



Commencement Exercises 2020



Engaging, Enlightening and Empowering
Adults Since 1964



Commencement Exercises

Virtual Ceremony

October 25, 2020

To the Graduates of Union Institute & University

On behalf of the entire university community, welcome to Union Institute & University's 2020 national commencement ceremony – our first virtual ceremony. This has been an unprecedented year in which the corona virus pandemic, social unrest and racial reckoning, climate change, and economic factors affected each of us in numerous ways. Yet, you, our graduates, persevered. You overcame many obstacles to reach your academic goals. We salute you!

This 2020 Commencement is truly a national ceremony encompassing graduates, faculty, and awards from each of our academic centers in California, Florida, and Ohio. We decided to hold the event as a virtual commencement exercise in consideration of the health and safety of our graduates and their families, and our faculty and staff, during the Covid-19 pandemic.

All of us at Union are proud of our 56-year history and our glorious mission to engage, enlighten, and empower highly motivated adults to pursue professional goals and a lifetime of learning, service, and social responsibility. Union Institute & University challenges minds, touches hearts, and transforms the lives of adults who view learning as a lifetime adventure and commitment to share with the world around them. These goals have never been more important and more meaningful.

For many of you, today represents the fulfillment of a lifelong dream. For others, today is a new beginning. For all of you, we hope Union Institute & University has played a transformative role in your education, your personal and professional growth, and your life.

We proudly send you along as elite ambassadors for our university, and count on you to bring our legacy of transforming lives and communities to life as you make a difference in all your endeavors.

President Karen Schuster Webb, Ph.D.
and Union Institute & University Board of Trustees

Union Institute & University Commencement Exercises

October 25, 2020

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Call to Order & Welcome	Nelson E Soto, Ph.D. <i>Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs</i>
Vocal Selections	The Soul Children of Chicago <i>Under the direction of Dr. Walter Whitman</i>
Invocation	M. Merritt Worthen, Ph.D., 2020 <i>Senior Pastor, College Hill Community Church Dayton, Ohio</i>
Remarks	Nelson E. Soto, Ph.D. <i>Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs</i>
Awards	Karsten Piep, Ph.D. <i>Faculty, Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Studies Program</i> Elden Golden, Ph.D., J.D. <i>Director, Master of Arts Program & Graduate Faculty</i>
Remarks & Introduction of the Speaker	Karen Schuster Webb, Ph.D. <i>President</i>
Commencement Address	The Honorable Danny K. Davis, Ph.D. 1977 <i>U.S. Congressional Representative, Illinois 7th District</i>
Presentation of Graduates	Provost Nelson E. Soto, Ph.D.
Conferral of Degrees	Edgar L. Smith Jr. <i>CEO, Worldpac Paper LLC, Cincinnati, Ohio Vice Chair, UI&U Board of Trustees</i>
Induction of New Alumni Presentation of Alumni Awards	Randy D. Danielsen, Ph.D., 2003 <i>President, UI&U International Alumni Association Board Director, Doctor of Medical Science Program, A.T. Still University</i>
Closing Remarks	President Karen Schuster Webb, Ph.D.
Adjournment	Provost Nelson E. Soto, Ph.D.
Recessional	

You are cordially invited to join your program's Zoom Chat Room where you will be greeted by faculty and fellow graduates.

**Union Institute & University
2020 National Commencement Speaker
The Honorable Danny K. Davis, Ph.D., 1977
U.S. Congressional Representative,
Illinois 7th District**



Danny K. Davis, Ph.D., 1977
*U.S. Congressional Representative,
Illinois 7th District*

“I am a proud alumnus of Union. I share Union’s commitment to diversity and believe our nation’s multiculturalism is what makes us so special as a nation. To quote Frederick Douglass, ‘If there is no struggle, there is no progress.’”

Danny K. Davis, Ph.D., 1977

We are deeply honored to have as our speaker today the Honorable Danny K. Davis, U.S. Representative from Illinois’s seventh congressional district since 1996, and a proud alumnus who earned his Ph.D. from Union in 1977.

Congressman Davis has spent his life championing social justice. He is a servant leader whose life parallels Union’s mission to transform lives and communities. He has dedicated his career to the advancement of racial, ethnic, and underrepresented populations in higher education. He is resolutely committed to preserving our democracy, protecting social security, and enhancing our nation’s gains in civil and human rights.

He has always fought on the side of justice in creating legislation for job creation, to fight poverty, to improve access and affordability for higher education, and has worked diligently for youth and criminal justice reform. Throughout his career Dr. Davis has advocated for women’s rights, voting rights, protection of the environment, consumer and labor protections, and ensuring quality, affordable health care for all.

Congressman Davis is a significant voice in Congress and has served on numerous committees, including the Committee on Ways and

Means. He is a member of the Congressional Black Caucus, the Progressive Caucus, the Urban Caucus, Community Health Center's Caucus, the Congressional Caucus on Black Men and Boys, and is Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus on Re-entry.

Congressman Davis has distinguished himself as an articulate voice for his constituents and as an effective legislator able to move major bills to passage. He has developed a unique and energetic style of communication and interaction with his constituents setting up dozens of advisory task forces to consider significant questions of public policy. He hosts weekly television and radio shows that feature audience call-in. He produces regular written reports to every household in the district, and maintains weekly office hours in the district.

Born in Parkdale, Arkansas, Dr. Davis moved to the west side of Chicago in 1961, after having earned a bachelor's degree from Arkansas A.M. & N. College. He holds a master's degree from Chicago State University in addition to his Ph.D. from Union. Before seeking public office, he had productive careers as an educator, community organizer, health planner/administrator, and civil rights advocate.

Throughout the years, Congressman Davis has been a friend to Union and to higher education for all. He has welcomed us to his office and hosted events in Washington, D.C. We thank him for his life's work, his dedication to higher education, and his service to others, and are deeply honored to host him as the 2020 Commencement Keynote Speaker.

Awards

Marvin B. Sussman Doctoral Award

Long-time Union core professor and philanthropist Dr. Marvin Sussman established the Marvin B. Sussman Award to honor a recent UI&U graduate whose doctoral dissertation is judged to be clearly outstanding in terms of originality, interdisciplinarity, social meaning, writing, and overall presentation. A committee of UI&U faculty and administrators nominate and select an annual recipient (s) based on the quality of research and the impact their studies will have within the community at-large.

2020 Recipients

Linda Kligman, Ph.D., 2020

Representing Women's Literacy: Constructing a Pragmatist Feminist Paradigm to Guide the Implementation of Gender-Sensitive Adult Education Policy Reform in the United States

Dissertation Committee Chair: Dr. Michael A. Raffanti

Kathryn Turley-Sonne, Ph.D., 2020

Curating the Contemporary Art Witch Movement

Dissertation Committee Chair: Dr. Anu M. Mitra

2020 Honorable Mentions

Allison Budaj, Ph.D., 2020

Zombies, Badass Ladies, and Hashtags: Using Social Media as a Tool for Interpreting Gender Performances in AMC's The Walking Dead

Dissertation Committee Chair: Dr. Christopher J. Voparil

Emery François, Ph.D., 2020

The Beauty and the Strife: A Memoir of Haiti and her Legacy in the United States

Dissertation Committee Chair: Dr. Diane Richard-Allerdyce

Brian Webb Award for Outstanding Master of Arts Thesis

The Brian Webb Award for Outstanding Master of Arts Thesis Distinguished by Academic Rigor and Creative Thinking was established by the faculty of Union's Master of Arts program in 2017. The award is given in memory of Dr. Brian Webb, who led the master's program from 2001 to his untimely death in 2014. A creative and interdisciplinary scholar whose first love was music, Dr. Webb inspired faculty and students alike.

2019-2020 Awardees

Adrienne Dyslin, Creativity Studies

The Influence of Chef Thomas Keller: A Culinary Creativity Case

Miya Fowler, History & Culture

Reaching Back, Feeling In, Dancing Forward: The Convergence of African Dance and Somatics for the Negotiation of Black Women's Embodiment

Grace Goodwin Dwyer, Health & Wellness

Experiences of Women Following a Low Carbohydrate Diet While Breastfeeding

Petra Anne Roser, Literature & Writing

The Female Narrative in Addiction Memoir

Awards

The Mark Dunakin Memorial Award Recognizing Extraordinary Achievement



A portrait of Sergeant Mark Dunakin by Valerie Stewart hangs in the lobby of the Sacramento Academic Center.

Union Institute & University is honored to present the ninth and tenth Mark Dunakin Memorial Awards to two recent graduates of Union Institute & University who have displayed extraordinary service and achievement throughout their undergraduate program.

The award is named for Police Sergeant Mark Dunakin, an 18-year veteran of the Oakland Police Department, assigned to the Traffic Division. He was a member of the Alameda County Sheriff's Office before joining the OPD as a patrol officer in 1991. As a sergeant, he served in criminal investigations and homicide, and taught academy recruits the intricacies of homicide and robbery investigations. He transferred to the coveted traffic motor squad in 1996.

On March 21, 2009, at the age of 40, Mark was one of the four Oakland police officers killed in the line of duty by a parolee. A student and part of the UI&U family, Sergeant Dunakin had just completed requirements for his Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice Management at the time of his death.

He was awarded his B.S. degree posthumously at the commencement ceremony in July 2009, the event he so looked forward to joining. Sergeant Dunakin is survived by his wife, Angela, his three children, his parents, David and Karen Dunakin, and his brother, Christopher Dunakin.

In honor of his service and sacrifice, Union Institute & University has designated the Mark Dunakin Memorial Award to be presented to a new graduate of Union Institute & University's Criminal Justice Management program who serves in law enforcement and who emulates Sergeant Dunakin's commitment to community service, academic success, and enthusiasm for Union's Criminal Justice Management program. The award honors graduates who possess certain criteria, including 1) academic excellence and achievement toward their degree; 2) earning the respect of his/her law enforcement peers; and 3) exemplifying the true meaning of being a law enforcement officer.

2020 Recipients



Detective Sergeant Marya Mason,
Los Angeles Police Department

Sergeant Mason is a 23-year veteran of the Los Angeles Police Department, holding the dual status title of detective sergeant, a rare accomplishment within the ranks of the LAPD.

She is Officer-in-Charge of the Operations-South Bureau Homeless Outreach and Proactive Engagement Unit (HOPE) that coordinates with the Unified Homeless Response Center to manage homeless encampments in the South Bureau of Los Angeles.

In her 23-year career, Sergeant Mason has received 108 commendations for service to her department and the communities she serves. She earned the LAPD Police Star and Life Saving Medal in 2018, demonstrating her dedication to service, her tenacity in the face of danger, and her compassion for humanity.

Union Institute & University's faculty and administration commends

Sergeant Marya Mason for her academic achievement, her years of public service, her dedication to help the homeless, and her selflessness in the face of danger as she protects her community.



Detective James Tidwell,
Sacramento County Sheriff's Department

Detective Tidwell has served the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office for 14 years. He is known as being a consummate professional on every level, upholding the department's core values with his selfless service to his profession, his fellow officers, and his community. In addition to his work as detective, he is a member of the Sacramento County Sheriff's Mobile Field Force (MFF) Team.

One nominator wrote: "Detective Tidwell exemplifies the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office motto, "Service with Concern," even under duress, character attack, and physical assault. He always performs in a professional manner. His work ethic, core beliefs, and actions are commendable, while his approach and spirit remain humble.

The Union community congratulates Detective Tidwell for his dedication to those he serves, his support of the values of his department, and his academic achievement.

Past Recipients

- | | |
|------|---|
| 2011 | Isabel Resendez, B.S., 2011 |
| 2013 | Frederick Henry Bobbitt Jr., B.S., 2013
Tony Silva, B.S., 2013 |
| 2015 | Ray Framstad, B.S., 2014 |
| 2016 | Detective Corporal Sergio Lepe, B.S., 2016 |
| 2017 | Sergeant Orrlando Mayes, B.S., 2017,
M.S.O.L. 2019 |
| 2018 | Sergeant Heather Forsythe, B.S., 2018 |
| 2019 | Officer Kyle Henricksen, B.S., 2019 |

Faculty Awards

The Faculty Awards program, established by UI&U's Faculty Council, provides peer recognition for exemplary efforts and achievements in the areas of teaching, service, and scholarship. This program recognizes that all Union faculty members exhibit commendatory effort on behalf of their students and their professions, and provides an opportunity for faculty members to recognize, on a regular basis, exemplary efforts on behalf of their peers.

2020 Award for Excellence in Teaching

Sarah Bergh, Ph.D.

Assistant Director, Master of Arts program, and Faculty, Master of Arts and Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Arts, General Education program

2020 Certificate of Distinction for Excellence in Teaching

Annie Lee, Ph.D.

Faculty, Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Arts, General Education program

Alumni Awards Bestowed by the International Alumni Association Board

The International Alumni Association Board (IAAB) of Union Institute & University is pleased to bestow the Distinguished Alumni Award and Legacy Alumni Award in recognition of exemplary leadership by Union alumni who in both their professional and personal lives have exemplified the university's mission and values, that its graduates be "engaged, enlightened, and empowered to pursue professional goals and lives of learning, service and responsibility." Union thus sends its alumni into the world with confidence and certainty that their presence will make a make a compelling, enduring, and positive difference.

Recipients of Union's Distinguished Alumni Award uphold Union's values, including the pursuit of academic excellence, creative and critical thinking, connecting the application of theory and process, the affirmation of diversity, and the quest for social justice, together with integrity and compassion on a global scale.

The Legacy Alumni Award recognizes alumni who have demonstrated a commitment to learning, service, and social responsibility. Legacy alumni have also achieved significant recognition for their service to society and/or the university, either by transforming social action or by generous contribution.

The two alumni selected exhibit exemplary work, selfless service, as well as knowledge, insight, and a focus on the greater good. They bring esteem and distinction to our alma mater, and the Union community is honored by their work.

Distinguished Alumni Award 2020



**Rudolph C. Ryser, Ph.D.,
1996**

*Chair of the Board of Directors, Executive
Director Center for World Indigenous Studies*

Dr. Ryser is a member of the Cowlitz Indian Tribe and founder of the Center for World Indigenous Studies. He is internationally recognized as the principle architect and spokesperson of theories and principles of Fourth World Geopolitics.

Throughout his career, Dr. Ryser has contributed to policies and laws affecting American Indians and indigenous peoples internationally, including the development of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the United Nation's World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. He is the author of several seminal books on indigenous nations and the *Fourth World Geopolitical Reader*.

A beloved professor, his students refer to him as a teacher's teacher and he is known for his commitment to mentoring students as future leaders and activist scholars.

Dr. Rudolph has steadfastly advocated for diversity and inclusion. He has demonstrated academic excellence, creative and critical thinking, and connection of the application of theory and process. With integrity and compassion, his pursuit of social justice has been enacted on a global scale.

2020 Legacy Alumni Award



Cecil Thomas, B.S., 2012

Ohio State Senator

As a Cincinnati Police officer for 27 years, Senator Thomas worked to improve minority representation. Through his actions, the Cincinnati Police Department increased the percentage of African Americans and women on the force to 40 percent.

After retiring from the police department, he served as the Executive Director of the Cincinnati Human Relations Commission, and in 2005, was elected to the Cincinnati City Council. He initiated the Cincinnati Youth Street Worker Program to reduce violence and his methods to improve community and police relations are now modeled internationally.

In 2014, Senator Thomas was elected to represent Ohio's Ninth Senate district. He serves as Assistant Minority Leader and ranking member of the Senate judiciary committee, as well as the government oversight, health, insurance, and local government committees.

Senator Thomas is a public servant who demonstrates his commitment to learning, service and social responsibility in everything he undertakes.

Union Institute & University

Recipients of the Baccalaureate Degree 2019-2020

Bachelor of Arts

Erma Lee Butler, B.A., *Psychology*

Carrie Hurlburt, B.A., *Psychology with concentrations in Addictions Studies and Forensic Psychology*

Grettel Jimenez, B.A., *Psychology*

Pamela Joyce Mcilwain, B.A., *Psychology*

Brooklyn Nicole McIntosh, B.A., *Psychology with concentrations in Addictions Studies and Forensic Psychology*

Melisa Nunes, B.A., *Psychology with a concentration in Holistic Psychology*

Katherine Elizabeth Pond, B.A., *Psychology with a concentration in Holistic Psychology*

Ashley A. Sewell, B.A., *Psychology*

Bachelor of Science

Yannet Agramont, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*

Karimen Aguilar, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*

Jessica Aguilera, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Petra Alicia Alaniz, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*

Morgane Cherfils Alexis, B.S., *Early Childhood Studies*

Mark Allen, B.S., *Emergency Services Management*

Brent Alvarado, B.S., *Emergency Services Management with a concentration in Homeland Security*

Yenny Alvarez, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*

Kyle Anderson, B.S., *Emergency Services Management with a concentration in Homeland Security*

Daniel Arias, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Albert George Armanini, III, B.S., *Emergency Services Management*

Jeffrey John Arnold, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Alexander Avila, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Ana Patricia Avila Ramos, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*

James R. Badman, B.S., *Business Management*
Daniel Ramon Badour, B.S., *Secondary Education with a concentration in Social Sciences*
John Thomas Bailey, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
DeAughna Barker, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Ashlyn Barragan, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*
Oscar O. Barragan, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Susana Barrera Alejandre, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*
Chad Michael Battisti, B.S., *Emergency Services Management*
Araceli Bautista Martinez, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*
William Robert Beck, Jr., B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Ana Lizeth Benavides, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*
Joshua Bender, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Christopher Bess, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Rosario Betanio, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Alexander Blanco, B.S., *Emergency Services Management*
Zenia Bonales, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*
Manuel Bonilla, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Clifford Bonner, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Jay Brashear, Jr., B.S., *Emergency Services Management with a concentration in Homeland Security*
Naomi Christine Briocche, B.S., *Maternal Child Health: Human Lactation with a concentration in Health Disparities Childbearing*
Joseph Broussard, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Malisia Yolanda Bryant, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management with a certificate in Homeland Security*
Scott Anthony Byrn, B.S., *Emergency Services Management*
Sairy Bugarin Beltran, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*
Shannon Randolph Bush, B.S., *Social Work*
Jacob Bushey, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Travis Antone Cabral, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Pedro Cachero, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
William Anthony Cade, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Janae Callison, B.S., *Emergency Services Management*
Aaron Campora, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Anna Cardenas, B.S., *Maternal Child Health: Human Lactation*
Joseph R. Cargel, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Kimberly Castaneda, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*
Eva Selene Castillo, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*
Rosa M. Castro, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*
Lizeth Merleny Caton, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*
Jean Cavaliere, B.S., *Early Childhood Studies*
Patti Burleson Cavazos, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*
Nataly Yazmin Celis Zuniga, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*
Juana Cerqueda, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*
Maria Elena Cervantes, B.S., *Early Childhood Studies*
Iliana Chapa, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*
Veronica Chavez, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*
Dana Chemnitzer, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
David Jamal Childress, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Lauren Childress, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Mark Chiu, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Jeffery Wade Clark, B.S., *Emergency Services Management*
Priscilla A. Clark, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Michelle Clay, B.S., *Maternal Child Health: Human Lactation with a concentration in Pathway 2*
Carmen Chanté Clayton, B.S., *Maternal Child Health: Human Lactation*
Javier Consalvo, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Brandy Cool, B.S., *Maternal Child Health: Human Lactation with a concentration in Pathway 2*
Brendan Corbett, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Toni Cordell, B.S., *Business Management*
Carlos C. Cordero, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Cody Cowell, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Elia Cruz, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*
Jonathan Culver, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Latosha Ebony Curry, B.S., *Social Work*
Brian Dalton, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Richard D. Daniel, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Brett Dare, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Elizabeth H. Davis, B.S., *Maternal Child Health: Human Lactation*

Camelin Desrosiers, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Elna Destaul, B.S., *Early Childhood Studies*

Melanie Carmen Diaz, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*

Tyler Dixon, B.S., *Emergency Services Management*

Ronald William Drake, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Christopher Duncan, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Mark Anderson Dunlap, B.S., *Emergency Services Management with a concentration in Homeland Security*

Jose Duran, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Thelma Duran, B.S., *Exceptional Student Education*

Joseph Miguel Dyles, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Dezra Earnest, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*

Vamarsha Ellington, B.S., *Organizational Leadership*

Sheron Elvin, B.S., *Early Childhood Studies*

Jennifer Ertl, B.S., *Emergency Services Management*

Luis E. Espejo, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Yuridia Espinoza de Fuentes, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*

Jennifer Esquivel, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*

Angelina Esquivias, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*

Jeffery Fabien, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

David Fernandez, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Daniel Ferrin, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Nicholas Ferronato, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Nicholas Fiacco, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Richard Fields, IV, B.S., *Emergency Services Management*

Timothy D. Fisher, B.S., *Emergency Services Management*

Joy Forbes, B.S., *Elementary Education*

Ahmad Quis Formoli, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Mark Fried, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Adalberto Jose Fuentes, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Alejandro Fuentes, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Nathan Joseph Fuller, B.S., *Emergency Services Management*

Scott Gaines, B.S., *Emergency Services Management*

Yanni Galindo, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*
Blanca Lidia Gallardo, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*
Blanca L. Galvez, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*
Angela Garcia, B.S., *Social Work*
Michael W. Garcia, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Roel Garcia, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Angelica Garcia Cabrera, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*
Jeremy Lawrence Garrison, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Adam Gilliland, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Peter Godtfredsen, B.S., *Emergency Services Management*
James Godwin, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Elodia Gomez, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*
Stephanie Gomez, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*
Duban Gonzalez, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Hilda Gonzalez, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*
Maria Gonzalez, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*
Maria Gonzalez, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Oscar Gonzalez, Jr., B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Leah Anne Gordon, B.S., *Elementary Education*
Edward Grant, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Shaylene Graziouse, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Natalie Grell, B.S., *Maternal Child Health: Human Lactation*
Amanda L. Gross, B.S., *Maternal Child Health: Human Lactation*
Maria Guadalupe De Hern, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*
Jaimie Lynn Gutierrez, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*
Linda Haddadin, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*
Timothy Haden, B.S., *Emergency Services Management*
Michael R. Haines, B.S., *Emergency Services Management*
Angelica Hangartner, B.S., *Early Childhood Studies*
Donald Hankins, II, B.S., *Emergency Services Management with a concentration in Homeland Security*
Donald Duane Harmon, II, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Rodney William Harr, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Jamie Heald, B.S., *Emergency Services Management*
Nathan Jake Henry, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Alexis Hermide, B.S., *Early Childhood Studies*

Brianda C. Hernandez, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*
Briseyda Hernandez, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*
Cecilia Hernandez, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*
Lisa Hernandez, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Maria Hernandez, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*
Aurora Hernandez-Barajas, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*
Logan Herold, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Heather B. Herrera, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Amber Hill, B.S., *Business Management*
Lauren Cheyenne Lyman Hinson, B.S., *Social Work*
Christopher Hodges, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Brian Hoffer, B.S., *Emergency Services Management*
Branden Honeycutt, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Danyelle Horta, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Agueda Horta-Aceves, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*
Justin Horwedel, B.S., *Emergency Services Management*
Bradley James Hunt, B.S., *Emergency Services Management*
Daisy Ibarra, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*
Mary A. Ince, B.S., *Social Work*
William John Irvine, B.S., *Emergency Services Management*
Jeffrey Alan Ivy, B.S., *Emergency Services Management*
Antje A. Jackson, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Patrick Isiah Jackson, III, B.S., *Emergency Services Management*
Rikki Jenkins, B.S., *Maternal Child Health: Human Lactation*
John Jensen, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Maria Lourdes Jimenez, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*
Kyle Roger Johnson, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Brenton Kyle Jones, B.S., *Emergency Services Management*
Franchine Ann Jones, B.S., *Early Childhood Studies*
Misty Dawn Kammeyer, B.S., *Social Work*
Wapinder Singh Kang, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Brian Kearney, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Allison Kelley, B.S., *Maternal Child Health: Human Lactation*
Tonya Kimrey, B.S., *Early Childhood Studies*
Jeffery Kirby, B.S., *Emergency Services Management with a concentration in Homeland Security*

Nicholas Scott Kirk, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Celerina Klaus, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*
Aldo Knoepffler, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Peter Jay Krantz, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Jeffery Allen Kuhlmann, B.S., *Emergency Services Management*
Farley Ladson, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Leonard Eugene La France, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
David Lara, B.S., *Emergency Services Management*
Matthew James Latino, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Sondra Ann Ledesma, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Robert Don Leighty, B.S., *Emergency Services Management*
Charles Lemke, Jr., B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Scott M. Lewis, B.S., *Emergency Services Management*
Marianna Leyva, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*
Christopher Light, B.S., *Emergency Services Management with a concentration in Homeland Security*
Joshua Lillenberg, B.S., *Emergency Services Management*
Jonathan Lira, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Natalia Lopez, B.S., *Early Childhood Studies*
April Marie Lopez Perez, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*
Tanya Lora, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*
Stacy LoveNed, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Brian Luiz, B.S., *Emergency Services Management*
Vanessa Luizaga, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*
Jacob Lujan, B.S., *Emergency Services Management*
Andy Luong, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Isabel Luque, B.S., *Early Childhood Studies*
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Heather Ruth Woods, B.S., *Maternal Child Health: Human
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William David Wonnell, B.S., *Emergency Services Management
with a concentration in Homeland Security*
John Paul Wrrves, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Rudolph Timothy Yamanoha, B.S., *Criminal Justice
Management*
DeVon Young, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Karena Zane Richardson, B.S., *Maternal Child Health: Human
Lactation*
Christopher Zimmerman, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

*Recipients of the Masters Degree
2019-2020*

Master of Arts

Melanie Acon, M.A., *Health & Wellness*

Robyn Ann Bermudez, M.A., *Health & Wellness*

Kenita Chenevert, M.A., *Health & Wellness*

Grace Goodwin Dwyer, M.A., *Health & Wellness*

Heather Nichole Fleming, M.A., *Literature & Writing*

Miya Fowler, M.A., *History & Culture*

Gina Marie Ison, M.A., *History & Culture*

Sherin Jacob, M.A., *Health & Wellness*

Darla Moneymaker, M.A., *Health & Wellness*

Rilee Newell, M.A., *Health & Wellness*

Abdullah Malik Pasha, M.A., *History & Culture*

Rakelia Pearson, M.A., *Health & Wellness*

Talia Prilutsky, M.A., *Creativity Studies*

Petra Anne Roser, M.A., *Literature & Writing*

Adriana Cuevas Velarde, M.A., *Health & Wellness*

*Master of Arts with a Major in Clinical
Mental Health Counseling*

Crystal Cook, M.A., *Clinical Mental Health Counseling with a
certificate in Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counseling*

**Christina Copeland, M.A., *Clinical Mental Health
Counseling***

Elisa Gillispie, M.A., *Clinical Mental Health Counseling*

Janet Kathleen Kempf, M.A., *Clinical Mental Health
Counseling with a certificate in Alcohol and Drug Abuse
Counseling*

David Kovalchick, M.A., *Clinical Mental Health Counseling
with a certificate in Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counseling*

Kathy Lane, M.A., *Clinical Mental Health Counseling with a
certificate in Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counseling*

Tommy Lofgren, M.A., *Clinical Mental Health Counseling*

Maribel Millican, M.A., *Clinical Mental Health Counseling*
Melissa Moreland, M.A., *Clinical Mental Health Counseling*
Stephanie Ann Wayman, M.A., *Clinical Mental Health
Counseling*

Master of Education

Robin Lashawn Johnson, M.Ed., *Guidance & Counseling*

*Master of Science in Organizational
Leadership*

Weston Alan Atchison, M.S.O.L., *Organizational Leadership*

Jesus Carrasco, M.S.O.L., *Organizational Leadership*

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Shawn K. McCollum, M.S.O.L., *Organizational Leadership*

Laura Ellen Miller, M.S.O.L., *Organizational Leadership*

Patrick Muldoon, M.S.O.L., *Organizational Leadership*

Rochelle M. Muse, M.S.O.L., *Organizational Leadership*

Brian Perry, M.S.O.L., *Organizational Leadership*

DeeAnn Ralphs, M.S.O.L., *Organizational Leadership*

Stacey Janea Roper, M.S.O.L., *Organizational Leadership*

Jon Russo, M.S.O.L., *Organizational Leadership*

Zachary Daniel Sandoval, M.S.O.L., *Organizational Leadership*

Omar Suarez, M.S.O.L., *Organizational Leadership*

Steven Taylor, M.S.O.L., *Organizational Leadership*
(*posthumous*)
Ashley Nicole Williams, M.S.O.L., *Organizational Leadership*
Ariel Yisrael, M.S.O.L., *Organizational Leadership*
Thaddeus Charles Young, M.S.O.L., *Organizational Leadership*

Recipients of the Doctoral Degree
2019 - 2020

Doctor of Philosophy in Interdisciplinary
Studies

Allison Christina Budaj, Ph.D., *Humanities & Culture with certificates in Women's & Gender Studies and Creative Writing*
Julie Burns, Ph.D., *Public Policy & Social Change*
Liz DeBetta, Ph.D., *Humanities & Culture with certificates in Women's & Gender Studies and Creative Writing*
Jonathan Frank Krystian Blas Diaz, Ph.D., *Public Policy & Social Change with a specialization in Martin Luther King, Jr. Studies*
Greta Enriquez, Ph.D., *Humanities & Culture with certificates in Women's & Gender Studies and Creative Writing*
Emery Francois, Ph.D., *Humanities & Culture*
Robert Francis Jakubovic, Ph.D., *Humanities & Culture*
Linda J. Kligman, Ph.D., *Ethical & Creative Leadership with a specialization in Martin Luther King, Jr. Studies*
Jennifer M. Kramer-Wine, Ph.D., *Public Policy & Social Change with a specialization in Martin Luther King, Jr. Studies*
Jacinda Lewis, Ph.D., *Public Policy & Social Change*
Rhaslyn Julia McGhee, Ph.D., *Humanities & Culture*
Joanne J. Noel, Ph.D., *Humanities & Culture with certificates in Women's & Gender Studies and Creative Writing*
Michelle Reinstatler, Ph.D., *Humanities & Culture with a certificate in Women's & Gender Studies*
Ernest Eli Semotiuk, Ph.D., *Public Policy & Social Change*
Nancy Lou Diane Semotiuk, Ph.D., *Humanities & Culture with a certificate in Creative Writing*

Willie Antoni Sinkfield, Ph.D., *Ethical & Creative Leadership with a specialization in Martin Luther King, Jr. Studies*

Vanessa M. Stretch, Ph.D., *Humanities & Culture with a certificate in Women's & Gender Studies*

Kathryn Turley-Sonne, Ph.D., *Humanities & Culture with a certificate in Museum Studies*

Jeaninne Danette Wallace, Ph.D., *Ethical & Creative Leadership and a secondary major in Public Policy & Social Change with a specialization in Martin Luther King, Jr. Studies*

M. Merritt Worthen, Ph.D., *Ethical & Creative Leadership with a specialization in Martin Luther King, Jr. Studies*

Boldface type indicates participation in the 2020 Commencement Exercises.

The names of the candidates listed above are subject to final verification by the Registrar.

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Union Institute & University

Master of Arts Commencement Participants Thesis and Capstone Project Titles

Melanie Acon. *Breastfeeding Beyond Infancy in America*

Robyn Ann Bermudez. *An Exploration of Outcomes of Online versus In-Person Breastfeeding Support Groups*

Kenita Chenevert. *Diversity in the Education and Support of Breastfeeding for Black Women*

Talia Prilutsky. *Educational Programs in Art Museums: Analysis of Educational Programs in Art Museums in the United States, Europe & Asia*

Adriana Cuevas Velarde. *Perceptions of Perinatal Care and Lactation Support by Different Care Provider Type*

Master of Arts with a Major in Clinical Mental Health Counseling Commencement Participants Capstone Projects

Christina Copeland. *Using Acceptance and Commitment Therapy to Build Resiliency Against Minority Stress for Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Clients*

Elisa Gillispie. *Counselor Heal Thyself: The Importance of Addressing Unresolved Trauma to Improve Therapeutic Presence and Counselor Effectiveness when Treating Trauma*

Janet Kathleen Kempf. *Best Practices for the Safe Treatment of Potentially Violent Clients: Recommendations for Counseling Education Programs and CACREP*

David Kovalchick. *Understanding Suicide: Assessment, Prevention & Intervention*

Tommy Lofgren. *The Gender Division in Domestic Violence Research*

Maribel Millican. *The Benefits of Mental Health Treatment for Children Under Five Years of Age in Parental Divorce or Separation Situations*

Ph.D. Commencement Participants Dissertation Titles

Allison Christina Budaj. *Zombies, Badass Ladies, and Hashtags: Using Social Media as a Tool for Interpreting Gender Performances in AMC's The Walking Dead*

Julie Burns. *Evolving Perspectives of Disability: Mothers' Stories of a Trisomy 21 Diagnosis*

-
- Liz DeBetta.** *Un-M-Othered: An Autoethnographic Performance Narrative of Adoption and Patriarchy*
- Jonathan Frank Krystian Blas Diaz.** *A Phenomenological Inquiry into the Experience of Fear of Pacific Islanders on Guam in the Pursuit of Political Self-Determination, 2008-2018*
- Greta Enriquez.** *#MyStoryMatters: Autobiographical Storytelling at the Contact Boundary – An Inquiry into Identity Development through Memoir*
- Emery Francois.** *The Beauty and the Strife: A Memoir of Haiti and her Legacy in the United States*
- Linda J. Kligman.** *Widening Circles: A Grounded Theory of Workplace Leadership*
- Jennifer M. Kramer-Wine.** *Building the Beloved Community with Public Education Policy: Restorative Justice Policy Creation, Adoption, and Implementation in Two Urban School Districts*
- Jacinda Lewis.** *Exploring Sex Offenders' Experiences through the Lens of Social Justice*
- Ernest Eli Semotiuk.** *Donald Trump's Use of Twitter, as an Area of Political Communication, in His Bid for the 2016 Republican Presidential Nomination*
- Nancy Lou Diane Semotiuk.** *Women Writers: Safekeeping Time and Space to Write*
- Willie Antoni Sinkfield.** *The Voice of One Crying in the Wilderness: An Analysis of Black Preaching within the African Methodist Episcopal Church as a Rhetorical and Stylistic Tool for Leading Social Mobilization and Transformation*
- Vanessa M. Stretch.** *Subversive Storytellers: Feminist Archetypal Resistance in Azar Nafisi's Reading Lolita in Tehran, Khaled Hossenini's A Thousand Splendid Suns, and Fatima Mernissi's Dreams of Trespass: Tales of a Harem Girlhood*
- Kathryn Turley-Sonne.** *Curating the Contemporary Art Witch Movement*
- Jeaninne Danette Wallace.** *He Set His Face: The Political Theology of Bayard Rustin*
- M. Merritt Worthen.** *Showing Faith through Work(s): Examining How Christian-Based Businesses are Practicing Faith in a Materialistic Society*

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Stella Marie, Psy.D., *Chair, Psychology*

Brigit Monks, Ed.D., *Chair, Child & Adolescent Development*

JoNataye Prather, Ph.D., *Director, Social Work*

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Master of Arts with a Major in Education

Allison Leggett, *Major Chair*

Master of Arts with a Major in Clinical Mental Health Counseling

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Master of Business Administration

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Master of Science in Health Care Leadership

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The Academic Regalia

The colorful and distinctive garb at commencement ceremonies had its origin in the High Middle Ages, 12th and 13th centuries, when the university itself came into being. The nascent universities grew up in the shadow of the church and most of the knowledge they disseminated was theological or ecclesiastical. The cap, gown, and hood grew out of the clerical dress of that period.

The mortarboard descends from a favorite headdress of the medieval laity, the pileus, a close-fitting felt cap that was adopted by the Church in 1311 and became typical at the universities. Two varieties of the pileus survive: Cambridge and Oxford versions. The Cambridge tradition is a beret-like “soft cap” and the Oxford cap is a mortarboard.

The colorful academic hood is another medieval relic descended from cowls worn by monks to ward off cold drafts in English monasteries. The shorter, three-foot bachelor’s hood is rarely seen today; master’s hoods are three and one-half feet; and doctoral hoods are four feet and have panels at the side.

The Intercollegiate Code (see following) provides that a hood should be lined with the official colors of the institution conferring the degree, and the lining is worn exposed; hence, Union Institute & University hoods are lined with green and gold. The same code provides that the hood should be trimmed with the color indicating the discipline to which the degree pertains.

Both the gown and the hood indicate the degree and discipline earned. A bachelor’s gown falls in a straight line and has full bias-cut, pointed sleeves. A master’s gown is has long closed sleeves. A doctor’s gown has bell-shaped sleeves, velvet panels down the front and around the neck of the gown, and three velvet bars on each sleeve.

Agriculture	<i>Maize</i>
Arts, Letters, Humanities	<i>White</i>
Business Administration, Commercial Science	<i>Drab</i>
City and Regional Planning	<i>Brown</i>
Communication and Information Studies	<i>Gray</i>
Dentistry	<i>Lilac</i>
Economics	<i>Copper</i>
Education, Pedagogy	<i>Light Blue</i>
Engineering	<i>Orange</i>
Fine Arts, Architecture	<i>Brown</i>
Forestry	<i>Russet</i>
Human Resources Management	<i>Dusk</i>
Home Economics	<i>Maroon</i>
Journalism	<i>Dark Crimson</i>
Labor and Employment Relations	<i>Peacock Blue</i>
Laws	<i>Purple</i>
Library Science	<i>Lemon</i>
Medicine	<i>Green</i>
Music	<i>Pink</i>
Nursing	<i>Apricot</i>
Oratory	<i>Silver Gray</i>
Pharmacy	<i>Olive</i>
Philanthropy	<i>Rose</i>
Philosophy	<i>Blue</i>
Public Administration	<i>Peacock Blue</i>
Public Health	<i>Salmon</i>
Physical Education	<i>Sage Green</i>
Science	<i>Golden Yellow</i>
Social Service	<i>Citron</i>
Surgical Chiropody	<i>Nile Green</i>
Theology and Divinity	<i>Scarlet</i>
Veterinary Science	<i>Gray</i>

Union Institute & University

Mission

Union Institute & University educates highly motivated adults who seek academic programs to engage, enlighten, and empower them to pursue professional goals and a lifetime of learning, service, and social responsibility.

Spanning from Florida to California and around the world, with headquarters in Cincinnati, Ohio, Union Institute & University is a private, non-profit, accredited university with a mission to serve adult learners around the world in a vibrant learning environment that combines the very best of independent studies with expert faculty guidance and support services.

Union Institute & University marked its 50th anniversary year in 2014, and stands among a small group of private, non-profit American colleges and universities that primarily serve adult learners. Among the university's many distinctions: The average age of Union undergraduate learners is 39; doctoral learners are 48 years old on average; 32 percent of UI&U learners identify themselves as members of racial or ethnic minority groups; UI&U ranks among top U.S. colleges and universities for conferring doctoral degrees in all disciplines to African Americans, according to *Black Issues in Higher Education*; and UI&U is classified as a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI).

More than 20,000 alumni represent wide-ranging career fields including 27 college and university presidents, thousands of professors in all disciplines, best-selling authors, including Clarissa Pinkola Estes (*Women who Run with the Wolves*) and creative artists in every genre, corporate executives and nonprofit leaders, healthcare and wellness experts, licensed psychologists and counselors, organizational and human resource professionals, multicultural scholars and clergy, law enforcement officers and public administrators, and elected officials at every level of government, including the U.S.

Congress and the former Prime Minister of Jamaica, the Honorable Portia Simpson Miller.

Guided by the university's mission, six core values form the foundation for learning: academic excellence, creative and critical thinking, theory and practice, social justice, diversity, and integrity. Currently, 1,100 undergraduate and graduate students from across the country and many countries abroad engage in online, independent distance studies with brief residences, or enroll in hybrid courses through academic centers in Cincinnati, Ohio; Hollywood, Florida, and Los Angeles and Sacramento, California.

The university's official seal includes the UI&U symbol, wherein the flame at the top represents educational discovery and enlightenment. The flower portion symbolizes the personal attention and care that Union gives to students and alumni. The double line of the base indicates Union's foundational history and legacy within higher education. Surrounding the mark are the words, Engage, Enlighten, and Empower, the underpinning of Union's mission, as well as the date of the university's founding in 1964. The university's mace features the seal, as does the presidential medallion.

As a cutting-edge leader in connecting education to values, Union Institute & University is dedicated to help individuals recognize their leadership qualities and motivate them to use those capacities for both community and self-improvement. A continuing commitment to innovative and creative approaches to adult learning serves UI&U graduates well as they prepare to use their education to make a difference in their lives, their communities, and the world.

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