



REGENT UNIVERSITY

COMMENCEMENT 2020

WE ARE MORE THAN
CONQUERORS

“YET IN ALL THESE THINGS
WE ARE MORE THAN CONQUERORS
THROUGH HIM WHO LOVED US.”

ROMANS 8:37



The Ninth of May
In the Year of Our Lord
Two Thousand Twenty
At Quarter Past Nine O'Clock

THE ORDER OF EXERCISES

Presiding: Dr. M.G. "Pat" Robertson

"WE ARE MORE THAN CONQUERORS"

National Anthem	Joy Windham Campus Ministries Worship Coordinator
Invocation & Welcome	Dr. M.G. "Pat" Robertson Founder, Chancellor & CEO, Regent University
Greetings from the Board of Trustees.....	Mr. Phil D. Walker Chairman of the Board
Introduction of Commencement Speaker	Dr. M.G. "Pat" Robertson
Commencement Address	Eric Metaxas Best-Selling Author, Speaker & Nationally Syndicated Radio Host
Recognition of Honors & Joint Degree Programs	Dr. Gerson Moreno-Riaño Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs
Charge to Graduates: "We are More than Conquerors".....	Dr. M.G. "Pat" Robertson
Graduate Reflections & Response to Charge.....	Sabrina Matera Ozorio Estrella M.A. in National Security Studies Robertson School of Government
Presentation of Graduates & Conferring of Degrees.....	Dr. M.G. "Pat" Robertson
	Dr. Doris G. Gomez Dean, School of Business & Leadership
	Dr. Peter J. Fraser Director, School of Communication & the Arts
	Dr. Corné J. Bekker Dean, School of Divinity
	Dr. Kurt Kreassig Dean, School of Education
	Dr. Stephen D. Perry Interim Dean, Robertson School of Government
	Chief Justice Mark D. Martin (Ret.) Dean, School of Law

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Director, School of Nursing

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Dean, School of Psychology & Counseling

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Dr. William L. Hathaway
Acting Dean, College of Healthcare Sciences

Dr. Gerson Moreno-Riaño

Benediction..... Dr. M.G. "Pat" Robertson

Regent Song..... Joy Windham

Reading of Graduate Names..... Hannah Graham '09 (SCA)
Christopher Graham '08 (SPC), '09 (SCA)



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COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

ERIC METAXAS

Eric Metaxas is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Martin Luther*, *If You Can Keep It*, *Bonhoeffer*, *Amazing Grace*, and *Miracles*. He has written more than 30 children's books, and his books have been translated into more than 25 languages. He has collaborated with artist Tim Raglin on two humor books titled *Donald Drains the Swamp* and *Donald Builds the Wall*. His writing has appeared in the *Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, and *The New Yorker*, and Metaxas has appeared as a cultural commentator on CNN, Fox News and MSNBC. He is the host of *The Eric Metaxas Show*, a nationally syndicated daily radio show heard on 300 stations nationwide and aired on television on TBN. He lives in New York City with his wife and daughter.



REGENT UNIVERSITY POSITIONING STATEMENT

Reason and Faith — together.

They're what make us different. Here, we're committed to a heritage of rigorous scholarship dating back over a thousand years, and to a faith tradition dating back a thousand more. This is how we create a culture of inquiry where no topic is off limits, and a culture of hope where anything's possible. It's the freedom to think for ourselves and a responsibility to act on behalf of others. It's Christian leadership, and it's changing the world for the better.

It's higher learning.

It's greater knowing.

It's what makes us whole.

It's what makes us Regent.

ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

WE ARE MORE THAN CONQUERORS

Address from Ann J. Buwalda, Esq.

Obstacles and struggles are part of life. Ten of Israel's 12 spies returned from the Promised Land saying, "We ... saw giants ... we felt like grasshoppers" (Numbers 13:33). The other two, Joshua and Caleb, saw the same giants but believed that with God's help they could be conquered: "Let us go up at once and possess it ... for we are well able" (v. 30). That's the language of a winner: "With God's help." Prayer is the essential key to obtaining God's help. Prayer encompasses spending time in God's presence and through His Word.

I am honored and blessed with Regent University recognizing me as Alumnus of the Year. It is definitely amazing to be selected amongst such prestigious alums, and I know that the accomplishments of colleagues in their various vocations have conquered "giants" in their professional fields. I graduated from three programs at Regent, within the School of Law in 1990 and, jointly, in International Cross-Cultural Communication and Government in 1991. As a practicing attorney handling immigration cases, as well as directing an advocacy ministry to the persecuted Church around the world, I use the knowledge I gained at Regent every single day. I have learned, however, that knowledge alone, as great as it is to have achieved and conquered your textbooks and term papers, does not give you the courage to conquer your giant. Faith gives you that courage. Prayer and relationship with God give you the faith that you need to conquer your giant.

Understand this: God has a plan for your life, but you'll never fulfill it until you come into agreement with His Word. God uses imperfect people, and that makes us realize that He alone is our Source, our Strength, our Strategy, and the Secret to our success. You have a God-ordained destiny. How God sees you isn't the problem; it's how you see yourself that keeps you from succeeding! So, ask God to give you a new understanding of how He sees you — loved, righteous, blessed, and favored! Remember Romans 8:37, "Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us."

About Ann Buwalda

Ms. Ann Buwalda has devoted her energies and legal training to seeking justice for the oppressed, including performing extensive human rights activism. Buwalda became executive director for Jubilee Campaign USA in 1991 when she launched the organization in the Washington, D.C. area. Jubilee Campaign undertakes advocacy for and promotes the human rights and religious liberty of ethnic and religious minorities around the world. Buwalda also founded and is managing attorney in the immigration law firm Just Law International, PC. Ms. Buwalda has taught Refugee and Human Rights Law as an adjunct professor at Handong International Law School in Korea, and she has also served as adjunct professor at Regent University School of Law. In 1991, she completed two master's degrees at Regent University, one in Public Policy from the Robertson School of Government and the other in International/Cross-Cultural Communication. In 1990, Buwalda graduated from Regent University School of Law earning a Juris Doctor. Since 2000 she has served on the law school's Alumni Board.



Ann J. Buwalda, Esq.

School of Law, '90
Robertson School of Government,
School of Communication '91

REGENT, HOST OF FAITH AND LEARNING

Words by The Honorable John D. Ashcroft

Music by The Honorable Robert Robinson

Regent host of faith and reason
Framed in God's own law and grace
As we meditate and study
He instructs us for life's race;
Vision of God's pure intention
Sacrifice to make it live
Fellowship in His creation
God inspires our hearts to give.

As we turn our face toward heaven
God directs our hands to need.
When we kneel to make petition
He endows so we can lead.
Integrating faith and learning
Spirit, body, mind for Thee
Regent working for the Kingdom
Now and for eternity.

Workers ever in His Kingdom
Now and in eternity.

*Celebrating Our
40th Commencement Ceremony*



ACADEMIC REGALIA

The wearing of academic regalia dates back to the 12th century and has been a tradition in American academic institutions since colonial days. The associate and bachelor's gowns worn in traditional ceremonies fall in a straight line and have pointed sleeves. The long black master's and doctoral gowns are similar except for the sleeves, which are oblong on the master's gown and bell-shaped on the doctoral gown. The doctoral gown also has velvet trimmings on the front and sleeves, with the three bars signifying the number of degrees of the graduate. In recent years, several institutions have elected to change the graduate gown color to their official school colors.

The graduates' hoods are lined with colors representing the degree-granting institution (e.g., blue and green for Regent University) and edged in colors representing the degree, major or discipline (other than Ph.D.s, which are all dark blue):

Crimson	Communication, Journalism
Brown	Fine Arts
Royal Blue	Leadership Studies, Doctor of Philosophy
Scarlet	Divinity
White	Counseling
Purple	Law
Drab	Business
Light Blue	Education
Apricot	Nursing
Peacock Blue	Government
Gold	Cybersecurity and Doctor of Psychology

These strangely shaped hoods originally served the very practical purpose of helping medieval scholars keep their heads warm while they worked in unheated university buildings. The most common master's and bachelor's cap is the four-cornered mortarboard. Doctoral candidates wear the traditional six-sided tam.

Red, white and blue honor cords are awarded to active duty and honorably discharged veterans of our nation's military service branches. We salute these service men and women for their academic achievements and for their duty and sacrifice to our country.

Gold honor stoles are awarded to those recognized as recipients of Latin honors. Other cords are bestowed to members of one of the following academic honor societies: Alpha Phi Sigma, Beta Phi, Chi Sigma Iota, Lambda Pi Eta, Phi Alpha Delta, Pi Sigma Alpha, Psi Chi, Sigma Beta Delta and Sigma Tau Delta. Student Government leaders are also wearing cords with the Regent colors of royal blue and green.

College of Arts & Sciences Honors Program graduates receive a bronze medallion secured by a blue and green ribbon. Students admitted to the Honors Program have an exceptional resume of academic and extracurricular performance in high school and must maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA while completing a rigorous core curriculum taught over the period of four years.

The gold pin embossed with the Regent shield signifies graduates advancing the mission of the university through encouraging stewardship opportunities, leadership and outreach as members of the Student Alumni Ambassadors organization.

OUTSTANDING GRADUATES 2020

College of Arts & Sciences

Bachelor of Arts.....	Emily Cathrine Steadman
Bachelor of Science.....	Kimberly Renee Peltonen
Master of Science.....	Jordan Marie Steel

School of Business & Leadership

Master of Arts in Organizational Leadership.....	Matthew Roberts
Master of Business Administration.....	Joy Darlene LaLonde Kelly
Master of Science in Business Analytics.....	Arthur B. Hernandez
Doctor of Strategic Leadership.....	Theodore Grover Roberts
Doctor of Philosophy in Organizational Leadership.....	Suzana Dobric Veiss

School of Communication & the Arts

Master of Arts in Communication.....	Elizabeth Kathryn Boswell
Master of Fine Arts in Film-Television.....	Joshua Christopher Jackson
Doctor of Philosophy in Communication.....	Katie Maureen Clarke

School of Divinity

Master of Arts in Practical Theology.....	Kaitlynn Christina Merckling
Master of Divinity.....	Emily R. Grimm
Master of Theological Studies.....	Joseph Haim Benami
Master of Theology.....	Michael Shane Smith
Doctor of Ministry.....	Mark J. Ellis
Doctor of Philosophy, Theological Studies.....	David L. Ricci

School of Education

Master of Education.....	Marissa Christine Ash
Educational Specialist.....	Janet Whitmer
Doctor of Education.....	Nicci ToKel Dowd
Doctor of Philosophy in Education.....	Kimberly Dene Tucker

Robertson School of Government

Master of Arts in Government.....	Abigail Maryam Zarzar
Master of Public Administration.....	Jason Reynolds Fox

School of Law

Master of Arts in Law.....	Robin Snell Ireland
Master of Laws.....	Woon Ko
Juris Doctor.....	Charlie D. Morrison

School of Psychology & Counseling

Master of Arts in School Counseling.....	Tyreeka Danielle Williams
Master of Science in Psychology.....	Katherine Lavin O'Connell
Doctor of Psychology.....	Madison Lee Simons

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Thelma Marie Jenkins
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Margaret Smith Johnson
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Lillian Lubowa Kyobe
Lau Hwee Lan Gracie
Barry Robert Lee
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REGENT'S REMARKABLE HISTORY



Dr. M.G. “Pat” Robertson, founder of the Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN), had an inspired vision of establishing a graduate-level institution that would train men and women to represent Christ in their professions. In 1977, Robertson’s vision materialized — a 70-acre parcel of land in Virginia Beach was cleared, and the foundation was poured for the university’s first building. The following year, 77 students began classes in modest, rented facilities nearby. Today, Robertson continues to serve as chancellor and CEO.

In less than 10 years, enrollment grew to 800 students as word spread of the nation’s first freestanding graduate school dedicated to applying the truth of Scripture to rigorous academic instruction. The university expanded from its founding discipline — Communication & the Arts — to encompass additional areas of influence for Christian leadership. The School of Education opened in 1980, the School of Business and the School of Divinity in 1982, the Robertson School of Government in 1983, the School of Law in 1986, and the School of Psychology & Counseling in 1988. In fall 2018, Regent launched its School of Healthcare Sciences & College of Nursing. Additionally, The Honors College is set to launch in Fall 2020.

In January 1990, the name changed from CBN University to Regent University. Since “regent” is defined as one who represents a king in his absence, it was the logical choice to advance the unique Christian mission.

By 1992, the university had received three important accreditations: Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), the Association of Theological Schools (ATS), and the American Bar Association (ABA). By 2002, the School of Psychology & Counseling was accredited

by both the American Psychological Association (APA) and the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). In 2007, Regent became the first university in the nation to receive CACREP accreditation for an online doctoral program in counselor education and supervision. And in 2009, Regent’s School of Education earned accreditation from the Teacher Education Accreditation Council (now the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Partnerships) for its educational leadership and teacher preparation programs. Other important accreditations and designations include: Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP), the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), National Security Agency (NSA), and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

From the Campus to the World

Regent expanded into the then-frontier of distance education in 1989 with an MBA degree offered through videotapes, audiotapes and study guides. In 1995, Regent offered its first online degree — the Ph.D. in Communication. That same year, the School of Leadership Studies was founded as a distance-only graduate education program and became a model for online graduate education worldwide. In 2006, the Schools of Leadership and Business merged in an effort to enhance the university’s impact on global outreach and kingdom business. Today, Regent offers more than 135 areas of study on campus and online and typically enrolls students from all 50 states and more than 80 countries. In 2015, Regent’s 20,000th graduate crossed the stage during commencement. Commencement 2020 marks the university’s 40th graduation ceremony.

Opening the Doors to Undergraduate Students & New Fields of Study

An accelerated undergraduate degree-completion program was introduced at Regent in fall 2000 for working adults completing their bachelor’s degree. In 2004, the program was expanded to a full undergraduate degree program. In 2012, the School of Undergraduate Studies was renamed the College of Arts & Sciences (CAS) in order to better symbolize Regent’s goal to develop leaders of character through

comprehensive liberal arts and rigorous life science programs with distinctive faith-based integration. Today CAS offers associate, bachelor's and master's degrees for both on-campus and online students, from recent high school graduates to older adults.

In 2014, CAS introduced the biophysical sciences program, ushering in new opportunities for future Christian scientists grounded in ethics and humanities. Cybersecurity, RN to B.S. in Nursing, origins science, engineering, business analytics, and graphic arts have since been added.

Preparing for the Future

Starting in 2002, Regent expanded its campus with the addition of several new buildings: the Communication & Performing Arts Center — one of the most technologically advanced educational facilities on the East Coast; the Student Center and Café Moka; and the beautiful Regent Commons, which provides furnished on-campus student residences. March 2013 marked the opening of the Regent University Chapel (now Shaw Chapel) and Divinity Building/Welcome Center, which serve as the centerpiece of campus life, emphasizing God's presence within the Regent community. In fall 2017, Regent announced its new athletics team name, Regent Royals, derived from 1 Peter 2:9. The university also launched Grace Community Law Clinic in downtown Norfolk in 2019.

Regent has gained the attention of Christian scholars, political figures and international heads of state. Former Supreme Court Chief Justice of North Carolina Mark Martin serves as the School of Law dean and professor, former U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft serves as Regent distinguished professor, and Christian counseling pioneer Dr. Gary R. Collins previously served Regent as a distinguished visiting professor.

In late 2015 and early 2016, five 2016 White House hopefuls spoke at Regent-hosted Presidential Candidate Forums: former Florida governor Jeb Bush, former Ohio governor John Kasich, 45th President of the United States Donald Trump, senator Ted Cruz, and U.S. Secretary of Housing & Urban Development Dr. Ben Carson. A speaking invitation was extended to candidates from both the Republican and Democratic

parties.* Other speakers have included John Maxwell, leadership expert; Steve Forbes, chairman and editor-in-chief of Forbes Media.; Dan Cathy, Chick-fil-A president and CEO; Edwin Meese III, former U.S. Attorney General and chief advisor to President Ronald Reagan; Don Soderquist, retired COO of Walmart Inc.; Gretchen Carlson, national broadcast television personality and former Miss America; Dr. Henry Cloud, leadership expert and best-selling author; and Carly Fiorina, business leader and former CEO of Hewlett Packard.

Today, more than 11,000 students are earning their associate, bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees at Regent University.

Leading the way in online education for 15 years, Regent has proven its capability to seamlessly pivot between distance and on-campus instruction. Thanks to our digital expertise and investment in technology, we are thrilled to provide a meaningful virtual graduation experience for our extraordinary 2020 graduates. We are proud of you!

With its supernatural growth, the university remains committed to academic excellence, evidenced in its listing among the top national universities by *U.S. News & World Report* (2020). Throughout its remarkable history, the university has remained steadfast to its mission — *Christian Leadership to Change the World*.

University Accolades

- 12 Prestigious Credentials & Accreditations
- Listed Among Top National Universities, 2020
- #1 in Virginia: Best Online Bachelor's Programs, *U.S. News & World Report*, 2019
- Virginia's First "A" Rated University for rigorous and comprehensive liberal arts education (Top 2% Nationally), American Council of Trustees and Alumni, 2020
- Top 5 Best Online Non-MBA Programs and Top 5 Best Online Graduate Education Programs in Virginia, *U.S. News & World Report*, 2020

*Regent does not endorse candidates for public office.
For full accreditation statements, please visit regent.edu/accreditation.



CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF

2020

WELCOME, REGENT ALUMNI!

Connect with us on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn to network with fellow alumni and stay updated on what's happening at Regent. Follow us on any of these platforms now through May 16, 2020 for a chance to win a **FREE** diploma frame - a \$200 value!

CLASS OF 2020

We are especially proud of you for finishing strong. Many of you are serving on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic ... as first responders, nurses, mental health professionals, pastors, educators, business leaders, and in other vital roles.

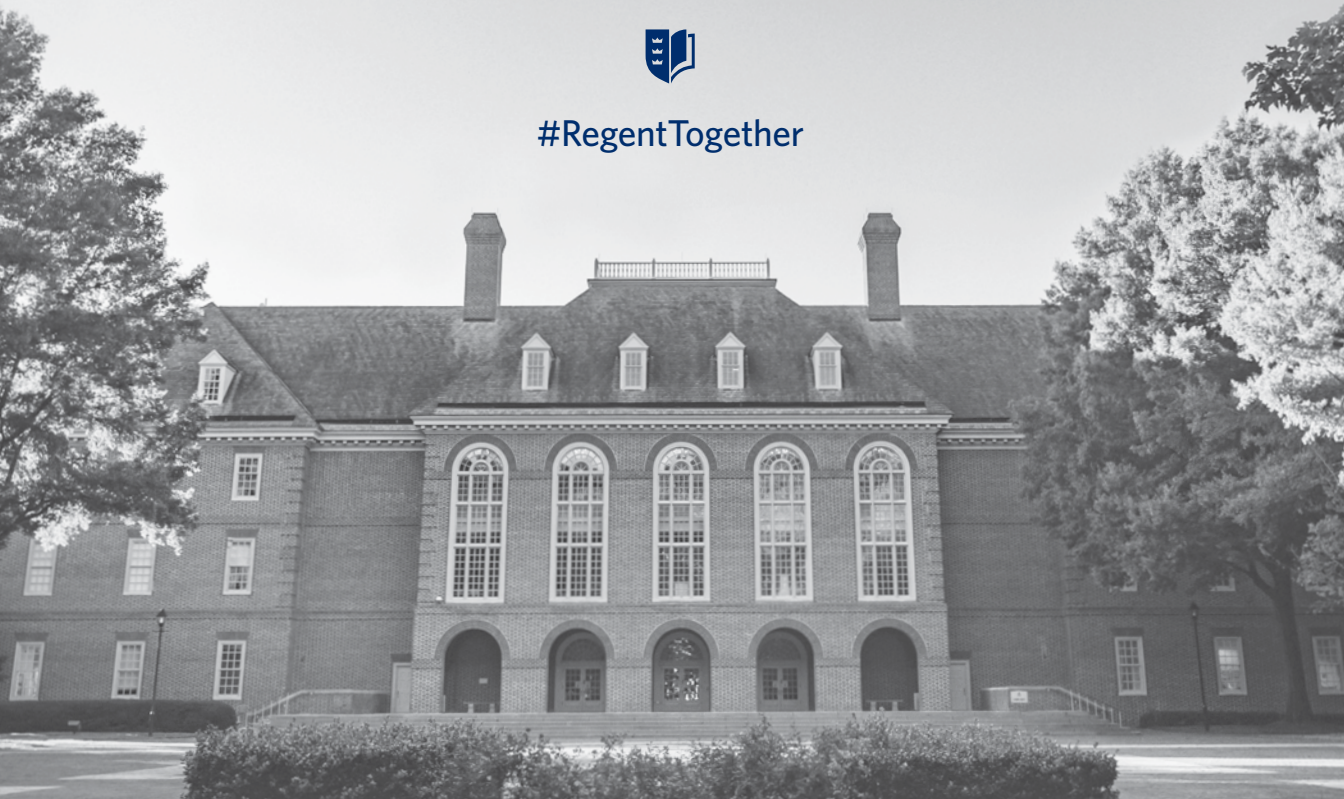
You're juggling unprecedented transition and new responsibilities even as you devote yourselves to family, neighbors and friends. Thank you. You exemplify the heart and grit of true heroes and world changers. These are the times that define us.

Your time at Regent University has prepared you to lead with excellence, innovation and integrity. We believe in you, and we are praying for you.

Now, continue to work hard, rise above adversity, keep God first — and go change the world.



#RegentTogether



EQUIPPING CHRISTIAN LEADERS
TO CHANGE THE WORLD

CELEBRATING OUR

40TH

COMMENCEMENT
CEREMONY



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