

## **CLASS OF 2020 ACADEMIC HONOREES:**

## **College of Business & Management**



**Brandon Burke** (Business) GPA: 3.58, Cum, Pi Beta Sigma - "Brandon is a quiet guy in class but opens up when you talk about basketball and get a chance to have individual conversations with him. I truly enjoyed those conversations before and after class and seeing him open up about his passions. He understands concepts well and I appreciate his helping attitude, both in the classroom, and seeing him around the basketball court. I look forward to hearing the great things he will do and places he will go in the future." - Andrew Paine, Chair, Online Undergraduate Program; Associate Business and Accounting Professor



Sunshine Crellin (Business) GPA: 3.58, Cum/Pi Beta Sigma - "Sunshine, you made an indelible mark in our hearts and minds with your dynamic personality and high and enjoyable engagement in the classroom. Your dedicated servant leadership to HIU at large and specifically as my intern in our College of Business and Management was genuine and exceptional. We greatly appreciate you for your service at Fullerton Mayor's Prayer Breakfast, Sigma Beta Delta Honors Society, and our College's New Student Induction. I am particularly thankful for your significant and meaningful research in support of my lead on our College's Faith Integration (F.I.) project too! Sunshine, your own words depict your undergraduate story well, "...I had so many great professors who challenged me and pushed me to better myself inside and outside the classroom. When I made the switch to business in my sophomore year, I was unsure that I had made the right decision by switching. It was not until I began an internship on campus with Dr. Knopf that I felt like all the puzzle pieces were finally fitting together. Being her intern allowed me to use what I was learning in the classroom and prove to myself that I could be successful in the business world. It also showed me the "business world" is not just one thing; there are different paths I can take. I will forever be grateful for this experience because I have now started the HIU MBA program and am more excited than ever to see what my future holds. I am also grateful for HIU because I was able to find lasting friendships, connections, and a home away from home. After all, Hope is Home. I truly know that God put me at HIU because he knew that was where I would thrive and find all my missing puzzle pieces." Sunshine, may the Lord bless you in MBA graduate studies and beyond as you wholeheartedly minister to others in service to Him as an effective and efficient leader and manager in business." - Dr. Lydia Knopf Chair, College of Business and Management; Associate Professor of Business and Management



Konner Dodge (Business) GPA: 3.77, Magna - "Konner is a selfless leader who has impacted many of HIU's programs. In the classroom, he is a proactive thought leader that is always willing to help others with his time and even financial resources. As a member of the Royals Baseball team, he helped his teammates stay on track academically while also performing at a high level on the field. Konner is a shining example of servant leadership within his peer groups and will continue to be such as he enters the marketplace blessed with a successful career filled with meaningful work. On many occasions he was selected to represent HIU at community and business networking events-- a testament to the confidence and trust Hope faculty and administrators have in him." - Jeremiah Smith, Professor of Business and Management



**Jared Haymon** (*Business*) *GPA: 3.75, Magna* – "Jared took on the intensive 3-Year Business Administration program with tenacity and gusto while running his own business. He gave each class his best and looks forward to what the future holds!" – Stefanie Banks, Academic Advisor



Katherine Martinez-Torres (Business) GPA: 3.55, Cum/Pi Beta Sigma – "Katherine ended up in a number of my accounting classes and over time I got to hear how she was putting into practice some of the concepts we were talking about at the non-profit she was working for. I appreciated her desire to learn and how she interacted with all the other students. I have been able to watch her juggle work, academics, and interacting with her close knit family. I will miss her in class and will be excited to hear what she chooses to do moving forward." - Andrew Paine, Chair, Online Undergraduate Program; Associate Business and Accounting Professor



Ryan McCarthy (Business) GPA: 3.71, Cum - "Ryan is one of the most determined and passionate individuals I have been blessed to walk alongside of. While in the Online Program, he took the maximum course load possible and achieved success with Honors, an achievement that indeed deserves respect and recognition. I am so excited to see what God has planned for Ryan as he heads into his bright future as a new graduate and new husband." - Denise Castillo, Academic Coach



**Evan McElrath** (*Business*) *GPA*: *3.68*, *Cum* - "I had the pleasure to work with Evan towards the end of his program and I could tell that Evan was a ball of energy. He showed so much excitement and determination to accomplish his educational goal and I am excited to see where his next chapter takes him." - Denise Castillo, Academic Coach



Sarah Nunes (Business) GPA: 3.52, Cum - "When I think of my encounters with Sarah, I think of joyful, hard-working, and passionate. In class, she would work hard to understand the material but also brought joy to the classroom. On the basketball court, she was passionate and hard-working. The few times that I brought my daughter to campus Sarah greeted her with lots of joy and love. Keep working hard, be passionate for the things in life that are holy, and may joy surround you as you step into life after college." – Andrew Paine, Chair, Online Undergraduate Program; Associate Business and Accounting Professor



Gabriel Quintero (Business) GPA: 3.89, Magna, Pi Beta Sigma – "I greatly appreciated getting to know Gabriel in my classes. Sometimes he would show up to class early and we would get a chance to talk about business and other topics. He is a very humble and hard-working guy who is willing to process through new material with others and make sure everyone around him understands. It was a pleasure to have him in class and as an advisee. I wish him many blessings in his next step in life." - Andrew Paine, Chair, Online Undergraduate Program; Associate Business and Accounting Professor



David Raynor (Business) GPA: 3.98, Summa – "David returned to HIU after time away and quickly finished his final classes to obtain his degree in Business Administration while juggling full-time work and time with family. He is very dedicated and diligent, and he is looking forward to having more upward mobility in his career now he is a graduate!" – Stefanie Banks, Academic Advisor Alexza Sanchez (Business) GPA: 3.66, Cum/Pi Beta Sigma - "Alexza is a go-getter and leader. She works extremely hard on the softball field and brings that same work effort into the classroom. I appreciated the times I got to have her in class but also the academic advising times and other times that she would just drop into my office to hang out and talk for a while. Her plan is to move on to get her MBA and finish out her collegiate playing career next spring. I am looking forward to watching her passion on the softball field for another year and seeing what she will choose to do with her Masters when she is done." - Andrew Paine, Chair, Online Undergraduate Program; Associate Business and Accounting Professor



Anna Stevenson (Business) GPA: 3.75, Magna/Pi Beta Sigma – "Anna has grown in so many ways during her time at HIU and I have just greatly enjoyed watching her confidence grow around business and volleyball. She asks good questions and deeply understands business concepts. Out of the classroom, she has helped out the business department with some projects and made an impact in helping organize things for the faculty. It is fun to see her bring joy into many situations. As she walks out of HIU, with her degree, she is ready to take on the next steps and I am excited for her to fulfill what God has in store next." – Andrew Paine, Chair, Online Undergraduate Program; Associate Business and Accounting Professor



**Leigha Williams** (*Business*) *GPA*: 3.82, *Magna/Pi Beta Sigma* - "Leigha, I have so enjoyed having you in multiple classes and watching you on the soccer field. I have seen you grow in leadership and confidence during your time here at HIU. You have put in the hard work to become a recognized soccer player in the conference and to set yourself up for a great internship and now starting your job. I encourage you to be yourself and see the great things that you can accomplish with God's help." – Andrew Paine, Chair, Online Undergraduate Program; Associate Business and Accounting Professor



Arturo Yero (Business) GPA: 3.66, Cum – "Arturo completed the rigorous 3-Year Business Administration program with great commitment and focus while working full-time and raising his family. Being in the program allowed him to earn a job promotion and he is excited to see how his career advances now that he has earned his degree!" – Stefanie Banks, Academic Advisor Michelle Young (Business) GPA: 3.74, Cum - "Michelle reminds me how much I love being an Academic Coach at Hope International University! She is such a fun-loving spirit and she never fails to put a smile on my face. I have developed a deep respect for her and all of her accomplishments. She has encouraged, motivated and inspired me with her generous heart and her spirit to serve. I know that her gifts and her talents will be used in His kingdom to impact the lives of many, many people." - Denise Castillo, Academic Coach