



HOUGHTON UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT

Excellence for the Glory of God

Saturday, May 10, 2025

John & Charles Wesley Chapel

COMMENCEMENT 2025

Processional

Tuba Tune, op. 15
Trumpet Voluntary No. 5 in D Major, op. 6
Nicholas Cantello '25 (M.M.), organ

Craig Sellar Lang
John Stanley

Welcome

Wayne D. Lewis, Jr.
President

Invocation

Trisha Turner
Parent of Graduate

Musical Selection

Andante for Horn and Piano
Richard Strauss
Elena Daniel '25, horn
Sharon Johnson, piano

Bestowing Houghton Medal and Honorary Degrees

Wesley Oden, Houghton Medal
Paul Mills '61, Doctor of Letters, *honoris causa*
Andrew Westmoreland, Doctor of Letters, *honoris causa*

Commencement Address

"A Ten-Minute Commencement Speech"
Andrew Westmoreland

Presentation of Class Gift

Rachel Scharf '25

Presentation of Degrees

David Davies '01
Provost

Benediction

Christopher Studley '97
Parent of Graduate

Recessional

Toccata from Symphony No. 5, op. 42
Charles-Marie Widor
Nicholas Cantello '25 (M.M.), organ

Junior Class Marshals: Clancey Cockle '26 and Thomas McGlynn '26
Pipers: Alastair Hutton '10 and Andrew Hutton '18

Following the ceremony, all are invited to join us for lunch on the quad.
Graduates can meet their professors at the designated reception areas.

MASTER'S DEGREES

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Mark Julian Baker, M.B.A.
Peggy S. Chroniger, M.B.A.
Jennifer Lynn Deitrick, M.B.A.
Aleah Joy Martone, M.B.A.
Nicholas Joseph Pettit, M.B.A.
Riley Lauren Pettit, M.B.A.
Christian Cooper Sage, M.B.A.
Jaeleen Faith Smith, M.B.A.

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Marilynn Amborski, M.S.Ed.
Victoria Anthony, M.S.Ed.
Grace A. Armstrong, M.S.Ed.
Madeline M. Feldman, M.S.Ed.
Nancy J. Gates, M.S.Ed.
Annette J. German, M.S.Ed.
Renae Totstline, M.S.Ed.

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Nicholas Spencer Cantello, M.Mus.
Rachael McVeigh, M.Mus.
Ryan Michael Nickelsen, M.Mus.
Emily Lynne Quick, M.A.

BACHELOR'S DEGREES

EDUCATION & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE

EDUCATION

- * Luke Cole, B.A.◇
- * Grace Janet Collier, B.A.◇
Rebecca Anne Dailey, B.A.◇
Brynn Averylee Dixon, B.S.
- ** Madison Quinn Gancasz, B.S.
Alexandra Billie Hill, B.S.
Jace V. Hunzinger, B.S.
- ** Madison Kelley, B.S.
- ** Samuel Lyon, B.A.◇
- *** Ethan Michael Henry McCarthy, B.A.◇
Lydia Neeley, B.A.◇
Brett William Rosario, B.A.◇
- * Madison Hyun Tadusz, B.A.◇
Zachary Tucker, B.S.
- ** Michelle Kathleen Youngers, B.S.

PSYCHOLOGY & CRIMINAL JUSTICE

- *** Morgan Rose Applegate, B.A.
Hannah Grace Bretz, B.A.
Mikaela Irene Buckley, B.A.
Emmett Carlson, B.A.
Sara Elizabeth Carter, B.A.◇
- *** Aidan Fish, B.A.◇
Leigh Foster, B.A.
Bemnet Haile, B.A.
Karen Skogen Haslem, B.A.
Amanda Jackson, B.S.
Briana Jackson, B.A.
Breona Keya Rose Jones, B.A.
- * Evan Kurtz, B.A.
- *** Megan Anna Sensenig, B.A.◇
Diana Valencia, B.A.
- * Gabriella Valldeperas, B.S.
Cate Westenberger, B.A.

GREATBATCH SCHOOL OF MUSIC

- Matthew Robert Arndt, B.Mus.
- * Micah Barnts, B.Mus.
- ** Wataru Joshua Coram, B.S.
- Elena Clarice Daniel, B.Mus.
- ** Alaska Marie Dunstan, B.Mus.
- * William Michael Eby, B.Mus.
- Rachael Marie Guarino, B.A.
- Aaron K. Jacob, B.Mus.
- Julia Marie Matton, B.S.
- Sophia Grace Pantea, B.Mus.
- Eli Charles Rhoda, B.S.
- *** Samuel Roth, B.S.
- ** Timothy Roth, B.S.
- *** Evelyn Joy Simanowski, B.Mus.
- ** Benjamin John Van Tine, B.Mus.
- Empress Q. Weber, B.S.

MANAGEMENT & CREATIVE ARTS

ART & DESIGN

- ** Aubrey Ruth Armes, B.F.A.
- ** Kaitlyn Nicole Avery, B.F.A.
- ** Sydney Grace Gartley, B.F.A.
- ** Phebe Lord Grant, B.S.
- ** Elyse Kay Howard, B.F.A.
- ** Katie Elizabeth Naprawa, B.F.A.
- * Graeme F. Roberts, B.F.A.
- Caleb See, B.S.◇
- Elizabeth Sutay, B.F.A.

BUSINESS & ECONOMICS

- Anthony James Anzalone, B.S.◇
- Caleb Russell Bailey, B.S.◇
- ** MyaKay Hope Bartman, B.S.
- *** Kimberly Johanna Borges Edwards, B.S.◇
- ** Caleb Carlson, B.S.
- Olivia Grace Carr, B.S.

- ** Jeremiah Chow, B.A.◇
- ** Kelsi Jaye Clapper, B.S.
- * Tabitha Leona Clark, B.S.◇
- Matthew Connolly, B.S.
- ** Graham Nathan Cook, B.S.◇
- ** Mason Charles Cool, B.S.◇
- Nerija Dorleande Dinte, B.B.A.
- Frieda Durham-Scurry, B.B.A.◇
- Joseph Buren Flatt III, B.S.
- Sarah Elizabeth Frizzell, B.B.A.
- * Luke Thomas George, B.S.◇
- Jasmine Mercedes Hunter, B.S.
- Brandon M. Jones, B.B.A.
- * Alex Kalivoda, B.A.◇
- Isaac Norris Mattice, B.S.
- Isabella Matton, B.A.◇
- Kevin Nanga, B.S.
- Vincent Ocasio, B.S.
- Nana Kwame Oforu Opoku, B.S.
- Angelica Rodegine KimberleyPierre, B.S.
- Jajuan Preaster, B.S.
- Yao Xing Qian, B.S.
- Natalie J. Rivera, B.S.◇
- David Alejandro Rosa Fernández, B.S.◇
- Daniel Alejandro Rosario Vélez, B.S.
- * Ella Jayne Smith, B.A.◇
- Malcom Davon Smith, B.B.A.
- Preston Thomas, B.S.
- *** Esther Mun Hung Tse, B.S.◇
- *** Lillian Diana Turner, B.S.◇
- Julian Veley, B.S.
- Martha Minnie Afuma Waindim, B.S.◇
- Mackenzie Rebecca Waterman, B.S.
- Beckie Watson, B.B.A.
- Kaylee Worden, B.S.

COMMUNICATION

- * Victoria Grace Arndt, B.S.
- *** Kimberly Johanna Borges Edwards, B.S.◇
- ** Jeremiah Chow, B.A.◇
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- * Luke Thomas George, B.S.◇

- Grace Parr, B.A.◇
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- Bethany Maggie Tubman, B.S.
- *** Lillian Diana Turner, B.S.◇

SPORT, RECREATION & WELLNESS

- ** Devin James Burns, B.S.
- Siobhan Marie Costello, B.S.
- *** Deborah Anne Cross, B.S.
- Pedro A. Cruz Mundo, B.S.
- Alesia Ani Duffee, B.S.
- * Hannah Mahardy, B.S.
- * Natalie Marie Milne, B.S.
- * Joy L. Musser, B.S.
- Alena Perkins, B.S.
- Natalie J. Rivera, B.S.◇
- David Alejandro Rosa Fernández, B.S.◇
- * Elicia Sherman, B.S.
- ** Joseph D. Sparks, B.S.
- *** Rileigh Claire Studley, B.S.◇
- Hannah Sturdivant, B.S.
- Kelsey Villatoro, B.S.
- ** Mary Rose Zielinski, B.S.

NATURAL SCIENCES & MATHEMATICS

BIOLOGY

- Amber Amos, B.S.
- * Ryan Joshua Ballard, B.S.◇
- Chloe Adalia Becker, B.S.
- * Carter Wade Benham, B.S.
- *** Amelia Christine Brown, B.S.◇
- Samuel David Carpenter, B.S.
- Sara Elizabeth Carter, B.A.◇
- ** Natalie Ruth Cunningham, B.A.
- * Rebekah Faith Davie, B.S.
- James Joseph Eustace, B.S.
- * Alliah Fluent, B.S.◇
- Abigail Grace Franz, B.A.
- * Abigail Michelle Guiher, B.S.

- *** Noah Christopher Harley, B.A.◇
- Abigail Sophia Kaurin, B.A.
- Hannah Reneé Lewandowski, B.S.
- Sara L. Maines, B.S.
- ** Jackson Scott Medeiros, B.S.
- Lydia Merrill, B.S.
- *** Anna M. Mummert, B.S.
- Julissa Navarro, B.S.
- *** Abigail Elizabeth Nuzzo, B.S.
- *** Moriah Grace Ruggiero, B.S.
- Andrew D. Ryan, B.S.
- Rachel Leigh Scharf, B.S.
- William Tormey, B.S.
- * Lydia Grace Zampella, B.S.

CHEMISTRY & BIOCHEMISTRY

- ** Faith Michele Coolbeth, B.S.
- *** Emma Ryan, B.S.

MATHEMATICS

- ** Josephine Lipscomb, B.A.
- ** Samuel Lyon, B.A.◇
- Isabella Matton, B.A.◇
- Lydia Neeley, B.A.◇
- ** Nolan Anthony Zach, B.A.
- Ryan Daniel Zirilli, B.A.

PHYSICS, COMPUTER SCIENCE & ENGINEERING

- * Avery Jay Belanger, B.S.
- * Owen Douglas Fall, B.S.
- *** Noah Christopher Harley, B.A.◇
- * Alex Kalivoda, B.A.◇
- Luke Yelle, B.S.

RELIGION, HUMANITIES & GLOBAL STUDIES

BIBLE & THEOLOGY

- ** Logan Carroll, B.A.
- ** Matthew William Foster, B.S.
Caleb See, B.S.◇
- *** Megan Anna Sensenig, B.A.◇
Alan J. Shortz, Jr., B.A.

ENGLISH & WRITING

- Rebecca Anne Dailey, B.A.◇
Kirandeesh Kaur, B.S.
Juliana Elaine Schmidt, B.S.
- *** Anna Sumner, B.S.
Caleb Tiedemann, B.A.

HISTORY, POLITICS & PHILOSOPHY, AND GLOBAL STUDIES

- * Jack Arterton, B.A.
- * Ryan Joshua Ballard, B.S.◇
Hannah Nicole Boss, B.A.
- *** Amelia Christine Brown, B.S.◇
- * Luke Cole, B.A.◇
- * Grace Janet Collier, B.A.◇
- *** Ethan Michael Henry McCarthy, B.A.◇
Anna Louise Nesemeier, B.A.
Colin O'Mara, B.A.◇
Grace Parr, B.A.◇
Brett William Rosario, B.A.◇
- ** Zachary James Roussie, B.A.
- ** Chance Stout, B.A.◇
- * Madison Hyun Tadasz, B.A.◇
Martha Minnie Afuma Waindim, B.S.◇
Tymber Wynn, B.A.◇

ASSOCIATE DEGREES

- Elisha Benway, A.A.
- Lacey Guy, A.A.
- Lauren Hildebrand, A.S.
- Elizabeth Long, A.A.
- Rosiane Kapayi Palapala, A.S.
- Jase Stone, A.S.
- Robin C. Williams, A.S.

SYMBOL KEY

◇ Students with multiple majors. When majors are in different departments, the student's name appears in each department.

* *cum laude* 3.5 – 3.69
(white cords)

** *magna cum laude* 3.7 – 3.89
(purple cords)

*** *summa cum laude* 3.9 – 4.0
(gold cords)

Valedictorian / Salutatorian – gold stole

Latin Honors are computed based on cumulative grade point average at the end of the fall semester as verified on March 7, and are subject to change pending completion of degree requirements.

Listing of student's name does not guarantee degree completion.

RECIPIENT OF U.S. ARMY COMMISSION

CDT Kelsey Mariela Villatoro

National Guard, Transportation

SENIOR HONORS AND RESEARCH

VALEDICTORIAN

Noah Christopher Harley

SALUTATORIAN

Esther Mun Hung Tse

SENIOR HONORS RESEARCH

Zachary James Roussie

Senior Honors in History

Committee Chair: Christian Esh '08

Title: *North of the Union:*

Rochester, Welfare Capitalism, and the limits of the CIO moment

HONOR SOCIETIES

PSI CHI – PSYCHOLOGY

Psi Chi is an international honor society whose purpose shall be to encourage, stimulate, and maintain excellence in scholarship of the individual members in all fields, particularly in psychology, and to advance the science of psychology.

Aidan Fish

Phebe Lord Grant

Evan Kurtz

Megan Anna Sensenig



PI KAPPA LAMBDA – MUSIC

The primary objective of Pi Kappa Lambda is the recognition and encouragement of the highest level of musical achievement and academic scholarship. The Society is convinced that recognizing and honoring persons who have enhanced their talents by serious, diligent, and intelligent study will stimulate others to do the same.

Rachael McVeigh

Ryan Michael Nickelsen

Emily Lynne Quick

Samuel Roth

Timothy Roth

Evelyn Joy Simanowski



SIGMA ZETA – MATH/SCIENCES

Sigma Zeta is a national undergraduate honor society to encourage and foster scholarly activity and recognize academic scholarship in the natural and computer sciences and mathematics.

Carter Wade Benham

Sara Elizabeth Carter

Faith Michele Coolbeth

James Joseph Eustace

Owen Douglas Fall

Alliah Fluent

Abigail Michelle Guiher

Noah Christopher Harley

Josephine Lipscomb

Sara L. Maines

Isabella Matton

Abigail Elizabeth Nuzzo

Emma Ryan

Luke Yelle

Nolan Anthony Zach

Lydia Grace Zampella



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COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

Andrew Westmoreland

President of the Christian College Consortium

Andrew Westmoreland's 40-year-plus career in higher education, including two college presidencies, illustrates his commitment to Christian higher education. For a combined 23 years, he served as president at Ouachita Baptist University (1998 to 2006) and Samford University (2006 to 2021), as well as chair of the Board of Trustees for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, which oversees accreditation for more than 800 colleges and universities from Virginia to Texas. He also served as president of the American Association of Presidents of Independent Colleges and Universities.

Beginning in 2023, Westmoreland was named president of the Christian College Consortium, of which Houghton University has been a founding member since 1971. Andrew currently serves as president emeritus of Samford University and executive director of the Frances Marlin Mann Center for Ethics and Leadership at Samford. As Senior Vice President of Higher Education, Andrew Westmoreland leads FaithSearch Partners' Higher Education service line, which has led many executive searches for CCC and CCCU institutions. In addition to his role with FaithSearch, Westmoreland serves as an at-large member of the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities Board of Directors.

In these roles, he brings decades of leadership experience as well as a heart for Christian higher education and a commitment to Christ.

HOUGHTON HISTORY

The institution was established in 1883 as a seminary (high school) under the Wesleyan Methodist Connection. Coeducational from its founding, Houghton operated as a secondary school for its first 15 years. The institution has been committed from its conception to making a high-quality, deeply Christian education available to those who would not otherwise have this kind of opportunity.

The commitment is grounded in the conviction that God has gifted each individual in ways that ought to be developed for the purpose of more effectively participating in God's redemptive purposes throughout our world. Thus, affordability, accessibility and global engagement—as well as high quality academics and deeply Christian faith—have been consistent trademarks of a Houghton education throughout our history.

Beginning in 1899, a few college classes were offered, which were sufficient to allow the college department's first diploma to be awarded in 1901. Early principals of the school were Wesleyan Methodist pastors willing to accept the job. In 1908, Houghton acquired its first academically trained president, James S. Luckey, who served until his death in 1937. President Luckey believed that if Houghton College was to have the impact that God intended, it needed to be recognized within the larger world of American higher education. Thanks in large part to President Luckey's persistent efforts, Houghton College received its provisional charter from New York State in 1923 and awarded its first 19 baccalaureate degrees two years later. A permanent charter was granted in 1927, followed by full accreditation by the Middle States Association of Schools and Colleges in 1935.

When the former Buffalo Bible Institute in West Seneca merged with Houghton College in 1969, the West Seneca site was created. The programs at this site evolved from lower-divisional status to specialized courses and internships designed to complement majors offered on the main campus, particularly those requiring an urban setting. Through these teaching sites, as well as a growing presence through online offerings, Houghton continued to expand its efforts to make a high-quality, deeply Christian education available to those of all ages who would not otherwise have this opportunity.

In 2022, the University of the State of New York Board of Regents approved the name change and updated the charter for the institution to become Houghton University. Today, Houghton University offers multiple avenues for individuals to access a Christ-centered higher education. Throughout its history, Houghton has affirmed that an education grounded in a deep sense of our identity as God's children and a commitment to excellence in critical thinking, communication and community formation is the very best preparation for a lifetime of effectiveness and impact in the ever-changing circumstances of our 21st-century world.