicasio Carlos Morales Jr. (Elementary)  
David Barron Westwood (Secondary) *cum laude*

### **Bachelor of Music (Four-Year)**

Shannon Joyce Machtans (Performance) *magna cum laude*  
Anna Aleah Sawatzky (Performance) *magna cum laude*

### **Bachelor of Science (Four-Year)**

Kiralyn Mackenzie Crombie Bruggemann (Psychology) *summa cum laude*  
Ethan Lacanilao Burgess (Biology) *summa cum laude*  
Jayda Taylahn Emily Burton (Biology: Bio-medical Track) *summa cum laude*  
Mallory Clark (Wellness)  
Allen Julian Decena (Psychology)  
Gillian Renae Holly (Wellness) ‡  
Phil Collins Honest (Biology) *cum laude*  
Sipiwi-Sipo Wabeyi Imasiku (Biology: Bio-Medical Track) ‡  
De'Meah RJ Iris (Psychology) †  
Sean Nyashadzashe Kapakasa (Psychology)  
Moriah Kennedy (Biology: Bio-medical Track) *summa cum laude*  
Nehal Kumar (Wellness)  
Chaetta Rachel Lamadine (Psychology)  
Michael Anthony Fernandez Lemme (Biology)  
Taylor Anne Massey (Psychology)



Ruth Sipiwe Mwilima (Biology) ‡  
Zebedi Junior Odongo (Biology) *magna cum laude*  
Karla Pallares (Biology) ‡  
Valerie Phiri (Wellness) ‡ *cum laude*  
Fanilo Rakotonarivelo (Biology)  
Zakiya Michelle Rolle (Wellness)  
Ines G Ruzindana (Biology: Bio-Medical Track) *cum laude*  
Serina Lydia Thomson (Wellness) ‡  
Polina Romanovna Verbytska (Biology)  
Joren Scott Alain Wilson (Biology) *magna cum laude*

*December 2020 Conferrals †*

*August 2021 Conferrals ‡*

# *The Speakers*

**Stephen Reasor, PhD, DMin**

Assistant Professor of Religious Studies

Burman University

Dr. Stephen Reasor, chair of the religious studies department, first arrived on the campus of Burman University (then Canadian University College) in the fall of 1999. He married his college sweetheart, Pattie Unruh, in 2000 and, with her, graduated with the class of 2001. They returned to campus in 2005 when he took on the role of youth minister of the College Heights church and chaplain of College Heights Christian School and Parkview Adventist Academy. During his 8-year tenure as a campus chaplain, he completed a doctorate in homiletics and they welcomed Aeden and Mackenzie into their family. From 2013 to 2015, Dr. Reasor served as a pastor in central Alberta. In 2015, he returned to campus as a member of faculty in the religious studies department, and completed a second doctorate, in New Testament studies, in 2019. One of Dr. Reasor's favorite places is the classroom. His favorite classes are his Greek classes, and he has written several textbooks on the subject. He is passionate about bringing the Bible, especially stories about Jesus, to life in the imagination of his students.

**Massiel Dávila-Ferrer, MDiv**

Chaplain

Burman University

Massiel Davila-Ferrer's origin story begins in Managua, Nicaragua. At a young age, her family moved to Saskatoon, Saskatchewan where she grew up.

In 2012 Massiel joined the team at College Heights Seventh-day Adventist Church, and in August of 2019 she accepted the invitation to serve as Chaplain for Burman University, joyfully tackling a new experience in ministry without having to pack a moving truck.

During her time in Lacombe, she met and married her teammate and best friend for life, Jr Ferrer, who also serves on the campus of Burman University.

Massiel enjoys reading, writing, watching things that happen on stages, traveling, and good meals with good people. Massiel loves words, the Word, people and God, and seeks to spend her life bringing these things together.

## **Melanie J Humphreys, PhD**

President, The King's University

Edmonton, AB

Dr. Melanie Humphreys is in her eighth year as President and CEO of The King's University. The first female president of the university, Dr. Humphreys is dedicated to cultivating a safe, inclusive environment of mutual respect, where all may belong and flourish. Dr. Humphreys has been a catalyst for change. Her tenure has seen a renewed commitment to the work of reconciliation and building a good path for indigenous student participation at King's, an institutional name change, revision of The King's University Act to include the ability to offer masters and doctoral degrees, renewal of the university's strategic plan, a new campus master plan, creation of a Statement on Inclusion, increased faculty, program, research, and student support capacities, and the launch of the Leder School of Business, Academic Enrichment Centre, and Centre for Vocation and Calling.

A Canadian, Dr. Humphreys spent much of her professional career prior to her current role outside of Canada. She served as a Dean and adjunct faculty member at Wheaton College in Illinois. Prior to her time in the USA, she served ten years as Vice President of Student Life and Dean of Students at LCC International University, a liberal arts university in Lithuania, Eastern Europe. Dr. Humphreys holds a PhD in higher education from Azusa Pacific University in California and her undergraduate and master's degrees from Trinity Western University in British Columbia. While completing her doctorate, she taught in Azusa Pacific's Masters of Global Leadership program teaching in Brazil, Chile, Ethiopia, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Mexico, Singapore, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.

Referred to by students as "Prez Mel", Dr. Humphreys is an active participant on campus as her schedule allows. She travelled with the King's choirs to the lower mainland of BC, Slovakia, Poland, and the Netherlands. She accompanied the women's volleyball team to nationals in Halifax. Travel is a bit of a theme. Dr. Humphreys has travelled to over fifty countries and is always looking for ways to add to her country count.

Dr. Humphreys is a member of the Council of Post-Secondary Presidents of Alberta, is chair of the Education Committee and serves on a Women's Leadership Advisory Committee to Universities Canada and is the current board chair and trustee for Los Angeles Pacific University.

# Emeritus Faculty

**Darren George, PhD**

Professor of Psychology

Dr. Darren George has spent his life teaching, researching, and writing about how to make complex ideas and theories – simple.

Growing up in California he equipped himself with a triple undergraduate degree in mathematics, history and religion from Pacific Union College. From there he moved into his beloved field of psychology, earning a MA in Experimental Psychology from California State University, and a PhD in Personality Psychology from the University of California at Los Angeles.

Dr. George's career at Burman spanned almost 30 years, where he was an active contributor to the university in scores of areas. His fascination with data analysis led him down many paths of accomplishment. He is extensively published and is a bestselling author of the academic text going into 17th edition, *IBM SPSS Statistics 26, Step by Step*, which is sold in 85 countries. As the Director of Research for the Faculty of Science at Burman University he coauthored and published numerous articles and has five more in progress. Last but not least, he crafted an out-of-the-park statistics class, which students profess to enjoy. In 2009 he received the Burman University (Canadian University College) Excellence in Teaching Award. Dr. George expects to continue researching and publishing.

Music continues as an area of intent passion and discipline. He is an avid trombonist, having performed lead trombone in the Burman University (CUC) Chamber Orchestra, Flat Iron Jazz, Ritchie Trombone Choir, and Silverwinds Band. He plans on recording an album in the near future.

Throughout his career, athletics and the pursuit of fitness has been a commanding presence. He was a nationally ranked athlete in the US in the 1970s, 11th fastest in the Marathon (2:20:10.7) and an Olympic Trials finalist. In Lacombe, his contributions in track and cross country have been extensive. A career highlight was coaching an area athlete to a gold medal at the Canadian Collegiate Athletics Association Cross Country National Championship.

Many people know Dr. George and his wife, Elizabeth, for their marriage and dating “Friday Night” groups. Darren, the psychologist, had been researching ideas about compatibility for years. Elizabeth, the professional speaker, had been working with team relationships and employee compatibility. In their separate fields they both understood and wanted to prevent the horrific impact of mismatched relationships. The best-selling book *The Compatibility Code* is the result of their story. Much of the science and research in the Code arose from Darren's exploration of the predictors of successful relationships and the dynamics of helping behaviors among friends. Together, they have conducted hundreds of seminars in three countries (Canada, US, Jamaica). They expect to continue serving the Lord by helping people choose powerful, lasting and compatible relationships.

## **Carolyn Snipes-Hoyt, PhD**

Associate Professor of Modern Languages

Carolyn Snipes-Hoyt was born and grew up in California, where she attended San Gabriel (Adventist) Academy and La Sierra University (at the time a Faculty of Loma Linda University). She earned a BA degree with a German Major and a French Minor and a Master of Arts degree in German Language and Literature from the University of California. She married John Hoyt and they were encouraged to fill a position at Collège Adventiste de Gitwe, in Rwanda, Central Africa, where John taught Chemistry and Physics courses in French and Carolyn taught English as a Second Language. Their sons were born during their 6 ½ years in Rwanda.

Returning to North America, they had the opportunity to settle in Lacombe, Alberta, where John established a programme in Art at the Canadian Union College. Carolyn taught English, French and Art at Parkview Adventist Academy. She also began graduate studies in French at the University of Alberta, completing the MA degree and the PhD in French Literature in 1998. Over the years, Carolyn has taught many contract courses for CUC (now Burman University): English, French, German, and History. Once she completed her PhD in French Literature (1998), she held one- or two-year Visiting or Assistant Professor positions at the University of Alberta, the University of Georgia (Middle Georgia campus), the University of Lethbridge and Pacific Union College, before returning to Lacombe, where she taught French and Art at Central Alberta Christian High School, as well as contract courses for CUC. As an Associate Professor since 2014, she has been pleased to teach French courses at Burman University, and an occasional course in German, and to assist Dr. John McDowell in organizing and delivering his Burman Scholars course titled “Beauty,” dealing with aesthetics, art history and appreciation, in Greece and Italy.

Carolyn served as Secretary-Treasurer of the Association Internationale Zola et le Naturalisme (the AIZEN) for twenty years, and assisted in the organization of their regular conferences, held in American and Canadian cities, but also Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), Pusan (South Korea), Jaen (Spain), and Debrecen (Hungary). She continues in the capacity as an Associate Editor of the journal published by this scholarly society, *Excavatio*. In connection with this research group, she has co-edited two collections of essays, one with Anna Gural-Migdal and the other with Marie-Sophie Armstrong and Riikka Rossi. As a result of these connections and her interest in research and publication, she has about fifteen articles appearing in collections and journals. She is grateful to Burman University for its support of scholarly research and for the opportunity to mentor students over the years in College Heights and Lacombe.

## **Peter Wass, PhD**

Associate Professor of Psychology

Dr. Wass was born and raised in Toronto in the suburb of Scarborough. He began his work career in the banking industry in downtown Toronto working from teller through to assistant accountant before moving into the accounting field in various businesses throughout the Toronto area. Through this time, he was working on completing his education through the Certified General Accountants program, although an underlying interest through all those years was being far more interested in human dynamics and interactions. Due to various opportunities that had been made available he left the field of accounting and returned to school to pursue his undergraduate degree in psychology. He completed his undergraduate degree in Psychology through Laurentian University at the Algoma University College campus in Sault Ste Marie, Ontario. He was then accepted into the Masters/PhD graduate program in Clinical Neuropsychology at the University of Windsor. He graduated from this program in 1997. By this time, he and his family had moved to Alberta and he was actively working in the Brain Injury Program at Alberta Hospital, Ponoka since August 1995. During this time at Alberta Hospital Ponoka, he also worked in the Adult Psychiatry and the Substance Abuse program, as well as holding the position of Research Coordinator for the Telepsychiatry Program.

Dr. Wass transitioned into private practice as a Clinical Neuropsychologist in Alberta by the late 1990's. He has been actively engaged for over 20 years in his private practice providing diagnostic assessments with children, adolescents, and adults who present with a wide range of presenting concerns and complaints. Areas of specialty include but not limited to Psychiatric disorders, Traumatic Brain Injury, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, and Developmental Disabilities. He is the clinical supervisor for the Central Alberta FASD Outreach team, the Family Enhancement Group, and for the Catholic Social Services Therapy Team. Dr. Wass continues to hold a position as a contract neuropsychologist for Red Deer Regional Hospital, Red Deer Community Mental Health, and Centennial Centre in Ponoka. He has also been established a multitude of times since 2005 as an expert witness in Alberta Provincial Courts in psychological, parenting, and neuropsychological assessments. He has been actively involved over the years in supervising both undergraduate and graduate level students in both clinical and research activities.

It was during his time working at Alberta Hospital Ponoka that he was recruited by Dr. Connors to teach sessional courses at what was then Canadian University College in 1998. Prior to this he had actively maintained a university teaching role since September 1991 at the University of Windsor before moving to Alberta. After a couple of years of providing sessional courses through CUC, Dr. Wass was made a permanent half-time assistant professor at CUC. This was a position that he proudly held for over twenty years, having had the great pleasure of being involved in the education of many Burman University students all those years. While the decision to retire from teaching at Burman University was not taken lightly, the years of teaching have provided a wealth of positive experiences in his many interactions with the young adults growing through this university.

Dr. Wass continues to remain very actively involved in his thriving private practice in the community of Lacombe serving Alberta. While maybe retired from teaching for now, certainly not retired from active involvement in his professional life. Perhaps if you watch carefully you will see him running by or cycling past you as these are some of his ongoing passions outside of his professional activities.

# Awardees

Burman University Awards for Excellence in Teaching, Scholarship, and Service

## **Excellence in Teaching Award**

Eduardo Solá, PhD

Assistant Professor of Music

Dr. Solá holds a PhD in curriculum from Andrews University, a MA in musicology from the University of Toronto, and BMus degree from The Royal Conservatoire of Den Haag (Netherlands) and Parana State University (Brazil). As an assistant professor at Burman, he teaches the Western music history stream, upper-division music theory courses, violin performance and collaborates with the Education Department in teaching Curriculum in Fine Arts. He also directs the Burman University Symphony Orchestra. Dr. Solá cherishes a passion for teaching and is actively involved in educational research. He specializes in historically-informed performance, musicology, music education, and curriculum studies. Besides his groundbreaking research on the impact of synesthesia on music education, Dr. Solá has a substantial record of scholarly publications in these areas. He is currently working on two textbooks and envisions for these materials to be used in his classroom in the near future.

Among recent pedagogical implementations at Burman University, Dr. Solá has reconceptualized the orchestra course, developing two streams that prioritize music majors and their training for a changing job market. For almost 3 years, Dr. Solá has also collaborated extensively with his colleague, Ms. Sheila Clark, in infusing information literacy into the Western music history course stream. They are currently designing a research methodology that investigates best practices for such integration and draws upon the evaluation of their experience heretofore. With this infusion, Dr. Solá has been encouraging students in the Music Department to refine their writing and research skills. He is also collaborating with his colleague, Ms. Julie Thompson, in applying autobiographical theory to the teaching and learning of language arts in the secondary classroom. Throughout the 2020-2021 academic year, Dr. Solá has shared his work as guest lecturer and conference presenter at the University of Manchester, University of Huddersfield, University of São Paulo, Catholic University of Paraná, and Andrews University.



## Excellence in Scholarship Award

Isaac Darko, PhD

Assistant Professor of Education

Dr. Darko was born in Ghana and obtained his bachelor's degree from the University of Ghana. He completed both his masters and doctorate degrees at the University of Toronto. He is currently an Assistant Professor of Education at Burman University. An emerging scholar and researcher, Dr. Darko is making inroads in innovative classroom teaching with his integrative approach to teaching and learning. He is especially interested in examining the intersectionalities of the teaching profession as it relates to engaging multiple epistemologies, technology, social justice, morality, and adult education. His current research focuses on understanding the significant role of Indigenous knowledge in the holistic development of the learner within the frameworks of inclusivity, anti-colonial, anti-racist, equity, respect, recognition, and historical context through which knowledge is engaged primarily in the academy.

His recent publications include; *"Ancients have a lot to teach: Indigenous African philosophies for critical thinking education. Association of Commonwealth Universities Review (2021);"* *"Perceived Police Legitimacy in Ghana: The Role of Procedural Fairness and Contacts with the Police. Journal of Law, Crime, and Justice (2021);"* *"Indigenous African Philosophies as a Critical Thinking Pedagogical Tools for Schooling and Education. In, Africanizing the school curriculum: promoting inclusive, decolonial education in African contexts (2020);"* *"Spirituality and self-care among Ghanaian social workers: Lessons for Africanizing Social Work Education. In, Africanizing the school curriculum: promoting an inclusive, decolonial education in African contexts;"* *"African Proverbs as Epistemologies of Decolonization (2018);"* *"Concealed Markets and the Commercialization of Education: Implication on Inclusivity, in Inclusive Education in African Contexts: A Critical Reader."*

Dr. Darko enjoys spending time with family, playing soccer, telling stories, preaching, and reading.

## **Excellence in Service Award**

Louicius Michel, PhD  
Professor of Business

Dr. Louicius Michel graduated with a PhD in Business from Laval University. He has worked as an international consultant for several public and private organisations as well as multilateral NGOs while carrying out his scholarly duties. He has worked as a senior advisor to the Haitian Minister of education and the Minister of foreign affairs.

His international consultation duties and teaching appointments contribute to the wealth of experience he shares in the classroom, in areas such as economics, strategic management, international business, and business finance. He has participated in numerous academic conferences in his field to either present his research findings or deliver keynote speeches. He has been providing commendable services to his scientific community as a reviewer for the Academy of Management, CEDIMES, etc., and as a scientific committee member for many conferences. Dr. Michel has produced several peer-reviewed articles, conference papers, book chapters, consultation reports, management manuals and procedures. He is recognized by his peers and collaborators as an accomplished professional who masters the three sides of knowledge areas: conceptual, practical and methodological. His four most recent published articles have challenged the traditional paradigm on economic development in Africa.

He is a Professor at Burman University, Alberta, where he has been working over the last seventeen years while networking with international peers in the areas of research, collaborative teaching, and organizational development. Upon becoming Chair of the School of Business in May 2017, Dr. Michel has launched four meaningful initiatives aiming at strengthening the quality of the Business program, elevating the profile of Burman University and providing responsive community services. These initiatives are: the Business Speaker Series, the Small Business Centre, the Continued Education Program and the Business Incubator. His colleagues from the other twenty-five Schools of Business in the Province have recently accepted his idea about the creation of an Alberta-based Business Journal. A working group, chaired by Dr. Michel, is developing the Business Plan for this new project.

# Board of Trustees

2016 – 2021

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## Administration

*of the University*

Loren Agrey, President

Noble Donkor, Vice President for Academic Administration

Darrell Huether, Vice President for Financial Administration

Stacy Hunter, Vice President for Student Services

Jr Ferrer, Vice President for Marketing and Enrolment Services

# Academic Costume

The pageantry and costume of commencement have been inherited from the European universities of the eleventh and twelfth centuries. Academic life as we know it today began in medieval times, first in the church and then in the guilds. The teaching guild was the Guild of the Master of Arts where the Bachelor was the apprentice of the Master, and the dress was the outward sign of privilege and responsibility. Rather early it became necessary for colleges and universities to set rules to preserve the dignity and meaning of academic dress. Today, most institutions adopt a distinctive design for academic attire.

**GOWN:** Academic gowns come in a variety of designs and colours. These designs, particularly the sleeves, reflect the level of the academic degree of the wearer. While most gowns are black, many universities use gowns of other colours for doctoral degrees.

**HOOD:** In general, the size and complexity of the hood reflect the level of the degree of the wearer ~ the longer and more complex the hood, the higher the degree. The interior colours of the hood are generally the colours of the degree-granting institution, while the border colours represent the academic discipline.

**CAP:** Traditionally, the cap has had a square, solid design and is known as a “mortar board.” Some universities use a round or octagonal tam for doctoral degrees. Sometimes, the colour of the tassel indicates the academic discipline. A gold tassel is often used for doctoral degrees.

# Academic Honours

Where merited, Burman University confers degrees with three levels of academic honours: *cum laude* for honours (red cords), *magna cum laude* for high honours (red and gold cords), and *summa cum laude* for highest honours (gold cords). The academic honours published and announced during the convocation ceremonies are based on the graduate’s academic record as of January 1 of the year of convocation. The academic honours, as printed on the official transcript and parchment, include all course work completed during the term of study immediately prior to the convocation ceremonies and, therefore, may be different from the previously announced designations.

# University Mace

The Burman University mace was commissioned to honour the May 1, 2015 institutional name change. University registrar, Mr. Lawrence Murrin, designed the mace, while Mr. Gerald Whitehead, a retired Canadian Union College and Parkview Adventist Academy instructor, translated the design into a black walnut and brass work of art.

The disc at the top of the mace holds on both sides the crest of Burman University. The brass holder of the disk bears the symbol of the Seventh-day Adventist church. The four-sided head of the mace bears medallions that trace the history of the university. Three brass rings encircle the shaft, each engraved with one clause of the university's mission statement: think with discernment; believe with insight and commitment; act with confidence, compassion, and competence.

In medieval times, the mace symbolized authority over life and death and was held by a dignitary's bodyguard at ceremonial functions. Today the mace represents the power of knowledge.

The Burman University mace symbolizes the university's contributions to the creation and dissemination of knowledge. It also marks the university's values of excellence, service, spirituality, integrity, and community. During formal university convocations, the marshal carries the mace before the university president and places it in full view of the assembly during the proceedings. Between convocations it is kept in a display case in the President's Office.