



Convocation Ceremonies

Commencement

BURMAN UNIVERSITY

June 21, 2020

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

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

Class Officers

President.....	Kalmani Huether
Vice-President.....	Rhoda Osei
Secretary.....	Lea Arabela Ongyiu
Treasurer.....	Elsy Cornejo
Pastor.....	Diego Urrutia

Graduation Motto

The greatest danger to our future is apathy.

-Jane Goodall

Graduation Aim

Change the World

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.

Commencement

Sunday, June 21 at 10:00 AM

Processional: Excerpts from “Fanfare”	<i>E. Thiman</i>
Marshal	Chloe Weir Assistant Professor of Education
Welcome and Invocation	Loren Agrey President
Address “Change the World”	Stephen Reasor Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, Burman University
Recognition of Emeritus Faculty	Loren Agrey
Presentation of Faculty Excellence Awards	Noble Donkor Vice President for Academic Administration
Presentation of Candidates	Noble Donkor
Presentation of Presidential Medallions of Excellence	Noble Donkor
Message from the President	Kalmani Huether Class of 2020 President
Alumni Recognition	Adam Deibert President, Alumni Association
Benediction	Tennyson Samraj Professor of Philosophy
Recessional: Excerpts from “Allegro”	<i>O. King</i>

Organist: Wendy Markosky, Professor of Music

Candidates for Graduation

Burman University Programs

Bachelor of Arts (Three-Year)

Sugné Andrews (Music) *magna cum laude*
Esann Virsol Emmons (Business Administration) †
Nathan Leslie Follett (Outward Pursuits) *magna cum laude*
Kisha Lewis (Business Administration) †
Amanda Carol Logan (International Health and Wilderness Studies)
Deborah Pearlyn Sharon Masela (General Studies)
Carey Jonathan McNorton Jr (Religious Studies)
Mugisha Mihigo Rutembesa (Business Administration) †
Tayler Emma-Sam Steinke (Business Administration)
Asia LeAnn Watson-Bizzell (General Studies)

Bachelor of Arts (Four-Year)

Wilfred D. Andz-Nicolas (Religious Studies: Pre-Professional track) *cum laude*
Melvin Bernard Bartley (Religious Studies: Pre-Professional track)
Neal Aldrich Batiancila (Religious Studies: Pre-Professional track)
Earl Grant Bell (Religious Studies) † *cum laude*
Rajesh Dondapati (Religious Studies: Pre-Professional track) ‡ *cum laude*
Alyssa Paige Fitzpatrick (Behavioural Science)
Oleksii Glushchenko (International Studies) *cum laude*
Joshua Emanuel Hackett (Religious Studies: Pre-Professional track)
Nevandria Samuelle Henry (Religious Studies) ‡
Leah Kay Holden (Music) † *summa cum laude*
Teddy Darley Joseph (Religious Studies: Pre-Professional track)
Samuel Kwabena Kusi Appiah (Religious Studies: Pre-Professional track) ‡
Jonel Leeza McEwan (Behavioural Science) †
Yanick Morency (Religious Studies: Pre-Professional track) *cum laude*
Brandon Rex Napod (Religious Studies: Pre-Professional track) *cum laude*
Spencer Edon Anthony Page (International Studies) *cum laude Burman Scholar*
Kendrick Pruneau (Religious Studies) *summa cum laude Burman Scholar*
Ryan Anthony Thomas Reeves (Religious Studies: Pre-Professional track) *summa cum laude*
Leigham Robichaud (Religious Studies)
Richard Raymond Sheppard (Religious Studies)
Rasheed Leon Romaine Tomlinson (Religious Studies: Pre-Professional track) ‡
Diego Urrutia (Religious Studies: Pre-Professional track)
Elisa Denisse Vital Jimenez (International Studies) †

Bachelor of Business Administration (Four-Year)

Jamie Stevann Acosta (Accounting track)
Shaelynn Rose Buttler (Management track) *magna cum laude*
Waynedale Suico Geollegue (Accounting track) *cum laude*
Esther Hadassah Hackett (Accounting track)
Bob Jr Honest (Management track) †

Alexander John Leais (Accounting track)
Hubert Niyindorera (International Business track)
Rohan Sunil Parab (Management track)
Gaétan Marchéal Jean Pruneau (Accounting track) *cum laude*
Regan Russell Zapotichny (Management track)

Bachelor of Education (Four-Year)

Katelyn Ainsley Millo Agustin (Elementary) *cum laude*
Janelle Ruth-Diondra Ali (Elementary)
Valita Delecia Burrell (Elementary)
Barbara Lillian Berkeley Cottingham (Elementary)
Daniel Austin Davidson (Elementary)
Kalie Louise Etheridge (Secondary Social Studies)
Isabelle Goguen (Elementary) *magna cum laude*
Gabrielle Eileen Guderyan (Elementary) *cum laude*
Emilee Clark Henry (Elementary)
Kalmani Quinn Huether (Secondary Social Studies) *cum laude*
Kevin Searlle Madrigal (Elementary) *magna cum laude*
Paola Madrigal (Secondary Biology)
Taylor Anne Françoise Mathieu (Elementary) *cum laude*
McKayla Rose Mattheis (Elementary) *cum laude*
Zahara McGann (Elementary)
Steven Joseph Moench (Elementary) †
Liliet Ramirez (Elementary)
Rebecca Beverly Judy Rice (Elementary) ‡
Ligia Sanchez (Elementary) *cum laude*
Stephanie Tara Shankel (Secondary Biology)
Morghin David Small (Secondary Biology)

Bachelor of Education After Degree (Two-Year)

Sydney Lauren Bell (Elementary) *magna cum laude*
Jelani Yasheem Coke-Talbot (Elementary) ‡
Elsy Beatriz Cornejo (Elementary) *magna cum laude*
Joan Graves (Secondary) *cum laude*
Jovita Holman (Elementary)
Joyce Suzan Virginia Irrgang (Secondary) *magna cum laude*
Francis Kenneth Sean Olit (Secondary) *cum laude*
Courtney Ina Sinclair (Elementary) *magna cum laude*
Shelly-Ann Marie Young (Secondary)

Bachelor of Science (Three-Year)

Samantha Cherubin (Wellness Management)
Ornela Clemence Fankem-Scorstis (Wellness Management)
James Lane Ganson (General Studies) ‡
Naomi Leah Ison (Wellness Management)
Ha Min Kim (General Studies) *cum laude*
Celeste Aleana Martens (General Studies) ‡

Anaïs Gaju Ruzindana (General Studies)
Alayna Tyerra Schulze (Wellness Management) †
Alyce Stormy Worthington (Psychology)

Bachelor of Science (Four-Year)

Cole Jadon Albersworth (Biology) †
Tchiana Augustin (Wellness)
Gurzina Kaur Bagri (Biology: Bio-Medical track)
Kathryn Elaine Bannister (Biology: Bio-Medical track) *magna cum laude*
Cassie Altia Gonsalves (Biology) †
Nathan Blake Hunt (Wellness)
Timothy Joseph Jakovac (Biology) *summa cum laude*
Jane Christina Joseph (Biology) †
Tsitsi Melody Kambewa (Psychology)
Shante Danielle LaCroix (Wellness)
Daniel Nathan Llewellyn (Biology)
Cyndi Paola Manzo (Psychology)
Nakeda Orain McDonald (Psychology)
Jovan Obadiah McKenzie (Wellness)
Emmanuel Mugara (Psychology)
Rosette Nsenga (Psychology)
Denise Naomi Olsen (Psychology) *cum laude*
Lea Arabela Ongyiu (Biology) *magna cum laude*
Rhoda Osei (Psychology)
Elizabeth Foluso Oyelana (Biology) *cum laude*
Ianja Fanirisoa Ramorasata (Biology: Bio-Medical track) *summa cum laude*
Kelly Nicole Russell (Psychology)
Vania N. Russell (Wellness)
Muhizi Bugabo Rutembesa (Biology)
Maria Daniela Sanchez Abuchar (Biology) *cum laude*
Joel Lesley Selvarajah (Wellness)
Brendon Orville Smith (Psychology)
Joshua Andrew John Southcott (Psychology)
Shea Arpana Sundaresan (Biology) *magna cum laude*
Marina Tatarnikova (Psychology) *cum laude Burman Scholar*

‡ December 2019 Conferrals

† August 2020 Conferrals. Six credits or less to be completed in the summer.

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.

Biographies

Emeritus Faculty

Bruce Buttler, PhD

Dean of Science & Professor of Biology

Not realizing the significance of the date, Dr. Buttler scheduled his first visit to Burman University on July 1, 1976. Having just graduated from Loma Linda University with a Ph.D. in Biology, he was surprised at how quiet the campus was. The only person found in their office was the President – Neville Matthews. He welcomed Dr. Buttler and gave him a tour of the campus. Later, he found out that July 1 was Canada Day and that the Alberta Camp Meeting was taking place that week in Bowden.

Dr. Buttler came to Burman with his young family; Geri (wife), Timothy (oldest son), David (youngest son). Plunged into a hectic career, he was fortunate to have faculty colleagues that interacted with him and helped him grow intellectually. Current and former colleagues that have helped shape Dr. Buttler into the person he is today include, Richard Bottomley, Glen Graham, Larry and Denise Herr, John and Carolyn Hoyt, Renate Krause, John McDowell, Charles Tidwell, and Warren Trenchard.

With time, the Biology program grew from one instructor to several. He enjoyed working with Don Abbey, Paul Ramalingam, Bill Van Scheik, and Laurence Wong. The biologists along with Howard Smith (chemistry), Ewa Rambally (mathematics) and Paul Lee (physics) helped make his 44+ years at Burman a “pursuit of excellence.” As Dean of Science, his first administrative assistant in the 1970s was Janelle Abbey and his last one was Bonita Campbell. Again, he was fortunate in having several hard-working, pleasant, and caring individuals with which to work.

Looking back, Dr. Buttler has no regrets spending his life helping Burman University become the institution that it is.

Emeritus Faculty

John Connors, PhD

Chair and Professor of Psychology

Dr. John Connors grew up on the East Coast in New Jersey as the oldest of three children. His parents were Jack and Virginia Connors and siblings were Bill and Mary. His dad worked as a sales executive for various paint companies while his mother was an elementary teacher and private tutor. He was raised a Catholic and was active in the Boy Scouts, Little League baseball, and several summer camps.

Dr. Connors attended Eastside High School in Paterson, NJ, which was a multi-ethnic inner city school with 3000 students. Afterwards, he attended Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ and graduated with a major in Psychology and a Minor in French. After meeting some Adventists, he was encouraged to attend Andrews University for over a year and then transferred to Western Michigan University for graduate studies in Psychology in Kalamazoo, Michigan earning his MA, EdS, and PhD degrees. He worked as a school psychologist for 17 years and then was recruited to start a Psychology program at Burman University (then Canadian Union College) in 1990. Dr. Connors was the first person trained as a psychologist the university hired and now the Psychology program is one of the largest majors on campus.

Dr. Connors became a Registered Psychologist in Alberta in 2003 and maintained a private counseling practice until recently. Throughout his career, he taught grad classes at the Marriage and Family Therapy Canadian Campus Program from Loma Linda University for about 15 years until the program was discontinued. He has regularly presented on the History of Canadian Psychology at the Canadian Psychological Association conferences for 20 years. He spearheaded the application for accreditation of the BA Behavioral Science and the BSc Psychology for Burman University.

Other notable contributions to Burman University include developing a psychometric lab and the psychology library collection, designing a psychology curriculum that parallels the requirements of the College of Alberta Psychologists, and recommending students for graduate and professional schools. A favorite memory for Dr. Connors is taking students on a study tour across Thailand in 2008 for multicultural psychology.

Dr. Connors' 3 children graduated from Burman University (then Canadian University College) and since then have all attained at least a Master's degree. Gillian is a university librarian in Dublin, Ireland; Colleen is senior staff at the UN Global Compact and lives in Brooklyn, NY, and Jack is a psychologist at Edgar Psychological in Edmonton, AB.

Commencement Speaker Excellence in Teaching Award Recipient

Stephen Reasor, PhD

Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, Burman University

Stephen Reasor is chair of Religious Studies and Assistant Professor of New Testament at Burman University. He and his wife, Pattie, have two children, Aeden and Mackenzie. Stephen is a dual citizen (Canadian-American). Born in a small farming community in Oklahoma, he has comfortably settled into the routines of life in central Alberta, where he and his family have resided since 2005.

Stephen graduated from Burman University (then CUC) with a BA in Religious Studies in 2001. He completed two graduate degrees (MDiv and DMin) at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, MI, and two more graduate degrees (MPhil and PhD) at Faulkner University in Montgomery, AL. He served the Alberta Conference of Seventh-day Adventists for fourteen years as a pastor and chaplain. In 2015, Stephen heard the call of his ancestral lineage and transitioned into a teaching role at Burman University, making him a fourth-generation Adventist educator.

Stephen is passionate about bringing the Bible to life in the classroom. For the past five years, he has been preparing work for an immersive, e-book-based Greek curriculum. He recently published *Δέχομαι Σὲ τῇ Κοινῇ Ἑλληνικῇ*, the first volume of the Koine Immersion Series. He is currently working on *Ὑπαρκτικοὶ Ποιοῦσιν*, the second volume of this series. This summer, he is learning, along with his colleagues at Burman, many new skills for teaching in a virtual environment.

Excellence in Scholarship Award Recipient

Eduardo Solá Chagas Lima, PhD

Assistant Professor of Music

Eduardo Solá is Assistant Professor of Music at Burman University, where he teaches violin, music history, music theory, and directs the Burman University Symphony Orchestra (BUSO). He holds a B.Mus. in violin performance from Paraná State University (Brazil), a B.Mus. in Baroque violin and historical performance from the Royal Conservatorium of Den Haag (The Netherlands), a M.A. in musicology and music theory from the University of Toronto (Canada), and a Ph.D. in education from Andrews University (United States). He is passionate about the areas of music and education alike and has had ample experience in both fields.

Dr. Solá has worked as a concert violinist extensively throughout Europe, Asia, and the Americas in concerts, projects, and recordings, performing alongside renowned artists such as Sigiswald Kuijken, Richard Egarr, Sebastian Marq, Barthold Kuijken, and Philippe Pierlot. Upon moving to Canada, Dr. Solá has dedicated much of his time working as a teacher within the K-12 school setting. Before joining the Burman University faculty, he taught choir and music theory at Kingsway College and College Park Elementary School (Ontario) and was also faculty with El Sistema Toronto, teaching violin and choir at St. Martin de Porres Catholic School and Military Trail Public School (Ontario). Throughout his college years, Dr. Solá also worked as section violinist at Paraná Symphony Orchestra (OSINPA) and PUC-PR Chamber Orchestra.

Dr. Solá's research interests, though wide in range, currently feature topics within education, music education, and systematic musicology, such as curricular inclusivity, music cognition, and the phenomenology of music perception. His doctoral dissertation explores music notation-to-colour synesthesia and its impact on music education, thus contributing significantly to differentiated instruction in music pedagogical practices. He holds an increasing record of scholarly publications with prominent musicology and education journals and appears internationally as speaker at research conferences. Dr. Solá is currently in the process of publishing a Portuguese translation and commented edition of Geminiani's *The Art of Playing on the Violin (1751)*, a foundational historical document outlining eighteenth-century techniques for professional violinists. Making this work available in his native language will benefit a vast community of scholars, teachers, and students in Brazil, his homeland.

Excellence in Service Award Recipient

David Jeffrey, PhD

Assistant Professor of Business

“It is my goal to serve with humility and distinction so that others’ lives may change for the better.”

These words, from his personal mission statement, reflect Dr. David Jeffrey’s personal philosophy of service – to use the gifts God has given him to make this world a better place.

Dr. Jeffrey’s perspective on service was shaped by his childhood and formative influences. As a child, he helped his late father, J.A.P. Jeffrey, prepare shipments of clothes and medical supplies to send to Caribbean islands. In grade six, the principal gave him the responsibility to grow and transplant coleus plants to beautify the school. As a young piano accompanist, he played songs like “If I can help somebody as I pass along, then my living shall not be in vain.”

These seeds of service grew into a life that integrates a philosophy of service and diverse acts of service, which, combined with teaching and scholarship, represent Dr. Jeffrey’s ministry on the campus of Burman University. Since arriving at Burman University (then Canadian University College) in 2005, Dr. Jeffrey has served the campus as Student Association advisor, Harassment Advisor, faculty mentor, small group host, and faculty participant with band, choir, and orchestra. In church, he has served as worship team leader, involving and mentoring a diverse group of instrumentalists and singers of various ages. He has coordinated worship services, accompanied soloists, groups and choirs, preached sermons and taught Sabbath School. He serves a volunteer teacher for Discover Bible Schools online lessons. In the community, Dr. Jeffrey has mentored Lacombe high school Ecovision students, served food to the homeless, accompanied and served as assistant director to a youth flute ensemble, and sits as Burman’s representative on the Echo Lacombe Association board. He coached Timbits soccer three summers.

These examples, while not exhaustive, serve to demonstrate the breadth of Dr. Jeffrey’s involvement as a servant on our campus and beyond. It is his desire that people’s lives improve for the better as a result of experiencing simple, humble, excellent acts of service.

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of the University

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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.

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.

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.