

*Spring  
Commencement Exercises  
of  
Troy University  
One Hundred Thirty-Eighth Annual Session*



*Sunday, May 18, 2025  
3:00 p.m.  
Dothan Civic Center  
126 N. St. Andrews Street  
Dothan, Alabama*

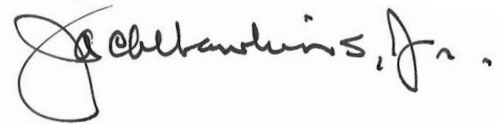
## CHANCELLOR'S WELCOME

Commencement is a monumental day in the life of Troy University. It is the day when years of dedication and hard work are rewarded. It is the day to celebrate achievement. On behalf of the Troy University family around the world, I am pleased to welcome our guests to this important ceremony.

A special word of welcome is in order for the families of our graduates. Many of you have sacrificed a great deal to make this special day possible. Many attending this ceremony have helped shape the values and vision of our graduates. Thank you for supporting and guiding those we honor this day.

Commencement is also a time of reflection. It provides graduates the occasion to look back one last time at their TROY careers before moving forward. I hope our graduates' memories include those special faculty members who have helped them along the way. Our faculty and staff work hard each day to ensure Troy University provides a valuable education experience for our students.

Great universities stir great emotions, especially during special occasions such as commencement. Thank you for sharing this momentous occasion with us. It's an honor to welcome you to Troy University.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Hawkins, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jack Hawkins, Jr., Ph.D.  
Chancellor

## TROY UNIVERSITY HISTORY

Troy University's tradition of teaching excellence dates to its founding on February 26, 1887, when an act of the Alabama Legislature established State Normal School, Troy, as an institution to train teachers for Alabama's schools. Joseph Macon Dill was the institution's first president. In 1893, the school was renamed Troy State Normal College.

Troy State Normal College offered extension courses for teachers and granted teaching certificates until 1929, when the State Board of Education changed the charter of the institution. That same year, the State Legislature changed the name to Troy State Teacher's College, and the college moved to its present site and dedicated the first two buildings: Shackelford Hall, named for Edward Madison Shackelford, president of the school from 1899-1936; and Bibb Graves, Alabama's "education governor." In 1957, the Alabama State Legislature changed the name to Troy State College.

The decade of the 1950s also marked the University's long relationship with the United States military, as extension courses were offered on nearby bases. A separate Troy State College teaching center was established at Fort Rucker in 1961. By the mid- 1970s, Troy State University at Fort Rucker had outgrown the available facilities, and Wallace State Community College in Dothan offered the use of classrooms. In 1975, classes were moved to the Houston Hotel in Dothan. In spring 1990, the Dothan Campus moved to its new location on U. S. Highway 231 North, and in 1995, Troy State University Dothan became the official name.

In April 2004, the Board of Trustees voted to drop State from the University's name to reflect more accurately the institution's worldwide mission. This change was approved by the Alabama Legislature, and the University officially became Troy University. In August 2005, all TROY campuses became unified under one accreditation.

# Order of Exercises

May 18, 2025

## Processional

Pomp and Circumstance .....Elgar  
Ms. Sharon Tolleson, Pianist

## National Anthem

Ms. Mia Sanchez  
Troy University Undergraduate Student

## Invocation

Ms. Abigail Steinmetz  
Troy University Nursing Student

## Welcome

Dr. Kirk Davis  
Chief Operating Officer  
Dothan Campus

## Remarks from the Chancellor

Dr. Jack Hawkins, Jr.  
Chancellor of Troy University

## Commencement Address

Mr. James Matthew Parker  
President  
Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce  
Dothan, Alabama

## Certification of Candidates

Dr. Mary Ann Templeton  
Associate Provost  
Dean of the Graduate School

## Conferring of Degrees

Dr. Hawkins

## Presentation of Candidates

Dr. Martin T. Olliff  
Laura Rae Dove, J.D.  
Dr. James N. Ortego II  
Dr. Fred Figliano  
Dr. LaGary Carter  
Dr. Mary Anne Templeton

## **Alma Mater**

Ms. Sanchez

## **Benediction**

Ms. Steinmetz

## **Recessional**

Finale from “*Water Music*” ..... G. F. Handel

Mace-bearer ..... Dr. Martin T. Olliff  
Professor  
Wallace D. Malone, Jr., Distinguished Faculty Award Recipient

Faculty Marshal ..... Dr. Dewey W. Todd

Marshals ..... Ms. Catresa Hawkins and Mr. Deonte Jackson

## **National Anthem**

### **The Star Spangled Banner**

Oh say, can you see, by the dawn’s early light,  
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight’s last gleaming?  
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight,  
O’er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?

And the rocket’s red glare, the bombs bursting in air,  
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.  
Oh say, does that Star-Spangled Banner yet wave  
O’er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

*Francis Scott Key*

## **Troy University Alma Mater**

### **TROY: A Beacon to the World**

Upon the mighty walls of TROY,  
We meet our life-long friends.  
To grow in knowledge, truth, and strength,  
Our journey never ends.

With the promise of the future,  
And the guidance of the past.  
We pledge our solemn vow to thee,  
Loyal everlast.

So raise our mighty Trojan sword,  
A beacon to the world!  
Throughout the ages brightly shines,  
The guiding light of TROY.

*Robert W. Smith (Class of '79) and Ralph Ford (Class of '86)*

## ACADEMIC DEGREES

### ASSOCIATE DEGREES

#### COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Dr. Govind Menon, Interim Dean

Christopher Maurice Boggan	Dothan
<i>Associate of Science in General Education</i>	
Shannon D. Craig	Summerdale
<i>Associate of Science in General Education</i>	
Anthony Lewis Hall	Enterprise
<i>Associate of Science in General Education</i>	
Candace Lashay Neal	Dothan
<i>Associate of Science in General Education</i>	

### BACHELOR'S DEGREES

#### INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

Dr. Mary Anne Templeton, Associate Provost, Dean of the Graduate School

Corey Brandon Burnette	Headland
<i>Bachelor of Science, Major: Interdisciplinary Studies</i>	
Jennifer Nicole Casey	Newton
<i>Bachelor of Science, Major: Interdisciplinary Studies</i>	

#### COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Dr. Govind Menon, Interim Dean

Julia Rami Al-Tigar (Cum Laude)	Dothan
<i>Bachelor of Science, Major: Sociology</i>	
Hunter Bradley Brannon	Slocumb
<i>Bachelor of Science, Major: Computer Science</i>	
Tyawwan Fields	Dothan
<i>Bachelor of Science, Major: Criminal Justice</i>	
Darika Nichole-Leigh Hudelson	Ashford
<i>Bachelor of Science, Major: Sociology</i>	
Cale Garrett Johnson (Magna Cum Laude)	Macclenny, FL
<i>Bachelor of Science, Major: Criminal Justice</i>	
Lauren Elizabeth Jones (Cum Laude)	Dothan
<i>Bachelor of Science, Major: Criminal Justice</i>	
Christopher King	Dothan
<i>Bachelor of Science, Major: Applied Computer Science</i>	

Shaylon Sherbree McNealy .....Dothan  
*Bachelor of Science, Major: Criminal Justice*  
 Alexis Brianna Moore (Summa Cum Laude) ..... Colquitt, GA  
*Bachelor of Science, Major: History*  
 Shenique Denise Ray .....Valdosta, GA  
*Bachelor of Science, Major: Sociology*  
 Christopher A. Salter .....Dothan  
*Bachelor of Science, Major: Applied Computer Science*

## SORRELL COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Dr. Judson Edwards, Dean

Katlin Rena Clements .....Dothan  
*Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Major: Global Business*  
 Catherine Maci Cross ..... Rehobeth  
*Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Major: Global Business*  
 Megan Renee Dicostanzo ..... St. Louis, MO  
*Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Major: Global Business*  
 Cherie Mitchell ..... Daleville  
*Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Major: Global Business*  
 Anna M. Monlyn-Walker ..... Lynn Haven, FL  
*Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Major: Global Business*  
 Brack Register .....Dothan  
*Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Major: Global Business*  
 Theresa Rose Reynolds .....Dothan  
*Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Major: Global Business*  
 Christy Dickey Whittington ..... Troy  
*Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Major: Global Business*

## COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION AND FINE ARTS

Dr. Michael Thrasher, Dean

Isabelle Mary Mullek (Summa Cum Laude) ..... Rehobeth  
*Bachelor of Science, Major: English*  
 Avery Fritzgerld Weed (Summa Cum Laude) ..... Enterprise  
*Bachelor of Science, Major: English*

# COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Dr. Fred Figliano, Dean

Katelyn Elizabeth Bailey (Cum Laude)	Enterprise
<i>Bachelor of Science in Education, Major: Elementary Education</i>	
Lanie Brooke Campbell (Cum Laude)	Slocomb
<i>Bachelor of Science in Education, Major: Early Childhood Education</i>	
Anmol Christian	Manhattan, KS
<i>Bachelor of Science, Major: Psychology</i>	
Sharoll Ra'kee Critten	Dothan
<i>Bachelor of Science, Major: Psychology</i>	
Kayla Brooke Dalton (Cum Laude)	Risco, MO
<i>Bachelor of Science, Major: Psychology</i>	
Sarah Catherine Forrester (Magna Cum Laude)	Dothan
<i>Bachelor of Science, Major: Psychology</i>	
Kayla Grace Furr	Dothan
<i>Bachelor of Science in Education, Major: Elementary Education</i>	
Quinyatta Green (Cum Laude)	Crestview, FL
<i>Bachelor of Science, Major: Psychology</i>	
Courtney Renee Hall	Dothan
<i>Bachelor of Science, Major: Psychology</i>	
Haley Miranda Harris	Dothan
<i>Bachelor of Science in Education, Major: Elementary Education</i>	
Brittany Helms	Dothan
<i>Bachelor of Science, Major: Psychology</i>	
Mykera Jalaine Hill	Headland
<i>Bachelor of Science, Major: Psychology</i>	
Hannah Marie King	Dothan
<i>Bachelor of Science in Education, Major: Secondary Education</i>	
Treasure Martin	Dothan
<i>Bachelor of Science, Major: Psychology</i>	
Emilee Suzanne Rodgers (Magna Cum Laude)	Dothan
<i>Bachelor of Science in Education, Major: Early Childhood Education</i>	
Ashlee Nicole Sexton (Cum Laude)	Newton
<i>Bachelor of Science in Education, Major: Elementary Education</i>	
Janice Marie Skipper (Magna Cum Laude)	Panama City, FL
<i>Bachelor of Science, Major: Occupational Education</i>	
Alexander Toub	Ozark
<i>Bachelor of Science, Major: Psychology</i>	
Shalyn Rebekah Turner (Summa Cum Laude)	Ozark
<i>Bachelor of Science in Education, Major: Collaborative Education</i>	
Madison Preston Tyler	Dothan
<i>Bachelor of Science in Education, Major: Elementary Education</i>	
Amber Delana Vonk Warden	Dothan
<i>Bachelor of Science, Major: Psychology</i>	
Colin Andrew Watkins (Summa Cum Laude)	Enterprise
<i>Bachelor of Science, Major: Psychology</i>	

# COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

Dr. LaGary Carter, Dean

Jessica Michelle Anderson	Dothan
<i>Bachelor of Science in Nursing</i>	
Amelia Faith Barton (Magna Cum Laude)	Panama City, FL
<i>Bachelor of Science, Major: Social Work</i>	
Tiffany Janielle Brown	Headland
<i>Bachelor of Science, Major: Social Work</i>	
Amanda Eyler	Tallahassee, FL
<i>Bachelor of Science in Nursing</i>	
Daniel Jose Ghigliotty	Enterprise
<i>Bachelor of Science, Major: Social Work</i>	
Ashley Marie Hernandez (Cum Laude)	Fountain, FL
<i>Bachelor of Science, Major: Social Work</i>	
Alicia Denise Hunter	Prattville
<i>Bachelor of Science, Major: Social Work</i>	
George D. Jackson	Ashford
<i>Bachelor of Science, Major: Social Work</i>	
Kayla Mackenzie Johnson (Summa Cum Laude)	Dothan
<i>Bachelor of Science in Nursing</i>	
Lejla Jordan (Summa Cum Laude)	Dothan
<i>Bachelor of Science, Major: Social Work</i>	
Anna Claire Nolfé	Daphne
<i>Bachelor of Science in Nursing</i>	
Marquita S. Paul	Dothan
<i>Bachelor of Science, Major: Human Services</i>	
Lesabre Samara Poole	Marianna
<i>Bachelor of Science in Nursing</i>	
Jeremy Erin Sanders	Bronx, NY
<i>Bachelor of Science in Nursing</i>	
Nakira Katrise Walker	Cuba
<i>Bachelor of Science in Nursing</i>	
Malissie Washington	Headland
<i>Bachelor of Science, Major: Social Work</i>	

## GRADUATION HONORS

Summa Cum Laude	With Highest Honors	3.80-4.00 GPA
Magna Cum Laude	With High Honors	3.60-3.79 GPA
Cum Laude	With Honors	3.40-3.59 GPA

NOTE: The honors listed in this program do not necessarily reflect the final honors awarded to the student. Honors are calculated based on the average of all hours attempted at Troy University and transfer credit, excluding any remedial courses.



# GRADUATE SCHOOL

Dr. Mary Anne Templeton, Dean

## MASTER'S DEGREES

### COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Dr. Govind Menon, Interim Dean

Jamie Leigh Garrett	Dothan
<i>Master of Social Science</i>	
<i>B.S., Troy University, Dothan, Alabama</i>	
Rebecca Rose McNelley	Dothan
<i>Master of Science, Major: Environmental and Biological Science</i>	
<i>B.S., Troy University, Dothan, Alabama</i>	

### SORRELL COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Dr. Judson Edwards, Dean

Tess Draper Bruner	Ozark
<i>Master of Science in Management</i>	
<i>B.S., University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, Nebraska</i>	
Ciera Nichole Burns	Leesburg, GA
<i>Master of Science in Management</i>	
<i>B.S., Purdue University Global, West Lafayette, Indiana</i>	
Nicholas Alan Caldwell	Navarre Beach, FL
<i>Master of Science in Management</i>	
<i>B.S.B.A, Jacksonville University, Jacksonville, Florida</i>	
Hannah Nicole Gallatin	Talbotton, GA
<i>Master of Science in Management</i>	
<i>B.B.A., Columbus State University, Columbus, Georgia</i>	
Jada Li Jia Talton	Dothan
<i>Master of Business Administration</i>	
<i>B.S.B.A., Troy University, Dothan, Alabama</i>	

# COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Dr. Fred Figliano, Dean

Stephanie Erin Barnes. . . . .	Enterprise
<i>Master of Science in Education, Major: Elementary Education</i>	
<i>B.S.E., Troy University, Dothan, Alabama</i>	
Gabriel Thaddeus Hall. . . . .	Kinsey
<i>Master of Science in Education, Major: Elementary Education</i>	
<i>B.S., Liberty University, Lynchburg, Virginia</i>	
Breanna Marie Monk . . . . .	Skipperville
<i>Master of Science in Education, Major: School Counseling</i>	
<i>B.S., Troy University, Dothan, Alabama</i>	
Lashanda McKinnie Steele. . . . .	Chipley, FL
<i>Master of Science in Counseling and Psychology</i>	
<i>B.S., Troy University, Dothan, Alabama</i>	
Crystal Janell Taylor . . . . .	Enterprise
<i>Master of Science in Education, Major: Secondary Education</i>	
<i>B.S., Troy University, Troy, Alabama</i>	
Janella Lynn Thompson . . . . .	Florence
<i>Master of Science in Education, Major: Early Childhood Education</i>	
<i>B.S., Athens State University, Athens, Alabama</i>	
Brittney Shelburne Turner . . . . .	Enterprise
<i>Master of Science in Education, Major: Elementary Education</i>	
<i>B.S., Miles College, Birmingham, Alabama</i>	
Shanavia Shrell Valentine. . . . .	Aiken, SC
<i>Master of Science in Counseling and Psychology</i>	
<i>B.B.A., American InterContinental University, Atlanta, Georgia</i>	

# COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

Dr. LaGary Carter, Dean

Mason D. Carnley . . . . .	Bonifay, FL
<i>Master of Science in Nursing</i>	
<i>B.S., Chipola College, Marianna, Florida</i>	
Faith Lee Hatcher . . . . .	Dothan
<i>Master of Science in Nursing</i>	
<i>B.S.N., University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Alabama</i>	
Savannah T. Kennedy. . . . .	Dothan
<i>Master of Science in Nursing</i>	
<i>B.S.N., University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, Alabama</i>	
Abby Hagler Pensyl . . . . .	Slocomb
<i>Master of Science in Nursing</i>	
<i>B.S.N., Troy University, Troy, Alabama</i>	

## **The Origin and History of Academic Regalia**

The wearing of academic regalia goes back a long way, to the 12th century. Everyone wore “gowns”—long robes—in those days, and for a very good reason: to keep warm. When the styles finally changed, professional people alone wore the gown as a visible token of their profession.

The hood came along in the 13th century. Originally it was called a “chaperon,” and was a kind of pointed bag with an oval opening for the face. It went through several phases, including one as a turban, before it settled down to its present shape and function, the latter being an indicator of rank as shown by color combinations.

As for the mortarboard (also called cap and originally “Biretta”), its origin is not so well documented. Some say it was derived from the master workman’s actual mortar board. Others say it began at Oxford, and was named for that school’s quadrangular campus. The best guess is that, inasmuch as university men in the Middle Ages wore close-fitting skull caps inside the cold and draughty buildings and put the soft square biretta on over the skull cap when they went outdoors, the mortarboard resulted from combining the two into a single head covering.

The degree colors are appropriate to the category of the degree, rather than to the scholar’s major subject. For example, the appropriate color for degrees in Arts and Letters is white; in Business, drab; in Education, light blue; in Law, purple; in Music, pink; in Nursing, apricot; in Philosophy, dark blue; in Religion, scarlet; in Science, golden yellow. These colors are used for the trim of all hoods and may be used for the velvet facing and sleeve bars on doctors’ gowns and tassels on bachelors’ and masters’ caps. The institutional colors, with which the hoods are lined, indicate the university or college granting the degree. The colors for Troy University are cardinal and black.

Academic regalia have survived the changes and upheavals of the centuries. Long, long ago, they identified the scholar, the learned student, the seeker after truth. At Troy University, they still do.

# **BOARD OF TRUSTEES TROY UNIVERSITY**

Her Excellency, Kay Ivey  
*Governor of Alabama, President, ex officio*

Karen E. Carter, *Birmingham*

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Jack Hawkins, Jr., Ph.D., *Secretary*

## RETIRING FACULTY AND STAFF

Troy University wishes to pay tribute to the following Dothan Campus faculty and staff members retiring during the 2024 - 2025 scholastic year.

Mrs. Karen Vukovich  
*Lecturer*  
*College of Health Sciences*

Ms. Jacquelyn Ketchum  
*Director*  
*Coleman Center*

Alumni Affairs

100 Highland Avenue  
Troy, Alabama  
36082

334-670-3318  
334-670-5622 FAX



Dear Graduate,

Congratulations to you on your graduation. After years of study, dedication and commitment you have succeeded in meeting your goal of earning a degree from Troy University. Congratulations as well to your family and friends who are here with you celebrating this very important day.

On behalf of the Troy University Alumni Board, we welcome you to the ranks of the more than 173,000 TROY alumni worldwide. Your accomplishment today demonstrates the motto established by Troy University at the founding in 1887 - "Educate the mind to think, the heart to feel and the body to act".

The Troy Alumni Board is giving you a free one-year membership in the Alumni Association. You will be eligible for member benefits provided by the Alumni Association and connections to other TROY graduates wherever your new career takes you in the United States or abroad. For more information on membership or other questions you may have, please call the Office of Alumni Affairs at (334) 670-3318.

As you celebrate your graduation we hope you remember your time at TROY and make plans to come back often to visit the campus. Your TROY story is important to share with others as the University continues to grow with more degrees to address the changing economic environment and job opportunities.

Your Alumni Association is committed to continue to provide scholarships for students and to provide a helping hand to graduates as they enter the workforce. Your relationship with TROY and your fellow graduates is important to the Alumni Board and the numerous alumni chapters. We hope you will become an integral part of the Troy University Alumni Association and/or a local chapter.

Again, congratulations and welcome as the newest alumni of Troy University!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rosemary Elebash". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly legible.

Rosemary Elebash  
President  
Troy University Alumni Association

