

Convocation

BURMAN UNIVERSITY

*Friday, the Twenty-Sixth of April to
Sunday, the Twenty-Eighth of April,
Two Thousand and Twenty-Four*

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

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

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.

Class Officers

President	Dennalia Fray
Vice-President	John Jones
Secretary.....	Saige McCann
Treasurer	Kristine Aradanas
Pastor.....	Josiah Anunciacion
Sargeant-at-Arms	Isaac Ferster
Sponsors.....	Dadria Lewis, Assistant Professor of Psychology Pekka Määttänen, Associate Professor of Biology

Graduation Motto

“There are two ways of spreading light: to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it”

~ Edith Wharton

Graduation Aim

“A Light to All the World”

Graduation Bible Verse

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it” ~ John 1:5

Saturday Graduate Reception

Graduates and their families are invited to join with the faculty who deliver each graduate's degree program for fellowship and light refreshments at 5:30 pm in the College Heights Christian School gymnasium. Invited guests include families, faculty, administration, and board members. Please take the opportunity to mingle throughout the reception.

Commencement Announcements

Sunday's Commencement seating is for ticket holders only. Graduates' invited guests are encouraged to arrive early with their tickets. Doors will open at 9:00 am. Seating is not guaranteed for those guests that arrive late. Additional guests are invited to the McKibbin Centre where the service will be available through livestreaming.

Guests must remain behind the last row of graduate seating at all times so as to not interfere with the livestream. The class provides photographs of each graduate taken at the time of the degree presentation.

Convocation services are streamed live on the web at
www.burmanu.ca/graduation
www.youtube.com/@BurmanUniversity

Consecration

Friday, April 26, 7:30 p.m.

Prelude	Terrence Previlon
Song Service.....	Ekow Aidoo, Kristine Aradanas, Stanesha Deligence, Jenella Watson Josiah Anunciacion, guitar; Terrence Previlon, piano
Invocation	Saige McCann
Welcome	Noble Donkor Vice-President for Academic Administration
Musical Selection “Worthy Of It All”	<i>D. Brymer & R. Hall</i> Dennalia Fray
Tribute to School and Teachers.....	Joshua Deximo and Tatenda Jura
Tribute to Families.....	Nadine Depluzer and Eva Unger
Address “Let There Be Light”	Romando Carey Chaplain, Parkview Adventist Academy and College Heights Christian School
Prayer of Dedication	Nadine Irakoze (French) Juan Carlos Atencio (Spanish) Joyce Sekleh (Twi) Love Lee (Korean) Jacob Opmeer (English)
Postlude.....	Terrence Previlon

Sabbath School

Saturday, April 27, 10:30 a.m.

Song Service.....	Hanneli Agudo, Nadine Depluzer, Anna Flores, Taewan Kim, Gianna Tetz Josiah Anunciacion, guitar; Joseph Hackett, guitar; Joshua Lange, cajon
Welcome and Prayer	Enrique Machuca
Message	Robert Taylor
Message	Deon Rose
Message	Leonardo Barboza
Musical Selection "To God be the Glory"	<i>W. H Doane</i> Faith Orillaza, Piano
Benediction.....	Tatenda Jura

Baccalaureate

Saturday, April 27, 11:40 a.m.

Prelude “Air” from <i>Water Music</i>	G.F. Handel
Processional “La Réjouissance” from <i>Music or the Royal Fireworks</i>	G. F. Handel
Invocation	Jesse Anunciacion Parent of Graduate
Welcome	Loren Agrey President
Musical Selection “Captain”	B. Hastings & S. Simmons Hanneli Agudo and Kristine Aradanas
Call for Offering	Pam Tucker Parent of Graduate
Prayer.....	Anita Sundaresan Parent of Graduate
Scripture Psalm 143:8	Russell McCann Parent of Graduate
Musical Selection “Some Day”	C. A. Tindley Ubuntu
Sermon “Now What?”	Elizabeth Pule Associate Pastor, College Heights Seventh-day Adventist Church
Hymn “Great is Thy Faithfulness”	SDA Hymnal #100 led by Ubuntu graduates
Benediction.....	Selburn Fray Parent of Graduate
Recessional “La Rejoissance” from <i>Music for the Royal Fireworks</i>	G. F. Handel

Organist: Eduardo Solá, Assistant Professor of Music
Ubuntu director: Romando Carey
Ubuntu pianist: Nicole Bartolay

The congregation will be seated during the recessional.

Commencement

Sunday, April 28, 10:00 a.m.

Prelude *Light Classics & Hymn Favourites*

Processional “March in F”

F. de la Tombelle

Marshal
Graduates
Faculty and Administration
Board of Trustees
President and Platform Party

InvocationPaul Llewellyn
President, Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada

WelcomeLoren Agrey
President

Musical Selection “Sonata in A Major D. 664 II. Andante” *F. Schubert*
Sara Ferster, Piano

Address “Shine On!” Nate Brandstater
President, Kettering College

Presentation of Candidates Noble Donkor
Vice-President for Academic Administration

Conferral of Degrees..... Loren Agrey

Presentation of Degrees Loren Agrey
Assisted by David Jeffrey, Registrar

Presentation of Presidential Medals of Excellence..... Noble Donkor
Loren Agrey

Presentation of Class Gift..... Officers of the Graduating Class

Alumni Recognition Lawrence Murrin
President, Alumni Association

Presentation of the Faculty Excellence Awards Noble Donkor

Musical Selection “O Divine Redeemer” *C. Gounod*
Stanesha Deligence, Soprano; Nicole Bartolay, Piano

Benediction..... John McDowell
Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Professor of English

Recessional “Rondo in G”att. to *J. Bull*

Organist: Wendy Markosky, Professor of Music
Marshal: Tim Buttler, Assistant Professor of Education

Guests must at all times remain behind the last row of graduate seating

The congregation will remain seated during the recessional.

Family and friends may greet the graduates immediately following the service at the Alumni Plaza in front of the Administration Building.

Candidates for Graduation

Commencement is a celebration of an academic milestone and does not necessarily confer a degree. A degree will not be granted until all requirements for receiving a degree have been met.

Certificate in Health Sciences

Raeden Kyle Aguilar* ‡
Angel Nicole Elumba Barillo ‡
Teresa Evelyn Ignacio Bruce
Nathan Dean Davila* ‡
Cole Jared Diwa ‡
Nicel Hermoso* ‡
Beulah Susan Johnson*
Emmy Pepito Magdadaro ‡
Lilly Zhongyan Toop* ‡

Bachelor of Arts (Three-Year)

Stanesha Deligence (Music)
Joseph Hackett (General Arts) †
Christina Lee Lister-Walkingshaw (Religious Studies)
Adrian Vincent Love (General Arts)* †
Leatile Tetlanyo Ramoloko (Business Administration)
Steve Neil Cadiz Tagarao (Business Administration)

Bachelor of Arts (Four-Year)

Josiah Cedrick Anunciacion (Religious Studies: Pre-Professional Track) *magna cum laude*
Leonardo Luis Barboza (Religious Studies)
Jonathan Nathaniel Barrett (Religious Studies: Adventure Based Youth Leadership Track)*‡
Sara Joelle Ferster (Music) *summa cum laude, Burman Scholar*
Nadine Irakoze (International Studies) ‡
Tatenda Tredah Jura (Religious Studies) *Burman Advantage*
Patricia Helen Latoski (Religious Studies) *cum laude*
Enrique Armando Machuca (Religious Studies: Pre-Professional Track) *cum laude*
Jessica Anne Marie Mathieu (Behavioural Science) ‡
Jose Theresa Paul (International Studies)
Deon Colleen Rose (Religious Studies: Pre-Professional Track) *magna cum laude*
Robert Nelson Taylor (Religious Studies: Pre-Professional Track) *cum laude*

Bachelor of Business Administration (Four-Year)

Hanneli Mallari Agudo (Accounting Track) † *Burman Advantage*

Sydney Grace Bluett (Accounting Track)

Anna Pornillosa Flores (Accounting Track) *magna cum laude, Burman Advantage*

Pamela Kabulo Kazembe (Human Resource Management Track) *cum laude*

David Bhaskar Sundaresan (Accounting Track) *cum laude*

Bachelor of Education (Four-Year)

Mary Kris Aradanas (Elementary)

Siobel Marie Bast (Elementary)

Alexis Layne Baumgartner (Elementary)

Nadine Nerisa Depluzer (Secondary Social Studies) *magna cum laude, Burman Advantage*

Isaac Matthew Ferster (Secondary Mathematics) *cum laude*

Brooklyn Hope Figursky (Secondary Biology) *magna cum laude*

Dennalia Fray (Secondary Social Studies) † *Burman Advantage*

Taiya Anne Jablonski (Elementary)

John Rees Jones (Secondary Social Studies) *cum laude*

Katelyn Nicole Litwin (Elementary)

Christa Ann Lomax (Elementary)* ‡ *magna cum laude*

Shantel Alexandra MacArthur (Elementary)

Michelle Grace Racasa Mitchell (Secondary Music) ‡ *cum laude*

Daysi Gabriela Morales (Secondary English) *cum laude*

Katarina Raelyn Moxness (Elementary)

Catherine Elizabeth Rice (Secondary English)

Nyree Althea Smith-Hunter (Elementary)

Andrew Scott Tilbury (Elementary)

Rohvoy Rohanique Williams (Elementary) *Burman Advantage*

Bachelor of Education After Degree (Two-Year)

Juan Carlos Atencio (Elementary) *summa cum laude, Burman Advantage*

Kathleen Buckman (Elementary) *magna cum laude*

Karim El Atrach (Elementary) *magna cum laude*

Veronica Emanuel (Secondary)

Caleb A. Froese (Elementary)* *cum laude*

Alyssa Marie Letaba (Elementary) *summa cum laude*

Sandra Makarewicz (Elementary) †

Therese Marie Matchum Tamgha (Elementary) *magna cum laude*

Saige Elizabeth McCann (Secondary) *magna cum laude*

Jacob Robert Opmeer (Secondary) *magna cum laude*

Faith Cajudo Orillaza (Secondary) † *magna cum laude*

Bachelor of Science (Three-Year)

Ekow Aidoo (Biology) †

Austen Emanuel (General Science)

Jade Lyn Flores (Biology) †

Danaë Ahava Fourny (General Science) †

Naia Kate Holtom (Biology) *summa cum laude*

Ethan Perada Junsay (Wellness) *magna cum laude*

Sarang Lee (Biology) *summa cum laude*

Gabriel Cristian Luca (Biology) *cum laude*

Kylia Madisyn Saarinen (Wellness)

Joyce Sekleh (General Science)

Gianna Dinalyn Tetz (General Science) *Burman Advantage*

Bachelor of Science (Four-Year)

Latavia Anne-Tionne Brown (Psychology)*

Diya David Chandrashekhar (Biology) *magna cum laude*

Nayelis Maryuris Chavarria Murillo (Psychology)*

Ashley Mackenzie Cowley (Biology: Bio-Medical Track) *cum laude*

Joshua Ambrose Deximo (Wellness) †

Jayda Erin Freeman (Wellness) †

Narae Kim (Biology: Bio-Medical Track) *magna cum laude*

Taewan Kim (Biology: Bio-Medical Track) *cum laude*

Michelle Thinh Lwin (Psychology) ‡

Chandise Alyssa Nelson (Hons.) (Psychology) *cum laude*

Joeleigh Dawn Nichols (Psychology)

Marlon Daniel Paredes (Biology) †

Abhinav Raj (Biology)*

Getrude Chido Tsikai Simbarasi (Psychology) † *cum laude*

Eva Unger (Hons.) (Psychology)

Jennella Roshanna Watson (Psychology)

Laura Lynn Young (Psychology) *cum laude*

* In Absentia

† August, 2024 conferral

‡ December, 2023 conferral

The Speakers

Romando Carey, BA

Chaplain, Parkview Adventist Academy and College Heights Christian School
Lacombe, Alberta

Pastor Romando Carey is an alumnus of Burman University and currently serves on the staff of the College Heights Seventh-day Adventist Church as the Chaplain of College Heights Christian School and Parkview Adventist Academy.

Romando strives to be authentic and vulnerable in his relationship with God and in his ministry so that he and others can experience the boundless power of the Gospel. He enjoys sharing the Gospel through preaching, teaching, and singing. When he's not experiencing life alongside his students, he conducts Ubuntu of Burman University. Romando founded and conducts this thriving choir that celebrates the Black musical tradition of Negro Spirituals and the contributions of Black composers to the world of choral music.

Romando is also an orator and speech coach. His experience with oratory started in high school where he nurtured his passion for public speaking and debate. Seven years of training and competition at the national level led to him coaching the art of elocution at the University of the West Indies where he studied Law and fuelled his passion for advocacy.

Most importantly, Romando is a grateful son and a proud brother.

Elizabeth Pule, DMin

Associate Pastor, College Heights Seventh-day Adventist Church
Lacombe, Alberta

Elizabeth Pule was born and raised in Toronto, Ontario. Upon graduating high school from Crawford Adventist Academy, she proceeded to Wilfrid Laurier University in Kitchener, Ontario to study law. After obtaining her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science her life took a turn - she applied to be a student missionary in New Zealand, changing the trajectory of her life. She worked as a youth pastor for the Papatoetoe SDA Church in Auckland and volunteered with the Chaplain at the Auckland SDA High School.

A couple of years after returning to Canada, Elizabeth enrolled at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University and graduated in December 2004. In January 2005 the Lord opened the doors of the Willowdale SDA Church for Elizabeth to work as a Youth Pastor; this was followed by three years as Chaplain at Crawford Adventist Academy (from 2009 - 2012). At the July 2011 Ontario Conference Camp Meeting, Elizabeth was the first woman pastor to be commissioned by the Ontario Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. She truly believes that God has opened doors, lifted windows, and broken down walls for her to be able to share in the gospel work.

In 2012 Elizabeth moved to Ottawa to pastor the Ottawa Seventh-day Adventist church alongside her husband, Orlando Pule. In 2017 both Elizabeth and Orlando were elected to serve at the Ontario Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Oshawa as Family/Men/Women/Singles Ministry co-directors.

Since the fall of 2023, Elizabeth and Orlando joined the pastoral team at the College Heights Seventh-day Adventist Church. She has also completed her doctoral degree at Andrews University with a focus on families living with autism. Elizabeth strongly believes in the power of love without strings attached and overwhelming people with compassion and grace as they get to know Jesus.

She is blessed with three determined young men; Gabriel - 17, Isaiah - 16, Samuel - 11, one generous husband and the greatest little cat named Mochi.

Nate Brandstater, PhD
President, Kettering College
Dayton, Ohio

Since 2014 Dr. Nathan Brandstater has served as President of Kettering College, a Seventh-Day Adventist institution offering graduate and undergraduate degrees in the health sciences. Nate earned his undergraduate degree in chemistry from Occidental College, his PhD in chemistry from UCLA, and his MBA from La Sierra University. His research focuses on the detailed study of model chemical and biological systems, including gas phase and condensed phase system dynamics. Dr. Brandstater is an award-winning teacher, including a university-wide teaching award he earned while at UCLA. He also played in UCLA's ice hockey team - a natural fit for a boy who was born and raised in rural Ontario, Canada.

Dr. Brandstater never left higher education after starting his undergraduate studies. His professional experience includes teaching at prestigious liberal arts colleges, large, public universities, and two Seventh-Day Adventist institutions in the United States. He has enjoyed mentoring undergraduate and graduate research students, including using Loma Linda University's Proton Beam facility.

Some of his external leadership includes chairing the boards of directors of the Strategic Ohio Council on Higher Education, the Consortium of Hospital-Affiliated Colleges and Universities, and the Adventist Association of Colleges and Universities. But his greatest joy is mentoring and learning alongside the students who inspire and energize him daily. He lives in Ohio with his wife, Ronda, the Chief Nursing Officer for a 317-bed acute care, teaching, level 2 trauma hospital in Dayton.

Board of Trustees

2021 – 2026

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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

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 “mortarboard.” 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.

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.

Burman University Scholars is a competitive program offered as an alternative to the general or breadth education requirements for Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degrees. Scholars is geared towards students that are intellectually curious and who wish to engage with others in cultivating the life of the mind. Established on the belief that knowledge is profoundly interconnected, Scholars is committed to integrated, interdisciplinary education designed to transcend the barriers between such traditionally separate fields as art, history, science, theology, and philosophy. Courses are team-taught by faculty from differing disciplines.

Burman Advantage is a non-academic program that recognizes student involvement in their volunteer and co-curricular activities from their time as a Burman University student. This program is designed to encourage students to create, lead, and support other students and programs both on and off campus. Burman Advantage recognizes that the student experience is encapsulated by more than classroom activities and acknowledges participation in leadership and service efforts that help shape and develop students throughout their time in university. Graduates with the Burman Advantage designation will receive an official certificate that can be linked to their resume and added to their professional portfolio.

University Mace

The Burman University mace was commissioned to honour the May 1, 2015 institutional name change. Former 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.