



Commencement

December 5, 2020



Dr. Scott Hummel

Dr. Scott Hummel, a proven leader with a track record of fundraising success and enrollment growth, is the 29th president of Tusculum University. He joined the Tusculum family Feb. 17, 2020, as the next step in a successful 30-year education career, the



last 12 of which he served in high-level positions at William Carey University, a private Christian institution affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

During his time at William Carey, the number of students doubled, and the university added several majors, started multiple medical programs and created eight doctoral programs. In addition to his administrative roles, Dr. Hummel served as a religion professor, teaching courses about the Old Testament, Biblical Backgrounds, the Greco-Roman World and the Ancient Near East.

Calling himself a professor at heart, Dr. Hummel began his education career as a home-based teacher with the Fort Worth Independent School District in Texas in 1989. He also was a special education math teacher and a science teacher before embarking on his higher education career.

A first-generation college student, Dr. Hummel earned a Bachelor of Arts in biblical studies from William Carey in 1987. He received a Master of Divinity in biblical languages in 1991 and his doctorate in biblical backgrounds and archeology in 1996 from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He also studied at Brite Divinity School at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth and, as a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar, at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Dr. Hummel has served as interim pastor for several Baptist churches and one Presbyterian church in Mississippi and Texas. He has been a member of Rotary International since 2002 and was president of the Longview-Greggton Rotary Club in Texas from 2007-2008 and the Hattiesburg Rotary Club from 2013-2014.

Dr. Hummel is married to his wife, Starr, a high school science teacher, who earned her bachelor's degree from Appalachian State University and earned her Master of Divinity in biblical languages at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. The Hummels have three daughters.

Trevis Gardner - Graduate Speech

Trevis Gardner is the Vice President of Operations for the Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority and is an Accredited Executive Manager with the American Association of Airport Executives. He earned a Bachelors of Science in Organizational Management from Tusculum College, and is now being awarded a Masters of Business Administration. He is a graduate of Leadership Knox, Leadership Blount, and the East Tennessee Regional Leadership Programs, an Air Force veteran, and the proud father of two daughters.



Hanna Johnson - Undergraduate Speech

Hanna Johnson graduates *summa cum laude* from Tusculum University with a Bachelor of Science in Political Science and a minor in Gender Studies. Hanna was a Bonner Leader, in the honor's program, a member of Alpha Chi, an orientation leader, and played beach volleyball. Upon graduation, Hanna plans to attend law school with the intent of becoming a prosecutor and eventually President of the US.



Ivee Richeson - Invocation

Ivee Richeson is graduating *magna cum laude* with a bachelor's degree in special education. While at Tusculum, she has been actively involved as a member of the women's softball team, the Education Club, and the President's Society. After graduation, Ivee plans to begin her career as a special education teacher while she pursues a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction and coaches Loudon High School's softball team.



Regalia Information

- **Bachelor's** degree honors recipients wear, in addition to the standard academic regalia, cords designating grade point average:
 - black and orange for 3.5 to 3.74, *cum laude*
 - orange for 3.75 to 3.94, *magna cum laude*, and
 - gold for 3.95 to 4.0, *summa cum laude*.
- **Graduate** student honors recipients wear, in addition to the standard academic regalia, cords designating grade point average:
 - gold cord and tassel for those earning a 4.0, High Honors, and
 - gold cord for 3.90 -3.99, Honors.
- Bachelor of Arts recipients, who are members of the Alpha Chi Honor Society, wear blue and green cords.
- Bonner Leaders wear sage green and silver cords.
- Honors Program graduates wear a gold stole.
- President's Society members wear orange and silver cords.
- Tutors wear purple and gold cords.
- Student Nurse Leaders wear blue, gold and white cords.
- Pioneer Certified students wear a teal cord.
- Kappa Delta Pi members wear green and purple cords.
- Veterans wear red, white and blue cords.

Honors

The honors listed in the commencement program are calculated on Tusculum University grades prior to the 2020 Fall semester. Official honors for the diploma and transcript will be calculated on all Tusculum University grades, including the current semester.

History

As Tusculum celebrates its 226th year, the Tusculum family remembers the recent past and the generosity of individuals such as Dr. Scott Niswonger, Dr. Larry Brotherton and Mrs. Verna June Meen. Pioneers, both present and future, are the beneficiaries of their civic spirit and caretakers of a legacy that challenges them to realize the full measure of their potential, both on campus and in their communities.

Tusculum University originates from two distinct institutions. In 1794, two years before Tennessee received statehood, Territorial Governor William Blount and the General Assembly chartered Greeneville College with Reverend Hezekiah Balch as president. Twenty-four years later, Samuel Doak and his son, Samuel Witherspoon Doak, founded Tusculum Academy in 1818.

Tusculum is the first institution of higher learning in Tennessee and the 28th oldest in the nation. Tusculum is the first institution affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to admit women and the first in Tennessee to educate an African-American student. Tusculum's greatest accomplishments, however, have not been recorded by historians, nor have they been attained within the narrow confines of a college campus. Tusculum's most meaningful history has been, and continues to be, written in the countless actions of its graduates as they have fanned out over the globe to do the work for which they were trained. - Sit Lux.

Mission

Building on a rich Presbyterian heritage and a pioneering spirit, Tusculum University provides an active and experiential education within a caring Christian environment to inspire civic engagement, enrich personal lives, and equip career-ready professionals.

COMMENCEMENT
Saturday, December 5, 2020
Dr. Scott Hummel, Presiding

CONVENING OF COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES

Dr. Peter Noll,

Faculty Moderator, Associate Professor of Public History and Museum Studies

INVOCATION

Ms. Ivey Richesin

WELCOME AND COMMENTS

Dr. Tricia Hunsader,

Provost

GREETING AND COMMENTS

Dr. Scott Hummel,

President

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Graduate Commencement Speaker, Mr. Trevis Gardner
Undergrad Commencement Speaker, Ms. Hanna Johnson

EMERITUS AWARDS

President Hummel

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

President Hummel

BENEDICTION

Rev. Lester Lattany,
Trustee

ALMA MATER

Ms. Jill Oberfeitinger,
Director of Academic Advising

WELCOME TO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Dr. Lisa Andrus,
Director of Alumni Engagement

TUSCULUM

UNIVERSITY

DEGREE CANDIDATES

Saturday, December 5, 2020

MASTER DEGREES

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Mahmoud Ahmed Elsaied Ahmed
Noah Chandler Cleary
Stephen Ellis DeFord
Lanna Monday Emmett
Trevis Dale Gardner
George Dallas Graham III
Brooks Isaac Harrison, Honors
Kevin Lynn Hinkle
Jerad Anthony Jackson, High Honors
Lindsey Curtis Jones
Zachery Austin Charles Kutz
Whitney Renee Littleton
Elizabeth Ellen Ray McConnell
David Anthony Mebane Sr.
Margaret Kelly Mitchell, High Honors
Devin Ian Patterson, High Honors
Joshua Lloyd Ray, High Honors
Christopher Matthew Trentham, Honors

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

MASTER OF ARTS IN EDUCATION

Stephanie Michelle Brennan
Lindsey Nicole Daniels, High Honors
Sydni Raquel Elkins, Honors
Joseph Hall Exum
Kathryn Marie Painter, Honors
Kellie Marie Werle, High Honors

MASTER OF ARTS IN ORGANIZATIONAL TRAINING AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

Jeffrey Chad Crain, Honors
Margaret Ann Crain, Honors
Kyle Lewis Dickey, Honors
Brooke Nicole Hall

Crystal Lee Hicks, Honors
Asa Reece Layman
Kayla Jo Miller, High Honors
Geraldine Schultz
Brittany Nicole Smelcer, Honors
Ashley Danielle Willett, Honors

MASTER OF ARTS IN SPORT ADMINISTRATION

Timothy Christian Bell
Ashley Cole Bowers
Payton Avery Dixon
Emily Ann Gleason, Honors
Paige Lyn Kuefler
Paul John Stayskal
Jake Thomas Wapinsky

MASTER OF ARTS IN TALENT DEVELOPMENT

Bailey McCurry Herring
Anita H. Melton, Honors
Stacey A. Moore, High Honors

MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING

Matthew Corey Baker
Kenna Irene Bauman
Elizabeth Jean Bernethy
Michael J. Bodary, High Honors
Charles Kurt Brooks
Emily Beth Carlisle, Honors
Kelsey Brooke Cate, High Honors
Hayden Robert Chandley, High Honors
Kenneth David Cody III, Honors
Kristopher Lee Edward Cole
Courtney Correro Cornwell
Les Craft, Honors
Charlotte Grant Crum
Emilyanne Dozier
Katherine Joy Eisenback
Abby Carlene Shoffner Greeson, Honors
Kacy Underwood Helton, Honors

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN SPORT MANAGEMENT

Brevin Grant Crosby, *cum laude*
Joshua Durell Forrest
Amber Lee Lackey
Yvette Raaijen
Devin Williamson

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN SPORT SCIENCE

Mackenzie Morgan Butler,
magna cum laude
Dylan Douglas DeBusk

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND MATHEMATICS

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN BIOLOGY

Danielle R. Tolley

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BIOLOGY

Hazel Brooke Arwood
Kate Blaikie Guildford, *magna cum laude*
Ethan Kent Stinson

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN CHEMISTRY

Danika Kendall Chaney, cum laude

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS

Patrick Jerome McGhee

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Ashley Dawn Morgan

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN MATHEMATICS

Taylor James Tupps

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN PSYCHOLOGY

Crystal Lynn Bontrager
Keri Jean Mantooth
Madison Ellen Tuggle

COLLEGE OF NURSING

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

Clint A. Svoboda, *summa cum laude*

ASSOCIATE DEGREE

ASSOCIATE OF ARTS IN GENERAL STUDIES

Christa Mechelle Brooks, *cum laude*
Stephanie Lynn Burton
Debbie J. Dalton, *magna cum laude*
Tiffany Summer Gulley
Megan Alexandria Johnson
John Anthony Lane
Hannah Sue McDaniel, *magna cum laude*
Taylor Ray Miles, *magna cum laude*
Jacob Anthony Minga
Heather Anne O'Berry
Kenneth Earl Perciful III
Jackie Floyd Rhea, *magna cum laude*
Kalli Leanne Rhea, *summa cum laude*
Jessica Maria Royse
Logan Grant Shaffer
Meryem Brooke Sherman
Jessica Marie Thomas, *cum laude*
Jacob Daniel Willett
Jordan Daniel Williams

Honors Program

TUSCULUM UNIVERSITY

ALMA MATER

'Neath oaks that so long have stood watching,
Oh halls of our college, ye stand;

Afar on the distant horizon,
The Smokies rise, lofty and grand.

With beauties of nature surrounded,
Two centuries' memories thine;

And so, oh our college, we love thee,
Close 'round thee our heartstrings entwine.

Oh days in the old Alma Mater
Spent in classrooms, on campus, or track;

Each one full of tasks and of pleasure,
Once gone, they can never come back.

Then sing while the days are still passing,
With voices exultant and free;

Fair Tusculum our college forever!
All hail, Alma Mater, to thee!



- Charles Oliver Gray, Jr. '17, Hon. '28