

ARKANSAS BAPTIST COLLEGE

136th Commencement



Saturday, April 25, 2020

One O'clock p.m.

Arkansas Baptist College

1600 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive

Little Rock, AR 72202

****Please Note: Formal program cancelled due to Coronavirus (COVID-19).*

Every effort is made to make this printed program accurate with respect to degrees awarded and honors conferred. Printing schedules, however, make complete accuracy impossible. A certified transcript is the official proof of graduation.

Order of the Procession

Grand Marshal
Mace Bearer
President of the College
Commencement Speaker
Chair of the Board of Trustees
Provost
Vice President of Academic Affairs
Chairs
Registrar
Faculty Marshal
Faculty
Student Marshal
Candidates

Academic Regalia

The design of the gown indicates the degree. The bachelor's gown is simple with a full sleeve. The master's gown is much like the bachelor's, except for the long sleeves which hang loose. The doctor's gown is fuller and more elaborate. It has velvet edging and three velvet stripes on the full sleeves. Usually, the color of the gown is black. Hoods, which are worn over the gowns, are similar for all degrees, although differing slightly in length. The candidates for bachelor's degrees usually do not wear the hood. The hood has velvet edging that indicates the area of the degree, and the inside of the hood is satin in the colors of the college or university granting the degree. A partial list of the degree colors to be found on the edge of the hood or the trimming on the doctor's gown is given below.

Agriculture.....	Maize	Music	Pink
Arts, Letters, Humanities.....	White	Medicine.....	Green
Business Administration.....	Drab	Oratory Speech.....	Silver Gray
Dentistry.....	Lilac	Philosophy.....	Dark Blue
Economics.....	Copper	Physical Education.....	Sage Green
Education.....	Light Blue	Public Administration.....	Peacock Blue
Engineering.....	Orange	Public Health.....	Salmon
Fine Arts, Architecture.....	Brown	Science.....	Golden Yellow
Forestry.....	Russet	Social Science.....	Cream
Journalism.....	Crimson	Social Services.....	Citron
Law.....	Purple	Theology/Divinity.....	Scarlet
Library Science.....	Lemon	Veterinary Science.....	Gray

THE MACE IS CARRIED BY
Dr. Leonard Porter '67
2nd Vice President, National Alumni Association Board

PROGRAM

Dr. Carlos Clark, Provost, Presiding

- Academic Processional (Audience Standing)“Pomp and Circumstance”
by Edward Elgar
- Posting of the Colors and the AnthemsCentral High School ROTC Color Guard
(Audience Standing)
- Invocation.....Dr. Clifton Conley '81
Interim Chairperson, Department of Religious Studies
- Welcome.....President Regina Favors '72
Interim President, Arkansas Baptist College
- Greetings..... Richards Mays, Sr., Esq.
Chairperson, Board of Trustees
- Reflections.....William Lamar '20
President, 2020 Graduating Class
- Music.....Arkansas Baptist College Choir
- Recognition of GuestsPresident Regina Favors '72
- Introduction of Speaker.....Dr. Carlos Clark, Provost
- Music.....Arkansas Baptist College Choir..... “All in His Hands”
- Commencement Speaker.....Ms. Yolanda Moore
Motivational Speaker and Author

Presentation of Candidates for Degrees

- Presentation of Department Chairpersons Dr. Carlos Clark
- Presentation of Candidates for DegreesDepartment Chairpersons
- Conferring of Degrees.....President Regina Favors '72
- Induction of Graduates into the Alumni Association.....Dr. Leonard Porter '67
2nd Vice President, National Alumni Association

Light to the World Ceremony

- Singing of the Alma Mater (Audience Standing).....“Our Beacon Light”
by Mattie Booker Perry
- Benediction Dr. Clifton Conley '81
- Recessional (Audience Standing).....“Pomp & Circumstance”
by Edward Elgar

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

YOLANDA MOORE



Yolanda Moore is a former professional athlete and head women's college basketball coach with more than 25 years of combined experience in leadership, team development, and high performance coaching.

Her relentless will to succeed fueled her drive to overcome the stereotypes of being a teen mom to becoming a two-time WNBA Champion, Author, and Head Women's College Basketball Coach at the JUCO, Division I, and Division II levels.

Yolanda engages audiences with her quick wit and they are inspired to transform their lives through encouraging and educational messages of hope and perseverance through workshops, keynote presentations, and multi-day trainings.

Drawing on her instructional background in secondary and higher education and her leadership skills developed as a high performance coach, Yolanda equips and empower women at all levels with the tools and strategies they need to effect change in their own lives while adding maximum value to their teams, businesses, and organizations.

Candidate for Doctorate of Humane Letters

REGINA H. FAVORS



Regina H. Favors serves as the Interim President of Arkansas Baptist College. She is a proud graduate of the College with a Bachelor of Science degree and also holds a Master's degree from Ouachita Baptist University with a focus in Education. She completed the Advanced Management Program at Duke University Fuqua School of Business Executive Education and is a Certified Health Insurance Executive and holds numerous certifications from other professional organizations.

Mrs. Favors previously worked for the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington, D. C. After leaving the FBI, she was employed with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arkansas for 43 years and functioned in several management roles during her tenure. She served as President and CEO of Pinnacle Business Solutions, a subsidiary of Arkansas Blue Cross Blue Shield and had executive oversight for the "the effective operations and financial activities of Medicare Programs, including Medicare Part A and Part B in several states; private business and other government business. Mrs. Favors taught as an Adjunct Professor with her alma mater from 1986 to 2004, extending educational opportunities and careers to students of Arkansas Baptist College. She also taught at Philander Smith College, and Webster University.

Mrs. Favors served on the Board of Trustees for Arkansas Baptist College and has served on 32 other boards including the University of Arkansas Pine Bluff Foundation Board, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Arkansas Coordinating Council, the Quorum Court of the Pulaski County Public Facilities Board and Achieving Leadership Institute in Dallas, Texas. She is a member of the National Association of Professional Women and a former member of the North Little Rock Chamber of Commerce. She served on the Arkansas Lung Association board of directors where she received a national military guard award for her philanthropist work. Mrs. Favors received the Trailblazer 2011 Powerful Business Women Award and was featured in the AY About You Magazine.

Mrs. Regina H. Favors is the wife of Daniel Favors, the mother of one daughter, Javonne Jordan, and the grandmother of James and Nia. She is also the daughter of the late Dr. and Mrs. W. O. Lindsey, both graduates of Arkansas Baptist College.

Candidate for Doctorate of Humane Letters

RACHEL KREMER



Rachel Kremer is a graduate of the University of Arkansas and holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a major in Accounting and is a licensed Certified Public Accountant. Upon graduation, she went to work for Arthur Andersen as an audit staff member. After leaving Arthur Anderson, she joined her father's accounting firm as a partner in charge of the audit and small business practice. Subsequently, she bought out her father from the accounting firm and merged the practice with Frost, PLLC located in Little Rock. She functioned in several roles at the firm including audit partner and expanded her practice to include consulting and public speaking. She led the nonprofit and governmental section, as well as the SEC practice. In addition, she served as Technical Director and was responsible for quality control and compliance while maintaining a client base which included private businesses, nonprofit and governmental clients, and SEC or publicly traded clients. She served as the Audit Director and was a member of the Executive Committee as well. She retired in 2012.

Ms. Kremer has served on numerous boards in the community which included Volunteers in Public Schools, Union Rescue Mission, Dorcas House, YMCA and Salvation Army. She was chairman of the Board for URM, Dorcas House and the YMCA, and currently serves as Vice Chairman and Treasurer for the Salvation Army.

Regardless of her many accomplishments, Ms. Kremer considers her two beautiful, intelligent, and independent daughters as her best work.

**Department of Religious Studies
Dr. Clifton A. Conley, Chairperson**

Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies

Janie M. Fillmore

**Department of Business Administration
Mrs. Roberta Clark, Chairperson**

Bachelor of Business Administration – Accounting

Mariah Morris

Bachelor of Business Administration – Sports Management

**Braylyn Bernard Smith •
Mikal Dache Walters**

Bachelor of Business Administration

**Darrian Shaw
Adrienne Danielle Starks*** •
Dolores Diane Thigpen*** •**

Associate of Arts in Business Administration

Brennen McKinnley Johnson

******Summa Cum Laude ***Magna Cum Laude **Cum Laude *Distinction in Field
Summa Cum Laude 3.75-4.00 Magna Cum Laude 3.50-3.74 Cum Laude 3.25-3.49 Distinction in
Field 3.00-3.24**

Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences
Mrs. Shaye Bearden, Chairperson

Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice

Courtney Patrice Greenlee
Alonda Michelle Kendrick
William Anthony Lamar**
Kymmisha Imari Sykes
Shante' Simone Smith
Tamara LaTesa Williams**
Morgan Alexander Williams •

Bachelor of Arts in Human Services

Sha El'Treecx Andrews** •**
Kristian Adia Brock** •**
Darlana McDonald Phillips** •**

******Summa Cum Laude ***Magna Cum Laude **Cum Laude *Distinction in Field**
Summa Cum Laude 3.75-4.00 Magna Cum Laude 3.50-3.74 Cum Laude 3.25-3.49 Distinction in
Field 3.00-3.24

**Department of Public Administration
Dr. Leonard Williams, Chairperson**

**Bachelor of Arts in Public Administration
Antwain De'Von Vernon**

Associate of Arts in Public Administration

**James Michael Bridges •
Desjuan Jamare Kearse •
Desmond Deshawn Newton •
Fabbian Dontae Scott •**

**Department of Fine and Performing Arts
Rev. Henry Parker, Chairperson**

Bachelor of Arts in Music Performance

Associate of Arts in Music Business

******Summa Cum Laude ***Magna Cum Laude **Cum Laude *Distinction in Field
Summa Cum Laude 3.75-4.00 Magna Cum Laude 3.50-3.74 Cum Laude 3.25-3.49 Distinction in
Field 3.00-3.24**

**Department of General Studies
Ms. Philis Taylor, Chairperson**

Associate of Arts in General Studies

**Tyler Davion Bell
Keirria LaShontae Brice •
Adrian Demetrius Brown •
LaToni Shikella Conway
Tyler Stephen Cubit
Shane Dalcour
Rogay Granston
Devonta Harkless-Jackson
Tymiakal Renae Howell
Randy Odun Johnson
Devin Charles Miles
Derrion La'Mont Miller •
Caleb Deshun Parker
Rashaun Preston
Lynderica Jenell Scott
Tavion Briajon Shaw
Carl A.D.L Smith, Jr.
Cedric Dewayne Smith
Tony Lamarr Starks
Jeremy Wayne Steele
Corlan Deshun Taylor**

******Summa Cum Laude ***Magna Cum Laude **Cum Laude *Distinction in Field
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2019-2020 Arkansas Baptist College Board of Trustees

Richard Mays, Sr., Esq., Chairman	Cory Anderson, MTS, Vice-Chairman
Alicia Ferguson Smith, Secretary	William Walker, Treasurer
Regina Favors, Interim President	Robert Handley, Trustee
Kenneth Harris, Jr., Ed. D., Trustee	Steven Lee, Ed. D., Trustee
Pamela S. Mobley, Trustee	Bob J. Nash, Trustee
George Parks, Jr. Ph. D., Trustee	Maurice Watson, D. Min., Trustee
Merlin Kamgue, Faculty Senate Representative	Desha Farmer, Staff Senate Representative
Brenda Hill, Alumni Representative	

Past Presidents of Arkansas Baptist College

Dr. J. A. Booker	1887-1926
Rev. S. P. Nelson	1926-1934
Dr. R. C. Woods	1934-1936
Rev. S. R. Tillinghast	1936-1937
Dr. Tandy W. Coggs	1937-1955
Mr. Howard L. Johnson	1955-1956
Dr. Oscar Allan Rogers, Jr.	1956-1960
Dr. Charles E. Johnson	1960-1961
Dr. P. L. Rowe	1961-1962
Dr. James C. Oliver	1962-1982
Dr. R. C. Davis (Interim)	1982-1985
Dr. W. Thomas Keaton	1985-2001
Mrs. Mary R. Jarrett (Interim)	2001-2002
Dr. Israel R. Dunn, Jr.	2002-2005
Mrs. Mary R. Jarrett (Acting)	2005-2006
Dr. O. Fitzgerald Hill	2006-2016
Dr. Joseph Jones	2016-2017
Dr. Howard O. Gibson (Interim)	2017-2018

HISTORY AND MISSION

ARKANSAS BAPTIST COLLEGE

Arkansas Baptist College originally named the Minister's Institute was founded in 1884 by the Colored Baptists of Arkansas during their annual convention at Mount Zion Baptist Church in Little Rock. The primary objective of the institute was to raise the educational level within the Negro ministry. The secondary objective was to aid the state in making higher education available to young Negro men and women. Most of the school's students were trained in the ministry; and, today, Religious Studies continues to be one of the College's major areas of matriculation.

In April 1885, the College's name was changed to Arkansas Baptist College, and the school moved to 16th and High Street, where the campus is currently located. However, the formal address is now 1600 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Drive.

Fourteen presidents have served as institutional leaders of Arkansas Baptist College from 1887 through 2017. The Board of Trustees appointed Dr. Howard O. Gibson, Interim President in December 2017. In August 2018, Regina H. Favors was appointed Interim President.

Arkansas Baptist College is a four-year historically black liberal arts institution that offers two- and four-year degree programs. It is the only black Baptist higher education institution west of the Mississippi River. The College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and affiliated with the Consolidated Missionary Baptist State Convention of Arkansas.

Mission

Arkansas Baptist College prepares students for a life of service grounded in academic scholarship, the liberal arts tradition, social responsibility, Christian development and preparation for employment in a global community.

Purpose of the Light to the World Ceremony

The Light to the World Ceremony is a tradition linked to Arkansas Baptist College's historic heritage of Truth and Light. Implemented by the College's 13th President, Dr. O. Fitzgerald Hill, the president "transfers the Light" from the College to the graduating class. Each student lights an individual candle symbolizing the knowledge of Truth received and the igniting of their Light to the world.

Alma Mater
"OUR BEACON LIGHT"

Stalwart, brave and true is our Alma Mater dear,
With outstretched arms to draw our children near, pointing out to them, The Way, The
Truth, The Light, guide them ever onward to the upward heights.

(Refrain)

A.B.C, A.B.C., calling thee so reverently,
Our eyes are filled: our hearts are thrilled, moved by love so deep for thee.
Beacon light, pride and joy, for the dear state, Arkansas, loyalty, eternally,
Alma Mater dear to thee.

By Ms. Mattie Booker Perry

“LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING”
(The Negro National Anthem)

Lift every voice and sing, Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty.
Let our rejoicing rise high as the list'ning skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till the victory is won!

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chast'ning rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been water; we
have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered;
Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
Where the bright gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way,
Thou who hast by thy might, Lead us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Least our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand, may we forever stand,
True to our God, true to our native land.

**ARKANSAS
BAPTIST COLLEGE**



***1600 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive
Little Rock, AR 72202
www.arkansasbaptist.edu***