



# LIBERTY UNIVERSITY

## COMMENCEMENT

*Helms School of  
Government*

WILLIAMS STADIUM

May 12, 2021

6 P.M.

## MESSAGE *from* THE DEANS:



*Robert Hurt*  
*Residential Dean*



*Ronald Miller*  
*Online Dean*

Congratulations on successfully finishing the race! It has been our privilege to serve you as the deans for the Helms School of Government over the course of this past year, and we are excited for you and hopeful for our future because we know your character and we know that we are sending you out into a world that desperately needs you.

Our mission here at Liberty and at the Helms School is to train and equip you to be Christ-centered leaders in the public arena. Whether you will use your degree to advocate for, enact, implement, or enforce public policy, you will leave here not only with the knowledge of your various disciplines, but also the wisdom that come from a right relationship with the Great Lawgiver Himself.

This is a great milestone in your lives, and we hope that you will take the time to celebrate it with family, friends, and others who have cheered for you, encouraged you, sometimes wept with you, and always prayed for you. You have earned the right to be proud of what you have done here at Liberty University. After the celebration, we look forward to the great things you will do in the days, months, and years ahead, and on behalf of the faculty and staff of the Helms School of Government, we thank you for allowing us to pour into your lives so that you may be a powerful influence in the lives of others. We bestow upon you the mantle of statesmanship, confident in the knowledge that you will wear it well.

In Christ,

Robert Hurt & Ron Miller  
Deans

# **ORDER *of* CEREMONY**

**Invocation** — Dr. Stephen Parke

**Pledge of Allegiance** — Cadet Isabella Illiano

**Welcome and Charge to the Graduates** — Deans Robert Hurt and Ron Miller

**Awards Recognition** — Dr. Stephen Parke

**Special Recognition** — Dean Robert Hurt

**Presentation of Posthumous Degrees** — Dean Ron Miller

**Recognition of First Helms Doctoral Degree** — Dean Ron Miller

**Presentation of Degrees**

- **Virtual Graduates** — Follow Link on Commencement Website
- **In-Person Graduates**
  - **Residential** — Dean Robert Hurt
  - **Online** — Dean Ron Miller

**Presentation of the Classes of 2020 & 2021** — Dr. Stephen Parke

**Benediction** — Dr. Jason Ross

# LIST of AWARDS

## JESSE HELMS AWARD

**Rebekah Pryor**

*The Senator Jesse Helms Award recognizes students who, by their commitment to Christian principles, conservative ideals, a strong work ethic, and statesmanship, honor the legacy of Senator Jesse Helms.*

## JOHN QUINCY ADAMS INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AWARD

**Rebekah Pryor**

*The John Quincy Adams Award recognizes the International Politics & Policy students who, by their commitment to international awareness, academic excellence, and virtuous statesmanship, reflect the example of John Quincy Adams, whose service as a U.S. senator from Massachusetts and one of America's foremost diplomats and influential secretaries of state, led to his election as the sixth president of the United States and a notable post-presidency as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives.*

## RONALD S. GODWIN AWARD

**Rebekah Pryor**

*Named after the founding dean of the Helms School of Government, this award recognizes students for their accomplishments and distinguished activities outside the classroom, as well as their involvement in important political issues.*

## G. HOWARD GREGORY AWARD

**Garrett Ingram**

*The G. Howard Gregory Award recognizes students who exemplify a commitment to duty, honor, and morality, and who demonstrate professionalism and an assiduous approach to the study of criminal justice.*

## NATHAN HALE AWARD

**Hannah McDonald and Christian Butler**

*The Nathan Hale Award is presented to two students who best exemplify the courageous spirit, character, and dedication of our nation's first spy. At only 21 years old and facing execution by the British, Nathan Hale boldly declared, "I only regret that I have but one life to give for my country."*

## THE PATRICK HENRY AWARDS

**Leadership — Julia Robertson**

**Competition — Corey Jones**

*The Patrick Henry Leadership and Competition awards are given to select seniors who have received acceptance to ABA accredited law schools. The award recognizes students who demonstrate academic achievement, leadership within the legal studies arena, and dedication to the principles of life, liberty, duty, and honor, all while exhibiting the fruit of a love for Christ.*

# LIST of AWARDS

## DEAN'S COUNCIL

**Tavia Bruxellas, Christian Butler, Garrett Ingram, Andrew Lemay, Rebekah Pryor, and Charles Tippet**

*The Dean's Council Graduates are recognized for their leadership, service, and statesmanship to the Helms School of Government.*

## DEAN'S LEADERSHIP AWARD

**Atinuke Elizabeth Ayowole, Tyler Huntington, Peter Pattara, and Shaddi Spencer**

*Recipients of this award are recognized for their significant contributions to the Helms School and student body through their principled leadership.*

## OUTSTANDING GRADUATE AWARD

**Master of Arts in Public Policy — Shaddi Spencer**

**Master of Science in Criminal Justice — Kevin Daly**

**Master of Science in Political Science — James Cogan**

**Master of Public Administration — Jessica Windsor**

**Master of Science in International Relations — Robert Frisch**

**Master of Science in National Security — Christopher Mateo**

*Recipients of this award are recognized for their academic excellence, exemplary leadership, and Christian character.*

## ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

### **Undergraduate Students:**

Abigail Angel, Brandon Angel, Tavia Bruxellas, Matthew Calhoun, Joseph Ceriello, Robert Choyce, Mark Dain, William Dunn, Tavia Ethredge, Brian Farmer, Zachary Federico, Samuel Ford, Dory Gadberry, Caleb Gott, Jared Harrison, Dajonte Holsey, Tyler Huntington, Sidney Johnson, Marisa Kuhar, Michael Lange, Joseph Longo, Mary Catherine Morris, Jonathan Shavers, Lydia Thomas, Lorie Toplikar, Trina Whitley, Joshua Wick

### **Graduate Students:**

Steven Appouh-Hester, Atinuke Elizabeth Ayowole, Caitlyn Boitnott, Madison Bridge, James Bushway, Vernon Byrd, Whitney Cable, Kelsey Carpenter, Deneil Christian, Mary Cook, Marina DeAngelo, Michael Gallagher, Mark Pereira, Elise Pistor, Russ Rivers, Tony Sanchez, Thomas Spangler

*The Academic Achievement Award is given to students who achieve a 4.0 GPA and display intellect, passion, and dedication to excellence in their fields of study.*

# FACULTY *and* STAFF

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*Online Dean*

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*Associate Dean for  
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*Interim Associate Dean for  
Online Programs*

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*Department Chair,  
Criminal Justice*

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Safety and Administration  
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*“He has told you, O man, what is good; And what does  
the LORD require of you but to do justice, to love  
kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”*

*Micah 6:8*

