



Commencement

MAY 13, 2023



COMMENCEMENT
COMPASS CHRISTIAN CHURCH

May 13, 2023, 11:00 a.m.

Prelude	MRS. DEBBIE LAMB
* Processional	FACULTY AND 2023 CANDIDATES
* Invocation	MR. DAWSON MARQUETTE
Special Music <i>"Christians, We Have Met to Worship"</i>	DCC CHOIR <i>by Larson</i>
Welcome	PRESIDENT BRIAN D. SMITH
* Scripture and Prayer	ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR TRACY HAHN
Special Music <i>"Grace"</i>	DCC CHOIR <i>arr. Hayes</i>
Introduction of Speaker	PRESIDENT BRIAN D. SMITH
Commencement Address	DR. STANLEY MUTUNGA <i>Founder, President, & CEO, Tumaini International, Corona, California</i> <i>Dallas Christian College Trustee</i>
Honors Recognitions	DR. CHRISTOPHER A. DAVIS
Presentation of Graduates	MRS. CRYSTAL LAIDACKER
Awarding of Degrees	REPRESENTATIVE <i>Board of Trustees</i>
Conferral of Degrees	PRESIDENT BRIAN D. SMITH
* Alma Mater <i>"Hail to Dallas Christian"</i>	MR. SCOTT SPIES <i>James Earl Ladd II</i>
* Congregational Singing	DCC WORSHIP TEAM
Closing Statement	PRESIDENT BRIAN D. SMITH
* Benediction	DR. MARK FISH
* Recessional	FACULTY AND 2023 CANDIDATES
Postlude	MR. SCOTT SPIES

* Audience please stand.





DR. STANLEY MUTUNGA

Dr. Stanley Mutunga, a native of Kenya and the youngest of 10 children, came to an appreciation of the value of education much later in life than most. He started school at 12 years old, but eventually would go on to earn a bachelor's degree in Theology from Scott Christian University, a master's degree in Cross-Cultural Studies from Fuller Theological Seminary, and a doctorate in Intercultural Studies also from Fuller Theological Seminary, with additional post graduate studies at the University of California, Los Angeles. Prior to coming to the U.S. to study Dr. Mutunga planted and led churches in Kenya. Later he worked with missionary organizations such as World Vision International and the Association of Evangelicals of Africa. He has also been an educator both in Kenya – serving as the Vice President for Academic Affairs at Africa International University – and in the U.S. – serving as Dean and Professor in the School of Graduate Studies at Hope International University.

While at Hope, Dr. Mutunga lost several family members to the AIDS epidemic in Kenya. His family's overwhelming losses revealed to him the ordeal many AIDS orphans were facing. In order to meet the multi-faceted needs of these orphans, he began Tumaini International. Tumaini International helps place AIDS-affected children in homes through their Extended Family Care program. They also provide education, technical training, assist with business startup loans and grants, and host free medical clinics. Dr. Mutunga currently serves as Tumaini International's President and CEO and most recently as a Trustee at Dallas Christian College. He is also an author of many articles and the book, *No Longer Forgotten: Incredible Stories of Faith, Hope and Resilience*. He is an avid mountain climber (successfully climbing Mount Kilimanjaro three times). He and his wife, Rose, have three grown sons. DCC is honored to welcome this year's Commencement Speaker, Dr. Stanley Mutunga.



MISSION STATEMENT

Dallas Christian College educates and mentors students to be people of influence, engaging in their calling to the work of Christ in the Church and in the world.



THE MACE

“Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.” Hebrews 13:17 (NIV)

The mace has historically been a symbol of progress and authority dating from the early Middle Ages in Europe. The mace of the College, made of mesquite wood harvested on the DCC campus, has three rings on its ferrule that represent the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit and five rings on the collar for the College's core values and mission. On the head, unadorned, stands the cross of Christ, the most important symbol of all.

The DCC mace is carried by the president, in whom the authority is vested by the Board of Trustees to govern the institution.





THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF

*"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me." Psalm 23:4 (NIV)*

The Shepherd's Staff represents the role of leadership. It can be used to steady one's footing on an uneven path, to gently prod sheep in a particular direction, and to protect the flock in times of peril. Most importantly, it is a symbol of God's blessing on His leaders, and upon the sheep for whom they would lay down their lives.



THE WORD

"The Word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow." Hebrews 4:12 (NIV)

The declaration of the Word signifies that the Bible is the foundation on which the Dallas Christian College curriculum stands. The inscription on the College Seal translates to, "Preach the Word." The faculty, staff, and administration desire that all students be capable of individual study of the Word and be living examples of its enduring wisdom (I Peter 2:21).



ALMA MATER

*"Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort,
with complete patience and teaching." II Timothy 4:2 (ESV)*

Hail to Dallas Christian, college fair and fine.
Hail to all her heroes; who serve the Lord Divine.
Hail to all proclaiming the Kingdom of the light.
Hail our Alma Mater; hail her future bright!

James Earl Ladd II





ADMINISTRATION

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DEPARTMENT OF TEACHER EDUCATION

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR TRACY HAHN

DEAN OF ONLINE INSTRUCTION

MR. BRUCE L. LONG





CLASS OF 2023



ASSOCIATE OF ARTS

HUMANITIES

JOSEPH ALLEN

Defensive Player of the Year Award (2022) & Team Leadership/MVP Award (2023)

SEAN HILLER

MCKENNA PAIGE RAMSEY

Crusader of Excellence Award (2023)

JASON TY SMITH

Humanities Award (2023)



ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE

BUSINESS

CEDRIC K. PETE, JR.



BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

***INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES AND BIBLE
MINISTRY STUDIES MINOR***

ABRAM J. NAVARRETTE

DCC Student Government President (2021-2022)

***INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES
BIBLE MINOR***

KEIZMA MIKHAIL TOLIVER

BRIANNA RENEE TRIMMER

BIBLICAL MINISTRY

BRANDON BATES

BIBLICAL MINISTRY continued

CRYSTAL ROSE RUSSELL

BUSINESS AND BIBLE

TYJUAN DA'SEAN BATTLES
Dwight Coleman, Jr. Outstanding Leadership Award (2022)

DESTINY R. BURTON
Outstanding Business Leadership Award (2023)

JAYLEN RAY CAMARILLO

CHRISTEN RENE A DOWNEY
*Cum Laude, Biblical Studies Honor Grad,
Defensive Player of the Year Award (2021) & Perkins Award (2023)*

JOSHUA FREEMAN
Team Leadership/ MVP Award (2022)

TILYR JAWAN HOBSON
Offensive Player of the Year Award (2022)

NOEL DAVID LOPEZ

ROYCE MENDEZ
Magna Cum Laude, Biblical Studies Honor Grad, & Delta Epsilon Chi

JEREMIAH SCOTT LEROY THOMASSON

***BUSINESS AND BIBLE
HISTORY MINOR***

KOLBY W. BRADSHAW

***BUSINESS
BIBLE MINOR***

JAIRUS ALLEN
*Dwight Coleman, Jr. Outstanding Leadership Award (2023)
Team Leadership/ MVP Award (2022)*

NAIYA BROWN

NICHOLE RACHELLE ERWIN
Magna Cum Laude & Faith in Action Award (2022)

BRANDON RAUDEL FLORES
Team Leadership/ MVP Award (2023)

KEIARRA YVONNE RIVERS
Crusader of Excellence Award (2023) & Offensive Player of the Year Award (2021 & 2022)

ROBERT NATHAN TILLOTSON

PRACTICAL MINISTRIES AND BIBLE

BESSIE A. MILLER-PYBURN
Wineinger Award (2023)

PSYCHOLOGY AND BIBLE

JYUANA GUIDRY

COURTNEE LOCKE
Crusader of Excellence Award (2021) & Faith in Action Award (2022)

JALEN PEREZ

CLARESSA ANNE RADTKE
Summa Cum Laude & Biblical Studies Honor Grad

***PSYCHOLOGY AND BIBLE
BUSINESS MINOR***

TARO KAMETANI FORD
Faith in Action Award (2023)

SELAH CHRISTINA JOHNSON
Summa Cum Laude, Biblical Studies Honor Grad, Delta Epsilon Chi, Biblical Studies Award (2023), Campus Living Award (2021, 2022, & 2023), Faith in Action Award (2021), Kings Award-Academic Psychology (2022), Outstanding Psychology Student (2023), Servant Award (2022), & Snyder Christian Humanitarian Award (2022)

***PSYCHOLOGY
BIBLE MINOR***

MATTHEW ANDERSON
Cum Laude & Stone-Campbell Journal Promising Scholar Award (2023)

AMBER N. COVINGTON
Summa Cum Laude, Defensive Player of the Year Award (2022), Team Leadership/MVP Award (2023), & Student Athlete of the Year (2023)

CAMERON M. DEL ANGEL

KEIANNA ARLETHIA RIVERS





ACADEMIC REGALIA

The American tradition of wearing academic regalia originated in medieval European universities. Since the clergy composed the majority of the educated class and since most universities at that time were under the jurisdiction of the church, academic dress became an adaptation of the cape or mantle, which was usually of silk or wool, and worn by church dignitaries in religious processions.

The gowns commonly have pointed sleeves for bachelor's degree, long, closed sleeves (with a slit for the arm) for the master's degree, and bell-shaped, open sleeves for the doctor's degree. The gown for the doctor's degree is faced down the front with velvet trim and three bars of the same trim across the sleeves. The trim, hoods, and tassels may be black or a color distinctive of the faculty or subject to which the degree pertains.



ACADEMIC COLORS

Arts and Letters – White
Business – Drab
Education – Light Blue
Fine Arts – Brown

Law – Purple
Library Science – Lemon Yellow
Medicine – Green
Music – Pink

Philosophy – Dark Blue
Science – Golden Yellow
Social Sciences – Citron
Theology – Scarlet



Special thanks to:

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Second Photography

